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Volume 29, Number 2

published monthly except July and August

October 2015

### OCTOBER Calendar

**Tuesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**--NO DAYTIME MEETING.**

Featured Speaker, combined meeting 5 pm;  
speaker starts promptly at 5:45 pm.  
Refreshments.

**Tues., Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors  
7:00 – 9pm, 1<sup>st</sup> floor CR, Al Sigl Center

**Tues., Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>** – “CI Group” 5:00-6:30pm,  
St. Paul's church (see page 6 for more info)

**Tues., Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>** – PAC meeting, 7pm,  
1st floor Conference room, Al Sigl Center

**Sun., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>** - RHSC Walk -Eastview Mall  
(see page 10 for more info)

### SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

**Sun., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** – Daylight Savings Time Ends

**Thurs., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** - “Day of Hearing” at Lifespan  
(see page 7 for more info)

**Tues., Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>** – BOD meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

### **Hospitality Duties for October:**

Featured Speaker at Academy of Medicine: Catered.

Board of Directors –Dan Brooks; Steve Barnett

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

*Welcome back members, and,  
**WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!***



### **OCTOBER PROGRAM**

(at 1441 East Ave; Academy of Medicine)

**NO DAYTIME MEETING AT 11 am.**

**Tues., Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> – Special time – 5:00 pm.**

*Fourth Annual “Featured Speaker” Event.  
This is a special program: Speaker starts promptly at  
5:45pm. Finger sandwiches, desserts and beverages  
will be provided.*

Ringling. Buzzing. Hissing. “Phantom sounds”--  
hearing noises in the absence of actual sounds--  
are tinnitus. Over 90% of tinnitus patients also  
have hearing loss along with the often  
accompanying condition of noise intolerance,  
where sounds seem excessively loud.

Richard Salvi, Ph.D., founder and director of the  
Center for Hearing and Deafness at SUNY  
Buffalo, is our Chapter’s 4<sup>th</sup> Featured Speaker.  
His talk, “Hearing Loss and Some of Its  
Disabling Consequences, such as, Tinnitus and  
Loudness Intolerance,” is set for 5:45pm, in the  
Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave.  
Doors open 5:00pm. (Directions are on page 10.)

A Distinguished Professor in SUNY Buffalo's  
Dept. of Communicative Disorders and Sciences,  
Dr. Salvi is considered a pioneer researcher on

*(continued on page 2)*

**Tues., Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, Featured Speaker, at 5:00 pm**  
(continued)

hearing and deafness. His talk is presented by HLAA-Rochester in partnership with the Rochester Academy of Medicine.

His remarks will cover the mechanics of the hearing system and some consequences of auditory pathway breakdown. His research has involved brain imaging to identify abnormal brain activity related to tinnitus and loudness intolerance. He will discuss techniques for treating hearing loss, including new research on hair cell regeneration.

Dr. Salvi has served at SUNY Buffalo since 1987. His main area of research is the auditory physiology associated with acquired hearing loss. The recipient of numerous awards, he is a prolific scholar whose research has appeared in over 300 journal articles.

Free and open to the public, the program is audiolooped and open captioned. There will be ASL interpretation. Free parking adjoins the building. Light refreshments will be provided.

*Hearing Loss Association of America is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. The Rochester Academy of Medicine provides continuing education and outreach programs to health care professionals and scholars from all institutions who study issues in health care.*

For more information visit either [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org), telephone 585 266 7890, or [www.raom.org](http://www.raom.org), telephone 585 271 1313.

**Flu Shots** – The CDC recommends getting your flu shot now. Because flu is contagious 1-2 days before symptoms appear, it can be spread before we know we're infected. For more info, go to: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Today’s gasoline prices are higher than a dog’s hopes at a church picnic.”

*(The Rev. Robert St. John “A Laugh A Day”  
submitted by Joan Ewing)*

## PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

*By Cindy Kellner*

### Disabled For Sure



I used to be on the fence as to whether or not I considered myself disabled as a result of my hearing loss. Something was holding me back and I wasn't quite sure what. Clearly there is no stigma to the label. To be disabled does not mean you are any less a human being or some second class citizen. But still, I held back. With the publication of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) study on disabilities in the US, all that has changed. Yes, I am disabled, and yes I want to be counted, acknowledged, and above all heard. Maybe I do not qualify for the blue rectangular disability parking pass, but I am still disabled and I wish to be acknowledged.

I was really quite dismayed to read the CDC's study on disabilities which, in a single footnote, dismissed those of us with hearing loss from being counted as disabled. Yes, I understand that much of the data was collected by telephone and I do acknowledge that conversing on the phone is often extraordinarily difficult for people with hearing loss. Still, that is no excuse to overlook what is estimated to be ten percent of the population. Our numbers are relevant, just as our stories are. We clearly should have been included if an accurate portrayal of disabilities in America is to be determined. In my opinion, we are no less disabled than those with vision issues or those with mobility challenges. The CDC study as it stands is inaccurate by omission and very misleading. One of my biggest concerns is that the study will be relied upon by people who are researching disabilities. The hearing loss population and the struggles we encounter will be totally overlooked. Consequently one could walk away from reading the study and never once consider any of the unique challenges we face as a group.

*(continued on page 3)*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

The importance of being recognized as disabled by the CDC, or anyone for that matter, is the acknowledgement of our specific challenges and most importantly, the need for accommodations to level the playing field and to make the world accessible to the hearing loss population. I fear that being excluded from the CDC's study it will be tougher to argue our right to accommodations. Ours, for the most part is already an invisible challenge. Canes or walkers do not help us hear. Hearing aids and cochlear implants do, but we often go to great lengths to hide them. I always chuckle to myself that invariably when I am trying to explain to someone that I do not hear well, I always push my hair back and point to my hearing aid as if it is some badge of hearing loss. The point, however, is that someone's hearing loss is not always recognizable. Still, that does not make it any less a disability.

It is high time we stand up for ourselves and come out of the shadows. We do, in my opinion, have a disability that should be acknowledged by all, especially the CDC. The more hearing loss is recognized as a disability the more likely it is that we will get the accommodations that we so desperately need. When building streets and roads, no one thinks twice about the need for curb cuts to accommodate wheelchair users. It is recognized as part of our lives. What I would like to see is a world where no one thinks twice about installing a hearing loop when constructing or renovating. Hearing loops and other assistive listening systems should be acceptable and common place just like curb cuts are.

Fortunately we are well organized and our National parent organization is on top of this issue and is doing all that it can to put pressure on the CDC to further explain and hopefully correct the oversight. Until then, we should stand tall. If being disabled opens the doors to accommodations that will help us hear better and make the world more accessible, then that is a label we should readily accept. I do and I hope you do too.

And, just a reminder...

November is set to be a great month and I am super excited to let you know that our chapter is once

again bringing back the nationally recognized hearing loss lecturer and comedian, Gael Hannan. This is, in my opinion, a "must not be missed" program. Gael is blessed with an exceptional sense of humor and not so blessed with significant hearing loss. She combines the two and the results are priceless. I guarantee you that she will have you laughing in your seat. She definitely cannot be missed. (More details on pages 10 and 11.)

### “NOW HEAR THIS!” October 19<sup>th</sup>

Monday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 1pm, at OASIS, presented by **Michelle Gross**.

Come hear more about HLAA. Learn about things that lead to hearing loss and what you can do. Learn about communication strategies, obtaining and adjusting to hearing instruments from a users point of view, as well as tips that can be applied to day-to-day communication. This class is suitable for those with hearing loss as well as normally hearing folks.

OASIS, 259 Monroe Ave. (14607) (old Sears bldg.) **You will need to register to attend.** Call 730-8800 for more information.

#### **We Welcome All Donations**

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester

*HLAA is a 501©(3) organization.*

Mail to: Ms. Joanne Owens, 1630 Woodard Road,  
Webster, NY 14580

*Be sure to designate:*

This donation is: In Memory of; or, In Honor of,  
or, Birthday congratulations,

And who to send the Acknowledgment to. Thank you.

### **WEGMAN'S PHARMACY RATED "BEST"**

*(excerpt from D&C 8-26-15; By Todd Clausen)*

Wegman's Pharmacy has received the highest overall satisfaction score in the country, according to a J.D. Power 2015 US Pharmacy Study 8-24-15.

We salute you for that, but also for installing hearing loops in the Hylan Drive and Calkins Road and Pittsford Plaza Wegman's stores. Thank you and congratulations!

***RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!***

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

Oct. 11 – Newsies  
 Nov. 15 – Motown  
 Dec. 20 – White Christmas  
 March 13, 2016 – Beautiful  
 April 17, 2016 – Matilda  
 May 15, 2016 – Dirty Dancing

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

***GEVA Theatre Offering Captioned Plays!***

All performances are **Saturday, at 2:00pm** (except-- A Christmas Carol)

Oct. 24 - Red  
 Nov. 29 - A Christmas Carol --**SUNDAY**  
 Feb. 20, 2016 – To Kill a Mockingbird  
 April 2, 2016 – A Moon for the Misbegotten  
 May 7, 2016 – The May Queen

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

***In Memory of Phyllis MacDonald:***

Patricia Ince  
 Suzanne McLaughlin

***For Your Donation to HLAA:***

Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate  
 Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate  
 Rochester Area Community Foundation  
 Nina Thompson  
 Mary Tuckley Estate

***In Memory of Robert Dempsey; Michael McCarthy; and, Dorothy Claire Palo***

Sue Miller

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

**NEW PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

*By Suzanne Johnston*

The purpose of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) is to furnish professional advice and support in order to promote the development of a credible and effective HLAA organization in the Rochester area. Following is the start of information on **new** PAC members:

**ROBERT CEDENO**

Bob Cedeno started in the theatre industry in 1989 at the Loews Webster 12 in Rochester, NY. He started as an usher and worked his way to General Manager in 1995. During this time he helped, or held positions at, other Loews locations within the area.

In 1989, Bob was asked to relocate to Binghamton to run the Loews Vestal Theatre. He worked there for only a year, but was recognized for the quick financial improvements that were made. These improvements gave him the opportunity to run one of the largest theatres in the Loews chain.

In 1999, Bob was asked to move to New York City to run the Loews Palisades Center in West Nyack, NY. The transition was a success, so he was then asked to become a Regional Training Coordinator. This allowed him to open new facilities throughout the Northeastern United States, while still holding a permanent position at Palisades Center. He stayed with Loews through the transition to “AMC” in 2006. In 2008, came the opportunity to return to his home town of Rochester. This time it would be with the Regal Entertainment Group. Bob moved his family back to Rochester, and joined the Regal family in April of 2008. He is currently the General Manager of their Henrietta location.

*Info on the other **new** PAC members will appear in a future edition of our Newsletter.*

## DEAPHYDUCK AT CHAUTAUQUA 2015

*By Janet McKenna (aka Deaphyduck)*

It really works, thought Deaphyduck!

Deaphyduck was amazed to unexpectedly meet another lady with a cochlear implant at the Chautauqua Institution in western NY. People with hearing loss aren't uncommon in this cross between a college campus/summer camp/religious enclave.

But cochlear implants are rare. Qualifying for one even today means a profound hearing loss. That day in the Hall of Philosophy the ushers gave the lady what they call a "cochlear implant hearing receiver." It is an infrared pendant receiver distributed by Sound Associates, Inc. In 2006 Deaphyduck apprised Chautauqua staff that their "stethoscope" headsets were far too weak for listeners with more than mild hearing loss. Headsets then were the sole hearing system available. Listeners with more severe hearing loss were out of luck. The 5000+ seat Amphitheatre, Hall of Philosophy and other venues, even with their very loud microphones, were just too diffuse--too echoing for cochlear implant users.

Even though over eighty headsets are still distributed to listeners during big lectures, inserting them in one's ears requires removing any hearing aids. Deaphyduck was told that many listeners can use headsets satisfactorily. But cochlear implant users are beyond their capacity.

Deaphyduck NEVER actually had SEEN anyone else ask for the powerful receivers until that moment. The lady belonged to an HLAA group in Santa Monica, CA. We conversed very briefly. How thrilling to see another person with hearing loss using these devices which Deaphyduck had advocated for in 2006!

Deaphyduck was so happy. Ten years of educating ushers and Chautauqua staff finally had come to fruition. People with severe hearing loss could actually UNDERSTAND what the intellectual lecturers said; could understand their words. Amphitheatre ushers had distributed other receivers in previous weeks. Chautauqua has purchased

several more for various venues since their first pilot project ten years ago.

If Deaphyduck hadn't belonged to SHHH/HLAA since 1983, learning about neckloops, patch cords, listening receivers--probably cochlear implant users would still be too deaf to hear at Chautauqua. She and thus HLAA made this powerful technology known to them.

So it really does work--advocating for something that helps people help themselves and be part of society which they as, hard of hearing people, otherwise are cut off from.

Deaphyduck is proud to be part of HLAA-Rochester Chapter.

### **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 2 months ahead. Thanks, Ginger  
[ggraham859@frontiernet.net](mailto:ggraham859@frontiernet.net); or, (585) 671-2683

### **HEARING AIDS COVERED UNDER MEDICARE ?**

*(from HLAA of NY State, Member Bulletin, Summer 2015)*

HR 1653, the Hearing Aid Coverage Act of 2015, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives this past spring. If the bill becomes law, Medicare will then pay for hearing aids for anyone with Medicare insurance. It will save people thousands of dollars.

Please contact your U.S. Representative. To find your Representative and his/her contact information, go to <http://www.house.gov>. Tell your Representative you want him/her to vote for HR 1653. Explain that this bill is vital to you and millions of other people with hearing loss.



## CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

Great news from CaptionCall! 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 for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row...such an incredible gift to our chapter. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter...and we thank you!

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



## COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

The CI meeting is held twice a year. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Oct. 20th, at 5:00– 6:30pm** at St. Paul's Church, East Ave., Vestry Room. Enter rear door along fence. Light refreshments provided. All are welcome, with or without a Cochlear Implant. Contact: Bob or Carol Bradshaw at [RCBradshaw@aol.com](mailto:RCBradshaw@aol.com)

Our speaker will be Lisa Lamson, Clinical Territory Manager, Cochlear Americas, speaking on the new Nucleus 6, position of T-coils, ALD's, and more. Lisa has been an audiologist for more than 20 years and started working with Cochlear Americas in 2006. She has also recently worked in the Pediatric Audiology Research Lab at Syracuse University and is an adjunct professor there as well.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**If man could be crossed with a cat, it would improve man; but it would deteriorate the cat.**

*(Mark Twain)*



## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org). **Michelle Gross** is our Web Master. (**Barb Law** continues as consultant.) The website for HLAA National is: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). Congratulations! Our Rochester Chapter has won the National Award for best Website.

*(submitted by Ginger Graham)*

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is partnering with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), US air carriers and airports for TSA Pre-check—a passenger pre-screening initiative that allows participants who have volunteered info about themselves to be qualified for screening benefits. Such as, no longer removing the following items:

- shoes, belt, light outerwear jacket
- 3-1-1 compliant bag from carry-on
- Laptop from bag

**Go to:** [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

Tips for traveling with children with disabilities (ADD, brain injuries, and more). Though airlines and hotels offer general info and basic services for guests with special needs, they're rarely focused exclusively on kids.

**Go to:** [www.specialglobe.com](http://www.specialglobe.com).

*(excerpt from Christopher Elliott, D&C, 2/23/15)*

*(submitted by Al Suffredini)*

## **FDA: Use Only Approved Prescription Ear Drops** 07/01/2015

FDA is taking action against 16 prescription drugs labeled to relieve ear pain and swelling because they are unapproved and haven't been evaluated by FDA for safety, effectiveness and quality. Parents and other consumers still will have many other options for treating ear pain.

[http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm453087.htm?source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm453087.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## ANNUAL PICNIC AT KEUKA LAKE

By Carol Loftus

On Sunday, August 23, many members and friends shared a lovely afternoon at Sue and Scott Miller's Keuka Lake residence for our annual Chapter picnic.



Many of our friends had other plans, however, 38 attendees had a wonderful time sharing stories, boating on beautiful Keuka Lake (thank you Scott), swimming and indulging in an assortment of food and desserts that left everyone 'oh so satisfied'.



A big thank you to all who contributed to our buffet and cheerfully helped reinstate cleanliness to the Miller's home.



As always, we are so grateful for having such a wonderful location for the Chapter picnic.

To those who could not attend, mark your calendar for next summer!

Sue and one of our charter members, Vern Thayer.

*Picnic photos courtesy of Al Suffredini*

### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **260** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

## DAY OF HEARING



Our second annual "Day of Hearing" is planned for Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., sponsored by HLA A-Rochester Chapter, Lifespan, and Nazareth College. There will be hearing screenings and tables for exhibits, literature, and ALD's to demo. Several audiologists will be giving presentations. Please plan to attend! Watch this Newsletter for more details.

### IF YOU MOVE

Please don't forget to notify **Margaret Cochran**, at 178 Crossover Rd., Fairport, NY, 14450, or, via email at, [mc23@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mc23@rochester.rr.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. Thanks.

### CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the families and friends of our Chapter members at the time of their loss.

Robert Dempsey, died in August.

Michael McCarthy, husband of Sherri, died in September.

Dorothy Claire Palo, passed away August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Newsletter Deadline

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30<sup>th</sup>**

(for the November Newsletter)

Email: [ggraham859@frontiernet.net](mailto:ggraham859@frontiernet.net)

### A THOUGHT ALONG THE WAY...

**"A Universal remote does not in fact let you control the universe."**

*("A Laugh A Day" from Joan Ewing)*

## “MY STORY” –A PERSONAL HISTORY

By Bruce Nelson



I'm Bruce Nelson, one of the “geeks” who keeps live captions working at our monthly meetings, gets speakers' presentations displaying on the screen, and solves myriads of technical problems that occur at the meetings.

My hearing loss started as a non-linear loss on my right side, which I believe was caused by a high fever when I was 6 months old. My left side loss is age-related. I started wearing hearing aids about 12 years ago when digital aids could fill in the gaps on my non-linear side.

My “day job” is the Western NY State installer and trainer for CaptionCall, travelling from Lewiston to Binghamton to install CaptionCall phones. I've been with CaptionCall since they introduced their captioning phone to the Rochester area, 4 years ago.

But how did I become a “geek”? My first high school job was as a radio control board operator, probably not the best fit for someone who was hard of hearing. But at that time I could still hear pretty well on the left, so I was able to do it. I co-op'ed at IBM when I went to Broome Community College, first as a draftsman, and next as a TV studio technician. But by that 2<sup>nd</sup> co-op, I had taken a Fortran course, and I caught “terminal illness.” I had discovered an unused IBM 1620 near the studio and I spent way too much time self-learning as much about that computer as possible.

On my first RIT co-op, IBM didn't give me a choice. I had scored very high on a computer aptitude test, and they gave me a job as an assembler-language programmer for the IBM 1130. But I didn't know assembler language. No problem. They sat me in front of a teletype machine for 3 weeks and I learned assembler language via an on-line course. I became so good at that programming, I created the device driver to run the first-ever dot-matrix printer.

While at RIT, I was asked to serve on the committee which created the School of Computer Science.

Kodak hired me in 1971 as an Electrical Engineer, but they soon found out I was “pretty good with computers” and I ended up there as a minicomputer programmer. I worked on the 2610 Color Printer, the first automated color-negative-to-paper printer. We initially did it in 8K of memory! During my 37½ years I was a product programmer, I maintained software for automated warehouses, and then I did system administration for large installations of Unix workstations. I was one of the webmasters for Kodak.com the day it was turned on, and I ended up as the Kodak “postmaster” and was webmaster for over 160 internal websites.

My wife, Candi, and I have lived in Henrietta for 42 years, but we are slowly migrating to our new home in Cicero, to be near our son, Joshua, and his wife Jennifer, and grandkids James and Sheila; and our daughter, Peri, and her husband Adam.

This award-winning Newsletter of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA 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  
Research Assistant.....Ginny Koenig

## BRAIN HEALTH: WHAT HELPS, WHAT HURTS (excerpt from AARP Bulletin, June 2015)

Hearing and Vision Loss. Problems hearing and seeing are both linked to trouble with thinking, memory and socialization and should be corrected whenever possible. One Johns Hopkins study found that older adults with hearing problems appear to have a greater rate of brain shrinkage as they age.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents (Asia and Europe).

(author unknown)



## OUR OWN CHAPTER LIBRARY

*By Nancy Meyer*



Did you know that our chapter has a Lending Library?

There are several books and DVDs available for members to sign out for a month at a time. They are on display along with the educational materials on the table at the entry to our meeting room. Be sure to take a look to see what's there and sign out one (or more).

Members have donated books they have read and found helpful. If you have and would be willing to donate any materials you think may be of interest to the group, please bring them to any routine monthly chapter meeting that you attend, and we will add them to our collection...with our thanks!

Our latest additions are Gael Hannan's new book, "The Way I Hear It," and Katherine Boughton's latest book, "Living Better With Hearing Loss." Both books are packed with information and insight into life as a deaf/hard-of-hearing person. Both were purchased at the National Convention in St. Louis. Both authors were at the Convention and both have been a Featured Speaker at one of our Chapter meetings.

Information and education are the tools we need to improve the quality of our communication, both with each other and with those without hearing loss. So please use our resources to your benefit.

## HLAA-ROCHESTER STUDENT SUBCOMMITTEE OP!

*By Suzanne Johnston*

Our Rochester Chapter of HLAA is growing! Are you a young adult? Want a great way to help the community while gaining leadership experience?

A NEW HLAA Student Subcommittee has been forming this summer and we expect to begin great things in the Fall of 2015! We are looking for high-

school to college-age students (or young adults recently graduated) who are interested in joining together to develop community awareness of hearing loss and to promote access for those people with hearing loss.

If you have a hearing loss, or are deaf, or are hearing but interested in promoting the mission of this group, please call or text Suzanne Johnston at (585) 314-1807 or email me at [suzanneEJohnston@aol.com](mailto:suzanneEJohnston@aol.com), for further information and to apply for the opportunity to be a part of this exciting group!

## NEW CARDS FOR MEDICARE RECIPIENTS WILL OMIT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

*(submitted by Gerry Loftus)*

Concerned about the rising prevalence and sophistication of identity theft, most private health insurance companies have abandoned the use of Social Security numbers to identify individuals. The federal government even forbids private insurers to use the numbers on insurance cards when providing medical or drug benefits under contract with Medicare.

But, Medicare itself has continued the practice! That is about to change...President Obama signed a bill May 2015 that will end the use of Social Security numbers on Medicare cards.

Medicare officials have up to 4 years to start issuing cards with new identifiers. They have 4 more years to reissue cards held by current beneficiaries. They intend to replace the Social Security number with "a randomly generated Medicare beneficiary identifier," but the details are still being worked out.

## FIVE SIMPLE RULES TO BE HAPPY...

*Submitted by Bob Sickimond*

- Free your heart from hatred--Forgive.
- Free your mind from worries--Most never happen.
- Live simply and appreciate what you have.
- Give more.
- Expect less.

**WALK WITH ROCHESTER HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER AND HAVE FUN ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, AT WALKABOUT FOR THE AL SIGL COMMUNITY**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. by the food court at Eastview Mall Entrance # 5. Sign in and enjoy a light breakfast. Start walking our one-mile course in the indoor comfort of the mall. Along the way, enjoy fun, snacks, face painting, and musical entertainment. All walkers receive a free t-shirt, breakfast, and entry into the costume contest. Funds raised help young children, adults and families who have communication, hearing and/or learning delays. **New this year! Scavenger Hunt and the RHSC Hearing Health Expo.**

**PRE-REGISTER NOW!**

Adult registration is \$20. Children are FREE with a parent or other adult registrant. Register online at [www.crowdrise.com/RochesterHearingandSpeech](http://www.crowdrise.com/RochesterHearingandSpeech) or go to [www.RHSC.org](http://www.RHSC.org) and click on the WalkAbout logo to get your mail-in registration form.

For more information, email Denise Howard at [dhoward@rhsc.org](mailto:dhoward@rhsc.org) or call 585.271.0680 x 1455.

**Subjects of Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter Meetings:**

**Gael Hannan returns after her rousing presentation as our Featured Speaker in 2012.**

**Daytime: "A HOH person on the road. Traveling the hearing loss life."**

**Evening: "How to be a fabulous person with hearing loss. (A humorous HL session)."**

**DIRECTIONS – OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup> – ACADEMY OF MEDICINE FOR FEATURED SPEAKER**

The Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave. (14610). Doors open 5:00 pm; Dr. Richard Salvi at 5:45pm.

Located 0.9-mile from St. Paul's church, (going away from down town) on same side of East Ave.

Drive east, past Culver Rd, then 3 blocks. "1441 East Ave." sign is in front yard. Turn right. Park in back or along side. Enter through large glass doors if using walker or wheelchair. Elevator is here. The side entrance has a few steps. Academy is accessible. We hope to see you there!

**NTID RECEIVES \$4 MILLION FOR EDUCATION**

*By Vienna Carvalho, NTID*

The National Science Foundation has renewed its pledge to funding resources for deaf and hard-of-hearing education by awarding an additional \$4 million to RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf to continue DeafTEC: Technological Education Center for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students, an Advanced Technological Education National Center of Excellence. The largest NSF grant awarded to RIT was given four years ago when the foundation pledged \$4.45 million over four years to initially fund the center.

DeafTEC builds partnerships with high schools, community colleges and industry with the goal of building a professional community that will improve access to technological education and employment for students with hearing loss.

**STRUGGLING WITH HEARING LOSS EACH DAY** *(excerpt from Diablo Valley HLAA Jan/Feb.2015)*

A day in the life of a person who has a hearing loss may include struggles with the following:

- hearing alarms or telephones
- understanding someone while talking on the phone
- understanding when several people are talking
- understanding when a speaker's face is unseen
- hearing in a car, wind, or traffic
- understanding speech on TV
- understanding whispering
- enjoying "sweet nothings" in a romantic situation
- understanding people in a large room
- understanding unclear or accented speech
- being unaware someone is talking
- understanding in public places
- ordering food
- understanding cashiers or sales clerks

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

*Back by popular demand!*

Our guest speaker for the November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
HLAA Daytime and Evening meetings will  
be international entertainer

## Gael Hannan



Gael has been the featured entertainer for national HLAA conventions, is a well-known author, national workshop presenter, and is guaranteed to make you laugh about your hearing loss.

Please join us for her hilarious presentations...  
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Daytime Meeting 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Evening Meeting 7 to 9 p.m.

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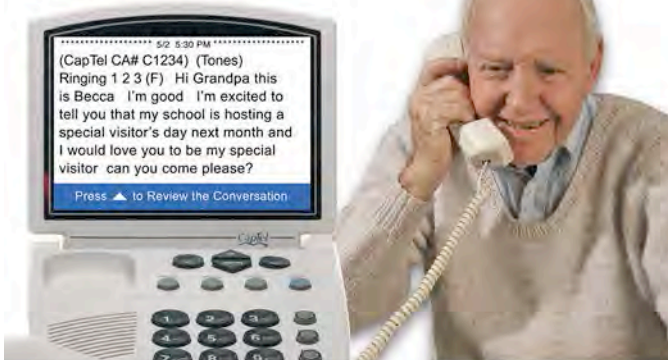
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### **If You're New, This is for You.**

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 advocacy, information, education, and support.

HLAA is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: [www.hearingloss.org/](http://www.hearingloss.org/).

To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has more than 176 chapters and 14 state organizations. Welcome!

### **Meetings are hearing accessible**

We meet in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. and Westminster Rd., across from the George Eastman House. Parking is available at the George Eastman House, 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](mailto: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!*