



**Monthly Daytime Program Meeting In Person
at St. Paul's and on Zoom - December 5th**

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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, DECEMBER 5, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL:** Conversation and light refreshments.
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 11:30 AM -NOON AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** Chapter announcements and business meeting.
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, NOON - 1:00 PM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM: PRESENTATION:** MUSIC AND HEARING LOSS
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 7:00 PM ON ZOOM:** Board of Directors Meeting
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM:** ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER. Technology Team. at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave.
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 8:00 PM ON ZOOM:** Parent's Group: *Hear Together*. See information in December Programs.

Please check our Chapter Website hearinglossrochester.org for any changes

REFRESHMENTS

We appreciate our members who have volunteered to bring refreshments to our December 5th meeting: Paul and Mary Ann Stager, Judy Markowski, Eric Matson, Barb Law

We Celebrate 40 Years!

- Page 7 Four Decades of Support, Education, Advocacy
Page 11 Pictures from 40th Anniversary Celebration

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Featured Presentation - Music and Hearing Loss by Dr. Ron D'Angelo, AuD, member of American Academy of Audiology - Tuesday December 5, Noon-1:00pm. Hybrid program: In person. St. Paul's Parish Hall AND virtual on Zoom.



At Clear Choice Hearing and Balance of Rochester, Dr. Ron D'Angelo specializes in diagnostics and treatment of disorders of hearing, tinnitus and vertigo/disequilibrium.

He is trained in Tinnitus Retraining Therapy (TRT) and Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy.

A professional musician, Ron has performed with Paul Simon, Aretha Franklin, Josh Groban, Chuck Mangione, Frank Sinatra, Jr., and other national and regional acts.

NEW COURSE – What did you say?: Beginning Speechreading - Thursday, December 7 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom . Presented by : Suzanne E. Johnston, MA., CCC/SLP

Suzanne E. Johnston, is a Board Certified/NYS Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist, Expertise in Adult Speech/Language Pathology, Neurogenic Disorders, Hearing Loss and Deafness

Attendees will learn:

Communication competencies for 'readers' with Hearing Loss and their partners

- Optimizing the listening environment
- Components of Speechreading – 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' word prediction, word/sound shapes, using suprasegmentals for prediction
- General strategies for communication and better speechreading

OTHER December PROGRAMS

Tuesday, December 5:

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

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President's Column

From President – Dan Brooks

It's hard to believe winter is upon us and we're in the middle of the holiday season! This time of year has always been one of my favorites because I am able to spend time with family and friends. Although each of us may celebrate our holidays differently, spending time with those we care about is very fulfilling in many ways. This season is a time we cherish our ability to spend precious time with those close to us, knowing that so many others are unable to do the same.



Our Chapter's 40th year celebration was a great success. This was a one-time event of course, but we'll be able to reminisce about it in years to come.

We had over 100 attendees, which made for a lively group of people. There were some members who were able to share stories about the "early years", and those who were eager to hear about how we got our start. Mostly, celebrating with others who understand hearing loss and care about our Rochester Chapter, made for a wonderful celebratory occasion.

For those who were not able to attend you'll be able to read more about it in our Chapter Newsletter. You will also be able to see photos on our website and social media platforms. We owe a big "thank you" to Art Maurer & Bruce Nelson, who took the time to take photos, to memorialize the event. They have captured these memories for many to enjoy.

A special thanks goes to Carol Loftus for leading the charge in the planning of this special celebration, not an easy task. Carol, and the committee she chaired, put in several hours to plan, and carry out the details that made the event a success.

We all thank Charlie Johnstone and Lorin Gallistel for getting the technological portion of the event in proper order. There were a few details involved to be sure everything works properly. Everything went seamlessly!

Midvale Country Club is a beautiful venue with a gorgeous view and the food was delightful. Lastly, I'd like to thank Wegman's for their generous donation to cover the cost of our decorated 40th Anniversary cakes!

The main event was the presentation Art Maurer and I delivered. He prepared it with the help of Barb Law and Sue Miller. Barb and Sue put in a great deal of time researching and creating the timeline of all the past Chapter Presidents and Chapter Award recipients. The records had been placed in several boxes tucked away in Sue's basement and going through 40 years of records and organizing all the material certainly was not an easy task!! Art was able to masterfully simplify all information gathered and put it together as a presentation and takeaway. Having all these treasures (booklets) now kept in one place for all to see is an unforgettable gift to our chapter!

The text of the booklets prepared and handed out at the 40th Celebration is included in this newsletter. For a PDF version, see the "Members' Page on our website www.hearinglossrochester.org. You may also ask a fellow chapter member who attended.

Kathy Warner, our Branding Artist, designed and created these masterpiece booklets. They are a wonderful summary of all the accomplishments of our chapter in the last 40 years and a look ahead towards what we hope to accomplish in the future.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the celebration. What moved me the most was that a number of people approached me wanting to volunteer in some capacity. While we always need volunteers what moved me the most was that people realize the value of our Chapter and want to contribute to its continued success. It was heartwarming and an indication that our chapter must be doing something right. Our energy level is high and remains so because we all work together. What a wonderful way to end a special day! This kind of celebration is something we have earned and should be proud of; another "feather in our cap" kind of moment.

Next month we will be approaching a whole new calendar year, and we will be shifting into the second half of our chapter's calendar year. It will also be a little bittersweet for me as this will be my last 6 months serving you as president of this amazing chapter. I couldn't be more proud and honored!

Thank you all for your support and I wish you all a warm and safe holidays ahead!

-Dan

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 1)

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: MUSIC AND HEARING LOSS by Dr. Ron D'Angelo, AuD, Hybrid program: In person. St. Paul's Parish Hall AND virtual on Zoom.

Thursday, December 21:

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

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, December 26:

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 kristinbslp@gmail.com.

NEW OFFERING – HOPE in the Evening – The popular HOPE Sessions are now being offered in the evening on Zoom. The next is on **January 17, 2024 7:00 – 8:00pm**. Join the lively discussion.

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.

Donations

Donations in Addition to Membership

Carly Alicea
Don & Pam Bataille
Margaret Cochran
Tom Corteville
Frances Englund
Gregory Lumb
Cynthia Sattora
Ruth Tetlow
Elaine Vangellow
Nicholas & Rebecca Sprague
Kathleen & Ralph Wiegandt
Thomas Zachman

Donations

Target Corporation Employee Giving

In Memory of Scotty Miller

Kathy Vigna

In Memory of Dylan Jennings

Sue Miller

Thank you to our major contributors

Elaine VanderBrook
Warren Crandell Estate
Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
Mary Tuckley Estate



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, December 21st from 10 am to 2 pm. Sessions are free. All are welcome!

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**

HLAA New York State Association Report

by Peter Fackler

The Annual Meeting of the board will be held the morning of Saturday December 2 with Kassey Granger of Gens Falls presiding. All members of HLAA NYSA are invited to attend and should have received an e-mail invitation by now. Note: if you are a member of Hearing Loss Association of America (the national organization) and reside in News York State, then you are a “member” of HLAA NYS. For information on how to connect with the meeting, please see details at the HLAA NYS website, hearinglossnys.org.



As reported here last month, HLAA NYS participated in a Deaf Awareness Day event in conjunction with a Mets game in late July. We can now report the good news that the HLAA NYS treasury has been enriched by an added \$350 raised by donations received. Congratulations to Carolyn Tannen, Steve Wolfert and other down-staters who made this effort pay off.

Sue Miller, Trudie Walker, and Peter Fackler are working together to propose updates to the HLAA NYS bylaws for consideration by the Board of Trustees at its upcoming December meeting. Best organizational practice is that bylaws are not amended frequently; thus, the proposed amendments will be technical in nature designed to assure compliance with state regulations and to assure organizational practices are consistent with bylaws provisions.

Dan Brooks, as immediate past president of HLAA NYS, chairs the HLAA NYS board’s nominating committee. Dan reports that the committee’s slate of officers to be nominated at the December meeting of the board is as follows. President, Peter Fackler; Vice President, Steve Wolfert; Secretary: (to be determined as of December 1, 2023); and Treasurer: Tom Cor-teville.

People with hearing loss in New York and elsewhere lost a dear friend and *advocat extraordinaire* when John Waldo passed away in Houston in late summer. John’s hearing loss came along later in life and was the impetus for him to re-fashion his law practice in working to advance the cause of access for people with hearing loss. His work carried impact including results gained in captions becoming commonplace in live theatre and movie theatre settings across the country. More recently, he and others have been working to establish hearing aid coverage rights through a federal case ongoing in Washington State. At the recent convention in New Orleans, I had the good fortune to talk at length with John about his work and inquired after a

time about whether he might be interested in assessing the hearing aid access situation in New York State as a ‘guest’ consultant working with HLAA NYS. John’s answer was an immediate and enthusiastic ‘yes’. When I last corresponded with John in July, he told me of his ill fortune in learning of his brain tumor condition but nevertheless signed off that we had work to do together in New York. John Waldo, RIP, friend.

National Report

by Peter Fackler

I buy my supply of beans for my morning coffee at Canaltown Coffee Roasters in Rochester where Peter Pellitier, the house roastmaster, routinely offers a great selection of fresh roasted coffee beans from around the world. I ‘discovered’ Canaltown when our very own Carol Loftus recruited them to furnish the hot joe for the Walk4Hearing events sponsored by HLAA Rochester back in the day.

I mention Canaltown here because it is located in the same shopping plaza across the street from East Avenue Wegmans where Ristorante Lucano is located. Were it not for the time and place one evening in fall 2004 at Lucano, yours truly would not have found HLAA Rochester and thence the wider world of HLAA national. I was dining alone with a copy of a local community newspaper at hand when I spied a blurb advertising the once monthly meetings of SHHH at St. Paul’s Episcopal. The rest, as the saying has it, is personal history.

I mention all of this as my personal anniversary of finding SHHH is closing fast on twenty years. I have it in my mind that breaking bread with HLAA friends at Lucano as observance would be a fun thing to do. But first, I really have a bee in my bonnet about identifying the actual date of that fateful dinner. My credit card companies are not a source and my attempts to convert and update my check book software has not yielded success at this point. Request: if we have any Quicken software experts reading here, I sure could use your thinking in this regard. In the meantime, I’ll try a long shot idea in hoping the restaurant has old records going back in time. I won’t bet my next paycheck on this working out but, what the heck...

Not much to report here from Rockville at this writing but I should note that Melissa Kruse who was appointed to the staff position charged with building relationships with chapters, state associations, and the larger

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My Favorite Things about Living with Hearing Loss

By Shari Eberts



Wait, did you get that right? Favorite things about living with hearing loss?

There are positives and negatives to almost anything—including hearing loss. Last month, I highlighted the downsides, but today we will look at the silver linings.

The Silver Linings of Hearing Loss

DEVELOPING SELF-ADVOCACY SKILLS

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger! Learning to advocate for my needs has boosted my confidence and given me the resilience to take on any challenge. It was not an easy road, but helped my hearing loss peers, I am now an advocate, not only for myself, but for the entire hearing loss community. I love being a part of this important work.

INCREASED EMPATHY FOR OTHERS

People sometimes tell me that they would never know I had hearing loss if I didn't tell them. Part of me is pleased but another part wishes they could see how hard I am working below the serene exterior. Hearing loss is invisible and so are many other disabilities. Just because we cannot see someone struggling doesn't mean it is smooth sailing beneath the surface. Hearing loss helped me develop deeper empathy for others, especially for those who seem to be doing just fine.

TUNING OUT SOUND (OCCASIONALLY)

Maybe this wouldn't apply if my hearing were typical, but the ability to turn off the cacophony of modern society can be a joy. While it's not always completely silent due to my tinnitus, removing my devices can provide a welcome relief from the sometimes exhaustingly active soundscape.

DEEP COMMUNICATION SKILLS

People with hearing loss use a multi-pronged approach to communication. It's not just what we *hear*—

depending on the degree of loss we may miss part or all of the spoken language others throw our way. We must combine the bit we do understand with non-verbal and context clues to draw out meaning. We are astute at reading body language and facial expressions to glean emotions since we may not correctly identify vocal inflection. Managers take note: strong communication skills are just as useful in the workplace as they are in our personal lives.

ATTENTIVE LISTENING

Communication is not something people with hearing loss can do on the fly while engaging in some other pursuit. Listening is the activity. This required concentration makes us deep and compassionate friends. When you tell us about your day, we will maintain eye contact (we need to see you to hear you) and concentrate on your words. No doom-scrolling on our phones when you talk to us. Now if only our communication partners would return the favor.

BEING A PART OF THE HEARING LOSS COMMUNITY

As Holly Cohen says in our hearing loss documentary *We Hear You*, "The gift of hearing loss is meeting others I would not otherwise have met." I agree. My hearing loss friends give me strength when I am feeling down and inspire me with their advocacy successes. They have taught me resilience, and joy, and a lot about living well with hearing loss. I am grateful for each and every one of you.

Reprinted with permission from <https://livingwithhearingloss.com> Shari Eberts is a passionate hearing health advocate and internationally recognized author and speaker on hearing loss issues. She is the founder of Living with Hearing Loss, a popular blog and online community for people with hearing loss, and an executive producer of We Hear You, an award-winning documentary about the hearing loss experience. Her book, Hear & Beyond: Live Skillfully with Hearing Loss, (co-authored with Gael Hannan) is the ultimate survival guide to living well with hearing loss. Shari has an adult-onset genetic hearing loss and hopes that by sharing her story, she will help others to live more peacefully with their own hearing issues. Connect with Shari: Blog, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter.

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!

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.

December 12, 2023	<i>Love, Loss, & What I Were</i>
February 11, 2024	<i>Hitmakers Rock vs. Disco</i>
April 14, 2024	<i>Sisters in Law</i>
May 14, 2024	<i>Beautiful The Carole King Musical</i>



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.

December 17, 2023	<i>Annie</i>
February 4, 2024	<i>The Temptations</i>
February 25, 2024	<i>Mrs. Doubtfire</i>
June 9, 2024	<i>Tina</i>

NTID Theatres Panara Theatre

April 19-21 Deaf Creators Play Festival

SHED Sklarsky Glass Box Theater

December 1-3	<i>AstroDance II: Across The Universe</i>
April 5-7	<i>Ada and the Engine</i>
April 12-14	<i>Immersive Theatre Project</i>

National Report

(Continued from page 4)

body of grass roots constituents has really hit the ground running. I will have more to report on this score in future scribblings here.

The HLAA board met in Rockville, MD November 3 – 4. See this space in the January newsletter for a full report.

I understand that registration for the June 2024 convention will open in mid-December. Watch future newsletters and our chapter's website for more news on this front.



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.

12/2, noon; 12/10, 2 pm & 7:30 pm	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>
1/20, 2:30 pm	<i>Dial M For Murder</i>
3/9, 2 pm; 3/27, 2 pm & 7:30 pm	<i>Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill</i>
3/23, 2:30 pm	<i>Sanctuary City</i>
4/20, 2 pm; 5/8, 2 pm & 7:30 pm	<i>Newtown</i>
6/1, 2 pm; 6/19, 2 pm & 7:30 pm	<i>The Color Purple</i>

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.

How to Connect with the National HLAA Office

For your continuing reference, here are notes regarding how you can connect with HLAA:

- Website: hearingloss.org
- Walk4Hearing website: walk4hearing.org
- Office phone: 301-657-2248
- Office FAX: 301-913-9413
- 6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852
- Membership: go to hearingloss.org (or see mail option at rear of this newsletter)
- e-News: sign up at website.
- Archived webinars: go to hearingloss.org.

Four Decades of Support Education Advocacy

1983-1987

November 1, 1983 was the first meeting of our Rochester chapter, just four years after Rocky Stone founded the national SHHH: Self Help for Hard of Hearing People. Charter members were Harriet Adams, Bob Call, Mark Hargrave, Bob Henning, Jeannette Kanter, Sue Miller, Bill Rae, Dot Schieven, Char Stio and Vern Thayer.

Starting with an emphasis on Support of folks with hearing loss, socialization has been a major aspect of HLAA-Rochester over the decades with gatherings, dinners and picnics continuing through the years. Early events in homes have been moved into much larger venues as HLAA-Rochester has expanded.

The PAC, Professional Advisors Committee, was established in 1984 with four members. It has since been expanded to eight, each with a two-year term. In recent years, PAC advisors with backgrounds in many professions have led to impact on our involvement with the courts, theaters, airport, veterans ... to name just a few.

The Chapter Newsletter went into publication in 1984 with Harriet Thayer Adams editor. Editors since: Joan Ewing, Gwen Cheney, Debby Taylor, Ginger Graham, and, currently, Bruce Nelson. It received National's Outstanding Newspaper Award in 1994 and 2011.

Mark Hargrave is considered a pioneer in induction loops in greater

Rochester; he expedited the first installation in St. Paul's Church.

1988 – 1992

The Rochester Chapter hosted the third SHHH National Convention in 1988; in 2019 Rochester hosted again.

Dr. Paul Dutcher, MD presented a program on tinnitus to an attendance of 102 — the highest ever. He continues to serve as our medical consultant.

Hal Hood was our first 'official' photographer; and served as treasurer for 20 years.

Hears to the ADA — a video was produced in 1992 with the help of Gertrude Houston, later a member of Professional Advisory Committee.

1993 – 1997

The Scholarship Award Program started in 1996 by Sue Miller with a contribution from her parents. To date \$140,500 has been awarded to 156 graduating high school seniors with donations from chapter members, the MacDonald Fund, and Walk4Hearing.

An active parent support group was organized by Noreen Conte in the 1990s. Currently, a new parent support group, "Hear Together", meets monthly on Zoom.

In 1997, Library Liftoff — Harriet Adams began a nationally sponsored project to improve library resources for and enhance communication of people with hearing loss.

1998 – 2002

During the 1990s, advocacy for inductive loops led to compilation of a list of Houses of Worship — still updated and in use. In 1998, the Technology Committee initiated "Tech Talks" at our monthly Chapter meetings.

Under the guidance of chapter member Judge Arthur Curran, Assistive Listening Devices became available in 1998 in Ontario and Yates County courthouses as well as Federal courthouses in Buffalo and Rochester. Currently, Charlie Johnstone consults with the Unified Courts System across New York State.

HLAA-Rochester's first website was implemented by Paul Pakusch in 2000. In recent years our updated website at HearingLossRochester.org has been designed and expertly maintained by our talented webmaster Michelle Gross.

SHHH changed its name to HLAA in 2006.

2003 – 2007

First Walk4Hearing was held by six chapters in 2006. Rochester continued over the next 11 years.

Rear-window captioning introduced in Webster AMC theater in 2007.

In December 2008, Mama Mia became Rochester's first live captioned play. Since, every Broadway production at the Auditorium Theater has offered one live captioned performance.

2008 – 2012

HAAA-Rochester Chapter became listed as a recipient for donations to the United Way in 2009.

In 2010, Peter Fackler became president of the Board of Trustees for HAAA National.

Sorenson Communications began providing live captioning at chapter meetings in 2011, continuing until 2021. Now local captioners and voice recognition captions from Zoom are used.

In April 2012, the first Featured Speaker Program highlighted psychologist Sam Trychin, Ph.D.; followed by others including author Gael Hannon, Juliette Sterkins, Au.D, and Dr. Debra Tucci.

In December 2012 HAAA-Rochester established a presence on Facebook.

2013—2017

Since 2013 funding and consultation has been provided for the installation of induction loops, and/or assistive listening devices and captioning at:

Geva Theatre

Dryden Theater at the Eastman House

Rochester Academy of Medicine to loop their auditorium & library

Rochester Broadway Theater League at the Auditorium Theater Al Sigl Center large conference room

The Little Theater

Jewish Community Center

Susan B Anthony Carriage House

Regal Theaters

PAC member Mike Giardino, Director of Aviation of the ROC airport, initiated improvements for hearing accessibility throughout the facility renovation beginning in 2013, leading our airport to become a national model. Bill Johnson, husband of member Suzanne, continues to support this effort.

The very successful HOPE sessions (Hearing Other Peoples Experiences), chaired by Joe Kozelsky, CCC/A, started in 2016.

Health Fairs have proven to be an excellent introduction to new people over the years. Coordinated by Trish Prosser, Laura Arney, and now Gayle Carini.

2018 – present

After initial groundwork by Fred Altreith and Al Suffredini, the Rochester-HAAA Assistive Device Demo Center was started by Charlie Johnstone and the Tech Team in 2017. It allows individuals to try some of the latest devices available to help people cope with difficulties associated with hearing loss. Available monthly at Lifespan. Classes from nearby colleges have attended special training sessions. Also, Lorin Gallistel created a website housing all device information.

In 2018 HAAA-Rochester continued providing input on installation of loops being installed at ROC airport.

Wegmans partnered with HAAA to help them test implementation of induction loops at checkout aisles, pharmacies, and customer service desks in 2018.

Four annual Days of Hearing were held at Lifespan and Nazareth College between 2014-2017. All proved to be well attended and very instructive.

Chapter began offering Free Lifetime Membership to Veterans with hearing loss in 2020. To date we have 38 veteran members.

In March 2020, the Covid shutdown challenged us to shift all programs and meetings away from in person gatherings. The Tech Team immediately introduced using Zoom and all meetings went on-line including monthly Chapter Presentations in September. Starting in September 2022, monthly in person meetings with socialization and refreshments again became feasible — the Tech Team made them 'hybrid' — in person and on Zoom. A recording for each hour-long presentation is placed on YouTube — accessible through our website.

The Express Hearing Check Kiosk was purchased by our chapter in 2021 as the result of research by Lorin Gallistel. It is one of a few in the nation. It is used to check people's hearing at our HAAA Demo Center, at library presentations, and chapter meetings.

In March 2021, our Health Care Appointment Communication Guide for people with hearing loss was published in the Newsletter.

A branding campaign was launched with new brochures, Tip Cards, media ads and related materials in 2021.

The Stellar Supporters Group was established of over 50 HAAA members to dialog and garner feedback from the volunteers who are the bedrock of our Chapter functioning and keeping on track. The group meets to brainstorm and dialog three times a year via Zoom.

Presentations to libraries of the Monroe County Library System began in 2022; Lorin Gallistel, Eric Maston, and Art Maurer have 17 completed to date.

In 2022, collaboration began with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department to enhance communication between deputies and people with hearing loss.

Tips for consumers regarding purchase of Over-the-Counter hearing aids were published in October 2022.

The Healthcare Task Force is renewing focus on hospitals to improve communication between patients, doctors and medical staff. The project is divided into four segments, each targeting a specific user base: Administrators, Patients, Medical Staff including doctors, and Technology.

Daytime HOPE sessions are held in person. HOPE in the Evening sessions are being introduced on Zoom

Our Cochlear Implant User Group meets three times a year, chaired by Peter Fackler..

2023—

Chapter Meetings are now hybrid in person and on Zoom. Plans are to stay hybrid for convenience of many and to reach those beyond greater Rochester.

Continuing advocacy for induction loops has led Rochester to enjoy over 150 equipped locations

Presentations to libraries and participation at Health Fairs continue. Plus, new emphasis is being placed on offering presentations to Adult Living Residences.

40 Years of Achievement

Our list is long, providing Support, Education and Advocacy over the decades. Sincere thanks to all the dedicated member volunteers for making it all possible. With expansion into new initiatives, we'll strive to make an even greater impact in the years ahead. Facing new challenges in our fast-changing times, perhaps you can make a difference through volunteering to assist in all the great things HLAA-Rochester has the potential to do.

Meet PAC Member Carmen Carrasquillo



Carmen A. Carrasquillo has over twenty years of experience in the human services field. Carmen serves as the Chief Program Officer for The Community Place of Greater Rochester as well as Charles Settlement House.

In her role, Carmen oversees existing programming and services, and plans and coordinates new programs. Other responsibilities include: managing program implementation and funding; providing leadership and guidance to program managers and directors; and analyzing the effectiveness of programs and services. Carmen has experience working with diverse populations across different disciplines and settings including, education, health and wellness, criminal justice, children and youth, seniors and family services.

In the past, Carmen served as a board member of the Monroe County Community Services board, as well as a mentor and fieldwork supervisor for college-level students pursuing degrees in Social Work and Human Services. Currently, Carmen serves as a member of the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports credentialing board. She is also a returning member of the Professional Advisory Committee for the Rochester Chapter Hearing Loss Association of America.

Carmen is a graduate of the United Way Latino Leadership Development Program. Carmen holds a Bachelor's degree from Empire State College in Community and Human Services, a Master's degree in Public Administration from Marist College, and is credentialed as a Prevention Professional by the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports.

DECEMBER Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

December	2 Carol Bradshaw
	5 Pete Fackler
	6 Lorraine Gluck
	14 Margaret (Peg) Crowley
	19 Barb Gibson
	25 Carol DeLong
	29 Barb Law
	29 Mary Chizuk
	31 Linda Kozelsky

Special birthday greetings to Ray Koenig who will be 97 on December 30th!

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



**40th
Anniversary
Dinner**

See all our pictures at <http://tinyurl.com/HLAA-40-Pix>



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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

Professional Advisors
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2022-2024:
Carmen Carrasquillo
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Paul Dutcher, M.D.
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2023-2025:
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Consultants:
Medical - Paul Dutcher, M.D.
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Legal - James Vazzana, Esq.



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 -
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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 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!