

### MARCH CALENDAR

#### **NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTION**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 12 PM-1 PM VIA ZOOM**  
Samuel Trychin PhD. Calm during COVID

**TUESDAY MARCH . 9<sup>TH</sup>, 10 AM-11 AM VIA ZOOM**  
Joe Kozelski: HOPE Session: 'Hearing Other People's Experiences' (HOPE)

**TUESDAY, MARCH . 9<sup>TH</sup>, 7 PM-9 PM VIA ZOOM**  
Board of Directors Meeting

**TUESDAY, MARCH , 16<sup>TH</sup>, 12 NOON VIA ZOOM**  
Speechreading 101

**THURSDAY MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 10 AM-11 AM VIA ZOOM**  
Virtual ALD Demo Center. HLAA-Rochester Technology Team.

Watch our Newsletters and Website for updates

### MARCH PROGRAMS

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Rochester Chapter offers virtual programs in March 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 March are:



**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Noon:** Samuel Trychin PhD. Calm during COVID.

Behavioral psychologist Dr. Samuel Trychin aims to show strategies for preventing/reducing unwanted emotional reactions to the challenges faced by people with hearing loss in

"Calm during COVID." Dr. Trychin's presentation emphasizes the stress that masking and distance have on people with hearing loss during the current pandemic, offering techniques for dealing with it.

(Continued on page 2)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Art Maurer, President*



Last month we introduced the phrase **Better Hearing = Better Living!** Several initiatives are in progress at HLAA-Rochester to make the Better Hearing possible ... we must leave the Better Living up to you.

#### **Visits to Doctors and Clinics**

It is so important we accurately hear medical professionals, their questions, diagnosis, and advice. HLAA-Rochester's Education and Outreach Committee has developed a listing of suggestions to assist when visiting a physician's office or medical clinic – either in-person or by telemedicine. A committee member, **Eileen Lumb**, studied the 30+ page report issued by HLAA National in 2017. In light of her decades-long experience as a physician's assistant, she comprised a one-page form of suggestions for use both before and during medical visits. Our E&O Committee edited and approved both content and phrasing. The form is printed in this newsletter on page 7. It is full-sized so copies can easily be made. It is also available as a PDF at <http://hearinglossrochester.org>.

Let us know if it is effective and helpful ... and any suggestions for improvement.

#### **Limited to Zoom until Fall**

The latest forecasts of the pace of Covid vaccine injections indicate we won't get back to in-person gatherings at least until Fall. Thankfully, our three Zoom sessions each month are smoothly filling the gap. However, since we have the capability of accommodating many more participants, there are two factors we're working toward:

First – The Marketing Committee is beginning development of a new campaign using print, postal mail, and email – maybe even some broadcast. **Hope Scheda**, as the new chair of the committee is coordinating the effort. Simultaneously **Jenn Hurlburt** and **Gaelen McCormick** are focusing on social media. We hope to contact you, our current members, more frequently. Also, we'll be acquainting folks who don't know us across Rochester and our nine-county Finger Lakes Region to HLAA. Finally, we hope to get our message across western New York from Buffalo to Utica and across the southern tier to the Pennsylvania border.

Second – **Customer Oriented Content**. Our HOPE Session host **Joe Kozelsky** has introduced the concept of HLAA-Rochester having two major customer segments.

(Continued on page 2)

## President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Our traditional focus is to users already having hearing aids or CIs who are somewhat experienced in understanding the physical/psychological aspects of hearing and the technologies available. A new focus would be for 1) prospective users who are at the threshold of considering hearing aids and who do not know how to start or the options available, 2) new users who have just gotten hearing aids without knowing reasonable expectations for performance and assistance, and 3) because of the advent of over-the-counter equipment on a wide-spread basis at lower prices than seen before, there may be an emerging need for some cautionary advice!

Since socialization is currently limited, well targeted subject matter with quality content is essential. Please advise us of subjects you'd like to have presented and/or discussed; plus, any suggestions you have.

## MARCH PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 1)

A practitioner in Erie, Pa., Dr. Trychin has authored numerous books and conducted workshops

**Tuesday March 9. 10:00 am:** Joseph Kozelsky CCC/A. Hearing Other People's Experiences (HOPE)

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

**Thursday March 18. 10:00 am:** Virtual ALD Demo Center. HLAA Rochester Technology Team.

This is a continuing orientation to the on-line "Virtual Demo Center" website. It is a review of selected assistive listening devices, captioning-capable and amplified telephones, signaling-alerting devices and smart phone apps related to hearing enhancement. Presenters answer questions from those joining the Zoom meeting.

## ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER IS VIRTUAL

By Chas Johnstone

Since we are unable to conduct our Demo Center at Lifespan, our Virtual Demo Center (VDC) is now available online 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, thanks to the tireless devotion of **Lorin Gallistel**. Please visit the VDC to see the full range of devices in the Demo Center and submit any questions there that you might have. Please follow the link on the chapter's website,  
<http://hearinglossrochester.org>  
to access the VDC.

## Cochlear Implant Group

**Peter Fackler** has set a schedule of CI Group Meetings via Zoom on Tuesdays, May 18<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be required.

## Technology – a never ending quest

The curiosity of our **Tech Team** is never quenched. They are always searching for new assistive listening devices and improvements on existing models. And sometimes they find something unique, new to the field. We're hoping to be prepared to introduce new capabilities in the near future. Don't worry, we'll let you know.

Our hope as we strive for improvement is that we contribute to **Better Hearing = Better Living!**

[amaurer40@frontier.com](mailto:amaurer40@frontier.com)

## March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

March 3	Carmen Coleman
21	Michelle Gross
29	Tim Whitcher

Sincere happy birthday greetings to members who will be 90 years or older such as Don Roemermann on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Donations

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

Shirley & PinSeng Tschang  
Nicholas & Rebecca Sprague  
Allan Baker  
Rabbi Raphael Kanter  
Peter Leas  
Patricia Pogue  
Mary Leene

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# **SPEECHREADING 101**

## *An Introduction to Speechreading Skills for People with Hearing Loss*



*FREE Group lessons (captioned) via internet / ZOOM*

**Tuesdays, February 16 and March 16, 2021  
12:00 noon - 12:45pm**

*Participants will learn the basic considerations and skills of improved message comprehension in 1:1 conversations, including environmental strategies, lipreading and speechreading abilities.*

A program offered by the **Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter**

*Facilitated by Suzanne E. Johnston, MA., CCC/SLP*

To sign up/register for your ZOOM link to participate in this course, visit the Hearing Loss Association, Rochester Chapter web site [link below] and scroll to: "HLAA Rochester Chapter Virtual Meeting Registration and register for "Presentations".

<http://hearinglossrochester.org>



*...If you need assistance navigating ZOOM, please let us know in your email request*

## My Story—Gaelen McCormick



Like many folks, my hearing loss story plays out over many years. I say it “plays out” because it is still in flux, and still something I have to adjust to, adapt to, and live with – not “get over”. I have spent nearly my entire youth and all of my adult life as a classical musician. While I had some trouble with my ears in my teen years, it was never affecting my hearing. But it did make me very afraid of

audiologists and ENTs.

I pursued my undergrad degree at the Eastman School of Music on scholarship. While we do hours of practicing and rehearsing each day, it occurs to me that we are training our hearing far more than we are training our hands or voices. I joined the Rochester Philharmonic shortly after graduation and became the first-call player with the Syracuse Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic. This gave me the opportunity to get to work with some incredible artists over the next 20 years – Tony Bennett, Luciano Pavarotti, Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, and Doc Severinsen are a few you might recognize.

In my early 30s, I began having intense dizzy spells and wildly fluctuating hearing. It started with a sudden onset of deafness on one side, and I chalked it up to having recently removed a large amount of goldenrod from my property. I finally called an ENT to see what was happening and remember sitting in shock when he told me I likely had Meniere’s disease. That word “disease” was unnerving. I had to keep reminding myself that I wouldn’t die from this. But could already feel the dread that something was really wrong with my ears. My livelihood.

I spent the next 6 months after that initial diagnosis continuing to get very dizzy and noticed that when my hearing came back, it was always altered. Sometimes I could hear quiet sounds, sometimes not. Sometimes notes were sounding “right”, sometimes not. For a few months, I heard 3 distinct pitches for every single note that was played. It was a nightmare to be on stage and have no idea what the music really sounded like.

I had not told anyone in my field that I had lost my hearing! And that led to a lot of bluffing in

conversations. I was doing ok on stage, in part because the expectations are so clear. There is hardly any talking between musicians, and the conductor needs to speak loudly to reach to the back of the orchestra anyway.

But then my “good” ear presented with identical symptoms to my left ear – the start of Meniere’s disease. At Christmas 2016, I woke up deaf and nauseous. Caught the stomach flu from my daughter but the sudden onset of deafness was a coincidence. I entered a period of nearly constant vertigo for about 5 months and had to stop working, but I was still so stubborn I would not tell any of my colleagues why I was on sick leave

I discovered HLAA at the Day of Hearing at Nazareth College. So many of you made me feel welcome and seen. Everything was so easy to participate in with captioning and amplification and T-loop. I had never realized how hard I was working by not engaging with the devices that were available

I qualified for a cochlear implant the first time I was tested, which was a real wake-up call that my hearing was much poorer than I wanted to believe. I knew I was struggling some days, but had become so accustomed to it, that I no longer noticed it. Once the CI was activated and mapped (adjusted), I was amazed at how much better I was doing with speech recognition, and how much more energy I had now that I wasn’t trying to guess what folks were saying. In tandem with my hearing aid, I generally do well in my work as a teacher and arts administrator. Music is still a weird jumble of sounds. I’ve learned that if I hear one note at a time, meaning just one person playing, I can follow along. But listening to the radio or the orchestra is a crazy cacophony. Knowing this, I choose carefully what I will attend, so I don’t open the frustration of not being able to understand.

I’m still connected to the music industry and often talk about hearing conservation with young artists and faculty at the Eastman School. I’m happy to be a new member of the HLAA Board, a dedicated and compassionate bunch of people. And I’m still teaching my instrument at the Eastman Community Music School. I no longer look at hearing loss as a barrier. It simply is a part of my life and part of who I am.

*Approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population – 38 million Americans – have a significant hearing loss. (Center for Hearing and Communication)*



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

By Dan Brooks, President, HLAA-NYSA



Hello everyone! Hope all is well. Things are more or less back to normal around here. Thank heavens! For those that did not read last month's article... my wife contracted COVID-19 but

was able to beat it with minor complications. It was quite a scare for us but luckily the rest of our family was able to steer clear of getting COVID-19. Once again we thank everyone for their kind words and prayers during this difficult time.

At the chapter level, I have been seeing more and more people joining ZOOM sessions. Last week I personally assisted another person on how to download ZOOM and did a trial run so the person could get familiar with ZOOM for the first time. It really is easy to do and only took us about 45 mins to set up. I highly recommend using a laptop when looking into "Zooming." A second best option, in my opinion, would be a tablet due to it having a larger screen. These two devices are usually equipped with a built in webcam and microphone which are important when "Zooming." Most mobile devices have an audio input port for headphones or other listening accessory. Listening accessories are important options to have at our disposal, especially since some of us have a hearing loss. You'll need to figure out what works best for you to hear and understand what you are hearing. If you are having trouble hearing in ZOOM meetings I encourage you to look for other options. Don't give up! On the flip side, if you are able to understand what you are hearing then I would say you are doing it right! Listening and understanding what you are hearing is the key!

Now, let's get to updates with the **HLAA New York State Association (HLAA NYSA)**. As a board of directors we will have met February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. In next month's article I will elaborate more on the highlights of that meeting. The biggest news for this article would be the upcoming seminar in March that our past president and current Chair of our Advocacy & Legislative Committee **Jerry Bergman** has so graciously organized! Thanks to Jerry's efforts, HLAA NYSA will be hosting our very first seminar titled "Hearing Access and the Law: Your rights and how to obtain them." This exciting event will take place March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm EST via ZOOM. This seminar will be captioned. If you wish to attend please go to

HLAA's website or our website at [www.nyhearingloss.org](http://www.nyhearingloss.org) for a link where to register. This seminar will be recorded so if you are unable to attend for whatever reason, you will be able to view at a later date when it is more convenient for you. We plan to post the link of the recorded seminar once it become available on our website.

I do want to close this update by asking for your support. Please help us by spreading the word of this important seminar. Make sure all your friends with hearing loss and fellow chapter members are aware of this event. If you are able, please advertise on your chapter's website, do a chapter e-blast and/or have a write up in your newsletter. We are hoping it will be a well-attended seminar! With your support this could be the first of many more to come. In the meantime, if you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to reach out to us via email at:

[hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com](mailto:hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com)

Last but not least, 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 New York State Association. Hope to see you all virtually soon and thanks again for your support!

-Dan

### 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](mailto: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.

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Noise is the leading cause of hearing loss. (NY Times Personal Health Blog)

## Ford Designs Transparent Masks

Ford Motor Co. has designed and created clear N95 face masks so that people with loss of hearing can read lips while protecting themselves from COVID-19, the company announced recently.

A patent is pending for the new design, which is awaiting federal approval to qualify for N95 status from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

The low-cost, reusable respirators may supplement or replace the use of cloth masks that block facial expression and lips from view as mask wearers seek protection from the increased threat of new coronavirus variants. In addition to people with hearing loss, these masks could be used by people who depend on facial expressions to better do their jobs, like teachers.

Face masks many people wear today are not tight. Respirators are airtight on the face and protect both the wearer and the people nearby. This new design by Ford filters exhalation, protecting the people around the face mask user.

“One of the things that’s missing during the pandemic is the power of a smile,” said Jim Baumbick, Ford vice president, Enterprise Product Line Management and leader of the company’s PPE (personal protection equipment) manufacturing effort, in a news release.

“This clear respirator promises to improve interactions between neighbors, at the store and for those who have hearing impairments.”

Will Brick, design prototype lead at D-Ford, the company’s human-centered design studio, designed the clear mask.

“I was interested in making something that was reusable, that didn’t fog somebody’s glasses,” he said. “I was looking in the mirror at the shop to see how it would fit on the face and realized I could see myself smiling.”

The goal, initially, was to design a transparent reusable N95 respirator for health providers — an idea inspired by discussions with doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists, Brick said. “So you could share facial expressions and bring some humanity back to our conversations and encounters with people. A simple human thing like a smile has been absent so many months now.”

Reusable N95 respirators could provide medical protection as well as ease demand for disposable masks and reduce waste, he said.

Ford plans to do continued testing this winter in hopes of making the masks available in the spring. It is unclear at this time whether they will be sold or donated.

Bill Ford, executive chairman of the company, has committed to donating 100 million masks by mid-2021. The company recently increased its commitment to 120 million. These are medical-grade face masks primarily for at-risk communities, in addition to supplies being made available at Ford dealerships around the country. The Ford Fund has played a key role in distribution.

## New Guide to Help You Communicate at Health Care Appointments

*prepared by the Education & Outreach/Healthcare Committee*

Hearing and being heard at healthcare appointments can be difficult for people with hearing loss. Effective strategies are available to minimize the barriers to improved hearing.

Using the “Communication Guide for People with Hearing Loss at Health Care Appointments” (on the opposite page) will help you with these strategies. First, as a person with hearing loss, you must advocate for yourself. Staff and providers cannot assist you if they do not know you need assistance. Second, you need to identify what staff and providers should do to help.

To use this guide, review it before each health care visit, as the reason for the visit, the setting, and the provider varies. Fill out the guide and highlight what strategies are best for you. Refer to the guide during the appointment as needed. It is your tool.

When is a good time to talk about your hearing loss? After you exchange greetings, start the conversation by sharing with staff or provider that you have hearing loss. Explain what they can do to eliminate hearing barriers. As we do in everyday life, it always helps to thank people for their assistance.

It is also very important to be prepared for the medical aspect of your appointment. Gather your paperwork, collect your thoughts, and write down your questions for the provider. Only then will your mind will be available to fully “listen” during the appointment.

If you need more information about assistive listening devices, refer to the HLAA Demo Center through the website [hearinglossrochester.org](http://hearinglossrochester.org). Watch the video or sign up to participate in the Demo Center Zoom meetings. Your audiologist is another useful source of information.

Speak up! When you advocate for yourself you are not just helping yourself, you are advocating for all people with hearing loss!

*by Eileen Lamb*

### 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](mailto: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.

## COMMUNICATION GUIDE for People with Hearing Loss at Health Care Appointments

**ADVOCATE!** Always identify yourself as someone who is hard of hearing, has hearing loss or difficulty hearing to every member of the health care team. Use words that work best for you.

Ahead of time, through the receptionist, **ARRANGE** services that would help you communicate.

TELEMEDICINE ☐ Closed captioning

OFFICES: ☐ Some allow you to request a member of your household to assist you, if essential

### BE PREPARED FOR THE APPOINTMENT

Why are you making the health care visit? Have you made notes about your symptoms and questions you have? The more prepared you are for your appointment the better you will be able to listen to your provider and not “think” about what you wanted to say.

**WAITING ROOM:** ☐ Ask what door you will be called from ☐ Indicate where you will be sitting  
Ask that the staff calling you: ☐ Speak to you face to face ☐ Wave a hand when calling you

**START** the conversation by sharing you have hearing loss and the devices you wear:

Hearing Aid ☐ Right ☐ Left/ Cochlear Implant ☐ Right ☐ Left/ ☐ None/ ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPLAIN** what you want the provider to do,

PLEASE FACE ME WHEN YOU ARE SPEAKING TO ME.

BE SURE YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION WHEN SPEAKING TO ME.

SPEAK CLEARLY AND SLOWLY.

BE SURE I KNOW THE TOPIC OF THE CONVERSATION

ASK THAT THE ROOM HAS GOOD LIGHT, REDUCE BACKGROUND NOISE AND DISTRACTIONS.

DIAGRAMS, ILLUSTRATIONS & VISUAL AIDS HELP WITH COMMUNICATION

IF THE PROVIDER STOPS DOING ANY OF THE ABOVE, OR YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND HIS OR HER SPEECH,  
STOP THE CONVERSATION, TRY:

REPEATING WHAT YOU THINK YOU HEARD.

“PARDON, I DID NOT CATCH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.”

“COULD YOU PHRASE THAT DIFFERENTLY SO THAT I MIGHT HEAR THE SOUNDS BETTER?”

DO NOT LET THE CONVERSATION MOVE ON UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS SAID SO FAR

It always helps to thank the staff and providers for removing barriers to our best possible hearing!

### ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE

Have you tried out the device prior to your visit so you know how it functions and if it works well for you? Is it charged and ready to go?

**SCHEDULING/FOLLOW UP COMMUNICATION, contact me by:**

☐ Patient Portal ☐ Mail ☐ Phone: ☐ home ☐ work ☐ cell ☐ caption call



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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  
 Carolynne Pouliot  
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#### **2020 – 2022**

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#### **Consultants:**

Medical - Paul Dutcher, M.D.  
 Technical - Charles Johnstone  
 Legal - James Vazzana, Esq.

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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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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☐ **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!*