



MAY CALENDAR

NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTION

TUESDAY, MAY 4TH, 12 PM-1 PM VIA ZOOM

Elaine McCaffrey: Hospital safety for people with hearing loss

THURSDAY MAY 6TH, 10 AM-11 AM VIA ZOOM

Joe Kozelsky: Hearing Aids for Beginners

TUESDAY MAY 11TH, 10 AM-11 AM VIA ZOOM

Joe Kozelsky: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences' (HOPE)

TUESDAY, MAY 11TH, 7 PM-8:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Board of Directors Meeting

THURSDAY MAY 13TH, 10 AM-11 AM VIA ZOOM

Joe Kozelsky: Hearing Aids for Beginners

TUESDAY, MAY 18TH, 7 PM VIA ZOOM

Cochlear Implant Group

THURSDAY MAY 20TH, 10 AM-11 AM VIA ZOOM

HLAA-Rochester Technology Team: Virtual ALD Demo Center

Watch our Newsletters and Website for updates

MAY PROGRAMS

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Rochester Chapter offers virtual programs monthly for anyone interested in hearing loss. All use the Zoom platform. Preregistration is required by visiting the HLAA website at:

<http://hearinglossrochester.org>

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

Programs for April are:



Tuesday, May 4. Noon: Elaine McCaffrey:
Hospital safety for people with hearing loss

HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter president Elaine McCaffrey relates how that chapter's partnership with Chi-

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Art Maurer, President

Better Hearing = Better Living!



Traditionally this spring quarter of the year is a busy time with our large gatherings for the Featured Speaker Program and Annual Dinner. Oh, how we do miss being able to get together. Hopefully, the days of being able to enjoy each other's company are not

too many months away.

But rest assured, the busy volunteers of HLAA-Rochester haven't been slacking off. We continue to refine our monthly Zoom sessions, and are offering some special 'classes'; first on **Speechreading** in March and April and now, this month, **Hearing Aids for Beginners**. And don't forget the printed **Communication's Guide** for healthcare visits we published in our March issue.

We will be planning the content of our Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 offerings in June – and we invite your ideas of subject matter relevant to your needs.

Reorganization...

Those of us in the back room, so it speak, are tackling the long vexing question of how to better manage HLAA-Rochester more efficiently into the future. Over the years our current Organization List using the Board, President, Vice-president model has evolved into a three-page patchwork of committees and hard-working volunteers. It requires coordination issue-by-issue and generates a barrage of emails as 'Reply All' is generously used.

A new Organization Chart has been approved by the Board. It retains the Board, President and Vice-president but then splits responsibilities into four targeted Divisions. Each Division has a focus: Products and Programs, Technology, Education-Outreach-Socialization, Membership and Administration. Each existing committee and function is placed within the appropriate Division. Our intent is to

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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

align the organization to better respond to the needs of our supporters and friends. Also, to address new developments by working within a structure having clearly defined roles. Communication will be better targeted, and volunteers will be able to concentrate on their area of expertise.

Once we can again meet in-person we plan to simulcast sessions on Zoom, continue our effort to reach out locally and beyond; also improve our effort to address supporter and friends needs and concerns. This will increase our workload calling for more volunteers willing to contribute their time and talent. At the same time, we hope the new organizational structure will keep the workload commitment of our current supporters at manageable levels. It will also keep HLAA-Rochester viable into the future.

What about Tech?

The Technology Team is introducing a new **Express Hearing Check Kiosk**. A free 5-minute hearing check. Probably the first in the United States, it demonstrates to an individual how he/she hears now versus how he/she could hear with hearing aid or assistive device correction. We're excited about this because it targets the individual's degree of hearing loss to provide a live demonstration. (Please see the Express Hearing Check Kiosk article on page 6.)

Our **Virtual Demo Center** on hearinglossrochester.org has been enhanced making searches easier. And on a continuing basis new products are included.

With the advent of over-the-counter (OTC) aids coming in 2022, there is already a constant flow of new devices advertised in print and on social media as hearing aids. Buyer Beware!

Call for Volunteers...

As we come into our post pandemic 'New Normal' we certainly can use more volunteers. If you're interested in becoming more actively involved, please let us know. No professional or technical expertise is required. Everyone is most welcome.

Art Maurer amaurer40@frontier.com

New Course ... Hearing Aids for Beginners

For anyone **thinking about getting hearing aids or for those who recently received hearing aids for the first time**, HLAA-Rochester will offer a short course of two sessions on Zoom.

Each will be at 10:00 AM on Thursdays, May 6th and May 13th. The sessions will be 60 – 90 minutes, led by a retired audiologist who is also a hearing aid user.

The first session will cover how to decide where to go and what to look for – and, importantly, what to look-out for. The second session will cover reasonable expectations for new users and some issues and problems that users should never have to put up with.

The content will not be commercialized in any way and will not recommend or endorse any products or providers. The purpose of HLAA is to serve as a resource for people with hearing loss of all levels and to provide information, educational opportunities, and personal support as needed. For more information go to

<https://www.hearinglossrochester.org/>

Buy Hearing Aid Batteries from HLAA

Even with the pandemic, HLAA Rochester is still offering hearing aid batteries. You may purchase a pack of six for \$1.50, or an entire box (60 batteries) for \$15.00. Simply contact Suzanne Johnston at: suzannejohnston@aol.com (or call 585-586-4158) to arrange for pick-up at your convenience at her home at 44 Washington Rd. in Pittsford. Mail a check with the cost of your order to ATTN Nancy Meyer, HLAA Asst. Treasurer, 5275 Rosebrugh Lane, Geneseo, NY 14454 with notation RE: battery purchase.

We Welcome All Donations

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester

HLAA is a 501c(3) organization.

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This donation is: In Memory of, or In Honor of, or Birthday congratulations, and who to send the acknowledgment to. Our sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

MAY PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 1)

cago area hospitals has enhanced communication between staff and hearing disabled patients. Their “Panel discussion on hospital safety for people with hearing loss” began in 2014 with a group of four hospital representatives. Repeated annually, the program underwent struggles but has yielded positive results, with both HLAA members and hospital staff learning from each other. It has evolved over the years as hearing disabled individuals learned to advocate for themselves.

Elaine will suggest outreach approaches to encourage Finger Lakes health care centers to join HLAA in augmenting patients’ hospital experiences. If it works in Chicago, it could work in Rochester, she contends.

Serving on the Board of Directors of HLAA national organization, Elaine also is president of the Chicago North Shore chapter. Although her mild to moderate hearing loss was diagnosed when she was 19, she was not fitted with hearing aids until she was 32. Before retiring she practiced law as a sole practitioner in the field of estate planning, probate and estate administration.

Thursday, May 6 and Thursday May 13, 10:00am: Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A. Hearing Aids for Beginners

Hearing aids are difficult for people to buy because of their high cost, no brand recognition, and doubt whether hearing aids will work for them. This dual session tutorial aims to guide newcomers on their hearing loss journeys.

The May 6 session introduces new hearing aid consumers to “important things” like what to look for and what to look out for, when considering purchasing a hearing aid. The follow-up on May 13 covers “reasonable expectations” based on reports of helpfulness and frustrations experienced by new hearing aid users.

Each session begins with a question and answer period followed by some information about hearing aids and then opportunity for more questions.

Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A is a retired audiologist formerly in private practice who uses hearing aids. He also facilitates HOPE, see below.

Thursday, May 11, 10:00am: Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A. Hearing Other People’s Experiences (HOPE) You are not alone as a person with hearing

loss! Prospective, new, or experienced hearing aid users are invited to share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal virtual round table discussion facilitated by Joe Kozelsky, a retired audiologist and hearing aid user. Real hearing aid users discuss real problems and concerns.

Thursday May 20, 10:00 am: Virtual ALD Demo Center. HLAA Rochester Technology Team.

This is a continuing orientation to the on-line “Virtual Demo Center” web site. It is a review of selected assistive listening devices, captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone APP’s related to hearing enhancement and gives the opportunity for the presenters to answer questions from those joining the Zoom meeting.

May Birthday

Happy Birthday to:

May 6	Candi Nelson
May 26	Lenore Tetkowski (Over 90)
May 31	Jean Murphy (over 90)

Pin Tschang and Joe Kozelski also have May birthdays.

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

Donations

Thank you to these members who included donations to the chapter in addition to their dues:

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Angela Mambro

In memory of Andy Howard

Judy Howard

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HLAA New York State Association (NYSA) - Update.

By Dan Brooks, President, HLAA-NYSA



How is everyone doing? I hope well. I am personally very happy spring has finally arrived! To me, this means my parents will be home from Florida and we'll be opening the family cottage; an event that can't come soon enough! My wife and I are also going to Outer Banks, North Carolina with our kids

during their spring break. It's just simply nice to get outside more and start doing the things we love to do. I'm sure many of you feel the same.

The HLAA Rochester Chapter, the local chapter to which I belong, has been busy as usual. The attendance on ZOOM has steadily been increasing. There are plans for our Chapter to reach out to people east of Syracuse, all the way west to Buffalo. The expanded region will include the area north to the lake and south to the border of Pennsylvania. This very large area at the moment does not have any HLAA chapters or groups. **The HLAA New York State Association (NYSA)** also is hoping the situation will change. Knowing the people with hearing loss living in these areas will not be alone and without support, is heartwarming.

Let's jump into more updates for HLAA NYSA; there is much to share! One important item is that our website address has slightly changed. It is now: **www.hearinglossnys.org**

Did you get to attend the first HLAA NYSA Seminar organized by our past president **Jerry Bergman**? The title was *Your Rights and How to Obtain them*. Over 330 people attended this well-organized event via ZOOM! We thank HLAA for hosting and providing the CART services. The seminar was recorded; you can find it on the HLAA website if you missed it.

Next is we recently welcomed our newest board member **Jeanine Byrnes** from the Mid-Hudson Chapter! Jeanine is filling spot 19 out of 21 possible members of our Board of Directors. Jeanine has already proven to be a great addition by wasting no time and jumping into the committee organizing the 2022 HLAA State Conference!

We are still in the early stages of locating the perfect facility to host the State Conference. There are so many factors we still need to sort out but rest assured we are doing all we can to ensure an event you will not want to miss!

We do hope to be able stay in or nearby Lake George region because we know this area is fairly centralized for all the chapters within New York State. Also we know Lake George is a beautiful place to be during late September early October due to peak time of fall foliage.

There are other committees brainstorming on what we can do to make the State Conference unforgettable. To list a few of the great ideas mentioned: plans for a keynote speaker, presentations, vendor exhibit hall, formal sit down dinner, and other fun activities. We expect the date for the Conference to be sometime between late September and mid-October of 2022; you may want to note the time frame on your calendar now! We will let you know as soon as we book a location via the HLAA NYSA website and hopefully no later than next month's President's update.

If you are interested in volunteering for the State Conference and/or would like to get more involved in the HLAA NYSA please email us at: **hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com**. We have several committees working on important goals to help improve the lives for those with hearing loss in New York State. We are certain we will find the perfect fit for you and your interest!

As always please know we need your support. We cannot do the all we are doing, nor achieve goals, without support, so please remember to join or renew your membership with HLAA. By being a member of HLAA and residing in New York State, you are automatically a member of the HLAA NYSA! Happy Spring and thanks again for your support!

-Dan

Cochlear Implant Group Meets May 18th

The Rochester Chapter's Cochlear Implant Group will meet at 7 p.m. May 18th via Zoom.

Details of the program are not available as we go to press but will be provided at the chapter's website, **<http://hearinglossrochester.org>**.

Please note that registration for this meeting is not part of the chapter's master notification system, and that it will be necessary to register via the details provided on the website.

My Story - Pin Tschang

An interesting, but unspectacular narrative.

I was born in Penang, Malaysia and my career took me to the Kodak Research Labs. I retired in 1990. My wife, Shirley, is a retired R.N. I enjoy classical music.



Eons ago, one morning in bed, I suddenly found myself with no hearing in my right ear which was disturbing as I was always conscious of my stereophonic hearing when listening to classical music. So, I soon visited an ENT doctor (not sure if a surgeon) in East Orange, NJ which is a good neighborhood town. The doctor put me in a darkened room with one dim light bulb and examined the ear. Since that was in the early 60's, my memory today is vague as to what kind of hearing test (a tuning fork?) he gave me but I am quite certain if he used any instrument at all, it wasn't any like what an audiologist would use today. Anyway, he said he couldn't find anything wrong with the ear and questioned if I was sure I ever had hearing in that right ear. I probably gave him a resounding yes. He was ready to let me go but asked at the last moment if I wanted to book another appointment to see him. I was taken aback but don't quite recall my exact response.

We lived then on the Jersey side of the George Washington Bridge in a five story apartment with a, not breathtaking, small window view of Manhattan. I could literally jump on the bridge, pay the toll with a 25 cent ticket and drive unimpeded down the West Side Highway to my work in the Electronic Research Lab of Columbia University on West 125th Street, and into the parking ramp in around 15 minutes! Those were the days. I couldn't resist this detour; but back to my ear. One story above us was this Irish-Italian couple, friends of ours, and the wife, so happened, just had a successful stapedectomy done to her by one Dr. John Daly of the NYU Medical Center purportedly the pioneer of this technique. So, in short order, an appointment was made, and the operation was performed by Dr. Daly and his student(s)? I say this because I saw him at the start of the job and woke up at the end. I was told later that I was supposed to be under only local anesthesia. Naturally I was grateful that the hearing was restored to just below 10db of the good ear. In retrospect, I wonder why at that relatively young age, I had this sclerotic disease of the ear and that reminds me of an incidence which, I think, happened to this ear: Our oldest daughter, around 2 or 3

years old before my hearing loss, was an inquisitive little girl and I woke up one morning and found a screw that she had removed from our alarm clock, in my ear! Could that be the cause?

65 years later, we are in Rochester and after using an over-the-counter ear wax cleaner (bad move) I noticed significant hearing loss in my good left ear that led me to an ENT doctor who sucked out big pieces of wax and let me go, incredibly, without further checking. My hearing wasn't any better and a while later I saw another ENT doctor (recommended by our HLAA chapter). After being tested by this audiologist, it was confirmed both ears have moderate loss but in somewhat different regions. Since the last doctor left the question of a hearing aid up to me, I invested \$200 on a Bellman & Symfon pocket size amplifier that came with a pair of earphones as output device and volume and treble boost. The built-in non directional microphone works fine but the T-Coil feature I have yet to find a place to see how it works. It came also with an electric cable allowing direct connection to either a TV or PC and that is good, as it turned out, with or without the amplifier. The amplifier runs on two AA batteries and seems to last forever (several weeks?). That's good but the 5 1/2"x1 3/4"x1" size is a bit bulky so I decided to look into one of those cashew nut looking miniaturized hearing aids riding on the ears. First, our friend highly recommended a \$400 MdHearingAid online that was said to be as good as her \$5000 pair. We sent for it and it came with too short stems to reach into my ears. A call to them revealed that they couldn't supply longer stems. At a cost of paying \$25 for shipping back, the refund duly arrived. In the meantime, untold numbers of pop-up ads from them appeared on my PC when I went online. It was quite a pain.

Finally, I bit the bullet and eventually bought an Oticon pair from HearingAidWorks. According to Dr. Carolynne Pouliot, her after-visits are free and unlimited. My Oticons work fine although the Tinnitus curing setting thus far has not worked on me. On the whole, they have worked out fine even though the high-end compensation could probably be turned down a bit to avoid the tinny hearing on some occasions.

This is the up-to-date story of my moderate hearing loss. I conclude that I can survive with (1) a REAL hearing aid, (2) an amplifier, (3) earphones to TV/PC, or (4) asking the speaker to speak louder. By the way, my wife has three old-age cousins in China with hearing loss and they never went

(Continued on page 6)

Summer *Hear For You* Program to be Offered at Nazareth College

The Nazareth College Hearing Clinic will be offering their *Hear For You* program online through Zoom this summer. *Hear for You* is a program for adults with hearing loss who use hearing aids or cochlear implants. The *Hear For You* group sessions help participants better understand their own hearing loss and the challenges that they may experience as a result of their hearing loss. Participants also learn and practice techniques and strategies for improving their communication with family, friends, and others. Topics include communication strategies, problem-solving, speechreading skills, clarification skills, and assistive technology.

The *Hear For You* group sessions are facilitated by Master's students in Speech-Language Pathology and a licensed and credentialed audiologist from Nazareth College. This summer's *Hear For You* program will occur on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. from May 26 to June 23. ***There is no cost to participate.***

For more information about the *Hear For You* group, or to register for the summer program, you can contact the Hearing Clinic at slhclinic@naz.edu or 585-389-2772.

Sign up for Hearing Life e-News

Hearing Life e-News is delivered to your inbox twice per month. *Hearing Life e-News* keeps readers up to date on the latest news and information on hearing loss. Each issue features high-interest content such as recent legislation and advocacy efforts, technology, new products for hearing loss, human interest stories, webinars, updates on the Walk4Hearing, Convention, and information on HLAA Chapter happenings.



Sign Up at:

<https://hearingloss.org/news-media/e-news>

We Would Love Your Feedback (about the Health Care Appointment Communications Guide!)

Have you had the chance to use the HLAA Rochester Health Care Appointment Communication Guide? (March 2021 Newsletter)

Did it help you prepare for the visit and communicate your hearing needs at the appointment? Please share your experience with the tool and your overall healthcare visit with the Education & Outreach Committee. The information will be used to improve this tool and future efforts to support the hearing loss community. All personal identification will be kept in confidence. Please write us at amaur-rer40@frontier.com

To locate the document again, go to hearingloss-rochester.org. Click on the Member's page. Then click on the Forms Surveys Studies square.

As people with hearing loss, it is essential to achieve clear communication in order to receive high quality health care!

People with hearing loss wait an average of seven years before seeking help. (Center for Hearing and Communication)

My Story - Pin Tschang

(Continued from page 5)

higher than the good old amplifier.

I discovered HLAA through LifeSpan about 2-3 years ago when we visited the equipment demo there and we have been impressed by the dedicated service ever since.



Save-the date: HLAA Virtual Convention 2021, June 24-26

Express Hearing Check Kiosk

by Lorin Galistel

Our chapter has acquired a new product, the Express Hearing Check Kiosk, which guides the user through a set of simple steps to discover their own hearing profile. The device is made by Alango Technologies under the Wear&Hear product line.

The visitor walks up to the self-service kiosk, puts on over-the-ear headphones that are connected to the Kiosk, and presses the 'Get Started' button on the device's touchscreen. A series of tones of increasing frequencies are then played, one ear at a time.

For each tone, the user adjusts a slider on the touchscreen to set the volume to their hearing threshold. At the end of the process, the user's screening audiogram is produced and displayed as a graph accompanied by short, explanatory text. At a glance, the user is able to see if they have a hearing loss, and if so, to what degree.

But the hearing check does not end there. What sets the Kiosk apart from a simple hearing screening is the playback of a previously recorded speech sample that lets the visitor switch between audio without any hearing loss compensation and audio that is customized to the user's screening audiogram.

As we all know, words alone are not enough to convince someone to seek help for their hearing loss.



The often-quoted seven-plus years that someone waits, on average, to seek help confirms that claim. However, if the person is able to actually experience much-improved hearing, further words are unnecessary.

We are optimistic that this self-administered hearing check and audio demonstration will finally convince many hard-of-hearing people to schedule an appointment with an audiologist or at least investigate assistive listening devices (ALDs). Our recommendation, as always, is to see a hearing professional first. If hearing aids are necessary, then possibly consider adding an ALD for especially difficult hearing situations.

Our chapter's ALD Demo Center product lineup has included two headsets from Wear&Hear that implement the same basic hearing technology used in the self-check kiosk, but which are configured as consumer ALDs. They are the BeHear NOW and BeHear ACCESS headsets.

When the Demo Center opens again, hopefully soon, we invite you to stop by to experience the Express Hearing Check Kiosk, the ALD headsets, and the other devices on display.

See WearAndHear.com for more information or contact us at hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com

We periodically spotlight existing and new ALD technology products. Mention of products or services does not imply HLAA endorsement, nor does exclusion suggest disapproval.

You can “Attend” Other Chapter’s Meetings

HLAA Chapters and State Organizations have been transitioning their in-person meetings to virtual meetings online during the pandemic. You are welcome to visit online HLAA Chapter and State Organizations meetings from all across the country. They are listed in one central calendar from the HLAA Leaders List Groups.io calendar.

First, go to hearingloss.org. There is a new purple calendar option in the upper menu bar. After you click on it, a new window will open. Click on the purple FIND HLAA CHAPTER MEETINGS HERE button to access the HLAA Leaders Groups.io calendar. This button is also on the Find A Chapter page on the HLAA website as well.

As an example, here are a couple of meetings we know about:

Gael Hannon: How to Be That Fabulous Person with Hearing Loss. Indianapolis Chapter, Sat. May 1, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, <https://meet.google.com/hon-jtjc-dpr> to attend.

Brad Ingrao, AuD: Improving Your Relationship with Music After Hearing Loss.

St. Louis Chapter, Saturday, May 8, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm, <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting/register/tZ0ocemsrzMtHdIm7e81xZzwQ1FzRmG6iOKk> to register.



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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 at noon, online via Zoom. See our website at <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

Professional Advisors Mary Chizuk, Chair

2019 – 2021

Peter Fackler
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2020 – 2022

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Newsletter

Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
Bruce & Candi Nelson, Editors
120 Cobblestone Dr., Rochester,
NY 14623, 585-334-5513
bruce.nelson@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

☐ 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.)

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

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.



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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: <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!

Meetings are hearing accessible

During pandemic times, all chapter meetings are online via Zoom. See meeting information in this newsletter. Captioning within the Zoom application is available.

In non-pandemic times, 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.

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