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Volume 37, Number 4

January 2024

Monthly Daytime Program Meeting In Person at St. Paul's and on Zoom - January 2nd

JANUARY CALENDAR

- TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM IN PERSON, ST PAUL'S VESTRY ROOM:** . Joe Kozelsky CCC/A: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences' (HOPE)
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL:** Conversation and light refreshments.
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 11:30 AM -NOON AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** Chapter announcements and business meeting.
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, NOON - 1:00 PM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** PRESENTATION: PANEL OF HLAA MEMBERS WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 7:00 PM ON ZOOM:** Board of Directors Meeting
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 7:00 PM - 2:00 PM:** HOPE IN THE EVENING, ON ZOOM
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM:** ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER. Technology Team. at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave.
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 8:00 PM ON ZOOM:** Parent's Group: *Hear Together*. See information in January Programs.

Please check our Chapter Website hearinglossrochester.org for any changes

REFRESHMENTS

We appreciate our members who have volunteered to bring refreshments to our January 2nd meeting: Peg Crowley, Lorraine Gluck, Paul and Mary Ann Stager, Al and Chris Suffredini.

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Panel of HLAA Members with Cochlear Implants with Marlene Sutliff, Nancy Meyer, and Pete Fackler

Come listen to a panel of HLAA Rochester members share their experiences with cochlear implants. Panelists will recount how they decided to move forward with their CIs, their experiences with the surgery and surgery's aftermath, what it was like when their devices were first activated, how they learned to acclimate to a new (digital) way of hearing, and some of their 'aha' moments along the way. Questions will be welcome.

OTHER JANUARY PROGRAMS

Tuesday, January 2:

10:00 am -11:00 am - HOPE - Hearing Other People's Experiences.

Prospective, new, or experienced hearing aid users informally share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys. Joe Kozelsky CCC/A facilitates. In person only.

11:00 am -11:30 am - Socializing. In person. Refreshments. St. Paul's Parish Hall.

11:30 am - noon - Business Meeting/ Announcements. In person. St. Paul's Parish Hall.

Noon - 1:00 pm – Presentation: Panel of HLAA Members with Cochlear Implants with Marlene Sutliff, Nancy Meyer, and Pete Fackler. Hybrid program: In person. St. Paul's Parish Hall AND virtual on Zoom.

Wednesday, January 17:

HEARING OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPEIENCES - HOPE in the Evening – The popular HOPE Sessions are now being offered in the evening on Zoom. See the daytime description above.

Thursday, January 18:

10:00am-2:00 pm - ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER. Technology Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Avenue

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President's Column

From President – Dan Brooks

I hope this update finds you well and that you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.



As we step into the New Year, I wanted to take a moment to wish you a Happy New Year and all the best for the months ahead.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize the importance of cherishing our loved ones. In the spirit of this sentiment, I would like to remind you that at the HLAA Rochester Chapter, we strongly believe “Family always comes first!” while appreciating the dedication of our valued volunteers.

Now, let's delve into some exciting events and opportunities awaiting us in the coming year. We will continue hosting our monthly Chapter Programs, daytime HOPE Sessions, Demo Centers, Hear Together Group, CI Group Meetings, and our much-anticipated Annual Dinner at the Cobblestone Creek Country Club, just to name a few of our regular activities.

Additionally, I am thrilled to announce two new events that we have planned for the upcoming year. First, we have the “HOPE in the Evening” session by Joe Kozelsky, which will be conducted virtually. To participate in this session, kindly register on our website: www.hearinglossrochester.org. Second, we have the “Better Couples Communications with Hearing Loss” session by Megan Fox. This session will also be conducted virtually, so make sure to register to secure your spot.

Our Summer Picnic this year will take place at the lodge in Fairport, where we previously hosted the Walk4Hearing event. Stay tuned for more details as we approach the event, which will be shared through various marketing channels and social media platforms.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that HLAA National will soon be reaching out with early bird specials for the 2024 HLAA Convention. Taking place at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix, Arizona, this convention is an experience worth having, especially for those with hearing loss. If you missed the opportunity to attend the convention in Rochester in 2019, I highly encourage you to consider attending one at least once in your lifetime. To make it more accessible for our chapter members and dedicated volunteers, our chapter offers funds to help offset the cost of attending the convention through a reimbursement application. You can find the reimbursement form on our website, and the exact reimbursement amount will be finalized by the board soon. Last year, approved attendees of the 2023 HLAA Convention in New Orleans received a reimbursement of up to \$750.

You may be wondering what makes you a chapter member or a dedicated volunteer. It's simple - to be a chapter member, you need to have paid dues, and being a member of HLAA National is even better. As for dedicated volunteers, if you serve as a board member or one of our precise Stellar Supporters, you qualify! We appreciate our volunteers and members, and together, we can make our community more accessible for individuals with hearing loss.

Thank you all for the continued support that you have shown to our chapter. If you are interested in getting actively involved or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our leadership team or myself. Remember, hearing loss is an ongoing challenge, and there is no one better than us to make a positive impact.

Once again, I wish you a fantastic New Year filled with joy, success, and continued support. Thank you for being a part of our community and for your commitment to making a difference.

Dan

Donations

Donations in Addition to Membership

Carl Ellis

In memory of Ray Koenig

Sue Miller

Donations in Kind

Gayle Carini

Thank you to our major contributors

Elaine VanderBrook

Warren Crandell Estate

Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate

Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate

Mary Tuckley Estate

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

January	3 Paul Stager
	11 Judith Bernhart
	23 Charlie Johnstone
	30 Chris Suffredini

We have only about a third of birthdays listed in our records. Please let us know so we can include yours next time around.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have 480 friends and we want more. Find us on Facebook at: **Hlaa Rochester NY**

Hear Together Group Helps Parents of d/HoH Kids

by Carissa Karaffa

My journey as a parent with a child with hearing loss, is probably not too different from many others. To our surprise my daughter failed the newborn hearing screening after birth. Anxious and unsure what this really meant, we followed up with all the appointments that were recommended. After a very emotional ABR appointment with our audiologist at the time, we finally had a diagnosis. As a new mom and father to this little beautiful ball of light, we could not help but worry about what her future would look like, and what we could do along the way to pave a path of success for her, full of resources and confidence.

It did not take long to get set up with more appointments and be referred to Early Intervention. As many parents may be able to contest, we have had our ups and downs when it comes to providers, therapists, appointments, and the list goes on. But early in our journey we were blessed to be connected with a parent group that has helped us as parents, and my daughter in more ways than I could have ever imagined!

The Hear Together Group was created by Kristin Bergholtz (SLP) and Carly Alicea (Audiologist), to create a platform for parents of children that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to connect. They have created a safe space where we can come as parents and share concerns, frustrations, successes, and support for each other free of judgement and criticism. Kristin and Carly always provide an opportunity for parents to share, ask questions, or generate a topic if a parent has come with something on their mind. In addition to this open format, they will also have a topic ready or strategies that can be discussed as a group. They have also brought on guest speakers that can provide additional resources and expertise for us as parents. As my daughter is now in first grade, I have found the conversations about transitions into the public school district and advocating for her services on her IEP to be extremely beneficial. I have also benefited from conversations about troubleshooting her hearing aids, or her other assisted technology, such as the DM. I have appreciated sympathy when I lost her hearing aids, and have equally enjoyed being able to share my experiences and successes to help and support other parents. Not only do Kristin and Carly have a wealth of knowledge but the other parents present always provide strategies and suggestions that have worked for their child and can often translate to others. The connections and ideas I have generated from other parents, I truly believe have made a huge successful impact on my daughter's journey.

This group is truly one of a kind, but the success of the group relies on the parent participants. If you have not

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JANUARY PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 1)

View and try out a selection of assistive listening and alerting devices before actually buying them. Included are captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone APPs related to hearing enhancement. Members of the Technology Committee stand by to answer questions.

Tuesday, January 23:

8:00-9:00 pm - HEAR TOGETHER. Kristin Bergholtz CCC/SLP./Carly Alicea Au.D/Ph.D Virtual on Zoom.

Speech language pathologist Bergholtz conducts a virtual support group with audiologist Carly Alicea.

For parents and caregivers of Deaf/hard of hearing children. Learn more about your child's hearing loss, services to benefit them, and tips to support their language development. To register, contact kristinbssl@gmail.com.

Anyone interested in hearing loss, either their own or someone else's, is welcome at Hearing Loss Association of America - Rochester Chapter programs.

All HLAA programs are free. Some are in person only. Others are hybrid in-person and on-line with the online access requiring preregistration. To obtain the Zoom link, access the chapter web site hearinglossrochester.org

Most in-person programs feature an induction loop assistive listening system for devices with a telecoil and some have open captions.

Assistive Device Demo Center



Our chapter sponsors the Assistive Device Demo Center where our members and the public can see some of the latest devices available to help them with day-to-day difficulties associated with hearing loss.

The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones and personal assistive listening devices [with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments]. Chapter members stand by to answer questions.

Sessions are usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next demo session at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) on Thursday, January 18th from 10 am to 2 pm. Sessions are free. All are welcome!

National Report

by Peter Fackler

The Board of Directors of Hearing Loss Association of America met at headquarters in Rockville, MD Friday November 3 and Saturday November 4. Meetings were chaired by Mike Meyers (Chicago) with all board members in attendance. As per emerging custom, board meetings are hybrid (in-person and virtual presence) even while consensus is that face to face discussions are preferable. Over time, the composition of the board has trended to being more nationwide rather than the heavily east coast tilt of some days gone by. Of the 17 elected and ex officio members of the board, four are from the northeast, five are from the greater Washington D.C. area, two are from the southeast, two are from the mid-west, and four are from the west coast. The greater geographic dispersion is a welcome advance for the board and the availability of hybrid meetings to allow virtual attendance has been a sometime help for directors who are not east coast.



The agenda included a report from the executive director; committee reports from the finance, development, and nominating committees; a report from the chapter engagement manager; and a donor appreciation letter writing activity to provide board outreach to donors. A Friday evening 'happy hour' and light dinner provided valuable time for directors and staff to be together in a more informal fashion than meeting formats allow.

Report (highlights) from Barbara Kelley, Executive Director:

Barbara made a point of saluting the Rochester and Westchester chapters in the celebrations of their respective fortieth anniversaries this fall.

Barbara reported that the HLAA website re-design is set for an early 2024 debut. The website upgrade will include a new chapter's portal that will aim to organize chapter and state organization support materials in an organized, easy-to-use fashion. More widely, the aim is to have a more welcoming environment for new visitors to the site who are seeking support and information in dealing with their hearing loss or that of a member of their family and who may know little to nothing about HLAA. The aim is to be able to provide useful service to new friends who find us via social media posts and other referrals. Engagement strategies will be employed through social media, blogs, webinars, etc. to attract people to the website.

Recruitment for Lise Hamlin's successor is underway. Lise's retirement is set for mid-winter although she will continue to contribute going forward on a consult-

ing basis with the ICAAT project. Lise is a long-time staffer at HLAA in charge of advocacy efforts...she will be missed.

Membership will be re-defined to include all donors who "opt in" to being considered members. The thinking is that all supporters should receive the benefits of membership if they choose and that widening the scope of who we consider as members will create the potential for a more robust overall dialogue with HLAA's base of support. The details of how this will be implemented is not yet fully worked out. Stay tuned.

HLAA aims, as a strategic proposition, to establish an internal culture of philanthropy that will help the organization sustain itself financially, to better support the grass roots support communities (chapters, state associations et al) and to extend its outreach to underserved populations within the hearing loss community over time. Much of this effort will be about doing a good job communicating what we are doing, how HLAA aims to grow and improve its work, and how important the support of friends and members is to the future sustainability of HLAA. Expectations for Board of Directors involvement in giving and getting funding to support HLAA will continue to have increased emphasis as we see the work being "a team effort" combining the efforts of Board and staff, along with the larger body of HLAA supporters.

One of HLAA's strategic themes is to do a better job of outreach to underserved populations. Barbara highlighted some of our efforts in that regard including convention programming (first Spanish language workshop in New Orleans provided by Roxana Rotundo (Miami) and diversity/equity/inclusion panel comprised of Roxana Rotundo, Ibrahim Dabo (Atlanta) and Carrie Nieman (Johns Hopkins) and the November issue of Hearing Life featuring hearing loss across cultures.

Notice has been received of HLAA's being awarded grant funding to support upcoming research symposia at our national conventions. Funding is through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders of National Institutes of Health (NIDCD/NIH for short) in total funded amount of \$300,000 spread over five years. Thanks to Jan Blustein (New York) for her volunteer services in providing technical support in writing the grant application.

Management is considering plans to add staff to provide information for people with hearing loss regarding the assistive technology landscape. While the need is understood to be significant, the way forward on this front is not clearly developed at this writing. Scope,

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National Report

(Continued from page 4)

scale, specifics not fully understood. More thinking, study, and wider consultation is needed. Funding will be an issue, perhaps. See this space for future developments.

Finance committee chair Michael Stone reported out a preliminary (not yet audited) deficit for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023 following a half decade of budget surpluses. The fiscal 2023 deficit is not cause for alarm as cost controls remain strong and management continues to develop budgets that reflect strategic plan themes. Recent pressures on revenues (charitable gifts) are consistent with broader trends experienced by many not-for-profit organizations following the economic dislocations occasioned by governmental responses to the Covid pandemic. The financial condition of HLAA remains strong as the board and management over time have developed sufficient financial reserves to buffer difficult short-term macro-economic trends that arise from time to time.

Finance committee also brought forward an updated investment policy for board approval. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to adopt.

Development committee reported that the data clean-up project continued apace. Historically, Walk4Hearing records and other donor records have been maintained in separate software systems, making it difficult to view an integrated picture of HLAA giving over time. In addition, and not unusual for small organizations, the donor database has not been maintained with as much rigor as one would want. Thus, for example, one donor might be identified in multiple ways. (Made-up example: Samuel R. Smith, Sam Smith, and S.R. Smith are one and the same person but identify in the data as three separate persons.) Data clean-ups are extremely detailed and unglamorous projects but can be vital in serving the best interests of the organization and its supporters. The project is nearing its completion in early 2024. Separately, but wholly connected with the data effort, is the implementation of new data software for the Walk4Hearing and of software to make possible the integration of W4H giving results with that of the larger HLAA. The new W4H software made its debut at the recent Houston event and early reports are that the software upgrade has been hailed by W4H participants as a big step forward.

Nominating committee provided a discussion note to full board to foster examination of past practice regarding HLAA board membership as regards employees of the major manufacturers of hearing aids and major cochlear implants. In short, past practice has been

to not include employees of these companies on the HLAA board in order to have HLAA board composition be clearly aligned with the HLAA focus on consumer advocacy, representation, and support. The discussion was initiated by nominating committee after an application for board service was submitted by an employee of one of the cochlear implant manufacturers. The committee placed the application on hold pending review of the policy question by full board. Saturday's discussion was wide-ranging and characterized by a variety of observations and opinions. The application that precipitated the policy review remains on hold. Further review and discussion will follow. Stay tuned.

Melissa Kruse, Chapter Engagement Manager reported on her first months on the job. As a first step, Melissa executed a survey of chapter leaders to get a first impression of the relationship between national and its local communities. She now is fully engaged in dialogue with the HLAA grass roots in the chapters, state associations, and beyond. She appreciates the enthusiastic way in which our local communities are sharing their thinking and experience with HLAA service and the relationship with national HLAA.

Kelly King, Au.D., Ph.D of NIH/NIDCD addressed the board. See this space in the February newsletter for highlights from her talk.

HLAA New York State Association Report

by Peter Fackler

A report from the Annual Meeting of HLAA-NYS held December 2, 2023 will be forthcoming in the February 2024 newsletter. In the meantime, please visit the HLAA-NYS website, hearinglossnys.org, to keep abreast of the most recent news.

Sign-Up for our Monthly e-blast

We now offer a monthly e-mail which contains notices of our upcoming meetings and events. To subscribe, send see hearinglossrochester.org/meetings.

Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

The HLAA Rochester offers hearing aid batteries at our monthly program meetings. You may purchase a pack of six for \$1.50, or an entire box (60 batteries) for \$15.00.

Captioned Entertainment Around Rochester



JCC Center Stage - Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. Please specify "Captioned Area". Tickets are \$35-40 with discounts for JCC members, full time students and seasonal subscribers. All captioned performances are on Sundays at 2 pm.

February 11, 2024 *Hitmakers Rock vs. Disco*
 April 14, 2024 *Sisters in Law*
 May 14, 2024 *Beautiful The Carole King Musical*

NTID Theatres Panara Theatre

April 19-21 Deaf Creators Play Festival

SHED Sklarsky Glass Box Theater

April 5-7 *Ada and the Engine*
 April 12-14 Immersive Theatre Project



GEVA Theatre Center - Open Captioning for patrons with hearing loss is provided during the 1st Saturday matinee and both performances of the final Wednesday of each Wilson Stage Series production, and the first Saturday matinee of each Fielding Stage Series production. When booking your seats, mention your interest in open captioning in order to secure the most advantageous view of the display on the right of the stage.

1/20, 2:30 pm *Dial M For Murder*
 3/9, 2 pm; 3/27, 2 pm & 7:30 pm *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*
 3/23, 2:30 pm *Sanctuary City*
 4/20, 2 pm; 5/8, 2 pm & 7:30 pm *Newtown*
 6/1, 2 pm; 6/19, 2 pm & 7:30 pm *The Color Purple*



RBTL Live Theater - Open Captioning, made possible by HLAA, is offered during most Sunday matinee subscription performances of the Broadway Season, and select other performances. A text display scrolls words in synchronization with the dialogue and lyrics of the show. Reserve seating in view of the captioning screen in advance or request open captioning for unlisted events, 585.222.5000 or mail@rbtl.org. All shows at 1 pm.

February 4, 2024 *The Temptations*
 February 25, 2024 *Mrs. Doubtfire*
 June 9, 2024 *Tina*

The Little - The Little Theatre provides options for people with hearing loss, including hearing amplification headphones in all theaters. The hearing amplification headphones can also be used for descriptive listening.

Theatres 1, 2, 4, and 5, are equipped with Hearing Loop Systems. Personal captioning devices are available for all theaters. Please inquire at the box office.

The Little offers open caption screenings when available. Open captions mean captions are visible to everyone, and cannot be turned off. Open caption screenings are currently shown on Thursdays, along with the first matinees on Sundays (please note some films do not have an open caption version). You can find Open Caption shows via thelittle.org (listed in the showtimes on each film page), and on social media.

Roc Cinema has a hearing loop and some Saturday matinee movies are open-captioned.

Other Theaters - Regal Theatres, Cinemark Theaters, AMC Theaters, and Movie 10 all indicate on their websites that they have closed captioning devices available by asking at the box office. The Strand Theater in Brockport, has individual displays on goosenecks available.

Hear Together (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

yet joined a meeting, I urge you to consider joining us! The Hear Together Group meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month via zoom at 8pm. The convenience of meeting on zoom, really means come as you are, where ever you are! I can put my kids to bed and show up to the meeting with a cup of tea and my PJ's on. I have regularly been attending Hear Together for three years, and I have yet to leave a meeting without taking something away that I can use to help better myself as a parent, or to make improvements in my daughter's life. To register/RSVP email: Kris-tinBSLP@gmail.com. Our meeting dates for the remainder of the year are: 1/23, 2/27, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, and 6/25. I hope to see you there!

We Welcome All Donations

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester. HLAA is a 501c(3) organization. Mail to: Doug & Nancy Meyer, 5275 Rosebrugh Rd, Geneseo, NY 14454

Be sure to designate: This donation is: In Memory of, or In Honor of, or Birthday congratulations, and who to send the acknowledgment to. Our sincere thanks for your donation!

HLAA does not sell products. We simply share information, educate through presentations and programs, advocate, and provide peer support.

My Story—Doug Meyer

My name is Doug Meyer. I became a member of HLAA Rochester in 2011 as a consequence of my wife (Nancy) having suffered a severe hearing loss due to Meniere's Disease. HLAA was recommended to us as a source of help by a friend who had taught at NTID. Since that time I have been active in the chapter as a member of the Scholarship Committee for the past five years and as Assistant Treasurer with Nancy since July 2020. In addition, partially due to my background in math, I served as treasurer of our faculty association at York Central, and currently serve as Finance Chairperson and Special Events Treasurer for our church.



I have been a lifelong resident of Groveland, NY where my parents owned a small farm purchased in 1952. As a young man, my goal was to become a farmer but economic issues directed me to SUNY Geneseo where I received a Masters Degree in Math Education. After a thirty-seven year teaching career in High School Math, I retired to become more active in the family farm which my younger brother and family now operated on a much larger scale. During those thirty-seven years I continued to work on the farm on weekends and school vacations. I feel fortunate to have had an enjoyable and successful career in education, but farming is in my blood. "You can take the boy from the farm, but you cannot take the farm out of the boy".

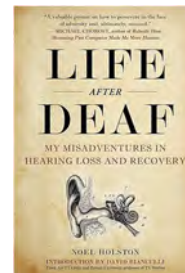
My hearing loss came about as a result of operating open air tractors (no cabs) on the farm as well as chain saws since we have maintained a wood burning stove for several decades. We still enjoy the cozy warmth of the wood heat ! Having been a member of HLAA for several years before my hearing became problematic, I knew that it was time to consult an audiologist. I am certain that my experience of living through Nancy's hearing loss journey made it easier for me to make the transition to wearing hearing aids. There was little to no hesitation or self consciousness on my part about wearing them. The hearing aids have been very helpful regarding understanding speech. It means so much to be able to carry on meaningful conversations with family members, especially our eleven grandchildren.

HLAA Rochester has been most supportive and encouraging, for both Nancy and myself, in coping with hearing barriers for the past twelve years. Not only have we acquired a great deal of knowledge about living with hearing loss, but we have made many new friends. I truly believe that HLAA has been and continues to be a most important resource for anyone experiencing hearing loss.

Life After Deaf (My Misadventures in Hearing Loss and Recovery)

A book report by Eric Matson

In my view, this ~2018 memoir should be mandatory reading for anyone whose hearing "isn't what it used to be". The author, Noel Holston, lyricist and journalist, began with gradual loss, but unexpectedly woke one morning profoundly impaired in one ear and totally deaf in the other. He details his challenges with Audiologists, ENTs, Insurance Companies, Surgeons and a failed first cochlear implant, but his most telling revelation for "I can get by..." readers is the realization of the significant burden his loss was placing on everyone around him... the discovered adverse impact on his wife, client/colleagues, everyday relationships, love life, etc.



His summary admonitions are compelling:

- Protect your (hearing) like the precious gift it is!
- Kick your vanity to the curb, regardless of what type of aid helps!
- Be proactive... admitting your loss is vital to getting others' help!
- Sharpen your other senses... sight, touch, smell, taste!
- Don't risk acting on loss... It will not improve and you "won't get by".
- MAINTAIN A SENSE OF HUMOR... doom & gloom is depressing!

On this last item, Noel provides great personal examples. At the very beginning, he quotes John Donne: "Ask not for whom the bell tolls... it tolls for thee." He then replies: "Bells? What bells?". Later, he observes: "Hearing Loss will make a person renew his or her library card"... "deaf be not proud"... and "I do NOT need CDs for Christmas!".

The authors early experience with Captel's voice-to-text telephone was disappointing, but the key word is EARLY. My own 2023 service is fantastic... on both my landline and smartphone!

In all, "Life After Deaf" is a real page-turner for the hearing-afflicted.



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Feb. 11, 2024



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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 are currently meeting online via
Zoom. See our website at
hearinglossrochester.org
to register.

While our primary focus is directed
toward people with hearing loss, we
welcome everyone to our chapter
meetings whatever their hearing
ability.

For more information, call

585 266 7890

or see

hearinglossrochester.org

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Newsletter

Newsletter deadline: first day of the
month preceding the issue month.

Bruce & Candi Nelson, Editors
120 Cobblestone Dr.
Rochester, NY 14623
585-334-5513
editor@hearinglossrochester.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER

July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024

I want to join as a first-time member I want to renew

All members receive the Rochester chapter Newsletter!

Check preference for access: via US mail via Chapter website

Check membership type: Individual Family Corporate

Check contribution: (*please consider a charitable donation above Basic dues -
an acknowledgement is sent for donations of \$10 or more.)

Basic/Individual Dues, \$10 Basic/Family Dues, \$20 Corporate* \$50

Friend* \$25, Partner* \$50, Supporting* \$100 Donation \$_____

Veteran COMPLIMENTARY (Free lifetime chapter membership for veterans with
hearing loss). Branch of Service: _____

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Name: _____

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City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (home): _____ (cell): _____

Email: _____

I have a different mailing address for part of the year.

Please attach an additional page with the address and dates you are gone.

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester. Send to: Mr/Mrs Doug
Meyer, 5275 Rosebrugh Rd., Geneseo NY 14454

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YES! I want to join or renew membership in

national HLAA. Membership entitles me to the
magazine, *Hearing Life*; a number of discounts;
and knowing I'm supporting advocacy for people
with hearing loss nationwide.

Join Renew

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(cell): _____

E-mail: _____

Send to: Hearing Loss Association of America
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Rockville, MD 20852

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If You're New, This is for You

More than 48 million people in the US have a hearing loss, which can hinder daily communication. By age 65, one in three Americans has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects the quality of life of the individuals with hearing loss as well as family, friends, co-workers and everyone with whom they interact. HLAA believes people with hearing loss can participate successfully in today's world.

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

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

The Rochester Chapter, started in 1983, 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—Rockville, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

Our 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. Our chapter meetings will also be streamed on Zoom, with captioning. See our website at hearinglossrochester.org to sign up for access to all future meetings. Please register at least 24 hours before the first meeting you wish to attend, so that you will receive the link by email.

Everyone, with or without a hearing loss, is welcome, on our on-line meetings or in person, when live meetings resume!