



**Happy
Holidays!**

Volume 38, Number 4

December 2024

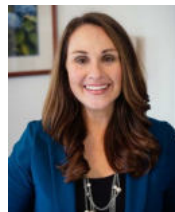
DECEMBER CALENDAR & PROGRAMS

Featured Presentation

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

**NOON - 1:00 PM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL
AND ON ZOOM**

Relationships and Hearing Loss; Meghan Fox



Please join us for our featured presentation on Tuesday, December 3 to learn more about Relationships and Hearing Loss with Meghan L. Fox, Psy.D. Dr. Fox is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Rochester with a specialty in conducting services with people with hearing loss and their families. Why can communication go awry for couples? Attendees will be able to identify at least two reasons why, learn two specific strategies to improve communication in a relationship, along with two insights to explore this conversation further and improve your relationship with your partner. You don't want to miss this!

Leadership For Standing Committees

By Mary Chizuk

Our HLAA Rochester Chapter is now noting our 41st Anniversary, we are one of the oldest, the largest with over 350 Members, and most active Chapters in the United States.

What prompted You to join?

Were you seeking Information on hearing loss or hearing aids? Did you find comfort knowing others are very much like you in your Hearing Loss Journey at a HOPE Session? Perhaps, you reveled at the technology in being able to understand EVERY spoken word at our Program Meetings, even being able to attend and partici-



(Continued on page 2)

REFRESHMENTS

We appreciate our members who have volunteered to bring refreshments to our December 3rd meeting:
Elizabeth Skeddle, Truda and Bob Slocum, Paul and Mary Ann Stager, Kathy Vigna

Other November Meetings and Programs

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM IN PERSON, ST PAUL'S VESTRY ROOM: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences' (HOPE); Joe Kozelsky CCC/A:

Prospective, new, or experienced hearing aid users informally share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL: Conversation and light refreshments.

11:30 AM - NOON AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL: Chapter announcements and business meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM ON ZOOM: Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ON ZOOM: HOPE in the Evening; Joe Kozelsky CCC/A: For those who are not able to attend our morning sessions, we offer an evening version. See the morning announcement above for details.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Assistive Device

Demonstration Center. Technology Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Avenue View and try out a selection of assistive-listening devices before actually buying them. Included are captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone APPs related to hearing enhancement. Chapter members stand by to answer your questions.

Please check our Chapter Website [hearinglossrochester.org](https://www.hearinglossrochester.org) for any changes

Leadership For Standing Committees

(Continued from page 1)

pate at meetings while home in your PJs thanks to ZOOM and a very competent tech team?

Maybe you found new friends! And maybe you became aware that participating in HLAA has become something bigger and better than you could have imagined.

You received more than you gave...

You realized You became something bigger than Self- perhaps added a dimension to your life.

In the Harvard Health Letter November 2024, it is noted that "A sense of purpose is linked to sharper memory and thinking skills, mood control and reduced risk of chronic diseases and increased longevity." Per Research Study Findings published in the Journal of Neurology and Neurosurgery August 2024

A familiar YMCA Slogan is "Be a Joiner."

Our HLAA Slogan should be "Be a Doer."

It takes many hands and hearts to keep "Doing" all this superlative work...

Here are the opportunities for "Doers" with Committees and Their Current Chairpersons:

- Stellar Supporters (Greeters, Refreshment Providers, Meeting Facilitators, Tables Setup and Collect Evaluations) -Sue Miller
- PAC (Professional Advisory Committee) - Sue Miller
- Membership - Sue Miller
- Special Events (Annual Dinner, Picnic, Concerts) - Paul Stager
- Newsletter - Bruce and Candi Nelson
- Scholarship - Nancy and Doug Meyer and Mary Chizuk
- CI (Cochlear Implant) Peter Fackler and Mary Chizuk
- HCTF (Hospital Taskforce) - Mary Chizuk. Art Maurer
- Parents of Children with Hearing Loss - Rebecca Sprague
- HOPE Daytime - Joe Kozelsky
- HOPE Evening - Dan Brooks

Please contact me or any of the Committee Chairs to become a bigger "Doer" and Guide for the Chapter's future. Most Committee Meetings are on ZOOM. Be part of the HLAA Rochester Success Story.

HLAA New York State Association Report

by Peter Fackler, President -- Board of Directors



The annual meeting of HLAA-NYS is slated for Saturday, December 7. As you read this, you will have received e-mail correspondence with the details. All members are welcome to attend.

The HLAA-NYS board of directors met Saturday, October 5 via Zoom. The remainder of this report relays the highlights of that meeting.

Lindsay Vanvolkinburg was nominated to serve on the board of directors. She was elected by unanimous vote. Dr. Vanvolkinburg is a veterinarian practicing in the Buffalo area and is leading efforts to establish a presence for HLAA in Buffalo.

HLAA-NYS finances are stable with little financial activity reported by Tom Corteville, treasurer.

Kassey Granger reported for the nominating committee. At the next (December) board meeting, the committee will nominate a slate of officers, a slate of directors, and a slate of nominating committee members, all to serve terms beginning January 1, 2025. Officer terms are for one year, director terms are for three years, and nominating committee terms are for one year. While the slates were not announced at this meeting, the good news was shared that Steve Wolfert of Westchester has agreed to be nominated to serve as the Association's next board president beginning January 1, 2025.

The special committee that has been charged to study the prospects for a next state conference reported to the board its recommendation for holding a conference in October 2026. The board voted to move forward with the project subject only to reviewing, negotiating, and accepting an acceptable contractual arrangement with the venue for the event. Sneak peek: mark your calendars for October 2 – 4, 2026! Full details to be supplied in the next newsletter when the contract details have been ironed out and confirmed.

A schedule of board of director meeting dates for 2025 was presented by the president but consideration was tabled to allow for further study when one member was critical of the plan. The president asked Steve Wolfert to bring back a proposal for 2025 meeting dates at an upcoming board meeting.

Introducing PAC Member Jennifer Popovich

Jennifer Popovich has dedicated 27 years to her career as an Audiologist. She earned her Master's degree in Audiology from Kent State University in 1997. Shortly after graduating, she began her professional journey at a private hearing aid practice located in Belmont, MA. Over the years, she has gained experience in various settings, including private practice, ENT clinics, and a facility focused on balance and fall-related issues in Northeast Ohio.



In 2004, Jennifer moved to Rochester, NY, where she became part of the team at the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center. She currently holds a position on the Professional Advisory Committee at RHSC. In 2012, she embraced a new opportunity to shift her focus toward assisting individuals with developmental disabilities, providing support to those living in group homes across a ten-county area.

In 2017, she took on the role of Educational Audiologist at Monroe 1 BOCES. Her diverse caseload includes a wide range of students, and she often collaborates with the Office of Assistive Technology to work towards the common goal of enhancing literacy in educational settings. She encourages building administrators to provide classroom amplification systems and encourages staff and administration to use captioning on any media that is presented in the classrooms.

She is the mother to 2 lovely, active children and in her free time can be found cheering them on in sports or musical activities.

Assistive Device Demo Center

Our chapter sponsors the Assistive Device Demo Center where our members and the public can see some of the latest devices available to help them with day-to-day difficulties associated with hearing loss.



The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones and personal assistive listening devices with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments. Chapter members stand by to answer questions.

Sessions are usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next demo session is at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) on Thursday, December 19th from 10 am to 2:00 pm. Sessions are free. All are welcome!

HLAA Launches New Website to Expand Reach



It's finally here! The new National HLAA website is now live at hearingloss.org. We hope you check out this exciting new tool that should help us all more efficiently reach, connect and engage with the growing number of people in need of hearing loss help and support.

Be sure to visit the new **Find Help and Understanding Hearing Loss** landing pages, designed to get people to the information they need easily. See the **Get Involved** page for all the ways to join HLAA's hearing health movement.

There's a new password-protected Chapter Portal for HLAA Chapter or group leader or volunteers to access important resources, news and updates. Access instructions have been sent to most leaders.

The website team will be continuing to add more resources, pages and functionality to the new website.

Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

Our chapter offers hearing aid batteries at our monthly program meetings. You may purchase a pack of six for \$1.50, or an entire box (60 batteries) for \$15.00.

Open Door Mission Collection

The Open Door Mission is a Christian Rescue Mission founded on the belief that with proper resources hope can be restored and lives of impoverished men, women and children of Rochester, New York could be forever changed. Our chapter continues to support this vitally important community organization. Please bring any gently used items to our monthly chapter meetings. Marlene Sutliff has kindly agreed to deliver all items to the Open Door Mission as a gesture of thoughtful service from our chapter members.

Hear Together: Parent/Caregiver Support Group

by Kristen Bergholtz, Speech Language Pathologist

Are you looking to connect with other parents or caregivers of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HOH)? Join "Hear Together," our parent/caregiver support group! We provide a safe and supportive community for parents and caregivers to come together, ask questions, share insights, and discuss strategies for supporting the success of children who are D/HOH.

Our group is facilitated by a speech language pathologist, Kristin Bergholtz, and audiologist, Carly Alicea. We encourage parents to lead conversations, ask questions, and suggest topics of interest, ensuring that everyone can share and gather the information they need.

Participants have shared that they "have finally found their people" in our group, discovering deeper connections for themselves and their children. This group offers the opportunity for support, self-care, gratitude, and knowledge sharing to enhance the lives and success of children who are D/HOH.

Please email kristinbslp@gmail.com to receive meeting reminders and the Zoom information.

Join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month (skipping December) on Zoom from 8:00-9:00 pm. Closed captioning will be available. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Donations

Donations in Addition to Membership

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Barbara Bruce
Laura and Steven Chaba
Mary Beth and Jeffrey Mothersell
Patricia Pogue
Julie Steele
Ruth Tetlow

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Robert Stoneham
Kathy Vigna

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Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
Mary Tuckley Estate

HAAA Book Club

by Jennifer Lowden

The HAAA Book Discussion group met via Zoom on November 21st to discuss the book *But You Look So Normal: Lost and Found in a Hearing World* by Claudia Marseille. The next book discussion will be in January or February. A date and title will be forthcoming.

The OWWL (Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston) Library system has received 25 of the 35 books that were ordered for their library system. We are arranging to make the bookplates for those books. Once we have all the books, they will be sent to the various libraries that agreed to accept our donation. We hope to complete the project by mid-December.

FCC to Require HA Compatibility in all New Cellphones

A milestone 50 years in the making concluded on October 17, 2024, with a vote by the Federal Communications Commission that requires 100% of cellphones sold in the United States to be hearing aid compatible (HAC) over the next two to three-and-a-half years. HAAA has advocated for decades in support of this much-needed rule that will expand options and make it easier for consumers with hearing loss to purchase phones that work with their Hearing Aids or Cochlear Implants.

Read the blog post for more details and background at <https://tinyurl.com/HA-Compatible>

HAAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley and Director of Public Policy Neil Snyder were present to witness this historic vote. Making statements before the Commission were retired HAAA Director of Public Policy Lise Hamlin and HAAA's technology adviser Linda Kozma-Spytek, who serves as consultant to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Technology Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) at Galaudet University.



HAAA needs help identifying TV advertisers who caption their TV ads. Please send the names of local advertisers who close-(or open) caption their ads to:



captions@hearinglossrochester.org

Captioned Entertainment Around Rochester



JCC Center Stage - Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. Please specify "Captioned Area". Tickets are \$35-40 with discounts for JCC members, full time students and seasonal subscribers. All captioned performances are on Sundays at 2 pm.

The Little - The Little Theatre provides options for people with hearing loss, including hearing amplification headphones in all theaters. The hearing amplification headphones can also be used for descriptive listening.

Theatres 1, 2, 4, and 5, are equipped with Hearing Loop Systems. Personal captioning devices are available for all theaters. Please inquire at the box office.

The Little offers open caption screenings when available. Open captions mean captions are visible to everyone, and cannot be turned off. Open caption screenings are currently shown on Thursdays, along with the first matinees on Sundays (please note some films do not have an open caption version). You can find Open Caption shows via thelittle.org (listed in the showtimes on each film page), and on social media.



The REV (Merry-go-Round) Theatre in Auburn has a state-of-the-art Assistive Listening System, which makes use of FM to transmit sound over radio frequency directly to the listener's ear. While the overall system is FM, they also have individual induction loops for each device. For information about the REV Theatre's productions, see <https://therevtheatre.com/>

GEVA Theatre Center - Open Captioning for patrons with hearing loss is provided during the 1st Saturday matinee and both performances of the final Wednesday of each Wilson Stage Series production, and the first Saturday matinee of each Fielding Stage Series production.

When booking your seats, mention your interest in open captioning in order to secure the most advantageous view of the display on the right of the stage.

RBTL Live Theater - Open Captioning, made possible by HLAAs, is offered during most 1 pm Sunday matinee subscription performances of the Broadway Season, and select other performances. A text display scrolls words in synchronization with the dialogue and lyrics of the show. Reserve seating in view of the captioning screen in advance or request open captioning for unlisted events, 585.222.5000 or mail@rbtl.org.

Roc Cinema has a hearing loop and some Saturday matinee movies are open-captioned.

Other Theaters - Regal Theatres, Cinemark Theaters, AMC Theaters, and Movie 10 all indicate on their websites that they have closed captioning devices available by asking at the box office. The Strand Theater in Brockport, has individual displays on goosenecks available.

"HOWALS" Project

Houses Of Worship
with Assistive Listening Systems

Each month, our chapter's Education and Outreach Committee will be featuring short vignettes of various congregations in the area who have installed assistive listening systems.

Rochester Mennonite Fellowship

by John Curtis

I belong to a small Mennonite Fellowship at 111 Hillside Ave off Winton Rd. The church is small and we take turns giving the sermon and leading the music.

A few years ago, we installed a small loop system at the request of some of our members, and it has proven to be quite a help to our members who need hearing assistance.

Our services are at 10 am on Sundays and all are welcome to attend.



Visit other HLAAs Chapter's Online Meetings

You are welcome to attend online meetings of many other chapters across the country.

But you may wonder, what are these meetings, and how do I access them?

National HLAAs hosts a calendar where chapter leaders post information about their meetings.

You can access the calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/HLAA-Chapters-Calendar>



Additional Methods to Caption on your Computer or Cellphone

By Bruce Nelson

- In Windows 11, a new feature has been added to caption any audio coming through your computer. To turn on the captions, press WindowsKey+Control-L. (Note: the first time, it will download the feature.)
- In the Chrome browser, on a PC or Mac, select settings and search for "Captions". On a cellphone, select settings and then Accessibility, then select Captions. This will turn on captioning for any audio which comes through the browser.

Protecting Your Hearing: Understanding Ototoxic Drugs and Precautions

By Bruce Nelson

At one of the meetings I was at a few weeks ago, the subject of Ototoxic drugs came up.

Certain medications, known as ototoxic drugs, can pose a risk to our hearing health. If your doctor prescribes a new medication, you should be asking if it has any ototoxic properties and whether a safer alternative can be prescribed.

PROTECTING YOUR HEARING

1. **Your Healthcare Provider:** Always communicate any hearing concerns with your doctor. They can adjust your medication or dosage to minimize risks.
2. **Regular Hearing Check-ups:** Schedule regular hearing tests to monitor any changes. Early detection can help manage potential issues more effectively.
3. **Avoid Loud Noises:** Exposure to loud noises can worsen hearing damage. Use ear protection like noise-canceling headphones or earplugs in noisy environments.
4. **Follow Medication Instructions:** Stick to the prescribed dosage and avoid self-medicating. Overuse or misuse of medications can increase the risk of ototoxicity.
5. **Stay Hydrated and Healthy:** Maintaining overall health can help protect your hearing. Proper hydration and a balanced diet support your body's ability to handle medications.
6. **Discuss Alternatives:** If possible, ask your healthcare provider about alternative medications that have a lower risk of ototoxicity.

By taking these precautions, you can help protect your hearing while managing your health with necessary medications. Remember, your hearing health is an essential part of your overall well-being, so take steps to safeguard it.

HLAA does not sell products. We simply share information, educate through presentations and programs, advocate, and provide peer support.

The chapter pays \$1.01 to the Post Office any time a newsletter is returned because of an address change. Please email info@hearinglossrochester.org when you change your address.

Annual Meeting of the HLAA-NYS YOU'RE INVITED!

In accordance with the bylaws, the Hearing Loss Association of America - New York State Association announces its 2024 Annual Meeting to take place Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom link.

The agenda will include Board of Directors committee reports, reports from the chapters, and a special report on plans for a HLAA-NYS conference in 2026.

If you plan to attend, please register by replying to this e-message at hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com. All who register will receive the necessary Zoom link a few days before the meeting.

Peter Fackler, President – HLAA-NYS

HLAA Rochester Cochlear Implant Group Announcements

By Pete Fackler

Our Cochlear Implant (CI) Special Interest Group meets on Zoom, 4 times each year. We have people participating from across the USA.

The Tuesday February 18th 2025 program will feature Suzanne Johnston sharing her knowledge on aural rehab and its benefits for cochlear implant users.

The final program meeting for the year is set for Wednesday May 21st, 2025; the agenda for the meeting has not been set as of this writing.

To receive program announcements regarding our Cochlear Implant Group and to be invited to attend, interested parties should send an email to cochlearimplantgroup@gmail.com. You will become part of the list used for distribution of meeting Zoom Links and other communications. Anyone who has an interest can be a part of the cochlear implant group.

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday in December to:

- 2 Carol Bradshaw
- 5 Pete Fackler
- 6 Lorraine Gluck
- 14 Margaret (Peg) Crowley
- 19 Barb Gibson
- 22 Janice McFollins
- 25 Carol DeLong
- 25 Betty Redifer
- 29 Mary Chizuk
- 31 Linda Kozelsky

What is the Best Hearing Aid?

By Shari Eberts

“I’m worried about my hearing but am unsure which hearing aid to buy. Which is the best one?”

“My audiologist recommended hearing aids from Brand X. Are these the best ones?”

People ask me questions like this all the time, mostly people new to the hearing loss experience, either about themselves or a family member and my answer is always the same.

The best hearing aid is the one that the person will wear consistently.

Specifics of what that means will vary based on the person’s lifestyle, degree/type of hearing loss, and communication goals, but if someone doesn’t wear their hearing aids, they are useless.

CHOOSING THE BEST HEARING AID IS COMPLICATED

Hearing devices are not a perfect solution for hearing loss, but they are a critical step. Consistent wear is important. Steady use enables the brain to acclimate to its new sound environment, giving the wearer the best chance of communicating well in the widest array of listening situations.

Choosing a hearing aid can be tricky, especially if you are new to the process. A qualified hearing care professional (HCP) will make recommendations based on your hearing loss. The best ones will endorse devices that value lifestyle factors and patient preferences while also meeting the technical aspects of the audiogram. When HCPs don’t include all of these items, the devices may end up in the proverbial drawer gathering dust.

FACTORS IMPACTING CONSISTENT HEARING AID USE

What makes a person wear hearing aids consistently? The list is as varied as there are people with hearing loss, but the following categories are likely important to almost everyone.

1. Pleasing in comfort and appearance

While I think hearing aids are cool, stigma can be a hard factor to overcome for first-time users. They may want their devices to be as invisible as possible. The degree and type of hearing loss may limit the form factor options for some people. Still, if the hearing loss allows, I see no shame in honoring a consumer’s desire for small devices if it increases the chances that they will be worn regularly.

Comfort is also critical for consistent use. If a consumer’s earmolds don’t fit snugly and securely in the ear or if they create irritations on the skin, hearing aid use will suffer.



2. Equipped to help in difficult listening environments

When hearing aids are helpful in a wide variety of situations, people will want to wear them consistently. That is why including Bluetooth and telecoil functionality in the devices is important. Hearing aids alone will help with speech comprehension in quiet, but for noisier environments or when the speaker is far away, these other technologies are a big help.

For example, Bluetooth lets users stream audio content and take telephone calls directly to

their devices. Telecoil helps them access loop systems in theaters and other public spaces. The best HCPs will explain how and when each feature is useful. While most people will understand Bluetooth connectivity, they may not be familiar with telecoils unless educated by their HCP.

3. Usable with other assistive listening devices

The best HCPs will educate their clients about all the ways they can make their hearing aids more adaptable, an important factor in consistent use. For example, pairing hearing aids to a remote microphone can help bring a speaker’s voice directly to your ears at a lecture, in-person class, or noisy cocktail party. Captioning is also useful for filling in auditory blanks on video conferencing platforms, FaceTime, and in conversations with others.

4. Combined with softer skills

Versatility is the key to consistent use. To get the most out of our hearing devices, they must be paired with softer skills like an improved mental attitude about hearing loss and behavioral changes like using communication best practices. The best HCPs will look beyond the technology to incorporate these important skill sets in their recommendations and counseling.

For more information on all aspects of skillful living with hearing loss *Hear & Beyond: Live Skillfully with Hearing Loss*, available from Amazon.

Meet Consumers Where They Are

The right hearing aid will not be the same for every client. To encourage consistent wear, practitioners must meet consumers where they are. The best HCPs will recommend devices that meet each person’s list of must-haves within the context of the technologies that are available and suitable for their hearing loss.

Readers, how do you answer the question, “What is the best hearing aid?”



Shari Eberts is a hearing health advocate, writer, speaker and avid Bikram yogi. She blogs at <http://Livingwithhearingloss.com> and serves on the Board of Trustees of Hearing Loss Association of America. Shari has an adult-onset genetic hearing loss and hopes



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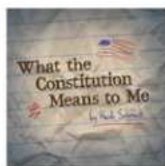
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December 8, 2024



February 9, 2025



March 9, 2025



May 11, 2025



CenterStage Theatre at the JCC
 585.461.2000 jcccenterstage.org
 Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center
 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618



UR MEDICINE AUDIOLOGY

EVALUATION-TREATMENT-SUPPORT

YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

COMPREHENSIVE HEARING CARE FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN AND ADULTS

7995 CALL PKWY
 STE. 100
 BATAVIA, NY 14020

HEARING AND HEARING AID EVALUATIONS

2365 S. CLINTON AVE
 SUITE 200
 ROCHESTER, NY 14618

HEARING AID DISPENSING REPAIRS, BATTERIES AND SUPPLIES

60 GREECE CENTER DRIVE
 ROCHESTER, NY 14612

125 LATTIMORE RD
 ROCHESTER, NY 14620
 PEDIATRICS ONLY

COME SEE ONE OF OUR AUDIOLOGISTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR HEARING!

📞 585-758-5700

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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 are currently meeting in person and online via Zoom. See our website at **hearinglossrochester.org** to register for the online access.

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

**or see
hearinglossrochester.org**

Professional Advisors
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2023-2025:
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 Technical - Charles Johnstone
 Legal - James Vazzana, Esq.

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**Newsletter**  
 Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.

Bruce & Candi Nelson, Editors  
 120 Cobblestone Dr.  
 Rochester, NY 14623  
 585-334-5513  
 editor@hearinglossrochester.org

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

***Be Part of National HLAA***

It's now easier than ever to **become a member** of HLAA's unique community of support! HLAA is the leading organization representing more than 50 million Americans with hearing loss, and empowering millions more who are at risk of developing this invisible disability.

Make a gift in any amount to help us make an impact on this growing public health crisis

**As a Member, You Will...**

- Make an impact helping millions thrive with hearing loss
- Get *Hearing Life* seasonal magazine delivered to your home\*
- Get the latest in hearing news, events and action alerts each month
- Get involved in important local and national advocacy initiatives

*\*Donations of \$45 and higher have option to receive Hearing Life Magazine by mail.*

To sign up, please visit <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/hlaa-membership> or send your donation, with your name, address, phone number, and email address (if any) to 6116 Executive Blvd, Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM  
HLAA-ROCHESTER**

Membership year: July 1 - September 30

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

All members receive the 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 of \$10 or more.):  Basic/Individual Dues, \$10 •  Basic/Family Dues, \$20  
 Corporate\* \$50 •  Friend\* \$25 •  Partner\* \$50,  
 Supporting\* \$100 • Donation,  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (cell): \_\_\_\_\_  
 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



NONPROFIT ORG.  
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**Return Service Requested**

**Time sensitive**

**Please deliver by November 27, 2024**



## **If 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: [www.hearingloss.org](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!

## **Our Meetings are Hearing Accessible**

We meet in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. and Westminster Rd., across from the George Eastman Museum. Parking is available at the George Eastman Museum, if needed.

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Our chapter meetings will also be streamed on Zoom, with captioning. See our website at [hearinglossrochester.org](http://hearinglossrochester.org) to sign up for access to all future meetings. Please register at least 24 hours before the first meeting you wish to attend, so that you will receive the link by email.

*Everyone, with or without a hearing loss, is welcome to join our meetings online or in person.*