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February 2017

February Calendar

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

10:15 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room NEW TIME

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., Feb. 14th - BOD meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., March 14th – BOD meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

Tues., April 4th – “Cochlear Implant Group”

1:15pm – St. Paul’s church

Tues., April 18th – PAC meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

Tues., May 16th – “Featured Speaker” – see page 3

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 – Barb Gates, Judy McMillan,
Al Suffredini

Evening Meeting –Elise de Papp, M.D.,
Betsy McClain

Board of Directors –Steve Barnett, Dan Brooks,
Suzanne Johnston

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLA!



FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

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

Tues., Feb. 7th – 10:15 – 11am; Vestry room.

HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session –*Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC/A (retired)*

Retired audiologist and hearing aid user **Joe Kozelsky** moderates a question and answer group for people considering hearing aids and those using them. Join us and share your hearing loss journey and learn from others. (see page 8)

Tuesday, February 7th - Daytime Meeting— 11:00am Program begins at noon

PARKINSON’S DISEASE AND HEARING LOSS: A WEAK LINK - *Gerald Honch, M.D.*

A different health issue from our usual is Dr. Honch's presentation on Parkinson's Disease. His talk will cover James Parkinson and what he described; the basic cellular and neurochemical changes that occur in patients with the disease; the natural history and variability in the expression of Parkinson's Disease; look-alike disorders and matters of confusion; and medical and surgical treatments. “Any link with hearing loss is weak,” he says. Dr. Honch is a retired neurologist and Professor Emeritus of the University of Rochester Dept. of Neurology.

(continued on page 2)

**Tuesday, February 7th - Evening Meeting--
7:00pm - Program begins at 8:00pm**

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIOGRAM -

Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC/A

Anyone undergoing testing for possible or continuing hearing loss gets an "audiogram." A graph recording the results of a hearing test, it gives a detailed description of your hearing ability at differing frequencies and pitches. Blue lines and red lines, x'es and boxes, all indicate part of one's hearing diagnosis, but may puzzle the patient.

Joe Kozelsky, former chapter president, retired audiologist, and presently a hearing aid user, will interpret a typical audiogram, explaining what it depicts. After Joe's talk, you should understand more clearly how to interpret your own audiogram.

A long-time HLAA-Rochester member, Joe also facilitates the monthly HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) group preceding daytime chapter meetings.

HLAA-Rochester Chapter welcomes all community members with an interest in hearing loss.

*HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Parish Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Avenue at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman Museum. All programs are audiolooped and **captioned**. Those needing a sign language interpreter for an evening meeting should contact Linda Siple at 585 288 6744, a week in advance. (Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)*

The Hearing Loss Association of America opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. For more information visit www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

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

INTERESTING FACT...

There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio , every one of them is manmade.

(author unknown)

WHO IS A VOLUNTEER?

(By Vernice Meade, Central Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter, Aug. 2015)



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

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

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

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

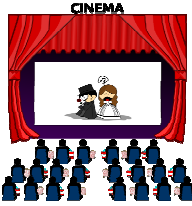
Contact either Margaret Cochran at mc23@rochester.rr.com , phone: 585 381 4951 or, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com, phone: 585 615 5136 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

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

(originally appeared in our November 2015 Newsletter)

LOOPING THE LITTLE THEATRE

By Don Bataille, Architect, CCS



The Little Theatre has become part of a growing movement to install hearing loops in live and movie theaters across NYS and the nation. The renovation work in the **Little (L-2)** is the first of the five theatres to be renovated and looped, bringing the Little 2 Theatre in conformance with ADA Communication Accessibility requirements. The cost of the hearing loop systems for all five theatres is being underwritten by **Hart Hearing Centers**, <http://hartheating.com>, longtime supporters of both The Little Theatre and hearing loops. **Peter Hart**, Au.D, noted that “a hearing loop system is invaluable to people with hearing loss because it improves the performance of their hearing aids.” **Hart Hearing Centers (Steve Hart)** have been providing comprehensive, state-of-the-art hearing health care with a personal touch for over 35 years.

Hearing loop technology provides a wireless signal directly to a person’s hearing aid or cochlear implant (T-coil) from any audio source. The advantage of a hearing loop is that it cancels out unwanted background noise and at the same time increases the high frequency sound levels, providing the listener a crystal clear listening experience. Hearing loops provide individuals the ability to hear ‘the show the way it was intended to be heard.’ Hearing aids, designed for normal speech at relatively close distances, are limited to reproducing the dynamic frequency range of music. Hearing loops improve the sound signal quality and make going to movies fun again. Individuals without T-coil hearing aids can take advantage of the loop system by asking for a hearing loop receiver fitted with ear buds or head set when they purchase their movie ticket.

The L-2 Theatre hearing loop system was designed and installed by Hearing Loops Unlimited, LLC, <http://www.hearingloopsunlimited.com>. The L-2 hearing loop system, based on a specific design known as a phased array hearing loop, is actually two hearing loops installed in the concrete floor creating a 3-D signal array utilizing equipment

designed to reproduce music frequencies, compared to other equipment that provides only normal speech frequencies. The advantage of this type of hearing loop is that every seat receives the same high quality audio signal as it was intended to be heard.

The Little Theatre, at 240 East Avenue, shows a mix of American independent and foreign films and is part of the WXXI public broadcasting group. You can help support The Little and HLAA Looping Rochester initiative by becoming a member of The Little at <http://thelittle.org/membership>



FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM COMING IN MAY

By Elise de Papp, M.D.

DATE: Tuesday May 16, 2017 -- (Note this is ***not*** the first Tuesday of the month)

TIME: Doors open 5:30pm – Come in for light refreshments and conversation
Speaker at 6:30pm

PLACE: First Unitarian Church
220 South Winton Rd., Rochester 14610

SPEAKER: Dr Debara Tucci, ENT surgeon, Duke University; Panelist, National Academies of Science, Engineering + Medicine report on Adult Hearing Health Care

TOPIC: “Why Hearing Loss should be a Public Health Concern”

FSP Committee: Elise de Papp, M.D., chair;
Margaret Cochran, Cindy Kellner,
Barb Law, Carol Loftus, Sue Miller

INTERESTING FACTS

It’s estimated that over 19,000 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. (*updated by S. Murad, NTID, Dec. 2016*)

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

“The Sound of Music” – March 5

“Wicked” – April 2

“Cabaret” – May 7

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

GEVA THEATRE – CAPTIONED PLAYS !

SAT. shows 2pm; WED. 2pm & 7:30pm
unless otherwise indicated

“Sylvia” - Wed. Feb. 1

“The Lake Effect” - Sat. Feb. 4 @ 2:30pm

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”

Sat. Feb. 18; Wed. March 8

“Private Lives” - Sat. March 25; Wed. April 12

“Sex With Strangers” - Sat. April 15 @ 2:30pm

“Other Than Honorable” - Sat. April 29; Wed. May 17

“Million Dollar Quartet” - Sat. June 3; Wed. June 21

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

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, January 31st
(for the March Newsletter)
Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

GROUND HOG DAY

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

---or---

Sees his shadow, 6 more weeks of winter.

No shadow means Spring will come early.

Ground hog day – Thursday, February 2, 2017.

(from The Old Farmer's Almanac)

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

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

--The Hit Makers – Feb. 19

--The Flick – March 5

--Titanic, the Musical – May 14

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. Please specify “Captioned Area.” Tickets are \$26-29 with discounts for JCC members, full time students and season subscribers.



For Your Donation to HLA A:

--Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate

--Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate

--Rochester Area Community

Foundation

--Mary Tuckley Estate

--United Way Donors

Donation Above Membership:

Sandra Baldwin, Frances Englund, Joan Ewing,
Gary & Renee Gorny, John Hoff,
Mary & Edward Wilkins

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership.

If you haven't yet, please consider a donation when you renew your membership. Thanks so much!

COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

By Janet McKenna

The CI Group is at a crucial point in its existence. At a gathering after the Oct. 4 chapter meeting, the six people there decided to hold one more meeting following the April 4, 2017 chapter meeting from 1:15 to 2:00pm. It will be a discussion round table exchange of experiences. Our group's mission has never been articulated. Is it to reach out to community members seeking or inquiring about CI's?-- to support new CI users?--to exchange information among long time users?—or, all of the above?

Previous meetings were held evenings. Attendance has fallen off significantly. If neither interest in our CI Group nor newer CI users are evidenced, it is feared that our group will disband. **We hope to see you April 4th.**

REASONS WHY SELF-HELP GROUPS ARE GOOD FOR YOU

Brenda Battat, past Executive Director, HLAA

Self-help groups such as the Hearing Loss Association of America (www.hearingloss.org) and the Rochester Chapter (www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org) offer the following:

- Provide a community of people with hearing loss who understand and are empathic to your loss.
- Will help you understand your legal rights as a person with hearing disability.
- Will alleviate the despair and isolation of hearing loss through their support.
- Will help you to adjust and communicate your needs in a “hearing” workplace.
- Will share technologies beyond your hearing aids that will enhance your ability to function.
- Will educate you on technologies and strategies for ensuring your safety.
- Will show you how to stay tuned in during family conversations.
- Will suggest strategies for communicating in noisy situations.
- Will show you how to accommodate your hearing loss when traveling.
- Will empower you through exchange of knowledge, encouragement and the sharing of experiences.

IF YOU MOVE, or are a “SNOWBIRD!”

Please don't forget to notify **Cathy Lee**, at 22 Erie Manor Lane, apt.#6, Henrietta, NY 14467, or, via email at, cathydisalvolee@gmail.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.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO HAC CELL PHONES AND WIRELESS DEVICES

(excerpt from Wisconsin Fall NL; Volume 10 – 2)

In August, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted new rules to ensure people with hearing loss have full access to wireless devices. As the FCC noted, the action taken “will modernize existing hearing aid compatibility (HAC) rules while maintaining the balance between fostering accessibility and promoting innovation and investment.”

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **309** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

“SMART 911” Could Save Your Life!

(excerpt from Fox Valley, Wisconsin NL; Volume 31-9, Dec.2016)



Smart 911 is an online resource consumers can sign up for. You create a profile, add relevant information such as address, phone number plus optional information.

You can add additional phone numbers that are associated with your household, cell or landline, etc. Most importantly, you can include information about your medical condition, disability, etc.

Once a profile is submitted, Smart 911 forwards that information to the appropriate PSAP (public safety answering point) which is the local 911 call center that services the phone numbers associated with your profile. When a 911 call is placed from any of those numbers, all submitted information (including medical, disability or access and special needs) is displayed on the screen at the 911 center and will be communicated to the responding agencies. This service is free of charge. For more information go to www.smart911.com

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.



UNSUNG HERO !

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

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

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

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

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

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

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter...We thank you!

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

BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...

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

ggraham859@gmail.com; or, (585) 671-2683



Sincere happy birthday greetings February 3rd to **Ginny Koenig**, and February 27th to

Edith Lank. We wish you both more healthy and happy years.

HEARING AID AND CI INSURANCE

(excerpt from Peninsula CA winter 2017 NL;

Contributed by Lynne Kinsey, Silicon Valley Chapter)

There was a very lively discussion online about lost and damaged hearing aids/cochlear implant processors and whether they were covered by household insurance. There were sad stories about dogs chewing up hearing aids and about hearing aids being in the bottom of a stolen purse, unbeknownst to the person stealing it. You can look into insurances especially for hearing aids and durable medical devices, but they tend to be expensive. I posed this question to my insurance company. I imagine that every company and every policy is different. My representative said:

"Your hearing aids and processor would be covered as personal property. Similar to other property in your home, this means, they would be covered for theft (stolen purse) and fire and the other causes of loss listed in the policy, but not if you lost them, or if you ran over them with the car. We don't have an 'all risk' coverage for medical devices, so if you dropped the hearing aid in the toilet, or ran over it with the car, or any of those other horrible things you can imagine, there would not be coverage."

I recommend that you check to see if your hearing device is covered for loss or theft.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is:

www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org. Michelle Gross is our Web Master.

HLAA National website is www.hearingloss.org.

Our web master, **Michelle Gross**, has a suggestion for an online place where people share info, ask questions or provide answers/solutions, etc. It is called "Hear Peers" and is an online forum for people with CI's. <http://forum.hearpeers.com>)

(submitted by Fred Altrieth)

FDA Eliminates Hearing Aid Medical Clearance Regulation

<http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearingnewswatch/2016/fda-hearing-aid-waiver-eliminated-1207/>

Shortened website: goo.gl/PzpTRv

(submitted by Ginger Graham)

AARP HEARING CENTER

(excerpt from AARP Bulletin, Dec. 2016)

Find tools and tips for living well with hearing loss.

Go to: www.aarp.org/hearingresourcecenter

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
Photographers.....Art Maurer, Al Suffredini

Flu Shots — The CDC recommends getting your flu shot now. Because flu is contagious 1-2 days before symptoms appear, it can be spread before we know we're infected. For more info, go to: www.cdc.gov/flu. And, be aware, that "the nasal spray version is not recommended for the coming flu season because it doesn't offer much protection" —Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices at CDC. (R.Vienne, D&C 9/24/16)

SEVEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE HABITS OF HEARING AID WEARERS

By Steve Frazier, New Mexico chapter

- 1) Wear the hearing aids - If you're lucky enough to have the opportunity to improve your condition with hearing aids, wear them! They won't do you any good sitting in your nightstand.
 - 2) Communicate effectively - When you miss part of a person's speech, don't give up on the conversation. Instead, look for ways around it. Where your ears fail, your eyes and brain can often fill in. Use visual clues like facial expression, body language and lip reading to help fill in the gaps your ears can't. Look at the speaker when he or she is talking, and pay attention to all the little details.
 - 3) Own it - When you have hearing loss, it's extremely important to be proactive on your own behalf. When you're in a new place or trying a new activity, let the people around you know that you have hearing loss. You'll be surprised at the difference it makes in your experience. Most of the time people won't know you have hearing loss unless they can see your hearing aid right away. Once they are aware, they can offer you the option of additional services like closed captioning, Teletype phones or hotel room visual alert kits, and make the extra effort to communicate with you in person as well.
 - 4) Work to resolve issues with your hearing aids. Hearing aids don't completely restore your hearing, but they should do a pretty good job of improving your hearing capability. If you're noticing any problems or if you suspect something is out of whack, ask your hearing health practitioner to check them out. If your hearing aids aren't working properly, you're wasting a lot of money.
 - 5) Open the CI/hearing aid battery door at night - An easy thing to do, right? Such a simple action can significantly impact the life of your hearing aid. Moisture builds up in your ear and your hearing aid/CI throughout the day, and opening the battery component door at night allows the internal mechanisms to dry out.
- (continued on page 8)*

SEVEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE HABITS OF HEARING AID WEARERS (continued from p. 7)

6) Carry extra batteries - Batteries can die at any time, and you should know from experience that it always happens at the most inconvenient moment. Head that problem off by keeping an extra set of batteries in your purse or pocket.

7) Store your hearing aids properly - When you're not wearing them, you should store them in a cool, dry place like your nightstand. If you live somewhere humid, make sure to store them in a drying container. Don't leave them in the bathroom overnight where they could be subjected to shower steam and splashes of water from the sink.

CONDENSED FROM

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52270>

HOPE NOTES!



A heart-felt thank you to everyone who attended the recent HOPE group sessions.

As always, it was a fun and informative time spent with a group of wonderful, caring people. The time goes by so quickly.

Hearing loss is a daily challenge. We try to make the best of it. We want to hear as well as we can. We don't want to be left out. We want to be like everyone else. The more educated we are about living well with hearing loss, the better we can cope, advocate for ourselves, and communicate our concerns and needs with family, friends, co-workers, most importantly to our audiologist.

By participating in HOPE meetings we learn things that cannot be found anywhere but from those who experience living daily with a hearing loss.

The next HOPE session is Tuesday, February 7th, at 10:15 – 11am in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's.

(with thanks to Nancy Gilbertson, Fox Valley, Wisconsin)



Early-bird registration is OPEN! Register by **March 31, 2017** to receive early-bird rates.

Little America Hotel,
500 South Main Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Tower Rooms • \$179; Garden Rooms • \$159 +tax
Reservations must be received by May 30th.

Reference that you are with the **HLAA2017 group.**
Visit <http://bit.ly/LittleAmericaSL>; 800-437-5288.

RADISSON HOTEL

Located at 215 West South Temple, this is next door to the Convention Center. If you are concerned about the distance between Little America and the Center, this may be the perfect alternative for you (though keep in mind the Friday and Saturday night events are at Little America).

Room Rates: Superior Room - \$159 + tax
Visit <http://bit.ly/RadissonSL>; 1-800-967-9033

From Hotels to Salt Palace Convention Center

The Radisson is located next door to the convention center, but those who are staying at Little America can take the TRAX light rail for free (both locations are in the [Free Fare Zone](#)), which is just a 7-minute ride (handicap accessible). You may also choose to walk about .8 mile or take the shuttle provided by the Utah Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (limited seating).

Register Online or Offline

Increased rates will begin April 1 and continue through May 31 when pre-convention registration closes. On-site registration will be available as well.

Online – login to the [HLAA Online Portal](#) and select Convention Registration on the left menu (if you don't have a login yet, go to [New User Registration](#).) Follow the instructions on that page and registration will be a breeze; you will receive a confirmation by email.

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HLAA CONVENTION (continued from page 8)

Offline – complete the [Early-bird Registration Form](#) and mail, fax or email the form to us. We will mail you a confirmation letter.

**Veterans and Caregivers
(Free Registration for 1st Timers).**

Delta Air Lines - Official Convention Carrier

Use Meeting Code **NMPE4** when booking your travel to Salt Lake City online at delta.com/meetings, or when you call Delta Meeting Reservations at 800-328-1111. The discount of up to 10% (depending on whether you book First Class, Economy, etc.) will be applied to your fare.

MARDI GRAS



“Carnival” is the period of feasting and fun which begins on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. “Mardi Gras” is “Fat Tuesday” –the final day of revelry before Ash Wednesday, March 1st, when Lent begins. Mardi Gras is scheduled to be 47 days before Easter (April 16, 2017).

The significance of the Mardi Gras colors—purple stands for justice, green for faith, and gold for power. (Also the colors of HLAA).

OPEN CAPTIONS AT U of R

By Elise de Papp, M.D.

The U of R will have open captions at the Arts, Sciences, and Engineering graduation ceremonies. Whether you'll be there or not, it's a major step in the right direction for people with hearing loss, who may need more than a microphone for hearing the spoken word in large venues.

TELECOILS

By Nancy Kingsley, HLAA-PA State Director

The telecoil (T-coil) doesn't favor one technology--it actually provides access to all assistive listening systems, not just the hearing loop. It accesses FM and IR systems via a neckloop.

HEARING AIDS WILL NO LONGER BE THE NEW STATUS SYMBOLS FOR THE RICH

By Janice Schacter Lintz

Hearing Access & Innovations, Inc. (HAI) is thrilled that the FDA announced that “it does not intend to enforce the requirement that individuals 18 and up receive a medical evaluation or sign a waiver prior to purchasing most hearing aids” and its “commitment to consider creating a category of over-the counter (OTC) hearing aids.”

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm532005.htm>.

For far too long, six hearing aid companies controlled (what is estimated to be) a \$95 billion dollar industry. Janice Schacter Lintz, HAI's Founder/CEO has been an outspoken advocate to ensure hearing aids were affordable and the market was opened to advance the technology.

“Hearing aids should not be the new status symbol for the rich” said Ms. Lintz. “We are grateful that the FDA heard our voices. No one should have to ask permission to hear.” We hope the FDA will open the market further by requiring transparency of hearing aid features so models can be compared.

Subjects of March 7th Chapter Meetings:

Daytime –“Healthy Mental Health” –

Emily Krohan, LCSW

Evening – “ADA-What is required/and not, in the workplace. Accessibility.” – Jessica Witenko

DID YOU KNOW...

In 1870, Joseph Rainey of SC became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor. He became the first Jewish Cabinet member.

(from D&C 12-11-16)



DONATING HEARING AIDS TO THE LIONS CLUB

By Michelle Gross

If you have used hearing aids to donate, please address the package to:

John McNamara, Au.D.
Ontario Hearing
2210 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14618

Put on the lower left corner of the package:
"Finger Lakes Region Lions Club Hearing
Foundation"

(Cleaning tools, cases, most accessories, etc. have virtually no value and are discarded.) Aids that are usable are cleaned and checked and made ready for sending to the Lions Club for qualified recipients. You can get a receipt for your donation (for tax purposes) but you must request it. And, thanks for considering donating your used aids.

NEWS FROM NTID

By Susan Murad

RIT EXPANDS AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY IN CHINA

Tianjin University of Technology of China has entered into new partnership agreements to enroll students in programs at RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

NTID is the first and largest technological college for deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the world, and also it has formal relationships with colleges and universities in Japan and Russia.

RIT established the first undergraduate microelectronic engineering program in 1982. The program combines imaging science and a strong core of electrical engineering.

PHONE CALLS WE RECEIVE

By Michelle Gross

EAR INFECTIONS:

Hello Mrs. A... I am a member of HLAA's Technology Committee and would like to give you something to think about regarding your question concerning ear infections. Avoiding ear infections certainly is a goal for which we strive.

There are a number of factors to consider since each individual differs in the degree to which they perspire which is one cause of ear canal infections. The dark warm moist ear canal is a haven for things to grow. Other considerations are: the quantity and quality of ear wax which people have and the sensitivity of the person's skin to irritation and consequent breakdown or infection.

Given all that, and added to the fact everyone's ear canals are shaped differently with various curves and bends where moisture and bacteria can collect, as well as how sensitive to the type of ear mold material the individual has and how it sits in the ear, there isn't a good way for a layman to make recommendations. One needs to know which factors are primary in a given person's situation.

The complete answer for anyone will be a collaboration among their audiologist, physician, and the individual to determine both the cause of the problem and the treatment. Often more than one item in the mix will need to be addressed. Although expensive, the "Dry and Store" units which have an ultraviolet light to sterilize the ear molds and keep them dry, may help. Since there is a considerable expense with this unit (\$170+ and the need to order disposable inserts for the unit) and given the fact there is no guarantee it will be appropriate for you, you may want to discuss this with your audiologist.

DID YOU KNOW...

In 1985, the first version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, Windows 1.0, was officially released. *(from D&C 11-20-16)*

“MY STORY” – A Personal History



I was born in North Carolina, with my twin brother, Jim. We left there at an early age and moved to Washington DC, where we grew up. When time to enter the 10th grade, our family moved to Elmira, NY. After graduation, I worked at Cornell University for 4 years doing secretarial work. Loved the job working for 4 professors but I'd gone as far as I could in that college and made the decision to take my savings and do the “grand tour of Europe.” Returning in 6 weeks, I started working for 2 lawyers in Elmira.

In 1961, I followed my older brother and his family to Rochester, and started what became 30 years at Eastman Kodak. First, as a secretary then as supervisor in the International Office for my organization. All this time with no sign of hearing loss. In fact, the many long distance phone calls to Mexico or England, France or Australia were never a problem. I retired from Kodak in 1991.

My hearing loss started 1995 (age 57) while caregiver for both my Mother and my husband. At first using one hearing aid (from **Steve Hart**) but a year later needed a 2nd aid. In 1998, my loss became more significant, so I progressed to 2 behind-the-ear, more powerful aids. These served me well, but testing showed my loss was continuing.

Along the way, I learned that my hearing loss was hereditary, from my Mother. A bit of a surprise, for I knew no other relative with a hearing loss!

During this time, Tinnitus started inside my head. Tinnitus is a constant noise. Mine was the sound of Niagara Falls 6 feet away from me. It drowned out voices I was trying to understand. Though Tinnitus feels as if it comes from one or both ears, it is usually a brain phenomenon. In some lucky people, wearing of hearing aids will diminish the noise.

From 1999 to 2002, ballroom dancing was my passion—5 times a week, earning my Bronze medal. This was social, for fun, not competition.

I joined the HLAA-Rochester chapter in the Fall of 2006 and became active on several committees (Awards/Annual Dinner, E&O, Day of Hearing, Technology, CI Group, Chapter meetings, and Program Planning). I'm also editor/publisher of our monthly award-winning Chapter Newsletter.

Having lost my parents, twin brother, and two husbands, I now live alone in Webster, with my 11 ½ year old kitty, Little Lady. Being a Maine Coon Cat, we're still adjusting to each other!

I love to travel and my hearing loss has not stopped me...driving alone (with my kitty, Pumpkin) to Florida a couple of times; and Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina often. In 2011, I drove my van and Pumpkin to Wyoming....4,320 miles. I've also driven to HLAA Conventions in Wisconsin and Rhode Island.

From 2008 to 2010, I was virtually deaf; surviving by using a personal ALD, with a neck loop, and also a Shuttle Voice Box--a personal hearing loop. My loss was so great I then qualified for a Cochlear Implant. In July 2010, I received the implant from **Dr. Dutcher** at Strong. And was one of the lucky ones whose Tinnitus disappeared...but the surgery left me with a balance problem.

My involvement with HLAA has been the best thing that could have happened to me--meeting warm and welcoming people who also suffer with hearing loss has led me to realize my life can be very full and happy despite my hearing loss.

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



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HLAA Membership Information

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

For more information, Call
585 266 7890

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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, INC.

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

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

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

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

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

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

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