



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE STILL ON ZOOM FOR THE TIME BEING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 10 AM-11 AM ON ZOOM

Joe Kozelsky: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences' (HOPE)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 12 PM-1 PM ON ZOOM:

Dr. John Wayman, MD: Hearing Loss

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 7 PM

Board of Directors Meeting

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 10 AM-11 AM ON ZOOM

HLAA-Rochester Technology Team: Virtual Device Demo Center

Note: The original version of this newsletter indicated live as well as Zoom meetings. Due to the spread of Covid Delta, a decision was made to go virtual. Red dates are changes from the original Sept. newsletter.

Please check our Chapter Website for any changes to in-person meetings

September Programs

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Rochester Chapter offers virtual programs monthly for anyone interested in hearing loss. All use the Zoom platform. Preregistration is required by visiting the HLAA website at:

<http://hearinglossrochester.org>

All presentations are free and in real time. Closed captioning is an option for all participants.

Programs for September are:

Tuesday, September 14. Noon: D. John Wayman, MD :

“Better hearing=Better living: Hearing loss and you,”

The third most prevalent health related condition of older people (behind arthritis and heart disease), this invisible condition affects 20% or 48 million Americans of all age to some degree. Untreated hearing has been shown to increase propensity towards dementia, with more severe hearing deficits worsening chances of cognitive decline. Even mild hearing loss increases your risk of falls.



(Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Art Maurer, President

Better Hearing = Better Living!



Newsletter publication deadlines compel me to write on a warm, sunny July morning. Summer days like today are precious to us Western New York natives, the glorious months sandwiched into our four seasons. But we still must be mindful of the Covid Delta Variant making all planning for the

fall somewhat contingent. As we approach September, current information will be maintained on our website*

Our original plan was to have an on-person meeting, also streamed to Zoom in September. We made the difficult decision to hold off and go virtual for the time being. The hybrid format will be continued each month throughout the year into 2022. Each Presentation will also be placed on YouTube via our website* Please join us in the format most easily accessible to you.

Prior to the noon Presentation we’ll have a virtual HOPE session starting at 10:00 am and our business meeting at 11:30 on Zoom.

We also plan to reopen our Demo Center at Lifespan from 10:00 – 2:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Given the person-to-person format of the Demo Center it is in-person only. The antidote to that limitation is our Virtual Demo Center available 24/7 on our website.* It presents all the equipment in our Demo Center in easily accessible format with links to each manufacturer. Give it a try...

Over the summer months your HLAA has not been slumbering. We have a new attractive brochure designed to attract folks who aren’t acquainted with HLAA. It addresses our new ‘normal’ using hybrid Zoom and in-person. If you can easily distribute brochures, please get in touch - we’ll make some available.

We are also working with the Monroe County Library System and St. John’s Meadows and Brick-

(Continued on page 2)

Buffalo Walk4Hearing

by Carol Loftus

We'll be walking!

The 2021 Buffalo Walk4Hearing will be in person Saturday, September 25th. Walkers will meet at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens/South Park, 2655 South Park Avenue, at 8 am to register/check in. The 3.1 mile walk begins at 9am.

Once again, I will register "Hear4Tomorrow" as my team. In the past, many wonderful 'Walkers' have donated to my team and hoping to be as fortunate for this 2021 Walk.

Donate on line by going to <http://HearingLoss.org>, locate Walk4Hearing, click on Buffalo, join a team, then click on Hear4Tomorrow.

Checks are to be payable to Buffalo Walk4Hearing and can be mailed to Carol Loftus, 21 Lookout View Road, Fairport, NY 14450.

Feel free to email me with questions at Cloftus3@gmail.com

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

September	10	Marlene Sutliff
September	15	Janet McKenna
September	26	Elise de Papp, M.D

We have a limited number of birthdays listed in our records. Please let us know so we can include yours next time around.

Please let the editor know if you are in our elite group of over 90-year-olds.

Donations

Thank you to these members who included donations to the chapter in addition to their dues:

Lorin & Judy Gallistel

General Donations

Robert Edelman

Elaine Vanderbrook

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Thank you to our major contributors:

Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate

Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate

Mary Tuckley Estate

Elaine VanderBrook

thank
you!

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

stone to make both patrons of library branches and senior living residents aware of our offerings and to learn how we can be of service. We'll be expanding this effort to all interested regional libraries and senior residences over the coming year.

The introduction of our new Express Hearing Check Kiosk continues. It's portable, easy to set-up and operate. The individual sees his/her own screening audiogram and experiences the gap of how he/she now hears versus hearing with correction ... in short, what is being missed. We'll be taking it to HLAA presentations as well as into settings with several folks potentially having hearing loss.

Other initiatives in progress are to spread the word across Western and Central New York of our on-line offerings, expand our Hospital Accessibility Task Force, and continue to advocate for more and better telecoil based hearing loops.

We're in for a busy fall and winter season. As always, we thank our many volunteers - and we invite more interested in working on specific endeavors. It is the effort of so many that makes all HLAA-Rochester does and hopes to do possible ... all at no charge!

* Our website is hearinglossrochester.org

Art Maurer amaurer40@frontier.com

Only one out of every five people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wear one.

You can "Attend" Other Chapter's Meetings

HLAA Chapters and State Organizations have been transitioning their in-person meetings to virtual meetings online during the pandemic. You are welcome to visit online HLAA Chapter and State Organizations meetings from all across the country. They are listed in one central calendar from the HLAA Leaders List Groups.io calendar.

First, go to hearingloss.org. There is a new purple calendar option in the upper menu bar. After you click on it, a new window will open. Click on the purple FIND HLAA CHAPTER MEETINGS HERE button to access the HLAA Leaders Groups.io calendar.

Action Alert: Medicare Coverage of Hearing Aids

You may be aware that there is a movement afoot to expand Medicare to include hearing health care. That would mean for the first time, people who rely on Medicare to pay their medical bills would also be able to turn to Medicare to cover the cost of hearing aids and related services.

The time has come to let your Senators and Congress members know that hearing health care matters!

Below is a sample of what you can email to your national representatives. Visit their official websites to send your emailed comments. Or visit their Facebook pages.

Tips for your email. Make your email short and to the point. Emphasize your personal experience with hearing aids, and your support for Medicare coverage of hearing aids.

Dear Senator [name of your U.S. Senator] or Dear Representative [name of your U.S. Representative]:

I am a supporter of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and a hearing aid wearer. HLAA let me know that hearing aids and hearing health care services may be included in the proposed bills that will expand Medicare. I support Medicare Coverage for hearing aids and related services.

[add your experience – or your family experience – with the need for hearing aids and the experience of paying for hearing aids out of pocket – or use the following suggested text]

Hearing aids are important to my life because without them, I cannot do the everyday things that I used to be able to do: talking to my grandchildren, going to the movies or watching television. Without hearing aids, I cannot even hear well enough to understand what is being said in my house of worship.

Treating hearing loss is not simply a matter of allowing me to keep up with family events, as important as that is. Hearing loss has been linked to depression, isolation, falls and even dementia. Simply using a hearing aid may just keep me out of the hospital, a rehabilitation facility, even a nursing home.

Being able to purchase hearing aids is important to so many people, but seniors on a fixed income must be able to turn to Medicare to have access to hearing aids and hearing health care services. Without Medicare, where can they turn?

I urge you to ensure coverage for that hearing aid and hearing health care services under Medicare is included in legislation that passes this year. Please let me know where you stand on this important issue. Thank you!

Contacting your members of Congress makes all the difference. Thank you!

If you have questions, contact Lise Hamlin, director of public policy at HLAA.,
LHamlin@hearingloss.org

What is the Hearing Health Foundation?

by Bruce Nelson

The mission of HLAA is to share information, to educate, to advocate and to provide peer support. One way is that we occasionally reprint (with permission) information from the Hearing Health Foundation (HHF) the largest nonprofit funder of hearing and balance research based in the United States. For more than 60 years, HHF has awarded scientific research grants to foster the development of cochlear implant technology, more effective hearing aids and successful ear surgeries, and ultimately a cure for hearing loss which affects nearly 50 million Americans.



Topics include:

- Regular research updates from HHF-funded scientists
- Human interest stories and personal experiences from supporters, staff members, volunteers, researchers, and hearing healthcare professionals
- Hearing-related news including legislative updates, advocacy efforts, education, and prevention
- Resource guide for technologies, treatments, and advancements

Their website is

<https://hearinghealthfoundation.org> where you can read their articles about hearing subjects and view an online version of their quarterly magazine. While you can subscribe to a print version of the magazine for free, they recommend a donation to support their research.

September Programs

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Wayman, associate professor of otolaryngology at University of Rochester Medical Center, will review issues and new developments in dealing with hearing loss and the challenges of living with it. Issues he might cover include noise related, genetic, and age related hearing loss; congenital deafness; hearing aids; cochlear implants; vertigo and Meniers disease.

His areas of expertise include acoustic neuroma, cochlear implants, hearing and hearing loss, and vertigo. He has performed over 200 cochlear implants. A native of Ithaca, he earned his MD degree from SUNY Stony Brook.

Tuesday, September 21 10:00 am: Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A. Hearing Other People's Experiences (HOPE) This program returns live at St. Paul's Episcopal Church after a virtual year on zoom!

Prospective, new, or experienced hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal discussion around a real round table. We learn from one another. Anyone interested in hearing loss is invited to join the hearing aid community. This session will be in-person only.

Thursday September 16 10:00 am: Assisted Device Demo Center. At Lifespan. HLAA Rochester Technology Team.

Hands-on demonstration of devices to help persons with Hearing Loss communicate more effectively.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER

by Charlie Johnstone

The Assistive Listening Device (ALD) Demo Center sessions are going back live and in-person!

Although HLAA does not sell or recommend devices or services, our ALD demo center offers visitors the opportunity to evaluate a sampling of representative products before buying from online, mail-order, or local vendors. This makes it easier to determine what types of devices may help you hear better (with or without hearing aids) rather than guessing what to order only to find out the device does not work for you and has to be sent back.

The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned and amplified telephones and personal assistive listening devices (with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments). Several new devices and smartphone apps will be on display in addition to an interactive, web-based "Virtual Demo Center".

The device center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August). The next demo session is at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) 14618 Thursday, Sept 19th, from 10 am to 2 pm. Free. All are welcome!

Please check our Chapter website before you go to see if there are changes to the plan to re-open live and what safety requirements are in-place at Lifespan.

Sign up for Hearing Life e-News

Hearing Life e-News is delivered to your inbox twice per month. *Hearing Life e-News* keeps readers up to date on the latest news and information on hearing loss. Each issue features high-interest content such as recent legislation and advocacy efforts, technology, new products for hearing loss, human interest stories, webinars, updates on the Walk4Hearing, Convention, and information on HLAA Chapter happenings.



Sign Up at:



<https://hearingloss.org/news-media/e-news>

Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

Even with the pandemic, HLAA Rochester is still offering hearing aid batteries. You may purchase a pack of six for \$1.50, or an entire box (60 batteries) for \$15.00. Simply contact Suzanne Johnston at: suzannejohnston@aol.com (or call 585-586-4158) to arrange for pick-up at your convenience at her home at 44 Washington Rd. in Pittsford. Mail a check with the cost of your order to ATTN Nancy Meyer, HLAA Asst. Treasurer, 5275 Rosebrugh Lane, Geneseo, NY 14454 with notation RE: battery purchase.

HLAA SUMMER GET- TOGETHER



“Getting Hearing Aids: What You Need to Know” returns

To be returning in October, HLAA-Rochester will offer a short course of three sessions on Zoom for anyone thinking about getting hearing aids or for those who recently received hearing aids for the first time.

There will be 3 sessions of 45 minutes of information followed by an opportunity to ask questions. The next sessions will be on Thursday, October 7, Tuesday, October 12, and Thursday October 14, all at 10:00 AM.

The sessions will be led by Joseph Kozelsky MS, CCC/A, a retired audiologist and current hearing aid user.

The content will not be commercialized in any way and will not recommend or endorse any products or providers. The purpose of HLAA is to serve as a resource for people with hearing loss of all levels and to provide information, educational opportunities, and personal support as needed. For more information go to <https://www.hearinglossrochester.org/>

We Welcome All Donations

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This donation is: In Memory of, or In Honor of, or Birthday congratulations, and who to send the acknowledgment to. Our sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!



Our New Chapter Trifold

Reaches Out To Communities



We have a new brochure designed for those not yet acquainted with HLAA-Rochester. It invites participation via Zoom and in person to our many offerings. In addition to being on display, we'll distribute it widely as we reach out to libraries, senior living residences and across central and western New York.

If you know of a location where these brochures should be displayed, or if you have occasion to distribute them, please contact Art Maurer or pickup copies at a chapter meeting.

Hearing loss is the third most common health problem in the US.

HLAA New York State Association (NYSA) - Update.

By Dan Brooks, President, HLAA-NYSA
Hello again!



I hope all is well and everyone had a wonderful summer! For myself it has been a very busy summer full of fun spent with family and friends! It was so nice to finally get outdoors and be able to see people in person again!

Now that fall is near it means HLAA functions are ramping up once again. Rather than in person or virtual only meetings, many organizations are venturing into what we call the hybrid realm where people will have the choice to attend either remotely or in-person. The hybrid style opens up a flexible way of conducting meetings.

The HLAA Rochester Chapter plans to have its monthly programs using the hybrid format. However, all other functions such as the HOPE Sessions, Demo Center, Hearing Aids for Beginners, etc. will either be in person or zoom. To be sure not to miss a meeting or event, it will be very important to frequent the Rochester Chapter's website for the latest information. The Rochester HLAA Chapter's website is www.hearinglossrochester.org.

The HLAA New York State Association (NYSA), held its third Board of Directors meeting of the year via Zoom, on Saturday August 28th, 2021. We are now up to 20 board members! We couldn't be more blessed with all the wonderful talent and support we currently have serving on our board.

The main agenda items of the board meeting was discussion regarding the 2022 HLAA NYSA State Conference, filling the second half of our Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), updates from our various committees, nominating our next HLAA NYSA Vice President for 2022-2024 and preparing for our 2021 HLAA NYSA Annual Meeting.

Registration will open soon for early birds and vendors who plan to attend the **2022 HLAA NYSA State Conference**. The location of the conference will be at the historic Queensbury Hotel in the quaint town of Glens Falls, New York. The dates will be Friday through Sunday, September 16th, 17th & 18th of 2022. Soon we will be announcing the cost of registration and hotel stay, menu options, a list of activities/entertainments, the slate of speakers and/or workshops. Please visit our HLAA NYSA website for the latest information at:

www.hearinglossnys.org.

In October of this year, HLAA NYSA will host our next captioned virtual Annual Meeting via ZOOM. All members of the HLAA NYSA are welcome! How do you know if you are a member? You are a member if you reside in New York State and belong to HLAA. By meeting these two requirements you are automatically a member of the HLAA NYSA! Join HLAA now or renew your membership, if you haven't done so already. You can check on your status by going to HLAA at:

www.hearinglossnys.org

As always we truly value your support...we cannot do all the things we do without it. If you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to reach out to us via our email at

hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com

Until next month...Thanks again! **-Dan**

We Would Love Your Feedback (about the Health Care Appointment Communications Guide!)

Have you had the chance to use to HLAA Rochester Health Care Appointment Communication Guide? (March 2021 Newsletter) - archived at the chapter website)

Did it help you prepare for the visit and communicate your hearing needs at the appointment? Please share your experience with the tool and your overall healthcare visit with the Education & Outreach Committee. The information will be used to improve this tool and future efforts to support the hearing loss community. All personal identification will be kept in confidence. Please write us at amaur40@frontier.com

To locate the document again, go to hearingloss-rochester.org. Click on the Member's page. Then click on the Forms Surveys Studies square.

As people with hearing loss, it is essential to achieve clear communication in order to receive high quality health care!

Sign up for Hearing Life e-News



Hearing Life e-News is delivered to your inbox twice per month. *Hearing Life e-News* keeps readers up to date on the latest news and information on hearing loss. Each issue features high-interest content such as recent legislation and advocacy efforts, technology, new products for hearing loss, human interest stories, webinars, updates on the Walk4Hearing, Convention, and information on HLAA Chapter happenings.

Sign Up at:



<https://hearingloss.org/news-media/e-news>

Task Force: Hospital Accessibility for People with Hearing Loss

By Mary Chizuk RN MS Ed

CHALLENGES

Awhile back a Chapter Member gave me a newspaper column written to Dear Abby by a spouse regarding her husband who was critically ill post auto accident. He was a Cochlear Implant user and the battery was dead. She didn't know how to change it nor did the staff.

He was on a respirator so he couldn't speak to provide directions.

How frightening!

Another situation involved a Chapter Member who was also involved in an auto accident and was critically ill in the Trauma Unit. I went to see her and quickly realized she was unable to see me as her eye glasses were broken or hear me as her hearing aids were lost.

I just held her hand and kept saying we were all praying for her recovery. And I love you.

She passed away unable to see or hear with no words of comfort. Just thinking about this causes me to weep real tears even today. I vowed that this should never happen to anyone!

My own recent Covid experience with Telehealth being the preferred method of communication for patient care appointments is not accessible for me without captioning. Americans with Disabilities Act does have a provision regarding communication access which is the same as requesting an interpreter. Telehealth is here to stay. The Information Technology personnel did not think that People with Hearing Loss may not be able to access it.

Most recently phone calls from Health Care Providers (HCPs) were not answered, (because I don't hear the phone ring). So letters were sent to me informing me that I should take better care of myself!

In truth my Voicemail's Voice to Text is how I respond to phone calls.

SOLUTIONS

As some of you may know Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) is part of a CDC Grant at UR. A Survey of People with HL identified nine Health Priorities and Communication with HCPs was one of them. In response to that, a PowerPoint Program was developed and this presentation was given numerous times locally. It was intended for out patient

situations but can be applied to in patient hospitalizations as well.

Our own Chapter's Education and Outreach Committee has developed a Guide to give HCPs regarding their Hearing Healthcare Needs for Every Appointment.

Elaine McCaffrey, our May Program Speaker, National Convention Presenter and President of HLAA Chapter Chicago also shared her work being done there.

MOVING FORWARD

We have a good foundation to build on and have made some valuable tread marks.

Our Goal is to have all the Hospitals be accessible for People with Hearing Loss in the Metropolitan Rochester Area.

As we begin our new Program Year I ask you to think about your own past experiences both positive and negative regarding Access to Hospitals especially in the new world of Covid.

This new task force for Hospital Accessibility is formed at the urging of our President, Art Maurer. I have I have agreed to lead this effort and enlist your support. Information will be gathered from People with HL regarding their experiences whether it was as a Patient, Visitor or Employee. This will be important as we will then know where to concentrate our energies.

Information can be sent to
Mcchiz6152@gmail.com

with the Heading:

"TELL US YOUR STORY "

The June Chapter Program 2022 will highlight some of your TELL US YOUR STORY information and how these challenges can best be addressed.

I invite You join me on this very important Task Force that can indeed be lifesaving.

Many Thanks in advance for your input:

We are Better Together

Mary C. Chizuk RN MS Ed
CoChair HL2 and Founding Member
Chairperson Task Force for Hospital Accessibility



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**HLAA Membership
Information**

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, Inc., a tax exempt and volunteer group, is a chapter of a national, nonprofit, nonsectarian, educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well.

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at noon, at St. Pauls Episcopal Church and online via Zoom. See our website at <https://hearinglossrochester.org> to register.

While our primary focus is directed toward people with hearing loss, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability.

For more information, Call

585 266 7890

Professional Advisors
 Sue Miller, Chair

2020-2022:

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2021-2023:

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**Newsletter**

*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.*  
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 120 Cobblestone Dr.,  
 Rochester, NY 14623  
 585-334-5513  
 bruce.nelson@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP FORM – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER**

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

I want to join as a first-time member  I want to renew

All members receive the award-winning Rochester chapter Newsletter!

Check preference for access:  via US mail  via Chapter website

Check membership type:  Individual  Family  Corporate

Check contribution: (\*please consider a charitable donation above Basic dues - an acknowledgement is sent for donations only.)

Basic/Individual Dues, \$10  Basic/Family Dues, \$20  Corporate\* \$50

Friend\* \$25,  Partner\* \$50,  Supporting\* \$100 Donation  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Veteran COMPLEMENTARY (Free lifetime chapter membership for veterans with hearing loss). Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I have a different mailing address for part of the year.**  
 Please attach an additional page with the address and dates you are gone.

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester. Send to:  
 Mr/Mrs Doug Meyer, 5275 Rosebrugh Rd., Geneseo NY 14454

**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**YES! I want to join or renew membership in national HLAA.** Membership entitles me to the magazine, *Hearing Life*; a number of discounts; and knowing I'm supporting advocacy for people with hearing loss nationwide.

Join  Renew

Individual \$45  /Family \$55

Professional \$80  Corporate \$500

On-line only-individual \$35

On-line only-student \$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Hearing Loss Association of America  
 Suite 320  
 6116 Executive Blvd  
 Rockville, MD 20852

**Please do NOT send this renewal to the local Rochester chapter; mail directly to HLAA in Rockville, MD.**



NONPROFIT ORG.  
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Fairport, NY 14450  
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**Time sensitive**

**Please deliver by August 31, 2021**



### **You're New, This is for You.**

More than 48 million people in the US have a hearing loss, which can hinder daily communication. By age 65, one in three Americans has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects the quality of life of the individuals with hearing loss as well as family, friends, co-workers and everyone with whom they interact. HLAA believes people with hearing loss can participate successfully in today's world.

Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes a bimonthly magazine, *Hearing Life*, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: <http://www.hearingloss.org>.

The Rochester Chapter, started in 1983, is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has a support network of organizations—Rockville, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

### **Meetings are hearing accessible**

We meet in St. Pauls Episcopal Church at East Ave. and Westminster Rd, across from the George Eastman Museum. Parking is available at the Eastman Museum, if needed. All meetings are audio looped and CART captioned.

Entrance to the meeting is via the Westminster Rd. door, down the corridor to the end, into the large Parish Hall Room.

The regular noontime chapter meetings, some educational sessions, and special events are available on Zoom. Please see our website at <http://hearinglossrochester.org> to register for online access.

*Everyone, with or without a hearing loss, is welcome!A*