



Telephone: (585) 266-7890  
 Email: hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com  
 Website: <https://www.hearinglossrochester.org>



Volume 36, Number 10

June 2023

**Monthly Daytime Program Meeting In Person at St. Paul's and on Zoom - June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**JUNE CALENDAR**

- TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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, JUNE 6, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL:** Conversation and light refreshments.
- TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 11:30 AM - NOON AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** Chapter announcements and business meeting.
- TUESDAY, JUNE 6, NOON -1:00 PM AT ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL AND ON ZOOM:** Mary Chizuk: Accessing Hearing Accessible Health Care
- TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 7:00 PM AT AL SIGL CENTER:** Board of Directors Meeting
- THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM:** ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES DEMO CENTER. Technology Team. In person. Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave.
- TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 7:00 PM ON ZOOM:** Annual program planning meeting
- THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 8:00 PM ON ZOOM:** Parent's Group: *Hear Together*. See information in June Programs.
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 2:00 PM - 6 PM AT DOLOMITE LODGE:** Chapter Picnic . See Page 4 for details.

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

**REFRESHMENTS**

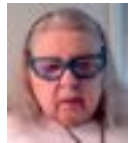
We appreciate our members who have volunteered to bring refreshments to our June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting: Mary Chizuk, Barb Law, Sue Miller, and Gayle Carini.

**JUNE PROGRAMS**

HLAA Rochester Chapter offers in-person and virtual programs for anyone interested in hearing loss. Preregistration for the Zoom sessions is required by visiting the HLAA website at: <http://hearinglossrochester.org>

**Tuesday, June 6. Noon-1:00 pm at St Paul's Parish Hall and on Zoom: Mary Chizuk: Accessing Hearing Accessible Health Care**

Hearing-accessible health care varies considerably from one site to another. Hearing loss impacts an individual's health and the care they receive, whether in primary care, specialists, urgent care, emergency, or planned/unplanned hospital admission.



Retired RN Care manager Mary Chizuk seeks positive and negative anecdotes of people's experiences while using health care facilities.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Awards Presented at the Chapter Annual Dinner**

We are pleased to announce the awards presented to the following individuals and organizations whose work has fostered the mission of the HLAA Rochester Chapter. The awards were presented at the Chapter Annual Dinner on May 23<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Person Award**

Greg Horton, Au.D., the Director of Audiology at Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, received the 2023 HLAA Community Person Award. A very dynamic young man, Greg is forward looking and creative – often suggesting ways to improve the status quo and prepare for a future of new markets and enhanced technologies. As a member



*(Continued on page 4)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Dan Brooks and Art Maurer

Our 40<sup>th</sup> Year...

July is the beginning of our HLAA Rochester Chapter 40<sup>th</sup> Year. Mark your calendars for two enjoyable events.

First is our **Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 13, 2:00 – 6:00 PM** at the Dolomite Lodge in Penfield. It's a casual opportunity to meet together with no formal program or speeches. Just mingle, converse with each other, and enjoy a catered meal. The charge is \$15.00 per person with children 12 and under free.



Next is our **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 29**, at Midvale Country Club, 2:00 – 5:00 PM. Planning is already in full swing promising a memorable afternoon. You'll be receiving a distinctive invitation by mail.

*Planning for our 40<sup>th</sup> Year Begins...*

Our Annual Program Planning meeting for our 2023-2024 year will be on Tuesday, June 20 via Zoom. We encourage recommendations and suggestions. Please contact Barb Law ([blaw475@gmail.com](mailto:blaw475@gmail.com)).

A new initiative is to produce a number of short instructional videos on YouTube which will be accessible from our [hearinglossrochester.org](http://hearinglossrochester.org) website. What are subjects that you think will be relevant to folks just considering hearing aids or a Cochlear Implant, or just starting to use them? If you are, or know anyone, versed in video production, we can benefit from his/her expertise. Please contact Art Maurer ([pastpresident@hearinglossrochester.org](mailto:pastpresident@hearinglossrochester.org)) on this social media initiative.

*The Questions seem to be Changing...*

As we make HLAA presentations at libraries, senior residences, and to various groups, the questions being raised seem to be changing. Folks considering getting hearing aids for the first time or replacing them, in addition to how to find a good audiologist, are now interested in information on Over-the-Counter hearing aids. This adds complexity to the discussion because OTCs are actually a reality of our do-it-yourself age and while cheaper, present a whole array of factors to be considered. Happily, we have our Tip Sheet as a guide. Of course, acquiring hearing aids through an audiologist erases those OTC concerns, because the professionals are in business to consider all relevant factors.

Beneath the cost of OTCs, new devices are being introduced that can help people without hearing aids hear

better. One new entry replicates many of the functions of hearing aids with the drawback of having to wear it with a wire to a head band with ear phones or ear buds. Cost just under \$200. Not as good as a hearing aid but enabling understanding of speech when talking with others.

Another device, the Sereonic Portable Wireless TV Speaker, makes it easy for the person with hearing loss to understand TV and videos while letting everyone else in the room enjoy the same program at a sound level comfortable to them. It works well – Cost \$130.

Traditionally, HLAA has focused on hearing aid wearers. Now we're finding great interest across the whole population, providing potential for growth of our chapter and introducing folks who don't yet need hearing aids to HLAA and all we have to offer.

As we are spreading our wings, we need volunteers of all ages to share the wealth of information we offer. If you are interested in being a 'player', please contact Dan or Art.

As always, thanks for reading and for your ongoing support.

*Forty Years ... that's a real milestone!*

Dan Brooks, President

[president@hearinglossrochester.org](mailto:president@hearinglossrochester.org)

Art Maurer, Immediate Past President

[pastpresident@hearinglossrochester.org](mailto:pastpresident@hearinglossrochester.org)



Join us in New Orleans June 29 – July 1 to learn the latest about hearing health, communication access and the technologies and strategies that help people with hearing loss live well. This three-day event includes the general session with keynote speaker Dr. K. Renee Horton, the Research Symposium, Joy of Music/Loving Your Ears, and a variety of educational workshops.

Events include a Welcome Back Bash, Awards Ceremony, Veteran's Luncheon, Educational Sessions, and the Exhibit Hall.

Questions? Email [convention@hearingloss.org](mailto:convention@hearingloss.org). To register, see <https://www.hearingloss.org/> and click on the Registration link.

HLAA Rochester provides a stipend for its members.

## JUNE PROGRAMS

*(Continued from page 1)*

Participants are invited to share their stories at this round table discussion.

Mary currently serves on the HLAA Rochester Chapter Board of Directors and chairs the healthcare task force.

Other Programs for June are:

**Tuesday, June 6, 10 am -11 am, In-person in St. Paul's Vestry Room:** Joe Kozelsky CCC/A: Hearing Other People's Experiences (HOPE)

Prospective, new or experienced hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal round table format. We learn from one another. Anyone interested in hearing loss is invited to join the hearing aid community.

**Thursday, June 15, 10:00 am-2:00 pm Assistive Devices Demo Center. Technology Team.** In person. Lifespan, 1900 South Clinton Ave., Rochester 14618.

At this free demonstration area, consumers are invited to view and try out a selection of assistive listening devices before actually buying them. Included are captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone APP's related to hearing enhancement . Chapter members are on hand to answer visitors' questions.

**Tuesday, June 27. 8:00-pm - 9:00 pm Kristin Bergholtz CCC/SLP.** Virtual on Zoom.

Speech language pathologist Kristen Bergholtz conducts a virtual support group 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 while connecting with other advocates of these youngsters. To register, contact [kristinbslp@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbslp@gmail.com)

All presentations are free and in real time. Closed captioning is an option for all participants.

## Remove In-Ear Hearing Aids Before Ear Temperature Scanners

Friends and colleagues who use in-the-ear hearing aid(s) or occluding (full-fitting) earmolds with behind-the-ear style hearing aid(s) and/or cochlear implant(s):

If you know you're going to a facility where they are doing temperature screenings using ear temperature scanners TAKE OFF YOUR HEARING DEVICE(S) FIVE MINUTES BEFORE YOU ENTER or your temperature reading may indicate an elevated temperature.

From the American Academy of Audiology list-serve:

Posting on behalf of Catherine Palmer, PhD, Academy President

Many health systems are screening patients before they enter the facility and these screenings often include a temperature screening.

This may be conducted with a forehead device or an ear temperature screener. For patients with any style of in-the-ear hearing aids or BTEs with occluding earmolds they may find that a temperature reading right when they remove their hearing aids will be high.

A study by Mogensen et al (2018) suggests leaving the hearing aid/earmold out for at least 5 minutes in order to get an accurate temperature screening.

This information may help patients prepare for entering health centers (removing their hearing aids and waiting 5 minutes before screening) and will be valuable to directors of these screening programs so screeners will know to wait a few minutes before the screening to avoid false positives.

It is disconcerting to have a high temperature reading when you are trying to access health care and this may result in you being sent away so this information may help our patients avoid unneeded stress.

### Reference

Mogensen, C. B., Vilhelmsen, M. B., Jepsen, J., Boye, L. K., Persson, M. H., & Skyum, F. (2018). Ear measurement of temperature is only useful for screening for fever in an adult emergency department. *BMC emergency medicine*, 18(1), 51."

## Awards

*(Continued from page 1)*

of our HLAA Professional Advisory Committee Greg developed the idea of providing a 3x5 card welcoming patients picking hearing aids for the first time to join HLAA.

By participating in HLAA presentations Greg has contributed background on available insurance plans and the potential of Over-the-Counter hearing aids – the positive and the negative. Greg sees OTCs as being “good” in the long run by getting many more to address hearing problems and is taking many steps in his professional career to engage in this developing market. He has also collaborated with HLAA on TV and Radio interviews. He’s a wonderful advocate for better hearing and making HLAA more effective.

### Community Organization Award

The 2023 HLAA Community Organization award was presented to St. John's who has three Senior Living Communities: St. John's Home, St John's Meadows and Brickstone. Having established their nursing home in 1899, they have a heritage of over 120 years!

HLAA members have lived in their independent living buildings since Meadows opened in 1998 and expanded with Brickstone in 2014. Residents with hearing loss who are members of HLAA used their knowledge to advocate with the support and cooperation of management. Early Meadows resident Anna Shapiro used her HLAA knowledge to advocate for looping one of several all-purpose public rooms in Meadows. When Brickstone was being built St. John's looped two public rooms and upon request looped two resident apartments.

With several residents being HLAA members, St. John's co-sponsored the 2015 and 2016 Walk4Hearing and allowed resident Janet McKenna to promote it at resident meetings. Weekly resident meetings are open captioned and zoomed. Also, movies are shown with open captions. In St. John's Home, skilled nursing loops are installed in the auditorium. Over the years, management has met and cooperated with HLAA members, adopting many of their suggestions.



Captioned telephones were introduced to residents at both Meadows and Brickstone. Revelation! At least eight ordered after an HLAA sponsored CaptionCall presentation in 2022.

St. John's leads Monroe County senior residential communities in awareness of needs of hearing disabled residents. HLAA will continue to collaborate with St. John's to bring more “Better Hearing = Better Living” to residents.

### Chapter Award

The Chapter Award recognizes a chapter member who has consistently contributed their time and talents to enrich the operations and functionality of our local chapter. By popular vote, we are pleased to present Art Maurer with this year's award.

Art began his involvement with the Rochester HLAA Chapter in 2009, when he served on our Professional Advisory Committee. When his two-year term was completed, he was invited to join our board of directors, which he continues to do to this day. His commitment and dedication to our chapter have never wavered or ceased. Art has served our chapter in several capacities, including numerous committees, many of which he has or is currently chairing.



A few of these committees are Operation, Finance, Membership, Strategic Planning, Marketing, Education & Outreach, Presentations, Health Fairs, Website, and Publication Development. In addition, Art has served as our chapter's Vice-President and President. While serving in these venues, he has and continues to write numerous articles for our monthly Newsletter.

We are blessed to have his presence in our chapter. Last year's recipient, Lorin Gallistel was honored to present Mr. Arthur W. Maurer with the 2023 HLAA Rochester Chapter Award.



## 2023 Membership Appreciation Summer Picnic



- Date:** Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Location:** Dolomite Lodge (Same Location!!!)
- Address:** 1628 Jackson Rd.  
Penfield, NY 14526
- Time:** 2 pm to 6 pm
- Cost:** \$15 per person for anyone 13 & older  
12 & under are *free*
- Food:** Catered by D & R Catering (Same as last time!)  
*(Dinner style meal will be served at 3:30 pm)*
- Activities:** Ice Cream Social, Fun time with friends, music & etc.



**You MUST pay by August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Payment will NOT be accepted at the door**

### How to pay by check:

Send your check, along with note indicating your name, how many adults, how many children, and which persons will require a veggie burger as the non-meat choice



- Payable to:** HLAA-Rochester
- Send to:** Mr. / Mrs. Doug Meyer
- Address:** 5275 Rosebrugh Rd.  
Geneseo, NY 14454



## Summer Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

June	6	Fred Altrieth (over 90)
	7	Lori Gattie
	12	Lorin Gallistel
	14	Doug Meyer
	18	Eric Matson
	19	Gabriel Pellegrino
	26	Tom Corteville
	30	Darlene Jones
July	1	Suzanne Johnston
	22	Art Maurer
	30	Barb Rice
August	4	Brian Fox
	7	Ann Cannarozza
	10	Laura Chaba
	10	Margaret Cochran
	18	Lisa Bailey
	23	Tom Hargrave
	27	Carol Loftus

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

### 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](https://hearinglossrochester.org/meetings).

### 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 <https://hearinglossrochester.org/meetings>.

### Did you Know?

***Sitting in front of speakers at a music venue can expose you to 120 decibels of sound. This can start to damage hearing in 7½ minutes***

## 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 tele-

phones and personal assistive listening devices [with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments]. This season, several new, lower cost devices will be shown; including our new self-serve hearing test.

Sessions are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. The next demo session at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm. Sessions are free. All are welcome!

## Donations

### Donations in addition to dues:

Donald Roemermann

### Donations

Yates Ontario Building Officials  
Network for Good  
Walworth Lions Club

### Thank you to our contributors

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

thank  
you!

### 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!

## National Report

By Peter Fackler

As the June newsletter goes to press, the focus in the national office will be very much on preparations for the end-of-June convention slated to take place in New Orleans. The work of the national office to put on a convention of this scale is an all-hands-on deck effort.



The national website has included the notice that Friday May 26 is the last day for online convention registration. HOWEVER,...I can break the news here that we have extended the online registration deadline to June 9 so as you read this newsletter, there is still time. The programming and workshops promise to be great and New Orleans is a one-of-a-kind city to visit.

The HLAA 2023 Convention is June 29 – July 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana! A timeless city with a unique way of life, New Orleans is steeped in European traditions and Caribbean influences. This picturesque city calls curious minds to the sweet sounds of jazz and the enchanting aroma of savory spices. This year's convention in the "Big Easy" promises to be action packed with educational workshops, demo presentations, the exhibit hall, social events, and our Research Symposium. The convention will be held at the Marriott New Orleans. Located on Canal St, in the French Quarter, the hotel is convenient to the many shops, restaurants and other attractions that New Orleans has to offer. Start booking your trip now and *laissez les bons temps rouler* – let the good times roll!

For more information concerning the New Orleans convention and to register, visit [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org).

To connect with the HLAA national organization:

- Website: [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org)
- Walk4Hearing website: [walk4hearing.org](http://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](http://hearingloss.org) (or see mail option on Page 11)

- e-News: sign up at website.
- Archived webinars: go to [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org).
- Attend the national convention June 29 – July 1, New Orleans, LA. See details at [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org). HLAA Rochester is offering stipend support for members who attend. See specifics elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Reach out to me with your comments, concerns, and questions -- please use [pcf.hl原因@yahoo.com](mailto:pcf.hl原因@yahoo.com) or (814) 319-2083 (text or voice).

### Essential security tips

## Don't hold the door open for strangers

If you need keys, keycard, or a code to enter a building, don't hold the door open for people you don't know personally. While it may seem unfriendly, the codes and locks don't work if everyone can have access to the building.

### Is Someone You Know Having a Hard Time Accepting Their Hearing Loss?

Tell them about HLAA. You and they may be surprised at the positive change that could make in their life.

People who discover HLAA often wonder why no one told them a national support organization existed. It's a shame they don't. Give them a copy of our newsletter.

**HLAA shares unbiased information and provides support.**

<http://HearinglossRochester.org>  
<http://Hearingloss.org>

## HLAA New York State Association (NYSA) Update.

By Dan Brooks, Immediate Past President, HLAA-NYSA

It's hard to believe summer is upon us already! It has been a very busy and productive year for HLAA for which I am very pleased; we've accomplished a lot.



Although there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing all of our accomplishments, I will say I'm looking forward to some much needed rest!

July and August traditionally has been a time many of us volunteers take a breather and have additional time to spend with friends and family. For me it is going camping and spending time with family at our cottage on Duck Lake.

The *HLAA Rochester Chapter* will have its summer picnic Sunday August 13th. The picnic is always an enjoyable event. Chapter members are invited to sign up for this fun event. People of all ages attend. Members sign up for friends and family, all of whom enjoy spending time with people with hearing loss. It is such a special event. People interact with one another and get to know each other better. The picnic is a laid back and low key event, one I look forward to attending every year!

The *40<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary Celebration* Planning Committee has set the date, location and menu for our special celebration! There still are a number of details to figure out, but here is what we have so far: The date will be Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Midvale Country Club in Penfield, NY on Baird Rd. There will be four (4) menu choices to choose from plus there will be appetizers and dessert! There will be a cash bar available for two hours, along with coffee, tea and water.

To learn more about these two exciting events please visit the Rochester chapter website at [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org).

I also have some exciting news to share in regard to the *HLAA New York State Association! (HLAA-NYSA)*

The following is shared news taken directly from a letter from *HLAA National* to me and also Kassey Granger, current HLAA-NYSA President.

“Congratulations! HLAA is delighted to present the “**2023 HLAA Phoenix Award**” to the HLAA New York State Association to honor the revitalization and outreach efforts of the state association and the HLAA New York community.”

The surprise for me didn't end there...I was taken aback to learn that I personally was nominated to receive an award from National. I would like to share with you a portion of the letter:

“Congratulations! HLAA is delighted to present you with the “**2023 HLAA Keystone Award**” for your outstanding leadership efforts in revitalizing the HLAA

New York State Association and your steadfast support of HLAA.”

Both awards will be received during the *2023 Awards Ceremony and Reception at the upcoming HLAA 2023 Convention*, June 29-July 1, in New Orleans.

Kassey and I are absolutely honored to be nominated to receive these awards, but we know in our hearts these awards are not just for us to cherish. The *Phoenix Award* is an award that is for everyone that played a part in supporting the revitalization of the HLAA-NYSA. This award is for **ALL of US** and we all feel honored to have received it. We hope to see our members attend the HLAA Convention, so we all can celebrate together as we are recognized for our achievements!

Although I am delighted by being the recipient of the *Keystone Award* I know it would not have been possible if it weren't for all your generous support. I could have never done anything without the hard work that so many has poured into the NYSA and having trust in me. I am extremely humbled to be receiving this award and I cannot thank you enough for this honor.

Some sad news to share. This will be the very last update for the HLAA-NYSA from me. I am hoping to pass this function on to someone who will be more on the frontlines of the NYSA leadership.

I will remain on the NYSA Board of Directors but will no longer be the immediate past president. It has been enjoyable to write these monthly updates but it is time to pass the baton to the next person who will hold a leadership role. The NYSA has come a long way. I am excited to see what advances will be made for all of us with hearing loss in New York State!

Please continue to check our website for the latest news and efforts at [hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com](mailto:hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com).

*As always, the HLAA New York State Association thanks you all for your continued support! It sure has been a great run so far!*

-Dan

### Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

The HLAA Rochester offers hearing aid batteries at our monthly program meetings and at the Summer Picnic on August 13<sup>th</sup>. You may purchase a pack of six for \$1.50, or an entire box (60 batteries) for \$15.00.



## My Story

By Peter Fackler

Dear HLAA Rochester:

Herewith, a brief first—person recital of my hearing loss story.

“Good morning, Peter. I want to talk with you today about your hearing. Do you know that you don’t hear so well?” With those words, the president of Alfred University, where I was working at the time, alerted me to my communications shortcomings which had been noticed increasingly in my dealings with the university’s trustees and others.



I was 42 at the time and, no, I do not recall being aware of my hearing challenges. The changes in my hearing abilities had been gradual and I had not taken notice. Ed Coll, the university president, indicated his and the board’s full support for me and asked that I seek professional care as soon as possible.

I found John McNamara’s name in the yellow pages, as I recall, and John fitted me with my first hearing aids. As most of you know, John is a long-time friend of the Rochester chapter of HLAA Rochester but, at the time, I had not yet learned about SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, name later changed to Hearing Loss Association of America).

Going forward, my approach was to “keep on truckin’”, not thinking much about my hearing condition except to upgrade hearing aids periodically and to change audiologists as well as I sought to mitigate my declining hearing abilities. In retrospect, I made two mistakes (at minimum) in connection with my hearing health. Shopping audiologists was doubtless not a good strategy as continuity of care would have been a plus. I remember shopping the ads and was swayed by various promises of miracle outcomes. My second regret, which doubtless affected my first, was that I did not seek out others with hearing loss for support. Up through 2004, it is no exaggeration to say that I did not personally know as a friend another person with hearing loss and using hearing aids.

Over time my hearing abilities worsened, leading me to take an early retirement when, even with my using the most technologically advanced hearing aids, I wasn’t able to participate effectively in the endless stream of meetings at Bates College, Maine, where I had moved in 1996. My retirement in 2002 at age 57 came as a shock that was compounded by other health issues and an ultimately failing marriage. Although it is beyond my ken to be certain of the connections, I fully believe

that my hearing loss affected both my health overall and my family situation at the time.

My life turnaround from my trials with hearing loss came from acquiring two cochlear implants, from happening on the Rochester chapter of SHHH, and (last and surely not least) having the good fortune to meet Kelly Barrett who would become my life partner.

One night in fall of 2004, I was enjoying a quiet dinner alone at Lucano (East Avenue, Rochester -- still there!) and reading a community newspaper when I noticed the tiniest of tiny classified ads informing readers of the meetings of the Rochester chapter of SHHH held the first Tuesday of the month, September – June, at St. Paul’s Episcopal. The love, support, education I was greeted by were, as readers will know first-hand, game-changing. And who would have thought of the magic of induction loops that was available with the flip of a t-coil switch?!

Time and space will prevent me from doing justice here to my HLAA Rochester experience. The highlights have included Walk4Hearing, theatre committee, national conventions, bringing captions to Rochester theatre venues, summer picnics, ‘strategic planning’ with Don Bataille and Jim Littwitz, and just getting to know the coolest group of people anywhere, all of whom have understood the challenges of living with hearing loss. At risk of leaving names out, special gratitude to Sue Miller, Marcia Dugan, Barb Law, and Vern Thayer for showing me the way early on.

My joining HLAA Rochester led to board service with HLAA-NYS (oh my, those February drives to Albany and back were memorable) and with national HLAA. Board service along with helping the chapter keep track of its finances and the introduction locally of the Walk4Hearing played a significant role in my maintaining a semblance of mental balance as I struggled to adjust to the loss of work connections.

To be sure, I am wholly grateful and indebted to the Rochester chapter and, more widely, to the wonderful people whose work continues to improve technologies for people with hearing loss. All told, I count myself as the luckiest man on the planet.

With love and gratitude,

Peter Fackler

## BOOK REVIEWS

By Nancy Meyer

*Interference* by Brad Parks

The printed recap of *Interference* states, "When her husband, a quantum physicist, goes missing in the midst of a strange violent seizure, Brigid Bronik discovers that his research had gained unwanted attention and wonders if the very same physics that endangers him could actually be used to save his life." Sounds like some knowledge of quantum physics is needed to follow the plot, but it isn't in the least.

The most important point about this book is that its heroine, Brigid Bronik, has hearing loss! So few novels are written using hard of hearing characters that it's a welcome experience to see 'one of our own' in the central role. Brigid's disability, in fact, is the key to solving the mystery about her husband. The author has woven her hearing loss into the plot seamlessly while highlighting many of the same frustrations we experience every day, living in the hearing world.

I found *Interference* to be a good read, well written and true to life in depicting a hard of hearing person's struggles, as well as her value to others.

*Life After Deaf* by Noel Holston

This book is a must read for anyone who is thinking about getting a cochlear implant, or who already has one. The author describes his hearing loss and his journey to better hearing in a personal recounting of his life from the time he qualified for a cochlear implant until he was successfully living with one. Through the ups and downs of that journey, he persevered through some daunting situations to finally achieve his goal. Even though his circumstances are definitely not the 'norm', and were very different from my own, his story encouraged me to proceed with implant surgery. I'm very glad I read it; it made me more appreciative of my outcome.

Both of these books are available from your local library system. *Interference* is in our chapter library for you to borrow.

## HLAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

The HLAA Scholarship Committee has completed its work of selecting deserving recipients of our \$1000 scholarships after sending out applications to the 83 schools in Rochester and the nine surrounding counties. The applications are sent to the schools in January, a reminder email is sent in early March, and the deadline is in mid April (this year's date was the 14<sup>th</sup>).

As in previous years, the caliber of students who have applied is outstanding. These students exhibit drive, determination, and dedication to their academic responsibilities as well as excelling in extracurricular activities such as sports, drama productions and part-time employment in a variety of businesses. Their grade point averages are at or above 90%.

The students will be recognized and awarded their scholarships at a Zoom event on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to meeting these young scholars and their families/friends, talking with them and congratulating them on their successful high school years. We wish them further success and happiness in their futures and are proud to support them on their journey.

We congratulate these students from the class of 2023:

<u>Name</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Enrolled at</u>	<u>Major</u>
Jocelyn Aitchison	Pittsford Mendon HS	SUNY College of Environmental	Environmental Biology
Shanya Alvarez	Aquinas Institute	Penn State University	Pre-Medicine
Casey Burcroff	Waterloo HS	Dominion University	Business/Sports Management
Usfer Rehman	Greece Arcadia HS	RIT	App Development
Kassidy Sayres	Pittsford Sutherland HS	University of North Texas	Acting/Theater

## PUSH HARDER FOR LIVE EVENT CAPTIONING

*By Tom Willard*

Venues seem to have a knee-jerk approach of offering only ASL interpreters and not captioning.

But Johns Hopkins says 48 million Americans have hearing loss and Gallaudet says only half a million use ASL.

That means only one in 96 people with hearing loss know sign language.

So why is it so hard to get captioning?

There's no doubt that it can be done. I had live captioning at the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival, the Pittsburgh Comedy Festival and a Jim Breuer show at del Lago Resort & Casino.

Those places did the research and made it happen. But plenty of other venues just don't want to be bothered.

I asked COMEDY @ THE CARLSON for captioning. They told me to use an app on my phone. Apps are not good enough to caption shows. I filed a discrimination complaint with the NYS Division of Human Rights. Carlson won. An employee later said they spent \$50,000 on lawyers, which is much more than the captioning would've cost.

The director of the BLUE CROSS ARENA seemed to think that the same people who do interpreting could also do captioning. At the KODAK CENTER, it's the same old story -- just use an app and leave us alone already.

I tried to go to the JUST FOR LAUGHS comedy festival in Montreal last summer, but I had to cancel the trip due to their refusal to provide captioning. I filed a complaint with Quebec and they asked me to put all my emails trying to arrange access into one document. It went back to 2018 and took up almost 50 pages.

Title III of the ADA says that an entity putting on programs for the public needs to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

There is much confusion about this. People think the number of employees is a factor. People think nonprofit status is a factor. None of that matters.

It comes down to two things: How much money does the business take in during a year and how much is spent on disability accommodations?

The latter will probably be a drop in the bucket and in no way "unreasonable."

I don't think there's a great difference between the cost of interpreting and captioning, so why are able-bodied

people deciding that one accommodation is okay but the other is not?

And as a reminder, businesses can use IRS Form 8826 to get Uncle Sam to pay half the cost.

I am asking HLA members to join me in my quest to have interpreting at live events. Do not let them treat you as if you are seeking special favors. You have this right just as much as wheelchair users have the right to ramps and parking and accessible bathrooms.



### NAZARETH COLLEGE

## Participate in a communication group in June!




*Please call 585-389-2772 or email [SLHClinic@naz.edu](mailto:SLHClinic@naz.edu) if you are interested in joining the group!*

*There is no cost to participate.*

**Group:** Strategies to Promote Listening, Awareness, and Successful Hearing (SPLASH)

**Goals:** Learn and apply strategies to optimize spoken communication

**Participants:** Adults who have hearing difficulties **\*Communication partners are encouraged to attend!**

**Facilitators:** Graduate students in speech-language pathology at Nazareth College supervised by an audiologist

**Location:** York WRI 250

**When:** 1-2:00 pm, Monday's in June 2023



**Helping Children, Adults & Families in the Rochester Community for over 100 Years!**

**Featured Services:**

- Comprehensive Hearing Testing and Evaluations
- Hearing Aid Consultations and Fittings
- Hearing Aid Diagnostics and Repairs
- Auditory Processing Disorder Testing
- Cochlear Implant Evaluations and Mapping
- Industrial Hearing Conservation & Screenings
- Musician Hearing Conservation and Counseling
- Pediatric Audiology



ROCHESTER HEARING & SPEECH CENTER  
NOT FOR-PROFIT AGENCY

Rochester-Brighton | Greece | Webster

**585.271.0680**

[www.rhsc.org](http://www.rhsc.org)  
Communication for Life




2023 CHOICE AWARDS WINNER

**BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION**  
RHSM 2023

Celebrating Better Hearing & Speech Month

Sales Service Rentals

**Specialists in Hearing Assistance Loop Systems**



Call: (585) 272-9280  
E-mail: [info@theatresupply.com](mailto:info@theatresupply.com)  
2 Towerline Circle  
Rochester, NY 14623  
Web: [www.theatresupply.com](http://www.theatresupply.com)

*Thank you for allowing us to serve you since 1973!*

*Performing... for the Arts!*



**Auditorium Theatre**

*Committed to providing an enjoyable theatre-going experience for all patrons.*

Offering:

**Assistive Listening Devices**  
Headsets available at Patron Services in the Main Lobby (free of charge) for all performances.

**Open Captioning**  
Available for Sunday Matinee Broadway Subscription performances. Reserve seating in view of the captioning screen at 585-222-5000 or [mail@rbtl.org](mailto:mail@rbtl.org).

[RBTL.ORG/ACCESSIBILITY-SERVICES](http://RBTL.ORG/ACCESSIBILITY-SERVICES)



*Are you happy with the care you are receiving now?*

*Looking for a caring, hearing healthcare provider?*  
Call Dr. Christine Stein at Professional Hearing Solutions... she provides quality care in a warm friendly environment.



Dr. Christine Stein  
Au. D., FAAAA

**PHS Professional Hearing Solutions**

*We Listen More... To Help You Hear Better!*

1331 East Victor Rd., Victor • 585.398.1210  
513 W. Union St., Cannery Row Plaza, Newark • 315-573-7844  
[www.professionalarhearingsolutions.com](http://www.professionalarhearingsolutions.com)



**CLIFTON SPRINGS HEARING CENTER**

*A hearing aid is not a symbol of weakness. It's a tool of strength.*

To Schedule An Appointment:  
Call 1-800-827-0140  
[www.cliftonhearing.com](http://www.cliftonhearing.com)  
Canandaigua • Pittsford • Clifton Springs  
Established 1979

**diglo.**

Largest Selection | Lowest Prices







Hearing Aids TV Headphones Vibrating Clocks Amplified Phones ..and more!

Shop now at [diglo.com](http://diglo.com)



**Hearing Solutions,  
to Fit Every Lifestyle**

For over 60 years we've been helping the hard of hearing benefit from advances in technology.

**SERVICES:**

- Diagnostic Hearing Evaluations
- Communication Needs Assessments
- Real Ear Measurements
- Adjustment and reprogramming
- Hearing Aid Repairs
- Custom Sound Plugs
- Evening Hours
- Home Service Available

**3 AUDIOLOGISTS:**

- John J. McNamara, Au.D.
- Andrea M. Segmond, Au.D.
- Elizabeth Orlando, Au.D.

Call one of our two convenient locations today!

**BRIGHTON**  
2210 Monroe Ave.  
585.442.4180

**GATES**  
785A Spencerport Rd.  
585.247.4810

 Become a Fan!

WWW.ONTARIOHEARING.COM

**Advanced Technology  
Hearing Care  
for Rochester**

DALZELLS

**AUDIOLOGY**

Restoring Communication

DalzellsAudiology.com  
585-461-9192 - Brighton Office  
585-227-0808 - Greece Office



**Suzanne E. Johnston, MA, CCC/SLP**  
Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist

95 Allen's Creek Road  
Bldg. 1, Suite 252  
Rochester, NY 14618

Sejohnston1959@gmail.com  
585.314.1807 (v/txt)

*Enjoy the sounds of life.*



*Hearing Loops Unlimited is changing the way hearing-impaired persons experience community programs & events!*

Hearing Loops Unlimited provides large and small venue assistive listening systems with installation by experienced and trained personnel.

The "magic" of a loop is its simplicity, a hearing aid user simply turns on their tool and instantly hears clear sound directly from the audio source as if the source is inches away from their ear. Competing background noise or room echo is eliminated.

Contact us today to see how we can get you in the "loop!"

**HEARING LOOPS UNLIMITED**

585.727.0408 

[www.hearingloopsunlimited.com](http://www.hearingloopsunlimited.com)



Hearing aids covered by the **AGX Protection Plan**

Try an AGX Hearing system for **75 days, risk-free**

**Free for 3 years:**  
Batteries • Warranty  
Loss & damage insurance

Applicable toward an AGXS, Z, or 9 two-device hearing system.

**Canandaigua**  
**585.919.6712**

**Geneva**  
**315.828.6990**

[fingerlakeshearing.com](http://fingerlakeshearing.com) 

*Experts in Hearing and Vestibular Care*



**Brighton | Brockport | Fairport | Greece | Irondequoit**  
585-266-4130 | [HartHearing.com](http://HartHearing.com)

Hearing Aid Repair (on all makes and models) • Ear Wax Removal  
New Hearing Aid Sales • Hearing Aid Batteries • Wireless Hearing Devices

**FREE CONSULTATION**  
and/or **FREE HEARING SCREENING** 

**OFFICE & HOME VISITS** Mobile audiology and hearing aid services. NYS licensed, board certified and fully insured.

  
Carolynne Pouliot, Au.D.  
Doctor of Audiology

2479 Browncroft Blvd • Rochester NY  
**585-348-9886**  
[Hearingaidworks.com](http://Hearingaidworks.com) 

**For information and advice about services for older adults and caregivers, turn to Lifespan.**

Providing:

- Eldercare Management
- Expert advice about Medicare
- Education about scams & elder abuse
- Minor home modifications to prevent falls
- Monthly workshops in-person & online.

**LEARN MORE**  
[lifespanrochester.org](http://lifespanrochester.org)  
**585-244-8400**



Lifespan is a proud partner of the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association.



**Do You Have a Hearing Loss?**

Captioned Telephone (CapTel®) service from New York Relay allows a person with a hearing loss to **LISTEN** and **READ** captions of everything during your phone conversations!

Phone: **877-805-5845** (toll free)  
 For more information: [nyrelay.com/captel](http://nyrelay.com/captel)  
 To order a CapTel phone: [nyrelay.com/getcaptel](http://nyrelay.com/getcaptel)

New York Relay Service is funded by New York's Telecommunications Carriers. CapTel is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc.




**Open Captioned Performance Dates**

Offering Live Open Captioning Since 2016



**Feb. 12, 2023**  
 Featuring music from the Doobie Brothers, Linda Ronstadt, Stevie Wonder, Barbra Streisand, Dolly Parton, Fleetwood Mac, KC & the Sunshine Band, and more.



**Mar. 19, 2023**  
 Ronnie Marmo brings his play about the life and death of the legendary, groundbreaking, and controversial comedian Lenny Bruce.



**May 14, 2023**  
 This sweeping musical portrait of early twentieth-century America tells the story of three families in the pursuit of the American Dream.

**JCC ROCHESTER** | CenterStage Theatre at the JCC  
 585.461.2000 | [jcccenterstage.org](http://jcccenterstage.org)  
 Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center  
 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618



**UR MEDICINE**  
**AUDIOLOGY**  
 EVALUATION-TREATMENT-SUPPORT

**YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!**

**COMPREHENSIVE HEARING CARE FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

**HEARING AND HEARING AID EVALUATIONS**

**HEARING AID DISPENSING, REPAIRS, BATTERIES AND SUPPLIES**

**2365 S. CLINTON AVE SUITE 200 ROCHESTER, NY 14618**

**40 GREECE CENTER DRIVE ROCHESTER, NY 14612**

**125 LATTIMORE RD ROCHESTER, NY 14620 PEDIATRICS ONLY**

COME SEE ONE OF OUR AUDIOLOGISTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR HEARING!

**585-758-5700**

**AMERICAHEARS®**

**Rechargeable Bluetooth Enabled**  
 Starting at **\$849** per pair

Complimentary Hearing Evaluation  
 90 DAY 100% Guarantee  
 Financing Available

1000 Hylan Dr.  
 Rochester, NY 14626  
 (585) 764-5018



*Dr. Carrie Morabito*

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

**Board of Directors  
Officers and Members**

President..... Dan Brooks  
Vice President ..... Tamala David, Ph.D.  
Immed. Past President. Art Maurer  
Recording Sec ..... Suzanne Johnston  
Corresponding Sec . Carol Loftus  
Treasurer ..... Tom Corteville, CPA  
Asst. Treas. .... Doug/Nancy Meyer

Henry J. Adler, Ph.D.  
Steven Barnett, M.D.  
Gayle Carini  
Mary Chizuk  
Peter Fackler  
Lorin Gallistel, Ph.D.  
Charles Johnstone  
Barbara Law  
Gerry Loftus  
Eric Matson  
Sue Miller  
Bruce Nelson  
Hope Scheda  
Nick Sprague  
Rebecca Sprague

Honorary: Joe Kozelsky  
Past Honorary Board Members: Joe  
Damico and Jeannette Kanter

**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 [https://  
hearinglossrochester.org](https://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](http://hearinglossrochester.org)**

**Professional Advisors**  
Sue Miller, Chair

**2021-2023:**

Carly Alicea, Au.D, Ph.D.  
Greg Horton, Au.D.  
Gabriel Pellegrino  
Marianne Sernoffsky

**2022-2024:**

Carmen Carrasquillo  
Cinnamon David  
Paul Dutcher, M.D.  
Carissa Karaffa

**Consultants:**

Medical - Paul Dutcher, M.D.  
Technical - Charles Johnstone  
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](mailto:editor@hearinglossrochester.org)

**MEMBERSHIP FORM – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER**

July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**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

Individual \$45  /Family \$55

Professional \$80  Corporate \$500

On-line only-individual \$35

On-line only-student \$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_

(cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Hearing Loss Association of America  
Suite 320  
6116 Executive Blvd  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Please do NOT send this renewal to the local  
Rochester chapter; mail directly to HLAA in  
Rockville, MD.**



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCHESTER, NY  
PERMIT # 1193

P.O. Box 1002  
Fairport, NY 14450  
**Return Service Requested**

**Time sensitive**

**Please deliver by May 30, 2023**



## **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](http://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. Interpreters are available on request.

Our chapter meetings will also be streamed on Zoom, with captioning. See our website at [hearinglossrochester.org](http://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!*