



## JANUARY Calendar

### Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**10:15 am – HOPE Session**–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s

**11:00 am** - Refreshments/Social Time

**11:30 am** – Announcements/Business Meeting

**12 Noon – 1 pm** – Program Speaker

**7:00 pm** – Refreshments/Social Time

**7:30 pm** – Announcements/Business Meeting

**8:00 pm – 9 pm** – Program Speaker

**Tues., Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>** - BOD – 7-9pm, ASC

**Tues., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>** – PAC, 7-9pm, ASC

**Thurs., Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>** -Device Demo Center,  
Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see p. 3)

### SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

**Tues., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** – BOD – 7-9pm, ASC

**Thurs., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Device Demo Center, Lifespan

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

### Hospitality Duties for January:

Daytime Meeting –Dan Brooks,  
Al Suffredini

Evening Meeting – Dan Brooks, Barb Law

Board of Directors –Suzanne Johnston,  
Charlie Johnstone, Carol Loftus

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

**WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!**



## JANUARY PROGRAMS

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

### Tues., Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10:15am; Vestry room

**HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session** –*Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (retired)*

Retired audiologist and hearing aid user **Joe Kozelsky** moderates a question-and-answer session for people considering hearing aids and those using them. Join us and share your hearing loss journey and learn from others.

### Tues., Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Daytime Meeting--11:00am - Program begins at noon

**DISCOVERING DEAF WORLDS –**  
Davin Searls

Founded in 2006, Discovering Deaf Worlds is a nonprofit organization "dedicated to advancing the self-determination of signing Deaf communities in developing countries" in partnership with educators, employers, and nongovernmental organizations. Executive director Davin Searls reveals his experiences meeting Deaf community leaders around the world. He will explain how and why DDW was formed and the impact his work has had on accessibility for Deaf people.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Evening Meeting--7:00pm**  
**Program begins at 8:00pm**

**YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER HAS HEARING LOSS: WHAT'S NEXT?** – with Chapter members

Someone left water running in the sink because they couldn't hear it or turns the television to blasting volume. In an informal session, chapter members explore life with a significant other with hearing loss. Topics range from consulting an audiologist, improving communication, and the effects of hearing loss on all the person's associates and family.

*All HLAA programs are free. Anyone interested in hearing loss is welcome. For more information, view the organizational web site at [hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://hlaa-rochester-ny.org) or telephone 585 266 7890.*

*HLAA Rochester Chapter meetings are held in the Parish Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Avenue at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman House Museum. Those needing a sign language interpreter for an evening meeting should contact Linda Siple at 585 788 6744 a week in advance. (Please note, 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.*

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

*By Art Maurer and Sue Miller*



Here's wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy 2018! This year, we hope to reap benefits from some of the very arduous and detailed work accomplished last year.

A new Rochester Chapter Website is coming on-line. The result of many hundreds of hours of work by **Michelle Gross**, including suggestions and review by our Marketing Committee, it is designed to be our 'front door' to the world. With limited funds for advertising, we will be pointing people to

our new website for detailed information. Once there, finding desired information should be easy. The new website address will be available soon.

The implementation of the **Assistive Listening Device Demo Center** has been wonderfully successful. Open the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at Lifespan from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., it's a place to become aware of what's available; even to try out the devices. And it's free! (see article on page 3.) In November we invited Audiologists to come and take a look. The arduous job of getting everything organized and cataloged was completed by **Charlie Johnstone, Dan Brooks, Michelle and Stan Gross**. Drop in and see the great job they've done.

Mark your calendars for the **Featured Speaker Program** on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Elise de Papp, M.D. has engaged **Sam Trychin, Ph.D.** (He was with us in 2012.) He addresses reducing the stress that comes with hearing loss. By interacting with his audience in an informal and witty fashion, he makes learning enjoyable.

We'll continue our monthly Daytime and Evening meetings including the very successful **HOPE** sessions run by Joe Kozelsky. HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) is well-attended. HOPE starts at 10:15 a.m., before each Daytime Chapter meeting, the first Tuesday of the month.

Since HLAA-Rochester is somewhat unique given the fact we're an all-volunteer organization--offering our support, education and advocacy without charge--we have to rely on contributions. We're searching various options for a fund raiser, hopefully one that will be unique in our community, and we're open to your thoughts and suggestions.

As always, contact us at [susanleemiller39@cs.com](mailto:susanleemiller39@cs.com) or [amaurer40@frontier.com](mailto:amaurer40@frontier.com)

**WORTH REMEMBERING**

"Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; an argument is an exchange of ignorance."

– Robert Quillen, American journalist (1887-1948)

## ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER – 3<sup>RD</sup> MONTH

By Charlie Johnstone

Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of those involved, the Demo Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> session November 16<sup>th</sup> was a success! Thanks to the "trainers" and chapter volunteers.

About 13 people stopped by looking for answers on which devices may help them hear better. The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones, personal assistive listening devices and hearing aid accessories.

Later that day, our Chapter hosted a wine and cheese reception for local Audiologists. See separate write-up on this reception, on page 7.

The next ALD demo session at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave., Tops Plaza, will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m.

### We Welcome All Donations

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

Mail to: Ms. Joanne Owens, 1630 Woodard Rd.,  
Webster, NY 14580

Be sure to designate:

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

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

**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](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

### DID YOU KNOW

The social networking website **Facebook** had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook" in 2004.

(from D&C 1-29-17)

## ENJOY THE GAME—BUT, PROTECT YOUR HEARING

(excerpt from *Wisconsin NL* – Fall 2017)



Football games are a huge part of American culture. The roar of the crowd, the announcer on the PA system, and noisy fans all make for a festive time at football games. Being a

spectator at a game also presents dangers to your hearing. The noise at some games has been recorded at levels equal to that of a jet plane taking off!

In 2013, the fans at two football stadiums set noise records: the Seattle Seahawks hit 136.6 decibels in September, while the Kansas City Chiefs topped that with 137.5 decibels in October. Scientists, however, have shown that regular exposure to just a minute of sounds at 110 decibels or more puts you at risk for permanent hearing loss over time.

Along with your seat cushion and giant foam fingers, be sure to bring hearing protection, such as earplugs or earmuffs, to the next football game. You can still cheer, but your ears will be safer.

### EMERGENCY CARE FOR A WET HEARING AID OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT

(from *Hearing Health Magazine*)

Don't panic. As soon as you realize what's happened—

- Dry off the exterior of the hearing aids with a cloth (not a tissue).
- Remove the battery and keep battery door open.
- Remove the ear hook or ear mold, if necessary.
- Put the aid or CI into your "dry-aid kit" (always keep one in the car) or, if you don't have one, put your aid on the table next to a lit table lamp. The mild heat will dissipate the moisture. Do not put them very close to the light bulb or in an oven. The high heat will damage the devices.
- Wait an hour or so, and cross your fingers!

(previously appeared in our May 2015 Newsletter)

**RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!**

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

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

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

**GEVA THEATRE – CAPTIONED PLAYS !**

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

Sat. Jan. 13; Wed. Jan. 31 – **The Other Josh Cohen**  
 Sat. Jan. 27 @ 2:30pm – **Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End**  
 Sat. Feb. 17; Wed. March 7 – **Diary of Anne Frank**  
 Sat. March 17 @ 2:30pm – **Heartland**  
 Sat. April 7; Wed. April 25 – **One House Over**  
 Sat. May 12; Wed. May 30 – **Steel Magnolias**

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

**WAYS TO EASE TINNITUS, AS SUGGESTED BY FACEBOOK READERS**

*(from Silicon Valley HLAA Newsletter, Sept/Oct 2016)*

- RELAX!!—This reduces many undesirable physical ailments.
- Exercise—This does not have to be strenuous exercise.
- Concentrate on some other activity or develop a new hobby.
- Listen to something that masks the Tinnitus. White noise works for many.
- Sing or hum along to Tinnitus that is in the form of music.
- Go with the flow—focus on enjoying the sound and eventually you may actually enjoy it.

Accept that the Tinnitus is there and try not to get angry, annoyed or frustrated. These negative reactions sometimes increase the Tinnitus.

**JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!**

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



“The Hit Makers: And the Beat Goes On”—**Group party, see p. 6.**

Sun., Feb. 11; Thurs., Feb. 15; Sat., Feb. 17

“Buyer & Cellar”

Sun., March 18; Thurs., March 22

“Bridges of Madison County” – the musical

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

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



For Your Donation to HLAA:

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

For Donation Above Membership:

Henry Adler, Kelly Barrett, Dan Brooks, Robert Edelman, John Eckhardt, Frances Englund, Pete Fackler, Gaelen McCormick, Betsy McIsaac, Antony McLetchie, Judith McMillan, Bruce Nelson, Susan Puff; and, United Way

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

**DID YOU KNOW...**

When hippos are out of the water, they hear through their ears. When underwater, their ears fold back against their head, but they can still hear through their jawbones, which conduct sound waves.

*(Old Farmer’s Almanac)*

## CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

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

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall, since 2011. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter, and we thank you!

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

### BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...

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

### DID YOU KNOW...

In 1887, Anne Sullivan achieved a break-through as her 6-year-old deaf-blind pupil, Helen Keller, learned the meaning of the word “water” as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet.

*(from D&C 4-2-2017)*

### CONDOLENCES



Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Bob Sheahen, Sr. Bob passed December 1<sup>st</sup>. He and his wife, Vilma, had been long-time members of our chapter.



**Rather than toss/recycle your old issues of the *Hearing Loss Magazine*, please bring them to the Chapter meetings.** (But limit this to only the last several magazines.)

We will keep them on hand to pass out to newcomers, or anyone not already receiving this magazine. There is too much valuable information in those pages just to be discarded. Thanks!

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

### HEARING HEALTH MAGAZINE

*(suggested by Fred Altrieth)*

Some of the interesting articles from October 2017 edition:

--For Parents: Responding to Your Child's Hearing Loss Diagnosis

--“Born this Way” star with Hearing Loss  
Sean McElwee, 24, lets neither hearing loss nor Down syndrome impede his personal goals. He received a BAHA (bone anchored hearing aid) to improve the quality of his life.

--Dine in Quieter Spaces with new iPhone App

--and, lots more educational articles.

Email: [info@hhf.org](mailto:info@hhf.org).

Website: [www.hhf.org/subscribe](http://www.hhf.org/subscribe)

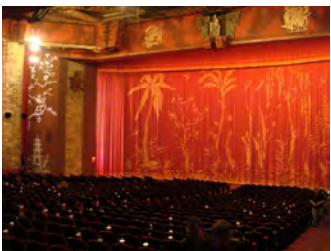
### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

*By Jenn Hurlburt*

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **322** friends and we want more. Find us at: **HLaa Rochester Ny**

## Save the date of February 11<sup>th</sup> for JCC Matinee Captioned Show!

By Barb Law, Special Events Chair



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

### “The Hit Makers: And the Beat Goes On”

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

*“A musical tribute to the late 1960’s. We flip the musical coin from last year’s Woodstock-inspired set list as we bring a fresh take to chart-topping hits by Sonny & Cher, Marvin Gaye, Three Dog Night, Donovan, The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension, and many more. “*

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

Reservations and ticket payment are due to Barb Law with a check made out to Barbara Law **by January 15th**. Please send checks for the show to: Barb Law, 25 Harvest Road, Fairport, NY 14450.

Hope to see you there!



Sincere happy birthday greetings to **Mary Agnes Decker** who is over 90 years young on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We

wish you more healthy and happy years.



## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is: [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org). Michelle Gross is our Web Master.

HAAA National website is [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

*(submitted by Al Suffredini)*

Following info from AARP.

### [Hearing Aids. Are Men in Denial?](#)

Dr. Ruth gives us some insight into men and hearing aids--<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2017/men-and-hearing-aids.html?intcmp=AE-HEALTH-HEARING-SPOTLIGHT-SPOT4>

### [10 Celebrities With Hearing Issues](#)

These celebrities — and the causes of their hearing problems — may surprise you.

<http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2014/celebrities-with-hearing-loss-photo.html?intcmp=AE-HEALTH-HEARING-SPOTLIGHT-SPOT5#slide1>

## WHO IS A VOLUNTEER?

*(By Vernice Meade, Central Oklahoma- Aug. 2015)*

**Volunteer:** a person who performs a service willingly and without pay. Recorded in a non-military sense of the word in the 1630’s. The verb is first recorded in 1755.

President James Polk’s dinner was interrupted when the hostilities began between Mexico and the United States in 1846. With a regular standing army of only 8,000 men, General Zachary Taylor’s cry for reinforcements moved the President to call upon each state to raise 2,600 men each to supply the American Army in Mexico. Within a week, 30,000 Tennesseans responded to the call. This is why Tennessee is known as “the Volunteer State.”

*(continued on page 11)*

## HELP HLAA VIA THE UNITED WAY

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

Our United Way number is 2425.



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

## JOINING OUR NATIONAL GROUP

If you are not yet a member of National HLAA, you are encouraged to join and take advantage of their services. The bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine is full of treasures for anyone with hearing loss or your family and friends. Founded in 1979, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is the nation’s foremost advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. It opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support.

Information can be found at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Quote by our founder Rocky Stone: “Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.” (excerpt from *Central Oklahoma Newsletter* – Feb. 2017)

## GROUND HOG DAY – February 5th

"If 'Candlemas Day' be stormy and black,  
It carries the winter away on its back." If he sees his shadow, 6 more weeks of winter.

(from *Old Farmer's Almanac*)

## RECEPTION FOR AUDIOLOGISTS – A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Michelle Gross

The Rochester Chapter’s Assistive Listening Device Demo Center has now been open since September of this year. It has been a tremendous success! We’ve had a number of visitors to the center who have seen and tried our assistive devices, asked questions, and were able to obtain information on living with hearing loss.

The evening of November 16<sup>th</sup> we had a special wine and cheese reception for the audiologists in our area, to provide them with an opportunity to see and try our assistive listening devices. A number of the staff from Lifespan at 1900 Clinton Ave S, Rochester, 14618, ( a Chapter partner and Center host) also attended, as did our Chapter Demo Center Volunteers. The turnout was impressive and allowed a wonderful mixture of socializing, enjoying an assortment of beautifully prepared snacks and beverages, and an opportunity for sharing information about our Assistive Listening Device Demo Center.



Front row: Melissa Cushman, Kristen Nolan, Joe Kozelsky, Ramona Stein  
Back row: John McNamara, Steve Hart, Dawn Countermine

We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and caring audiologists in Rochester and the surrounding area. Next time you are visiting your audiologist look for our award-winning Chapter Newsletter and information about the Assistive Listening Device Demo Center. Remember, your audiologist is a source for information on hearing, hearing health and tests, hearing aids and more. Our Rochester Chapter is a tremendous source for information on living with hearing loss, support, and general education on hearing loss related topics.

(continued on page 8)

**RECEPTION** *(continued)*

Visit your audiologist when you need to, visit our Assistive Listening Device Demo Center when you can (it's free!), contact the Rochester HLAA Chapter for hearing help information, and join anytime! Website: [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org).

Email: [hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com](mailto:hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com).

Phone: 585 266 7890.

*(photo courtesy of Art Maurer)*

**HOPE SESSION – November 7th**

*By Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (ret.)*



We had 13 attendees including four new visitors who had questions about getting hearing aids.

Concerns were the usual--hearing aids are so expensive and they don't work, and folks are afraid to get involved. Some had been to multiple locations and were wondering what to do. We discussed some of the primary concerns and how to address them. The advice we give is to always keep in mind that the provider is the most important aspect when getting hearing aids.

The big question was, and always is "Where is the best place to go?" We answered as usual, that this session cannot address the issue of where to go or where not to go, but instead, we can advise people to "ask around." Ask people you see with hearing aids where they got them, how much they cost, how they like them, and if they would recommend their audiologist/provider.

We also identified the five primary manufacturers and advised attendees to ask for a volume control and a hearing loop. However, the primary decider should be the audiologist/provider they work with because the provider knows the user's hearing and knows the available devices. We say there is no better place to ask around than at an HLAA meeting.

We also talked some about the national experts who consult at special events that are hosted by a practice. Questions: [jkozelsky@gmail.com](mailto:jkozelsky@gmail.com)

**HOPE will meet at 10:15 am in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's Tues., January 2<sup>nd</sup>.** We hope you stay for our routine Chapter Meeting:  
Social Time-- 11:00 – 11:30am, Parish Hall.  
Business meeting-- 11:30 – Noon.  
Chapter Meeting speaker-- Noon to 1:00pm.

**Newsletter Deadline**

**Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**(for the February Newsletter)**

**Email: [ggraham859@gmail.com](mailto:ggraham859@gmail.com)**

**VENUES WITH ALS OR CAPTIONING**

*By Tim Whitcher*

Have you seen a movie or a show that has an Assistive Listening System or Captioning system and would like to share your experience with your fellow members? Did your church or synagogue install or upgrade such a system, and you'd like to make that known?

Please contact Tim Whitcher at [hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com](mailto:hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com) with the info that you'd like to share. (Please mark your email to Tim's attention.) Likewise, if you have a question regarding such a venue, please contact Tim.

**Subjects of Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meetings:**

**Daytime** – "Untreated Hearing Loss and Alzheimer's Disease: Connected?" - Dr. Anton Porsteinsson, internationally known expert on dementia, updates us on current concepts in Alzheimer's Disease.

**Evening** – "Your Significant Other has Hearing Loss: What's Next?" Chapter members informally discuss the complications of living and dealing with an individual with hearing loss.

**HOW FAR WE'VE COME....**

In 1901, NY Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell, Jr. signed an automobile registration bill that imposed a 15-mph speed limit on highways.

*(from D&C 4-24-16)*



## ADVOCATING IN PUBLIC PLACES

*(Eloise Schwarz, retired nurse,  
Metro Milwaukee HLAA Chapter/WI)*

All complaints should be filed with the Dept of Justice. The ADA is only one of the seven or so federal laws that cover our accommodations in public places. Requesting accommodations at said events should be done well in advance since, as we know, most places in the U.S. are not set up with CART, looping, or have ALDs that are available for us to use.

Most of the time the performing art centers, universities and other community centers that are not aware of the deaf/hard-of-hearing issues will need to be informed ahead of the time and be asked to provide what is needed for those in the audience. This allows for education ahead of the event and hopefully helps them learn about what we all need and perhaps helps them to provide for future events or maybe even put in a loop or set up an arrangement of cooperation between your HLAA groups, etc.

Working proactively rather than reactively helps to be the Advocate and Educator for opening our world to those who eventually will be part of it!

*(submitted by Lise Hamlin, National HLAA)*

Did you know that HLAA has a list of disability laws on our website? It has been there for a very long time:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/know-your-rights>

### 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](mailto: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.

## COCHLEAR IMPLANT CANDIDACY UNDER DIAGNOSED AND UNDER APPRECIATED

*(from Hearing Health Matters;  
submitted by Elise de Papp, M.D.)*

The functional capability of individuals with hearing difficulties was focus of the investigators. Of considerable interest, 2.8 million people (1.1% of the population) reported an inability to hear shouting in a quiet room, which is believed to equate to a severe-profound degree of hearing impairment. A mere 5.3% of these adults in this category received a recommendation for a cochlear implant (CI). And of that small percentage referred for a cochlear implant, only 22.1% received a CI.

Despite solid clinical evidence and adequate insurance reimbursement for the CI procedure, the low rate of referral for a CI evaluation in this study is consistent with previous estimates of a 5% utilization rate in the eligible adult population with severe profound hearing loss.

These results suggest an opportunity for otolaryngologists and audiologists to raise awareness among primary care physicians and the general population about the benefits of cochlear implants.

*(you may subscribe to HHTM weekly at [HHTM.org](http://HHTM.org);  
email: [info@HearingHealthMatters.org](mailto:info@HearingHealthMatters.org).)*

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The water of Angel Falls (the world's highest) in Venezuela drops 3,212 feet (979 meters). They are 15 times higher than Niagara Falls .

*(author unknown)*

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**ROGER PEN** --AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO USE*By Nancy Meyer*

HLAA-Rochester Chapter owns a Roger Pen/MyLink assistive listening device which we received, free of charge, at the 2015 National HLAA Convention.

Phonak held a demonstration session and distributed a Roger Pen/MyLink to each of the sixty chapters represented. Since its value is estimated at \$1500, this was a considerable investment for Phonak. Doug and Nancy Meyer attended the session and became 'caretakers' of our unit. The only contract requirement we must meet is to have at least 4 people try it out each year and fill out a very short online survey. There is no obligation nor expectation to purchase.

The Roger pen and MyLink receiver work with any brand of hearing aid equipped with a t-coil, so it is not limited to Phonak owners. (Phonak does offer clip-on receivers which attach to behind-the-ear Phonak hearing aids. )

The Roger pen works in three directional modes-- direct beam, microphone mode, and conference mode. As such, it picks up sound in a direct line, a 120-degree band, and at 360 degrees, respectively; thus it's useful in many situations with excellent sound quality.

We want as many people as possible to try out the Roger pen, so we encourage you to see us and sign up at a chapter meeting or call Doug or Nancy at 585-243-2079 to arrange for you to receive and return it. We will show you how to use it. In order to circulate the Pen/MyLink as efficiently as possible, please plan to reserve it for a time (usually a month) that will allow you to get maximum use from the device.

\*Disclaimer: We are not salespersons and receive no compensation from Phonak. We simply are the conduit between Phonak and you, the user.

**NEW RULES TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY OF PHONES** - *(excerpt from HLAA in Action 11/10/17 – Lise Hamlin)*

In October, the FCC released an [Order](#) to update its requirements for hearing aid compatibility and volume control on wireline and wireless telephones.

In their [news release](#) regarding this new rule, the FCC said, “Under the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act, the Commission is required to establish rules that ensure access by people with hearing loss to telephones manufactured or imported for use in the United States. With today’s action, the Commission continues its efforts to ensure that tens of millions of Americans with hearing loss have access to and can benefit from critical and modern communication technologies and services.”

This Order:

- adopts a revised volume control standard for wireline handsets to provide a more accurate measurement of voice amplification
- implements a provision of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act to apply all of the Commission’s hearing aid compatibility requirements to wireline telephones used with advanced communication services, including phones used with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services
- requires, within three years, that all wireless handsets newly certified as hearing aid compatible must include volume control suitable for consumers with hearing loss
- reminds manufacturers and service providers of existing outreach obligations to ensure that consumers are informed about the availability of hearing aid compatible phones.

*(continued on page 11)*

**NEW RULES....** (continued from page 10)

More information on existing FCC hearing aid compatibility rules is available on the [FCC website](https://www.fcc.gov) at <https://www.fcc.gov>.

Or, contact Susan Bahr, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at 202-418-0573 or [Susan.Bahr@fcc.gov](mailto:Susan.Bahr@fcc.gov).

**MUSIC AND HEARING LOSS**

*(Brad Ingrao, Au.D.; excerpt from Long Beach CA – October 2017)*

Due to the nature of our hearing devices—aids and/or cochlear implants—music can be difficult to listen to now. Hearing aids are designed to enhance speech, not the frequencies of music. Following this plan will take a long time—a year perhaps—but it is possible to re-train the brain to enjoy music again.

Here's a link to an older version of his talk. If you have missed having music in your life because of your hearing loss, watch the video!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYGasl2zz5U>.

**WHO IS A VOLUNTEER?** (continued from p. 6)

Volunteers are paid in six “figures:” S-M-I-L-E-S. Got your ears connected? WE NEED YOU! Volunteering is the truest gift you can give yourself and others. No, we are not Uncle Sam. No, you will not be called upon to write the Newsletter, unless you would like to, of course. Depending on the amount of time you wish to contribute, our Chapter has duties from small to the more involved with which your help could be utilized. The least you have to offer is appreciated, even if it is just one hour a week.

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Contact either Art Maurer at [amaurer40@frontier.com](mailto:amaurer40@frontier.com) or, Sue Miller at [SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com](mailto:SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com), phone: 585 615 5136 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

**HLAA National Convention 2018**

Minneapolis Minnesota, June 21—24, 2018

**Host hotel -- Hyatt Regency Minneapolis**

1300 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

**Register Online or Offline;** [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). Registration is different this year. Please note what is/isn't included during the registration process.

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

**Online** – fill out the **Online Registration** and you will receive a confirmation letter by email.

**Offline** – download and complete the **Registration Form** and mail, fax or email, and we will mail you a confirmation letter.

*(Reduced rates before March 31<sup>st</sup>.)*

**Veterans and Caregivers** (Free Registration for 1st Timers)

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

Questions? Email Niaz Siasi, Meeting Planner at [convention@hearingloss.org](mailto:convention@hearingloss.org).

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**HLAA Membership Information**

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, Inc., a tax exempt and volunteer group, is a chapter of a national, nonprofit, nonsectarian, educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from October through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. (September is 2nd Tuesday.) While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability. For more information, Call **585 266 7890**

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Newsletter

*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.  
 Send articles to:  
 Ginger Graham  
 859 Meadow Ridge Lane  
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Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: [www.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—Bethesda, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

### **Meetings are hearing accessible**

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

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

Entrance to the meeting room is via the Westminster Rd. door, down the corridor to the end, into the large Parish Hall room.

*Everyone, with or without a hearing loss, is welcome!*