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Volume 28, Number 1

published monthly except July and August

September 2014

SEPTEMBER Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 9th

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 – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Sept. 16th – Board of Directors

7:00-9pm – JV room, Al Sigl Center

Wed., Sept. 24th – RWC/CaptiView movie,
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm. Email Ginger
the weekend ahead for exact movie & time.
ggraham859@frontiernet.net. See you there!

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Oct. 7th – Katherine Bouton, Featured Speaker,
at Chapter Meetings (see page 8 for more info)

Tues., Oct. 14th – BOD meeting, 7:00-9pm,
Lower Level CR, Al Sigl Center

Tues., Oct. 21st – “CI Group” 5:00-6:30pm, church
(see page 3 for more info)

Tues., Oct. 21st – PAC meeting, 7pm, JV room, ASC

Wed., Oct. 22nd – RWC/CaptiView movie
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm

Sun., Nov. 2nd – Daylight Savings Time Ends

Hospitality Duties for September:

Daytime Meeting –Ginger Graham, Marlene Sutliff
Evening Meeting –Ginger Graham, Sue Miller
Board of Directors –Carmen Coleman, Cindy Kellner

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

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



SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

(at St. Paul’s Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd.)

Tues., Sept. 9th - Daytime Meeting 11:00 am

Austin, capital of Texas, the Lone Star State, hosted the 2014 Hearing Loss Association national convention June 26 to 29.

A contingent from Rochester represented the Flower City chapter. At **BOTH** September 9 chapter meetings, daytime at 11:00am and evening 7:00 pm, our members will share reports of their convention experiences and reactions. The national convention features a full slate of workshops and exhibits, and our representatives could only relate a fraction of what transpired there.

Presenters and their tentative topics are:

Elise de Papp, M.D.--Technology, a major player at the convention

Jeannette Kanter--Nine years on the National Board of Trustees

Cindy Kellner--Advocacy at the convention

Sue Miller--Impressions of the venue and city, composer Richard Einhorn's presentation, the opening session video, and exhibits

Vern Thayer--general impressions

Continued on next page)

Tues., Sept. 9th – Meetings

Jeannette states: " I came on the national Board the year the national organization almost went under. I would like to give some of the contrast with that time and now and how the Board of Trustees has grown and developed." She praises **Pete Fackler** as one of the best presidents to serve HLAA and finds the Rochester chapter to be "blessed with outstanding people," a tradition she hopes will continue.

Tues., Sept. 9th – Evening Meeting – 7:00pm

A repeat of the morning meeting.

HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman House. All programs are audiolooped & captioned. A sign language interpreter is available for evening meetings only. To request an interpreter for an evening meeting, contact Linda Siple at 585 475 6712, a week in advance. (Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)

The Hearing Loss Association is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. For more information visit our website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.

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.



For your Donation to HLAA:

Exxon Mobil, Carol Dethlefs Menchel, Sue Miller;
Ruth Oakley Trust; United Way

SPRING 2014 COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP MEETING

By Janet McKenna

"Old timers" spent the May 20th "Cochlear Implant Group" meeting answering questions from prospective cochlear implant candidates. Twelve people attended--one joining the group on the spot.

Two present users' experiences are less than wonderful, but the others agreed they would still get cochlear implants, feeling that the benefits they achieved outweigh any negative results.

We discussed which ear to implant and easing of tinnitus with an implant. Most said balance was not an issue. A lot of topics were discussed.

The autumn meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 21st**, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm in St. Paul's Church vestry room. Watch our Newsletter for details.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, AUSTIN, TEXAS

By Jeannette Kanter

Convention 2014 in Austin, Texas, was an excellent example of the progress that we have made in making HLAA conventions a venue for acquiring vital information about hearing loss in an accessible environment.

The Renaissance Hotel was comfortable, attractive, and designed so that people could move from one workshop to another with ease. Most activities were centrally located and did not involve much walking. The Exhibit Hall had more exhibitors than ever, but it, too, was spaced to avoid long walks.

In addition, the high quality of the workshops presented maximized the increased interest in technology and advocacy as demonstrated by **Elise de Papp, M.D. and Cindy Kellner**. Andy Bopp's paragraph on the Wireless Industry workshop gives you some idea of the material that was covered in what I consider one of the finest workshops I attended.

(continued on page 11)

LOCATING CAPTIONED MOVIES USING CAPTIONFISH

By Michelle Gross

“Captionfish” (<http://www.captionfish.com>) is a website where you can find movie theaters by location, times for showings and the type of assistive services they offer.

It may not be clear how to find out the Accessibility systems the theater uses. On the Website enter the appropriate zip code/location you prefer, “click” on or “mouse over”, the symbols to the left of each theater, for example “Sony” or “DV” or “OC” etc., and you will see there is a description of the services provided by that theater. For example when you see “Sony” it means that Sony Digital glasses are used, DV means “Descriptive Video” (for the visually limited), “OC” is opened captioned etc..

Although the times are listed for movies where an Assistive Listening System is provided, it’s not a bad idea to check to be sure. Some theaters may not have enough Sony glasses for example, especially if a particular movie is very popular. Some theaters, such as Pittsford Plaza have only one or two pairs of Sony glasses and only one or two of their auditoriums may be available.

The Assistive Listening System usually is turned on shortly before the movie begins to allow people to check their devices to see if they are working. Batteries may not get replaced in a timely manner, for example. If you don’t know when the “test” of the system is turned on, ask the manager the first time you go to that theater.

It’s really important we use the Assistive Listening Systems provided and make our displeasure known if they are not working or unavailable. Don’t be shy about asking for your money back if you have to leave because you can’t hear.

When possible, thank the manager when you have benefitted from a system. We all need to stick together and advocate for ourselves so owners/managers know their time and money have brought in customers/viewers, which for them, may be the bottom line.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **182** friends and we want more.

Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!



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

Nov. 16 – Joseph & Technicolor Dream Coat
Dec. 14 – Cinderella
Jan. 18 – Pippin
March 15 – Annie
April 19 – Anything Goes
May 17 – Kinky Boots

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 Offering Captioned Plays!



All performances are **Saturday, at 2:00pm** (exception-- Christmas play).

September 13 -Wait Until Dark
October 25 – Good People
November 30 – A Christmas Carol-- **Sunday at 2pm**
January 17 – Little Shop of Horrors
February 28 – Women in Jeopardy!
April 4 – The Mountaintop
May 9 – Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike

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

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; or, (585) 671-2683

COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

The CI meeting is held twice a year. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 21st, 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

ANNUAL DINNER CULMINATES IN THUNDERSTORM

By Janet McKenna

Crashing thunder, vivid lightning, and torrents of rain greeted the 73 guests departing the Hearing Loss Association-Rochester annual dinner and awards ceremony on June 17 as they cautiously drove from the Cobblestone Country Club in Victor. One guest was delayed by a fallen tree blocking the road and all were impeded by blinding rain.

The dinner honored eight high school seniors who were awarded \$1,000 scholarships toward their higher education (presented by **Cindy Kellner**). Presiding at the awards ceremony was Mistress of ceremonies and Chapter President **Elise de Papp, M.D.**

Tim Whitcher, PAC Chair, recognized our four outgoing professional advisors--Scott Cristman; Susan Friedman, M.D.; Bryan Hensel; and, Suzanne Johnston.



Stuart Lowenstein accepted the Community Person Award (from **Sue Miller**) presented posthumously to his late wife, **Meredith Low**. Meredith had been chairperson of the recent Gala marking our chapter's 30th anniversary in November 2013 and had served the chapter in several other capacities.

Elise de Papp, M.D., presented the Community Organization Award to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. They provide classes on the RIT campus for "elders," and have done so much to make every classroom readily hearing accessible.



Barbara Gates was honored with the coveted HLAA-Rochester Chapter Award (presented by **Ginger Graham**) recognizing her years of work on the Board of Directors, and Chair of the E&O Committee, in addition to other behind the scenes activities.

Music was provided by Trina Clickner and Mark Weeg.

Thanks to **Mary Chizuk** for the flower center pieces, and to **Ginger Graham and Janet McKenna** at the Greeters Table, and to **Linda Siple** for her interpreting services. And a special thanks to **Barb Law and Sue Miller** for all their work in making the evening such a success.

(dinner photographs courtesy of Al Suffredini)

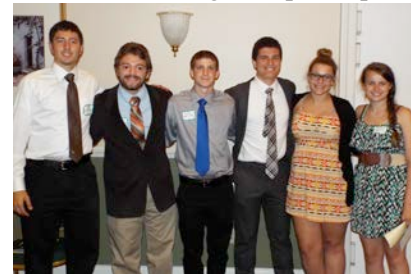


HLAA-ROCHESTER GIVES BACK

By Cindy Kellner

This was another extraordinary year for HLAA-Rochester. We awarded eight Rochester high school seniors with hearing loss \$1,000 scholarships to help with the cost of their continued college education. The awards were handed out at our Annual Dinner on June 17th. Seven recipients joined us, along with their families and they all expressed their gratitude.

Our scholarship program was started in 1996 with a grant from **Mr. & Mrs. J. Stuart MacDonald**. With this year's awards, we are proud to report that HLAA-Rochester has awarded \$78,500 to 94 recipients. That is amazing. Today most of our scholarship funds come from money raised at our annual Walk4Hearing held in May. This year's awards were again made possible by a generous donation from the **MacDonald Fund** at the Rochester Area Community Foundation. We cannot thank them enough for participating in this worthy cause.



Our eight recipients are all amazing young people who are determined that their hearing loss is not going to stand in their way of achieving their

dreams. They are an inspiration to all of us.

All eight students are graduating from the Rochester School for the Deaf. **Tim Artinian** is from Henrietta and will be attending NTID in the fall. **Ryan Clark Sulkey** is from Newark and will also be attending NTID. **Anthony Digivani** is from Rochester and will be attending RIT. **Allison Higgins** from Leicester, NY will attend NTID. From Webster comes **Michael McNulty, Jr.** who will be attending NTID. Another recipient headed for NTID is **Madilyn Smith** from Rochester. From Pittsford comes **Sarah Stanislaw** who will be attending RIT. Finally, **Christopher Mitchell** from Rochester will join his classmates at NTID in the fall. We sincerely congratulate all of our 2014 Scholarship Award winners and wish them the best of luck in realizing their dreams.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By *Cindy Kellner*



Greetings to all and I hope you have enjoyed your summer. It is both an honor and a privilege to be HLAA-Rochester's new President. I take this role very seriously and look forward to having a good year working

with all of you. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere and deep appreciation to our outgoing President, **Elsie de Papp, M.D.** For the last two years Elise has worked tirelessly for HLAA-Rochester and I know that I speak for all of you when I say "thanks for a job well done."

Let me begin by telling you a little bit about myself. I am just shy of 60 and have been dealing with my hearing loss for almost 20 years. The cause of my hearing loss is unknown. I currently wear two hearing aids which fortunately help me manage. I live in Pittsford with my husband Craig, our three dogs and two cats. Quite a menagerie, but I love it. I have three twenty-something children. My sons live in Denver, CO and Hilton Head, SC. My daughter attends college in Charlotte, NC. I am a retired attorney who found it extremely hard to continue my practice when my hearing loss worsened. However, since retiring I have found a wonderful life volunteering. In addition to working with HLAA, I am a docent at the Rochester Museum & Science Center and at the Susan B. Anthony House. I am a mystery reader, gardener and cook. Despite my hearing loss, life is currently good.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what our Board of Directors has been up to and my goals and hopes for the upcoming year. I am very optimistic about HLAA-Rochester. We are an amazing group of people with a tremendous amount of knowledge and energy. The people who make up our chapter never cease to amaze me. We care deeply about dealing positively with our hearing loss and trying to make the world a better and more accessible place for all of us. It is wonderful to work with so many competent, caring and compassionate people. I feel strongly that together we can do so much.

For much of the past year the Board has been looking inward and discussing who we are, how we function, how we can do better and what do we want to accomplish. Thanks to the professional guidance of Board members **Carmen Coleman** and **Cathy Lee** we have made quite a bit of progress. Hands down we unanimously agreed that

our mission is to support, educate and advocate for people with hearing loss. Our goal is to make HLAA-Rochester the "go to" or premier organization for people in our community with hearing loss. I really think we can do it. The process the Board went through was very enlightening. Hopefully we are now all on the same page. As President, I think however, we are ready to move forward and take some concrete action towards achieving our goals. Personally I hope to work with the Board in helping us to move forward in our campaign for recognition. We need to get the word out and take our advertising up a notch. I also believe it is time for us to actively continue our "Looping Rochester" campaign. This year the Board will be seriously looking at venues that could use our help in paying for the costs of installing a looping system. I think you all realize the potential that a good looping system holds for the hearing loss community. It is one key to a more accessible world. I hope you will support me in these goals.

These are only two goals I have for the coming year. There are actually many more. It is time for action. We deserve it. Let's continue to work together for HLAA-Rochester and the hearing loss community at large. I firmly believe we have done a lot, but I know we can do more. Let's work together in getting the word out about our chapter and continuing to be the amazing organization that we are. I welcome your comments. My email window is always open at ckellne1@rochester.rr.com. Thanks for your support.

IF YOU MOVE

Please don't forget to notify **Barb Gates**, at 28 Country Gables Circle, Rochester, NY 14606, or, via email at cdgblg28@aol.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.

ROCHESTER CI GROUP ON NATIONAL WEBSITE

By *Janet McKenna*

An account of our chapter's **Cochlear Implant Group** appears in the HLAA **Spotlight on Chapters** as part of the national web site. Headlined "HLAA-Rochester has CI subgroup" it relates the local group's activities for the specialized users of CIs. The **Spotlight** shares accounts of chapter activities throughout the country. Go to: www.hearingloss.org.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy is extended to **Margaret Cochran** for the loss of her mother **Carolyn Humphreys** May 30th.

“WE’VE GROWN!”

By Cindy Kellner

After much discussion by our Board of Directors, and in an effort to protect our organization and its assets, HLAA-Rochester decided to incorporate. As of April, 2014 our legal name is now Hearing Loss Association of America Rochester Chapter, Inc.

Same organization – same wonderful people – just a new name. (We will continue to call ourselves HLAA-Rochester.)

BEHIND THE SCENES – CLEANING THE CLOSET!

By Ginger Graham

A group of dedicated members of the Technology Committee spent a couple of hours in July cleaning out and sorting the closet at St. Paul’s church. Everything from paperwork, to food supplies, to technical equipment. Thanks to **Fred Altrieth, Ginger Graham, Sue Miller, Bruce and Candi Nelson, and Tim Whitcher**. And thanks to Sue for providing cool water and delicious pie! As well as loading her car with supplies no longer needed--a lot of work!

Subject of Oct. 7th Chapter Meetings

Daytime: NO MORNING MEETING.

**5:00 pm – Fellowship Hall – St. Paul’s church -
Featured Speaker: Katherine Bouton, author of
“Shouting Won’t Help” (see page 8)**



HLAA TURNS 35 IN NOVEMBER.

Incredible 35 years of advocating for 48 million Americans with hearing loss.

WEB SITES WITH CAPTIONS!

By Bob Menchel

Many people today are looking toward sources that will broaden their horizons, add to their knowledge and provide them with new insight to our world. Today like never before there are more sources on the Internet than we could cover in our lifetime and also many local sources that offer classes in everything from A to Z. However, like many people that are deaf or have hearing loss, these web sites or local lectures are not always available to us. The reason is that if we attend a local lecture we need captions, or a loop system, or an interpreter. If we decide to go onto a web site we need to have captions to understand what is being provided. This article will provide us with information about some excellent web sites that not only are well made and informative but are CAPTIONED!

The big name today in an online course is appropriately named **MOOC’s** which is **Massive Open Online Courses**. These courses are offered by such places as Harvard, M.I.T, Tuft, and many other highly recognized institutions with excellent teaching staffs. RIT also offers online learning experiences. Now there are two options for using these sites—one, you can get credit for taking the course but you will have to pay a fee and register. The other is where you would audit the course and do not get any credit nor have to pay any fee. You can get started by looking at such sites as Uniqlo, Harvardx, edx, and others. For example, the latest data shows that for the first six Harvard and 11 M.I.T courses during the 2012-2013 academic year 292,852 people registered and from this 43,196 earned certification.

If you are interested in just “listening” to an outstanding lecture on many different subjects from all over the world which are captioned in many different languages as well as in English then take a look at TEDx which covers the world and offers you insight to some great lectures.

Why not go on the web and maybe there is something that will get your attention. You never know what there is out there unless you give it a look. If you have questions, contact me at rondaxdocbob@aol.com.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

(Andre Gide, Nobel Prize-winning author)

PSA ADVERTISING HLAA

By Cindy Kellner

Just a quick pat on the back to **Carmen Coleman**. She was able to arrange for me to record a Public Service Announcement with Rochester radio station 105.9 FM. It is a jazz/contemporary music station that is really quite good. I went to the station and recorded about 15 minutes of information about HLAA-Rochester and hearing loss in general. The Station will then slice it up to make a 15-second PSA which they will run continuously on a four week cycle. Great job, Carmen!

HEARING LOOP ADDED TO COURTROOM

HLAA Sarasota chapter Board member convinces the US Supreme Court to install a hearing loop system. A direct result of the efforts of Richard Williams, Esq. He pointed out research showing that hearing loops have become more prevalent in public facilities in the US and are commonly found in most European public facilities.



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

TEXTING 9-1-1

By Tina Carson

Emergency Communications, Rochester, reports that Monroe County will now provide **TEXT TO 9-1-1** service for **T-Mobile** customers. (The first center in NY to provide this service for T-Mobile customers.) In addition to **Verizon, Sprint and AT&T**. (contact: TCarson@monroecounty.gov)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

(Anne Frank)

NEW RULES FOR MOVIES FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS

(submitted by Don Bataille; Al Suffredini)

The Justice Department announced today that Attorney General Eric Holder has signed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to amend the Title III regulation for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to require movie theaters to provide closed movie captioning and audio description in order to give persons with hearing and vision disabilities access to movies.

The new rule would require theaters to let people know that these types of services are available and have staff who can provide information to customers about how to use them. Closed movie captioning and audio description enable people with hearing and vision disabilities to attend movies with their friends and family and more fully enjoy the movie-going experience. Title III of the ADA requires movie theaters and other public accommodations to provide effective communication through the use of auxiliary aids and services.

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 31st
(for the October Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@frontiernet.net

VENUES WITH ALS OR CAPTIONING

By Tim Whitcher

Have you seen a movie or a show that has an Assistive Listening System or Captioning system and would like to share your experience with your fellow members? Did your church or synagogue install or upgrade such a system, and you'd like to make that known?

Please contact Tim Whitcher at hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com with the info that you'd like to share. (Please mark your email to Tim's attention.) Likewise, if you have a question regarding such a venue, please contact Tim.

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 4th 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!

MY BABY FAILED THE NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING! NOW WHAT?

By: *Lauren Hrcirek, MS, CCC-SLP;*
Megan K. Myers, MS, TSHH, TOD
Clinical Associates of the Finger Lakes -
Hear2Succeed Program
(submitted by Amy Fisher)

Receiving the news that your baby may have a significant hearing loss can be overwhelming. The most important thing you can do is follow up after an initial screening. The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) guidelines provide a step-by-step timeline to help ensure appropriate follow-through after your infant's hearing screening.

By **one month**: Follow up with an audiologist to receive more in-depth audiological testing, including an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test. An ABR is a painless test in which electrodes are placed on your baby's head. These electrodes measure the function of the auditory nerve and provide more accurate information regarding the presence of a hearing loss.

By **three months**: Additional audiological testing should be performed to confirm a hearing loss diagnosis. If a hearing loss is present, your baby should be fitted with hearing aids **NOW**, to ensure early access to sound and promote language development. Additionally, this is the

time to contact your local department of *Early Intervention* to begin specialized services, at no cost to your family, from a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) or Teacher of the Deaf (TOD).

By **six months**: Begin receiving *Early Intervention* services. Early family participation in TOD and/or SLP sessions will help your baby to stay on target for reaching his/her developmental milestones. *Early Intervention* services should be provided by professionals with a specialized background in hearing loss, so they can appropriately educate families regarding expectations and options for infants who are deaf/hard of hearing.

While the newborn hearing screening does occasionally result in a false positive result, it is important to follow these steps to rule out a significant hearing loss. Addressing your child's hearing loss proactively can help to achieve age-appropriate communication development.

For Early Intervention services in Monroe County, call (585) 753-5437. In other counties, call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline at (800) 522-5006.

FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM – OCT. 7TH WITH KATHERINE BOUTON AUTHOR OF “SHOUTING WON'T HELP”

By Ginger Graham



Katherine Bouton is the author of everyman's guide to hearing loss (“Shouting Won't Help – One Woman's Experience of Going Deaf”) and is a member of the

Board of Directors of National HLAA. She will speak at our annual Featured Speaker Program, **Tuesday, Oct. 7th, chapter meeting**. The meeting will start at 5:00pm, and the speaker promptly at 5:30pm. Refreshments will be available. This program will replace both day and evening regularly scheduled monthly programs.

Some of the subjects of chapters in her book are “Why did my hearing vanish?” and “Dementia and regrowing defective hair cells.” Ms. Bouton discovered a whole world of assistive devices and coping behaviors on joining HLAA. She will have tales to tell!

Please note there will be no morning daytime Chapter Meeting on October 7th.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org. **Michelle Gross** is updating our website. (**Barb Law** continues as consultant.) The website for HLAA National is: www.hearingloss.org.

NEW RESOURCE FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS CONTEMPLATING HEALTH CARE CAREERS

A new website dedicated to providing centralized info on this subject is now online. It came about due to the Task Force on Health Care Careers for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community, formed in 2012.

Go to: www.rit.edu/NTID/healthcare.
(from *In Good Health – June 2014*)

(Suggested by Ginny Koenig)

(from *Santa Barbara, CA Newsletter May 2014*)

Stem cell research continues to make pretty impressive progress. This article talks about how Cochlear Implants could be used to deliver gene therapy to the cochlear to help re-grow auditory nerves.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/04/140423143011.htm.

Cochlear Implant technology is looking to the future with no exterior hardware. Instead, future implants could use your ear to get sound to your internal device, which would be recharged wirelessly.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/02/140209152452.htm.

(Submitted by Al Suffredini)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the Nucleus® Hybrid™ L24 Cochlear Implant System (also referred to as “Hybrid L24”) to be marketed. This is a cochlear implant system used to treat certain hearing losses caused by a defective inner ear function. The Hybrid L24 is designed to allow patients to hear in two ways: electrically (similar to approved cochlear implants) for severe to profound hearing loss at mid and high frequencies, and acoustically (similar to hearing aids) for normal to moderate hearing loss at low frequencies.

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/DeviceApprovalsandClearances/Recently-ApprovedDevices/ucm392836.htm>

Comprehensive hearing aid catalog –

A comprehensive HA catalog allows you to compare hearing aids based on a number of important hardware features. It’s important to consider your lifestyle and listening needs when choosing a device.

www.hearingtracker.com/

Find the best hearing aids for me -

Leading online review system for HAs and accessories. Hearing Tracker allows you to get personalized HA recommendations based on your own personal level of hearing loss. www.hearingtracker.com/

(Submitted by Greg Livadas)

A website is now available detailing the partnership between RIT and UR that helps deaf and hard-of-hearing students pursue graduate degrees in science programs. Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate Program helps eligible students in a master’s program at RIT to prepare and apply for a doctorate level program in behavioral or biomedical science. Go to: <http://deafscientists.com/>

(Suggested by Ginny Koenig)

Hearing Aids and Cell Phones

www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/productsandmedicalprocedures

Assistive Listening and Alerting Devices

www.howsyourhearing.org

(both by Steve Frazier, HLAA New Mexico)

“ARCHIVIST” –A REMINDER!

Good news! We have a Chapter Archivist! **Janet McKenna** has offered to take on this task.



Janet will clip, affix into scrap books, and caption articles about our Chapter appearing in area print media, as well as other materials such as programs, invitations, speeches, photos, etc. Janet will be looking for help from all Chapter members supplying info they’ve accumulated. This leading HLAA Chapter will now be on its way to retaining its 30-year history! Contact Janet at: deaphyduck@gmail.com

IR ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS AT ROYAL GEORGE, NOTL; AND, EASTMAN THEATRE

By Barb Law



On June 25 I attended a matinee performance of “When We Are Married” at the Royal George Theater in **Niagara-on-the-Lake**. I was with a group from Koenig Day Tours, who made the initial reservations

for group seating. I called the Koenig Day Tour office the day before the performance to ask about assistive listening devices at the Royal George Theater. The Koenig representative called the Royal George Theater and was assured that there were enough assistive listening devices available. I was unaware until I read the Shaw Theater website later at <http://www.shawfest.com/buy-tickets/assistive-listening-devices/> that it was suggested that **a reservation request be made for an ALD when purchasing a ticket**. Also, a member of National HLAA showing a membership card is not required to pay the \$2 fee for using the ALD if the theater is informed of the HLAA membership when reserving the ticket. Had I known all this in advance, I would have personally informed Koenig Day Tours of my needs for assistive listening devices when I made my initial reservation.

The Royal George Theater uses the Sennheiser Infrared Listening system. Its two types of devices are described on their website. I asked for the pendant style device with an induction loop so I could use it with the **t-coil** setting on my hearing aids. The device did not work well with my hearing aids set on t-coil during the first act of the play. I am not sure why – perhaps the battery in the device was not working properly. The manager had personally set up the channel and turned on the device before the first act. I could not hear the entire first act of the play, so I returned the device during intermission. The manager insisted that the device should work. I took it back along with the ear bud type of device. Again, I was unsuccessful with the pendant style device, but when I tried the ear bud device with no hearing aids during the second act, I could hear very well, even with the English accents and rapid speech.

I wrote a letter to the Shaw Theaters complaining about the non-working pendant device, but received no reply from them.

Two points which may help when using an infrared system. Since infrared is “line of sight” choosing your seat becomes very important. If you’re not sitting with a direct path to the emitter (the light on the wall) or something blocks the path, you’re not going to hear well.

I would suggest an **aisle seat** so you can get up and return the device if it is not working. Unfortunately, I was in the center of a row toward the back of the theater during the first act at the Royal George theater, so could not easily return the device.

My recent experience with the Sennheiser Infrared Listening system at the **Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater** was more rewarding. After sitting in the second row of the theater for RPO Pops performances for many years (so I would be close enough to see the performers and hear them) I learned that the infrared system at that theater does not work for rows close to the stage. **John Metcalfe** and I met with the sound system manager at the Eastman Theater in late June to test the system which I did not believe was working. The system worked well when we sat further back from the stage with nothing blocking the path to the emitter.

Wanting to test the sound of the microphone at an RPO concert, I bought a ticket for the July 12th Pixar Concert. I sat in the same row (center orchestra with an aisle directly in front of me to assure no blockage of the infrared emitter). At the concert I happily could hear every word the conductor spoke into the microphone. I have always been able to hear the music with my music setting on my hearing aid, but it was wonderful to be able to understand the spoken word as well. (I have since changed my seat for next season’s RPO concerts to be further back in the theater.) Special thanks to Jules Corcimiglia of the Eastman Theater and to **John Metcalfe**, chair of our Theater Committee, who arranged the initial testing of the system at the Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater.

OUT-OF-TOWN CC MOVIE

By Steve Engel; submitted by Pat Mirza

The “Crandell Movie Theater” in Chatham, NY now has 2 Readers and an additional 6 audio headsets for people with hearing loss. The Crandell is not a chain and the cost of tickets is very reasonable. Many thanks to the manager, Matt, who made this happen.

REPORTS FROM CONVENTION...

HLAA'S CAMPAIGN FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS

By Cindy Kellner

At the convention, I had a long conversation with Lise Hamlin, National's Director of Public Policy, about the Bill that is known as the HEAR Act or HR 3150. Quite simply, passage of HR 3150 **would provide for Medicare coverage of hearing health services and, most importantly, hearing aids.** This Bill was first introduced into the House of Representatives a year ago (September 19, 2013) by Representative Matt Cartwright. Sadly, it is now languishing in the subcommittee on Health. Given our current political climate, the Bill has zero chance of getting out of Committee, which is necessary to have it brought before the entire House for a vote. However, that does not mean that there is nothing we can do. Having a Bill introduced is a huge step in the right direction. HLAA members are encouraged to write their representatives asking them to co-sponsor this HR 3150 Bill. The more sponsors a Bill has, the more likely it is to receive some attention. Form letters and a list of area lawmakers will be available at our September meeting. For more information contact Cindy Kellner at ckellne1@rochester.rr.com

HIA PANEL ATTRACTS RECORD AUDIENCE

By Andy Bopp; submitted by Jeannette Kanter

Hearing Industries Association attracted a standing-room-only crowd of more than 125 HLAA members and guests to our annual Manufacturer's Panel on technology. "Wireless Innovation to Help You Connect with Your World" was moderated by **Andy Bopp** and presentations were made by **Bill Dickinson, Phonak; Annette Mazevski, Oticon; John Nelson, GN ReSound; Tom Powers, Siemens; and Dennis Van Vliet, Starkey.**

Powers opened the session by reviewing Bluetooth technology and applications to hearing aids, and Dickinson followed with a discussion of advances in telephone accessories and FM systems. Mazevski reviewed streaming devices; Nelson discussed new developments and applications of smart phone technology linked to hearing aids; and Van Vliet reviewed the many new Apps available for people who use hearing aids.

Panelists also discussed potential innovations over the next 5-10 years with a focus on likely exponential advances in digital and wireless technologies that have already greatly enhanced hearing aid technology. HIA plans to host a similar panel at HLAA 2015 Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

TECHNOLOGY AT CONVENTION

By Elise de Papp, M.D.

Technology again loomed large at the convention. The first full day featured a special 2-hour workshop put on by **CTIA**, the wireless industry. There was an additional 3-hour symposium on technology, and several of the 40 other 1-hour workshops were on technology, including looping.

There are more cell phones than people or functional toilets in the US! About 90% of adults have cell phones; 58% of these are smart phones (i.e., have Internet connection).


People with HL need to use this technology. Smart phones are complicated--they are the digital Swiss Army knife, replacing several other devices. It takes a community to get educated about them.

Go to the CTIA website, www.accesswireless.org. On the opening page you will see 5 icons, one of which is labeled Hearing. Click on this and you will come to more information than I can possibly list in this short article, all about cell phones and HAC (hearing aid compatibility).

The Exhibition Hall provided many chances to sample what cell phones, especially smart ones, can do for us, including trying out HD voice, coming soon.

This is augmented reality: what we perceive with our senses is enhanced by computer-generated sensory input.

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




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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/.

To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations. Welcome!

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