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February 2015

FEBRUARY Calendar

Tuesday, February 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 – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Feb. 10th – Board of Directors

7:00-9pm, Al Sigl Center
(room location will be via email from Tim Whitcher)

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., March 10th – BOD meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

Wed., March 11th - Kick-off for Walk4Hearing

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 February:

Daytime Meeting – Brian Fox, Nancy/Doug Meyer
Evening Meeting – Lisa Bailey
Board of Directors – Mary Chizuk, Margaret Cochran

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

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



FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

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

February’s programs are both about technology. Augment your hearing aids or cochlear implant with the latest communication devices and systems. Join us to find out how.

Tues., Feb. 3rd – Daytime Meeting 11:00 am

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR HEARING AIDS: Looping, Streaming and T-coils – Donald Bataille

Hearing aids typically provide good speech clarity at normal conversation distances of two to five feet. But the quality of a speaker’s voice falls off over longer distances and may become garbled or distorted due to environmental factors. Assistive listening systems can make your hearing aids work better.

Don Bataille reviews the pros and cons of different assistive listening systems such as personal hearing loop and streaming devices, iPad and iPhone applications, and other wired and wireless systems. Participants will have the opportunity to try out and compare different technologies on-site.

Past chapter president Donald Bataille is a Registered Architect providing architectural and acoustical consulting services. He owns Hearing Loops Unlimited, a firm which designs and installs hearing

(continued on next page)

Feb. 3rd Daytime Meeting - (continued)

loop systems. He is the vice-chair of the UR Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) initiative. In 2014, he was honored with the HLA President's Award for his long and diligent history of bettering the lives of people with hearing loss.

Tues., Feb. 3rd, Evening Meeting – 7:00pm**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH INTERNET TECHNOLOGY** – Carmen Coleman and Elise de Papp, M.D.

Even if you are older than a “millennial” you can benefit from social media. “Social media” is a broad term for “online communication channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content sharing and collaboration,” according to the Internet. Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are examples.

HLAA-Rochester Board of Directors member Carmen Coleman explains how these social media enhance the ability of people with hearing loss to communicate with others online or via their smart phones. Fellow Board member Elise de Papp, M.D., describes “InnoCaption,” a new application for smart phones--the latest application giving smart phone users captioning capability.

Carmen Coleman is the president and CEO of Lifetime Financial Group. As a financial planner, she handles insurance and securities. She holds an MBA and is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor, writing five different “blogs.”

Elise de Papp, M.D., is a retired pathologist and former chapter president. In addition to her advocacy for people with hearing loss, Dr. de Papp is a veteran horsewoman who competes in dressage events.

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 & 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

Early-bird Registration for
Convention

January 31 – March 31

Rate: \$150

+banquet +off-site event

Go to: www.hearingloss.org.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Cindy Kellner



Now that the holidays are safely behind us, it is time for action. No longer should we, or can we for that matter, sit idly by and let more time pass without a change. Frankly, it is unacceptable. When it comes to hearing loss, we all have our specific pet peeves. I have shared many of my hearing loss “buttons” with you in this column. However, having just endured minor surgery I have concluded that it is time for all of us to work together and educate the medical profession about the specific needs of the hearing loss community. It is an area that universally will touch us all at some point and, it is time to use our collective voices to let those that we entrust our health to know our concerns. While the medical profession generally tries to be very accommodating to all sorts of disabilities and challenges, I do believe, based on my specific experiences, that those of us with hearing loss are sadly left out of the accommodation process. While the medical field readily accommodates Deaf people (those that communicate through the use of American Sign Language “ASL”) by offering the services of an interpreter, they have not yet compiled an accommodation plan for those of us who cannot hear, but do not know ASL. This has been my experience consistently, and I feel strongly that it's time to make a change.

While recently undergoing surgery for carpel tunnel problems as well as some corrective surgery for damage done by rheumatoid arthritis I was once again sadly reminded of how far we have to go to level the playing field for those of us with hearing loss. Initially I thought that my hearing loss would pose less of a problem

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (*continued*)

because I was only having local anesthesia and thus would be awake for the entire process, plus I could wear my hearing aid. Boy, was I wrong! If anything, being awake and not being able to understand all that is being said while being operated on is a terrifying and very isolating experience. It was sometime during this process that I realized that this has to change. The barriers to my being able to effectively communicate through this process were many.

To begin with all of the surgeons and nurses in the OR were wearing masks. Wonderful. Any chance I had at lip reading went out the window. Not only did the masks cover their mouths, but it also caused their voices to be muffled. Are there not any clear masks I kept wondering? The answer to that is yes. According to online searches, such masks do exist. Whether such are readily available to your particular doctor and staff is a question that needs to be asked by you well before entering the OR. Foolishly, I did not even think of this possibility until after the process. Believe me. This question now is on my medical checklist.

I foolishly went into my procedure without having educated my doctor beforehand about exactly what I would need to help me communicate during the process. It was pure hit and miss as I struggled through the half hour not knowing clearly what was going on and sadly, what was expected of me. Clearly the OR is no place for bluffing. Of course, in my particular situation communicating was impossible as the OR nurse had placed a sheet over my head, making me a little fort which was designed to shield my eyes from seeing the cutting and stitching that was going on. Sadly, this little fort totally squashed any hope I had of hearing anything. I could not even see the people to be able to gather clues as to what was going on via body language. Nope, I heard nothing but muffles. To make matters worse, music of some sort was being played in the background for the enjoyment of the OR personnel. All in all, it was a prescription for total isolation and it wasn't good.

Surgery itself is no picnic, but then add nothing but garbled, muffled speech and you really have an upsetting and stressful situation.

I didn't freak, but I must admit that it was an extremely unpleasant experience for me. I was really hard on myself after the procedure for not taking the time to make a plan with my provider prior to the date of surgery. There was a pre-op visit and while I did tell my

surgeon numerous times that I do not hear very well, I never once took the time to ask how my hearing loss could best be accommodated given the particular situation. That is where I erred. Sure, in a perfect world there would be in place a whole checklist of things to be done to help the hearing loss community, but sadly, we are not there yet. The burden is on us to take control of the situation and this must be done before hand. I cannot help but think that had I discussed my hearing loss concerns before the date of surgery, my surgeon and I would have come up with something to replace the isolating "fort" and ways to help me understand what was going on and what was expected of me.

I am proud to say that HLAA-Rochester is working on this issue with our local hospitals. Just this past November we hosted at our evening Chapter meeting **Elizabeth Ballard**, a representative from Strong Health, who discussed services for people with hearing loss in the hospital setting. In addition, one of our Board members, **Dr. Elise de Papp** has been actively discussing "hearing loss and the patient" with members of the Strong Health staff. However, many accommodations are very specific to the type of procedure involved and will require a one-on-one discussion with your medical provider. Do not be intimidated to ask for help. Surgery is not fun any way you look at it. Please learn from my mistake and discuss in advance what will be involved and what can be done to maximize your ability to understand. Knowing what is going on is vital. You deserve nothing less. Please be good to yourself and ask for what you deserve and are entitled to. Above all, please be well.

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

WORDS TO LIVE BY....

"Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope." (*Maya Angelou*)

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!

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

March 15 – Annie

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**

February 28 – Women in Jeopardy!

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.

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.

HISTORICAL FACT

February 12, 1915—100 years ago—construction began on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was completed in 1922.

(Old Farmer's Almanac 2015)



For Your Donation to HLAA:

Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Trust Fund

For Your Donation Above Basic Membership:

A. Conte; D. Hartman; K. Hubbard; P. Irr;
E. Kanter; S. and E. Kanter; ML. Lovette;
J. McMillan; A. and J. Metcalfe; P. Pogue;
C. and CM. VanNess

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!

35 years and we're still invisible

*(excerpt from New Mexico Newsletter,
Nov. 2014; By Steve Frazier)*



November 2014 marked the 35th Anniversary of the founding of HLAA, known in 1979 as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People or SHHH. **Howard (Rocky) Stone** founded the organization when he took early retirement from the CIA (yes, he was a spy) due to his severe hearing loss and he couldn't find a support group for people with hearing loss. Over the years his organization has played a major role in the creation of rules and regulations empowering people with hearing loss--from the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act. Captioned TV, hearing aid compatible telephones, assistive listening systems at the movies and a whole host of services for hard of hearing people were championed by Rocky and SHHH/HLAA over the years.

HLAA has also helped literally hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, acquire the skills and knowledge to cope with what Rocky called the “invisible condition” in his book of the same title. Among Rocky's writings was a piece in 1983 on climbing mountains and his efforts at raising awareness of hearing loss. Rocky's no longer with us and it's now up to us to continue that climb.

INNOCAPTION AND SMART PHONES

By Elise de Papp, M.D.

InnoCaption (www.innocaption.com) introduced themselves to HCAA at our National Convention in Austin, TX, June 2014. Another example of how technology is becoming more and more useful to people with hearing loss, as well as the deaf.

The system works on most any smart phone (internet access) that uses Android or iPhone operating systems. It does require a simultaneous voice and data plan, which is different from having voice and data plans – all well explained on their website. Further details also depend on your service provider. The later the model smart phone you have, the better and easier to use. This is quite new and so far I have not found anyone at Verizon who knows about it, but don't let that put you off. In addition to the Convention, the company also had a presentation at NTID and **Bryan Hensel**, former HCAA-R PAC member, notified us about it.

(from Tim Whitcher: If you have a CaptionCall Phone, you're using similar technology, only the "voice" is going over a land line and the "data" is via WiFi/internet. InnoCaption uses the wireless carrier's network for "voice" and may use either the wireless carrier's network or WiFi/internet for "data" used for the captions.)

"DID I DO THAT?" Program from our December Evening Chapter meeting

By Laura Chaba



A panel discussion of communication techniques for couples with hearing loss. (L to R- Dave and Cathy Lee, Craig and Cindy Kellner, Laura and Steven Chaba.)

Many useful tips, personal experiences, "trial and error" situations were shared to better facilitate communication in situations ranging from family gatherings, parties,

restaurants, the car, and more. A highlight of the program included a video showing a young Sam Trychin doing what he does best—teaching ways to better the interaction between people with hearing loss and people who hear.

DR. RUTH PARKER OAKLEY – A Life Well Lived and Traveled

By Ginger Graham

Born August 17, 1915, **Dr. Ruth Oakley** was an adventurer, intellect, and possessed a great sense of humor. She never married and didn't have any living biological family members, but she was surrounded by "family" throughout her lifetime. Such was Jan Gates, whom she met in 1995 when she joined the Jewish Community Center—hiring Jan as her personal trainer to "get in shape" before her 80th birthday.

As Dr. Oakley got stronger, so did their friendship—attending social events and theater and traveling. Jan recalls Dr. Oakley referring to her as "the daughter she never had." Their travels took them to the Galapagos Islands, France and Hawaii. Dr. Oakley was a world traveler and had been to every continent and many countries, with China being her favorite. She could speak a few words in the native language of each country which helped greatly in her travels. She loved conversation and was great company.

Considered courageous at the time, Dr. Oakley was one of only four women out of a class of 60 to graduate from UR Medical School in 1944. She was in private practice from 1944 to 1967 and on the staff of Rochester General Hospital. She was director at the John L. Norris Clinic from 1967 until she retired in 1980. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, the Monroe County Medical Society, and the American Society of Internal Medicine.

As a lifelong Episcopalian, she was an active, lifetime member of St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church where she founded the Rosewood Society. Her involvement there eventually led her to join The Episcopal Church Home Auxiliary where she served for many years, making contributions on many levels. She subsidized the purchase of an FM system for the church and was pleased to be able to again attend and hear the sermons. It is thought that this was the beginning of her interest in the needs and access for people with hearing loss.

(continued on page 11)

My Story – A Personal History

By Carmen Coleman, MBA, CRPC™



I was born in Detroit, Michigan and raised in Philadelphia in a family of five. I was raised with a maternal grandmother who has hearing loss. She is deaf in one ear and has poor hearing in the

other. As a child, I learned that the best way to communicate with her was to yell. I now understand that yelling is not effective. I most understand the behaviors that I observed from my grandmother's communication style: She would ask us to repeat several times, and then she would become frustrated and pretend that she heard us by nodding and agreeing. We sometimes knew that she did not understand by her next response. Because we were all tired, we shrugged our shoulders and pretended that we did not notice.

My grandmother is now almost 92 years old. I brought her a captioned phone a few years ago to assist her with speaking to her many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren via the telephone. Her initial reaction was negative, but now she recognizes the benefit. This has helped everyone.

I have three children ages 27, 20 and 17. My youngest was diagnosed with auditory processing when he was in third grade. At the time, there was little knowledge about his condition and I began to research so that I could attend to his needs. We were fortunate to find the Norman Howard School who helped him tremendously, and now he is able to attend regular classroom instruction and someday hopes to become a medical doctor.

I was invited to join the Board of Directors of HLAA-Rochester Chapter in 2013 by **Sue Miller**. We both volunteered for Hospice at the Advent House. I am glad to have an opportunity to work with fantastic people who have a passion for hearing loss. Through my work as Board secretary, I have learned a great deal and am able to help my grandmother and son. In my business, I often meet clients who have hearing loss which affords me the

opportunity to tell them about the wonderful programs and advocacy of HLAA- Rochester Chapter. Although, I have normal hearing, I am very sensitive to people who experience hearing loss and am a natural advocate.

I own and operate Lifetime Financial Group, LLC and market insurance and investment products to Medicare Beneficiaries and the general public. My exposure to HLAA-Rochester Chapter has helped me become a better consultant by recognizing the needs of my clients; noticing hearing issues immediately and making sure that I practice proper tone and slow down (which is a challenge); and recommend Medicare Health Insurance companies that offer assistance to persons with hearing loss.

I currently serve as the Secretary of both the Board of Directors and the Professional Advisory Committee. I also manage the electronic MailChimp List.



VALENTINE'S DAY

By Ginger Graham

There was a St. Valentine!! He was a young Christian priest who lived in Rome in the Third Century. He was martyred because of his faith, and a feast day was kept on the anniversary of his death --February 14th.

While imprisoned in Rome the young priest often thought of his loved ones and wanted to assure them of his well-being. Just beyond his cell window grew a cluster of violets. He picked some of the heart-shaped leaves, and on them, he scratched the words, "Remember your Valentine," and sent them off by way of a friendly dove. The next day, he sent more messages saying simply, "I love you." That's the legend.

Valentine's Day first appeared in England about the time of Queen Victoria. The first Valentine's Day cards were called "Penny Dreadfuls" and "Rude and Crudes" because they were insulting and obscene. As time passed, the mood changed completely, and the holiday became one of giving gifts, flowers, candy and cards to loved ones and sweethearts, regardless of their religious beliefs.

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 !

Wed., March 11th – Kick-off for the WALK
 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, JAN. 31ST
 (for the March 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.

(submitted by Katy Kuczek)

<http://www.npr.org/2014/12/28/371962273/remembering-the-pioneering-audiologist-who-tested-hearing-at-birth>

(excerpt from "55 Plus" July/Aug. 2013)

Accessibility for deaf and HOH at Social Security. Video entitled "Social Security, SSI and Medicare: What you Need to Know About These Vital Programs" – available in ASL. Go to: www.socialsecurity.gov/multimedia/video/asl.

(submitted by Janice S. Lintz)

Why Medicare should cover hearing aids. Go to: www.consumermojo.com/medicare-should-cover-hearing-aids/

OBITUARY

Dr. Robert P. Gulick, Otolaryngology group – ear diseases and hearing loss. Passed December 15, 2014. Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

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.

Subjects of March 3rd Chapter Meetings

Daytime: “Too Loud? Not Allowed!” –Sandra Frankel; Tom Gibbons

Evening: “Ask the Audiologists” – Romona Pompea Stein; John McNamara



SUNDAY, MAY 3rd, 2015!

SAVE THE DATE!

WALK4HEARING 5K

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

Come and join us for the HLAA-Rochester chapters only annual fundraiser. Walk4Hearing is now in its **10th year** raising and providing funds for scholarships for high school seniors going on to postsecondary education, captioning for theater performances at the Rochester Broadway Theater League, GEVA, and assisting national HLAA in its support, education and advocacy of millions of people with hearing loss, and lots more.

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

We also need **event sponsors**. If you know of any business you think would be willing to sponsor us, please let us know. Email me at CKelle1@rochester.rr.com.

Watch our Newsletters for more details.



Sincere birthday greetings to **Mark Hargrave**, who will be **93 years young**, on **February 16th**. Congratulations and many more healthy and happy years!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“In the depths of winter, I discovered there was in me an invincible summer.” - *Albert Camus*

GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE ENCOUNTER

By Elise de Papp, M.D.

Recently, I went to see the Gingerbread Houses at the Eastman House, with an HLAA member, and also a friend with normal hearing.

At the ticket counter there was a small dish of tokens/coins. I asked the lady behind the counter what they were for. She said something as she turned away from me, then turned back and plunked a sign down on the counter. I figured she hadn't heard me so I asked again. (I did not read the sign she laid on the counter.) So, rather indignantly she said, “I just told you”... to which I said, “I don't hear.” Her retort “Then why did you ask?” quite caught me by surprise.

Looking straight at her and leaning over the counter I said, “I hear up close and straight on.” She said nothing to that but afterwards she spoke carefully, a bit louder and succinctly, including very carefully admiring the picture of Hedwig on my credit card.

I moved away from the counter and told my buddies about what had transpired. The normal-hearing friend (who understands our hearing loss problem very well) went back to the counter, unbeknownst to me, and told the woman that she was rude. You will never guess the reply to that... “I don't hear.” I'm glad I wasn't close by!

On the way home, I said that I might post that on Facebook. One of the others said no, send it to our Newsletter. So here it is.

Everyone else at the Eastman House was very nice, and the audio tour on the cell phone is great, at full volume.

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

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

CAPTIONING AND MASS

By Ann Cannarozzo

Catholic Mass

Tune in to Father Mull, **Sunday mornings at 7:30 AM on Channel 10.**

The Mass is Closed Captioned. Father Mull is the Pastor at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Geneva. He was the former Pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.

Captioning is a gift from Channel 10, and the NCI is remotely captioning this program. They are retyping the misspelling of the religious terms. There is a lag time. However, if you know the order of the Mass, you can figure it out.

Please give me feedback on your experience viewing this program. Annmargaret64@gmail.com.

MARDI GRAS

Are Carnival and Mardi Gras the same thing?

Don't confuse Carnival and Mardi Gras! Carnival refers to the period of feasting and fun which always begins on January 6th, The Feast of the Epiphany. Mardi Gras refers to Fat Tuesday, the final day of revelry before Ash Wednesday (February 18), when Lent begins.

Why does Mardi Gras fall on different dates each year?

The date changes every year because it's connected to Easter, which can fall on any Sunday between March 23 and April 25. Mardi Gras is scheduled to be 47 days before Easter. (Easter this year is April 5th.)

When was the first Mardi Gras?

The first Mardi Gras parade was held in New Orleans on February 24, 1857 by the Krewe of Comus. They began the tradition of presenting a parade with floats and following it with a ball for the krewe and their guests.

What is the significance of the Mardi Gras colors, and where did they come from?

Rex, the King of Carnival, selected the Mardi Gras colors and assigned meaning to them in 1892. Purple stands for justice, green for faith, and gold for power. (Also the colors of HLAA.)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Knowledge is power only if man knows what facts not to bother with. *Robert Staughton Lynd*



PIZZA KICKOFF FOR WALK4HEARING!!!

By Cindy Kellner

It is that time of year again to begin thinking about our annual

Walk4Hearing. We could not have a successful Walk without all of you who have agreed to participate (or are thinking about participating) in this year's Walk, which will be held Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 in Perinton Park, Fairport, NY. This will be HLAA Rochester's Tenth Walk4Hearing. Let's make it one of our best!

If you have agreed to serve as a Captain, if you might be interested in being a Captain, or if you just want to learn more about the Walk we would love to have you join us for our **PIZZA KICKOFF**. This event will be held on **Wednesday, March 11th, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm** at the Al Sigl Center, Golisano Bldg., 1000 Elmwood Avenue, in the Main Conference Room located on the first floor.

We know your evening time is precious so we promise the Kick-off will be short, sweet & simple. Captain's material will be handed out, followed by a question and answer session.

PLEASE COME AND ENJOY SOME DELICIOUS PIZZA AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WALK AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT HLAA ROCHESTER.

On behalf of the Walk4Hearing Committee we look forward to seeing you. **We would greatly appreciate your RSVP as early as possible.** Please email ckellne1@rochester.rr.com your reply. As always, we deeply appreciate your continued support.

Cindy Kellner
Chair, Walk4Hearing 2015

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.

REGARDING RECENT ISSUES RELATED TO MOVIE CAPTIONING

By Robert S. Menchel, Ed. D.

I had been away and was unaware of the recent controversy surrounding the matter of captioning in our local theaters. Before I go into more detail there are two important points that I want to bring to the attention of the Deaf and hard of hearing community of Monroe County. First, for those of you who do not know the history of caption movies in this area, **I was the person who was instrumental in establishing open caption films at the Regal Henrietta** after the efforts of the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf had withdrawn from these efforts. Second, after visiting Boston recently, it became obvious to me how lucky we are to live here in Monroe County where we have such a wonderful selection of theaters we can attend and enjoy movies, live plays and musicals. In Boston and many other cities, deaf and hard of hearing people would love to have what we have here.

That said, now to the issue of what is going on here in regard to a small minority of people who are pushing for open caption movies. Although I disagree with them on this issue, they have the right to express their feelings about this matter and we should respect this. However, expressing ones feeling and not knowing the facts are two different things. When the ADA was written under George W. Bush there was nothing in it that required movie theaters to provide open caption films. This is still true today and for those who may not know, the ADA under Bush was not the first issue of ADA--an earlier version was written under Nixon and the new version was issued under Bush, and in neither of them was it stated that theaters must provide open captioned films or any other form of captioning. (If anyone wants to question this, I was involved in the drafting of the original ADA when I served on the President's Committee for People with Disabilities.)

The **Regal and AMC** theaters have both bent over backward to provide captioned movies to our community; they should be applauded and thanked for doing this. Over time they have continued to improve using new technology to improve our access to their theaters and I am thankful for what has happened. The current state of captioning using any of the devices in these theaters has allowed us to have a huge selection of films we want to see which was not the option when only open captioned films were available. The Regal has also made it clear that they will provided an open captioned film if there are 10 people and if the theater is notified in

advance. As many of you remember, with open captioned films there was limited access both in the number of films we could see and the times when we could see them. This is no longer the case and is a dream come true when we can walk into a theater today here in Monroe County and look over the list of films and pick the one we want to see rather than be limited to seeing one film at 9:00 PM or 11:00 PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. In many cities deaf and hard of hearing people are still limited to what they can view at the theaters in their communities.

Some people are saying they **do not want to use glasses, or a viewing screen or any other device** because they feel that people are looking at them-- to this I reply that nobody cares--they don't care what you are doing, they came to see a movie and if you have a viewing device to help you enjoy the movie who cares! Randy Smith has made a strong point that if only open captioned movies are offered, the hearing people do not want to see those films. This hurts the bottom line at the theater and is one of the reasons we were very limited as to films and times before. Also, the ADA is a document which **requires reasonable** accommodations and to ask the theater to show an open captioned film for one person is **unreasonable**. Open captioned films are not perfect, many times the captions are lost when projected on a light background and if the film is filmed in very bright light then it is almost impossible to read the captions. If you are watching open captioned films and a very tall person sat down in front of you cutting off your view of the captions then you could not follow the film.

Reading the article in the paper it seems that a majority of organizations including HLAA, NAD, Deaf Adults and others all support the current technology being used and look forward to improvements as technology advances. The NAD (National Association of the Deaf) did state that open captioned films are **an option** but did not require that they be the only format for movies.

Now that I have spoken my piece, I recommend that (because the deadline for submitting comments to the DOJ was December 1, 2014) people write to the theater owners and other organizations stating the position they support. It is important that our voices be heard whether you support open captioned films or the current technology being used. For myself, I strongly support the National Association of Theater Owners, Mr. Randy Smith of Regal Entertainment, and the current technology that is being provided to us in the theaters in this area, and I plan to make my voice heard.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HELP WITH BACKGROUND NOISE

(excerpt from *Wisconsin 1st Quarter 2014 NL*;
(suggested by Ginny Koenig)

Researchers have found a new way to help people with hearing loss by removing background noise from the sounds transmitted by hearing aids. Computer engineers and hearing scientists at Ohio State University have made a potential breakthrough in solving the major problem in hearing technology--how to help people understand speech in the midst of background noise.

Several patents are pending on the technology, and the researchers are working with a leading hearing aid manufacturer as well as others worldwide to develop the technology.

Conquering background noise has been a “holy grail” in hearing technology for half a century. People with hearing loss find it extremely difficult to focus on what one person is saying while ignoring the rest, especially in an environment full of other background noise. Key to the technology is a computer algorithm that quickly analyzes speech and removes most of the background noise.

MARVEL COMICS !

(excerpt from *HLAA State and Chapter Development News of 12/1/14*)

Hearing Loss Super Heroes have been getting national attention recently that is helping to build awareness for treatment and fight stigma. Here are the latest:

Marvel Comics has introduced a new comic book series that features **Blue Ear** and **Sapheara**, two new Super Heroes. Blue Ear wears a super-sized hearing aid and Sapheara dons cochlear implants to enhance their super powers and dispel any indignity in wearing a hearing device.

They are teaming up with **Iron Man** to clean up crime in New York City.

Notice Sapheara's sweptback hair does NOT hide her CI. There's no stigma here, just proud to hear. Bravo, Marvel Comics!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **182** friends and we want more.

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GROUND HOG DAY, Monday, February 2ND

**"If 'Candlemas Day' be stormy and black,
It carries the winter away on its back."**

(from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*)

For the record, Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow 100 times (meaning more winter), and NOT seen his shadow only 16 times. This started as a small gathering in 1887 in Gobbler's Knob, PA, and now tens of thousands from all over the world come to see Phil.

There has been no tally of how many times Phil has been right! But, ain't this fun?

DR. RUTH PARKER OAKLEY (continued)

As the years progressed, so did her need for an alternate living option. Jan Gates convinced Ruth to move to the apartments at River Edge Manor (REM). She loved so many things about REM!

Dr. Oakley enjoyed two wonderful years at REM before passing away on February 27, 2012, just six months shy of her 98th birthday.

Sue Miller remembers that Dr. Oakley attended some monthly meetings of our HLAA-Rochester chapter and appreciated the warmth and friendliness of our members. We are so grateful for the gifts she left behind. She will be forever remembered and honored.

(excerpt from "Generations" newsletter of Episcopal Senior Life Communities; and, thanks to Suzanne Johnston, M.A., CCC/SLP)



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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 large Parish Hall room.

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