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April 2015

APRIL Calendar

Tuesday, April 7th

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

Tues., April 14th – Board of Directors
7:00-9pm, 1st floor CR, Al Sigl Center

Tues., April 21st - PAC – 7:00 -9 pm –
1st floor CR, Al Sigl Center

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Sunday, May 3rd – Walk4Hearing (see page 10)

Tues., May 12th – Board of Directors
7:00 – 9pm, 1st floor CR, Al Sigl Center

Tues., June 16th - Annual Dinner, 6-9pm,
Cobblestone Creek Country Club

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 April:

Daytime Meeting – Joan Kohler, Margaret Stasiuk
Evening Meeting – Lisa Brooks, Bernice Rayburn
Board of Directors –Carol and Gerry Loftus

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

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!

Happy Easter

APRIL PROGRAMS

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

Tues., April 7th –Daytime Meeting – 11am
Speaker begins at Noon

**“HELLO, HLAA? PLEASE HELP ME:
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW
ABOUT HEARING LOSS BUT WERE
AFRAID TO ASK” - Barbara Isamin-Bushart
MSW, MDiv**

585 266 7890. Ring, ring...

"You have reached the Rochester Chapter of Hearing Loss Association. Please leave your message slowly and clearly. " What do callers to the HLAA-Rochester telephone line ask?

Barbara will review real calls received by the chapter telephone line and respond to them as an imaginary call-in program. She will play the hostess. She says her program "will be presented with a mix of humor, sensitivity to issues presented, and practical suggestions and tips for people with hearing loss."

(continued on next page)

April 7th Daytime Meeting - (continued)

A long-time associate of HLAA-Rochester, Barbara teaches at Empire State College in the Community and Human Services Department. She has been a disability rights advocate and community educator for over 25 years, emphasizing work with hearing loss, Deaf, and Deaf/Blind issues. She is also co-pastor of Community of the Savior, a Free Methodist Church in Rochester.

Tues., April 7th –Evening Meeting – 7:00pm Speaker begins at 8:00pm

“ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF AT WORK” Panel Discussion

The discussion’s goal is to prepare people with hearing loss to address or optimize how they present their disability in the workplace. The panel will consider issues that they could face in order to contribute fully on the job. These may include smaller tasks, like identifying their hearing loss or requesting specific communication techniques; or, more complicated tasks, like requesting purchase of an assistive listening device. Also to be discussed are what elements make a position more or less stressful for a person with hearing loss.

Panelists tentatively are: **Don Bataille**, Hearing Loops Unlimited; **Daniel Brooks**, New York Life; **Margaret Cochran**; **Catherine Lee**, Rochester Regional Health System; **Mary Ellen Tait**, NTID.

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. Enter through door on Westminster Rd. 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.

HLAA NATIONAL CONVENTION



At the St. Louis, MO,
Union Station Hotel

Keynote Speaker: Charles
A. Laszlo, Ph.D. –
“Advances, Obstacles and
Solutions in a Changing

World.” + St. Louis Cardinals vs. Chicago Cubs baseball

Hotel reservations at

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/STLUSDT-HLA-20150619/index.jhtml>, or phone:

1-855-271-3620. With the Chicago Cubs in town that weekend, hotel rooms will become scarce!

Go to: www.hearingloss.org.

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

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

By Cindy Kellner



Why we Walk. Why we Give!

Notwithstanding the fact that, as I write this it feels very much like winter will never end, I do know that Spring and warmer temperatures will be here soon. With Spring comes HLAA Rochester’s annual and only fundraiser – our Walk4Hearing. As in the past, it will be held on the first Sunday in May at Perinton Park in Fairport. Believe it or not, it is our tenth Walk.

The question was posed to me recently – “Why do you walk?” The answer was so easy and so obvious to me. You may guess that I replied “to raise money.” But, you are wrong. I walk not necessarily to raise money, but rather to put a meaningful and positive face on hearing loss. I know that I am not alone in this thinking. The more of us that turn out on that first Sunday in May, either as a walker, a worker, a contributor or a cheerleader, the more hearing loss comes out of the shadows.

(continued on page 3)

President's Column (continued)

It is so important, in my opinion, that the community sees us and hopefully in great numbers. Assuming the weather cooperates we will be out there—smiling, happy and hopefully not too bundled up to face the elements. Either way, those participating or merely observing will feel the energy of people who care deeply for a cause. Observers will see young and old, and people of all ethnic groups and backgrounds coming together to make the statement “We care and we are not ashamed.”

Hearing loss definitely needs to come out of the shadows. There are, last I heard, approximately 48 million of us out there trying to navigate life in a world that is not always so accepting and accommodating. The Walk is one way to accomplish making the community aware of our cause and that is why I walk.

Please don't get me wrong. I also walk to raise money. Fundraising is important to HLAA- Rochester, but it is not the end all. I am proud to be associated with a group whose mission is to support, educate and advocate and not just to raise money. I really doubt I would give of myself quite so much if we were always begging for money. That is out of my comfort range.

HLAA-Rochester has been blessed as a not-for-profit to have been given sizable donations in the past that have made us financially healthy. However, we as a group have goals, and the Board of Directors takes seriously its responsibility to keep HLAA-Rochester financially strong for decades to come. Perhaps we can be called frugal with the sums left to us, but frankly, I have been called much worse!

We, as an organization, want to live on what we earn while safeguarding our group's future. This is where the Walk comes in. We do need the funds raised by the Walk to help us make Rochester accessible and accommodating by, among other things, looping the Rochester community and aiding the acquisition of captioning equipment. We need our Walk money to fund the scholarships we award to impressive young people with hearing loss who are furthering their education. These young people are our ambassadors and we have so much hope for them. There is so much more that we do with our Walk funds – education and outreach, maintaining both our award winning Newsletter and web page, funding our camp scholarships, continuing our investment in technology, just to name a few. No question our Walk money is money wisely spent.

A significant portion of our Walk proceeds is also shared with our national organization. Our funds help among other things, to continue the extremely important advocacy work that our National office continues to do on behalf of all of us with hearing loss. This cannot be underestimated at all. It is vital to support National if we seriously want to change things. There is no question in my mind that there is strength in numbers. I am proud to support National's ongoing efforts on our behalf.

So there you have it. That is why I walk and why I give. I hope you will join me on **Sunday, May 3rd** and feel the energy of an amazing group of people. You do not need to walk, nor financially donate, if such is not feasible. Remember, that is not our goal. Please come out and join all of us as we try hard, once again, to have our voices heard.



SAVE THE DATE!

PLANNING THE PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CHAPTER MEETINGS

Are you tired of “the same old subjects” at our Chapter meetings? We hope not!! But we do need your input and **new ideas for programs!** Please plan to attend either the Daytime Program Planning meeting held by Sue Miller, or, the Evening Planning meeting held by Barb Law, to give them your ideas for possible topics for the new season from September, 2015, to June, 2016.

Planning meeting for DAYTIME sessions:

Tues., July 7th, 10:00 am at Sue Miller's home, 16 Buckthorn Run, Victor.

Planning meeting for EVENING sessions:

Tues., July 7th, 6:00 pm, Barb Law, Al Sigl Center; light refreshments.

Note that both meetings are on the same day!

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

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

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!

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

April 19 – Anything Goes
May 17 – Kinky Boots

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

GEVA Theatre Offering Captioned Plays!

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

April 4 – The Mountaintop
May 9 – Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike

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

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

NYS SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING CONVENTION

By Janet McKenna

“Technology: Changing the Face of Our Profession” – April 23 – 25 at the Hyatt Regency Rochester & Riverside Convention Center. Workshops are presented for speech language professionals and audiologists with focus on both children and adults as patients. For more info, go to: www.nysslha.org.

(excerpt from “The B.I.G. News,” the Buffalo Implant Group Newsletter)



For Your Donation to HLAA:

C. Kellner, J. Leisner, T. McNamara;
Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Trust Fund; United Way

For Your Donation Above Basic Membership:

M. Cochran; E. de Papp, M.D.; M. Hearn

In Memory of Charles and Toni Frame:

S. Miller

In Memory of Mark Hargrave:

F. Altrieth, G. Graham, S. Miller

In Memory of Natalie Robertson:

F. Altrieth, G. Graham, S. Miller

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



HELP 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!

SILENT AUCTION – HELP NEEDED!

By Cindy Kellner



Although the thought of walking for hearing is crazy in this cold weather, it will be here sooner than you think. May 3rd is just around the corner.

One of the fundraising aspects of the Walk is the Silent Auction. **Mary Chizuk** has graciously agreed to be in charge of this event again this year. It is a lot of fun and a great way to get some wonderful bargains. We do, however, need your help. Mary will soon be accepting any items you have. Items should be handmade or new and of interest to the general public.

One of the most popular items Mary auctions off is gift cards to local restaurants and stores. If you have a favorite restaurant or store that you regularly frequent why not ask them for a donation the next time you are there. There is a very good chance that once you explain why you are asking, the donation will be made. It never hurts to try and the contribution will be greatly appreciated. This is just one more way you can help us reach our goal for this year's 10th Walk. If you would like further information or have any questions please contact Cindy Kellner at ckellne1@rochester.rr.com or Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller@cs.com. Thanks!



COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

By Janet McKenna

Introducing MED-EL Cochlear Implants

Tuesday, May 19th, 5:00pm in the Vestry Room, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Avenue at Westminster Road, across from George Eastman House. Enter through door from parking lot on Westminster Rd.

Welcome! Are you considering an implant? Do you want to explore your options and learn about another implant? Would you like to exchange experiences and network with other local implant users?

Well-known in Europe, MED-EL will introduce its latest cochlear implant, "Synchrony," to the CI Group's spring meeting. MED-EL implants are relatively new to Rochester. We are fortunate to be able to see another option for prospective CI candidates. The company says that "Synchrony" offers improved MRI safety.

You are invited to learn more from MED-EL representative Rachel Franklyn.

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.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families and friends for the loss of –

Lourine Miller Beckmann, mother of **Scott Miller (Sue)** who passed February 19th. She would have been 97 years old April 3rd.

Sister of **Dan Brooks (Lisa)**. She passed on February 15th.

Charles Beahan Frame, and his wife, Mignon "Toni" Phillips Frame, who passed February 8th and 2nd. Charles was Co-President of our Rochester chapter, with Barb Law.

Natalie Robertson passed February 8th. She had worked on several committees, was a member of our Board of Directors, and she served as BOD secretary for several years.

WELCOME FROM TOWN OF PERINTON!



It is with great pride I welcome the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association to the Town of Perinton again! This annual event certainly shows your commitment to the national

HLAA's mission statement to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, advocacy and support. I am very excited about Perinton's role in hosting the Rochester Chapter's 10th annual 5K Walk4Hearing on Sunday, May 3rd!

Congratulations on a decade of caring and commitment to this cause. What better place to host a 5K walk than Trail Town USA? The site of your walk, the Erie Canal Heritage Trail, was one of the three trail systems in Perinton that helped earn us this national honor. It is a community asset of which we are very proud.

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

Perinton wishes you balmy spring weather and a great turnout!

Yours,

(signed)

Michael G. Barker, Perinton Town Supervisor

SMART PHONE APPS FOR HEARING LOSS

(continued from our March 2015 Newsletter)

(excerpt from Diablo Valley Chapter Newsletter, 11/13/14)

Dictation – Dragon Dictation; Siri, iPhone you can use it to write notes.

Disaster Help --Alerts4me, NCIT Disaster Alert.

Hearing Tests -- Hearing Test, Siemens; Hearing Screener, Starkey; uHear; Unitron.

Information -- TED + Sub.



“YELLOW DOT” PROGRAM

By Ginger Graham

A program was started by the NYS Sheriff's Association. It helps Emergency Responders provide prompt care in the event of a car accident by placing your medical emergency info inside your glove box.

You place the yellow dot on the rear window, driver's side, and it will alert EMTs to look in the glove box for your medical info. The yellow sheet of medical info that you fill out is easy to do.

(The yellow dot decal can also be placed on or beside your front door. An Emergency Responder will look in your freezer for the medical info.)

Most Town Halls have these yellow dots and forms. Or, go to: www.nysheriffs.org/yellowdot or, go to : www.monroecounty.gov click on “department” then “sheriff” then “yellow dot program.”

DID YOU KNOW?

In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods. They have never forgotten this.

(author unknown)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies. *(author unknown)*

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 4th year in a row. With special thanks to our members, **Bruce and Candi Nelson, and Tim Whitcher**.

SAVE THESE DATES !

Tuesday, April 21st – PAC meeting
 Sunday, May 3rd – Walk4Hearing
 Tuesday, May 19th – Cochlear Implant group
 Tuesday, June 16th – Annual Dinner

Watch upcoming Newsletters for more details!

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Tues., June 16th

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...and, with perfect weather!

TAX DEDUCTION FOR DONATION



You can take a tax deduction, if you itemize your taxes, for donating used hearing aids for the Lions Club to **Joe Kozelsky**, Webster Hearing

Center, 680 Ridge Road, Webster, NY 14580; phone: 585-787-0660, and don't forget to request a receipt.

Newsletter Deadline

SATURDAY, MARCH 28th
 (for the May Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@frontiernet.net



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org. **Michelle Gross** is our Web Master and she is updating our website. (**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 V. McGrain, NTID)

NTID offers online speech recognition test. Self-screening test can determine whether hearing aids may help. Test is free and can be found at: <https://apps.ntid.rit.edu/NSRT>.

(submitted by Steve Frazier, New Mexico)

The current bill before the Utah legislature may help other states where similar efforts are being made...trying to get a rule mandating telecoil counseling during the sale of hearing aids.

Go to:

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillhtm/HB0112.htm>

(info from HLAA Diablo Valley 2/10/15)

A Hearing Aid Tax Credit has been re-introduced in Congress. Let your congressperson know you support this bill. The Better Hearing Institute has set up a page (February 8) to provide assistance.

Go to: www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org.

(submitted by Al Suffredini)

From Hearing Health Foundation:

Safe and Sound Program. Go to: hearinghealthfoundation.org/safe-and-sound.

Kid-friendly studio-grade Bluetooth wireless headphones with volume limiting ear protection. Go to:

www.hearinghealthfoundatiion.org/pressreleases?articleid=77.

DID YOU KNOW?

“Ahead of Her Time – Susan B. Anthony learned to read and write by age 3.”

(Old Farmer's Almanac 2014)

Subjects of May 5th Chapter Meetings

Daytime: “Cochlear Implants” –
Dr. Paul Dutcher

**Evening: “ADA and Hearing Loss in the
Workplace and elsewhere” –** Jessica Witenko,
Associate Attorney specializing in employment
law.

MORE ‘SIGN LANGUAGE’ STUDENTS SIGNAL A SHIFT *(By Elizabeth Weise, USA TODAY)*

American Sign Language is close to surpassing German as the third most-studied foreign language at America’s colleges and universities. Only 4,500 more students study German than study ASL, and enrollment in classes for the gesture-based language used by the deaf increased 16% since the last survey 3 years ago. The top language studied in 2009 was Spanish followed by French.

“The percentage of students who studied a foreign language was highest in 1965,” says Rosemary Feal, executive director of the Modern Language Association, which conducts the tri-annual survey.

An estimated 20 million Americans have measurable hearing loss, and ASL is the primary language of 250,000 to 500,000 people, says Kristen Harmon, a professor of English at Gallaudet University, the world’s only liberal arts college for the deaf and hard of hearing, in Washington, DC.

ASL has different grammar and structure than English. It appeals to students who have deaf friends or family, are interested in health care, have a preference for visual learning and even scuba dive, Harmon said through an interpreter.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **223** friends and we want more.

Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

(Facebook coordinator: Jennifer Hurlburt)

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES

By Cindy Kellner

HAAA-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 awarded to local high school seniors further pursuing their education and who have hearing loss. The initial Program was made possible by the 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 their higher education either through college 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 through our web site: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or by contacting Cindy Kellner at ckellne1@rochester.rr.com. The application deadline is **APRIL 3rd, 2015**. Please help us spread the word.

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

THINGS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY...

*By Andy Rooney, 60 Minutes USA;
suggested by Ginny Koenig*

I've learned...

...that just one person saying to me, “You’ve made my day!” really makes my day.

...that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with!

...that we should be glad God doesn’t give us everything we ask for.

...I’ve learned...that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

SUNDAY, MAY 3rd, 2015!

WALK4HEARING 5K

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

Registration at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Walkers start at 10:00 a.m.



Come and join us for the HLAA Rochester chapter's only annual fundraiser. Walk4Hearing is now in its 10th year raising and providing funds for, among other things, scholarships for high school seniors going on to postsecondary education,

live captioning for theater performances at the Rochester Broadway Theater League, GEVA, and numerous other local theatres, and assisting national HLAA in its support, education and advocacy of millions of people with hearing loss, and so much more.

We need your support! How can you help? Become a team captain and gather a group to walk on Walk Day. Become a walker and walk along the beautiful Erie Canal. You don't have to walk the entire 5K. Any distance you walk is fine. Don't care to walk? Show up and root for us! There will be lots of fun. Breakfast, clowns, face painting, music, and a silent auction full of great gift cards and other goodies from local merchants. In addition, there will be a supervised play area for the kids while you walk!

We also need **event sponsors**. If you know of any business you think would be willing to sponsor us, please let us know. Email: ckellne1@rochester.rr.com. Watch our Newsletters for more details.

Mark your calendar today for this exciting event: Sunday morning, **May 3rd**, and see you at the WALK!

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.

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.

HEARING LOSS, HEARING AIDS, HLAA

By Dr. Keith Roach, D&C 2/9/15

Dr. Roach writes: I have received more letters about **hearing loss** than I would have believed possible. Most of the advice I received was consistent, so let me review what both professionals and people who have been through the process of getting hearing aids have advised.

First, have realistic expectations about what a hearing aid can do. It does not make your hearing what it was 50 years ago. Loud noises can be painfully over-amplified.

Second, find someone who really knows what he or she is doing. The people whose technicians spent a lot of time teaching, discussing the different options and adjusting them after purchase were the most satisfied. (The adjustment period can take weeks).

Third, be prepared to spend some money. Good hearing aids are expensive.

Fourth, try many models. Some people prefer in-the-ear, some over-the-ear. Because it takes a long time to get used to them, you have to wear them pretty much constantly. Both your ears and your brain need time to adjust, so be patient.

Finally, several people and one chapter president wrote to me about the **Hearing Loss Association of America (www.hearingloss.org)** and the benefit they gained from visiting their local chapter and sharing their experiences.

*(copied with permission from Dr. Roach.
ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu)*

Our Rochester Chapter welcomes everyone with, or without, a hearing loss. We meet in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. and Westminster Rd., across from the George Eastman House. (You may park there, if needed.) All meetings are audio-looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only*. Go to: lasnss@rit.edu. Entrance is via the Westminster Rd. door, down the corridor to the end, into the large Parish Hall. Welcome!

DIGITAL HEARING LOOPS

By Don Bataille

Your hearing aids are digital, your phone is digital and now your hearing loop is digital. Contacta Hearing Loop Systems recently launched their HLD series digital hearing loop drivers with some very interesting features. Physically, the HLD digital units look very different and are about a third of the size of earlier hearing loop drivers. The input and loop signal controls and LED indication lights are located on the front of the unit for ease of set up and calibration. (The older models had indication lights on the front of the unit and control settings on the back of the unit.) The new units require less current, are more energy efficient and meet the full IEC standard.



Contacta HLD7

The most interesting feature is improved performance capability, especially at high frequency levels where music is heard. Music is becoming a major part of hearing loop use and the HLD series responds very well. At a recent "blind" listening event using an average-sized loop that fit all of the vendors' model requirements, the overwhelming comment when listening to music was: "the HLD7 driver reproduces music like it was meant to be heard; that's music to my ears!"

The HLD series produces a solid clean distortion free signal and can be set up in tandem units for larger venues or a phased array hearing loop designed to provide an excellent loop signal at different listening heights. This translates into greater hearing loop design flexibility meeting venue requirements and lower cost. The HLD7 can be experienced at the Memorial Art Gallery Auditorium, United Church of Pittsford, Community of Our Savior Church on Mt Hope and the newly renovated Ontario Room, Al Sigi Center in the Rochester, NY area and the Zion Episcopal Church in Greene, NY.

Donald Bataille, Architect, is owner of Hearing Loops Unlimited, providing commercial and residential hearing loop systems. Don is an active HLAA-Rochester Chapter member and hearing loop activist promoting hearing loops in public places. Don can be contacted at don@bataille.us.

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

NEWS FROM NATIONAL HLAA...

[HLAA Files Comments on Hearing Aid Compatible Cell Phones](#)

HLAA is working to see the day when all hearing aids and cochlear implants link to any cell phone so well that consumers never hear the sound of annoying interference ever again. In fact, we have long sought rules that would mean that all cell phones would be hearing aid compatible. The FCC has asked for comments in their latest Public Notice, and HLAA responded, with the help of other consumer groups, ALDA, TDI, NAD and DHHCAN. In these comments, we urge the FCC to require all wireless mobile phones to be hearing aid compatible. At a time when consumers are abandoning landline phones at record rates, it simply makes sense that the FCC act to ensure consumers with hearing loss do not have to struggle to find a phone that works well with their hearing aid or cochlear implant.

[HLAA Supports the Reintroduction of the Hearing Aid Tax Credit in the Senate](#)

Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) reintroduced the bipartisan Hearing Aid Tax Credit (Senate Bill 315) on January 29, 2015, which would provide a \$500 credit to people who need a hearing aid. The bill is unchanged from legislation in the 113th Congress which was championed by Senators Heller and Tom Harkin of Iowa, now retired. Senator Heller is a member of the Senate Finance Committee which has jurisdiction over all tax legislation including the HATC bill.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The term 'The Big Apple' was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930s who used the slang expression 'apple' for any town or city. Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time --The Big Apple.

(author unknown)

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.

NOMINATIONS FOR OUR CHAPTER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Elise de Papp, M.D., Chairperson



The Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions from HLAA-Rochester members of names of those who might be interested in serving on our Board of Directors (BOD). Currently we have the full quota of 21 members, but it's possible some may retire in June.

Besides interest, membership is required in National HLAA. (BOD meetings are open to HLAA-R members but only BOD members may debate or vote.) For the current list of BOD members, please see the last pages of any of our Newsletters.

You can email your nominee now to: Edepapp1@rochester.rr.com, or, at both the daytime and the evening Chapter meetings in April, we will be looking for your suggestions for new members. Please be thinking about this now.



Sincere birthday greetings to **Burt Foos**, who will be 90 years young, on April 25th. Congratulations and many more healthy and happy years!

MEMBERS MAKING NEWS...

David Koon featured in the D&C article of 2/23/15 on "911 and better tracking of cell phone calls"—He won a state Assembly seat in 1996 and led the national push for establishing a 911 emergency system for cell phones. David sponsored state legislation to pay for development of enhanced wireless emergency service throughout the state. In 2004, Monroe County's 911 center added technology that allowed operators to locate cell phone users. "The FCC has to push this. You've got to keep pushing it until you get 100%," says David.

Jimmie Sorrento is featured on the cover of "B.I.G. News" Issue 1, 2015, and he wrote about "My Cochlear Journey." Jimmie frequently attends our meetings coming from Buffalo.

OUR CHAPTER'S PAST PRESIDENTS

By Sue Miller

The presidents originally served for one year, after serving as VP for one year; however, most now stay for two years.

2014 – Cindy Kellner
 2013 – Elise de Papp, M.D.
 2012 – David Koon/ Elise de Papp, M.D.
 2011 – Don Bataille
 2010 – Don Bataille
 2009 – Joe Kozelsky
 2008 – Joe Kozelsky
 2007 – Mary Chizuk

Our Rochester Chapter is fortunate in having interested and caring people to keep us moving forward and to keep our Chapter strong.

Happy Easter



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*Non-Board Member

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 September through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability.

For more information, Call
585-266-7890

Professional Advisors

2013 - 2015

*Doug Klem
 Catherine D. Lee
 Kendra Marasco
 Rebecca Van Horn*

2014 - 2016

*Michael A. Giardino
 Anne Kingston
 John R. Macko
 Jennifer Mathews*

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

^^

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@frontiernet.net

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

Individual \$10 Friend of HLAA \$25
 Corporate \$50 Supporting \$100

Name _____
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Please make check payable to: HLAA-Rochester, and send to: Ms. Joanne Owens, 1630 Woodard Road, Webster, NY 14580

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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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 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, 585-475-6712, 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 Westminster Rd. door, down the corridor to the end, into the large Parish Hall room.

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