



FEBRUARY Calendar

Tuesday, February 5th

10:00 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s

Daytime Chapter meeting:

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time- Parish Hall

11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting

12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

Evening Chapter meeting:

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time – Parish Hall

7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting

8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Feb. 12th – **BOD** – 7-9pm – Al Sigl Center

Thurs., Feb. 21st - **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see page 11)

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., March 12th - **BOD** – 7-9pm – Al Sigl Center

Thurs., March 21st – **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see page 11)

Tues., April 16th – **PAC MEETING**, 7-9pm, ASC

WEATHER – During the winter, the rule to follow for cancelations of meetings is: IF THE ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS CLOSED, OUR MEETINGS ARE CANCELED. (No other notification will be made.) Also, see p.11 info from St. Paul’s Church.

Hospitality Duties for February:

Daytime Meeting –Shirley Scott, Fred Altrith

Evening Meeting –Dan Brooks, Barb Law

Board of Directors –Barb Gates, Michelle Gross,
Charlie Johnstone

We need your support. Please consider joining our Chapter, or renewing your membership. (Please see form inside the back cover)



FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

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

Tues., Feb. 5th - 10:00am - Vestry room
HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session –Jim Feuerstein, Ph.D.

Prospective, new or long-time hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal round table discussion facilitated by **Jim Feuerstein**, sitting in for Joe Kozelsky, in January and February.

Tues., Feb. 5th - Daytime Meeting -11:00 am-Speaker begins at Noon.

Acoustic neuroma is a rare, benign tumor growing on the auditory nerve. Tumors can affect hearing and balance. Ceci McCurdy started the local Acoustic Neuroma support group, and Tom Banach is its co-leader. They will head a panel of AN patients to discuss what it is, treatment options, and life as an AN patient. The national organization’s web site anusa.org is outstanding (writer’s opinion) and worthwhile reading for anyone with hearing loss.

(continued on page 2)

Tuesday, Feb. 5th – Evening Meeting–7:00 pm
Speaker begins at 8:00 pm

“This One’s for You: Communication is a Two-Way Street” - Mary Chizuk, RN; and Barbara Law

Chizuk and Law facilitate a round-table discussion about communication strategies for improving relationships where hearing loss is a factor. This grew out of a story submitted by the spouse of a Cochlear Implant user who was injured in an accident: in the hospital no one knew how to attach/operate or deal with his CI. Only the spouse could intervene, but not all spouses have this ability. Significant others are urged to attend.

All HLAA programs are free. Anyone interested in hearing loss is welcome. For more information, view our web site at www.hearinglossrochester.org, or telephone 585 266 7890.

Those needing a sign language interpreter for an evening meeting should contact Linda Siple at 585 788 6744 a week in advance. This phone is only for those needing an interpreter.

The Rochester Chapter is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. HLAA has a support network of organizations: Bethesda, MD; state organizations; and local chapters.

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT, AND,
VICE-PRESIDENT**

By Dan Brooks and Suzanne Johnston



These winter months in Rochester, NY area typically bring cloudy skies and short days as well as ice and snow. Traveling outside our homes can seem daunting. The average

person may experience ‘cabin fever,’ and opportunities for connecting with others become fewer after the holidays have passed. Feelings of isolation may invade. This is typical for all who live in the Northern Hemisphere, hearing loss or not.

But what we don’t often think about is the fact that people with hearing loss often experience these feelings *all year round*, as maintaining connections with others demands greater work, planning and deliberate effort. The good news is that, because of our organization, those with hearing loss already have many resources in place to dissipate social isolation. We can use these resources not only during the dark winter months, but also throughout the year. Here are just a few events members and others can look forward to enjoying in 2019:

First, HLAA-Rochester is an organization that provides “support, education and advocacy” to empower those of us who choose to take part. Our monthly daytime and evening meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) provide an opportunity to socialize and meet with others. Our invited speakers provide important information regarding hearing loss research, understanding and management.



Also that day, ‘Hearing Other People’s Experiences’ (HOPE) sessions prior to the daytime meetings provide an opportunity to engage in a small group setting to ask questions and learn from each other. (for more info, see page 1.) Both meetings offer an audio-looped room as well as real-time captioning (when in the Parish Hall) for ease of participation and communication.

Our Chapter holds community events for members that encourage engagement and participation. On February 10, we will spend time together at the Jewish Community Center, being entertained with a captioned performance of “The British Are Coming!” – a musical review with memorable songs and acts celebrating entertainers from that part of the world. A light supper following the performance is organized at “Root 31” cafe in Pittsford Plaza directly following the show. (see page 6 article)

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENTS COLUMN (continued)



On May 21st, our Chapter will host its **Annual Awards Dinner** to gather members and honor those who have made notable

contributions to our chapter. The dining room is looped, and captions and interpreter are provided so that all can follow the festivities with ease. All members are welcome to participate, and the evening is guaranteed to offer delicious food as well as celebration and festivity for all who choose to enjoy this time together.

In late June (20-23rd), our chapter will host national HLAA for its **Annual Convention**. The historic event will take place at the Hyatt Regency, 125 East Main St. (14604). All venues will be hearing accessible, and a block of rooms is reserved for those who would like to stay overnight. The national convention has been described by others as ‘the event of a lifetime for those with hearing loss.’ People with hearing loss from around the country will gather to attend this important convention. No doubt there will be a variety of activities, entertainment, exhibits, speakers and social time for this significant occasion.



Sunday, August 18, our Chapter will host a **Membership Picnic** at the Pavilion Lodge in Ellison Park. This event is sure to attract

families of those with hearing loss; and will feature food, fun, friendship, and a variety of activities and time to connect for members of all ages.

And, it goes without saying that our Chapter offers a multitude of other ways to stay connected in our community, through involvement in our organization’s day-to-day work. Our Chapter welcomes any who are interested in serving on committees, as speakers, at tables at health fairs, in publishing, etc, etc. Your energy is needed and

appreciated! Feel free to contact our Chapter President Dan Brooks at (585) 704-8191; or, dbrooks.HLAA.ROC@gmail.com or Vice President, Suzanne Johnston at (585) 586-4158 or, suzannejohnston@aol.com if you have any interest in staying active and united to others through our Chapter.

So, thanks to HLAA-Rochester we have resources and support to dispel isolation and join together to socialize, stay connected and active in our community. Winter blahs, away!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES

Deadline April 5, 2019

HLAA-Rochester is once again pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was started in 1996 initially with a \$500 grant. The initial program was made possible by a generous donation from J. Stuart and Phyllis MacDonald. In 2006 the award was increased to \$1,000 made possible in part by funds raised by our annual Walk4Hearing.

If you know a high-school senior with hearing loss, who is pursuing postsecondary education or vocational training, please tell them about our program! Financial need is not a requirement. The scholarship is a one-time award.

Applications for the scholarship are available at our website: www.hearinglossrochester.org. or by contacting Nancy or Doug Meyer at dnmeyer@frontiernet.net The application deadline is **APRIL 5, 2019**. Applications received after this will not be considered. Please help us spread the word.



Volunteer: a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

Good friends are like stars. You don’t always see them, but you know they’re always there.

Want to volunteer? Contact Dan Brooks at dbrooks.HLAA.ROC@gmail.com.

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

Feb. 10, 2019 – **Chicago**
March 10, 2019 – **Miss Saigon**
April 28, 2019 – **Hamilton**
June 9, 2019 - **Waitress**

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 – CAPTIONED PLAYS !

Sat. shows 2pm;
Wed. 2pm & 7:30pm
unless otherwise indicated

Sat. Feb. 23; Wed. March 13 – **The Humans**
Sat. March 16 @ 2:30pm – **Erma Bombeck**
Sat. March 30; Wed. April 17 - **Native Gardens**
Sat. April 13 @ 2:30pm - **The Royal**
Sat. May 4; Wed. May 29 – **Revival: The Resurrection of Son House**

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

We need your support!
Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much.

**BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...**

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

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

“In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.” *Albert Camus*

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

Wed/Thurs @ 7pm; Sat/Sun @ 2pm
unless otherwise indicated

Sun. Feb. 10; Wed. Feb. 13 –
“**Hit Makers: The British Are Coming**”
Feb. 10- 2pm—Chapter special event. (see page 6)
Sun. April 7; Thurs. April 11 – “**Indecent**”
Sun. May 12; Wed. May 15 – “**Oklahoma**”

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. *Please specify “Captioned Area.”* Tickets are \$25-33 with discounts for JCC members, full-time students and season subscribers.

NTID THEATRES

PANERA THEATRE - captioned

Thurs/Fri.-7:30pm; Sat.-2pm,
7:30pm; Sun.-2pm (unless otherwise indicated)

“**LEAVES OF THE POETRY TREE (DANCE)**”
Feb. 21 & 22; Feb. 23; Feb. 24

“**FENCES**”
April 11 & 12; April 13 @ 7:30pm only; April 14

MAGIC SPELL THEATRE – captioned.

“**AL-POLLO**”
April 19; April 20 @ 2pm & 8pm; April 25;
April 26; April 27 @ 8pm only; April 28

Panera Theater parking in Lot “L”
Magic Spell parking in Lots “E” & “F”
Cost: \$12 general public More Info:
https://www.rit.edu/cla/finearts/theatrearts/cla-ntid_18-19jointseason.

CAPTIONED MOVIES AT CINEMA THEATRE

By Gaelen McCormick

Starting December 12th and every Wednesday after that, all Wednesday movies at the Cinema will be **open caption.** They rotate movies every week and are a LOT less expensive than the AMC and Regal cinemas. Check local listings and www.cinamarochester.com or www.captionfish.com (also, see article on page 7)

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

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

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall. It will be the 8th year Cameron Tingley has offered to underwrite the cost of this invaluable service. By June 2019, CaptionCall will have spent \$24,000 to have our meetings captioned...aren't we blessed! and we thank you!

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

WANTED: CHAPTER DOCUMENTS

By Janet McKenna, MLS



As the Chapter Archivist, I conserve any documents, newspaper stories, programs, minutes, agendas, invitations, correspondence--all kinds of ephemera concerning HLAA-Rochester Chapter and its members. I save material about this chapter ONLY and its members, not

deafness or other groups. You are the eyes of the chapter. You can find stories that I might not.

Are you cleaning out your file cabinet or desk? Are you moving or downsizing? Please forward any old SHHH or HLAA ephemera to me, either online at deaphyduck@gmail.com, or in person at a chapter meeting, or to my postal address: 1315 Elmwood Ave., Apt.1004, Rochester (14620).

Chapter ephemera are posted in scrapbooks and depict this group's history. Our Rochester Chapter is the most vibrant chapter in upstate New York and one of the oldest HLAA chapters. We were established in 1983! Transfer your excess papers where they will be appreciated! Many thanks.

For Your Donation to HLAA:



--Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
--Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
--Rochester Area Community Foundation
--Mary Tuckley Estate
Warren Crandall, Joanne & Franz Sasse

In Honor of Ginger Graham's Birthday

Ruth Tetlow

In Honor of Jeannette Kanter

Rabbi Raphael Kanter

In Memory of Bob Bradshaw

Carol Bradshaw

In Memory of Joan Ewing

Fred Altrieth, Brian Fox, Jeannette Kanter, Ann C. May

In Memory of Rabbi Shamai Kanter

Scott and Sue Miller

For Donation Above Membership:

Sylvia Benton, Nancy Carr, Eleanor Cherin, Margaret Cochran, Barbara Hargrave, Marcia Kramer, Elaine VanderBrook

Please consider a donation when you renew your membership

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, January 31st
(for the March Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Only \$10. Thanks so much. (Please see form inside back cover.)



IN MEMORIAM

Rabbi Shami Kanter passed December 27th

Shamai was always very cordial and understanding. For many years he offered a Blessing at our Annual Dinners. The Blessings were meaningful, contemporary and graceful.

My hope is that his passing was peaceful and filled with love. I recall he had a very hot, bright red sports car!

Our dearest Jeannette, always cheerful and outgoing and so well mated with Shamai. (He was husband of **Jeannette Kanter** who is one of the first members of our Chapter.)

The only thing I can add is his brilliance would have made him a perfect Jeopardy contestant...and in addition to his love for family, next to that were books. When they moved from Palmerston Road, he had hundreds of them!

Our love and prayers are going out for Jeannette and her lovely family.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **345** friends and we want more.
Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

DID YOU KNOW....

The safest day to be on the road is Tuesday. The most dangerous—Saturday.
According to a new study by Avvo, an online legal referral and review site, which analyzed data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2016. (from D&C 5-29-18; D. Carrig)

Special Event--February 10th to see JCC Matinee Captioned Show!

By Barb Law, Special Events Chair



HLAA Theater Event at the Jewish Community Center, **Sunday, February 10th at 2 pm,** 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester 14618

“The Hit Makers: The British Are Coming”

A captioned performance of an all-new show at a discounted rate of \$28!

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

Reservations and ticket payment were due to Barb Law with a check made out to ‘Barbara Law’ by January 15th. (Checks to be mailed to: Barb Law at 25 Harvest Road, Fairport, NY 14450.) Dinner cost is on your own.

Email her to see if there is still space available – blaw1@rochester.rr.com



Flu Shots – The CDC recommends getting your flu shot now. Because flu is contagious 1-2 days before symptoms appear, it can be spread before we know we’re infected. For more info, go to: www.cdc.gov/flu.

CDC reports that people with the flu are most contagious within 3-4 days after they begin to feel sick. Some people can be contagious up to a full day before they become symptomatic and up to a full week afterward.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

(submitted by Sue Miller)

“We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.” (*Epictetus*)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is:

<http://www.hearinglossrochester.org>, and

Michelle Gross is our Web Master.

HLAA National website is www.hearingloss.org.

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, we will resume sending to your local address.

ORAL HEALTH AND HEARING LOSS

(excerpt from Healthy Hearing 3/18; Fox Valley, Wisconsin NL)

Healthy teeth make for an attractive smile, but did you know a healthy mouth may also protect your hearing? While it might be difficult to understand how good oral health can prevent hearing loss, think of it this way: harmful bacteria that develops in your mouth as a result of bad oral health can enter your bloodstream and cause inflammation and narrowing of arteries and blood vessels--including those essential for hearing health in your ears and brain.

Good hearing health relies on a rich supply of blood to the cochlea. Because circulation of blood is so important, good heart health is connected to good hearing. (By Brande Plotnick)

SUBJECTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 5th

Daytime—“Hearing is best when we're healthy” – Katie Bauer

Evening—“Ask the Audiologist –Tinnitus” – Carolynne Pouliot, Au.D.

OPEN CAPTIONS NIGHT WEEKLY AT CINEMA THEATRE IN SOUTH WEDGE

By Gaelen McCormick



The Cinema Theater (957 South Clinton Ave, at S. Goodman St.) has had new owners for about a year now--Alex Chernavsky and Audrey Kramer. They are both very interested in connecting with the local community and all the different interests within our community. For instance, Audrey is an animal rights activist who has a vegan concession stand within the theater, and hosts adoption days there.

But for our members, the most interesting news will be that **every Wednesday night is now “open captions” night.** The owners are aware of the large hearing loss community here, and want to be as accommodating as possible. They are looking to add a loop to the theater, but for now they have begun where they are able to: with open caption Wednesdays (captions displayed on the screen).

The Cinema Theater is one of the oldest neighborhood theaters in the country, and potentially the oldest in Rochester still existing. Many people do not know that they have a “family room” on the second floor that is glassed-in. You can bring your fussy child or snoring grandfather and enjoy the movie all together. They also have a house/cinema cat! Add to that the low admission price of \$7/adult or \$5/seniors & students, with double features every night, and this is a winning combination for our HLAA community.

Parking—free in lot across the street. Seating for 4 wheelchairs. Bathrooms—are handicap accessible.

They are now making the theater available for special events in the community! If this is something your group might like to do, speak to one of the owners at 585-271-1785.

For movie show times, go to: CinemaRochester.com

(Full disclosure: I serve on a volunteer Advisory Board for the Cinema Theatre and am a member of HLAA-Rochester.)

“MY STORY” –A Personal History of Hearing Loss

By Gary F. Wagner



I was born in 1935 during the Great Depression in Buffalo, New York making me a “depression baby.”

My father was a very successful salesman. We moved around a lot following where jobs were available. The family lived in various towns in western Pennsylvania and New York. Although I attended multiple schools, hearing was never identified as a problem with me.

Then, in 1958, with the growing conflict in Korea, I joined the NY National Guard and was assigned to 106th Armored Field Artillery in the Service Battery. Our job was to keep the 155MM cannons supplied with ammunition. Although we were right next to the guns (cannons and rifles) when they were fired, no hearing protection was offered.

My hearing loss started when I was in the middle of a lineup of at least 25 rifles at shooting practice. Afterward all I heard was a rush in my head for 3 days. Eventually the rush went away but my hearing never fully recovered as was documented during my exit physical.

After my discharge, I worked for Sears-Roebuck and had a difficult time making a living with my hearing impairment.

I then went to New York Telephone as a cable splicer’s helper working out in the field. Learning to live with my hearing loss, I rose in the ranks to become a communication consultant, eventually moving to Rochester Telephone where hearing loss impacted my ability to perform my job.

There was a hearing aid office in our building. There I got my first pair of hearing aids which helped only marginally.

Later, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center was one of my customers so I got tested again and I bought a pair of digital hearing aids. What a new world for me! As technology improved, I purchased increasingly powerful digital hearing aids. It was Rochester Hearing and Speech who suggested I seek out SHHH (now HLAA). I attended my first meeting in 2009. I made many new friends and still quietly assist in the chapter’s growth when I can.

As a veteran, I applied for benefits to the Veterans Administration 5 years ago to cover the cost of the hearing aids and was denied!

When the scandal besieged the VA (holding off giving benefits/care to veterans to save money), I was encouraged to reapply for benefits. The second submission was successful. I was granted the benefits I had been seeking and was fitted with new hearing aids within the month of approval.

Mary and I are now both fully retired and enjoy our home and our critters (a 32-year-old Senegal parrot, a 20-year-old cockatiel, and an 18-year-old kitty (who allows us to occupy *her space*). We live in a condominium on top of a hill that, from our westward facing front room, we are afforded a spectacular show for sunsets, storms, and rainbows (and on the 4th of July, multiple towns’ fireworks).

While hearing loss has created challenges (many humorous), it has also opened doors to new friends and experiences that I may not have experienced otherwise. After all, life is a journey and the ride continues to be a great one!

We Welcome All Donations

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

Mail to: Ms. Joan Kohler, 15 Pickett Lane,
Hilton, NY 14468

Be sure to designate:

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

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

TAKE YOUR NECK LOOP TO CHURCH

By Janet McKenna, MLS

The 144th Annual Rochester Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was celebrated at First Baptist Church of Rochester. I decided to attend at the last minute. The church website advised that it had a hearing system. Arriving early, I found an usher, asked about their hearing system, and was referred to a lady who showed me a basket of FM receivers.

They seemed a little old, with ear buds and headphones--useless for this bilateral CI user. For once I remembered not only to bring my own neck loop but to test the batteries before leaving home! Experience has shown that although venues may advertise having hearing systems, there can be slipups especially at major events like the Thanksgiving Service, memorial services, weddings, or ordinary services of worship regardless of the denomination.

These could include:

- Ushers not knowing if the church has a system.
- Ushers not knowing how/where it can be found immediately.
- If FM receivers, batteries might be dead.
- As above, connections do not suit the hearing impaired user.
- Rochester curiosity of calling every hearing system a "loop" even if it is an FM system.

Advice to those attending an event in a "new" house of worship:

- Check the website for mention of accessibility.
- Email or phone to double check.
- Stop by and talk to office personnel to warn them that someone will ask for it.
- Arrive EARLY and approach someone who looks authoritative to request an FM receiver OR find a seat close enough to see speakers' faces and nearer the walls (loops tend to circle the sanctuary).
- Hope to make sense of the proceedings.
- Return FM receivers.
- Thank all those who helped you !

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

By Tom Willard

Rochester deaf comedian **Tom Willard** made his Broadway debut December 3rd at New York City's Carolines on Broadway.

Willard spoke and signed his jokes at Carolines' New Talent Showcase, "where the country's top up-and-coming comedians shine." Willard started doing standup in 2016. He has performed in nearly a dozen cities --Toronto, Cleveland and Hartford.

He's an RIT alumnus, having earned a photo degree in 1985 through NTID.

He signs while he tells his jokes, making his act accessible to hearing and deaf people alike. "I performed at a school for the deaf and everyone laughed at the same time," he said. "That rarely happens when there's an interpreter involved."

In addition to performing, he advocates to make comedy accessible to people with hearing loss. Last August, he was successful at getting both the Pittsburgh Comedy Festival and the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival to provide real-time captioning at several shows.

Willard can be found performing at local comedy open mics several nights a week. You can reach him on Facebook (Tom Willard Comedy) for more information.



HOPE meets at 10:00 am in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's, first Tuesday of the month. (Hearing Other People's Experiences) We hope you stay for our routine Chapter Meeting:

Social Time-- 11:00 – 11:30am, Parish Hall.
 Brief announcements-- 11:30 – Noon.
 Chapter Meeting speaker Feb.5 -- Noon to 1:00pm.
 "Acoustic Neuromas" – with Tom Banach, and
 Ceci McCurdy



By Nancy Meyer

Did you know that our chapter has a Lending Library? There are several books and DVDs available for members to sign out for a month at a time. They are on display at the front of our meeting room. Sign out one (or more), and return them at the next month's chapter meeting.

Members have donated books; you can too! Please bring them to a meeting. Right now, we have available to borrow:

Gael Hannan –“The Way I Hear It”

Katherine Boughton – “Living Better w/Hearing Loss”

Monique Hammond –“What Did You Say?”

Art Maurer –“Twisted Vines;” also, “Frackin’ Lives”; and more to choose from!

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Tues., May 21st

We need your help in organizing our dinner. Please contact Barb Law at blaw1@rochester.rr.com; or, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com for more info. Thanks for your consideration in helping to make our dinner a huge success.

GROUND HOG DAY – February 2nd

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

(from Old Farmer's Almanac)

UNSUNG HERO !



Each of you brought a gift and placed it in the wrapped boxes. Many thanks for your generosity!

The boxes were carefully and beautifully wrapped by **Marlene Sutliff**. The next step, however, is not easy; but each year Marlene loads the boxes into her car, and again this year drove to the Veterans Outreach Center, and unloaded them as HLAA-Rochester's donation to the VOC.

Many thanks, Marlene, for your care and concern each year at the holiday time.

p.s. VOC already has sent along a big THANK YOU!

NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 20-23, 2019



Register now....our HLAA National Convention is coming here, to us, in Rochester!

Join us for a

Convention to remember where you will meet other people with hearing loss, learn in the most communication accessible environment and enjoy the sights of Rochester: a world of art, theater, music, photography, history, nature and play! Registration opened Dec. 1st with **reduced rates before March 2nd**. Watch our Newsletters and Website for further information. Go to: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org/hlaa-events>, or <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention>

This award-winning Newsletter of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA is published monthly except for July and August.

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Sincere appreciation to the following for their special writing contribution in this Newsletter:
Mary Chizuk and Sue Miller.

We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much. (Please see form inside back cover.)



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!

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



BAD WEATHER--ST. PAUL'S CLOSED

St. Paul's Church will cancel or postpone parish programming or services should any of the following conditions be met:

1. *Monroe County issues a ban on unnecessary travel; and/or,*
2. *The Rochester City School District closes and/or cancels afternoon activities; and/or,*
3. *The wind chill is at or below -20 degrees.*



ASSISTIVE DEVICE DEMO CENTER

By Charlie Johnstone

The Device Demo Center session on January 17th was a great success, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of all of those involved.

Visitors were very appreciative of the attention and help they received. There are few places where people with a hearing loss can go to get instant help and quality free information! Lifespan's generosity in so many ways, combined with the hard work and contribution of so many volunteers, really make a difference!

The types of devices represented include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones and personal assistive listening devices [with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments].

A new “virtual device demo center” app for smart phones and tablets will continue to be tested during upcoming demo sessions. A few new representative devices made a debut at the September demo session as part of the effort to showcase the most up-to-date technologies.

The next demo session at Lifespan is Thursday, Feb 21st, 10am to 2pm. The device center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August, or when Lifespan is closed). Lifespan is located at 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) 14618.



Sincere birthday greetings to these members who will be 90 years or older! Congratulations and many more healthy and happy years!

February 3 – Ginny Koenig

February 27 – Edith Lank



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HLAA Membership Information

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

Professional Advisors

2017 – 2019

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James DeCaro, Ph.D.
Christine Olivier
Peter Reeb

2018 – 2020

Kathy Foster
Emily Krohn
Ralph Meranto
Nicholas Sprague

Consultants: *Paul Dutcher, M.D.*
Charles Johnstone, James Vazzana, Esq.
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Newsletter

Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
 Send articles to:
Ginger Graham
 859 Meadow Ridge Lane
 Webster, NY 14580
ggraham859@gmail.com

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

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Life Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org>.

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

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

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