

Telephone: (585) 266-7890

Email: info@hearinglossrochester.org

Website: https://www.hearinglossrochester.org

Volume 38, Number 5



January 2025

JANUARY CALENDAR & PROGRAMS

Featured Presentation

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

Aging & the Interplay of Hearing, Cognition, and Emotion During Communication; Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller

Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller, Professor Emerita (Psychology, University of Toronto) and Adjunct Professor (Gerontology, Simon Fraser University) will explain how hearing, cognition (e.g., attention, memory), and emotion are involved in communication, how aging, with



or without hearing loss, affects communication and provide tips for older adults to improve communication. For over three decades, Dr. Pichora-Fuller has translated her research on auditory and cognitive aging to address the rehabilitative needs of older adults with agerelated hearing and cognitive impairments, with a more recent focus on social engagement and healthy aging.

Other January Meetings and Programs

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

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

The Chapter's New Leadership Structure

By Dan Brooks, Past President

I am writing this month due to my capacity as one of the Division co-leaders to share some insights regarding the "new structure" that has been implemented within our organization.

As one of the individuals involved in the conceptualization and implementation of this new structure, I deemed it fitting to shed light on its core principles and objectives. I have collaborated closely with esteemed chapter members such as Art Maurer, Sue Miller, Suzanne Johnston, OC

(Continued on page 2)

REFRESHMENTS

We appreciate our members who have volunteered to bring refreshments to our January 7th meeting: Margaret Cochran, Christine Rankie, Paul Stager, and Dan Wolf.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Assistive Device Demonstration Center. Technology Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Avenue

View and try out a selection of assistive-listening devices before actually buying them. Included are captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone APPs related to hearing enhancement. Chapter members stand by to answer your questions.

Tuesday, January 28

8:00 - 9:00 pm on Zoom: Hear Together: Kristin Bergholtz CCC/SLP./Carly Alicea Au.D/Ph.D

Speech language pathologist Kristin Bergholtz conducts a virtual support group with audiologist Carly Alicea.

For parents and caregivers of Deaf/hard of hearing children. Learn more about your child's hearing loss, services to benefit them, and tips to support their language development. To register, contact kristinbslp@gmail.com.

Please check our Chapter Website hearinglossrochester.org for any changes

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The Chapter's New Leadership Structure

(Continued from page 1)

members, and others to develop and refine the framework that we now operate within.

The primary motivation behind this new structure was to redistribute responsibilities more equitably across various divisions, thereby alleviating the significant burden that traditionally rested on the chapter president. By adopting this approach, we aim to foster a more inclusive and sustainable leadership model that encourages participation and reduces the hesitance associated with assuming the role of president.

Drawing from my own experiences serving as president on two separate occasions, I understand firsthand the demanding nature of the position. As the current past president and co-leader of the Officer Division alongside Suzanne, our incumbent president, I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and optimal functioning of our organizational structure.

The "new structure" comprises five principal divisions: Administrative, Community Support, Outreach, Technology, and Officer Division. While these divisions represent our current organizational framework, it is worth noting that amendments and additions may be made as we progress through the initial phases of this restructuring process.

With each division led by two co-leaders, we aspire for a collaborative leadership approach that promotes shared responsibilities and prevents overburdening any single individual. Ideally, we encourage division leaders

HLAA New York State Association Report

by Peter Fackler, President -- Board of Directors



The annual meeting of HLAA-NYS took place Saturday, December 7th. This newsletter's press deadline (end of November 2024) prevents our reporting out the meeting's proceedings until the February issue...stay tuned.

As I reported last month, the Board of Directors determined to move ahead with a fall 2026 state conference pending ironing out the contractual details with the venue. In early November, we reached an agreement with Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs where the conference will take place. Mark your calendar for October 2 - 4, 2026; details to follow as they are available.

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

to also hold positions within the Board of Directors and/or Operations Committee, although it is not mandatory.

The role of division leaders primarily revolves around facilitating communication among committee members and the respective chairs such that pertinent issues are addressed promptly and effectively. This streamlined communication channel not only enhances transparency but also streamlines decision-making processes within our organization.

Moreover, by empowering committee chairs to liaise with division leaders, we hope to foster a culture of active engagement and collective responsibility, thereby reducing the administrative load on our president and division leaders. We believe that by optimizing our internal communication channels, we can enhance organizational efficiency and productivity in the long run.

In conclusion, I urge each of you to embrace this "new structure" wholeheartedly and actively engage with your respective division leaders to facilitate a seamless transition. Together, we can navigate these changes and propel our organization toward greater success and sustainability.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your continued support and collaboration as we embark on this transformative journey together. I also want to give Suzanne Johnston a special thanks for her stepping up as our president and ensuring a promising future for our organization for years to come! Thank you Suzanne!

HLAA Rochester Cochlear Implant Group Announcements

By Pete Fackler

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

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

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

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

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The National Report

By Peter Fackler

At its recent meeting in Rockville, the HLAA Board of Directors heard from a panel of presenters concerning an upcoming research project to investigate the utility of assistive listening systems in museum and performing arts venues. The report included the following summary as pretext to the wider discussion.

Project R2 is one of four projects under the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC). The funding agency for the RERC grant is the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). NIDILRR is the federal government's primary disability research organization and is part of the Administration for Community Living, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Accessibility and inclusion practitioners from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Smithsonian Institution will collaborate to investigate and evaluate the viability of assistive listening technologies for applications within museum and performing arts venues. The project will explore the functionality and usability factors of assistive listening technologies (such as induction loops, infrared, radio frequency, Wi-Fi, and Auracast) across cultural genres and in a range of environments, at exhibition areas, classrooms and/or meeting rooms, information desks, large and small-scale theaters and/or auditoriums, and portable systems for guided tours and programs.

Auracast is of particular interest in the emerging technology space. Based on low-energy Bluetooth, it unifies the mainstream world with that of hearing devices and assistive listening technologies for the first time in history and has the potential to be transformative. The project will be conducted with substantial input from user experts and members of the hearing loss community at all stages, ensuring fidelity and responsiveness to the user experience as a critical success factor.

HLAA is a subcontractor on the grant and will gain insights into and an understanding of the project and possibly influence the research design.

Local members of the HLAA community or even those visiting the DC area (while testing is taking place) will have an opportunity to participate in the research.

The HLAA Board engaged with the panelists from the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian on a number of questions, but the most pressing concern was the exclusion of captioning from the project's research. Several board members, including myself, emphasized the importance of captions for individuals with hearing loss and other groups. We urged the panel to recognize the value of captions as a tool for accessibility and to recommend their inclusion in future initiatives, even though they were not initially considered in the project's scope. We stressed that captions provide a crucial solution in environments where other assistive listening systems may not adequately address the needs of all patrons.

HeardThat – Easier conversations in noisy places - A review

by Steve Sells, Peninsula Chapter HLAA

HeardThat, available on both the Apple store and the Google store, uses AI to separate speech from background noise, using your phone's built-in microphone. How? It is described on the HeardThat website, https://heardthat.ai

To listen to *HeardThat's* output, link your phone via Bluetooth to your hearing aid or cochlear implant. Technical support for such a configuration is available by clicking on the Feedback button. Try out *HeardThat* for yourself.

The actual performance of *HeardThat* noise removal is very good, sometimes excellent even. I've been very impressed with what *HeardThat* can do. I haven't tried the food court environment used for the website demo.

Chapter Member's Article Published

One of our fairly new, and very active chapter members has an article in our national magazine, *Hearing Life*! Jenn Lowden, chair of our Book Club and an Operations Committee member, wrote about Book Club Strategies from a Librarian with Hearing Loss. Her article is on page 25 in the Fall/Winter 2024 issue. congratulations, Jenn!

Open Door Mission Collection

Please bring any gently used items to our monthly chapter meetings to be delivered by Marlene Sutliff to the Open Door Mission for the benefit of the people and families they support.

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SAVE THE DATES



Get Revved Up for the HLAA 2025 Convention

Start your engine and join us at HLAA's 40th annual convention, June 11–14, 2025, in Indianapolis, IN—host of the famous Indy 500 automobile race. Our annual event brings together hundreds of people with hearing loss from around the U.S. to learn, discover and connect. Check out the latest technology and hear from health and industry experts during a series of empowering events designed to help you live your best life with hearing loss.



Online registration will be available starting in January 2025, with Early Bird Rates through March 14.

Donations

Donations in Addition to Membership

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Happy Birthday in January to:

3 Paul Stager

7 Art Hirst

11 Judith Bernhart

23 Charlie Johnstone

30 Chris Suffredini

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



captions@hearinglossrochester.org

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Captioned Entertainment Around Rochester

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RBTL Live Theater - Open Captioning, made possible by HLAA, is offered during most 1 pm Sunday matinee subscription performances of the Broadway Season, and select other performances. A text display scrolls words in synchronization with the dialogue and lyrics of the show. Reserve seating in view of the captioning screen in

advance or request open captioning for unlisted events, 585.222.5000 or mail@rbtl.org. .

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

OFC Creations Theatre at Winton Place has an M system and receivers with hearing loops for T-coils.

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

"HOWALS" Project

<u>H</u>ouses <u>Of W</u>orship <u>with Assistive Listening Systems</u>

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

The Church of the Transfiguration



The Church of the Transfiguration is located at 50 W Bloomfield Rd in Pittsford,

Aside from a great sound system, parish-

visitors are all treated to a world-class, whole-space inductive hearing loop designed and installed by Applied Audio & Theatre Supply of Rochester, plus dedicated loop receivers from an HLAA member-Parishioner for folks without-coils.



Assistive Device Demo Center

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



day difficulties associated with hearing loss.

The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices,

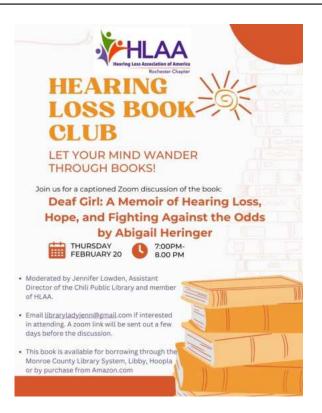
captioned telephones and personal assistive listening devices with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments. Chapter members stand by to answer questions.

Sessions are usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next demo session is at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) on Thursday, January 16th from 10 am to 2:00 pm. Sessions are free. All are welcome!

Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

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

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Hear Together: Parent/Caregiver Support Group

by Kristen Bergholtz, Speech Language Pathologist

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

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

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

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

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

A Baseline Hearing Test: An Unexpected Necessity

Adapted from a posting on Facebook

While most of our readers most certainly have had their hearing tested, you might pass this on to friends and relatives who have never been tested.

"It's easy to overlook our hearing health until something goes wrong. But as I learned firsthand, having a "baseline" hearing test can be crucial in unexpected situations.

Years ago, I was in a car accident. A speeding driver hit me head-on while I was stopped. The impact was jarring, and the airbag deployment was deafening. In the aftermath, I was completely deaf. Thankfully, my hearing gradually returned over a few days, but it never fully recovered.

Then came the insurance company's shocking revelation: there was no coverage for my hearing loss because I didn't have a pre-accident hearing test to establish a baseline. They argued I could have been deaf beforehand!

This experience taught me a valuable lesson: get a baseline hearing test. It's a simple, often free, precaution that can protect you in the future. You may never need it, but if you do, you'll be grateful you have it.

Remember, accidents happen. Be prepared."

The Magicians at St. Paul's Episcopal Church By Sue Miller

Before the first Tuesday of each month, the Parish Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is quite sparce. Then just before our monthly chapter meeting, the church sextons, Bob Potter and Dave McEntee, do their magic and set up the following: Greeter's



Potter McEntee

Table and chairs (complete with file boxes for signing in), six large round meeting tables with 48 chairs, Library lending table (with bags of books) and heavy wooden Display case, Technology tables and chairs, refreshment tables, along with the refreshment bins.

They fill up the coffee urn with water and make sure it's hot for early arrivals. They remember to place the orange cones in the parking area for our speakers. If special serving dishes/trays/silverware are needed, they let us borrow them from the kitchen. And the best part of all is their gracious attitude and requests to ask if there is anything else we need.

Our sincerest thanks to our magical friends, Bob Potter and Dave McEntee!

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KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

New York State Legislators 2025

The Legislative Committee of the Rochester HLAA Chapter would like to encourage you to become even better advocates for hearing loss. One way to do this is to first know your state legislators! Fill in this form and keep it handy .We all have the same two <u>United States Senators and the same Governor</u>.

Honorable Kathy Hochul

Governor of New York State

Honorable Charles Schumer

US Senate

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand

US Senate

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	e <u>House of Representatives in the US</u> . Who is ngworthy (23 rd Dist), Claudia Tenney (24 th D c. Who is yours?	
Your Representative's name		District
	sth Dist.), George Borrello (57th Dist), Thomas a (61st Dist), Robert Ortt (62nd Dist) Who is	
2002 State Schaller S India		
	he Assembly in New York State. Possibilities	are: Brian Manktelow (130th Dist
Jeff Gallahan (131 st Dist), Philip Jennifer Lunsford (135 th Dist), S	Palmesano (132 nd Dist), Andrea Bailey (133 jarah Clark (136 th Dist), Demond Meeks (137 nul Bologna (144 th Dist), David DiPietro (147	rd Dist), Josh Jensen (134th Dist). th Dist), Harry Bronson (138th Dist)
Jeff Gallahan (131 st Dist), Philip Jennifer Lunsford (135 th Dist), S	o Palmesano (132 nd Dist), Andrea Bailey (133 Jarah Clark (136 th Dist), Demond Meeks (137 Jul Bologna (144 th Dist), David DiPietro (147	rd Dist), Josh Jensen (134th Dist). th Dist), Harry Bronson (138th Dist)

Email me at Judym27@aol.com with legislative information

Judy Markowski, Legislative Committee, Chair

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Suzanne E. Johnston, MA, CCC/SLP Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist

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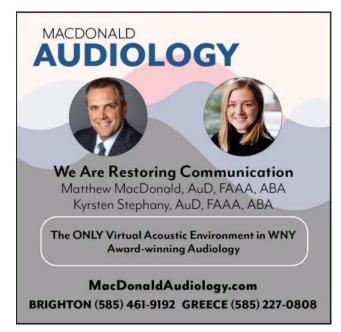


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Open Captioned Performance Dates







October 13, 2024

December 8, 2024

February 9, 2025





March 9, 2025

May 11, 2025



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

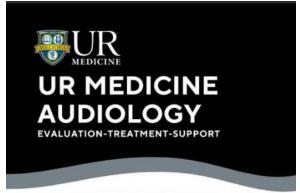
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Board of Directors Officers and Members

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> Henry J. Adler, Ph.D. Steven Barnett, M.D. Gayle Carini Mary Chizuk Tamela David, Ph.D. Charles Johnstone Peter Leas Gerry Loftus Eileen Lumb Eric Matson Sue Miller Bruce Nelson Hope Scheda Nick Sprague Mary Ann Stager Paul Stager

Honorary: Joe Kozelsky Past Honorary Board Members: Joe Damico and Jeannette Kanter

HLAA Membership Information

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

We are currently meeting in person and online via Zoom. See our website

hearinglossrochester.org

to register for the online access.

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

For more information, call

585 266 7890 or see hearinglossrochester.org

Professional Advisors Sue Miller, Chair

2023-2025:

Jeff Klein Jennifer Popovich Korin Reynolds Betsy Runnion, Ph.D.

2024-2026:

Paula Brown, Ph.D. Meghan Fox, PsyD William Marshall John McNamara, AuD.

<u>Consultants:</u> Medical - Paul Dutcher, M.D. Technical - Charles Johnstone Legal - James Vazzana, Esq.

^^^^^ Newsletter

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

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

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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- Get the latest in hearing news, events and action alerts each month
- Get involved in important local and national advocacy

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

To sign up, please visit

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

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM HLAA-ROCHESTER Membership year: July 1 - June 30

All members receive the Rochester Chapter Newsletter!
□First-Time Member □Renewal
Membership Type : □Individual \$10 □Family \$20 □Corporate \$50 □Veteran \$0 (Free lifetime chapter membership for veterans with hearing loss.) Please state Branch of Service <i>Thank you for Your Service!</i>
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Please deliver by January 27, 2025



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.

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!

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

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