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September 2013

SEPTEMBER Calendar

NOTE CHANGE IN DATES FOR SEPT.

Tuesday, September 10th

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., Sept. 17th – Board of Directors

7:30 pm – Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center

Tues., Sept. 24th – “Cochlear Implant Group”

5:00-6:30pm – St. Paul’s church, Vestry room;
Open meeting; all invited. (see page 6)

Wed., Sept. 25th – Rear Window Captioned movie,

Loew’s Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm. Email
Ginger the weekend ahead for exact movie & time.
ggraham859@frontiernet.net. See you there!

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Oct. 8th – BOD mtg, JV room, Al Sigl Center

Tues., Oct. 15th - PAC meeting; 7pm; JV room, ASC

Wed., Oct. 23rd – Rear Window Captioned movie.

Sun., Nov. 3rd - Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sun., Nov. 3rd –GALA 30th anniversary, 2:00-5pm,
at the Inn on Broadway (see pages 6 & 12)

Hospitality Duties for September:

Daytime Meeting –B. Gates, J. Kanter; M. Sutliff

Evening Meeting –Cindy Kellner, Barb Law

Board of Directors –Barb Law, Meredith Low

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

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



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

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

Tues., Sept. 10th - Daytime & Evening Meetings

**ROCHESTER TO WELCOME NEW HLAA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; and, also a REVIEW
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

HLAA-Rochester is honored to
welcome **Anna Gilmore Hall** to
meet members of the local chapter.
The new Executive Director will
be the featured speaker at both the
daytime **and** evening meetings at
11:00 am and 7:00 pm.



Ms. Hall, who assumed the executive directorship on
July 8, will comment on her vision for the future of
the nation’s foremost membership and advocacy
organization for people with hearing loss, based in
Bethesda, MD.

Our Chapter’s president, **Elise de Papp, M.D.**,
remarks, “Having met Anna at the convention, I’m
delighted to welcome her to Rochester and look
forward to our chapter working with the national
association and Anna to further our goals.”

A New Englander, Anna Gilmore Hall RN, MS,
CAE, is a graduate of Eastern Maine Medical Center
School of Nursing with a diploma in Nursing:
University of Maine (MS) and Capella University
(MS). She has earned a certification in Association
Management from the American Society of
Association Executives.

(continued on next page)

Tuesday, Sept. 10th – Meetings (continued)

With more than 20 years of managing nonprofit organizations, before joining HLAA, she was the executive director of Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading membership organization for institutions in the health care community that commit to sustainable eco-friendly practices. From 2004-08 she was co-executive director of Health Care Without Harm, an international campaign for environmentally responsible health care.

Additionally, **Elise de Papp, Sue Miller and Jeannette Kanter** will furnish a brief rundown of their experiences at the organization's national convention in Portland Oregon this past June. Elise says, "There was a great deal of technology" aimed at people with hearing loss.

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.

LEADERS COLUMN

By Elise de Papp, M.D.



Even though 2013 is more than half over, it's the beginning of HLAA-R's calendar year—welcome back! Three members of our chapter attended the National Convention in Portland,

Oregon, June 25-30. Technology and Communications were the most numerous topics presented, both in the Exhibit Hall (half of the 61 exhibitors), and in the Workshops. Williams Sound, Harris Comm., HARC Mercantile are some of the many businesses providing hearing assistive and safety alerting devices: FM, IR, Bluetooth systems, pocket talkers, amplified phones, loud alarm clocks, door bell and smoke alarm alerts, and more.

The 38 Workshops were grouped into: Advocacy, Assistive and other technology. More advocacy and technology, hearing aids and CI's, relationships and communication. The sessions lasted 45 to 75 minutes and were done by individuals or panels of presenters.

Questions were usually held until the end. All conference rooms had ALDs, either loops or infrared, in addition to captions and interpreters. Included in advocacy were updates on the ADA regulations; emergency preparedness for those with HL (such as the recent Monroe County announcement of "texting to 9-1-1" service...on Verizon phones now; Monroe County is the second in NYS to provide this service); and hospital situations. Smart phone and wireless industry workshops were very well attended, and highly technical. Finding the Cell Phones or Mobile Devices to Meet Your Need; and, Facilitating Communication with Smart Phone Technologies, are two examples of technology/communications workshops.

Two of our previous Featured Speaker Program guests, Sam Trychin and Gael Hannon, did workshops on relationships and communication. One of our PAC members, Allen Ford, was the moderator at a special session for Veterans with hearing loss.

For the complete schedule see the Convention website, www.eventmobi.com/HLAA2013. Several of the workshop notes include slideshows; others have a brief description of the subject. Take a look at this site—it will give you a good idea of what the Convention had to offer.

We also had some great social events—but our Newsletter editor is going to cut me off soon—that's all folks. Next year's Convention is in Austin, Texas; a little closer to home.

You'll meet HLAA's new Executive Director, Anna Gilmore Hall, at our September 10th chapter meetings.

CHAPTER MEMBERS TO PRESENT TO FIRST UCC CHURCH IN FAIRPORT

By Barb Law

On **Monday, October 14th**, three members of our Chapter's Education and Outreach Committee will present info about hearing loss to the Evening Circle at the First Congregational Church in Fairport. Presenters will include Barb Gates, Ginger Graham, and Michelle Gross. The meeting begins at 7 pm with a short business meeting; presentation follows from 7:15 – 8:15 pm. Topics covered will include things that lead to hearing loss and what you can do if you begin to suffer HL.

Visitors are welcome. If you're interested in attending, please contact Barb Law at 585 381 8640. The church is located at 26 East Church Street in Fairport, NY.

We Welcome All Donations

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



For Your Donation to HLAA:
 Webster Hearing Center (J. Kozelsky)

In Memory of Josie Altrieth: Eleanor Siegfried
In Memory of Barb Coughlin: Fred Altrieth, Sue Miller

INTERESTING FACT...

It's estimated that 19,438 deaf and hard-of-hearing people younger than 65 live in the Rochester area, according to NTID and cited by the National Center for Deaf Health Research.

About 3.7% of the area's 1.1 million population is deaf or HOH, compared with 3.5% of the U.S. population.

(info from D&C 4/19/13; by Patti Singer)

“ARCHIVIST”

Good news! We have a Chapter Archivist! **Janet McKenna** (who comes “all the way from Grand Island” to support our Rochester Chapter!) 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 HLAA Chapter will now be on its way to retain its 30-year history! Contact Janet at: deaphyduck@gmail.com

OUR ‘DISPLAY BOARD’ IS MISSING !

By Sue Miller

Help! We can't find the HLAA display board. The last we remember seeing it was at the Walk in May. Does anyone have any idea where it might be? We need it for a health fair this month. (We don't believe it was used at the Annual Dinner in June.) Who can come to the rescue?!!! SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com; or, 924-8933.

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.

WEATHER WONDERS

“Ember days” in September fall on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after September 14. According to folklore, they indicate the weather for the next 3 months:

September 18 – weather on this day marks the trend expected in October.

September 20—indicates weather for November.

September 21—predicts the weather for December.

(Old Farmer's Almanac 2013)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“We think too much and feel too little.”

Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977)

REPORT FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Jeannette Kanter

Portland, Oregon, like Rochester, is a lovely city full of flowers, friendly people, and a Harry Potter Convention going on at the same time as the Hearing Loss Association's 28th Convention. Watching 5,000 teenagers sitting quietly on the floor in line waiting for their event to start was an incredible sight by itself. Because the Convention Center was a few blocks from the hotel, we all learned to take Portland's TriMet light rail system. Portland is also a bike friendly city.

This Convention was bitter sweet because of Brenda Battat's retirement. Brenda has been an outstanding Executive Director and we celebrated her achievements at the Banquet on Saturday evening. The excellent exhibit hall, a full day of activities for returning Veterans, and outstanding workshops, such as Sam and Janet Trychin on 'Hearing Loss and Intimacy,' and Douglas D. Backous, M.D. on "Technology and Surgical Technique to Save Remaining Hearing for Better Cochlear Implant Performance."

"Maximizing Hearing Technology for Every Listening Success" by Brad Ingrao, audiologist at Gallaudet, took us through a day in the life of "IM Haarduvheering," a fictitious character navigating his world. The first obstacle he encounters on the way to an appointment is in a building with marble floors and floor to ceiling windows, modern aluminum furniture--all of which contribute greatly to an echo sound that significantly interferes with his hearing. His ability to move quickly from that environment into a more friendly environment with carpeting, regular furniture, more wall space and less windows is a challenge for him. You can learn more about this and other interesting topics. Dr. Ingrao is a regular contributor to Hearing Loss Magazine.

There was a great deal of technology presented at the Convention both in the Exhibit Hall and in lectures--standards for telephones, especially smart phones, and other forms of telecommunication, TV and internet, including a lot on captioning. You can find the entire program online. Go to: www.Eventmobil/HLAA2013 If you know how to scan the QR code with your smart phone (writing in techie language to bring everyone up to date) the program will come right up. Don't be afraid to ask your grandchild how to do it; it's fun. Hearing aids are going mod!

Another highlight of the convention was having the opportunity to network with people from all across the country. The State/Chapter Development Workshops provide the perfect environment for this exchange of exciting ideas. Numerous states were well represented at every event and the national coordinator, Elizabeth LeBarron, facilitated these meetings superbly well, providing guidance and encouragement to all.

One of my favorite meetings was the Walk4Hearing Breakfast, and I heard ideas that will make our Walk even more successful next year!

Mark your calendars now for our **2014 Convention in Austin, Texas**. Everything at the Austin Convention will be located in one place making it very user friendly. We would love to see a large contingent from Rochester.

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!



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

October 13th – "Ghost"

November 10th – "War Horse"

December 15th – "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

February 16th – "Sister Act"

March 23rd – "Once"

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.**

Sept. 14th – "Pump Boys and Dinettes"

October 26th – "The 39 Steps"

December 1st – "A Christmas Carol"

January 11th – "Last Gas"

February 15th – "Clybourne Park"

March 22nd – "Informed Consent"

April 26th – "The Odd Couple"

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

“SHOUTING WON’T HELP” by Katherine Bouton:
One Woman’s Experience of Going Deaf
Review by Janet McKenna

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www.hearingloss.org.

Katherine Bouton, author of *“Shouting Won’t Help: Why I—and 50 Million Other Americans—Can’t Hear You”* (New York, Sarah Crichton Books, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013) was amazed that “48 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss, 17 per cent of the population.” Like Ms. Bouton (a New York-based HLAA member) they deny the fact of their declining hearing. This book exposes readers to one person’s trials of adult-onset hearing loss.

Ms. Bouton’s well-written and extensively researched memoir traces her sudden one-sided hearing loss as a thirty-year-old writer for the *New Yorker* through its slow bilateral decline until her present profound deafness at 65. Her inability to understand in noisy environments, on the telephone, and in the busy world led to forced retirement from her *New York Times* editorship.

Why Did My Hearing Vanish?

Ms. Bouton’s bumpy road to a cochlear implant would be revealing to people with newly diagnosed hearing loss. Friends, family, and associates of such folks could understand better the reactions and relationships accompanying this disability after reading the book.

Ms. Bouton repeats her great difficulty coming to terms with her deafness. She admits pestering her doctors and audiologists for a cause (“idiopathic.”) Ignoring it for the first twenty years, “existing in a relatively stable state of denial,” she writes, “when it could no longer be ignored, I spiraled into depression.” Even after receiving a cochlear implant from a top surgeon at a renowned New York hospital and pairing it with a hearing aid in her other ear, she will still “guess at what’s been said, and often get it wrong.” The extensive research is very current, almost all from 2010 and later. Ms. Bouton’s entertaining writing style makes technicalities accessible to non-scientists. Particularly fascinating is the saga of the trip to Turkey which she thought brought on her first hearing collapse. She explains inductive loops, noise as a major cause of deafness (“the majority of hearing loss in America is noise-related”), the “ugly stepsisters” of

tinnitus and vertigo, and assistive listening devices like FM systems. She presents cochlear implants, hearing aids and inner ears, although a few illustrations might have clarified them more.

Dementia and Regrowing Defective Hair Cells

As if hearing loss isn’t enough to plunge us into isolation, anger and grief, recent research shows possible association between hearing loss and dementia. The author extensively interviewed researchers at many academic institutions, particularly Johns Hopkins University about the dementia connection, and the University of Washington, where promising work on renewing damaged hair cells is progressing.

For the hard of hearing person who thinks they are the only one so afflicted, each chapter concludes with “Voices:” interviews of others with sensory-neural hearing loss.

Ms. Bouton discovered a whole world of assistive devices and coping behaviors on joining HLAA. At the Conventions of 2011 and 2012 she experienced loops and a congenial population of others who do not hear well.

This book should be in every public and medical library, in audiologists’ offices, and publicized at meetings of HLAA and other support groups.

DITCHING LAND LINE PHONES?

By Tim Whitcher

Recently, an article appeared in the *Democrat & Chronicle* that raised concern by some of our members. That article stated that eventually land line telephone service will disappear and be totally replaced by cellular service.

Those that depend on telephones such as CaptionCall™ and CapTel™ expressed concern about the future availability of captioning services should land line telephones become unavailable.

First, is the issue of service coverage. Thanks to the old Ma Bell, most remote but populated areas in the US have land line service even in areas without cellular service. It is unlikely there will ever be no service to such areas, as there is money to be made. (It all boils down to the return on investment to the service provider.) Additionally,

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DITCHING LAND LINE PHONES – continued

within a few years, the FCC should standardize captioning apps for smart cell phones so captioning will be available regardless of the phone type used. Secondly, there are means available to use your captioned, land line telephone with a cellular service or internet service. Therefore, it is not necessary to give up the comfort of a telephone with larger buttons and a larger screen for the display of captioning.

Many people have switched over to *Voice over Internet Protocol* (VOIP) which means telephone calls are handled through one's *Internet Service Provider* (ISP). One can subscribe to the ISP's VOIP telephone service, as well as their cable TV service. A downside to using VOIP for the telephone is if you lose your electric or Internet service you also lose phone service. Cellular service providers also have available devices to which you plug in your land line telephone and the device connects to the cellular service, in effect turning your land line telephone into a cell phone.

Newsletter Deadline

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST
(for the October Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@frontiernet.net

“CI GROUP: AURAL REHABILITATION FOLLOWING COCHLEAR IMPLANTS”

By Janet McKenna

Hookup is successful, and your new cochlear implant seems to function. Now what?

Megan Wightman, Au.D explains the benefits of aural rehab for implantees at the **“CI Group” meeting set for 5:00pm, Tuesday, Sept. 24**, at St. Paul's church.

What is aural rehab? Dr. Wightman explains what is involved in learning how to hear. She stresses rehab importance and describes the programs offered by each of the three CI companies. She also touches on FAQ about CI's, such as, scar tissue for future implanting, electrodes that die, T-coil position, and more.

Jeanne Fredriksen, a representative from Med-el, will present on the latest implants from Med-el.

Anyone interested in cochlear implants is welcome at the “CI Group” meetings.

THE GALA IS NEARLY HERE – AND YOU ARE INVITED!

By Meredith Low



The Gala Committee's members started working on the HLAA-Rochester Chapter's 30th anniversary event last October – 11 months ago! We want to invite **YOU** personally to the chapter's social event of the year!

We've worked hard (happily hard) to make the 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration *the place to be* on **Sunday, November 3rd from 2:00 – 5pm.**

Gala highlights include socializing with friends, making new ones, the food, and the Grand Ballroom of the Inn on Broadway. You'll enjoy a dance performed by the RIT/NTID Dancers, under the direction of chapter member **Thomas Warfield!**

Food Subcommittee members **Lisa Bailey** and **Barb Law** have selected a menu with something to appeal to everyone.

The Décor Subcommittee, **Trish Prosser** and **Mary Ann Coleman**, will be working with professional floral designer Claudia O'Hara, who is generously donating her time and expertise to help make the Gala a success!

Cindy Kellner is in charge of the Registration Subcommittee, which includes **Lisa Bailey**, **Ginger Graham**, and **Carol Loftus**.

Sue Miller is creating the Gala's name tags.

Don Bataille is looping the Grand Ballroom!

Virtually the entire 9-member Gala Committee has been giving a serious amount of their personal time to reading the chapter's award-winning Newsletters from the last 5 years, collecting information on chapter achievements, little-known facts, and history for the Gala's program booklet.

The Gala Committee thanks Amy Rau, the artist-owner of Green Girl Press, who designed the Invitation *pro bono*.

To make a reservation, please go to page 12 for the official Invitation.

(Ed.Note: Directions--From St. Paul's church it is just 1 mile. Go west on East Ave. (toward down town), past the Little Theatre on the right; over the Inner Loop, then Left turn on Broadway. A fence is in front of the Inn on Broadway, and the driveway for the parking lot is immediately after the fence.)

HLAA-ROCHESTER GIVES BACK

By Cindy Kellner



This year was extraordinary for HLAA-Rochester. In June, we awarded twelve local high school seniors with hearing

loss \$1,000 scholarships to help with the cost of their continued college education. All of the seniors were most appreciative. The awards were handed out at our Annual Dinner on June 18th.

Our scholarship program was begun in 1996 with a grant from Mr. & Mrs. J. Stuart MacDonald. With this year's awards, we are now proud to report that HLAA-Rochester has awarded \$70,500 to 86 recipients. That is amazing. Today most of our scholarship funds come from money raised at our annual Walk4Hearing held in May of every year. This year's awards were again made possible by a generous donation from the J. Stuart & Phyllis I. MacDonald Fund at the Rochester Area Community Foundation. We cannot thank them enough for participating with us in this worthy cause.

Our twelve recipients are all amazing young people who are determined that their hearing loss is not going to stand in their way of achieving their dreams. They are an inspiration to all of us.

Kojo Amoabin graduated from the Rochester City School for the Arts and will be attending NTID at RIT in the fall. Also attending RIT in the fall will be Cooper Norris from Fairport who attended Rochester School for the Deaf, Abigail Spring who graduated from Caledonia Mumford High School; Andre Webster and Ellie Holtje from Honeoye Falls Lima High School; and Paul Gentzke who graduated from Rochester School for the Deaf and is from Honeoye Falls. Shannon O'Grady and Alexandra Russo both graduated from Pittsford Sutherland High School. Shannon will be attending Hofstra University and Alexandra will be attending Ithaca College. Kelly Miller from Webster Schroeder High School will be attending Geneseo. Alysha Bachman will attend Keuka College and is from Seneca Falls where she attended the Mynderse Academy. From Churchville Chili High School is Elizabeth Sadler who will attend Roberts Wesleyan College. Jason Rehkop from Henrietta and a graduate of the Rochester School for the Deaf will be

attending Gallaudet University in the fall. We sincerely congratulate all of our 2013 Scholarship Award winners and wish them the best of luck in realizing their dreams.

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

This past year, our chapter members have enjoyed the opportunity to have the Daytime and Evening monthly meetings **captioned**, thanks to CaptionCall! This has fulfilled a wish for our chapter for almost 30 years. We have just learned that they are willing to provide this wonderful service again for the coming year!

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...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.

A THOUGHT TO LIVE BY...

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring—all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

(Leo Buscaglia)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have 145 friends and we want more.

Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

WORTH REMEMBERING

“I am just as **deaf** as I am blind. It is the sound of the voice that brings language, sets thoughts astir, and keeps us in the intellectual company of man. Blindness separates us from **things** but deafness separates us from **people.**”

(Helen Keller)

RHSC ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

By Scott Perkins

May 15th at Casa Larga Vineyards, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center held its annual President's Reception, following the annual meeting. Included were awards recognizing significant contributions, leadership efforts, and support that have helped further our mission.

Notable among the awards was the "President's Achievement Award," which is awarded annually to a community member who has demonstrated sustained commitment to helping people overcome hearing or speech/language challenges. RHSC president Thomas Gibbons presented this year's award to **Vern Thayer**. In Gibbons' words, "The recipient of this award has experienced profound hearing loss for most of his life. Yet he did not sit back and feel sorry for himself."

Along with **Sue Miller**, he helped launch a local chapter of "Self Help for the Hard of Hearing," which later became the Hearing Loss Association of America, and Vern served as its first vice president. Perhaps no individual in our community has done more to help people overcome hearing loss than this man who, at the age of 96, calls himself "the luckiest hard of hearing person in the country". Other awards were as follows: Doug MacKenzie – Communication for Life Award Nancy Huffman – James J. DeCaro Award Davenport-Hatch Foundation and Glover-Crask Charitable Trust – Building a Sound Community Award

More than 70 RHSC supporters, board and staff enjoyed music, refreshments and fellowship courtesy of Casa Larga Vineyards and the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center. For more information contact: Scott Perkins, RHSC Director of Marketing @ sperkins@rhsc.org.

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.

URMC Audiology & Support of HLAA

By Christy Monzynski Hopson, Au.D.

As Director of Clinical Services for URMC Audiology and URMC Audiology at Highland Hospital, I would like to take a few minutes to familiarize HLAA members with our organization. It came to my attention several months ago that given the size of the HLAA chapter, not all members are aware of the URMC program and its history of support for the organization.

As one of two non-profit organizations that perform audiologic testing and rehabilitation in the Rochester area, URMC Audiology has been a long-time supporter of HLAA. Both of our main outpatient offices (Clinton Woods and the Physician's Office Building at Highland Hospital) have ample brochures available for people that may benefit from the support that HLAA provides to adults with hearing loss, as well as to the parents of children identified with hearing loss. We've also participated in the Walk4Hearing many times and display signage and brochures each spring when this event occurs.

In addition, several current and former URMC Audiology staff and faculty have participated on the Professional Advisory Board for HLAA. A few recent appointees include: **Christina (Babian) Bauer, Au.D.**; **Matthew MacDonald, Au.D.**; and, **David Eddins, Ph.D.** Likewise, members of our staff frequently give invited lectures at chapter meetings, and URMC Audiology recently donated several ALDs to HLAA-Rochester.

In closing, I want to mention that I had the good fortune of speaking at the June 4, 2013 evening program where the topic of my presentation was "The Brain: Its Important Role in Understanding What We Hear." It was a pleasure to meet so many members in person and I thoroughly enjoyed this interaction. At URMC Audiology, we look forward to a continued good relationship with the HLAA organization.

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

By Sue Miller

Joe Damico has been a contributing HLAA chapter and board member for more than 25 years; but that alone isn't the reason he was awarded the Honorary Lifetime Board Membership at our Annual Dinner on June 18th.

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HONORARY BOARD MEMBERSHIP (cont.)

Mr. Damico has served on the Hospital/Healthcare, and also, the Technology Committees for numerous years. He is currently the chair of both our chapter and state Legislative Committees and staffs the community health fairs where our members participate. For years, Joe trudged a heavy bin of all the makings for coffee and refreshments to our Chapter's board meetings.

Joe was also the chapter's first recipient of our Annual SHHH/HLAA Chapter Award. He oversaw our first fund raiser about 25 years ago, a spaghetti dinner; but spaghetti isn't the only delicious entrée he is a star at making. For years, Joe brought a delectable homemade eggplant parmesan dish to our annual December Holiday Party.

Joe is consistently good natured and diligent in all the endeavors with which he is involved in our Chapter. The Rochester chapter is indeed honored and privileged to have presented Mr. Joseph G. Damico with this outstanding recognition. Thank you, Joe, for all you've done for our chapter...we are enormously grateful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 19, from 9:30 – 2:30pm

Health Fair at St. Ann's on Portland Ave.

If you can help or want details, contact Joe Damico at JGDamico@frontiernet.net.

Tues, Sept. 24, from 5:00 – 6:30pm

“Cochlear Implant Group” @ St. Paul's, in Vestry Room, light refreshments. Speaker: Megan Wightman, Au.D. For info, contact Jeannette.kanter@gmail.com.

Thursday, Oct. 10, from 9:30 – 4:30pm

Health & Fitness Fair at the Dome Arena.

If you can help or want details, please contact Joe Damico at JGDamico@frontiernet.net.

Thursday, Oct. 24, from 7:00 – 9pm

“NOW HEAR THIS” a presentation by chapter members to the First Congregational Church in Fairport.

October 24 – 26 – **“CI-2013 Symposium”**

Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
More info, go to: e-News@hearingloss.org.

June 2014 – **HLAA National Convention** in Austin, Texas.

June 2016 – **International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and our National Convention** in Washington, DC.

CAPTIONED MOVIES AT “NEW” THEATRE

By Kevin Deutsch, Manager

I would like to extend a personal thank you to all of our loyal guests for giving us such a wonderful response after our renovation ended in mid-June. Because of you, our theater is currently the #1 movie theater in the area!

From our electric red leather recliner seats, to the bigger screens, better sound systems, the new bathrooms, the open lobby layout, our new hot foods concession menu, and the ever popular Coke Freestyle Machines--we have received so many wonderful comments and letters commending us on the changes. Our proudest achievement of course, is the **ability to show Closed Captioning, Assisted Listening, and Descriptive Video in all twelve of our auditoriums**. We hope everyone gets a chance to experience the **new AMC Loews Webster 12 theatre**, and see how AMAZING it truly is!!

Subjects of Oct. 1st Chapter Meetings

Daytime –“Deaf Education in Ethiopia” –Mary Hamme, Catherine Beers (Nazareth students)

Evening –

HEARING LOSS MAGAZINE, JULY/AUG.2013

There often are interesting and informative articles in this magazine from National, and the July/August 2013 issue is a real winner!

--Interview with our former HLAA Executive Director, Brenda Battat, who retired July 8th – page 16

--“Traveling with Hearing Loss” – Lise Hamlin – with lots of tips, and also, how to contact TSA - page 20

--“Cochlear Implant-What to Expect Beyond Initial Activation” – Brad Ingrao – page 25

--Historical info –“HLAA Grassroots” - Elizabeth LeBarron - page 34.



2013 WALK4HEARING

By Sue Miller

Our Walk May 5th took place under sunny skies and warm temperatures. Channel 13 news anchor, **Ginny**

Ryan, introduced celebrity walkers, and asked **Mark Hargrave** to help countdown to launch the Walk.

The Walk drew one of the largest crowds ever with almost 450 people joining us, and over \$48,000 raised!

Our heartfelt THANKS to a number of people. Especially to **David Koon**, Chairman for the 2013 Walk!

Barb Law recruited and coordinated **37 Team Captains**. **Marlene Sutliff and her crew** working behind the refreshment tables.

Cindy Kellner & volunteers at the Registration tables.

Mary Chizuk's untiring efforts on The Silent Auction.

Art Maurer, Betty DePrez, Walk photographers.

Carol and Gerry Loftus staffed the Membership table.

Carol Bradshaw oversaw the T-shirts & hats table.

Sherri McCarthy coordinated children's activities.

Brian Ayers, Joe Ceravola, Bryan Law, Joe Mohring,

Devin Petz provided lively guitar music.

Just Clowning Around and their antics!

Boy Scout Troop #31, and also Troop #207.

The Sisters of Mercy who prayed all year for good weather on May 5th.

And sincere thanks to all the behind-the-scene helpers.

Grateful thanks to the Buffalo Hearing and Speech people who came and supported our Walk.

An extensive list appeared in our June Newsletter, as well as "Event Sponsors" and "In-Kind Donations."

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this annual event an outstanding success!

(photo provided by Art Maurer: Red Wings Mascot; Jim De Caro, Nancy Hargrave, Mark Hargrave, Sue Miller)

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 National is:

www.hearingloss.org.

UPDATE ON MONROE COUNTY'S NEW "TEXT TO 9-1-1" SERVICE

By Meredith Low

You've heard stories that texting while driving takes lives. Now hear this: Texting 9-1-1 can save lives.

The "Text-to-9-1-1" services started in Monroe County on June 20, 2013. The program was introduced at a press conference at the Monroe County Emergency Communications Department (ECD) on July 17th. County Executive Maggie Brooks, Rochester Mayor Tom Richards, ECD Director John Merklinger, and Operations Manager Tina Carson, who was responsible for making Text to 9-1-1 a reality in Monroe County, were present. Steuben County is the only other county in the State operating Text to 9-1-1. Eventually, it's expected to go nationwide.

The press conference was also attended by several members of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA and members of Rochester's large deaf community.

You may now send a text message to 9-1-1 **only on a Verizon phone, and only on Verizon phones that have texting capability.** Sprint, T-Mobile, AT&T will reportedly obtain this capability in May, 2014.

Text to 9-1-1 is intended for two emergency scenarios:

- for deaf or hard of hearing callers,
- for people who can't speak, either for medical reasons, or during a home invasion, abduction or other crime.

For Verizon Wireless customers in Monroe County:

- Customers should text 9-1-1 only when it's not possible to call from a landline or cell phone using one's voice. Using a voice phone to call 9-1-1 remains the most efficient way to reach 9-1-1. Texting *is not always instantaneous*; very important during a life-threatening emergency.
- Providing your name, location and type of emergency in your first text message is extremely important because the ECD will receive only an approximate location of your cell phone.
- 9-1-1 personnel will not be able to speak (using voice) with the person sending the text.
- Do not use slang or text abbreviations, or acronyms, such as HLAA, RSD, ABVI, etc.

(continued on page 11)

UPDATE...NEW "TEXT TO 9-1-1" (continued)

- If the person texting 9-1-1 is outside or near the edge of the county, the message may not reach 911. You'll receive a text message if your text did not reach 9-1-1.
- Texts sent to 9-1-1 have a 160-character limit, same as all text messages.
- Pictures, video, files should *not* be attached to text messages to 9-1-1.
- Do *not* copy or cc: other people into texts sent to the 9-1-1 center.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Barb Coughlin** who passed away in June after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a long-time member of our Chapter.

GET IN THE HEARING LOOP

By Stephen Frazier, excerpt from Hearing Loss Magazine, March/April 2013)

The installation of hearing loops in the US has accelerated dramatically since the creation of the HLAA/American Academy of Audiology "Get in the Hearing Loop" campaign.

There is currently no single clearinghouse for info on the looping movement but three different firms have mounted Internet sources and invite visitors to their websites to submit additions, deletions or corrections to the info they have posted. Although the keepers of each list are making a good faith effort to make them accurate and up to date, there is, of course, no guarantee that they are complete or that the loop at any location on the list is in working order.

List of Facilities with Hearing Loops: If you're planning to travel and want to locate a looped church, theater or other venue in your destination city, here are the three different national listings of such facilities:

www.aldlocator.com
www.hearinglosshelp.com/loopedbuildingsbystate.htm
www.loopamerica.com/loops.aspx

The "aldlocator" list is the newest...it is planned to include not just looped facilities but those with infrared and FM listening systems. For more info, go to: www.hearingloss.org, and click on Hearing Help, then Technology, then Loop Technology.

HLAA-ROCHESTER'S ANNUAL DINNER

By Cindy Kellner



Our Chapter's 2012-2013 Annual Dinner was once again held at the beautiful Cobblestone Creek Country Club on the 18th of June. The weather was gorgeous and the event was a huge

success. Our wonderful chapter President **Elise De Papp** hosted the dinner and, as usual, was both witty and wise. Lovely pots of pansies decorated the tables, and 69 people attended.

Board member **Pete Fackler** was recognized for his outstanding service to our Chapter. **Joseph Damico**, a longtime active member of our Chapter was honored with a lifetime Honorary Board Membership in recognition of his many years of service and advocacy. The Community Service Award was given to **Daniel Meyers** from the Al Sigl Center, and the publication "In Good Health" was awarded the Community Organization Award in recognition of their ongoing support of HLAA-Rochester.

Our four outgoing PAC members, **Paul Allen PhD, Nancy J. Carr, Allen Ford and Scott Perkins** were thanked and their hard work and dedication was also acknowledged. Board member **Cindy Kellner** was presented with the Chapter's coveted Distinguished Service Award. Eight of our twelve scholarship winners and their families were in attendance. The scholarship recipients were all recognized at the podium.

All in all, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the ending of another great year for our chapter and to recognize all of those who are involved with HLAA-Rochester.

Thanks to **Sue Miller, Mary Chizuk and Barb Law** for all their work in making the evening such a success. A special thanks to **Linda Siple** for her interpreting services.

(photo by Al Suffredini: Barb Law presenting our Chapter Award to Cindy Kellner)

WORTH REMEMBERING

"I never made one of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking."

(Albert Einstein)

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From left to right: Peggy, Joe, Joan

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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**

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*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

Yes, I need transportation to meetings

Check type of contribution

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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

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, 585-475-6712, 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 rear door next to the fence.

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