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Volume 31, Number 6 published monthly except July and August February 2018

FEBRUARY Calendar

Tuesday, February 6th

10:00 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time
11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting
12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time
7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting
8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Feb. 13th - BOD – 7-9pm, ASC
Thurs., Feb. 15th -Device Demo Center, Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see p. 9)

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., March 13th – BOD – 7-9pm, ASC
Thurs., March 15th– Device Demo Center
Tues., April 3rd – “CI Group”-1:30pm,Vestry Rm
Tues., April 17th - PAC meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

WEATHER – During the winter, the rule to follow for cancelations of meetings is: IF THE ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS CLOSED, OUR MEETINGS ARE CANCELED. (No other notification will be made.)

Hospitality Duties for February:

Daytime Meeting –Anne Adamson, Nancy Meyer, Al Suffredini

Evening Meeting – Eric Matson

Board of Directors –Steve Barnett, Gerry Loftus, Al Suffredini

Please sign up to help when the “Refreshment Sheet” goes around!

We need your support. Please consider joining our Chapter, or renewing your membership. (Please see form inside the back cover)



FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

At St. Paul’s Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd. 14607
(Enter only through the Westminster Road door.)

Tues., Feb. 6th – 10:00am; Vestry room

HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session -*Jim Feuerstein (sub for Joe Kozelsky this month)*

Jim F. Feuerstein, Ph.D. Professor of Audiology in the Communication Sciences and Disorders department at Nazareth College, moderates a question-and-answer session for people considering hearing aids and those using them. Join us and share your hearing loss journey and learn from others. (NOTE NEW START TIME!)

Tues., Feb. 6th - Daytime Meeting--11:00am - Program begins at noon

UNTREATED HEARING LOSS & ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE: IS THERE A CONNECTION? *Antone Porsteinsson, MD*

A generally held idea holds that untreated hearing loss may be a causative factor in dementia. Anton Porsteinsson, MD, an internationally known expert on dementia, will update chapter members on current concepts in Alzheimer's Disease. Dr. Porsteinsson is the Director of the UR Alzheimer's Disease Care, Research and Education Program (AD-CARE)

(continued on page 2)

February 6th – Daytime Meeting (continued)

as well as the first William B. and Sheila Konar Professor of Psychiatry in the UR School of Medicine and Dentistry.

As a geriatric psychiatrist, he has devoted his career to the care and study of individuals with memory disorders. He participates in the UR Memory Care Program which serves a population with memory disorders. Dr. Porsteinsson is internationally recognized in clinical research and is considered one of the leading experts in the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias. He has authored and collaborated in hundreds of research publications.

Dr. Porsteinsson received his MD degree from the University of Iceland School of Medicine, completing his internship and residency at the University of Rochester.

Tuesday, Feb. 6th - Evening Meeting--7:00pm Program begins at 8:00pm

CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES IN ETHIOPIA - *Catherine Clark, Au.D.*

Dr. Catherine Clark is the volunteer audiological consultant for programs established by Global Visions Empowerment in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. To date over 150 deaf and hard-of-hearing Ethiopians have received hearing aids through her efforts. Custom earmolds and programmable digital aids were distributed there for the first time in 2017, thanks to many donors, including HLAA-Rochester Chapter.

Dr. Clark has served for the past 30 years as an Associate Professor, Audiologist and Coordinator of the Cochlear Implant Program at the NTID Dept. of Communication Studies and Services. The recipient of many awards, she was honored with the 2016 Oticon Focus on People Award in the Practitioner category. The award celebrates individuals eliminating negative stereotypes of deaf or hard-of-hearing people.

All HLAA programs are free. Anyone interested in hearing loss is welcome. For more information, view the organizational web site at www.hearinglossrochester.org, or telephone 585 266 7890.

The Rochester Chapter is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. HLAA has a support network of organizations: Bethesda, MD; state organizations; and, local chapters.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Art Maurer and Sue Miller



Can the HLAA be defined in a word? Let's consider the word: AWARENESS.

We at HLAA-Rochester use three words as our Mission: *Support, Education, Advocacy – SEA* ...easy to remember. In each case we strive to build awareness.

Support to make individuals experiencing hearing loss aware that they are not alone. Aware of the many avenues available to better cope with our invisible impairment. To make it easier to stay connected and feel comfortable socializing; to stave off isolation.

Education focuses on better understanding hearing loss in its many manifestations; easily stereotyped even though unique to each individual. We strive to build awareness of what is available and encourage individuals to seek reliable professional assistance.

Advocacy to make public places friendlier to those of us with hearing loss: entertainment venues, restaurants, houses of worship, medical facilities, transportation terminals...wherever people gather. We build awareness among business owners and public officials, and advise our members of 'hearing friendly' environments.

HLAA-Rochester continues work to increase awareness. **Our Daytime and Evening programs** are on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

We've just launched a **new Website** at www.hearinglossrochester.org. It's easier to navigate and more attractive to folks new to HLAA. **Our Assistive Listening Device Demo Center** provides hands-on experience with relatively low-cost equipment. (For more info, see page 9)

In the Spring we'll be using short TV spots on WXXI to provide quick tips on coping with hearing loss; hopefully to build awareness of HLAA-Rochester. And our **annual Featured Speaker Program will be on May 1st** – come join us for an enjoyable learning experience. (Watch this Newsletter and our website for further details.)

The bottom-line focus of all we do at our Chapter is to enhance awareness--of what is happening around us, of what our friends and relatives are saying, of how to realize the best quality of life each of us can attain.

As always we're open to suggestions on how to make more people aware of HLAA-Rochester and how to make HLAA more meaningful to you, our members. SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com and amaurer40@frontier.com.

“CI GROUP” – with Advanced Bionics Rep

Cochlear implants give hope and hearing to those whose deafness exceeds the capabilities of aids.

Jane Ledingham, AB Consumer Specialist, NE region, will address our “Cochlear Implant Group” meeting at **1:30pm Tuesday, April 3**, following the routine chapter meeting.

Ms. Ledington will introduce AB's devices to those considering implants. Qualifications for candidacy, insurance issues, aural rehabilitation and audiology will be explored. Advanced Bionics, headquartered in California, is one of three CI manufacturers.

Ms. Ledington's talk is free and open to all CI "wannabes" and those wondering about CI technology, as well as their significant others. Contact Janet McKenna deaphyduck@gmail.com for more information.

We Welcome All Donations

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester (HLAA is a 501©(3) organization.)
Mail to: Ms. Joanne Owens, 1630 Woodard Rd.,
Webster, NY 14580

Be sure to designate:

This donation is: In Memory of; or, In Honor of;
or, Birthday congratulations.

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM – May 1st

By Elise de Papp, M.D.



Mark your calendars for the Featured Speaker Program on May 1st. The FSP committee has engaged Sam Trychin, psychologist. (He spoke to our Chapter in 2012.)

He addresses reducing the stress that comes with hearing loss. By interacting with his audience in an informal and witty fashion, Dr. Trychin makes learning enjoyable.

This will replace our separate daytime and evening Chapter meetings May 1st. Time and location to be announced. Watch this Newsletter, and our new website at www.hearinglossrochester.org for details.

UNSUNG HERO !



Each of you brought a gift and placed it in the huge wrapped box. Many thanks for your generosity!

That box was carefully and beautifully wrapped by **Marlene Sutliff**. The next step, however, is not easy; but each year Marlene loads the box into her car, and again this year drove to the Veterans Outreach Center, and unloaded the heavy box as HLAA-Rochester's donation to the VOC.

Many thanks, Marlene, for your care and concern each year at the holiday time.

p.s. VOC already has sent along a big THANK YOU!

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

All performances are **Sunday, at 1:00 pm**

Feb. 11th – On Your Feet
 March 15th – An American in Paris
 May 6th - RENT

Tickets become available 6 weeks in advance of each show. Request seats in “open captions” viewing section. Call 222-5000; email, info@rbtl.org.

GEVA THEATRE – CAPTIONED PLAYS !

SAT. shows 2pm; WED. 2pm & 7:30pm
unless otherwise indicated

Sat. Feb. 17; Wed. March 7 – **Diary of Anne Frank**
 Sat. March 17 @ 2:30pm – **Heartland**
 Sat. April 7; Wed. April 25 – **One House Over**
 Sat. May 12; Wed. May 30 – **Steel Magnolias**

Call the Box Office at 232-4382. Ask for seats in the “open captions” viewing section.

DONATING HEARING AIDS TO THE LIONS CLUB

By Michelle Gross



If you have used hearing aids to donate, please address the package to:

John McNamara, Au.D.,
 Ontario Hearing, 2210 Monroe Avenue,
 Rochester, NY 14618

Put on the lower left corner of the package:
 “Finger Lakes Region Lions Club”

(Cleaning tools, cases, most accessories, etc. have virtually no value and are discarded.) Aids that are usable are cleaned and checked and made ready for sending to the Lions Club for qualified recipients. You can obtain a receipt for your donation (for tax purposes) but you must request it. And, thanks for considering donating your used aids.

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

Wed/Thurs @ 7pm; Sat/Sun @ 2pm



“The Hit Makers: And the Beat Goes On”—**Group party, see p. 6.**
Sun., Feb. 11; Thurs., Feb. 15;

Sat., Feb. 17

“Buyer & Cellar”

Sun., March 18; Thurs., March 22

“Bridges of Madison County” – the musical

Sun., May 13; Thurs., May 17; Sat., May 19

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. *Please specify “Captioned Area.”* Tickets are \$26-29 with discounts for JCC members, full time students and season subscribers.



For Your Donation to HLAA:

--Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
 --Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
 --Rochester Area Community Foundation
 --Mary Tuckley Estate

For Donation Above Membership:

Dan Brooks, Warren Crandall, Elaine VanderBrook

In Memory of Bob Bradshaw

Carol Bradshaw

In Memory of Sam Medwetsky (Larry’s son)

Sue Miller

In Memory of Bob Sheahan, Sr.

Angela Ellis, Bonnie Kelly, Jerry and Joan Lewis,
 Sue Miller

In Memory of Harry Stoneham (Barb Law’s brother)

Sue Miller

In Memory of Vern Thayer

Sue Miller

In Memory of J. Wasserman

Jeannette and Shami Kanter

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **324** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

Great news! Our Daytime and Evening monthly meetings will continue to be **captioned**.

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall, since 2011. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter, and we thank you! (*Michael Holm, Director of Engineering, will speak at our Chapter meetings March 6th, day and evening.*)

We also owe a huge debt of thanks to **Dan Brooks, Charlie Johnstone, and Bruce Nelson** for overseeing the technical set-up needed for this service. Without their dedication in attending *all* meetings, this would not happen!

BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...

Everyone: please let me know if you're one of our special Chapter members who will reach the spectacular age of 90 years, or more. If you agree, we'd like to announce it in our Newsletter. It is important to let me know right away as our Newsletters are written two months ahead. Thanks, Ginger
ggraham859@gmail.com; or, (585) 671-2683

WANTED: CHAPTER DOCUMENTS

By Janet McKenna, MLS



As the Chapter Archivist, I conserve any documents, newspaper stories, programs, minutes, agendas, invitations, correspondence--all kinds of ephemera concerning HLAA-Rochester Chapter and its members. I save material about this chapter **ONLY** and its members, not deafness or other groups. You are the eyes of the chapter. You can find stories that I might not.

Are you cleaning out your file cabinet or desk? Are you moving or downsizing? Please forward any old SHHH or HLAA ephemera to me, either online at deaphyduck@gmail.com, or in person at a chapter meeting, or to my postal address: 1315 Elmwood Ave., Apt.1004, Rochester (14620).

Chapter ephemera are posted in scrapbooks and depict this group's history. Our Rochester Chapter is the most vibrant chapter in upstate New York and one of the oldest HLAA chapters. We were established in 1983! Transfer your excess papers where they will be appreciated! Many thanks, Janet.

This award-winning Newsletter of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA is published monthly except for July and August.

Editor and Publisher.....Ginger Graham
Computer Consultant,

Webmaster, and Writer.....Michelle Gross
News Releases, and Writer.....Janet McKenna
Photographers.....Art Maurer, Al Suffredini

CONDOLENCES



Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of **Vern Thayer**. He passed away December 22nd. Vern had just turned 101 years.

Please see his obituary on page 7.



We need your support. Please consider joining (or renewing membership in) our Chapter. Perhaps consider the gift of our Newsletter for a friend and/or family. (see form inside the back cover)

Save the date of February 11th for JCC Matinee Captioned Show!

By Barb Law, Special Events Chair



HAAA Theater Event at the Jewish Community Center, **Sunday, February 11th at 2 pm**, 1200 Edgewood Ave. Rochester 14618

“The Hit Makers: And the Beat Goes On”

A captioned performance of an all-new show at the low cost of \$25 per ticket. This is a discounted rate...we currently have reserved 25 seats. Per the JCC website:

“A musical tribute to the late 1960’s.--we bring a fresh take to chart-topping hits by Sonny & Cher, Marvin Gaye, Three Dog Night, Donovan, The 5th Dimension, and many more. “

Following the show, please join us for a light meal at **Root 31 Café**. The café’s back room is reserved for HAAA from 4 pm on. Root 31 Cafe is located at 3349 Monroe Ave (14618) in the Pittsford Plaza between Trader Joe’s and the movie theatre. Dinner cost is on your own.

Reservations and ticket payment were due to Barb Law by January 15th. Please contact Barb to see if tickets can be arranged now. 585 275 0571 or blaw1@rochester.rr.com. Hope to see you there!



Sincere happy birthday greetings to **Ginny Koenig** and also **Edith Lank** who are over 90 years young.

We wish you both more healthy and happy years.

SINGLE-SIDED DEAFNESS

The Acoustic Neuroma Association is having a presentation by Dr. M. Wightman, UR, re managing Tinnitus. Sat., March 3rd at 10:00am, Pittsford Lib. Contact: tom_banach@hotmail.com.



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is:

www.hearinglossrochester.org and

Michelle Gross is our Web Master.

HAAA National website is www.hearingloss.org.

(submitted by Al Suffredini)

Following info from AARP.

[Do You Know How to Recognize Hearing Loss?](#)

Quickly answer a few “conversational” questions to help you recognize hearing loss and your need to be evaluated

<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2014/how-to-recognize-hearing-loss.html?intcmp=AE-HEALTH-HEARING-SPOTLIGHT-SPOT6>

[Do You Need an Implanted Hearing Device?](#)

Traditional hearing aids don't work? New generation of implants are better than ever

<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2015/implanted-hearing-devices.html?intcmp=AE-HEALTH-HEARING-HEARINGAIDES-SPOT1>

[What to Expect With Your New Hearing Aid](#)

It may take some adjustment, but you’re on your way to better hearing

<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2015/new-hearing-aid-photo.html?intcmp=AE-HEALTH-HEARING-HEARINGAIDES-SPOT2#slide1>

IN MEMORIAM



The members of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Vern Thayer**. Vern passed away on Friday, December 22nd, just a few weeks after his 101st birthday. Vern

died peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by family.

Vern began losing his hearing in his early 30's, but at that time needed only amplification. In 1983, he became involved with a small group of people with hearing loss who started the Rochester Chapter of SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing). Vern was a charter member. He lost his hearing totally in a short two days and was deaf. Surmounting obstacles of testing and insurance and age, Vern did receive a Cochlear Implant. He contributed to the Chapter by attending several committee meetings, giving presentations to outside groups, and attending our national Conventions.

Vern's career was with Eastman Kodak. Upon his retirement, he spent his time framing and matting his wife's (Bing) paintings, and playing tennis.

He was very involved with Lake Avenue Baptist Church and active in many ways. Once he and a group canvassed the Edgerton area to see if LABC could be of help to those with hearing loss.

Vern was one of the most prolific blood donors in the Rochester area. He could not serve his country during World War II, so in 1942 started donating blood. Altogether, 510 whole blood and platelet donations—receiving the distinction of the “oldest, active platelet donor.”

He is survived by his daughters—Marcia (Richard) Kramer; Connie (Craig) Welch; and his son, Paul (Marilyn) Thayer.

Accolades from our Chapter members:

“Vern has been an integral part of this chapter for as long as I have been aware of the Rochester Chapter, and how remarkable this chapter is. He has been a very large part of the reason for the longstanding excellence of the chapter. Vern was an integral part of our essence. We owe him so much. We are so grateful to him for the great start we had back in the day. It has been an honor to have known Vern.”

“It is a rare thing to have one individual be known personally by many generations. It is even more rare when that individual touches the lives of those many generations in such a positive way.”

“I have never met such a kind, loving, and joyful soul as Vern. He epitomized the meaning of gentleman. As we all know, Vern gave life to many and many will miss him dearly.”

“When I joined SHHH/HLAA in 1990, Vern was one of the first who warmly welcomed me with encouragement and helpful advice. When Vern was having doubts about getting a CI (in his 80's), I encouraged him telling him ‘you may live many years after the implant which would add quality years to your Golden Years!’ He did and loved it.”

As Vern always said “He considered himself the luckiest hard-of-hearing person in the country.”

“Vern's bright spirit, good nature, wonderful sense of humor, and an ever-ready smile will be remembered forever. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.”

His family is planning “A Celebration of Life” to be held in the Summer.

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, January 31st
(for the March Newsletter)
Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

HELP HLAA VIA THE UNITED WAY

We continue to be a United Way “Donor Designated Option” choice. We are not a direct United Way agency and do not receive any funding from their general campaign. Therefore, to donate to HLAA, we ask you to consider donating to us through the “Designated Option” on your gift card.

Our United Way number is 2425.



Your past support is deeply appreciated. As with other gifts, your donation enables our chapter to continue to provide education, help, and advocacy for people with hearing loss, their families and their friends. Alas, even though the local chapter is a totally volunteer organization, there are still costs such as printing, postage, phones, and technical items. Many thanks!

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Tues., May 22nd

We need your help in organizing our dinner. Please contact Barb Law at blaw1@rochester.rr.com; or, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com for more info. Thanks for your consideration in helping to make our dinner a huge success.

GROUND HOG DAY – February 2nd

"If 'Candlemas Day' be stormy and black,
 It carries the winter away on its back." (If he sees
 his shadow, 6 more weeks of winter.)
(from Old Farmer's Almanac)

Subject of March 6th Chapter Meetings:

Daytime and Evening: “CaptionCall” – Michael Holm and Cameron Tingey- speak about technology changes; phone usage habits; mobile tech; speech recognition and AI, and more.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES

Deadline April 1, 2018

HLAA-Rochester is once again pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was started in 1996 initially with a \$500 grant. The initial Program was made possible by the generous donation from J. Stuart and Phyllis MacDonald. In 2006 the award was increased to \$1,000 made possible in part by funds raised by our annual Walk4Hearing.

If you know a high school senior with hearing loss, who is pursuing their higher education either through college or vocational training, please tell them about our program. Financial need is not a requirement. The scholarship is a one-time award.

Applications for the scholarship are available at our web site: www.hearinglossrochester.org. or by contacting Madge Ludwig at mludwig1@rochester.rr.com. The application deadline is **APRIL 1, 2018**. Please help us spread the word.

IF YOU MOVE, or are a “SNOWBIRD!”

Please don't forget to notify **Henry J. Adler, Ph.D.**, Univ .of Buffalo, 137-L Cary Hall, 3435 Main St., Buffalo NY 14214; or – hjadler@aol.com, even if your change of address is a temporary one.

HLAA is charged for each piece of returned mail, which the Post Office will not forward. When you return, we will resume sending to your local address.

MARDI GRAS



“Carnival” is the period of feasting and fun which begins on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. “Mardi Gras” is “Fat Tuesday” –the final day of revelry before Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th, when Lent begins. Mardi Gras is scheduled to be 47 days before Easter (April 1, 2018).

The significance of the Mardi Gras colors–purple stands for justice, green for faith, and gold for power. (Also the colors of HLAA).

“MY STORY” –A Personal History of Hearing Loss

By John Curtis



When I was 20, I started losing my hearing. My hearing would go from very low to almost normal within an hour--I

would go to bed deaf and wake up hearing. I had balance issues as well. No one suggested I get a hearing aid so I went for 5 years in-between being deaf and hearing. I did not take any hearing classes, and I became isolated. Working in a machine shop, people spoke loud to overcome the noise so I got by at work, somewhat. Then and even now, there are a lot of jobs I would like to do which I can't do because of my hearing loss. Rhode Island had a strong HLAA chapter which helped me learn skills and made me feel less isolated.

I started life on my own six months after high school, with only a one week pay check, when I moved back to Rhode Island after helping my mother resettle in Idaho. I worked hard and bought my first house when I was 23 (with no help from anyone). I rented rooms to fellows and during this time had over 30 different housemates. I owned and managed real estate mostly in the inner city of Providence--at one time 4 properties and 11 units. I worked in one company for 30 years and, when that company closed, there was a special Federal Grant to receive retraining.

At age 58, I came to Rochester to go to NTID. Here I met and fell in love with someone. We were together for four years, then she died and I never felt such grief; I loved her so much.

My passions when I am not working are—biking and sailing. I once went 5 years without a car. I biked to work down a country road and would see the sun rise over corn fields. I took a few long trips--one in Nova Scotia, Canada with a group. And, I love to sail and at one time had 3 boats. My longest boat trip was up the Long Island Sound but mostly

sailing Narraganset Bay in RI. I could leave work on a Friday make it to my mooring and out into the bay in time to anchor next to Hope Island just at sunset. I remember sitting on deck with my back against the mast drinking tea and seeing fireworks from five different cities way in the distance. Hope is a small deserted island that once was used by the Navy during the war; now used as a bird sanctuary. It was my private spot to enjoy on my own.

I love to read and I do some writing. I play the stock market. One of my best bets was with Warren Buffett. I do acting (mostly student films). One movie is on YouTube (look up “Fritz the Artist”). I took my S A T's at 27. I have 2 AA degrees and almost finished a degree in Special Education at RIT. I'm always taking classes and learning. Currently, you'll see me on the 3rd Thursday at Lifespan helping with the Device Demo Center!

THE 4th HLAA-ROCHESTER ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER SESSION --A BIG SUCCESS

By Charlie Johnstone



Once again, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts and due diligence of those involved, the Demo

Center's fourth session on Thursday, Dec 21st was a success! All played a key role, whether they were actually there or helped with the preparations. Thank you **Dan Brooks, Stan Gross, and Charlie Johnstone** who were “trainers”, for member volunteers—**Al Baker, John Curtis, Lorin Gallistel, Michelle Gross, Eric Matson, Sue Miller, and Barb Rice.**

Eleven people stopped by looking for answers on which devices may help them hear better. The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones, personal assistive listening devices and hearing aid accessories. The next demo session at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave (Tops plaza) 14618 is Thursday, February 15th, 10am to 2pm. (The device center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month, except July and August).

NEW YEAR AND A BRAND-NEW CHAPTER WEBSITE!

By Michelle Gross, Web Master

Are you wondering what the topics will be at our next Chapter meeting? Do you have a question about hearing loss or would a group to which you belong appreciate a presentation on hearing loss? Maybe you missed an issue of our award-winning Newsletter or perhaps you remember an article you read but no longer have your paper copy...find all of this and more on our new Chapter Website at www.hearinglossrochester.org.

Our Rochester Chapter has a lot to offer people with hearing loss and those who are a part of our lives. Our Marketing Committee has developed a plan to help those who don't know about us to become acquainted with our Chapter. A part of the new plan is a new Chapter Website. The new Website has a modern style, simplifies finding information, and provides additional capability such as making on-line donations.

Our Website also has a new Web "address." www.hearinglossrochester.org It may be easier to remember if you see the address as "HearingLossRochester.org." If you have our old site bookmarked, not to worry, if you try and go to the old site you will automatically be taken to our new Website.

Visit often and bring your family and friends to the Website as well; information will be updated regularly. Happy New Year and happy browsing!



We need your support!

No paid dues; no Newsletters!

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. If you haven't yet, please consider a donation when you renew your membership. Thanks so much!

Heartfelt thanks to the following for their special writing contribution in this month's Newsletter: Ginger Graham, Michelle Gross, Joe Kozelsky, Sue Miller, Al Suffredini, Connie Welch, Tim Whitcher

ADD CELL PHONE TO ALERT SYSTEM

Excerpt from D&C: Bennett J. Loudon

Residents can add cell, & digital phone numbers to alert system. Experts say about 30% of homes depend solely on a cellular or digital phone today which poses a problem for authorities when they want to contact residents with an emergency notification system.

So far, the system has been able to reach only hard-wired phones. Now both Monroe and Ontario Counties can add the cellular and digital phone numbers to a database so they are included when automated calls go out about water main breaks, missing persons, dangerous conditions, and other emergency situations.



Also, hearing impaired residents who depend on a special device to receive phone calls should update the system with that information.

To register in Monroe County, go to: www.911rochester.com, and click on Hyper-reach at 911 on right side of the page.

To register in Ontario County, go to: www.co.ontario.ny.us/sheriff, and click on Hyper-Reach Registration under the red 911 button on left side.



By Nancy Meyer

Did you know that our chapter has a Lending Library? There are several books and DVDs available for members to sign out for a month at a time. They are on display at the front of our meeting room. Sign out one (or more), and return them at the next month's chapter meeting.

Members have donated books; you can too! Please bring them to a meeting. Right now, we have available to borrow:

Gael Hannan – "The Way I Hear It"

Katherine Boughton – "Living Better w/Hearing Loss"

Monique Hammond – "What Did You Say?"

Art Maurer – "Twisted Vines;" also, "Frackin' Lives"; and more to choose from!

COGNITIVE HEARING AID FILTERS OUT THE NOISE

(excerpt from *Peninsula News, CA Chapter, Winter 2018*)

Summary: A newly developed cognitive hearing aid can monitor brain activity to determine to whom a person is listening and can amplify that voice to assist the listener. The technology can help a hearing impaired person follow a conversation in a noisy environment far more easily. *Source: Columbia University.*

“People with hearing loss have a difficult time following a conversation in a multi-speaker environment such as a noisy restaurant or a party. While current hearing aids can suppress background noise, they cannot help a user listen to a single conversation...without knowing which speaker the user is paying attention to. A cognitive hearing aid that constantly monitors the brain activity to see which speaker is being focused on would be a dream come true.”

“Mesgarani’s team developed a system that receives a mixture of speakers and includes the listener’s neural signals from the brain on which speaker the user is paying attention to, and then amplifies that specific person’s voice, all in under 10 seconds.”

“This work combines the state-of-the-art from two disciplines: speech engineering and auditory attention decoding...and moves us closer to the development of realistic hearing aid devices that can automatically and dynamically track a user’s direction of attention and amplify an attended speaker.”

(Editor: Note, this article was shortened and reworded for clarity. To read the article in full: <http://neurosciencenews.com/cognitive-hearing-aid-7247/>)

Disclaimer—HLAA does not endorse products or services. Mention of such is intended to provide readers with information on products or services that might be of interest; it is not a recommendation or endorsement.



HLAA National Convention 2018

Minneapolis Minnesota, June 21—24, 2018

Host hotel -- Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

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Register Online or Offline; www.hearingloss.org.

Registration is different this year. Please note what is/isn't included during the registration process.

Increased rates will begin April 1 and continue through May 31 when pre-convention registration closes. On-site registration will be available as well.

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(Reduced rates before March 31st.)

Veterans and Caregivers (Free Registration for 1st Timers)

HLAA is offering a complimentary registration for veterans and their caregivers who are attending their first HLAA Convention as a small token of our gratitude. Please download and complete the [Veterans Registration form](#) and send it to convention@hearingloss.org.

Questions? Email Niaz Siasi, Meeting Planner at convention@hearingloss.org.

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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 from October through June at St.Paul’s Episcopal Church, East Ave. (September is 2nd Tuesday.) While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability. For more information, Call **585 266 7890**

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2017 – 2019

*Tamala David, Ph.D.
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 Christine Olivier
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**Consultants: Paul Dutcher, M.D.
 Charles Johnstone, James Vazzana, Esq.**
 ^^^

Newsletter

*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
 Send articles to:
 Ginger Graham
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 Webster, NY 14580
 ggraham859@gmail.com*

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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 the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: www.hearinglossrochester.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—Bethesda, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only*-- contact Linda Siple, 585 288 6744, or at lasnss@rit.edu, at least a week in advance. **(This phone number is only to request an Interpreter.)**

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