



Telephone: (585) 266-7890
Email: hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com
Website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org

Volume 29, Number 3

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November 2015

NOVEMBER Calendar

Tuesday, November 3rd

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time
11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting
12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time
7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting
8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Sun., Nov. 1st – Daylight Savings Time Ends

Thurs., Nov. 5th - “Day of Hearing” at Lifespan
(see page 9 for more info)

Tues., Nov. 10th – Board of Directors
7:00 – 9pm, 1st floor CR, Al Sigl Center

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Dec. 8th – BOD 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.)

Hospitality Duties for November:

Daytime Meeting – Barb Gates, Barb Law,
Vern Thayer
Evening Meeting –G. Graham, B. Law, S. Miller
Board of Directors –Barb Law, Cathy Lee

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

*Welcome back members, and,
WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!*



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

**Tues., Nov. 3rd – Daytime Meeting 11:00 am;
Evening Meeting 7:00 pm**

**HUMORIST GAEL HANNAN TO
PERFORM TWICE AT NOVEMBER
MEETINGS**

A double treat is in store for HLAA-Rochester Chapter as Gael Hannan, award-winning humorous speaker and writer on hearing loss, entertains at both the 11:00am and 7:00pm chapter meetings Tuesday, November 3.

Ms. Hannan, a self-described HOH (hard of hearing) person, will perform two different monologs. Scheduled for Noon is "A HOH on the road: Traveling the hearing loss life." Her evening talk, "How to be a fabulous person with hearing loss," begins at 8:00pm.

Every day brings new challenges to Gael, who visits many places and does many things as she travels. But she's also on a journey with hearing loss. How to get through the day? she asks in "HOH on the road."

If you *have* to have hearing loss, why not get better at it, she queries in "How to be a fabulous person with hearing loss."

(continued on page 2)

Tues., Nov. 3rd, Gael Hannan (continued)

Her new spin on communication strategies includes: Pretending to understand when you don't have a clue; tips for reading lips; asking for repeats; and show love to your technology or it will drive you crazy.

Gael Hannan comes from the north. A Toronto resident, she has been a HOH person since childhood. Her parents were told that hearing aids would not benefit her, but she acquired her first aid at age 20 and "life changed." At the 1995 Canadian Hard of Hearing Association conference, Gael met other people with hearing loss. Shortly thereafter she created a one woman show, *Unheard Voices*, amusingly conveying the impact of hearing loss on a person's life.

Her repertoire has expanded since. She has performed at several HLAA National Conventions and many meetings. She visited HLAA-Rochester Chapter in 2012. As the "Better Hearing Consumer," Gael writes a weekly column for HearingHealthMatters.org website. She is a Director on the national board of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. Her first book, "*The way I hear it,*" is reviewed in this Newsletter. Copies of her book will be available to purchase at both talks. Price: \$17.99.

Anyone interested in hearing loss who wishes to smile about being a HOH person is welcome at either or both presentations. For more information visit www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

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

Hearing Loss Association of America is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. 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. The HLAA meeting is free and open to all community members interested in hearing loss.

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.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Cindy Kellner

What is on Anna's Mind?

On September 18th, I, along with several other active HLAA Rochester members, had the pleasure of having dinner with National's Executive Director, **Anna Gilmore Hall**. It was an excellent evening with good friends, good conversation (and yes, we could actually hear) and good food. A lot was covered, with Anna doing much of the talking. I had met Anna before at a HLAA Convention but I never had the opportunity to really speak with her. The dinner proved to be quite informative, to say the least. Anna is quite the powerhouse and although she does not have hearing loss, there is no question after hearing her talk for five minutes that she is totally informed and strongly committed to all of us in the hearing loss community.

There is no doubt that Anna cares and that she cares deeply. She clearly feels our frustration and I am one hundred-percent-confident that she can vigorously fight for the issues that those of us with hearing loss face every day. Anna expressed major concern for the state of the medical profession and the hearing loss patient. It is just a matter of time before something critical happens with a patient who cannot adequately hear and understand his or her doctor or hospital personnel. This is definitely not okay with Anna and she has brought this issue to

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

the attention of the Department of Justice. Hospitals must have personal sound amplification products ("PSAP") available at all times to aid the hearing loss patient. In addition, Anna expressed extreme dismay that hearing loss, notwithstanding the fact that it is the third most chronic medical condition faced by the elderly, is not adequately covered (if covered at all) in medical or nursing school. This has to change and Anna and National are working hard to make these changes a reality.



Like all of us, Anna is extremely upset about the high cost of hearing aids. She recognizes that this issue is on the forefront of every hearing loss patient's mind. Hearing aids are way too expensive and it doesn't have to be this way. Roughly

speaking, according to Anna, the actual cost of a hearing aid is in the \$350 range. Obviously many more expenses are added on to the final price that numbers into the thousands. While some of these additional costs are not that objectionable (i.e., research and technology), many are and National wants to see an industry-wide change to significantly bring down the cost of hearing aids. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Anna is also extremely excited about the development of National's new web page Consumer Technology Initiative. **Dr. Elise de Papp** spoke about this at our September meetings and wrote about it in our September Newsletter. As Elise set forth, it really is exciting and will be a huge benefit to the hearing loss community. For example, the web page will offer valuable insights into all of the PSAPs that would be helpful to a person based upon their particular hearing loss, their needs and the compatibility with their hearing aid. Although National will not endorse or recommend any product, there will be honest reviews posted by consumers to aid us. Anna hopes that the project will be self-sustaining and will be a definite "go to" web page for all experiencing hearing loss, as well as product suppliers and audiologists.

National, according to Anna, has been very vocal with its disappointment and frustration concerning the recent studies by the Center for Disease Control on disabilities which deliberately omitted hearing loss. This study was the subject of my President's column in our October Newsletter. Anna has had numerous conversations with the study's authors and is working hard to have this matter resolved to the satisfaction of the hearing loss community.

(Make your voice Heard--In last month's President's column, I wrote about the injustice of the CDC's study on disabilities which intentionally excluded those of us with hearing loss. If you would like to voice your opinion, please contact media@cdc.gov (contact information supplied in CDC report) or Maria_M_town@who.eop.gov (this email address recommended by National). Let your voice be heard.

Anna is also involved in conversations with the White House on behalf of those of us with hearing loss. There is an upcoming conference on aging and she wants to insure that hearing loss is on the agenda. She feels strongly (and I agree) that the issue of hearing loss has to be put out there. Although hearing loss is not restricted to the elderly, it is a reality of life for way too many of our aging population. She is not going to let hearing loss be excluded from any discussion of growing old. I am confident that she will be successful and that hearing loss and the issues that surround it will be addressed when the conference is held.

What is also on Anna's mind is membership. Although hearing loss affects 48 million Americans, only a very small number are members of National. This has to change. In addition to specifically reaching out to young people and people of color, Anna acknowledges that we need to reach out to the general hearing loss population at large and increase our numbers. There is no question that the larger the number the more power we will hold. I do believe that if we sincerely want to see the cost of hearing aids come down, or the medical profession educated, we must join together to have our voices heard. After spending the evening with Anna I am

(continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – (continued)

totally convinced that we have the right person as our Executive Director. Anna is vivacious, intelligent, informed and deeply committed to our cause. We need to really help her and National's efforts and undertakings. She cannot make change without our support. Please consider joining National today. A membership form for National (and also our Rochester chapter) is located inside the back cover in this Newsletter.

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.

**Donation Above Membership:**

Margaret Cochran
 Joan Eckhardt

For Your Donation to HLAA:

Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
 Jean Murphy
 Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
 Mary Tuckley Estate
 United Way contributors

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

(Will occur Sunday, November 1st, this year)

- First to suggest the idea: Benjamin Franklin in 1784.
- First North American region to adopt it:
 Newfoundland in 1917.
- First year in which the United States adopted it: 1918.
(from the Old Farmer's Almanac, 2012)

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Tuesday, November 3rd, is Election Day and St. Paul's Church is a voting site. **Parking on church grounds that day is limited to Handicapped persons only.** Please plan to park on alternate side of the street, or in the lot across the street in the George Eastman House. Restrictions are for this day only. Thanks for your help!

DID YOU KNOW?

October 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!

All performances are Sunday, at 1:00 pm

Nov. 15 – Motown
 Dec. 20 – White Christmas
 March 13, 2016 – Beautiful
 April 17, 2016 – Matilda
 May 15, 2016 – Dirty Dancing

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 (except-- A Christmas Carol)

Nov. 29 - A Christmas Carol --SUNDAY
 Jan. 16, 2016 – Miracle on South Division St.
 Feb. 20, 2016 – To Kill a Mockingbird
 April 2, 2016 – A Moon for the Misbegotten
 May 7, 2016 – The May Queen

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

GEVA BOOSTS OPEN-CAPTIONING PLAYS

*(excerpt from D&C article 10-2-15;
By Marisa Zeppieri-Caruana)*

GEVA Theatre has obtained open-captioning equipment allowing for more than one OC performance per production. The acquisition was accomplished with the help of HLAA-Rochester, the Hard of Hearing Clarity Fund of The Rochester Area Community Foundation, and key individuals.

The OC set up involves a 16-hour labor process. Thanks to support of HLAA-Rochester, the grant will include training for this comprehensive system. Tom Parrish, GEVA executive director, praised our chapter for its donations. Previously, the OC equipment was rented; now, with the permanent, portable OC equipment, GEVA plans to store and maintain it onsite with hopes of sharing it with other professional and community theaters and art organizations throughout the greater Rochester area.

For more info, go to:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2015/10/01/geva-acquires-open-captioning-equipment-performances-hlaa/73146700/>

For info on GEVA, go to: www.Gevatheatre.org.

To learn more about HLAA-Rochester, go to: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org.

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.

ANNA GILMORE HALL VISITS ROCHESTER

By Janet McKenna



Vivacious and informative even after a full day's meeting of the National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR), **HLAA Executive**

Director Anna Gilmore Hall provided advance glimpses of the 2016 national convention in Washington, D.C. and vignettes of advocacy for people with hearing loss on the Federal level as she joined seven HLAA-Rochester Chapter members for dinner. The party squeezed in a meal at Phillips European Restaurant before Anna's flight departed Rochester on September 18.

Pictured are: Back row—Art Maurer, Margaret Cochran, Anna Gilmore Hall, Marlene Sutliff

2nd row – Cindy Kellner, Sue Miller

Seated—Janet McKenna, Ginger Graham

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



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org. **Michelle Gross** is our Web Master. (**Barb Law** continues as consultant.) The website for HLAA National is: www.hearingloss.org. Congratulations! Our Rochester Chapter has won the National Award for best Website.

(submitted by Trish Prosser)

Homeowners insurance and hearing aids. Go to: [WILL SOME HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE COVER HEARING AIDS - AOL Search Results](#)

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

Great news from CaptionCall! 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 for the 5th year in a row...such an incredible gift to our chapter.

CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter...and we thank you!

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

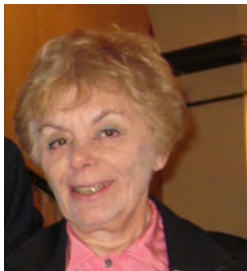
IF YOU MOVE

Please don't forget to notify **Margaret Cochran**, at 178 Crossover Rd., Fairport, NY, 14450, or, via email at mc23@rochester.rr.com, even if your change of address is a temporary one.

HAAA 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.

“ARCHIVIST” –A REMINDER!

Good news! We have a Chapter Archivist! Janet McKenna has offered to take on this task.



Janet will clip, affix into scrap books, and caption articles about our Chapter appearing in area print media, as well as other materials such as programs, invitations, speeches, photos, etc. Janet will be looking for help from all Chapter members supplying

info they've accumulated. This leading HAAA Chapter will now be on its way to retaining its 30+ year history!

Contact Janet at: deaphyduck@gmail.com



.....see page 11

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **260** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**



NEW PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

By Suzanne Johnston

The purpose of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) is to furnish professional advice and support in order to promote the development of a credible and effective HAAA organization in the Rochester area. Following is more information on **new PAC members**:

Julie Hanson (for Anne Kingston)

Julie Hanson moved to Rochester in early 1997 after receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Deaf Education from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. Being from a Kodak family, she had lived here twice before and knew that Rochester was a good place for someone in the field of deaf education to land. That Fall, she began working at Monroe #1 BOCES as a Teacher of students that are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. While starting her teaching career, she earned her Master's degree in Special Education from Nazareth College. She taught for 15 years and returned to school to become an administrator. She is currently in her third year as the Assistant Program Coordinator for the Deaf Education and Vision Department at BOCES.

Julie lives in Pittsford with her husband, Jon, and their two children. Her daughter, Ryan, is twelve and a student at Calkins Road Middle School. Her son, Justin, is seven and attends Jefferson Road Elementary. As a family, they enjoy skiing, golfing and being on the water – anything outside to enjoy the beautiful change of seasons that Rochester has to offer.

Newsletter Deadline

**SATURDAY, OCT. 31st
(for the December Newsletter)**

Email: ggraham859@frontiernet.net

CAN LOWER COSTS INCREASE HEARING AID USE?

By Joe Kozelsky

It has often been stated that if the costs of hearing aids were lower more people would get them. This may or may not be the case.

One of the reasons costs are high is because the market is very small relative to other electronic devices so manufacturing costs per unit are high. For example, there are 1.5 billion cell phones sold each year divided by 13 - 15 manufacturers with 6.8 billion cell phone contracts supporting part of the actual costs of the phones for the consumer. On the other hand, only 9 million hearing aids are sold a year divided by 30 or more manufacturers, accompanied with very high ratio of support costs generally unenvisioned by the consumer. But, manufacturer cost is not the only factor.

First, and most important in my opinion, is the average rate of satisfaction for hearing aid use has been only about 70% or less for many, many years. This poor success rate likely affects the rate of acquisition.

Second, the dispensing of hearing aids requires a service, or relational model of delivery rather than a transactional model of delivery. For instance, how many times do people return to their cell phone or IPOD or TV dealers for assistance? I have always considered audiology to be a health related, human service, helping profession, rather than a transactional activity.

Third, proper hearing aid work can be very slow and does not easily lend itself to economies of scale. Anyone who has had issues with the sound of their voice, or problems with ear mold fit, or any of the

many unpredictable interactive effects of hearing, hearing loss and hearing aids can relate to this.

Fourth, more than half of the cost of a hearing aid is margin--the office costs of dispensing the devices. According to a fairly recent article in AARP, the average mark-up is 110%; even so, most audiologists are not getting rich. The average salary for an audiologist with an Au.D is about \$65,000, compared to a dental hygienist median salary of \$70,000. It is not likely, therefore, that margins can be reduced significantly.

Parenthetically, from time to time, we tried less expensive devices in my practice. They had a huge 50% lower wholesale cost, and we were able to reduce our charges by about 25%. Unfortunately, the less expensive devices yielded lower scores or actual dissatisfaction on our bi-annual satisfaction surveys (which averaged 93% satisfied over many years) and so we returned to our regular devices.

Finally, with few exceptions, there has been little evidence that free or lower costs have resulted in greater rates of acquisition. The most recent study I am aware of was by Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit (2011). There, many patients are covered by very comprehensive hearing aid benefits, but many candidates do not take advantage of the benefit. Additionally, there are many federal and national programs in Europe and Australia where excellent benefits exist, but acquisition rate is virtually no different than in America.

Clearly, this is a very complex issue

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

Editor and Publisher.....Ginger Graham
Computer Consultant,
Webmaster, and Writer.....Michelle Gross
News Releases, and Writer.....Janet McKenna
Research Assistant.....Ginny Koenig



.....see page 11

NTID---MIXED TEAMS TOGETHER....

By Vienna Carvalho

Researchers at Rochester Institute of Technology are using a National Science Foundation grant valued at nearly \$500,000 to study how STEM students from diverse backgrounds—specifically hearing, deaf and hard-of-hearing students—communicate with each other, understand common subject material and solve complex problems.

RIT is a unique learning environment combining hearing students and 1,400 deaf and hard-of-hearing students at its National Technical Institute for the Deaf. According to researchers, mixed teams often struggle to communicate with each other in critical STEM learning activities.

OUR OWN CHAPTER LIBRARY

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 along with the educational materials on the table at the entry to our meeting room. Be sure to take a look to see what's there and sign out one (or more).

Members have donated books they have read and found helpful. If you have and would be willing to donate any materials you think may be of interest to the group, please bring them to any routine monthly chapter meeting that you attend, and we will add them to our collection...with our thanks!

Our latest additions are Gael Hannan's new book, "The Way I Hear It," and Katherine Boughton's latest book, "Living Better With Hearing Loss." Both books are packed with information and insight into life as a deaf/hard-of-hearing person. Both were purchased at the National Convention in

St. Louis. Both authors were at the Convention and both have been a Featured Speaker at one of our Chapter meetings.

Information and education are the tools we need to improve the quality of our communication, both with each other and with those without hearing loss. So please use our resources to your benefit.

HLAA-ROCHESTER STUDENT SUBCOMMITTEE OP!

By Suzanne Johnston

Our Rochester Chapter of HLAA is growing! Are you a young adult? Want a great way to help the community while gaining leadership experience?

A NEW HLAA Student Subcommittee has been forming this summer and we expect to begin great things in the Fall of 2015! We are looking for high-school to college-age students (or young adults recently graduated) who are interested in joining together to develop community awareness of hearing loss and to promote access for those people with hearing loss.

If you have a hearing loss, or are deaf, or are hearing but interested in promoting the mission of this group, please call or text Suzanne Johnston at (585) 314-1807 or email me at suzanneEJohnston@aol.com, for further information to be a part of this exciting group!

Subjects of Dec. 1st Chapter Meetings:

**Daytime: "Family & Friends & Relationships"
Cindy Kellner**

Evening: "Communication Accessibility and Thinking Straight" – Don Bataille

OPEN CAPTIONS AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

*(submitted by Fred Altrieth;
Do-it Factsheet #1050/articles?1050)*

Captions are either "open" or "closed." Open captions always are in view and cannot be turned off, whereas closed captions can be turned on and off by the viewer.

“DAY OF HEARING”

By Paul Caccamise, Lifespan



On Thursday, November 5, persons concerned about hearing loss will have an opportunity to have their hearing screened free of charge at the “Day of Hearing” event at **Lifespan**, on Clinton Ave.S. The event is being co-sponsored by **Lifespan, the Hearing Loss Association of America Rochester Chapter, Inc., and Nazareth College**. Day of Hearing is designed to increase public awareness about acquired hearing loss, and its impact on social functioning, emotional well-being and on personal relationships. Brief workshops offered throughout the day by participating audiologists will cover topics related to hearing loss and will describe options for effective adaptation to hearing loss through hearing aids and other assistive listening technology. The Healthy Living with Hearing Loss committee, a community-based Participatory Research Committee in alliance with the UR’s Rochester Prevention Research Center, will also offer a workshop on community priorities for health research on hearing loss.

Exhibitors will display services and assistive living devices. Free hearing screens will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. Day of Hearing participants who screen positive for hearing loss will be encouraged to seek audiology exams and to explore behavioral and environmental modifications to address their condition. HLAA-Rochester Chapter members will be on hand to answer questions and to describe what services and supports are available through the organization for persons with hearing loss and their family members.

No hearing aids or other equipment will be sold or marketed at the event. Day of Hearing will take place on Thursday, November 5 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Lifespan of Greater Rochester, 1900 Clinton Ave. S. and Elmwood Ave., in the Tops Plaza in Brighton. For further information, please contact Paul Caccamise at Lifespan at (585) 244-8400 x115 or at pcaccamise@lifespan-roch.org.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUR WEBSITE

By Ginger Graham

“It is clearly about hearing loss.
It reflects HLAA Mission Statement.
Attractive and easy to navigate.
Continuously updated.
Shows updated chapter information.”

These are some of the criteria for a Chapter Website to win our National Award.



Michelle Gross became our Web Master in the Fall of 2013. **Cindy Kellner** presented the award to Michelle.

The paperwork required to nominate our website was masterfully written by **Barb Law**. She provided the requested details on our Home Page, Mission Statement, and resource information. She wrote:

“Our Webmaster, **Michelle Gross**, updates material promptly to ensure visitors see current information. Smaller non-content changes to the website such as new images, text changes and display colors are made periodically to indicate the website is active and to maintain interest.”

Congratulations to Michelle for her loyalty and dedication in maintaining our website to enable our Rochester Chapter to win this coveted National Award for Best Chapter Website.

To view our website, please go to: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org.

LIBRARIES – DID YOU KNOW?

(suggested by Fred Altrieth)

Our chapter subsidizes some of the local libraries with membership in National. The library receives the national magazine and displays it (with a sticker giving credit to our chapter). The magazines are on file for the current year. Central, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Penfield, and Victor Libraries. (Fairport and Pittsford have their own subscriptions.)

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN D.C.

By Sue Miller

Registration for Convention

State and Chapter leaders are encouraged to attend next year's national HLAA Convention in Washington, D.C. from June 23 – 26, 2016! Our chapter can receive **four discounted registrations** for leaders, plus one delegate registration for someone who might **consider serving in a leadership position.**

In addition, our Rochester Chapter Board of Directors has voted to increase the Convention stipend to \$500 for every **active** chapter member attending the Convention. So, be watching for the early-bird registration and let's have an outstanding representation from the Rochester Chapter!

Check our chapter's award-winning website for further information at www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org and watch for updates in our monthly Newsletters.

BOOK REVIEW

By Janet McKenna

Hannan, Gael *The way I hear it: A life with hearing loss* (Victoria, BC, Canada, FriesenPress, © 2015)

Gael Hannan--public speaker, humorist, and hearing health advocate--is a lifelong "HOH." That means: a hard-of-hearing person. If you've enjoyed seeing Gael perform in person, her book, "*The way I hear it: A life with hearing loss*," contains much of the same monolog material about her journey as a HOH person.

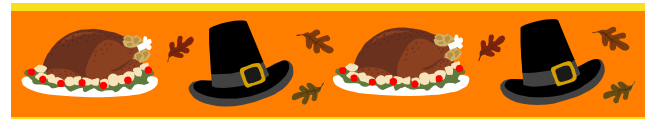
Gael's ruefully funny and wise book is a combination autobiography/advisor to other HOH persons. Poems from her HearingHealthMatters.org blog reveal musings of a HOH person, and it's not all laughs. It can be tough being a HOH person, says Gael, but with support, education and a sense of humor, we HOH persons can manage.

However... there are incidents, notes Gael. Who can forget her marriage proposal, when Doug, the Hearing Husband, was accepted only because his lady could read his lips saying, "Let's get married!" Or being stopped at night by a Texas state policeman flashing a light in her face saying, "Y'all have your hah beams on."

Gael advises on travel, hearing aids, audiologists, significant others, raising a child, and employment issues, among other tips for people whose hearing is less than perfect. She also recalls that her parents were told that their daughter would not benefit from hearing aids--WRONG!

Gael gives presentations on her own hearing health throughout the U.S. and Canada. Interspersing her hard-of-hearing adventures with cogent suggestions to others gives us a book that is light in tone with a serious message: You do not need to face hearing loss alone.

"*The way I hear it*" is a fine library acquisition for public collections or a gift for any HOH person. Copies could be placed in audiologists' offices for loan. Gael's book will be for sale at both Chapter meetings November 3rd; price \$17.99.



“KINKY BOOTS” – OC IN TORONTO

By Vicki Turner, Ginger Graham

Good news! Mirvish has scheduled another open-captioned production:

“Kinky Boots” will be at the Royal Alexander Theatre, 260 King St. West, Toronto, **Friday, November 20th, at 8pm.** Tickets are \$80, including tax and service charge.

Contact Karen Moren for tickets. Email: access@mirvish.com; phone: 416 593 4142 x217, or, 800 724 6420 x217.

HLAA-Rochester's Holiday Good Deed



Both daytime and evening meetings will feature a Holiday gift box of personal care items destined for homeless people at the Open Door Mission in Rochester.

What can you contribute?

Any of the following (and things we haven't thought of) would be appreciated:

Shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, comb/brush, deodorant, feminine sanitary items, mittens/gloves, scarves, socks, single pack tissues, toothpaste/toothbrush, shaving cream, talcum powder, etc. etc.

No need to wrap your gift! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

HISTORY OF HLAA...

*(excerpt from Colorado Newsletter, Oct. 2014;
By Debbie Mohny; suggested by Ginny Koenig)*

November is recognized as HLAA anniversary month...

The Hearing Loss Association of America was founded as Self Help for Hard of Hearing people, by Rocky Stone in 1979, in the family room of his home. The concept that he started, with local chapters, has continued. They provide a community of people with hearing loss, help you to deal with the issue of hearing loss stigma, share technologies beyond hearing aids, empower you through the exchange of knowledge, encouragement and the sharing of experiences, and alleviate the despair and isolation of hearing loss through their support.

Please visit www.hearingloss.org for more information on hearing help and support. If you are not already a member, consider joining the largest consumer organization for people with hearing loss. The membership includes a wonderful magazine that comes out 6 times a year, and is a bargain at \$35 a year for individuals. The advocacy done through HLAA alone is priceless for the 48 million people in the U.S. who have hearing loss.

WHO IS A VOLUNTEER?

(By Vernice Meade, Central Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter, Aug. 2015; suggested by Ginny Koenig)

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

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

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

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

Contact either Cindy Kellner at CKellne1@rochester.rr.com, phone: 585 386 8391; or, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com, phone: 585 615 5136 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

There are two ways of spreading light: To be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

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



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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 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 176 chapters and 14 state organizations. Welcome!

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only*-- contact Linda Siple, 585 288 6744, or at lasnss@rit.edu, at least a week in advance.

(This phone number is only to request an Interpreter.)

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

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