



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTION

Tuesday November 10th, 12 pm-1 pm via Zoom

Pete Fackler: “What’s new from National HLAA”

Tuesday, November 17th, 10 am-11 am via Zoom

Joe Kozelski: HOPE Session: ‘Hearing Other People’s Experiences’ (HOPE)

Tuesday, November 17th, 7 pm-9 pm via Zoom

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 19th, 10 am-11 am via

Zoom

Virtual ALD Demo center. HLAA-Rochester Technology Team.

Watch our Newsletters and Website for updates

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Hearing loss continues even during a pandemic.

Thanks to the Technology Team, Hearing Loss Association of America Rochester Chapter (HLAA) offers a series of virtual programs during November for anyone interested in hearing loss. All use the Zoom platform. Preregistration is required by visiting the HLAA website at: <http://hearinglossrochester.org>

All programs are free and in real time. Closed captioning is available to participants.

Programs for November are:

Tuesday, November. 10. Noon: Pete Fackler “What’s new from National HLAA”

HLAA’s national organization, like the rest of the world, has been profoundly impacted by the COVID pandemic. Pete Fackler, serving on the National Board of Trustees, updates Rochester

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Art Maurer, President

ZOOMING WORKS...



September saw perhaps the most significant change in our Rochester Chapter’s 37 year history. Our three monthly programs were held on-line, bringing to fruition our July announcement of going Virtual!

The effort became quite involved and getting captioning on-line added unforeseen complexity. The Tech Team is doing a terrific job with other members addressing many administrative issues.

Feedback from participants is positive. Many like seeing everyone’s face without masks, and having their names shown. Plus, significantly, there is convenience in not having to drive and park. As we go forward we hope more will register and sign-on to our Zoom sessions.

An unexpected advantage is having participation from members as far away as Grand Island to the west and Vermont to the east. We’re also beginning work to reach out broadly across western and central New York to people with hearing loss who may never have heard of HLAA. We welcome your ideas and suggestions on effective ways to spread the word.

If you aren’t Zooming yet, go to:

hearinglossrochester.org

to register for the invitation emails. You only have to register once. If you’ve never been on Zoom there is information on how to get started, and help if you need it.

WE’LL MEET IN-PERSON AGAIN ... SOMEDAY

Interpersonal connection, however, has always been a cornerstone of our mission to **Support** –

(Continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 1)

chapter members on struggles and successes at headquarters during this unusual year. HLAA “went virtual” for a cancelled convention, all the Walks4Hearing, and ongoing webinars. Staff moved to a new location after decades in Bethesda. “Global standards for cochlear implant users,” a major collaborative study, was published in JAMA. Pete reveals how the national office continues supporting people with hearing loss.

Pete Fackler earned degrees from Duke University and the University of Michigan, embarking on a five year tenure with Price Waterhouse & Co. followed by over thirty years in higher education executive positions. He served two terms on the HLAA Board of Trustees where he was Treasurer and President of the Board, rejoining the Board in 2017. He chaired the Rochester Walk4Hearing for several years and he is now the Coordinator of the Cochlear Implant Group, and a bilateral cochlear implant user.

Tuesday, November 17: 10:00am. Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A. Hearing Other People's Experiences (HOPE)

Prospective, new, or experienced hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal virtual round table discussion facilitated by Joe Kozelsky, a retired audiologist and hearing aid user. Real hearing aid users discuss real problems and concerns.

Thursday November 19: 10:00am Virtual ALD Demo center. HLAA Rochester Technology Team.

This is a continuing orientation to the on-line “Virtual Demo Center” web site. It is a review of selected assistive listening devices, captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone apps related to hearing enhancement and gives the opportunity for the presenters to answer questions from those joining the Zoom meeting.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Educate –Advocate. We aren't sure of the impact on the Support aspect due to the social distancing the Covid pandemic is forcing upon us. There is emotional grace and communication nuance when meeting in person; they cannot be replaced on computer-based linkages. So, we do look forward to being back together. Unfortunately, due to Covid, that will be about a year away. We welcome that day and have started planning to enhance our in-person future by continuing to Zoom. It will be a new era for our Chapter...removing barriers of distance and physical limitation.

CATCH UP ON YOUTUBE

With our monthly Presentation and Demo Center Sessions becoming available on YouTube, you can watch each session a few days after the session takes place. **Eric Matson** uploads the recordings. New sessions will eventually bump older sessions off. Links to access our YouTube channel are posted at hearinglossrochester.org.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Committee meetings and activities are coming out of our Covid driven hibernation. We are working to get all planning and development back on-track. We can use new ideas and energy in virtually all areas, so if you are of a mind to volunteer, please get in touch.

FINALLY ... VOTE! We are in an election season more significant than any other in our lifetime for the future direction of our country ... and literally, the world. If ever there was a time when the American voting populace must be heard from, it is now. A large plurality is essential to determine our collective mind. So I urge everyone to vote, and advise spouses, friends, neighbors, young adults to join in. Thanks for making sure your voice is heard.

Art Maurer
amaurer40@frontier.com

Message to HLAA Chapters

from HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley

This November 27, 2020, marks our organization's founding in 1979. Founder **Rocky Stone** began our organization as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, a moniker of the times when the self-help movement was gaining ground. The first SHHH Chapter was established in Gainesville, Georgia.

The philosophy envisioned back then is still alive today – gather all the information you can to make your own decisions about your hearing health (“self-help”), then turn around and help others. This is in practice in HLAA Chapters across the country where you provide information and peer-to-peer support.

Founder's Day, or Founder's Month, was typically commemorated by our chapters across the country. You held special events, celebrations, and often fundraisers to raise money for the national office in honor of Rocky and Ahme Stone and all the chapter leaders who came before you. The funds went directly to the costs of running chapters at the national office. Chapters are at the heart of our mission.

This November, not too many of our chapters are having in-person meetings let alone social events. We are in difficult times and we hope you're all healthy and, if possible, holding virtual meetings, or staying connected some other way.

Our hope for the future is to support HLAA Chapters with resources to hold hearing-friendly virtual meetings. We plan to make it easier for you to become chapters and get all the information you need on our website. This takes a lot of work and funds to support staffing and technology, but we are committed to HLAA Chapters.

If you want a walk down memory lane, read our history (<https://www.hearingloss.org/about-hlaa/our-history/page>) You'll be amazed at what we've accomplished together in the last 41 years.

Thank you for all your work in communities across the country where you keep the HLAA mission fully alive!

VIRTUAL BUFFALO WALK4HEARING

By Carol Loftus

The virtual Buffalo Walk4Hearing took place on Saturday, September 26th. I'd been wondering what the Walk celebration would look like.

Wow! HLAA (National) gave us a well-planned, entertaining hour long event. **HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelly** presented at the beginning of the Celebration; **Gael Hannan**, Comedian and long-time HLAA Member, took us on a 'run' through her home; walkers were asked to share why they support the Walk and Sponsors spoke about their Company's products that support those with hearing loss. We were entertained by **Mandy Harvey**, an award winning singer, songwriter and motivational speaker.

As a liaison for the Buffalo Walk, I'm delighted to report the Rochester Chapter had three teams that participated; Hear4Tomorrow, Phackler's Phanatics and Sunshine Strollers. We all did very well supporting the Walk.

My team, Hear4Tomorrow, and I, as a walker, took first place. A great big 'THANK YOU' to those who supported me.

A very pleasant surprise was in store for **Dan Brooks**. He was the winner of a small room Loop Amplifier. Congrats Dan!!!

As we signed off from our virtual Walk, many echoed HOPE TO SEE YOU IN BUFFALO NEXT YEAR.!

Please note, Walk4Hearing donations may be given up to December 12th 2020.



HLAA New York State Association (NYSA) - Update.

By Dan Brooks, President, HLAA-NYSA



How is everyone doing? Around where I live the leaves are changing and full of vibrant fall foliage. Not sure how long it will last, but will certainly enjoy the colors while they last. Fall is also a time activities start to ramp up at local HLAA chapters.

The HLAA Rochester Chapter, the Chapter to which I belong has started up its new season of chapter events. The events are virtual, via zoom and using Zoom's captioning support services. I've heard other chapters are doing the same.

I'd like to take a moment to say kudos to everyone who has been working hard to make these events happen. It really does take a team effort to pull this off. Everyone has different skills, talents and expertise. When we work together as a team, we can accomplish anything!

Another example of excellent teamwork has come from those who put together the Walk4Hearing. The Buffalo walk has come and gone. It was done virtually and kicked off the fall season of walks. I am really happy I had the opportunity to attend the walk and once again I'm amazed at what can happen when people come together. There were about 60 people from all over the US who attended that walk. **Barbara Kelly**, our Executive Director from HLAA, was present and so was the famous singer **Mandy Harvey** from *America's Got Talent*! Mandy even treated us to one of her special songs, one she wrote about her experience with hearing loss! So, if you have not yet had the chance to attend a virtual Walk4Hearing I strongly encourage you do so!

The last virtual walks this year, will be the Arizona and Houston walks on November 7th, 2020. Houston starts at 9:45am and Arizona

starts at 11:45 am. Please realize you do not have to live in those areas to attend the walk. You can attend any of the walks from anywhere in the world! A portion or all of your donations (you decide) will go towards helping those with hearing loss. It really is a stellar event that HLAA and the walk team puts on... make sure to mark your calendars and hope to see you there!

Now let's get to updates concerning the **HLAA New York State Association!** (HLAA-NYSA). We last met as a board (virtually), on September 12th. We decided with heavy hearts due to Covid and too many unknowns, to postpone the HLAA NYSA State Conference. The new date will be October 2022, instead of 2021. On the positive side, we had a great meeting and very excited to hear there may be interest in the Buffalo and Syracuse areas to each start a new chapter! There was also talk of forming a Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) for the HLAA NYSA. Stay tuned for more on that, along with other exciting announcements to come soon!

We also met our newest board member at the time of our meeting, **Debbie Wolfe** from the Westchester Chapter! I say "at the time" because we have been blessed with not one but two more people accepting to join the Board of Directors of the HLAA NYSA since then! The newest members are **Anne Pope** from the NYC Chapter, and **Pete Fackler**, from the Rochester Chapter. They both have years of experience with HLAA at the National, State, and Chapter levels. We look forward to getting to know them more at our next board meeting, which has been scheduled for November 14th.

Remember, it takes people coming together to make things happen. If you have any interest at all in supporting HLAA NYSA and/or have questions, please feel free to email me at: hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com or dbrooks.hlaa.roc@gmail.com.

Thanks again for your attention!

-Dan Brooks

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

Our Online Meetings (and physical meetings once they resume) are captioned 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.

We are extremely grateful that **CaptionCall** has chosen to support our chapter by underwriting this captioning.

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Dan Brooks, Lorin Gallistel, Charlie Johnstone,** and **Bruce Nelson** for overseeing the technical support needed for this service and to **Joan and Rich Kohler** for handling the reservations.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER IS NOW VIRTUAL

By Chas Johnstone

Since we are unable to conduct our Demo Center at Lifespan, our Virtual Demo Center (VDC) is now available online 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, thanks to the tireless devotion of **Lorin Gallistel**. Please visit the VDC to see the full range of devices in the Demo Center and submit any questions there that you might have. Please follow the link on the chapter's website, <http://hearinglossrochester.org> to access the VDC.

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Have a Happy
Safe Thanksgiving

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WIN A JOSS KENDRICK DOLL, FIRST DOLL WITH A HEARING AID (Supports our Chapter and NYSA)

It's not too late to purchase tickets for a drawing for American Doll's Joss Kendrick, the first doll with a hearing aid, by contacting Mary Chizuk (address below) The drawing will take place at our virtual chapter meeting on December 8th.

Tickets cost – 1 /\$2; 2 /\$3; 5/\$5.



Checks are payable to HLAA-Rochester Chapter

Please mail request and check to:

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Dr Barnett Receives URM C’s Satcher Award

The Satcher Community Health Improvement Awards recognizes University of Rochester Medical Center faculty and staff for significant contributions to the health of the community through research, teaching, practice, and/or service programs.

The awards reflect the mission of the Center for Community Health & Prevention and the URM C to develop and expand community-university partnerships that support community-engaged research and interventions that reduce health inequities and improve the community's health. Awards are made based on work done in the greater Rochester area and Finger Lakes region.

The Dr. David Satcher Community Health Improvement Awards are typically held in person with a keynote speaker, but this year, due to the pandemic, awardees are being recognized and sharing their commitment to community health improvement virtually.

Dr. Steven L. Barnett, M.D., a member of the HLAA Rochester Chapter, was one of 4 recipients of the Satcher Award this year.



Dr. Barnett directs the Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC): National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) and in that capacity has engaged and partnered with populations of Deaf sign

language users and people with hearing loss in Rochester and nationally to collaboratively identify and address health priorities with those communities. RPRC/NCDHR and community partners conducted the first-ever broad public health surveillance in American Sign Language, called the Rochester Deaf Health Survey. This community partnered process represents the

first time that a Deaf community used its own data to identify health priorities, and led to intervention research.

RPRC/NCDHR successfully conducted the first-ever randomized pragmatic trial of a healthy lifestyle program called Deaf Weight Wise. This collaborative work with Rochester Deaf communities demonstrated that an evidence-based intervention adapted by Deaf people, implemented by Deaf people, and rigorously evaluated by Deaf people, results in significant and sustained weight loss. Additionally, RPRC/NCDHR partnered with Deaf community members, Trillium Health and the New York State Department of Health to address access to walk-in HIV testing through a novel telehealth pilot program to connect via video a credentialed counselor who is Deaf with a Deaf walk-in client.

RPRC/NCDHR and the Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) Community Committee used a community-engaged process with people with hearing loss in Rochester to identify health research priorities, and are now conducting a feasibility pilot to address social determinants of health. RPRC/NCDHR is beginning its fourth consecutive 5-year award as a CDC-funded Prevention Research Center, and will conduct Deaf Weight Wise implementation research with community partners in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse.

IF YOU MOVE, or are a “SNOWBIRD!”

Please don't forget to notify **Henry J. Adler, Ph.D.**, Univ. of Buffalo, 137-L Cary Hall, 3435 Main St., Buffalo NY 14214; or **hjadler@aol.com**, even if your change of address is a temporary one.

HLAA is charged for each piece of returned mail, which the Post Office will not forward. When you return, let us know, and we will resume sending to your local address.

MY STORY

by *Berdjouhi Esmerian*

I had heard of HLAA in Rochester from **Janet McKenna** and wanted to attend a meeting to learn more about the group. Later, it was **Carmel Merrill** who invited me to one in February 2020. I met several members, found it very interesting, and became a member on the spot, planning to continue attending future gatherings. Some time later, I met with **Susan Miller**, fast becoming a good friend, who encouraged me to write this for HLAA's monthly newsletter.



If you are wondering about how to pronounce my name, here's an easy way: Burr-joo-he. It is an old Armenian name.

I was born in Alexandria, Egypt, of Armenian descent. I am an immigrant and a naturalized citizen. I arrived in the United States in October of 1963 at the age of 30 fully equipped to speak English (I had a degree in Education and had taught English at the high school level at the American College for Girls in Cairo, and an Armenian high school in Beirut, Lebanon). In spite of my love of teaching, I built a 30-year career at The Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company in Rochester. I loved my various positions and also became the favorite friend of the many hearing-impaired employees who worked in the various departments. I learned American Sign Language with the help of one of my proofreaders.

I now realize that "hearing and non-hearing" weaved through my life in ways I never dreamed.

When I first came to the US, I was determined to continue my teaching career and finish my Master's degree. One of my co-workers had a daughter who was deaf from childhood which got me interested in the Rochester School for the Deaf. I went to Gallaudet College to investigate studying there. Since I was not a citizen yet, I was told that I did not qualify for scholarships available to the students. In the

1960s, I couldn't afford the \$500 needed. Teaching the deaf was not to be.

In later years, when I became the supervisor of the Proofreading Department, I had three hearing-impaired employees. As the industry transitioned from "hot metal" to electronic publishing, hearing-impaired employees who had worked in the manufacturing departments—the noisiest part of the business—were trained to work in other areas. This brought me closer to working and understanding the needs of their handicap.

As the years went by and I started aging, it became harder to climb stairs, to stand up straight, to wake up full of energy, and periodically to raise the volume on my television. I mildly wondered if I was beginning to lose my hearing. No. People were speaking softly and fast.

Several years after I retired from active work, I moved into Brickstone by St. John's Living, a very active senior community. Lectures, concerts, parties, and lots of courses offered by our city's colleges and universities.

I attended a course and noticed that I was barely hearing the lecturer and missing almost all conversations by the attendees. I realized that I had to do something about "my hearing loss."

But the hardest was not hearing music correctly. Any melody or tune that was not live became unpleasant sound. I stopped listening to the music channels on cable TV.

It was time to take serious steps of being evaluated and fitted with hearing aids. Five years ago I was "moderately" impaired. My condition is now moving closer to "severely."

The funny thing is that the real me does not realize that from time to time this body needs some parts repaired and even replaced. In spite of the passing years, I now found the time to make my dream come true. I wrote and published my memoir, *So Many Homelands*, the story of my years in Egypt, my life in the United States, and a story about Armenia, my ancestral homeland. It can be purchased on Amazon.



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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 at noon, online via Zoom. See our website at <https://hearinglossrochester.org> to register. While our primary focus is directed toward people with hearing loss, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability.

For more information, Call
585 266 7890

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Newsletter

Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
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July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

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 Mr/Mrs Doug Meyer, 5275 Rosebrugh Rd., Geneseo NY 14454

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

YES! I want to join or renew membership in national HLAA. Membership entitles me to the magazine, *Hearing Life*; a number of discounts; and knowing I'm supporting advocacy for people with hearing loss nationwide.

Join Renew

Individual \$45 /Family \$55
 Professional \$80 Corporate \$500
 On-line only-individual \$35
 On-line only-student \$25

Veterans – please go to: www.hearingloss.org

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____

(cell) _____

E-mail: _____

Send to: Hearing Loss Association of America
 Suite 320
 6116 Executive Blvd
 Rockville, MD 20852

Please do NOT send this renewal to the local Rochester chapter; mail directly to HLAA in Rockville, MD.



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Please deliver by October 30, 2020



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: <http://www.hearingloss.org>.

The Rochester Chapter, started in 1983, is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has a support network of organizations—Rockville, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

Meetings are hearing accessible

During pandemic times, all chapter meetings are online via Zoom. See meeting information in this newsletter. Captioning within the Zoom application is available.

In non-pandemic times, we meet in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. and Westminster Rd., across from the George Eastman Museum. Parking is available at the George Eastman Museum, if needed.

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request.

Everyone, with or without a hearing loss, is welcome, on our on-line meetings or in person, when live meetings resume!