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Volume 31, Number 7 - published monthly except July and August – Rochester NY Chapter

March 2018

### MARCH Calendar

#### Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 am** – HOPE Session–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s

**11:00 am** - Refreshments/Social Time

**11:30 am** – Announcements/Business Meeting

**12 Noon – 1 pm** – Program Speaker

**7:00 pm** – Refreshments/Social Time

**7:30 pm** – Announcements/Business Meeting

**8:00 pm – 9 pm** – Program Speaker

**Tues., March 13<sup>th</sup>** - BOD – 7-9pm, ASC

**Thurs., March 15<sup>th</sup>** -Device Demo Center,  
Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see p. 7)

**Thurs., March 22<sup>nd</sup>** – St. Ann’s -2pm- (see page 8)

#### SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

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

**Tues., April 17<sup>th</sup>** - PAC meeting, 7-9pm, ASC

**Thurs., April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Device Demo Center

**WEATHER – During the winter, the rule to follow for cancelations of meetings is: IF THE ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS CLOSED, OUR MEETINGS ARE CANCELED. (No other notification will be made.)**

#### **Hospitality Duties for March:**

Daytime Meeting –Trish Prosser, Barb Rice,

Evening Meeting –Sue Miller

Board of Directors –Dan Brooks, Mary Chizuk,  
Margaret Cochran

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

*We need your support. Please consider joining our Chapter, or renewing your membership. (Please see form inside the back cover)*



### MARCH PROGRAMS

At St. Paul’s Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd. 14607

**(Enter only through the Westminster Road door.)**

#### **Tues., March 6<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am; Vestry room**

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

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

**(NOTE NEW START TIME!)**

**Tues., March 6<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am-1:00pm** Parish hall--Program begins at noon. **AND 7:00-9:00pm** Parish hall--Program begins at 8:00pm

**Alphabet Soup: IP CTS (Internet Protocol based captioned telephone service) and new technology** - Michael Holm and Cameron Tingey, Vice presidents, CaptionCall

Captioned telephones enable hearing impaired callers to read incoming conversations on a small monitor.

*(continued on page 2)*

## March 6<sup>th</sup> – Daytime & Evening Meetings (continued)

CaptionCall bills itself as the country's largest provider of Internet Protocol based captioned telephone service. CaptionCall's Mike Holm, vice president of engineering and information technology; and Cameron Tingey, vice president of outreach, will review current state of the art technology supporting captioned telephone service; FCC regulations; and recent technology changes influencing these services over the next five years. Factors to be considered are demographics, phone usage habits, mobile technologies and advances in speech recognition and artificial intelligence.

CaptionCall has covered the cost of captioning our chapter meetings since 2011 so that members can read as well as hear speakers' remarks.

*All HLAA programs are free. Anyone interested in hearing loss is welcome. For more information, view our Chapter website at [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org), or phone 585 266 7890.*

*The Rochester Chapter is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. HLAA has a support network of organizations: Bethesda, MD; state organizations; and, local chapters.*

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT, AND, VICE-PRESIDENT

*By Sue Miller and Art Maurer*



Our national HLAA is starting 2018 by introducing a new logo, a redesigned website, and renaming their *Hearing Loss*

magazine! All are part of a branding effort to focus more on individuals experiencing hearing loss and the potential to enrich their lives. There is a lot of emphasis by HLAA national on listening.

Artwork of the **new logo** depicts a graphic of active people, implying engaging in sports, socializing, getting out and staying in touch. It's a colorful, up-to-date design, pleasing to the eye. National

describes it as “an updated look that is personal, positive, contemporary, welcoming, and representing growth.”

The **new website** presents information in summary form. It has an uncluttered format that's easy to navigate and read. Go to: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

National's **magazine** has been renamed *Hearing Life* to present a positive view of our future. Quoting national: “It's about you –the person at the center of your own care. It's about learning all you can about hearing loss and getting better access to communication. Communication – being engaged with others – is what makes life worth living.” It appears a lot of focus will be placed on people being able to live wholesome, active lives given their ability to hear and be heard.

The national HLAA 2018 Convention is coming June 21 -24. As usual it will be upbeat with many excellent speakers and vendor displays. All proceedings are totally hearing accessible. (see p.11)

Locally, HLAA-Rochester is planning our annual **Featured Speaker Program** with Sam Trychin, Ph.D.--an engaging speaker who will focus on reducing the stress that comes with hearing loss. He has spoken at the National Convention on several occasions, interacting with his audience for an enjoyable learning experience. The Featured Speaker Program will be held on May 1st at the Rochester Academy of Medicine, East Avenue. (see page 3). Mark your calendar and watch our Newsletters and website for further details.

Last month we launched our new HLAA-Rochester website at [HearingLossRochester.org](http://HearingLossRochester.org)! (It also is uncluttered and easy to navigate.) We're planning some TV spots on WXXI during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and will rely on the website as the go-to place for more information.

*(continued on page 3)*

**PRESIDENTS COLUMN** (continued)

We're also updating our HLAA-Rochester brochure to be compatible with our new website. It's all part of a branding effort to make more people in the Greater Rochester Area aware of HLAA and what we can do to Support, Educate and Advocate.

As always, we're open to suggestions and feedback. [SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com](mailto:SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com), and [amaurer40@frontier.com](mailto:amaurer40@frontier.com).

**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 Rd., Webster, NY 14580

*Be sure to designate:*

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

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

**FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM** – May 1<sup>st</sup>

*By Elise de Papp, M.D.*



**Tuesday May 1st**, . This program replaces both the day and evening monthly Chapter meetings.

Time: doors open 5:00pm; speaker at 6:00pm.

What: "**Hearing Loss and Emotional Regulation. Building Resilience**"

(with time for questions/answers) Refreshments.

Who: Dr. Sam Trychin, Ph.D. psychologist; who has hearing loss, and a hearing dog!

Where: Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Avenue; just down the street from St. Paul's church; with ample parking behind the RAOM building.

Watch this Newsletter, and our new website at [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org) for details.

**ADVANCED BIONICS REP. APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> AT THE "CI GROUP" MEETING**

*By Janet McKenna*

Is a cochlear implant a possibility in your hearing journey?

Find out more about one manufacturer at the **Tuesday, April 3** meeting of the Cochlear Implant Group. The semiannual meeting is set for 1:30pm in the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Avenue (14607). It follows the regular HLAA chapter meeting.

Jane Ledingham, M.E.D., CCC/SLP, Northeast Region Consumer Specialist with Advanced Bionics (AB) cochlear implants, will introduce the company's device and support services.

Ms. Ledington will present background of AB and its partnership with Phonak; advancements in AB technology; the importance of hearing with two ears; connectivity; rehabilitation resources, and support services.

Cochlear implants are implantable devices which directly stimulate the auditory nerve. When hearing loss becomes too profound for hearing aids to manage, cochlear implants can be an option enabling patients from toddlers to seniors to hear.

For more information, please visit the company web site [www.advancedbionics.com](http://www.advancedbionics.com), or, [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org). or contact Janet McKenna at [deaphyduck@gmail.com](mailto:deaphyduck@gmail.com). We hope to see you April 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**SINGLE-SIDED DEAFNESS**

The Acoustic Neuroma Association is having a presentation by Dr. M. Wightman, UR, re managing **Tinnitus**. Sat., March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am, Pittsford Library. Contact: [tom\\_banach@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_banach@hotmail.com).

**RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!**

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

March 15<sup>th</sup> – An American in Paris  
May 6<sup>th</sup> - RENT

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 – CAPTIONED PLAYS !**

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

Wed. March 7 – **Diary of Anne Frank**  
Sat. March 17 @ 2:30pm – **Heartland**  
Sat. April 7; Wed. April 25 – **One House Over**  
Sat. May 12; Wed. May 30 – **Steel Magnolias**

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

**JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!**

**Wed/Thurs @ 7pm; Sat/Sun @ 2pm**

“Buyer & Cellar”

Sun., March 18; Thurs., March 22

“Bridges of Madison County” – the musical  
Sun., May 13; Thurs., May 17; Sat., May 19

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

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !**

*By Jenn Hurlburt*

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **324** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

**For Your Donation to HLAA:**

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

**iHEARu APP**

*(excerpt from Peninsula News, CA – Winter 2018)*



The iHEARu app displays medical, restaurants, banks, and more near you. Then you can give input on the noise level, etc. by recording the

decibels using the app, add comments, etc. You can use this to help you locate quieter spaces to hear and be heard. “iHEARu allows people to report sound levels and share them with others. Through crowdsourcing, people can choose to avoid the noisiest times at restaurants and other places.” Here’s an article from American Speech Language Hearing Association about the app:

<http://leader.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2630534>

“I just put this app on my phone. Can everyone please add restaurants to this app. It sure would be great if we all helped each other find good places to eat that are quiet.” Raegene Castle

In case you are wondering what dB is low enough to qualify as a quiet restaurant, “Normal conversation is 60-65 dB” (according to the Los Angeles Times) while the “EPA safe noise limit is 70dB” according to Hearing Health magazine.

Sources:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/aug/18/food/la-fo-restaurant-noise-20120818>,

[https://houseclinic.com/sites/default/files/docs/info/TurnUp\\_HH\\_Summer\\_2015.pdf](https://houseclinic.com/sites/default/files/docs/info/TurnUp_HH_Summer_2015.pdf)

Available on the iTunes App Store and Google Play.

**Newsletter Deadline**

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**(for the April Newsletter)**

Email: [ggraham859@gmail.com](mailto:ggraham859@gmail.com)

## CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

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

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall, since 2011. 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 **Dan Brooks, Charlie Johnstone, and Bruce Nelson** for overseeing the technical set-up needed for this service. Without their dedication in attending *all* meetings, this would not happen!

## HOW TO HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE HEARING LOSS

*(excerpt from Peninsula News, CA, Winter 2018)*

Do you have friends and family who just don't understand what it's like to have hearing loss? Do they get frustrated when you don't understand what they're saying? Do they say you have "selective hearing"? If they're willing, here are some videos, movies, writing examples, etc. that you can share with them.

1. Watch the movie "Wonderstruck." According to Shari Eberts, the movie is about "the adventures of two deaf children--a girl, Rose, who has been deaf since birth; and a boy, Ben, who grew up hearing, but was recently deafened due to an accident. The film depicts hearing problems in interesting ways, featuring silent segments for Rose, and muffled sound in the scenes with Ben. This trick allows the audience to experience the situations from the point of view of the children.  
<https://livingwithhearingloss.com/2017/11/07/can-a-movie-help-my-family-understand-my-hearing-loss/>

2. Have them play a hearing loss simulator <https://www.starkey.com/hearing-loss-simulator> or listen to the hearing loss simulation of the Hear the World Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=it4ZjKQ2WMO>
3. Watch a video on what it's like to go deaf for the day (he's frustrated, withdrawn, etc.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwgyKnFh0QU&feature=youtu.be>
4. Watch this sweet short film about a couple which is actually a hearing test in disguise: <http://mashable.com/2017/02/06/hearing-test-short-film/#CXXekMJjWQq3>

## WALK4HEARING

will be held in Buffalo again this year; date: Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## CONDOLENCES



Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of **Joe Damico**. He passed away January 6th.

Please see his obituary on page 6.

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is:

[www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org) and

**Michelle Gross** is our Web Master.

HLAA National website is [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

### BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...

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



**We need your support. Please consider joining (or renewing membership in) our Chapter. Perhaps consider the gift of our Newsletter for a friend and/or family. (see form inside the back cover)**

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  
Photographers.....Art Maurer, Al Suffredini

## HEARING LOOPS PLACES OF WORSHIP

*By Michelle Gross*

(This could be a reminder to our members to suggest their house of worship use this info to let parishioners know a hearing loop is available and how to use it.)

In addition to signage indicating your house of worship has an Assistive Listening System (ALS), it is suggested the information also be placed on the printed service program, if one is used.

### Suggested wording

**If a hearing loop is installed:** "To use our hearing loop, activate the telecoil on your hearing aid/cochlear implant. Adjust the volume as needed. If you don't have access to a telecoil, plug in a headset to one of our receivers.

**If an FM system is installed:** "To use our FM system, obtain a receiver from us, plug in a headset or neckloop (for users with telecoils), and adjust the volume on the receiver or activate your telecoil."

## ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Tues., May 22nd

We need your help in organizing our dinner. Please contact Barb Law at [blaw1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:blaw1@rochester.rr.com); or, Sue Miller at [SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com](mailto:SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com) for more info. Thanks for your consideration in helping to make our dinner a huge success.

## IN MEMORIAM

The members of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Joe Damico**. He passed away on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Following are accolades from our members:

"Joe was one of our original Chapter members, a Board member for many years, and was the first person to receive our Rochester Chapter Award. He oversaw one of our original fundraisers close to 30 years ago...a delicious spaghetti dinner at Asbury Methodist Church. His eggplant parmesan was a favorite dish at our Holiday Pot Luck Dinners.

"Joe chaired the Hospital Committee for several years. He then chaired our chapter AND state Legislative Committee for close to 20 years. He knew every state and federal bill that supports people with hearing loss. Our legislators all knew him, too, for his outstanding work.

"When visiting Joe in hospital, there on his wall, with a picture of his family, was his HLAA Award for being an Honorary Member of our Chapter. He was so proud of that and said he always read every word of the Board Minutes."

"I have known Joe for almost as long as I have known about HLAA. He was one of our cornerstones, and he leaves an indelible footprint on our chapter. He will be sorely missed."

"I met Joe while I was doing a workshop through the Regional Council on Aging and I mentioned HLAA (then SHHH), and he said he would like to come to a meeting. He had just retired so it was perfect timing. He was a devout Catholic and attended church religiously. May God comfort all who mourn this wonderful man."



Joe died peacefully from pneumonia.



## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES

Deadline April 1, 2018

HLAA-Rochester is once again pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was started in 1996 initially with a \$500 grant. The initial program was made possible by the generous donation from J. Stuart and Phyllis MacDonald. In 2006 the award was increased to \$1,000 made possible in part by funds raised by the generosity of several donors. Since 1996, our chapter has awarded \$104,500 to 120 graduating high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education.

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

Applications for the scholarship are available at our website: [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org). or by contacting Madge Ludwig at [mludwig1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mludwig1@rochester.rr.com). The application deadline is **APRIL 1, 2018**. Please help us spread the word.

### IF YOU MOVE, or are a "SNOWBIRD!"

Please don't forget to notify **Henry J. Adler, Ph.D.**, Univ. of Buffalo, 137-L Cary Hall, 3435 Main St., Buffalo NY 14214; or – [hjadler@aol.com](mailto:hjadler@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.

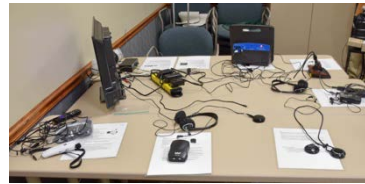
### CAN LISTENING BE EXHAUSTING?

From the Hearing and Communication Laboratory at Vanderbilt University

<https://www.anausa.org/resources/research/ana-research/vanderbilt-university>

If questions, contact [tom\\_banach@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_banach@hotmail.com)

## THE 5<sup>th</sup> ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER SESSION



Once again, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts and due diligence of those involved, the Demo Center's fifth session

on Thursday, Jan 18th was a success! All played a key role, whether they were actually there or helped with the preparations. Thank you **Stan Gross, Dan Brooks, Lorin Gallistel and Charlie Johnstone** who were "trainers", for member volunteers: **Dave Adamson, Al Baker, John Curtis, Michelle Gross, Barb Law, Eric Matson, Nancy and Doug Meyer, and Sue Miller.**

Ten people stopped by looking for answers on which devices may help them hear better. The types of devices represented during the Demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones, personal assistive listening devices and hearing aid accessories.

During a slow time, there was a lively discussion about possible Apps that could benefit visitors. There was so much enthusiasm that it was decided to pursue ways to demonstrate a few apps at future Demo sessions. Our Technology Committee will assist in doing prep work of the apps to be featured.

The next Demo session at Lifespan is Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 2pm. The Device Center is open the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month [except July and August].



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY – MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

...the traditional death date of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. The day commemorates St. Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland.

Christians attend church services, and the Lenten restrictions of eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day. Hence the reputation of alcohol consumption that day.

## VIBRANT LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS AN ADVENTURER'S GUIDE

By Michelle Gross

--Do you or someone you know have a hearing loss...the answer is probably "yes."

--Find out why *your* hearing loss is unique.

--What you want to know about hearing testing, hearing aids and hearing aid expectations.

--What are Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs), and Assistive Listening Systems (ALSs).

--What are some of the emotional issues affecting people with hearing loss and establishing better communication with hearing people.

--Learn about tips to help overcome communication obstacles; learn to take charge of your hearing life.

**Presentation:** St. Ann's – Chapel Oaks  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm.** A presentation for the community and residents. All are welcome.



We need your support!  
Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much.

### HAVE COFFEE...

Women who drink at least four cups a day have a 20% lower risk of depression, a 65% lower risk of late-in-life dementia, and, per the most recent research, a 21% less likelihood of developing **tinnitus**, of all things! (*Prevention Jan. 2015*)

### DID YOU KNOW....

In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony defied the law by attempting to cast a vote for President Ulysses S. Grant. (Ms. Anthony was convicted by a judge and fined \$100, but she never paid the penalty.)

(from D&C 11/5/17)

## PROBLEMS WITH CLOSED CAPTIONS

By Peter Reeb, NTID; new PAC member

Have you experienced problems with closed captions (CC) recently? Well, you are not alone.

You would think that after all of these years, captioning would be old school, and that would probably be true if they didn't keep changing the technology involved in watching TV. The simpler they made it, the more complex it became.

This actually goes back a few years, when old-fashioned TV was replaced with HDTV. Remember, when everyone had to go right out and buy a new expensive TV, and most of us did. TV's continued to change. DVD and Blue Ray players have almost disappeared and most of us have TV by Internet. At the same time, TDD's and decoders were replaced by laptops and cell phones. So what does all of this have to do with closed captioning?

Well somewhere along the way. The standards were changed, or forgotten, and no one realized that CC doesn't work well with High Definition Multimedia Interface cables (HDMI). But that's what most of the TV's and cable boxes use for connections these days. The Internet tells us that there is hope, and a lot of cable boxes will work with a little fine adjustments. But when it comes to DVD's, many have found that the only way to resolve the problem is to use the old fashioned Component or AV cables. Be careful when you buy that new TV--not all models still have those connections.

Continue to complain to the FCC and hopefully one day soon, the companies that caused this problem will come up with a solution.

### SUBJECTS OF APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETINGS:

**Daytime** – "Hearing Aids: What's New?" – John McNamara, Au.D.

**Evening** – "HL2 Tool Kit for Workers with Hearing Loss" – HL2 members



## STUDENT BOARD OF ROCHESTER CHAPTER

By Suzanne Johnston



Years ago, deaf and hard-of-hearing students attended special academic programs specifically for students who had similar hearing and communication needs. With

more recent advances in education and hearing technology, the majority of deaf/HOH students are often mainstreamed into regular educational programs.

While this has served to improve educational and vocational outcomes, as a result, many of these students are isolated from others who are deaf/HOH.

The Student Board of HLAA-Rochester works to serve as a means to unite and support students and youth who are deaf and/or hard-of-hearing, and their families. The Student Board welcomes high-school and college-age students who are deaf and/or HOH, serving those with hearing loss. If you know of any students who may be interested in joining this group, please contact Suzanne Johnston, HLAA-Rochester Student Board Liaison at (585) 314-1807(v/txt) or [suzannejohnston@aol.com](mailto:suzannejohnston@aol.com)

## DISCOVERING DEAF WORLDS

By Davin Searls



On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Davin Searls, Executive Director of non-profit organization Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW) joined our chapter meeting to speak about the work DDW is doing abroad.

As Mr. Searls shared during his presentation, at least 90% of deaf people in developing countries receive no formal education, and thus are at a tremendous disadvantage to advocate for the civil and human rights they are entitled to. For the past decade, DDW, which is dedicated to advancing the self-determination of signing deaf communities through local capacity building in developing countries, has worked to change that and has made a significant impact in several countries, including the Philippines and the Dominican Republic.

For instance, DDW trained over 1,500 Deaf and hard of hearing Filipinos from 2014-2016. These trainings encompassed topics such as data collection, strategic planning, disability law, financial management, fund development, and so forth. As part of this program, the PFD team created an Organizational Development and Capacity Building training manual for leaders to use in their respective Philippine provinces to teach their communities how to become stronger leaders and engage the general community for enhanced equality.

Discovering Deaf Worlds is now partnered with the National Deaf Association of the Dominican Republic (ANSORDO). This program, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will improve ANSORDO's sustainability through organizational development, process consultation and human rights training from DDW and the World Federation of the Deaf.

"The need for access to education, accessibility, and equality is evident within the Dominican deaf community," states Searls. "With the support from this program, ANSORDO will be better equipped to self-advocate as well as engage in crucial discussions with the Dominican public and policy makers that will lead to the advancement of the community."

To learn more about Discovering Deaf Worlds, visit [www.discoveringdeafworlds.org](http://www.discoveringdeafworlds.org).

## HELP HLAA VIA THE UNITED WAY

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

**Our United Way number is 2425.**



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

## STUDY SHOWS AGE-RELATED HL CAN CAUSE COMMUNICATION FAILURES IN MEDICAL SETTINGS

*(excerpt from Wisconsin NL – Fall 2017)*

It was not uncommon for older adults to report mishearing a physician or nurse in a primary care or hospital setting, according to a study published by JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, JAMA Network announced on its website.

The prevalence of medical errors is higher among older patients with failures in clinical communication considered to be the leading cause of medical errors, according to JAMA. A previous study reported that improved communication between the medical teams and families could have prevented 36 percent of medical errors. Colm M. P. O’Tuathaigh, BA, PhD, of University College Cork, Cork, Ireland and colleagues conducted an analysis of interview data collected in 100 adults, 60 years and older, to examine communication breakdown in hospital and primary care settings among adults reporting hearing loss.

Of these adults, 57 reported some degree of hearing loss; 26 used a hearing aid device. Of the 100 adults, 43 reported having misheard a physician, nurse, or both in a primary care or hospital setting. When asked to elaborate on the context of mishearing in a clinical setting, the scenarios included (in descending order of citation frequency): general mishearing, consultation content, physician-patient or nurse-patient communication breakdown, hospital setting, and use of language.

“This qualitative analysis confirms that age-related hearing loss has a negative effect on clinical communication across both hospital and primary care clinical settings,” the authors write. “We recommend that content-related and setting-related factors identified as barriers to communication in adults with hearing impairment be incorporated within a patient-centered approach to clinical communication with this patient population.”

*Source: JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, JAMA Network*

## BACKGROUND NOISE

*(submitted by Tim Whitcher)*

It seems that a fairly practicable solution to the 'restaurant problem' - cutting out background noise - has been found. The necessary physical dimensions of a new device have been achieved by means of a 'collar' containing several microphones.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/technology-42456993/ces-2018-orosound-smart-earphones-cancel-out-unwanted-noise>

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Rayleigh, Essex UK

## MY, WHAT BIG EARS YOU HAVE!

Animals in the Arctic usually have small ears, in part to avoid losing body heat.

Animals in the desert often have large ears because this allows them to radiate excess body heat more rapidly. *(The Old Farmer’s Almanac 2018)*

## RIT/NTID – DIGITIZE VIDEOTAPES

*(submitted by Luke Auburn, RIT Libraries)*

“Over the course of the next year, NTID will digitize and make publicly accessible more than 60 videotapes held in the RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archive that document the ASL poetry and literature movement in Rochester from 1970 through 2011.”



**“Hearing Other People’s Experiences” – March 6<sup>th</sup>**

HOPE will meet at **10:00 am** in the Vestry Room at St. Paul’s church. Led by Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (ret.) Retired Audiologist and hearing aid user. (Note new time!)

We hope you stay for our routine Chapter Meeting:  
Social Time-- 11:00 – 11:30am, Parish Hall.  
Business meeting-- 11:30 – Noon.  
Chapter Meeting speaker-- Noon to 1:00pm.

Disclaimer—HLAA does not endorse products or services. Mention of such is intended to provide readers with information on products or services that might be of interest; it is not a recommendation or endorsement.



## HLAA National Convention 2018

Minneapolis Minnesota, June 21—24, 2018

### Host hotel -- Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403

**Register Online or Offline;** [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

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

**Online** – fill out the **Online Registration** and you will receive a confirmation letter by email.

**Offline** – download and complete the [Registration Form](#) and mail, fax or email, and we will mail you a confirmation letter.

*(Reduced rates before March 31<sup>st</sup>.)*

**Veterans and Caregivers** (Free Registration for 1st Timers) Please download and complete the [Veterans Registration form](#) and send it to [convention@hearingloss.org](mailto:convention@hearingloss.org).

Questions? Email Niaz Siasi, Meeting Planner at [convention@hearingloss.org](mailto:convention@hearingloss.org). Reserve room- <https://aws.passkey.com/go/HLAAMPLS18>.

Deadline for reservations is **May 29, 2018**.

Single Occupancy: \$195; Double Occupancy: \$195

Triple Occupancy: \$220; Quadruple \$245

*Rochester members planning to attend, please go to our website: [www.hearinglossrochester.org](http://www.hearinglossrochester.org) for the form to fill out to receive "Partial Reimbursement for Convention." Deadline May 31<sup>st</sup>. Questions, contact [loftusltc@gmail.com](mailto:loftusltc@gmail.com).*

Heartfelt thanks to the following for their special writing contribution in this month's Newsletter: Ginger Graham, Jeannette Kanter, Joe Kozelsky, and Sue Miller.

## AMAZON "SILENT DELIVERY STATION"

*(submitted by Elise de Papp, M.D.)*

The world's largest online retailer, Amazon, has announced the launch of a so-called 'Silent Delivery Station' in Mumbai, India, managed almost entirely by Deaf employees. Amazon says the move is designed to empower and support diversity "Our vision is to create opportunities for individuals to realize their potential and transform their lives. We are committed to using our resources and infrastructure of innovation and technology to enable diverse communities to succeed. We are proud to have pioneered the 'Silent Delivery Station' which is a first-of-its-kind, India-specific innovation from Amazon."

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>

--First to suggest the idea: Benjamin Franklin, in 1784.

--First North American region to adopt it: Newfoundland, in 1917.

--First year in which the United States adopted it: 1918. (*Old Farmer's Almanac*)

--Clocks spring ahead 1 hour the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in March; and, fall back the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November..as passed by Congress in 2006.

## BAD WEATHER--ST. PAUL'S CLOSED

**St. Paul's Church** will cancel or postpone parish programming or services should any of the following conditions be met:

1. *Monroe County issues a ban on unnecessary travel; and/or,*
2. *The Rochester City School District closes and/or cancels afternoon activities; and/or,*
3. *The wind chill is at or below -20 degrees.*

*(from Judy Loveland, church secretary, 1.18.18)*



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**HLAA Membership Information**

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

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**Newsletter**

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

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

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

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Life Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: [www.hearinglossrochester.org/](http://www.hearinglossrochester.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—Bethesda, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

### **Meetings are hearing accessible**

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

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only*-- contact Linda Siple, 585 288 6744, or at [lasnss@rit.edu](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!*