



Featured Presentation

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

**NOON - 1:00 PM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL
AND ON ZOOM:**

Attendees of the HLAA Convention

"HLAA Convention Reports"

The 39th National HLAA Convention was another smashing success. Louisville, Kentucky is a beautiful city and a perfect place to host a national convention.

Rochester was well represented with nine attendees. The venue was classy and the workshops top-notch...educational, enlightening, and inspiring. Several of our local attendees will discuss some of their experiences and what they learned.

Please plan to join us on Tuesday, September 9th (second Tuesday) to hear from those who attended this outstanding event. It will be a great way to kick off the new program year.



At the 2026 HLAA Convention in Louisville, , the Alice Marie Stone Family Engagement Award was presented to Rebecca & Nicholas Sprague for dedicated family members and their contribution to the growth and development of HLAA.

Additional September Meetings and Programs

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM IN PERSON, ST PAUL'S VESTRY ROOM: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences': Joe Kozelsky

Prospective, new, or experienced hearing aid users informally share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL: Conversation and light refreshments.

11:30 AM - NOON AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL: Chapter announcements and business meeting.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM ON ZOOM: Cochlear Implant Group. See page 4 for details

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM ON ZOOM: Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 - 9:00 pm on Zoom: *Hear Together*. Kristin Bergholtz CCC/SLP./Carly Alicea Au.D/Ph.D. For parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss. See page 2 for details.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Assistive Device Demonstration Center: Technology Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Avenue. See Page 6 for details.

7:00 - 8:00 pm on Zoom: HLAA Rochester Book Club: Jennifer Lowden. See back cover for details.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2-4 NYS-HLAA Conference in Saratoga Springs

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Please check our Chapter Website [hearinglossrochester.org](https://www.hearinglossrochester.org) for any changes

Thank you to our members who are bringing refreshments to our September meeting: Anne Adamson, Nancy Meyer, Sue Miller, and Marlene Sutliff

HOPE SESSIONS How They Started

by Joe Kozelsky

At one of our recent Board of Directors meetings it was decided that we would provide a brief report of each HOPE meeting for the next HLAA Newsletter.

Here is a copy of the announcement about the first HOPE session that occurred in April of 2016.

The Announcement: From the April 2016 Newsletter
*NEW***

Do you wear a hearing aid? Come to HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) and share your experiences in order to help others who wear hearing aids and those considering getting hearing aids.

Do you think you need a hearing aid? Hearing aids do not restore normal hearing, but they can improve your hearing by amplifying and refining sounds. Hearing technology is moving fast and each year brings tremendous advances to help people hear better. Many of today's hearing instruments allow users to hear from all directions, in all sorts of sound environments. Are you unsure of what your next step should be? Don't be swayed by advertising that promotes invisible devices. Those tiny hearing aids may not have enough power for your hearing loss. Further, a poorly programmed hearing aid could cause you to conclude hearing aids do not work for you. Before buying a hearing aid, educate yourself. Information is power. Hearing aids vary greatly in price, size, and features.

The moderator for these sessions will be Joe Kozelsky, MS, and, CCC-A (Ret.), recently retired audiologist and a long-term hearing aid user. Bring your questions to HOPE and--Hear Other People's Experiences...and... share yours!

HOPE will meet from 10:30 – 11:00am, in the Vestry Room. Social Time-- 11:00 – 11:30am, Parish Hall. Business meeting-- 11:30 - Noon Chapter Meeting speaker-- Noon to 1:00pm (with permission from Nancy Gilbertson, editor, HLAA Fox Valley News, Wisconsin)

THE FIRST HOPE SESSION SUMMARY, APRIL 5, 2016

The first session was attended by two new individuals with questions about hearing aids and three veteran members of the Rochester Chapter.

The questions of the two individuals were exactly the kinds of questions we hoped for. One was a lady who was thinking about getting hearing aids and needed advice about what to get and where to go to get them,

and the other party had a question about his fitting and how he should proceed in addressing it.

We advised her to ask people who have hearing aids - how they liked them, where they got them, and if possible, what brand they are - although many people really do not know. She was told about the differences in education between the commercial and the professional sectors. The commercial sector providers generally are more sales oriented and minimally have an equivalent of two years of college level courses in any field. Degree status is not required. In New York they have only to pass one examination administered by the state. The professional sector providers on the other hand tend to be much more service oriented and must have eight years of post-high school education, passing innumerable examinations and a national examination. Doctoral degree status is required. She was advised to pay close attention to her provider regarding which device to obtain.

The gentleman had a question about the sound quality of his hearing aids and wondered if he should attempt to adapt to the hearing aids as they were, or if they should be adjusted. He was advised there is a wide range of thought on this issue and he could contact his provider to seek a more comfortable setting which could then be increased over time to the target setting.

We will hold our next session on May 3 (2016). The sessions are open to anyone who has questions about their hearing situation including experienced users.

Note: It was not long before it was realized that we needed more time and the start time was changed to 10:00 AM. Often, we will run over the allotted time of one and one-half hour.

June HOPE Session

by Christine Rankie

There were 15 people in attendance at our June 2nd HOPE session including a new participant who joined us seeking information for her mother who is 96 and has hearing loss, mild dementia, and poor eyesight. The group discussed how to support this elderly lady in light of the unique challenges inherent in her situation. Among the suggestions discussed were the ins and outs of captioning telephones, tablets with captioning, and types of hearing aids with and without ear molds.

The group had very useful information and suggestions concerning the above, taking into consideration the lady's lack of internet, disinclination to try new/unfamiliar things, and limited manual dexterity.

(Continued from page 3)

Thus, it is critical that the high frequencies be maintained to the maximum extent possible. This brings us to the feedback manager.

Feedback Manager

The feedback manager is important to know about because feedback can be a very troubling issue for hearing aid users with hearing loss in the higher frequencies. **Feedback is primarily associated with those same higher frequencies which are so important for understanding speech.** Further, the higher frequencies are even more important for understanding speech in the presence of background noise. So, it is important to maintain the best possible hearing in the higher frequencies.

A method for providers to eliminate or reduce feedback is to **reduce the amplification in the higher frequencies.** This solves the feedback issues for the users, but understanding ability is reduced, sometimes by a lot. So, reduction of the amplification in the higher frequencies should be avoided whenever possible.

Most hearing aid software contains a special feedback reduction feature termed **"Feedback Manager."** The feedback manager can be invoked by the provider to **eliminate or reduce the amplification of the higher frequencies** and therefore, the occurrence of feedback. The feedback manager does eliminate feedback, but the loss of the higher frequencies can have a very serious impact on the intelligibility of speech for the user, so it needs to be used very carefully by the provider. The feedback manager is discussed in more detail in Chapters 10, 11 and 12.

Open Door Mission Donations

The Open Door Mission greatly appreciates your donation of gently used clothing and personal products. The needs of our unhoused and immigrants are ever present

Marlene Sutliff and Bill Marshall will be at the September 8th meeting to collect donations. Thank you for supporting HLAA Rochester and those in need!

Donate Your Unused Hearing Aids

You may donate your unused hearing aids to the The Finger Lakes Region Lions Hearing Foundation to be refurbished for those in need.

You may drop them off at Ontario Hearing, 2210 Monroe Ave, or bring them to a chapter meeting.

HLAA Rochester Cochlear Implant Group Meeting Schedule Set

By Pete Fackler

The HLAA Rochester cochlear implant group will meet via Zoom on the following Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.: September 9, 2026; December 9, 2026; March 17, 2027; and May 12, 2027.

The programs feature both outside speakers and pass-the-mic formats. Program content has proven useful for both new and experienced CI users and for people who are considering CI or who are just interested in learning more. The interactions among the group have been especially valuable and attendees include people from across the USA.

To be included in pre-meeting informational communications, please be in touch at cochlearimplant-group@gmail.com. Advance registration is required to receive the necessary zoom link

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday in September to:

9 Jim McGrath
9 Dan Wolf
10 Marlene Sutliff
13 Julius Toenniessen
15 Janet McKenna
18 Nancy Meyer
23 Mary Ann Stager
25 Jenn Lowden

Hear Together: Parent & Caregiver Support Group on September 16th

by Carly Alicea, Au.D., Ph.D.

Hear Together is a supportive community for parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss. Sponsored by HLAA, the group offers a welcoming space to connect with others who understand the joys and challenges of raising a child who is hard of hearing or deaf.

Meetings provide time to share experiences, learn practical strategies, and explore topics such as early intervention, school supports, communication choices, advocacy, technology, and social-emotional well-being.

Whether you're new to a diagnosis or further along, Hear Together emphasizes connection and encouragement. For meeting details, visit HLAA's national event calendar or contact kristin@canalsidespeech.com.

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. The theatre has Auracast and an FM system,



The Little - The Little Theatre offers hearing-assist options, including amplification headphones (also usable for descriptive listening) in all theaters. Theatres 1, 2, 4, and 5 have Hearing Loops, and personal captioning devices are available—ask at the box office. Open-caption screenings run on Thursdays and the first Sunday matinees when available (some films lack OC versions). Open-caption showtimes are listed at thelittle.org and on social media.

Robert F. Panara Theater, named in honor of RIT's first Deaf professor and founder of the NTID Drama Club, has a rich heritage of offering challenging, entertaining, and provocative works of theater, all created for both Deaf and hearing audiences. Information about upcoming performances are online at <https://www.rit.edu/performingarts/panara-theatre#upcoming-events>.



The REV (Merry-Go-Round) Theatre in Auburn uses a state-of-the-art FM Assistive Listening System, with each device equipped with its own induction loop. Learn more about their productions at therevtheatre.com.



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.



RBTL Live Theater - Open Captioning, provided by HLAA, is available for most 1 pm Sunday matinee Broadway subscription shows and select additional performances. A text display scrolls dialogue and lyrics in real time. The auditorium is Auracast enabled. Reserve caption-view seating or request captioning for other events at 585-222-5000 or mail@rbtl.org.

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

OFC Creations Theatre at Winton Place has an FM system and receivers with hearing loops for T-coils.

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.

Assistive Device Demo Center

Our chapter proudly sponsors the Assistive Device Demo Center, offering members and the public an opportunity to explore the latest devices designed to ease hearing loss challenges. At our demo sessions, you'll find Signaling-alerting devices, Captioned telephones, and Personal assistive listening devices, with special focus on TV listening and noisy environments. Knowledgeable chapter members will be available to answer any questions.



Join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through June! The next session is **Thursday, September 17th**, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. Sessions are free and open to everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Donations

Donations in addition to membership

Mariana Rhoades
Elaine Vangellow
Lorin and Judy Gallistel

Donations

Calvin Graziano
Ann Owen
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Thank you to our major contributors

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Silent Auction Donations Needed

We are seeking donations for the NYSA Conference silent auction in October. All proceeds go directly to the NYSA organization.

HLAA members from New York and surrounding states will be participating in the auction.

Donation Details

We are collecting items that represent the Rochester/Finger Lakes region to create a "Chapter Basket" for bidding. Gift cards for franchised restaurants or stores are also welcome.

Important Deadline

The deadline to receive donations is September 15th.

Contact Information

Please send your donations or inquiries to:

Mcchiz70@gmail.com
315 310 07761

Your ideas, donations, and support are greatly appreciated.

My Daughter's Story

by Tamala David

Cinnamon David, our chapter's Social Media Chair, is getting married on October 10th and moving to Yonkers, New York! But, don't cry, yet; she plans to continue to serve our chapter from afar.

Cinnamon began serving the HLAA Rochester Chapter in 2022 when she became a member of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). During her term with the PAC, she agreed to serve the chapter as the Social Media Chair starting in 2023. She is not a member of HLAA and she does not attend very many chapter events, but, you might have seen or met her at one of the annual dinners, summer picnics, Board of Directors retreats, or elsewhere.



Cinnamon, herself, is not a person with hearing loss, but, she is no stranger to the experiences of people living with "hearing trouble". First, Cinnamon's great-grandparents were deaf, sign language users and during Cinnamon's early childhood years, her great-grandmother lived in the home with her family. Second, one of Cinnamon's older sisters was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder in childhood. Third, Cinnamon attended Martin B. Anderson School No.1, a public elementary school in the Rochester City School District that had a program for deaf and hard of hearing students (or students with deaf or hard of hearing parents), many of whom were/are Cinnamon's friends. Our chapter's very own Daniel Brooks is an alumnus of that school! Next, Cinnamon's father, an Army veteran, was diagnosed with moderate-severe, bilateral hearing loss in 2019 at the age of 49. Last, but, certainly not least, you guessed it, Cinnamon's husband-to-be was diagnosed with profound, unilateral hearing loss in childhood!

If you would like to know more about Cinnamon or participate in celebrating her journey into marriage, please, call/text 585-622-4380, email bridalshower@cinnamonrayne.com,

and visit the websites, below.

<https://www.cinnamonrayne.com/profile>

<https://withjoy.com/cinnamon-and-jurel>





HLAA ROCHESTER *First Annual* CABIN PARTY



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18



1:00–5:00 PM



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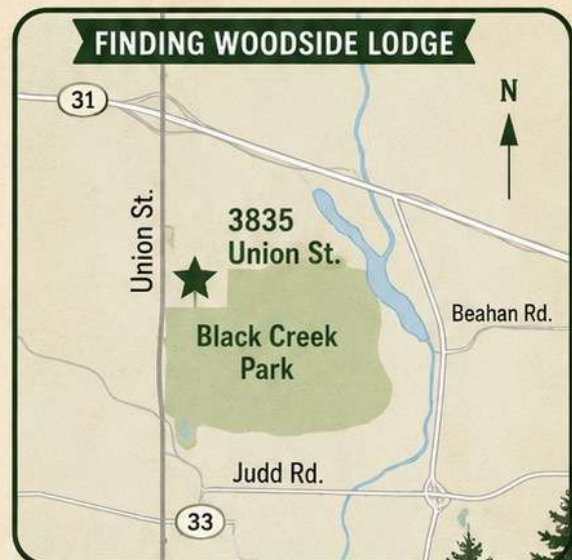
MENU:

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ACTIVITIES:

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OCTOBER 7**

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Adam Sheppard, AuD.
(TBD)

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Consultants:
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 Technical - Charles Johnstone
 Legal - James Vazzana, Esq.

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Newsletter

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

Bruce & Candi Nelson, Editors
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585-334-5513
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CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

HLAA-ROCHESTER

Membership year: July 1 - June 30

All members receive the Rochester Chapter Newsletter!

☐ First-Time Member ☐ Renewal

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Finding Zoe by Brandi Rarus

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 17** **7:00PM-8:00 PM**

- Moderated by Jennifer Lowden, Director of the Chili Public Library and member of HLAA.
- Email libraryladyjenn@gmail.com if interested in attending. A zoom link will be sent out a few days before the discussion.
- This book is available for purchase from Amazon in hardcover, paperback, Kindle download and to borrow from Libby/Overdrive (Brooklyn PL/New York PL)



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, Auracast-enabled, 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 to join our meetings online or in person.