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Volume 32, Number 5 published monthly except July and August – Rochester NY Chapter Newsletter January 2019

JANUARY Calendar

Tuesday, January 8th -- NOTE THE DATE!

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

Daytime Chapter meeting:

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time- Parish Hall

11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting

12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

Evening Chapter meeting:

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time – Parish Hall

7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting

8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Jan.15th – **BOD meeting**, 7-9pm, ASC

Thurs., Jan. 17th - **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see page 11)

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Feb. 12th – BOD – 7-9pm – Al Sigl Center

Thurs., Feb. 21st – **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see page 11)

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.) Also, see p.11 info from St. Paul’s Church.

Hospitality Duties for January:

Daytime Meeting –Dianne Brown, Carol Loftus,
Eric Matson

Evening Meeting –Barb Law, Judy Markowski
Board of Directors –Elise de Papp, M.D.;
John Eckhardt; Barb Gates

PAC Meeting – Elise de Papp, M.D.;
Barb Gates; Art Maurer



JANUARY PROGRAMS

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

Tues., Jan. 8th - 10:00am - Vestry room

HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session –Jim Feuerstein, Ph.D.

Prospective, new or long-time hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal round table discussion facilitated by Jim Feuerstein, sitting in for Joe Kozelsky in January and February.

Tues., Jan. 8th - Daytime Meeting -11:00am- Speaker begins at Noon.

Making of "The Hit Makers"-*Ralph Meranto, Senior Director of Arts & Culture, Rochester Jewish Community Center*

Remember Petula Clark? Dusty Springfield? The Hollies? Not to mention the Beatles! Ralph Meranto, Artistic Director and Producer of JCC's CenterStage Theater, explores the creation of "The Hit Makers" series of musical revues of pop music. Its latest incarnation is "The British are Coming!" when the Brits monopolized hits in the US.

(continued on page 2)

Tues., Jan. 8th – Daytime Meeting – (continued)

Learn what it takes to create this original show that has become one of the area's most popular annual events.

The JCC has been presenting live captioning of certain performances of each show for a couple of years. Meranto has directed/performed/produced over 100 productions locally. We also know him as a member of our HLAA Professional Advisory Committee:

Added note: A special HLAA outing is being arranged for the February 10th matinee of “The Hit Makers: The British Are Coming.” See page 6 for details.

Tuesday, Jan. 8th – Evening Meeting – 7:00 pm
Speaker begins at 8:00 pm

Hearing Loss and Mental Health: Is there a connection? - Barbara Isaman-Bushart MSW, MDiv

This will be a round table format. “Hearing loss and mental health issues interface when withdrawal from social situations leaves individuals isolated and less likely to keep brain activity stimulated,” says Bushart. Untreated hearing loss puts people at greater risk of a variety of mental health concerns. Our speaker addresses the importance of targeting and treating hearing loss to protect mental well-being and stimulate brain activity.

Long time HLAA presenter Barbara Isaman-Bushart began losing her hearing at age 23 and acquired a Cochlear Implant 15 years ago. She is a co-pastor of the Community of the Savior on East Henrietta Road . As well, she has been a social worker with those living with hearing loss of all degrees. We welcome back Barbara Bushart!

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

Those needing a sign language interpreter for an evening meeting should contact Linda Siple at 585 788 6744 a week in advance. This phone is only for those needing an interpreter.

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.

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT, AND,
VICE-PRESIDENT**

By Dan Brooks and Suzanne Johnston



Well, here we are...another year passed and another before us, clothed with hope and anticipation. It is hard to believe that January already marks the middle of the

program year for HLAA! Seems like we were just ‘taking our seats’ to gear up for the start of the year! The last 4 months have been full of plans for this coming year and all it brings. New Year’s Resolutions aside, HLAA-Rochester will be welcoming in 2019 with many plans for a variety of activities which will be added to our usual plethora of what goes on from month to month.

In addition to our Chapter’s monthly daytime and evening meetings, speakers and informational presentations, HOPE sessions, various health fairs and community presentations, Device Demo Center sessions, captioned plays and movies, dinners, etc, etc, here are some particular events you will want to note on your respective calendars:

We were pleased and proud to be informed that the national **Annual Convention of the Hearing Loss Association of America will be held from June 20-23, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency** in our own Rochester, NY. The Convention was previously held in Rochester in 1988. Currently being held every year, it’s typical venue is in large ‘convention cities’ such as Atlanta or Minneapolis.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENTS COLUMN (continued)

The idea that Rochester will be graced with the Convention is a real testament to national HLAA's support of our chapter.

This event is significant and will involve keynote speaker Rebecca Alexander, exhibitions, vendors, research symposiums, educational programs and papers, as well as receptions and social events for connecting with others from all around North America (and other locales). And, of course, all events will be hearing accessible. Registrants can choose to attend any number of days, during which they will have opportunities to experience the convention in any way they choose--by attending lectures, chatting with vendors/exhibitors, and connecting with others. What a wonderful opportunity! Our Chapter is offering stipends of \$100 toward registration costs for the Convention. But hurry...this stipend assistance has been understandably popular, and there are only limited spots remaining. Contact our Chapter President, Dan Brooks at dbrooks.HLAA.ROC@gmail.com, or at (585) 704-8191; or Vice President, Suzanne Johnston at sejohnston1959@gmail.com or (585) 586-4158 if you are interested in taking advantage of this important **member benefit**. Check out the website for Convention at:

<https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/>

Another important event slated for 2019: Our Chapter is poised to learn the news of the **release of Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids** this year. The government bodies that regulate hearing aid sales have moved forward with legislation for this to occur, which will be ground-breaking in terms of how hearing aid sales are accomplished and who can buy them. While we expect that the cost of hearing aids will be significantly impacted (reduced) by the market competition, we will also be watching closely to gauge customer satisfaction and use of aids with these looser regulations and means of purchasing. This change will also have waves of effect on those professionals who work with people with hearing loss, and we will also have our 'ear to

the ground' (no pun intended!) to assess the effects on those industries.



Another important event you won't want to miss: late this summer (date TBA) our chapter will be holding an

appreciation party for all its members. The event will serve to bring together individuals as well as families affected by hearing loss. As a progressive and vital organization, our chapter not only wants to recognize and celebrate the membership of all who make us a successful and relevant organization, but we also strive to maintain visibility and attract a broad cross-section of our community.

This is an opportunity to invite your friends, families, and co-workers to a fun and food-filled afternoon at an area park lodge. There will be something for everyone, and all are welcome. We are excited to hold the first annual event of this type for our membership. And, if you are not already a member, you can easily become one! You can do so by filling out the form at the back of this Newsletter, or responding to your annual membership letter, or by letting us know at any point that you would like to secure membership in our wonderful organization.

Welcome to 2019!.. which will undoubtedly be a busy and industrious one for HLAA-Rochester. We hope that your New Year's Resolutions include becoming more visible and active in our chapter, whether it be through attendance at our regular monthly events, committee meetings or involvement in one of those special activities mentioned here. We look forward to celebrating with you all that 2019 has to offer!

IN CASE YOU WONDERED...

UPPER and lowercase letters are so named because typesetters stored CAPITAL letters in an UPPER drawer (case), and smaller, noncapital letters in a lower case. *Old Farmer's Almanac 2018*)

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

Feb. 10, 2019 – **Chicago**
March 10, 2019 – **Miss Saigon**
April 28, 2019 – **Hamilton**
June 9, 2019 - **Waitress**

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. Jan. 12; Wed. Jan. 30 @ 2pm & 7pm – **Hard Cell**
Sat. Jan. 26 @ 2:30pm – **The Magician’s Daughter**
Sat. Feb. 23; Wed. March 13 – **The Humans**
Sat. March 16 @ 2:30pm – **Erma Bombeck**
Sat. March 30; Wed. April 17 - **Native Gardens**
Sat. April 13 @ 2:30pm - **The Royal**
Sat. May 4; Wed. May 29 – **Revival: The Resurrection of Son House**

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

We need your support!
Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much.

**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

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

Wed/Thurs @ 7pm; Sat/Sun @ 2pm
unless otherwise indicated

shutterstock - 88443298
Sun. Feb. 10; Wed. Feb. 13 –
“**Hit Makers: The British Are Coming**”
Feb. 10- 2pm—Chapter special event. (see page 6)
Sun. April 7; Thurs. April 11 – “**Indecent**”
Sun. May 12; Wed. May 15 – “**Oklahoma**”

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. Please specify “Captioned Area.” Tickets are \$25-33 with discounts for JCC members, full-time students and season subscribers.

NTID THEATRES

PANERA THEATRE - captioned

Thurs/Fri.-7:30pm; Sat.-2pm,
7:30pm; Sun.-2pm (unless otherwise indicated)

“**LEAVES OF THE POETRY TREE (DANCE)**”
Feb. 21 & 22; Feb. 23; Feb. 24

“**FENCES**”
April 11 & 12; April 13 @ 7:30pm only; April 14

MAGIC SPELL THEATRE – captioned.

“**AL-POLLO**”
April 19; April 20 @ 2pm & 8pm; April 25;
April 26; April 27 @ 8pm only; April 28

Panera Theater parking in Lot “L”
Magic Spell parking in Lots “E” & “F”
Cost: \$12 general public
More Info: www.rit.edu/theatrearts/cla-ntid

CAPTIONED MOVIES AT CINEMA THEATRE
By Gaelen McCormick

Starting December 12th and every Wednesday after that, all Wednesday movies at the Cinema will be **open caption.** They rotate movies every week and are a LOT less expensive than the AMC and Regal cinemas. Check local listings and www.captionfish.com.

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**. It will be the 8th year Cameron Tingley has offered to underwrite the cost of this invaluable service. By June 2019, CaptionCall will have spent \$24,000 to have our meetings captioned...aren't we blessed! and we thank you!

We also owe a huge debt of thanks to **Dan Brooks, Lorin Gallistel, 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!

“EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SENIORS AND THOSE WITH HEARING LOSS”

*from Tim (TK) Kohlmeier, Director, OEM;
submitted by Lorin Gallistel*

Disaster Preparedness for Seniors by Seniors by the Red Cross

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness_Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Disaster_Preparedness_for_Srs-English.revised_7-09.pdf -

<https://tinyurl.com/ycj3mumv>.

Disaster Preparedness and the Deaf Community by the Red Cross and NTID

http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/php/332/332_brochure.pdf

<https://tinyurl.com/y7wdx232>

For Your Donation to HLAA:



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

In Honor of Ginger Graham's 80th Birthday Janet McKenna

In Memory of Joan Ewing

Ginger Graham, Janet McKenna, Sue Miller

In Memory of Charlie Treat

Ginger Graham, Joe & Linda Kozelsky

For Donation Above Membership:

Correction Dec. NL: Alana Kanter (Wasserman)

Sandra Baldwin, Dan Brooks, Mary Chizuk, Richard & Mary Lou Fallon, Werner & Susan Kunz, Judith L. McMillan, Patricia J. Pogue, Mary & Edward Wilkins; CNB Community Foundation

Please consider a donation when you renew your membership

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, December 31st
(for the February Newsletter)
Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much. (Please see form inside back cover.)



“We all have our own life to pursue, our own kind of dream to be weaving, and we all have the power to make wishes come true, as long as we keep believing.”
Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !*By Jenn Hurlburt*

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **342** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

“SCIENTISTS WITH HL CHANGING PERSPECTIVES IN STEMM”*By Henry Adler, Ph.D.*

An article will come out in the Spring issue of *Acoustics Today*--titled "Scientists with hearing loss changing perspectives in STEMM." (STEMM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine.)

This article is co-authored by four scientists with hearing loss in the field of Hearing Research. One of the authors is your own Henry Adler, who has a doctorate in Neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania--25 years ago, his dissertation focused on hearing recovery in the acoustically injured bird.

In the article, I and my peers discuss our own hearing loss, educational experiences, and ways of overcoming barriers created by hearing loss (including hearing aids and Cochlear Implants as well as communication modes including listening and spoken language, Sign Language and Cued speech). At the end, the authors conclude their article with the impact of rapid and new technological advances on people with hearing loss and their loved ones.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

“Two New Rochester Chapter CI Recipients!”

Don Bataille and Arthur Fitelson. Their first mapping was early December, so both are anxiously waiting for the next phase of their hearing journey.

Save the date of February 10th for JCC Matinee Captioned Show!*By Barb Law, Special Events Chair*

HLAA Theater Event at the Jewish Community Center, **Sunday, February 10th at 2 pm,** 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester 14618

“The Hit Makers: The British Are Coming”

A captioned performance of an all-new show at a discounted rate of \$28!

Following the show, please join us for a light meal at Root 31 Café. The cafe’s back room is reserved for HLAA from 4 pm on. Root 31 is located at 3349 Monroe Ave in Pittsford Plaza between Trader Joe’s and the movie theatre.

Reservations and ticket payment are due to Barb Law with a check made out to Barbara Law by January 15th. Please send checks to: Barb Law at 25 Harvest Road, Fairport, NY 14450. Dinner cost is on your own. To hold your ticket-- blaw1@rochester.rr.com. Hope to see you there!



Flu Shots – The CDC recommends getting your flu shot now. Because flu is contagious 1-2 days before symptoms appear, it can be spread before we know we’re infected. For more info, go to: www.cdc.gov/flu.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

"October 1843, the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith was founded in New York City." (*from D&C*)

"In Feb. 1952, King George VI, age 56, died. He was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year old elder daughter who became Queen Elizabeth II."

(D&C 2-4-18)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is:

<http://www.hearinglossrochester.org>, and

Michelle Gross is our Web Master.

HLAA National website is www.hearingloss.org.

(submitted by Al Suffredini) FROM SCIENCE DAILY.

New Drugs could prevent hearing loss. Researchers discovered inhibiting an enzyme... protects mice from noise- or drug-induced HL....prevents death of inner ear cells, which may save hearing of millions.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/03/180307095240.htm> -OR- <https://tinyurl.com/ychftmbd>

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.



Sincere happy birthday greetings to **Bob Edelman** who will be 91, on January 23rd. We

wish you more healthy and happy years.

SUBJECTS OF CHAPTER MEETINGS:

February 5th

Daytime—"Acoustic Neuroma" – Tom Banach & Ceci McCurdy –Repeat & update on Oct. 2017 presentation on benign tumors.

Evening—"Untreated HL puts people at greater risk of variety of mental concerns" – Barbara Bushart – round table discussion

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Rose Ewing

Deceased November 8, 2018



Joan Ewing was born August 7, 1933 with a severe hearing loss. She attended the Sisters of St. Augustine's School where she was a straight "A" student. Joan went on to graduate with a 4-year degree from Nazareth college in 1955. She received her M.S. in Physical Chemistry

from Fordham University and a second M.S. in Engineering from UR. She was the first woman to receive a doctorate degree in Electrical Engineering from UR. Those nuns must have known she was brilliant and gifted. Her life proved them right.

Joan worked for Xerox Corporation for 47 years, and retired as Principal Scientist in Advanced Products and Technology in 1997. She received the UR's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Distinguished Alumni award in 2000.

Joan was a devoted and active member of SHHH/HLAA for many years. She was president from 1988 to 1989. She was involved in the committee that encouraged installation of hearing loop systems in public places, businesses, and houses of worship. Joan co-authored and co-published the booklet in 2002 titled, "One Voice," a hearing accessibility handbook for houses of worship. She was an active member of the HLAA Technology Committee and helped to solicit advertising for our Chapter Newsletters. She also helped with editing and oversaw the printing. It was Joan who identified the RIT Print shop as a good resource for printing our Newsletters.

Joan was a caring and a dear friend to the HLAA members. She was a gifted artist, hiker, and kayaker. She traveled all over the world for work and with friends. She traveled to Nova Scotia, Japan, Africa, Finland, Russia to name a few places. In recent years, Joan adopted a senior kitty, "Rosie," whom she dearly loved; and this was after growing up without pets in the home!

We will miss her humility, brilliance, her great sense of humor, and her winning smile!



NEW COCHLEAR N7 PROCESSOR

By Al Suffredini



The Nucleus Implant has 22 active contacts which follow natural curve of your cochlea and stimulate the hearing nerve for your best hearing.

The Hybrid L24 electrode is specifically designed to preserve hearing; Perimodiolar electrodes are inserted closest to hearing nerve for optimal hearing performance. Easy magnet removal for both safety and comfort; for MRI's up to 3.0 Tesla. Nucleus Implants are approved for an MRI of 1.5 Tesla with magnet in place using our MRI Kit. Cochlear Hybrid Hearing Implant System uses a special electrode that's designed to preserve your low-frequency hearing and it's the first FDA approved electrode of its kind.

First CI sound processor made for iPhone. You can connect to people by streaming phone calls directly to your Nucleus 7 and also enjoy music and videos. If using an Adroid or other smartphone, you can stream phone calls, and music to your N7 using the TRU Wireless Phone Clip.

With your smart app you can: adjust your settings and change programs; access your personal hearing info with Hearing Tracker; check battery life; help find your processor if misplaced.; start wireless streaming; fine tune by adjusting Master Bass, Volume and Treble.

Mini Microphone allows you to hear more clearly in any listening situation, especially noisy environments. Works by streaming speech/music directly to your sound processor, clip Mini-Mic to a person's collar in a restaurant, vehicle, at presentations, or other places. Plugs into other devices, such as music players, computers and lets you listen to music, hear videos or movies. Key features: Directional mic for one-on-one conversations; 11 hours of talk time on charge; recharges in 3 hours; connects with other personal electronics; range of 80 feet; FM connectivity; built in telecoil; low battery light indicator.

(continued on page 9)

OTC HEARING AIDS AND MARKUPS

By Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (retired)

*"The average markup on hearing aids reviewed by Consumer Reports was **117 percent**, which means retailers have room to give a little and still profit."* This quotation is from an on-line search about markups for hearing aids.

In last month's Newsletter we mentioned that the typical markup for traditionally dispensed hearing aids is 110%. Both 110% or 117%, are slightly more than a doubling of the wholesale price.

This seems a lot, and indeed it is, but keep in mind that typical markup for most retail products is 100%, with little or no follow-up or associated services. As we have mentioned previously, hearing aid dispensing is slow and time consuming, and sometimes many follow-up visits are necessary to achieve best performance. Additionally, hearing aids are often accompanied by a long trial period of 45 to 60 days, a one to three-year warranty period, and unlimited return visits during the first year.

In relation to OTC hearing aids, it is wondered if it would be likely that they have less than the typical retail markup of 100%. Further, when I was in practice, the wholesale cost for my low-end devices was \$600 - \$800. One has to wonder what the wholesale cost of a lower-end OTC device might be, and what it might retail for. Keeping in mind results from the Indiana Study mentioned last month which indicated that 50% of the OTC users returned their hearing aids, one would have to wonder what kind of experience the consumer might face. By the way, the Indiana Study used high-end hearing aids from a leading manufacturer for all participants.

We Welcome All Donations

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester (HLAA is a 501©(3) organization.)

Mail to: Ms. Joan Kohler, 15 Pickett Lane,
Hilton, NY 14468

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!

NEW COCHLEAR N7 PROCESSOR (continued)

TV Streamer –enjoy stereo sound that goes directly from TV into your processor-- 23 foot range. You can hear TV in addition to sounds around you.

Nucleus 7 Remote Control lets you manage your hearing at push of a button. Key features are : Change volume/sensitivity; switch programs; start streaming; use telecoil.

Battery Choices are either standard disposable battery, lasting up to 3 days (depends on individual); or compact and standard rechargeable batteries, lasting up to 30 hours (depends on individual). The batteries for N7 are as large as my rechargeables for the N5. Rechargeables according to a Cochlear representative will cost \$230 each.

IPhones and Androis that are compatible with the Nucleus7 since technology changes, like new phones on the market, and Cochlear making updates as well. There are, as far as I know, 6 Android phones that are compatible with the N7. My tablet (a Kindle 10" Fire) is compatible. The phones that are as follows for Android:

Samsung galaxy S7 & S8; Huaue P8Lite; LG-G6
Lenovo Moto 65; HTC-U11

Six phones in all. Prices on Internet range from \$689 to as little as \$199. These prices fluctuate as new phones come on the market. My Samsung smart phone is not compatible and when I receive my new N7, I will be searching for a new phone with a pay-as-you-go policy --around \$40 month and it gives you unlimited data, talk and text. My wife will join me on the policy, for same price.

(Editor's note: Sincere thanks to Al for his time and effort summarizing this information. Talking with Chapter members and Cochlear reps, and many emails and much literature; analyzing data and writing this article for our Newsletter.)

**IN MEMORIAM**

Charles W. Treat
deceased October 8, 2018



Charlie and his wife, Joan, were friends of my parents...and not a day passed without Charlie missing Joan. He would sing a song every once in a while, dedicated to her.
Sue Miller

Wow! what sad news. ☐. He has done so much for HLAA. He will definitely be missed. I have a heavy heart hearing that Charlie has passed. Dan Brooks

Oh dear, I will so miss Charlie! A voice of reason in the maelstrom of meeting discussion ... and a wonderful sense of humor. Art Maurer

Rest in peace, Charlie. He found out about HLAA in the latter part of his life but soon became a strong supporter. Mary Chizuk

How sad. I think he attended every HOPE session. At the last meeting the side conversations got a little "active" and Charlie brought out his "talking stick" and it worked so well. It would be great if it could be retrieved somehow. We became quite friendly, and I will miss him greatly. Joe Kozelsky

What a sad time right now. Charlie sat with me at the Greeters Table at our last Chapter meeting. He often did that; and he was always smiling! And he and I had the Navy in common...with my time in the Naval Reserve, and Charlie's honorable Navy service as a Captain. Ginger Graham

We'll miss you, Charlie. You are gone but will remain in our hearts and memories for a long time. He was the original straight shooter. Barb Gates

We had just worked together at the health fair a week ago. He told me once that he was ready to go anytime...he missed his wife terribly. Trish Prosser

Lifting him up in prayer. Suzanne Johnston

“Hearing Other People’s Experiences –Dec. 4th

By Joe Kozelsky, MS, CCC-A (retired)



Today we had 16 people in attendance. There were four “newbies,” three or four “repeaters” and

several regulars. It was one of the most fun sessions we have ever had. This is largely because some of the regulars are becoming quite comfortable contributing to the discussions and expanding on some of the comments and/or jumping in with a particular insight. Their contributions enrich our discussions and enhance the meeting in many ways.

There was a fair amount of discussion about the pros and cons of some health insurance plans.

It was pointed out that the employees of the insurance companies (which negotiate the plans as benefits for their members) may not be aware of the complexities involved with hearing aid fittings and getting used to amplification. As such, some of these plans focus on provision of mid-grade devices with very limited follow-up options--possibly a sometimes dangerous combination for individuals with complex needs. Especially so, because oftentimes/most times it is virtually impossible to know in advance how each hearing aid fitting will proceed.

Another topic is one which has frequently come up in the past--how to determine where to go. The point was made that there is nothing harder to buy than a hearing aid. Once again, attendees were instructed to “Ask around,” especially at HLAA meetings because attendees are highly sophisticated and really know the ropes. And, by now they are ready for these questions.

I will not be available for the next two meetings, but my good friend **Dr. Jim Feuerstein**, Professor emeritus, Nazareth College, has agreed to lead the sessions for January and February. Happy holidays!

Come listen and share at the next HOPE session Tuesday, January 8th, at 10am, St. Paul’s church.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 20-23, 2019



Save the date....our HLAA National Convention is coming here, to us, in Rochester!

Join us for a Convention to remember where you will meet other people with hearing loss, learn in the most communication accessible environment and enjoy the sights of Rochester: a world of art, theater, music, photography, history, nature and play! Registration for HLAA2019 opened Dec. 1st. Watch our Newsletters and Website for further information. For more information, go to: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org/hlaa-events>, or <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention>

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



Sincere appreciation to the following for their special writing contribution in this Newsletter: Tom and Betty Jennings, Joan Kohler, and Sue Miller.

We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much. (Please see form inside back cover.)



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 through the United Way, 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 family 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!

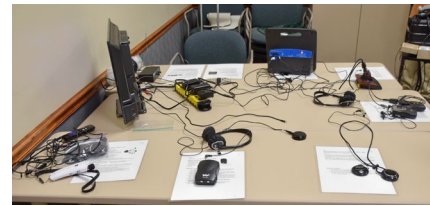
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BAD WEATHER--ST. PAUL’S CLOSED

St. Paul’s Church will cancel or postpone parish programming or services should any of the following conditions be met:

1. *Monroe County issues a ban on unnecessary travel; and/or,*
2. *The Rochester City School District closes and/or cancels afternoon activities; and/or,*
3. *The wind chill is at or below -20 degrees.*



ASSISTIVE DEVICE DEMO CENTER
By Charlie Johnstone, and Michelle Gross

The Device Demo Center session on November 15th was a great success, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of all of those involved.

One can’t even imagine what a coordinated effort it took to be able to help so many people at this session! With such good publicity, high attendance numbers may be this high on a number of occasions. Many visitors were very appreciative of the attention and help they received. There are scant few places where people with hearing loss can go to get instant help and quality free information! Lifespan’s generosity in so many ways, combined with the hard work and contribution of so many volunteers, really make a difference! Hats off to all.

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].

A new “virtual device demo center” app for smart phones and tablets will continue to be tested during upcoming demo sessions. A few new representative devices made a debut at the September demo session as part of the effort to showcase the most up-to-date technologies.

The next demo session at Lifespan is **Thursday, January 17th**, 10am to 2pm. The Device Center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August). Lifespan is at 1900 S. Clinton Ave in the Tops Plaza (14618).

NOTE THE DATES:
JANUARY CHAPTER MEETINGS – JAN. 8th
BOD MEETING – JAN. 15th
PAC MEETING – JAN. 22nd