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April 2017

APRIL Calendar

Tuesday, April 4th

10:15 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room
11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time
11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting
12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time
7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting
8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., April 4th –“Cochlear Implant Group”
1:15pm – East room - St. Paul’s church

Tues., April 11th - BOD meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

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

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

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

Tues., May 23rd – Annual Dinner” pages 6 & 11

Tues., June 27th – Program Planning meetings -
see page 3

Hospitality Duties for April:

Daytime Meeting – Dan Brooks, Rosemarie Hoffman
Al Suffredini
Evening Meeting –Lisa Bailey, Cathy Lee

Board of Directors –Carmen Coleman, Barb Gates,
Cindy Kellner

Please sign up to help when the “Refreshment Sheet” goes around!

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!

Happy Easter

APRIL PROGRAMS

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

Tues., April 4th – 10:15–11am; Vestry room

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

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

Tuesday, April 4th - Daytime Meeting— 11:00am Program begins at noon

Hands-on Listening Devices Demonstration -
Dan Brooks

Hearing aids and cochlear implants are wonderful, but they fall short of replacing "normal" hearing. Long-time chapter member **Dan Brooks** leads a hands-on demo of an assortment of listening devices which stretch the range of your hearing. You are encouraged to try out and experiment with a range of technological helpers. Dan will describe the items, display them for "experiment time," and answer questions about using them. Try before you buy!

(continued on page 2)

Tuesday, April 4th – Daytime (continued)

Dan belongs to our chapter Technology Committee, which has been involved in establishing a device demonstration center (more to report when it becomes operational.) He is an agent for New York Life Insurance Co.

**Tuesday, April 4th - Evening Meeting--
7:00pm - Program begins at 8:00pm**

Health Research Priorities of People with Hearing Loss - *Don Bataille AIA; Steven Barnett M.D; and, Mary Chizuk RN.*

Two local groups: Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) and the Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC) have collaborated to identify priority health issues for people with hearing loss.

Priority health issues are situations that concern people with hearing loss. Some are: hearing loss and healthcare communications; clinicians' knowledge to work with people with hearing loss; and, hearing loss and depression.

Mary Chizuk and **Don Bataille**, members of HL2, and **Steven Barnett**, director of RPRC, will review their research. Nine health research priorities were selected by interviewees. Researchers will discuss identifying these priorities and assembling people with hearing loss, researchers, and other stakeholders to improve health.

Mary Chizuk, RN, MS is a geriatric nurse care manager with the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic; Donald Bataille, AIA, CCIS is an architect and owns Hearing Loops Inc.; Steven Barnett, M.D., is a family physician who focuses on health care research with sign users and people with HL.

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

*HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Parish Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Avenue at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman Museum. All programs are audiolooped and **captioned**. Those needing a sign language interpreter for an evening meeting should contact*

Linda Siple at 585 288 6744, a week in advance. (Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)

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

Walk4Hearing

By Gail Cronin, editor, The B.I.G. News

On Sunday, October 2 representatives of Buffalo Implant Group made an 85 mile trek to Fairport, NY to join the Rochester chapter of HLAA for their annual Walk4Hearing. While it wasn't unusual for some of our members to attend, it was a first for me personally. I had done so at the urging of Gloria Matthews who suggested that we walk in memory of our beloved friend, **Jimmie Sorrento**. Jimmie had been an active member of the Rochester chapter and passed away in August after a long battle with lung cancer.

We made the 90-minute trek to Fairport together. I was filled with great joy when I was greeted at the registration table by our long-time member **Janet McKenna** who relocated to Rochester a few years ago. We also got to meet some other chapter leaders including **Margaret Cochran and Barb Law**. We felt very much welcomed by them. We also were able to connect with several members of the Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center walk team. We were impressed by how many of their clients and families attended with them. Nearly all the highest fundraisers came from the BHSC team.

The highlight of the Walk for me was seeing Jimmie Sorrento's sister, Donna Stewart, also walking in his memory. We also met with representatives of several other organizations and various cochlear implant manufacturers.

The weather for the Walk was absolutely perfect. It was a beautiful sunny day with a strong breeze, perfect for walking. There were activities for kids, music and refreshments for all. It was extremely well organized.

Our B.I.G. team in memory of Jimmie raised \$400 for our organization. The experience motivated me to want to do it again in 2017.

(Adapted from The B.I.G. News, Vol.29 Issue 1, 2017, by Janet McKenna)

FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM

By Elise de Papp, M.D.



Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Dr. Debara Tucci, Duke University – panelist, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Report, June 2016, on **Hearing Health Care for Adults**.

First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd., Rochester NY 14610--doors open 5:30 pm; speaker @ 6:30pm

All HLAA members are excited about the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (formerly President's Council of Advisors) June 2016 report on Hearing Health Care for Adults. Hearing loss (HL) needs to be recognized as a public health issue (community health). The report includes more than 20 suggested changes of current FDA and other regulations that will help make this happen. Hearing is a vital human sense important to communication with families, friends, coworkers and others. Quality of life for people with HL may be affected in many ways, including withdrawal from society, isolation, depression, possibly dementia. Hearing loss can happen at any age but is so common in older people it is considered normal. Approximately 10% of ages 50-59 have some degree of HL, 15% of the boomers (53-70 yrs.), and 70% of the "silent generation," those over 80 yrs. Perhaps this is why they are referred to as silent!

The United States is unique among developed countries in providing no government assistance for hearing aids (except VA coverage for military veterans, in whom HL is a major health issue). There is little health insurance coverage for hearing aids although that is beginning to change.

The report finds 70% to 85% of people who might benefit from hearing aids do not have them. Cost is a major factor, plus the "stigma" of wearing aids.

The market for hearing accessories is changing rapidly with the advent of inexpensive electronics. Over the counter wearables, or Personal Sound Amplifiers, are rapidly coming to market and should

be of help to those with mild to moderate hearing loss, at affordable costs.

Dr. Tucci, one of the panelists from the National Academies report, will present the details of the report and the pros and cons of potential changes in the market.

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

Correction: "combat veterans" should have read "military veterans" It has been changed above.



SAVE THE DATE!

PLANNING THE PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CHAPTER MEETINGS

Are you tired of "the same old subjects" at our Chapter meetings? We hope not!! But we do need your input and **new ideas for programs!** Please plan to attend either the Daytime Program Planning meeting held by Sue Miller, or, the Evening Planning meeting held by Barb Law, to give them your ideas for possible topics for the new season from September, 2017, to June, 2018.

Daytime meetings planning session:

Tues., June 27th, at 9:30am – coffee & conversation; then, discussion 10:00-Noon –

Sue's home, 16 Buckthorn Run, Victor.

Evening meetings planning session:

Tues., June 27th, at 6:00 – 9pm with Barb Law, in 1st floor Conf. room, Al Sigl Center; light snacks.
Both meetings are on the same day.

RSVP: Please email (or, call) either Sue or Barb and let them know you're attending. We appreciate an RSVP for seating and food! Hope to see you at one or both of the meetings! We're eager for your suggestions!

Barb Law: Blaw1@rochester.rr.com; (585) 381-8640
Sue Miller: SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com; (585) 924-8933

INTERESTING FACT...

In 1975, screenwriter, producer and actor Rod Serling, age 50, creator of *The Twilight Zone*, died in Rochester, NY.

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

“Wicked” – April 2

“Cabaret” – May 7

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

GEVA THEATRE – CAPTIONED PLAYS !

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

“Private Lives” - Wed. April 12

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Deadline

Friday, MARCH 31st
(for the May Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

By Janet McKenna

Our Spring meeting will follow the Chapter meeting, April 4, 2017 from 1:15 to 2:00pm. It will be a discussion round table exchange of experiences. We'll meet in the East Room, top of stairs on the left as you enter the Westminster Rd. door. **We hope to see you April 4th at St. Paul's church.**

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

(from D&C 10-25-15)

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

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

--Titanic, the Musical – May 14

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



For Your Donation to HLAA:

- Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
- Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Mary Tuckley Estate
- United Way Donors

Donation Above Membership:

Margaret Cochran

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. If you haven't yet, please consider a donation when you renew your membership. Thanks so much!

IF YOU MOVE, or are a “SNOWBIRD!”

Please don't forget to notify **Cathy Lee**, at 22 Erie Manor Lane, apt.#6, Henrietta, NY 14467, or, via email at, cathydisalvolee@gmail.com, even if your change of address is a temporary one.

HLAA is charged for each piece of returned mail, which the Post Office will not forward. When you return, we will resume sending to your local address.



Sincere birthday greetings to these members who will be 90 years or older!
Congratulations and many more healthy and happy years!

Mary Greene –April 8; Bobbie Hargrave –April 12;
Burt Foos – April 25. Happy birthday to all!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Margaret Cochran



Greetings friends of HLA A and happy Spring! I write today with heartfelt thanks for your care and continued support. As a completely volunteer run organization your support and participation is welcomed with utmost respect and gratitude. Together we make the Chapter what it is – one of the largest and most vibrant in the nation! Be proud to celebrate YOURSELF and our advocacy, educational outreach, friendships and support for those living with hearing loss. Whatever your participation--whether large, or simply in supporting--we are most grateful and say THANK YOU to all!

Hail to longer days with April showers to usher in May flowers and the rejuvenation that comes with the blessings of Spring. Speaking of blessings – have you ever stopped to consider how LUCKY we are to be living with hearing loss today? Yes, LUCKY! Technological advancements are ever-present and get better all the time. Many of you have heard my discourse re: no longer a kid in a candy store but instead a woman in a jewelry store as the cost for quality ‘equipment’ is ‘high-end’ if you will. Yes, I could have remarkably attractive jewels to pass down in my hope chest for the money I have instead elected to spend on hearing aids. Or should I rephrase that as an ‘investment’ in hearing aids...for it has provided me with the ability to relate and communicate. As the well-known quote from Helen Keller is often cited: “Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people.” Obviously, I chose people over things. 😊

More good news--the government is now ‘hearing’ us with the recent release of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report: hearing loss **must be recognized as a public health concern**. “Improving the accessibility and affordability of hearing health care will require solutions that span society: collaborative and sustained work from stakeholders in the private and

public sectors and across professions.” (WOW – it’s about time!) The committee’s recommendations offer a blueprint to guide those collaborative efforts, with the goal of improving hearing and communication abilities for individuals and across the populations. So my friends, we are no longer the ‘silent disability’ as we have been (or more importantly have **not** been) recognized.

To learn more be sure to mark your calendar for our **5th Featured Speaker Program** that is taking place on **Tuesday May 16th** as Dr. Debra Tucci addresses our concerns. (see page 3). In the meantime, please participate in the following survey as we garner research to help us all: www.goo.gl/WfWiwP

(Editor’s note: Also plan to attend the Evening Chapter meeting April 4 on “Identify Health Research Priorities for People with Hearing Loss” –D. Bataille, S. Barnett, M. Chizuk. see page 2)

Thanks again for reading and thanks for participating. In kind regard, Margaret



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES

By Cindy Kellner

HLAA-Rochester is once again pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was started in 1996 initially with a \$500 grant awarded to local high school seniors further pursuing their education and who have hearing loss. The initial program was made possible by the generous donation from J. Stuart and Phyllis MacDonald. In 2006 the award was increased to \$1,000 made possible in part by funds raised by our annual Walk4Hearing.

If you know a high school senior with hearing loss, who is pursuing their higher education either through college or vocational training, please tell them about our program. Financial need is not a requirement. The scholarship is a one-time award.

Applications for the scholarship are available through our web site: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or by contacting Cindy Kellner at cmkellner23@gmail.com. The application deadline is **APRIL 15th**. Please help us spread the word.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !*By Jenn Hurlburt*

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend.
We currently have **312** friends and we want more.
Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...

Everyone: please let me know if you're one of our special Chapter members who will reach the spectacular age of 90 years, or more. If you agree, we'd like to announce it in our Newsletter. It is important to let me know right away as our Newsletters are written two months ahead. Thanks, Ginger
ggraham859@gmail.com; or, (585) 671-2683

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**Tuesday, May 23rd**

We need **your** help in organizing our dinner...at the beautiful Cobblestone Creek

Country Club. Please contact Barb Law at blaw1@rochester.rr.com; or, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com for more info. Thanks for your consideration in helping to make our dinner a huge success. Please go to page 11 for the Reservation Form for the dinner.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org. **Michelle Gross** is our Web Master.

HAAA National website is www.hearingloss.org.

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

This award-winning Newsletter of the Rochester Chapter of HAAA is published monthly except for July and August.

Editor and Publisher.....Ginger Graham
Computer Consultant,
Webmaster, and Writer.....Michelle Gross
News Releases, and Writer.....Janet McKenna
Photographers.....Art Maurer, Al Suffredini

HELP HAAA VIA THE UNITED WAY

We continue to be a United Way "Donor Designated Option" choice. We are not a direct United Way agency and do not receive any funding from their general campaign. Therefore, to donate to HAAA through the United Way, we ask you to consider donating to us through the "Designated Option" on your gift card.

Our United Way number is 2425.



Your past support is deeply appreciated. As with other gifts,

your donation enables our chapter to continue to provide education, help, and advocacy for people with hearing loss, their family and their friends. Alas, even though the local chapter is a totally volunteer organization, there are still costs such as printing, postage, phones, and technical items. Many thanks!



A heart-felt thank you to everyone who attended the recent HOPE group sessions. As always, it was a fun and informative time and goes by so quickly!

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

By participating in HOPE meetings we learn things that cannot be found anywhere but from those who experience living daily with a hearing loss. HOPE to see you April 4th, at 10:15am. (see page 1 for details)

WANT A MEMORY BOOST? TRY A HEARING TEST.

By Ginger Graham (suggested by Fred Altrieth)

Mounting evidence links untreated hearing loss to impaired memory and diminished cognitive function. What that means is, you keep brushing off that suspected hearing loss of yours and your cognition may pay! Researchers have found that when people with unaddressed hearing loss strain to hear, they tend to do more poorly on memory tests. They may figure out what is being said, but because so much effort goes into just hearing it, their ability to remember what they heard often suffers.

Experts believe this has to do with what they call “cognitive load.” That is, in order to compensate for the hearing loss and make out the words, people with untreated HL may draw on cognitive resources they’d normally use to remember what they’ve heard. Experts say that untreated HL may even interfere with the person’s ability to accurately process and make sense of what was said or heard.

Research shows people with poorer hearing have less gray matter in the auditory cortex, a region of the brain needed to support speech comprehension.

Johns Hopkins study shows a link between hearing loss and dementia—seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia. Another study found that HL is associated with accelerated cognitive decline in older adults. And a third revealed a link between HL and accelerated brain tissue loss. Some experts believe professionally fitted hearing aids might help.

The bottom line is...we actually “hear” with our brain; not with our ears. So if you even think you may have HL, do something about it! Make an appointment with an Audiologist or a hearing health professional and get a hearing test. After all, research suggests that treating hearing loss may be one of the best things you can actually do to help protect your memory and cognitive function.

The Better Hearing Institute (BHI) offers a free, confidential online hearing check. Go to:

www.BetterHearing.org.

(excerpt from Messenger Post Health Magazine 1-22-17)



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

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

Tower Rooms • \$179; Garden Rooms • \$159 +tax
Reservations must be received by May 30th.
Reference that you are with the HLAA2017 group.
Visit <http://bit.ly/LittleAmericaSL>; 800-437-5288.

RADISSON HOTEL

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

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

From Hotels to Salt Palace Convention Center

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

Register Online or Offline

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

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

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HLAA CONVENTION (continued from page 7)

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

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

Those veterans wishing to attend should complete the “Veterans Registration Form” which can be obtained on the national HLAA website at: <http://hearingloss.org/content/registratiion>. In the middle of this web page is all the info about the benefit and a link to download the required form.

(Link details provided by Michelle Gross, Rochester Chapter Web Master.)

Delta Air Lines - Official Convention Carrier

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

Rochester members planning to attend, please go to our website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org for the form to fill out to receive “Reimbursement for Convention.”

Subjects of May 2nd Chapter Meetings:

Daytime –“Delivering Audiological Services in Ethiopia” – Dr. Catherine Clark, Au.D., NTID

Evening – NO EVENING MEETING
Please attend May 16 - Featured Speaker Program.
(see page 3)

DID YOU KNOW...

“In 1968, author-lecturer Helen Keller, who had earned a college degree despite being blind and deaf almost all of her life, died in Westport, Connecticut, at age 87.” *(from D&C 5/29/16)*

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

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

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

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

HLAA Wishes Valerie Stafford-Mallis a Joyous Retirement...

You read that right! HLAA Director of Chapter Development, Valerie Stafford-Mallis retired on March 31st. While we are of course sad to see her go, Valerie is looking forward to some personal endeavors she put on hold in pursuit of professional goals. Valerie and her husband Sam are retiring together. You will be missed, Valerie.

...and Welcomes Erin Mirante as New National Chapter Coordinator

With Valerie stepping down, we are pleased to announce that Erin Mirante has accepted the role of national chapter coordinator for HLAA. Erin came to us last November as the chapter and membership assistant. Erin is looking forward to doing all she can to help chapters grow and achieve their goals.

(excerpt from This Week in Bethesda, 2-17-17)

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

‘MY STORY’ - A Personal History

By Al Suffredini



Meniere’s Disease caused my hearing loss. It attacked both ears (one in early age and the other later on) when no hearing aids or assistive devices lent me any hearing recognition. In 1993, I received a Cochlear Implant. Then 20 years later, that implant no longer functioned properly; and in 2012, I was implanted again.

I was employed in these professions: Welfare Examiner, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America); Deputy Sheriff; VA Social Worker; VA Voluntary Service Officer & PR Director. I worked in 3 VA’s – Canandaigua; Atlanta, GA; and White River Jct., VT. I was a Social Worker at the Canandaigua VA’s Community Placement Program. I worked as part of a team with M.D.’s, Nurses, Pharmacists, Dieticians, and Safety Officers who all would play a role in our discharged veterans care. I did weekly follow-up care, and worked with local organizations in providing program activities.

As a Voluntary Service Chief and PR Director, I worked with local, regional, state and national organizations to provide monetary and material support, including volunteers for our patient programs. Each VA Facility has diverse programs and needs. As a PR Director, I informed area media of news that pertained to the local facility, veterans benefits, and other VA news.

I had a weekly radio program doing staff interviews broadcast to 14 radio stations in VT and NH. This program gave veterans up-to-date info regarding veteran benefits and other new VA policies, and it was a widely successful program.

We rejuvenated an old greenhouse. Volunteers, local groups, and veterans organizations donated much needed funding. The Woodstock Women’s Garden Club assisted us. By having this greenhouse, we could provide freshly cut flowers to lighten up many patient rooms and wards.

For veterans recreation use, I started a fishing program and had the Vermont DEC and the Federal Government assist us in stocking two private lakes with 1,000 rainbow trout.

At Canandaigua, we purchased for patient activities, a wheelchair bus and pontoon boat through donated funds, which also covered repairs, fuel costs, docking and storage fees. All cable TV’s on patient wards were funded from donations. We operated a 9 Hole Golf Course staffed with volunteers. All golfing needs and costs were obtained through donated funds. Annually, we raised over \$250,000.

With the increase of women patients, we implemented a weekly hair salon program. A Speakers Bureau was created, utilizing our professional staff for various support groups. There were many more on-going programs--far too many to mention here. We honored our volunteers with an annual Recognition Awards Program.

I enjoy working with people on behalf of hospitalized veterans, and have met many wonderful people in my short lifetime, who exemplified the care and welfare of their fellow man. I’ve prepared meals for veterans, arranged Ice Cream Socials on patient wards, and volunteered in other capacities for over 20 years. In May, 2008, I was given the VA’s highest award, the “Above and Beyond Award.” In 2005, I received the President’s “Volunteer in Action Award,” for my involvement with the VA as well as many community projects. I was instrumental in establishing a high school hockey team, assisting and motivating support in seeing the GCCC (Hockey Arena) achieved.

For many years, I worked a booth at the Geneva and Penn Yan Hospitals Health Fairs. My wife assisted me, and working at the VA Outpatient Clinic, would lend vital information to veterans who wanted to pursue VA health care.

In my spare time...I have a 40 sq. ft. garden with organic veggies and fruits which are shared with friends, family and VA. Also, wines and jams are made. And an herb and spice garden fill my days.

continued on page 10)

“MY STORY” – Al Suffredini (continued)

I joined HLAA in 1990 after reading a Newsletter. I can't say enough about the many people whom I've met over the years, who made me aware of, and educated me, regarding hearing loss.

Now, I'm on the E&O/Technology Committees, and the Board of Directors. In 2012, our chapter honored me with the Community Person Award.

I attend most of our Daytime Chapter meetings, giving Tech Talks on various subjects, and frequently bring home-made refreshments. Hope to see you soon, Al.

AARP TEST FOR HEARING

By Michelle Gross

(suggested by Margaret Cochran)

The telephone screening hearing test recommended by AARP was developed by scientists, tested, and proven to be accurate for what it is...a basic screening test. It does not take the place of the testing done by an audiologist, rather it provides another means of screening, along with questionnaires such as “Do You Think You Have A Hearing Loss?” provided by National HLAA.

There are links on our Chapter Website's home page <http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org> which take you to the telephone test.

On our Website, there is also a short written list of questions to ask yourself to help you determine if you may have a hearing loss, and another link to the telephone test <http://tinyurl.com/gwpmcjp>; or, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/zma9nne> which takes you to AARP's site for a link to the test page--to give you information that can help you decide whether you should seek a full-scale evaluation of your hearing.

Although developed as a non-profit test, there is a small fee to cover development. The test is free for AARP members; \$5 for non-members.

Remember: This test does not replace hearing tests done by hearing professionals; it merely provides additional information to those uncertain if they may have a hearing problem.



WALK4HEARING IS MOVING

By Carol Loftus, Chair

Although it has been several months since the Rochester 2016

Walk4Hearing, once again, I would like to extend thanks to all sponsors, team captains, walkers and the numerous wonderful volunteers. Your support helped raise over \$36,000.

I've been hopeful I would be sharing details of a Rochester 2017 Walk4Hearing. However, HLAA National has moved the 2017 Walk4Hearing to Buffalo. The date and Walk location (park site) will be determined soon.

We can all come together to support the Walk and, in particular, the Rochester Chapter. Our chapter will receive 40% of all donations 'designated' to our Chapter by team captains, walkers and those who choose to donate and not walk.

Team captains have started receiving emails from HLAA National announcing the new location. Please visit the HLAA National website for ongoing postings – www.hearingloss.org. And watch our Newsletters for updates.

Your support over the past 11 years has been tremendous. I look forward to learning that many of you will continue to support the Rochester Chapter. In particular, I hope to have many Rochester Walkers joining me in Buffalo. Happy Spring!

NTID DYER ARTS CENTER TO PREMIERE ARTIST ANN SILVER'S WORKS

By Vienna Carvalho

A world premiere look at the career of internationally known artist Ann Silver's deaf-centric work will be on display in the Dyer Arts Center at NTID from March 3 to April 22.

Ms. Silver, who was born deaf, is a founding member of the historic Deaf Art Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Her work has been displayed in exhibits around the country. For more information, go to her [Facebook page](#) or her website at www.SilverMoonBrand.com.



ANNUAL DINNER

By Sue Miller



We'll all have the chance to come together on **Tuesday, May 23rd** for the Annual Dinner of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA. From **6:00 to 9pm**, we'll get to know our

scholarship winners and their families. And, recognize just some of the people who make a difference to our Chapter in the Rochester area by presenting 3 awards.

The Cobblestone Creek Country Club has done a superb job in past years with service, hearing accessibility and scrumptious food.

You will enjoy being part of this fabulous evening!

Please sign up by **Thursday, May 18th** using the form included here. We hope to see you there!

Please join us!

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

**Cobblestone Creek Country Club
100 Cobble Creek Road, Victor, NY 14564**

6:00 to 9 P.M.

Spouses/guests welcome!

Menu choices:

(1) **6 oz. Bavette Steak** with Maiter d'butter, green beans and whipped potatoes

(2) **Classic Chicken French**, whipped potatoes and green beans

(3) **Vegetarian – Vegetable Napoleon** (grilled vegetable stack)

Salad, and Strawberry Shortcake included

\$26.00 per person (includes gratuity)

Questions? Please email, or call, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com; or, phone, 585-924-8933.

**HLAA ANNUAL DINNER
Reservation Form**

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone or E-mail _____

Dinner choice _____

~~~~~

**Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner choice** \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~

2nd Guest: _____

Dinner choice _____

**Dinner reservations will be accepted until
Thursday, May 18th**

_____ Dinners @ \$26 each = \$ _____

**(please make check payable to
HLAA-Rochester)**

Please return this form and check to:

**Ms. Joanne Owens
1630 Woodard Ave., Webster, NY 14580**



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HLAA Membership Information

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, Inc., a tax exempt and volunteer group, is a chapter of a national, nonprofit, nonsectarian, educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from October through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. (September is 2nd Tuesday.) While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability. For more information, Call **585 266 7890**

Professional Advisors

2015 - 2017

Elizabeth Ballard
Robert Cedeno
Jessica Witenko Lukasiewicz, Esq.
Peg Pepe-O'Brien

2016 - 2018

Julie Hanson
Kristen Nolan
Charles G. Perreaud

Consultants: *Paul Dutcher, M.D.*
Charles Johnstone, James Vazzana, Esq.
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Newsletter

Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
 Send articles to:
 Ginger Graham
 859 Meadow Ridge Lane
 Webster, NY 14580
ggraham859@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER
 July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

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

All members receive the award-winning 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 only.*)

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YES! I want to join or renew membership in National HLAA. Membership entitles me to the *Hearing Loss Magazine*, a number of discounts, and knowing I'm supporting advocacy for people with hearing loss nationwide.

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

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

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

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

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

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

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