



**Happy  
Holidays!**

Volume 36, Number 3

December 2022

**In Person at St. Paul's and on  
Zoom - December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

**TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 10 AM-11 AM IN PERSON,  
ST PAUL'S VESTRY ROOM:** Joe Kozelsky: HOPE  
Session: 'Hearing Other People's  
Experiences' (HOPE)

**TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 11:30 AM - NOON AT  
ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** Chapter  
announcements and business meeting.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 6, NOON -1 PM AT ST PAUL'S  
PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** News and Update  
from HLAA Peter Fackler

**TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 7 PM ON ZOOM:** Board of  
Directors Meeting

**THURSDAY, DEC. 15, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM ASSISTIVE  
LISTENING DEVICES DEMO CENTER.** Technology  
Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave..

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

**December Programs**

The Hearing Loss Association of America Rochester Chapter offers in-person and virtual programs for anyone interested in hearing loss. Preregistration for the Zoom sessions is required by visiting the HLAA website at:

<http://hearinglossrochester.org>

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

Programs for December are:

**Tuesday, December 6, 10 AM-11 AM, In-person in  
St. Paul's Vestry Room: Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A.  
Hearing Other People's Experiences (HOPE)**



Prospective, new or experienced hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal round table format. We learn from one another. Anyone interested in hearing loss is invited

to join the hearing aid community.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*from Dan Brooks and Art Maurer*



Winter is upon us. Thanksgiving came so quickly after mother nature gave us glorious fall colors ...an exceptional year! Now as we encounter the frigid dark days of winter we prepare to celebrate the light and joy of our Christmas and Jewish holidays; followed by ushering in a New 2023 Year. We wish everyone a happy, peaceful and healthy holiday season.

Just one inexpensive gift suggestion for those who have not yet addressed their hearing loss...a gift subscription to HLAA-Rochester. It's a gift that might just keep on giving. And remember Veterans enjoy free lifetime memberships.

*Over-the-Counter hearing aids are here!*

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, a new era in hearing aids began. After years of delay and wrangling, Over-the Counter (OTC) hearing aids were approved by the Food and Drug Administration for sale to persons with mild-to-moderate hearing loss without a prescription. A flurry of activity emerged as this new regulation presented opportunity to market hearing aids to millions of people with hearing loss previously unreachable; the cost of prescription hearing aids is a barrier because many can't afford them, also many with mild-to-moderate loss just refuse to even consider spending that amount of money.

This change of opening hearing aids into a competitive marketplace is revolutionary. Potential for large numbers of new customers invites new manufacturers to participate in the dynamics of mass market volumes. It drives change in pricing, new innovation in features, even making wearing hearing aids more acceptable.

There are problems, however. Hearing aids are complex devices that need to be compatible with the unique characteristics of the user to be effective. If the user does not benefit the OTC will end up being placed

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

in the drawer instead of in their ears. That can harm the reputation of all hearing aids and lead to further customer resistance.

***Why is This Important?*** Since most readers of this newsletter already have hearing aids we will be challenged to speak knowledgeably about OTCs...by family and friends, neighbors and business associates. The HLAA National office has been advocating for OTCs for years and became meaningful participants in standards development. Locally, our Tech Team has been working to develop tips for consumers to help buyers understand what to look for, and, importantly, cautions to be aware of. They are generalized universal tips, not specific to any hearing aid product – we don't have the resources to expedite product reviews.

***What We Recommend*** The HLAA office also has published a tip sheet which is at the heart of what we have published in printed form. We extended it with more detail on our website at [hearinglossrochester.org](http://hearinglossrochester.org). To potential buyers we emphasize three points: Get tested by a hearing professional so you know the specific level of your hearing loss; make sure there is a Trial Period – we recommend 45 days; and a Return Policy that refunds all your money in cash, not credit.

We have also added 'notes' to explain each tip presented. These should help the buyer navigate the various tips to determine which are most important to him or her. You can see all this material by going to our website homepage and with one click on "OTC Hearing Aids" you'll be connected to new site that is easy to navigate. The site was developed by members of our **Tech Team**.

We hope this information is helpful in understanding the complexities of OTCs. As always, your suggestions and comments are most welcome.

*As we enter the holiday season, please sit back, relax and enjoy,*

Dan Brooks, President  
[dbrooks.hl原因a.roc@gmail.com](mailto:dbrooks.hl原因a.roc@gmail.com)

Art Maurer, Immediate Past President  
[amaurer40@frontier.com](mailto:amaurer40@frontier.com)

## We All Have Hearing Aids ... Why Did We Include the OTC Glossy?

*By Bruce Nelson, co-editor*

We know that most of our members have hearing aids or Cochlear Implants. So you may ask, why did the chapter go to great lengths to include a full-color glossy flyer with tips from our national office with expanded explanations from our own Tech Team?



How many times have you been with some friends at an activity, maybe a bridge game, Mah Jongg, knitting group, or whatever, and you KNOW that one of your friends needs hearing assistance? And if you've been brave enough to mention it to them, the answer is often, "they're too expensive".

For many years, National HLAA has lobbied the FDA, FTC, and Congress for the ability of appropriate retail establishments to sell Over-the-Counter (OTC) hearing aids. We mean by that, real hearing aids that can be adjusted to suit one's hearing loss with high quality amplification and with government testing and approval that they do what they say they do. Not those things that look like hearing aids for a hundred dollars and are really low-quality sound amplifiers.

We got our wish, the FDA approved regulations, and OTC hearing aids are starting to appear in some drug stores, big-box stores, and on-line. But they have a restriction – they are meant to treat low to moderate hearing loss.

Now we can tell our friend, you don't need to spend a couple thousand. Maybe a few hundred. But then the problem becomes, "which one".

But they need to know if they have a low-to-moderate hearing loss. Some audiologists are offering a hearing test package to let you know if an OTC hearing aid will work, and, if not, what other options may be. Many of the Medicare Part C plans next year should cover the cost. Check your plan to be sure.

That's where our full-color glossy flyer comes in. It's not for you (but you ought to review it). It's for you to give to your friend to educate him/her about what OTC hearing aids are all about, and what to look for and what to avoid while shopping for them.

And if you need more copies, you can download the PDF from our website and print it at home, get some at a chapter meeting, or contact Art Maurer ([amaurer40@frontier.com](mailto:amaurer40@frontier.com)) to have some sent to you.

## December Programs

(Continued from page 1)

**Tuesday, December 6. Noon: News and update from HLAA** Peter Fackler CFA, CPA, MBA Hybrid. In person. Church Parish Hall and Virtual. Zoom.

Over the counter hearing aids have received extensive publicity since their recent rollout. They can be purchased without a prescription or consulting an audiologist. HLAA National Board of Directors member Peter Fackler updates Rochester chapter members on HLAA's national activities including reactions to over the counter hearing aids, technology, broader advocacy and influence for people with hearing loss.



Fackler earned degrees from Duke University and the University of Michigan. Following a five-year stint with the audit staff of Price Waterhouse & Co. (now PwC) he embarked on a 30 plus year career in higher education financial management, including a six-year appointment at Bates College as vice president and chief financial officer. He served two terms on the HLAA Board of Directors where he was treasurer and chair, rejoining the Board in 2017. He is also a past president of the Rochester Chapter and is a bilateral cochlear implant user.

**Thursday, December 15. 10:00am-2:00pm Assistive listening devices Demo center. Technology Team.** In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester 14618.

At this free demonstration area, consumers are invited to 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 APP's related to hearing enhancement. Chapter members are on hand to answer visitors' questions.

## “Big Read” Coming to NTID in April

By Peggy O'Neil, Librarian, Penfield Public Library

Throughout the month of April 2023 the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) is partnering with RIT/NTID to host a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read featuring Ilya Kaminsky's *Deaf Republic: Poems*. Copies are available in many MCLS libraries.

The book takes place in an unspecified time of political unrest in an occupied territory. The story unfolds in episodic poems, opening with the shooting of a young deaf boy at a protest. In response, the entire town adopts deafness as a strategy of resistance. The poems explore how language enables resistance to power and how the lives of the townspeople are scarred by political violence. The author is a hard-of-hearing Ukrainian immigrant who grew up in Rochester. Ilya's family was given political asylum due to anti-semitism. Currently Professor Kaminsky is the Bourne Chair of Poetry at Georgia Tech's School of Literature, Media, and Communications.

A variety of programs including book discussions, poetry workshops and readings, ASL performances of the poems, and art exhibits, will be held at area libraries and at other RIT colleges.

The HLAA Rochester Chapter of will be participating in this program.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.rit.edu/ntid/performing-arts/big-read-ntid>

## What Does Tinnitus Sound Like?

When you mention your Tinnitus to someone, they may have no idea about what you are going through.

A HearingTracker audiologist has posted sound files of common types of tinnitus, along with help in managing it:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=FWQuXKPdYeI>

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

***When fears and frustrations are validated we feel better!***

## HLAA New York State Association (NYSA) - Update.

By Dan Brooks, Immediate Past President, HLAA-NYSA

It's the month of December, one of my favorite months of the year. I savor this month because it is part of the season when I get to catch up with friends and family. I hope you will have the opportunity to do the same. It's important to make time to spend with those we care so much about! The holiday season does not slow the Rochester Chapter down, perhaps your local Chapter is the same.



The Tech team of our *HLAA Rochester Chapter* has been especially busy this past month. Their latest endeavor is the development of a flyer with many tips to consider when planning the purchase of over the counter, (OTC), Hearing Aids. On one side of the flyer are tips used by our National HLAA Organization, and the other side additional tips suggested by our Chapter's tech team. OTC hearing aids are hot news at this time, and many people will depend on HLAA to provide information and guidance for this new option. There is much to consider prior to the purchase of any hearing device whether its high-power aids from a licensed audiologist, or an OTC device from a brick and mortar store or online.

If you happen to come across someone considering purchasing OTC hearing aids and wants to learn more, please hand them a flyer or direct them to our Chapter's website, [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org), where they can download and print a copy. By clicking on the "OTC Hearing Aids" button on the navigation menu of the Website, you will find detailed information to help guide people through the purchase process.

The wealth of information available on our Website about OTC hearing aids, the Tip Sheet, and the separate OTC Website available from our main Website, indicate how blessed our chapter is to have such an amazing group of volunteers to put it all together. There are many other ways we all can work together for people with hearing loss.

Below I am repeating a paragraph from last month's article regarding establishment of a commission for Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing in New York State, and how to add your name to the list to show your support. There is a time limit by which signatures must be submitted so please don't wait so sign.

Please read below:

"Here are some updates from the *HLAA New York State Association, (HLAA-NYSA)*. *Jerry Bergman*, past president & leader of the *Advocacy & Legislative Committee*, has started a petition on [change.org](http://change.org) titled "**Establishing the Commission for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing in New York State.**" Jerry and his advocacy team are requesting everyone to sign the petition needed to get *Governor Hochul's* attention. We'll need well over 100 signatures to do this. To sign the petition please visit the New York Association's website: [www.hearinglossnys.org](http://www.hearinglossnys.org). Sign today, if possible! Please share the information with others and ask them to sign as well. This is the time to be heard!"

The Executive Director of *HLAA, Barbara Kelley*, wrote a letter urging our Governor to sign this bill. You can do the same! The more that write to our governor the more likely we will be heard. If this year comes to an end without a signed bill, we will all be back to the drawing board. We will continue to be one of only 12 states without such commission!

In next month's update I plan to share key points that came out of the December *HLAA NYSA* Board of Director's meeting.

As always, I end this update with a friendly request to please consider joining or renewing your membership with *HLAA* National. In doing so and living in New York State, you automatically become a member of *HLAA NYSA*. HLAA's website is [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

Please support us by sending a charitable donation to our state association by mailing a check to **PO Box 1002 Fairport, NY 14450**. Please place a note with your check stating that the donation is for the *HLAA-NYSA*.

***THANKS again for your support; we wish you all a wonderful holiday!***

***Dan***

# Captioned Entertainment Around Rochester

## JCC Center Stage – Captioned Plays



All performances are **Sunday at 2:00 pm**

2022:

“Something Musical”... Broadway in Concert - December 11

2023:

“Hitmakers”... You ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet - February 12

“I’m not a Comedian...I’m Lenny Bruce”- March 19

“Ragtime, the Musical” ... The Beloved Classic - May 14

Tickets and information are available at [www.jcccenterstage.org](http://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.



## GEVA Theatre Center - Captioned Performances

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 (please note the date and time differences for *A Christmas Carol*); 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.

“A Christmas Carol” - 12/4 at noon, 12/17 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

“Ain’t Misbehavin’” - 1/21 at 2:00 pm, 2/8 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

“Woody Sez” – 2/4 at 2:30 pm

“Russian Troll Farm” - 3/4 at 2:00 pm, 3/22 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

“we are continuous” - 3/25 at 2:30 pm

“And So We Walked - 4/8 at 2:00pm, 4/19 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

“Cinderella” - 5/13 at 2:00 pm, 5/31 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

## 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.

## NTID Theatres

### Panara Theatre - Captioned and Hearing Loop

“Everybody” December 11 -13, 2022

“25 Years Through Movement and Space” February 24-26, 2023

“Ordinary Days” March 31 - April 2, 2023

“Deaf Republic” April 14 - 16, 2023

“Singring and the Glass Guitar” April 28 - 30, 2023

### Magic Spell Theatre - Captioned and Hearing Loop

No schedule available

## The Little - Amplification and Loops

The Little Theatre provides options for the hearing impaired 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](http://thelittle.org) (listed in the showtimes on each film page), and on social media.

## RBTL Live Theater – Captioned Plays



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

“Hamilton” - December 6, 2022

“Come From Away” - December 11, 2022

“Beetlejuice - February 19, 2023

“Hadestown” - March 19, 2023

“Aladdin” - April 16, 2023

“Six” - May 21, 2023

“To Kill a Mockingbird” - June 18, 2023

Open Captioning, made possible by HLAA, is offered during most 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](mailto:mail@rbtl.org).

## Donations

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

Denise & Henry Adler	Jean Marshall
Jeanne Byrnes	Audrey & Sheldon Potter
Doris Caffiers	Nancy Rubery
Laura Chaba	Ann/David Scherff
Margaret DeAcetis	Tom & Patricia Sullivan
Frances Englund	Marlene Sutliff
Sandra Erickson	C. Monroe VanNess
Christopher Giordano	Angella Weber
Adina Lopez	

### General Donations

Employee Giving Target Corp.  
Pamela Burch  
Susan Kunz

**Thank you to our major contributors:**

Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate  
Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate  
Mary Tuckley Estate  
Elaine VanderBrook



## Assistive Listening Device Demo Center

Previous visitors have been very appreciative of the attention and help they received. There are few places where people with a 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 makes a difference!



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]. This season, several new, lower cost devices will be shown; including our new self-serve hearing test.

Sessions are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. The next demo session at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm. Sessions are free. All are welcome!

### We Welcome All Donations

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester. *HLAA is a 501c(3) organization.* Mail to: Doug & Nancy Meyer, 5275 Rosebrugh Rd, Geneseo, NY 14454

*Be sure to designate:* This donation is: In Memory of, or In Honor of, or Birthday congratulations, and who to send the acknowledgment to. Our sincere thanks for your donation!

## My Story

*By Tom Corteville, Chapter Treasurer*

Hello Everyone! My name is Tom Corteville and I have been the Treasurer for HLAA Rochester Chapter since 2017, as well as Treasurer for HLAA New York State Association since 2019. I graduated in 1980 with a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Denver and received my CPA designation in 1989. The majority of my career has consisted of working in New York City for Big 4 accounting firms as an auditor, as a Financial Officer for insurance companies, and with the PCAOB (Public Companies Accounting Oversight Board). Since 2018, I have been an independent auditing consultant in Rochester.



My wife, Holly Bennett, and I are both originally from the Rochester area, and returned in 2013 to be with aging parents, and continue to raise our family. We are incredibly proud of our son and daughter who are currently attending college in Vermont and Rochester.

As I was transitioning from working at the PCAOB to establishing myself as an independent consultant, Holly became frustrated having me at home more than I had ever been! She was in a gym class with Art Maurer, past President of HLAA Rochester, and one day announced to her class that her husband was a CPA and looking for a volunteer opportunity. Art jumped at the offer and by the end of the week, I was on board. I enjoy working with the amazing people at HLAA who work so diligently for our community.

In addition to the HLAA, I am on the Vestry at our church in Penfield and I am also on the Finance Committee at The Harley School, where my daughter attended high school. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, watching sports, camping with my son, and attending events at the area museums with my wife and daughter.

## You can "Attend" Other Chapters' Meetings

Many HLAA Chapters and State Organizations are continuing to meet virtually or live-and-virtual, now that the pandemic is easing. You are welcome to visit online HLAA Chapter and State Organization meetings from all across the country. They are listed in one central calendar from the HLAA Leaders List Groups.io calendar.

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

# Over-the-counter hearing aids are here!

The U.S., Food and Drug Administration has approved over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids for customers with mild to moderate hearing loss.

## **Purchasing recommendations:**


**Testing**—Get tested by a hearing professional to determine your level of hearing loss. **Trial period**—At least 45 days. **Return policy**—Full refund.

## **So much to consider. We can help!**

Take a look at the tips on the back of this sheet from our national office. More information available at Rochester chapter website at [hearinglossrochester.org](http://hearinglossrochester.org) or simply scan this QR code with your phone. We'll provide the support you need to make an informed decision about your hearing.



hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com or 585.266.7890  
P.O. Box 1002, Fairport, NY 14450

 Hearing Loss Association Rochester NY



# Considering OTC Hearing Aids? HLAA's OTC Tip Sheet Can Help

## What is "mild to moderate" hearing loss?

### You may have mild to moderate hearing loss if...

- You have trouble understanding conversations in groups, with background noise, or when you can't see who is talking.
- You have trouble hearing on the telephone.
- You need to turn up the volume of television, or radio loud enough for others to complain.
- Your friends or family complain that you don't understand speech, and ask them to repeat often.

### OTC may NOT help you if...

- You also have trouble hearing conversations in quiet environments.
- You also have trouble hearing loud sounds like power tools, or motor vehicles.

*If you experience these, you should see a hearing care professional.*

### Important questions to ask about OTC hearing aids

- Is there a free trial period, or money back **return policy**?
- Does it need a smartphone, app, or computer to install, operate, or customize to my needs?
- Is it compatible with cellphones, or smartphones?
- Does it have connectivity via Bluetooth, or **telecoil** to a smartphone, computer, or listening system?
- Can the hearing aid's amplification be adjusted?
- Is it water/sweat resistant?
- How does it control, reduce, or block out background, or wind noise?
- How long is the battery life? Can it be recharged?

### Other considerations

- Pay attention to package warnings. If you have pain, sudden hearing changes, or dizziness, see a doctor.
- It may take time to adjust to hearing devices.
- If the first hearing aid doesn't work, keep trying, and you may want to seek the help of a hearing care professional to advise you.

Read more at [hearingloss.org/OTC](https://hearingloss.org/OTC).



## You're not alone!

Millions of people have hearing loss, and you're taking an important first step to address yours.

HLAA's community of support is here to help.  
**Join an HLAA Chapter** near you.



## Paddy's Deaf Wife

Paddy feared his wife Mary wasn't hearing as well as she used to and thought she might need a hearing aid.

Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem. [ Hearing Humor ]

The doctor told him there is a simple informal test that Paddy could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss.

Here's what you do said the doctor. "Stand about 40 feet away from her and in a normal speaking tone see if she hears you. If she doesn't, go to 30 feet away and then 20 feet and so on until you get a response."

Later that day when Paddy gets home from the pub, he sees Mary in the kitchen cooking dinner and he was in the hallway,

He thinks to himself, I'm about 40 feet away let's see what happens.

In a normal tone, he asks, "Mary what's for dinner my lovely?"

No response so he moves closer 30 feet he says "Mary, what's for dinner?" Still no response.

He moves closer about 20 feet. "Mary, for gosh sakes, can ye be telling me what's for dinner?" Still nothing and again at 10 feet still nothing.

So he walks up behind her and says "Mary, can you tell me what's for dinner?"

She replied, "Gee whiz Paddy. For the fifth time, Chicken!!!"

### Sign-Up for our Monthly e-blast

We now offer a monthly e-mail which contains notices of our upcoming meetings and events. To subscribe, send see [hearinglossrochester.org/meetings](http://hearinglossrochester.org/meetings).

### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have 440 friends and we want more. Find us on Facebook at: **Hlaa Rochester NY**

## T-COIL NOTIFICATION CARDS

By Barbara Rice

Now that we can once again meet in person, HLAA Rochester has printed a new supply of blue and white cards to alert people of accessibility to a telecoil in public buildings, especially in Houses of Worship.



The cards are available on the library table at our meetings. Please take them and introduce them to the staff at your House of Worship. Many such locations have T-coil accessibility, but often the greeters or ushers are not aware of them. It is important to explain to the staff that these people should know that members with hearing loss depend on T-coils to connect with speakers. Sometimes they are available in only sections of the building, so the greeters or ushers should be trained to know that.

The cards should be placed at eye level at the entrances to the building. It is also helpful for the weekly bulletins to notify members of the availability of enhanced listening devices, whether T-coil or other technology, such as FM or Infrared. All such devices need to be checked from time to time to be sure they are working properly.

## December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

December 2 Carol Bradshaw  
5 Pete Fackler  
29 Barb Law, Mary Chizuk

Our birthday database is missing many of your birthdays, If you would like to be mentioned in the future, please send an email to [bruce.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.nelson@gmail.com)

### Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

HLAA Rochester offers hearing aid batteries at a very attractive price. Batteries are available in-person at chapter meetings. You may purchase a pack of six for \$1.50, or an entire box (60 batteries) for \$15.00.



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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 online via  
 Zoom. See our website at [https://  
 hearinglossrochester.org](https://hearinglossrochester.org) to  
 register.

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

For more information, call

**585 266 7890**

**or see**

**[hearinglossrochester.org](http://hearinglossrochester.org)**

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**Newsletter**

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

Bruce & Candi Nelson, Editors  
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**MEMBERSHIP FORM – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER**

July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023

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

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I have a different mailing address for part of the year.

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**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**YES! I want to join or renew membership in**

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 magazine, *Hearing Life*; a number of discounts;  
 and knowing I'm supporting advocacy for people  
 with hearing loss nationwide.

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Professional \$80  Corporate \$500

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## **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. Interpreters are available on request.

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, on our on-line meetings or in person, when live meetings resume!*