

Telephone: (585) 266-7890 Email: info@hearinglossrochester.org Website: https://www.hearinglossrochester.org

Volume 38, Number 8

Featured Presentation

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

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

Not Your Mother's Library: What's New and Cool in Public Libraries Today. with Emily Clasper, MLIS, PMP, Director, of the Rochester



Public Library and Monroe County Library System

Most of us grew up visiting and loving libraries, but many may not know what they have to offer as we move deeper into the 21 st century.

Sure, we still have books, but modern libraries offer many more services that lots of people aren't even aware of! Fall even more in love with what libraries can do for our communities and learn more about the innovations, connections, services, and delightful surprises your local library can have in store for you.

Attendees will learn:

- 1. What's new in the world of library services and how that relates to our traditional role
- 2. What challenges do libraries face these days
- 3. How you can get involved in using and supporting your library

Emily Clasper, MLIS, PMP is the Director, of the Rochester Public Library and Monroe County Library System Emily Clasper is currently the Director of the Rochester Public Library and Monroe County Library System. She has more than two decades of experience in libraries of several types across New York State. In addition to being a librarian and administrator, Emily is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP[®]), a Certified Alma administrator, Former Councilor at Large for the American Library Association and a Library Journal Mover and Shaker (2012).



April 2025

APRIL CALENDAR & PROGRAMS

Other April Meetings and Programs

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM IN PERSON, ST PAUL'S VESTRY ROOM: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences': 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, APRIL 8

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ON ZOOM: Professional Advisory Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ON ZOOM: Advocacy for People with Hearing Loss in the Workplace

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - ASSISTIVE DEVICE DEMONSTRATION CENTER. Technology Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Avenue. See Page 3 for details.

Tuesday, April 22

8:00 - 9:00 pm on Zoom: HEAR TOGETHER

Virtual Support Group 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. Kristin Bergholtz, CCC/SLP, a speech language pathologist who leads the group, along with Carly Alicea, Au. D/PhD, an audiologist, will focus this month on **Balance & Physical Therapy Needs in D/HOH Children.** Please register at kristinbslp@gmail.com.

Please check our Chapter Website hearinglossrochester.org for any changes

Thank you to our members who are bringing refreshments to our April meeting: **Anne Adamson**, **Jackie Lynch, Betsy McClain**, and **Janet McKenna** Elizabeth "Betsy" Runnion has been a certified audiologist for over 20 years and an assistant professor at



Nazareth University since January 2022. She received a PhD in Speech and Hearing Science from Arizona State University where she studied language and early literacy development in pediatric populations. She feels honored to be serving on the PAC and appreciates meeting members of the HLAA-Roc Chapter.

Over the past few years she has enjoyed collaborating with members to create experiential learning opportunities for students at Nazareth University. She produced the Video *The Importance of Communication Access in Hospitals for Adults with Hearing Loss.* (View it at NAZVideo on our HLAA website).

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



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 at hearingloss.org. Early Bird Rates through April 14.

REIMBURSEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER. SEE HEARINGLOSSROCHESTER.ORG FOR DETAILS

"HOWALS" Project

Houses Of Worship with Assistive Listening Syste By Bruce Nelson, co-Editor



Temple Beth El, at 139 Winton Rd., is a a Conservative Jewish Synagogue, which houses 3 congregations, Temple Beth El, Temple Beth

David, and Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel.

Within the building are 3 sanctuaries. The main sanctuary, which was remodeled 8 years ago, seats approximately 700 and is used by Temple Beth El for Sabbath and



holyday services. The downstairs chapel, which seats



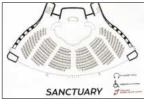
approximately 150, is used for daily services, conducted by Temple Beth El, but attended by all 3 congregations, and by Temple Beth David on the Sabbath. The oth-

er sanctuary, seating about 50, is used by Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel.

The main sanctuary has an FM system and a hearing loop. Because the area is so large, some areas are looped, and the FM transmitter covers other areas, and

there is some overlap. FM receivers are available for those who require them.

But how do congregants who need hearing assistance know where to sit for the best coverage? At the entrance to the



sanctuary, a seat map has been provide which shows which seats work best for FM and which for loop.

The downstairs chapel also has FM and is looped

Assistive Device Demo Center



Our chapter sponsors the Assistive Device Demo Center, showcasing the latest devices to help with hearing loss. Explore signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones, and personal assistive listening devices. Our members will

answer questions and highlight TV listening and noise-coping devices.

Join us every 3rd Thursday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza). Next session: Thursday, April 17th. Free and open to all!

We look forward to seeing you there!

HLAA National Report

by Pete Fackler, National Board Member

The post-Covid conventions have had stable attendance of close to 500 over the past three years. The upcoming convention is in Indianapolis, June 11 - 14. The 2026 convention is tentatively slated for Louisville, dates unknown.



For the first time, national HLAA will be sharing advocacy capabilities with local chapters and state associations. The approach will be to provide gateway access to a software tool ("Muster") that organizes and streamlines some aspects of advocacy efforts. This effort will be slow to roll out as we learn how to be effective in this regard. I will report more information on the roll-out as I know more.

Finances are stable. Fund-raising in the post-Covid world is a challenge for most not-for-profit organizations and HLAA has not been an exception. For perspective, HLAA's operating budget is at the same dollar level, approximately, as it was ten years ago. The fiscal year ended August 31, 2024 registered a surplus (where revenues exceed expenses) and the audit yielded an unmodified ("clean") opinion, the best kind of independent auditor's conclusion that is possible. Another year with a clean opinion continues to speak well of the quality of financial management at work at HLAA headquarters.

In Melissa Kruse's report to the board regarding grass roots support activities, she cited dramatic improvement in chapters' overall satisfaction with HLAA support efforts. Nationwide, chapters number 130 give or take a few. Of note in her report was her citing the work of Sue Miller in New York State for her efforts to encourage the efforts to resuscitate the Long Island and Upper Hudson chapters and to mentor the efforts to start a Binghamton chapter. Melissa also cited the work of the Rochester chapter as "extraordinary" and a model for others to aspire to.

Governing boards are dynamic over time as their composition changes, and this is certainly true of HLAA's Board of Directors. Thus, longstanding policies are open to question and discussion over time. In the present case at today's meeting, discussion time was allocated to the length of board chairs' terms (now two years per the bylaws) and to the role that financial reserves play in the life of the organization. Discussions like this are important for explaining the rationale for present practices to newer board members and for opening the organization to new ideas. The HLAA board's conversation on these topics did not yield decisions for immediate change but the nature of the discussions was positive and a learning experience for all involved.

For your continuing reference, here are notes regarding how you can connect with HLAA:

Website: hearingloss.org

Walk4Hearing website: walk4hearing.org

Office phone: 301-657-2248

Office FAX: 301-913-9413

6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852

e-News: sign up at website.

Archived webinars: go to hearingloss.org.

The 2025 national convention will take place June 11 - 14 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Please reach out to me with your comments, concerns, and questions -- pcf.hlaa@yahoo.com or (814) 319-2083 (text or voice)

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Happy Birthday in April to:

- 3 Peter Leas
- 10 Sue Miller
- 10 Judy McMillan
- 14 Nancy Shepard
- 17 Eileen Lumb
- 27 Judy Markowski
- 27 Anna Pellegrino

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.

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Thank you to our major contributors Elaine VanderBrook

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Moisture: The Killer of Hearing Aids

By Bruce Nelson, co-Editor

Hearing aids have a formidable adversary that can silently wreak havoc on their functionality: moisture.



Moisture is everywhere. From the midity in the air to the sweat on our skin; water vapor is an omnipresent element that can infiltrate hearing aids in various ways. The

internal circuitry of hearing aids is incredibly delicate, and even the smallest amount of moisture can lead to malfunctions.

There are many sources of moisture which can damage your hearing aids. Among them are:

- Sweat: Perspiration can seep into your hearing aids, through the microphone, battery compartment, and can especially damage the receivers. Some people just have naturally damp ear canals.
- Humidity: Environmental humidity is a constant challenge. High humidity levels can lead to condensation inside the hearing aid, which can cause short circuits or corrosion of internal components.
- Condensation: Rapid temperature changes can cause moisture to condense inside and outside of the hearing aid.
- Rain and Accidental Exposure: Exposure to rain or accidental splashes can also spell trouble for hearing aids. Even brief contact with water can be detrimental if the device is not adequately protected.

The damage caused by moisture can manifest in several ways:

• Corrosion: Although manufacturers now apply moisture resistant coatings to the internal components, there are still exposed metal components

Lifespan's Day of Hearing in Partnership with HLAA

Lifespan is partnering with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Rochester Chapter to host a Day of Hearing in recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month!

The event takes place at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave., on Thursday, May 15th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Join us at any time throughout the day for an educational workshop (see schedule below) or to view and try out a selection of assistive-listening devices before actually buying them! within the hearing aid which can corrode. This corrosion can lead to poor sound quality, intermittent functionality, or complete failure of the device. Moisture seeping inside the receivers can cause them to fail.

 Short Circuits: When moisture comes into contact with the electronic components, it can create short circuits. This can disrupt the normal operation

of the hearing aid, causing it to malfunction or stop working altogether.

• Infections: Damp environments foster the growth of bacteria and fungi, posing a risk of ear infections and unpleasant odors.

• Battery Drainage: Moisture can drain batteries faster, leading to frequent and frustrating replacements.

Prevention:

- It goes without saying that you want to remove your hearing aids before engaging in water-based activities
- Invest in a dryer or dehumidifier. There are many models of hearing aid dehumidifiers that your audiologist can recommend. For more severe cases, there are now hearing aid dryers which can remove all f the moisture overnight,
- If you don't have one of those devices, then at least invest in a container which has a dessicant o absorb moisture.
- Schedule regular inspections with your audiologist to check for damage.

If you notice any signs of moisture damage, such as distorted sound, intermittent operation, or visible corrosion, don't delay. Contact your audiologist immediately.

The workshops (subject to change) to be presented are:

- 9:15 10:00 a.m. Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter
- 10:15 11:00 a.m. Dr. John McNamara, AuD: Info on hearing aids
- 11:15 12 noon Dr. Paul Dutcher, Basics of Ear Disorders and Hearing Loss
- 1:00 1:45 p.m. Cochlear Implants, speaker TBA
- 2:00 2:45 p.m. Being Your Own Best Advocate as a Medical Patient, speakers: Mary Chizuk, Art Maurer, and Dr. Betsy Runnion
- 3:00 3:45 p.m. Dr. Meghan Fox, The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss

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HLAA ANNUAL DINNER

You are cordially invited to the Annual Dinner of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA on May 13th. Every year we recognize some of our members who have made a big difference to our chapter this year by presenting awards, including the annual Chapter Award.

Tuesday | May 13, 2025 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Cobblestone Creek Country Club 100 Cobble Creek Road, Victor, NY Spouses/guests welcome!

MENU CHOICES Chicken Milanese OR Atlantic Salmon OR Vegetable Curry Warm rolls and butter Chef's choice seasonal vegetable and starch House salad and a yummy dessert Coffee and Tea \$35.00 per person (includes tax & gratuities) Questions? Please email, or call, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com, (585) 615-5136

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	HLAA ANNUAL DINNER - May 13, 2025	
	Reservation Form	
Name:		
Phone and/or Email		
1st Guest:	Dinner choice	
2nd Guest:	Dinner choice	
	Dinners @ \$35 each =	
	Dinner reservations are due Tuesday, May 8FIRM DATE! Please return this form with checks payable to HLAA Rochester	
to	o: Mr. & Mrs. Doug Meyer / 5275 Rosebrugh Rd. / Geneseo NY 14454	
	We cannot accept reservations after May 8th	

Rochester HLAA Chapter's Demo Center to Receive The Outstanding Chapter on a Mission Award.

The Rochester HLAA Chapter is honored to announce that its Assistive Listening Device Center, will be awarded the prestigious The Outstanding Chapter on a Mission Award.at the HLAA National Convention in Indianapolis in June. This recognition underscores the chapter's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of individuals with hearing loss through education, support, and access to assistive listening devices.

The Demo Center is open to the public, free of charge, and easily accessible. It provides essential information about hearing loss, raises awareness of assistive listening devices (ALDs) and alerting systems (ALSs), and offers visitors the unique opportunity to "try before you buy."

The Demo Center is located at Lifespan and operates from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the 3^{rd} Thursday of each month.

The Demo Center features 30 different devices managed by dedicated Technology Committee Members. These knowledgeable volunteers regularly discover and select new devices for display, provide visitors with guidance on device selection and problemsolving, and assist with trying out devices on-site. Importantly, the Center focuses on educating visitors about asking the right questions from vendors, without promoting or selling specific devices.

Additionally, the Demo Center hosts Audiology and Speech Pathology students from Nazareth University once a semester. These students gain hands-on experience and insights into hearing loss and the various devices used by individuals with hearing impairments. This interaction helps students appreciate the differences between the deaf community and those with hearing loss.

One of the key services provided by the Demo Center is free Hearing-Ability tests, which helps determine if there is a need for a visit to an audiologist. These tests have proven invaluable in encouraging individuals to seek professional help for their hearing needs.

Receiving the Outstanding Chapter on a Mission Award.is a testament to the Rochester HLAA Chapter's dedication to serving individuals with hearing loss and making a positive difference in their lives. The chapter is deeply grateful for this recognition and remains committed to its mission of support and education for those affected by hearing loss.

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 the little.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 fre-

quency 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 .

Call to Action: Reese's Law

Just about all hearing aid wearers whose hearing aids use batteries has experienced the new "child-proof" packages. Unfortunately, those packages are also"adult proof".

The law was passed by Congress in response to the

death of Reese Hamsmith, an 18-month-old girl who tragically died after swallowing a button battery in 2020



There hasn't been a groundswell of activity to complain to Congress about the new law. But recently, a copy of this letter was sent via social networking and to

chapters requesting a letter-writing campaign to Earl Flood (Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Representative Robin Kelly) and perhaps to your own Congressperson to express their comments about Reese's Law, and perhaps suggest that Congress consider an exemption for hearing aid batteries.

Please Read (from the Executive Director at Americans For Better Hearing, Richard Uzuanis):

"On Monday I had a video conference call with Earl Flood. He is the Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL). Rep Kelly was one of the sponsors of Reese's Law. The call was regarding a letter I sent him about Reese's Law.

The letter I sent created quite a stir in his office and with those with whom he shared the letter. Earl (Flood) was surprised at the content of the letter regarding problems with the new packaging for hearing aid batteries. According to Earl, the legislative committee dealing with Reese's Law was also surprised that there was any kind of problem. They were under the assumption that any problems were resolved during the stay on implementation during 2024 and that all was good with hearing aid batteries and Reese's Law."

Earl has requested that I solicit as many organizations as possible that have concerns about the mandated new packaging. According to him the committee dealing with the Law needs to see a groundswell of concern about the packaging. He is requesting that organizations and healthcare practices send him an email expressing those concerns. He will forward them to the Committee.

The more emails he receives the more the people in Washington will understand there is a serious problem. The email address is Earl.Flood@mail.house.gov.

Please forward this to the influencers you know and ask them to reach out to their contacts and ask them all to send Earl an email about the packaging concerns. He is not interested in being swamped by individuals but rather prefers being contacted by organizations and medical practices.

Reese's Law, Explained

by Bruce Nelson, co-Editor

By now, most of us have heard about Reese's Law, because we can't open our hearing aid battery packages easily. I tried reading it myself, and decided I needed help, so I asked the AI program, Co-Pilot, for help. The official name is Public Law 117-171 -August 16, 2022, and you can read the actual text at tinyurl.com/Reeses-Law Here's the AI generated synopsis:

Section 1: Short Title

This section simply states that the Act may be cited as "Reese's Law."

Section 2: Consumer Product Safety Standard for Button Cell or Coin Batteries and Consumer Products Containing Such Batteries

This section requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to establish a safety standard for button cell or coin batteries and the products containing them. The standard must include:

A performance standard to secure battery compartments to reduce the risk of injury from battery ingestion by children.

Warning label requirements on the packaging, user manuals, and, if practicable, directly on the product.

Section 3: Special Packaging

This section mandates that button cell or coin batteries must be sold in special packaging that meets the specifications of 16 CFR § 1700.15. This is to prevent children from accessing the batteries.

Section 4: Treatment of Standard for Enforcement Purposes

This section states that the safety standard established under Section 2 will be treated as a consumer product safety rule under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act.

Section 5: Effective Date

This section specifies that the Act will take effect 180 days after the date of enactment.

April 2025



April 2025

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April 2025

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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 at **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.

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

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<u>Newsletter</u> 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

Be Part of National HLAA

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.

Make a gift in any amount to help us make an impact on this growing public health crisis

As a Member, You Will...

- Make an impact helping millions thrive with hearing loss
- Get Hearing Life seasonal magazine delivered to your home*
- Get the latest in hearing news, events and action alerts each month
- Get involved in important local and national advocacy initiatives

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

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320, Rockville, MD 20852

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

All members receive the Rochester Chapter Newsletter!

□First-Time Member □Renewal

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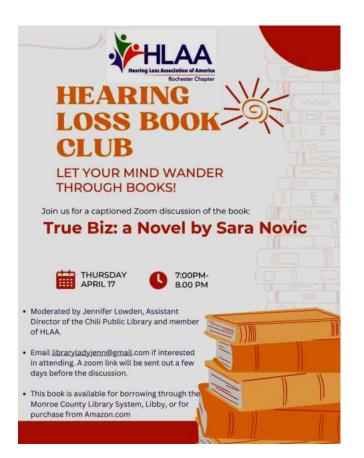


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Our Meetings are Hearing Accessible

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.