



APRIL Calendar

Tuesday, April 1st

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 – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., April 8th – Board of Directors
6:00-9pm – Lower Level CR, Al Sigl Center

Tues., April 15th - PAC mtg., 7pm, JV room, ASC

Wed., April 23rd – RWC/CaptiView movie,
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm. Email Ginger
the weekend ahead for exact movie & time.
ggraham859@frontiernet.net. See you there!

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Sun., May 4th – Walk4Hearing, Perinton Park

Tues., May 13th – BOD meeting, 6:00-9pm,
Lower Level CR, Al Sigl Center

Tues., May 20th – “CI Group” St.Paul’s church

Wed., May 28th – RWC/CaptiView movie.
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm.

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

Hospitality Duties for April:

Daytime Meeting –J. Kohler, P. Outhouse
Evening Meeting –B. Law, T. Witcher
Board of Directors –G. Loftus, J. Metcalfe

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

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!



APRIL PROGRAM

(at St. Paul’s Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd.)

Tues., April 1st - Daytime Meeting 11:00 am

“ELEMENTS OF A GOOD HEARING AID EVALUATION” –Matthew S. MacDonald, Au.D.

You or someone you know suspects a hearing loss. The audiology examination may be an entirely new experience for the patient. Or possibly your present hearing aid no longer seems adequate, and you need a consultation.

Veteran audiologist, Matt MacDonald, will describe how the clinician’s behind-the-scenes considerations made during a hearing aid evaluation guide recommendations for hearing aids. He will comment on test data collected, effects of hearing loss on word discrimination, and how the pathology of a patient’s hearing loss all combine to make his decisions in prescribing hearing instruments. Hearing instrument styles and technologies differ and have improved markedly from years ago. How does the use of one hearing aid instead of two (binaural) affect hearing performance? Patients should know that acclimating to hearing instruments takes some time, and that strategies exist to improve communication in the hearing world.

Continued on next page)

Tues., April 1st – Daytime Meeting – 11:00 am (cont.)

Prior to joining Dalzell's Hearing Centers in Brighton in 2013, Dr. MacDonald was associated with Strong Hospital and Hart Hearing Centers in Rochester for 20 years. He earned degrees at Central Michigan University and completed an audiology fellowship at URM.

Tuesday, April 1st – Evening Meeting – 7:00 pm**“HEARING AND LIVING WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT – PANEL OF 4 CHAPTER CI USERS”**

Repeating a successful program from last year, this panel presentation features real people using real CIs, each for at least 10 years.

About 20 members of HLA-Rochester have cochlear implants, and several people have one for each ear. A severely to profoundly deafened individual benefitting little from hearing aids may wish to consider the surgically implanted prosthesis which bypasses a damaged inner ear to send electrical impulses directly to the brain.

Although CIs now are more extensively publicized than previously, conflict and misinformation still exist about them. The four adults on our CI panel relate their histories of living and hearing with six cochlear implants and one hearing aid. All their experiences differ.

Panelists are: **Barbara Besuyen**, implanted in 2003, Advanced Bionics.

Joan Ewing, first implanted 2004, second implant 2008, Cochlear Americas.

Janet McKenna, first implanted 1998, second implant 2012, Advanced Bionics.

Jimmie Sorrento, implanted in 2003, uses a hearing aid in his unimplanted ear, Advanced Bionics.

Among the topics they will touch on are: their reasons for undergoing an implant, surgery, hookup, insurance issues, upgrading, using two implants, and functioning in the real world. **Timekeeper is Art Maurer**. This is a unique opportunity to learn how cochlear implants have impacted the adults who use them daily.

HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman House. All programs are audiolooped & captioned. A sign language interpreter is available for evening meetings only. To request an interpreter for an evening meeting, contact Linda Siple at 585 475 6712, a week in advance. (Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)

The Hearing Loss Association is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. For more information visit our website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

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.

**HLAA NATIONAL CONVENTION**

June 26 – 29, 2014 – Austin, Texas

Starting 2/15 til 6/8, attendees will receive a discount off airfares from South West Airlines thru SWAB12@account. See Convention-Hotel/Travel page.

Hotel reservations at: Renaissance Austin Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759-6316 Call 800-228-9290, or, 512-343-2626; or, www.Bit.ly/CONV2014.

Single/Double - \$154 + tax

Double/Triple - \$169 + tax

Texas Swing at Historic Scholz Garten –June 27th, Texas BBQ and beer; Boot-scootin' bands & more.

Rochester members planning to attend, please go to our website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org for the form to fill out to receive a STIPEND. On the Home Page, click on “Forms” section of the navigation menu, or from the Calendar of Events section.



SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, May 4th – Walk4Hearing
 Tuesday, May 20th – Cochlear Implant group
 Tuesday, June 17th – Annual Dinner
 Tuesday, June 24th – Program Planning meetings

Watch upcoming Newsletters for more details!

We Welcome All Donations

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

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

Be sure to designate:

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

And who to send the Acknowledgment to. Thank you.

EAR WAX

*(excerpt from Dr. Paul Donohue, D&C, 4-11-12;
 Confirmed by Sarah Klimasewski, M.S., Au.D)*

Dear Dr. – I am 71 and need to watch what I spend. I have trouble with earwax build-up. I've tried using both oil and warm water in my ear without much success. What is a good, ongoing practice?

Answer – Don't try any of this if you have a hole in your eardrum or have had ear surgery. Do not use a cotton-tipped swab, a bobby pin or a straightened paper clip to remove earwax.

You can buy earwax softeners in a drugstore. Two popular ones are Debrox and Murine Earwax Removal. Follow the instructions. As you have tried--you can make your own softener by warming mineral oil or vegetable oil and putting a few drops in your ear. Don't let the oil get hot. Wait 15 minutes; flush with warm water.



For your Donation to HLAA:

United Way

For Your Donation Above Basic Membership:

J. Kitchen, J. Schuster, D. Taylor

Honoring Joe Damico: - D. Taylor

In Memory of Meredith Low: - J & B Garner;

B. Law; C. Menchel; A. Parsons; Pralid, Inc.

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 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.

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE CONTINUING!

CaptionCall is continuing to provide captioning for our Day and Evening Chapter meetings through 2014 (at a cost of \$3,000 to CaptionCall).

Tim Whitcher and Bruce and Candi Nelson have worked hard to maintain the captioning system. The captioning 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. It has helped us fill in the gaps when we can't quite understand via the hearing loop. We thank Tim and Bruce and Candi for their efforts!

LEADERS COLUMN

By Elise de Papp, M.D.



Hearing Games – Mondegreens and Malapropisms

People with hearing loss play word games all the time, although not on purpose. Thinking of our auditory miscues as games can be fun.

Mondegreens were described in the local paper this past Christmas. Mondegreens most often refer to lyrics in songs or poems, but are actually any mishearing or misinterpretation of words or phrases that sound alike but have different meanings. In other words, an aural **malapropism** (the unintentional incorrect use of similar sounding words or phrases). Mrs. Malaprop, a character in Richard Sheridan's 1775 play--The Rivals--was famous for her humorous misuse of words. "She's as headstrong as an **allegory** on the banks of the Nile." Shakespeare had similar characters, especially Constable Dogberry in Much Ado About Nothing (also known as Dogberryisms). "Our watch, sir, have indeed comprehended two auspicious persons" (apprehended two suspicious persons). Many comedians have used malapropisms deliberately – Archie Bunker, "Last will and tentacle..."

The word **mondegreen** comes from the playwright Sylvia Wright, in Harper's in 1954, when she wrote about a poem from Percy's Reliques read to her as a child. The poem reads:

Ye Highlands and ye Lowlands,
Oh, where hae ye been?
They hae slain the Earl o' Moray,
And Lady Mondegreen

The actual fourth line is "And laid him on the green."

Another one from the same author: "Surely Good Mrs. Murphy shall follow me all the days of my life."

Mondegreens are created by the listener. They may be driven by cognitive dissonance, as the listener may find it psychologically uncomfortable to listen to a song and not be able to make out the words. Imagine – listening and not being able to understand!! Another way of explanation: they are the result of the brain's constant attempts to make sense of the word by trying to fill in the gaps when it cannot clearly determine what it is hearing.

My gaps are most likely filled with dead hair cells, but whatever the cause, we get to play these games all the time! **Malapropisms** are ordinarily created by the speaker, not the listener. You may mis-speak sometimes and create your own malapropisms. Or you can mishear and create your own mondegreens.

(Ed.Note: For more fun with these, come to our Evening Chapter Meeting May 6th)

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!



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

April 20th – "Phantom of the Opera"

Tickets become available 6 weeks in advance of each show. Request seats in "open captions" viewing section. Call 222-5000; email, info@rbtl.org.

GEVA Theatre Offering Captioned Plays!



All performances are **Saturday, at 2:00pm.**

April 26th – "The Odd Couple"

Call the Box Office at 232-4382. Ask for seat in the "open captions" viewing section.

PUNS FOR THE ERUDITE

(submitted by Elise de Papp, M.D.)

"Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire...and so, we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled."

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 2 months ahead. Thanks, Ginger
ggraham859@frontiernet.net; or, (585) 671-2683

WELCOME FROM TOWN OF PERINTON !

It is with great pride that I welcome the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association to the Town of Perinton once again! This annual event certainly shows your commitment to the national HLAA's mission statement to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, advocacy and support.

I am very excited about Perinton's role in hosting the Rochester Chapter's 9th annual Walk4Hearing on **Sunday May 4th!** What better place to host a 5K walk than Trail Town USA? The site of your walk, the Erie Canal Heritage Trail, is one of the three trail systems in Perinton that helped earn us this national honor. It is a community asset of which we are very proud.

The Rochester/Monroe County area is particularly aware of those in our midst with hearing disabilities, especially with the excellent resources present at NTID. This fundraising effort and its very impressive goal of \$50,000 to support national and local educational efforts is a natural outreach effort and certainly will be a major step in reaching your organization's goals. We also wish you success in achieving your goal of having 500 participants attend this exciting event!

Perinton wishes you balmy Spring weather and a great turnout!

Yours,

(signed)

Michael G. Barker, Town Supervisor

Five Fascinating Facts About the Cochlea

1. The cochlea turns "Sound" into "Hearing"
2. It is the size of a pea
3. There are over 20,000 nerve cells in the average cochlea
4. Different nerve cells cause different sounds to be heard
5. Fluid inside the cochlea makes waves

*(excerpt from Wisconsin 2013 4th Quarter Newsletter)
(suggested by Ginny Koenig)*

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Several new concepts attracted attention at the 58th Congress of European Hearing aid Acousticians this past fall. Needless to say, hearing technologies are improving all the time. Here are a few of the innovative new concepts that might interest you.

GN ReSound announced a new 'Made for iPhone' wireless hearing aid system that links directly to an iPhone without any external intermediate device. It is not yet available, but should be in early 2014. This manufacturer is also working on a wireless connection between its hearing aids and Cochlear devices.

Sonova Corporation (Phonak, Unitron and Advanced Bionics) introduced a new 'Roger' wireless system, designed as an open platform, compatible with all hearing aids and Cochlear implants, that can be used for TV listening and as a hand-held wireless device that works well in noisy settings. It is available as a clip-on device, and as the 'Roger Pen.'

Oticon Medical will be launching its next generation of bone conduction sound processors to the European market, and pending FDA approval, these should make their way into the US sometime soon. These devices manage single-sided deafness.

Widex previewed its Widex Cross and Widex Bi-cross systems, slated for introduction in 2014, for people with unilateral hearing loss.

*(excerpt from Wisconsin 2013 4th Quarter Newsletter)
(suggested by Ginny Koenig)*

CONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Cindy Kellner

Note: **Deadline is Friday, April 11th**. We're pleased to announce the continuation of this program. Since 1996, we've awarded over \$70,500. This year's scholarship is a \$1,000 award.

Scholarship recipients must have applied to a college or other postsecondary school and be between the ages of 17 and 20. They must have a hearing loss in both ears (or only one, in exceptional circumstances). Financial need is not a consideration.

To apply go to: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org and click on "Support" and "Scholarship Form." Questions, contact: CKellne1@rochester.rr.com

Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2)--

Introduction

By Don Bataille

Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) is a diverse group focused on a common theme--to better understand health issues facing a minority and underserved group of people with hearing loss as a major public health and health care concern.

HL2 includes people with and without hearing loss, their family members and those who work with people with hearing loss. This includes community-based organizations such as HLAA; healthcare systems; healthcare professionals; employers; and educators. Members' ages range from 30-80. Most use hearing aids and benefit from assistive listening devices (ALDs).

It is important to note that hearing loss is the most common disability in the United States. It is often referred to as an invisible disability impacting an estimated 48 million Americans. About 17 percent of adults in the US report some degree of hearing loss as compared to 1.4 percent that have a physical impairment.

Early in 2011, after a decade of fact finding meetings, workshops, town hall meetings and retreats, a group of individuals with hearing loss formed a Community Based Participatory Research group (CBPR) to partner with the University of Rochester (UR), and Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC) to better understand health issues facing people with hearing loss through research.

Members discussed:

- 1) their health concerns and communication needs with their health care providers;
- 2) affordability of hearing health care, hearing aids and other assistive listening devices (ALDs);
- 3) the health needs of people with hearing loss, as representatives of an underserved group; and,
- 4) the relationship of hearing-related intervention.

The group established the **goal**: To address the knowledge gaps, disparities and priorities related to people with hearing loss and health issues by pursuing research opportunities.

HL2 members have participated in National Community Committee (NCC) Annual Meetings held at UR – RPRC, 2011; Johns Hopkins University, 2012; and University of Southern Florida, , 2013. Recently, HL2 members, **Mary Chizuk and Donald Bataille**, completed a short video

that will be part of an NCC presentation to the funding agency, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of the composite video is to record the (27) NCC-University CBPR Centers successful programs.

HL2 major work accomplishment to date is the completion of a Summary Report representing the group's health priorities coordinated by **Steve Barnett, M.D.** and Eric Sutter, MPH. A Summary Report brief will be included in HL2 - Part II – coming soon.

Subjects of May 6th Chapter Meetings

Daytime –“Listening Up in the Hospital” –
Elise de Papp, M.D.; Donna Kikka, R.N.

Evening – “Role Playing – Dealing with Hearing Loss” (Skit Ideas from Sam Trychin) –
enthusiastic Chapter members



SAVE THE DATE !

Wednesday, June 11th

8:30 – Noon

NTID, CDS Room

LOOPING ROCHESTER 2014

Program and Demonstration

Juliette Sterkens, Au.D.

HLAA Speaker



contact: don@bataille.us

Watch our Newsletters for more information!



ANNUAL DINNER

By Sue Miller

Please plan to join us for the Annual HLAA-Rochester Chapter Dinner on Tuesday, June 17th, from 6:00–9p.m.

at Cobblestone Creek Country Club...and guests are welcome!

We'll get to know our scholarship winners and their families. And, recognize some of the people who make a difference to our Chapter. Plus, we'll enjoy a delicious dinner!

Watch this Newsletter for more information next month. Mark your calendar now for June 17th!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **178** friends and we want more.

Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

MY STORY – A PERSONAL HISTORY

By Andy Howard



“You’re really having trouble hearing,” my wife said to me about 15 years ago. At the time I was in my mid 50’s. I naturally thought that she was mistaken, probably the

same reaction most of us have had with gradual hearing loss. After three or four months, I realized that she was possibly correct. I decided to go to a hearing specialist to confirm my suspicion.

The conclusion was that I did indeed have a mild hearing loss, and it was suggested that I see an audiologist for further testing and the possibility of using hearing aids. The audiologist concluded that “completely-in-the-canal” type hearing aids would solve my hearing loss problem very adequately,

without causing the visible “embarrassment” of wearing hearing aids (my biggest concern at the time!).

I also began seeing **Dr. Paul Dutcher**, one of Rochester’s top specialists in treating problems of the auditory system. He ordered an MRI to see if a tumor had developed somewhere in my auditory system (which is generally benign) but can nevertheless cause rapid-deterioration-type-hearing loss. None was found. After seeing Dr. Dutcher periodically over a three-year period, he concluded that nothing medically or surgically could be done that would help. He did suggest that I look into joining a group called SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing people).

I soon went to my first SHHH meeting, hoping to discover techniques to improve my hearing ability. After a series of meetings, I not only discovered many of these techniques (or Assistive Listening Devices), but I also found a warm, congenial group of people (whom I now call good friends) with the same problem: “We Can’t Hear Well.” The support, enthusiasm, and encouragement from this group (now called HLAA, or Hearing Loss Association of America) is truly amazing.

My hearing has grown substantially worse, deteriorating even further by extensive brain surgery required six years ago. I’m now on my fourth set of hearing aids. My involvement with HLAA has led me to the realization that my life can truly be rich and fulfilling despite my hearing loss.

IF YOU MOVE

Please don’t forget to notify **Barb Gates**, at 28 Country Gables Circle, Rochester, NY 14606, or, via email at cdgblg28@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. Thanks.

“LOOP BOOSTER”

By Lisa Lamson, Cochlear Americas

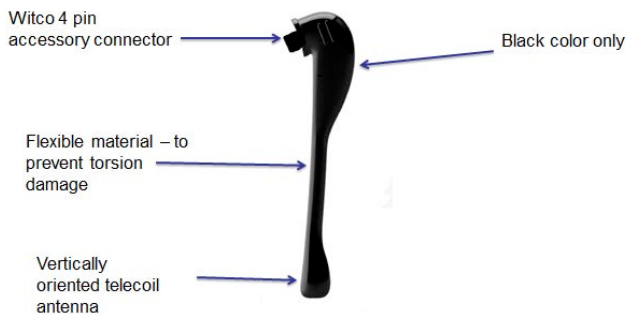
I wanted to let you know about the availability of a product called the Loop Booster. Information is below - feel free to share with those in the CI group that might be interested. At this time, it is compatible with the Nucleus 6 - CP910 sound processor only, compatibility with the N5 sound processor will reportedly be coming in a few months. This Loop Booster will be included as an accessory choice for Nucleus 6 upgrade patients and available on the Cochlear Web Store for a retail price of \$89.00.

COCHLEAR™ NUCLEUS® LOOP BOOSTER

FAQ's By Lisa Lamson

What is the Loop Booster?

The Loop Booster is an external telecoil accessory intended for use with hearing loops. The Loop Booster is compatible with the CP910 Sound Processor and is designed to give Nucleus 6 recipients the best possible hearing loop reception by orienting the telecoil vertically for hearing loops and placing it away from the processor to minimize interference.



Why is the Loop Booster necessary?

The CP810 and CP900 series processors' telecoil position inside of the processor was optimized for phone use. As such, some recipients found telecoil reception for other hearing loop signals (such as those in public places, for example) to be sub-optimal. The Loop Booster is an accessory intended to address this issue. It is currently available for Nucleus 6 recipients who feel as though their hearing loop reception could be improved, and to provide said recipients with hearing loop reception as good as or better than the Nucleus Freedom Sound Processor's in-built telecoil.

When will the Loop Booster be compatible with the CP810 Sound Processor?

The Loop Booster will be compatible with the CP810 Sound Processor in the coming months. The Loop Booster comes with a standard 1-year warranty. It comes as 'one size fits all' and only in black.

Will this help me hear better on the phone?

The Loop Booster is not intended for phone use. The natural orientation of the telecoil in the CP810 and CP910 Sound Processors provide sufficient reception while using the phone.

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 through the United Way, 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 family 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!

Newsletter Deadline

MONDAY, MARCH 31ST

(for the May Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@frontiernet.net

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS !

THE “CI GROUP” MEETING is coming up Tuesday, May 20th, from 5:00 – 6:30pm at St. Paul’s church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd. in the Vestry Room. (Enter thru door in the back.) This will be a round table, Open Discussion. Come with your thoughts and questions.

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH- WALK4HEARING 5K

PERINTON PARK ALONG THE ERIE CANAL--
FAIRPORT RD at O'CONNOR RD, Route 31F



Come and join us for the HLAA-Rochester chapters only annual fundraiser. Walk4Hearing is now in its **9th year** raising and providing funds for scholarships for high school seniors going on to postsecondary education, captioning for theater

performances at the Rochester Broadway Theater League, GEVA, and assisting national HLAA in its support, education and advocacy of millions of people with hearing loss, and lots more.

We need your support! How can you help? Become a team captain and gather a group to walk on Walk Day. Become a walker and walk along the beautiful Erie Canal. You don't have to walk the entire 5K. Any distance you walk is fine. Don't care to walk? Show up and root for us! There will be lots of fun. Registration and mouth-watering breakfast foods will be available at 8:30am; the Walk will launch at 10:00am. There are also clowns, face painting, music, and a silent auction full of great gift cards and other goodies from local merchants.

We also need **event sponsors**. If you know of any business you think would be willing to sponsor us please let us know. Email Cindy Kellner at ckellnel@rochester.rr.com

Watch our Newsletters for more details.

PLANNING THE PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CHAPTER MEETINGS

Are you tired of "the same old subjects" at our Chapter meetings? We hope not!! But we do need your input and **new ideas for programs!** Please plan to attend either the Daytime Program Planning meeting held by Sue Miller, or, the Evening Planning meeting held by Barb Law, to give them your ideas for possible topics for the new season from September, 2014, to June, 2015.

Planning meeting for DAYTIME sessions:
Tues., June 24rd, 10:00 am at Sue Miller's home,
16 Buckthorn Run, Victor.

Planning meeting for EVENING sessions:

Tues., June 24th, 6:00 pm, Barb Law, Justin Vigdor room, Al Sigi Center; light refreshments.

Note that both meetings are on the same day!

RSVP: Please email (or, call) either Sue or Barb and let them know you're attending. Hope to see you at one of the meetings! We're eager for your suggestions!

Barb Law: Blaw1@rochester.rr.com; (585) 381-8640
Sue Miller: SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com; (585) 924-8933

CAPTIONS DURING EMERGENCIES

By Bob Menchel

I had a meeting with the staff and Vice President of WROC regarding how to improve the captioning on TV. Right now they are perhaps doing the best job of captioning among the three stations here, that is, Channels 8, 10 and 13. You may have noted the much more detailed weather report that Scotty gives now. This was due to a letter I wrote asking him to please make the weather report clearer and more understandable. He did a great job.

During the meeting with the staff and VP I brought up the issue of captioning during emergencies. First off, it is really the County Executive's responsibility to inform the community when there is an emergency--captioning and an interpreter should be with the County Executive when she/he speaks to the county regarding county wide emergencies. We all agreed that currently this is not being done and the situation should be resolved.

WROC is looking into the possibility of using "white boards" which would outline emergencies. For example, if there is a fire in a certain spot the "White Board" would have the information about where the fire is, what is being done, etc. This information would be quick and fast and sufficient so that the situation is understood. Scotty (during the weather) uses a blue background to point out important weather information.

All in all, WROC is doing a good job, but they know there is room for improvement and I continue to give them feedback.



The 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
 Research Assistant.....Ginny Koenig

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org.
Michelle Gross is updating our website. (**Barb Law** continues as consultant.) The website for HLAA National is: www.hearingloss.org.

Researchers have found a new way to help people with hearing loss by removing background noise from the sounds transmitted by hearing aids. There is a video. "...used the latest developments in neural networks to test subjects recognition of spoken words from 10% to 90%." Go to: www.hearingloss.org/content/study-breakthrough-hearing-technology.

(submitted by Betty Jennings)

A new kind of implant for people qualifying for a cochlear implant. Go to: www.kurzweilai.net/a-future-cochlear-implant-with-no-exterior-hardware-required

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

By Barbara Kelley

It might interest people to know that your work in the chapters and states has the backing of a national organization we are all part of. We are all here for the same reasons --create awareness about hearing loss, reduce the stigma, and help people live well with their hearing loss.

United States Access Board -- Why is it Important We're There?

HLAA submitted comments in response to the Access Board's proposed rulemaking regarding guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act for access to ferries, cruise ships, excursion boats, and other passenger vessels, the Passenger Vessels Accessibility Guidelines.

HLAA applauds the efforts of the Access Board to establish accessibility guidelines to ensure that newly-constructed and altered passenger vessels covered by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

HLAA comments focused on issues pertinent to people with hearing loss including emergency alarms, volume-control telephones, hearing aid compatibility, TTYs, two way communication systems with both audible and visual indicators, assistive listening systems, receiver hearing aid compatibility, and passenger guest room communication features.

Did you know? When the regulations were being written for communication access for people with hearing loss for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Founder and then Executive Director Rocky Stone was appointed by President Reagan to serve on the Access Board. If it weren't for Rocky insisting on communication access for all people with hearing loss, the regulations would have only provided for people who are Deaf; i.e., sign language interpretation. Chapters across the county participated in sending their "wish list" to Rocky for accommodations in public places. He took your requests to the Access Board and you were heard because the final law covers accommodations such as captioning, assistive listening devices, and more.

Federal Communications Commission

Your public policy director, Lise Hamlin, meets regularly at the FCC regarding captioning standards. Read more about this on the homepage of www.hearingloss.org. Look under HLAA News. If you don't see it, scroll down and click "Read More."

Social Security Administration

HLAA joined other consumer groups who commented on access to the Social Security Administration (SSA). Consumer groups urged SSA to revisit their protocols for communicating with people who are hard of hearing or deaf. HLAA requested CART, remote captioning, assistive listening devices including one-to-one devices for interviewing, and hearing loops for counters.

(continued on page 11)

NEWS FROM NATIONAL (cont. from page 10)**ARE YOU IN THE MARKET FOR A HEARING AID?*****Consumer's Guide to Hearing Aids***

Thanks in large part to work by New Mexico State Chapter Coordinator Steve Frazier, the guide now has a column about telecoils in their list of features for each hearing aid model (more than 400 of them). Consumers can now search out telecoil-equipped hearing using this guide. The just-released **2014 Consumer's Guide to Hearing Aids** is available through www.hearingloss.org. Go to "Support," then "Order Materials," then click on "[Consumer's Guide](#)."

Purchasing a Hearing Aid: A Consumer Checklist

Published by HLAA, you can download this guide free at www.hearingloss.org. Go to "Support," then "Order Materials," then scroll down. Or, printed copies can also be ordered.

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HEARING LOSS IDENTIFIED USING EYE IMAGING TECHNIQUE

A technique used to create images of your retina is now being repurposed to help identify hearing loss in patients, according to Brian Applegate, PhD, Director of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Conditions like hearing loss, vertigo, and disequilibrium are the result of damage to the cochlea, part of the inner ear. There's no cure for these conditions, and doctors have a hard time identifying them using MRI and CT scans, because the images are not clear enough.

Using a technique called optical coherence tomography (OCT), which is similar to an ultrasound but uses light waves instead of sound waves, images

of the cochlea can be shown in extreme detail. The technique is also very sensitive to small scale motion. "[With OCT] we can't just tell [patients] that they do have hearing loss, but also why," according to Dr. Applegate. Further, "This is important in developing effective treatments down the road."

For more information, go to:

<http://www.opticsinfobase.org/abstract.cfm?URI=FiO-2013-FW4A.3>

SOURCE: "Morphological and Functional Imaging of the Cochlea with Optical Coherence Tomography," Brian Applegate, Frontiers in Optics 2013/Laser Science XXIX Conference, October 9, 2013, Orlando, Fla.

(excerpt from Wisconsin 2013 4th Quarter Newsletter)
(suggested by Ginny Koenig)

Happy Easter

INSPIRING IDEA

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Marcel Proust, French author

NEWS OF CHAPTER MEMBERS

Our own, **Sue Miller**, has been appointed as the NY Upstate Chapter Coordinator. She joins Toni Iacolucci, NY Downstate Chapter Coordinator, to develop, strengthen and support our chapters in the large state of New York. A State Chapter Coordinator works closely with National HLAA.

Mention of goods or services in articles or advertisements does not mean HLAA endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

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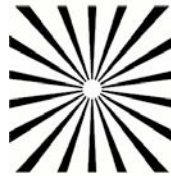
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HLAA Membership Information

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, 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 September through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. 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**

Professional Advisors

2012 – 2014

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Susan Friedman, M.D.
Bryan Hensel
Suzanne Johnston*

2013 - 2015

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Newsletter

*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
Send articles to:
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – ROCHESTER CHAPTER

Yes, I want to join/renew -- Support entitles me to receive the award winning Newsletter in order to be alerted to interesting and informative articles plus Daytime & Evening Chapter Meetings and Cochlear Implant meetings.

New, first-time member
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Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through advocacy, information, education, and support.

HLAA is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: www.hearingloss.org/.

To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations. Welcome!

Meetings are hearing accessible

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