

# HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter November 2006

Formerly SHHH Minnesota Chapter #1

## Calendar of Coming Events



**November 18, 2006** – Gloria Thompson  
Identity Theft

**December 16, 2006** – Holiday Party

**January 20, 2007** – Dr. Shallop

**February 17, 2007** – Dr. Kristen Swan from  
Region's Hospital

**April 11, 2007** – HLAA TC Steak Fry

**June 21 – June 24, 2007** – HLAA National  
Convention in Oklahoma City.

**View Hearing Loss Magazine free online**  
<http://tinyurl.com/lormh>

**MN Contact Information:**  
[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

### Meetings are held at:

**Courage Center**  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

**September through May**  
**9:30 AM – Noon**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month**  
**(Except June, July & August)**  
**See Page 12 for contacts**  
**and more information.**



*The Mission of HLAA is to open  
the world of communication to  
people with hearing loss by  
providing information,  
education, support and  
advocacy.*

## November 2006

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**National Website:**  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

**Minnesota Website:**  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

## President's Message



**President:  
Merrilee Knoll**

**Hello HLAA TC Family,**

**This is our yearly thank you column, that we always do in either Dec. or Jan. but some people want it done now, so here goes. Thank you for helping to keep our group happy, healthy and functioning at top notch. If I have missed your name please tell me so I can make amends.**

**Paradigm (CART):** Lisa Richardson, Lori Morrow, Angie Sundell, Suzanne Hagen, Lorilee Fink

**Courage Center:** Meeting Quarters

**Coffee People:** Mona Anderson, Shirley Alvord

**Greeter:** Mary Andresen

**Welcome Lady:** Dora Weber

**Former Officers:** Joe O'Brien, Lori Snyder, John Lindlan, Dora Weber

**Editors:** Merrilee Knoll, Linda Senechal

**Current Officers:** Monique Hammond, Sue Brabeck, Bob Knoll

**Brochures:** Dave Miller, Ross Hammond

**Web Site:** Dave Miller

**Loop set up:** Bonham Cross, Joe O'Brien, Bob Knoll, John Lindlan, Ross Hammond, Gary Phillips, Dave Miller

**Sign posters:** All three Turley sisters Tiffany, Shannon, Hollynd, Ralph Katz, Monique Hammond

**Writers:** Vicki Martin, Monique Hammond, Ellen Thibodo, Dora Weber, Joe O'Brien, Lori Snyder, Candace Meinders, Leslie Cotter, Sue Brabeck

**Fundraisers:** All of us, but special thanks for the all time steak fry ticket seller Mary Andresen and Bob Knoll who put it together.

**Organizations that helped us:** UPS, FastSigns, Harris Communications, Jerri McMahon (Hearing Concepts), Dr. Paula Schwartz (Audiology Concepts), Crystal & Maple Grove Lion's Club, Sorenson Communications

**Idea leads:** Alfred Tsang, Ralph Katz, Dave Miller, Joe O'Brien, Lori Snyder, Dora Weber, John Lindlan, Jodi Ostman, Linda Senechal, Sue Brabeck, Ross/Monique Hammond, Bob Knoll, Ed/Edith Ruthardt, Candace Meinders, Mike Day, Gary Phillips, Vicki Martin, Kathryn/Roald Bakke, Colleen Kaldun, Leslie Cotter, Bob Copus, Mona Anderson, Mary Andresen, Shirley Alvord, Bonham Cross, Turley Sisters

**A special thank you to Cliff Miller** for all the help he gave us last year, before he left us. He is sadly missed.

HLAA TC would like to thank **Courage Center** for their generosity in letting us use the Education Rooms 1 and 2 throughout the year for our meetings. A plum colored poinsettia was presented to them last Nov. and we intend to do this again this year.

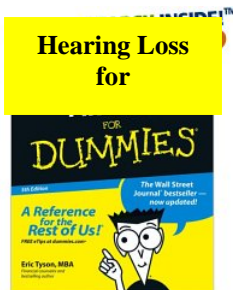
All HLAA TC meetings are real time captioned by **Lisa Richardson** and her staff at Paradigm Captioning <http://www.paradigmreporting.com/> 1400 Rand Tower / 527 Marquette Avenue South / Minneapolis, MN 55402-1331 (612) 339-0545 / 1-800-545-9668 / Fax (612) 337-5575.

They do a great job for us each month we meet. Please take the time to thank them for their wonderful service. We do have some business cards of theirs if you would like to present them to your organizations that you frequent where Paradigm is needed.

**Merrilee**



***HLAA provides adults and children with tools for self help; sensitizes the general population about the special needs of people who are hard of hearing; and promotes understanding of the nature, causes, complications, and remedies of hearing loss.***



## Hearing Loss for Dummies

Shouldn't we have a book by that title? After all, it stands to reason that, with the glut of dummies we apparently have in our world, some of them might want to know about hearing loss. Some of them, for that matter, might *have* hearing loss. (Why are you all looking at me?).

We have "DOS for Dummies", "Dogs for Dummies", "Latin for Dummies" (I actually have that one, but it is too complicated for me) – you name it, the dummies have it. I truly realized how pervasive this dummy culture is when, on one of our bookstore dates, my husband remarked that he'd found just the book I need: "Cooking for Dummies". (I didn't need it, I told him, since I'd been cooking for dummies for 30 years.)

But suppose someone actually undertook to write such a book. What should be in it?

Well, to start with, maybe it would be a good idea to explain how someone born with bad ears can have "hearing loss". According to the gurus of political correctness, we aren't "hard of hearing", and we aren't "hearing impaired". We have "hearing loss". So tell me, how can you lose something you never had? Wait a minute, I'll ask my mother. She's convinced that it's possible (for me, at least) to lose *anything*.

And we are also not supposed to refer to people as "the deaf", or "the hard of hearing", but to preface such descriptions with "people", ie: "people who are deaf", or "people who have hearing loss", no doubt so we don't confuse

those who may think we are talking about, say, hard of hearing chipmunks. But leaving out the "people who are" phrase doesn't normally confuse anyone when we are talking about other groups. For example, it would be correct to say that I am a member of these groups:

The musically inclined  
The technologically challenged  
The gainfully employed  
The intelligent

Oh, all right, maybe that isn't *quite* correct. But it is politically correct. Nobody would take you to task for leaving out "people who are". The "people who are" phrase is understood, and need not always be stated. In literary circles, this is known as "ellipsis". Don't make me go there.

And then I'd like someone to explain why people aren't supposed to call me "handicapped," but it's OK for them to say I have a disability. Unless someone has been tampering with my Webster's Collegiate recently, a disability is still "an inability to pursue an occupation because of...impairment". Now, I would be first to admit that I don't hear very well, but I have just never figured out how that is a disability. It hasn't stopped me – or any of you – from pursuing an occupation.

It is, however, a big handicap, and I would just as soon that people knew that. A handicap is simply "a disadvantage that makes achievement unusually difficult". You bet! I think people should know that listening is hard, and if I don't know what they said, it isn't because I don't care. If they understand my difficulty, people may be more forgiving. Otherwise, they might think I'm rude, or a snob, or maybe even one of those... dummies!



**Vicki Martin**

## HLAA TC Meeting 10/21/06

By Monique Hammond, Vice President



For our first official meeting, the agenda was very full. Besides the usual business items, we had two outstanding speakers. More than 30 people attended.

President Merrilee called us all to order promptly at 10AM.

Dora Weber welcomed multiple guests whom we would very much like to join us as members. We also added 3 brand new members to our list: Jon Skaalen, Patrick Coninx and Anita Jandl. A heartfelt welcome to you all from your new friends!

What a treat to see Mary Hartnett from the MCDHH, an ardent advocate for all of us. Mary is also a staunch supporter of the message of our first speaker **Trudy Suggs**. Trudy is the Vice-President of MADC (Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens) and serves on the Governor's Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH). In order to learn more about Trudy, you can "Google" her by typing in her name. I was duly impressed by her multiple credentials.

Trudy talked to us about the importance of VOTING. She passionately encouraged all of us to become involved in the political process. We need to learn about the issues that concern us. Who actually are our State representatives in the House and in the Senate? Well, we all failed that test! Or were we all just too shy to answer!!? Considering that there are more than 400,000 people in Minnesota with hearing loss, what a difference we could make!

Trudy pointed out multiple obstacles that discourage people with hearing disabilities from voting: lack of accessibility, not understanding the issues - often due to lack of captioning, transportation problems etc. In the end however, the message was clear: YOUR VOTE

IS YOUR VOICE. If needed, ask for help but do get involved!

Next, **Larry Wigfield** from the *Minnesota Operation Lifesaver* instructed us on train safety and the disadvantages that hearing disabled people have in this regard. Larry visits the Faribault school for the hearing disabled on a yearly basis. We must teach our kids about train safety. No trespassing onto railroad property. No walking on the rails. Trains now run on smooth welded track that eliminates virtually all vibrations, so deaf and hard of hearing people cannot "feel" the approach of a train.

At a train crossing, look both ways before proceeding. An "X" bar is the same as a yield sign. Beware that one train can hide another. Driving around gates is a huge no-no, a law violation that draws a heavy fine. Many accidents happen because people misjudge the speed of oncoming trains. A freight train moving at 55mph takes 1 to 1 ½ miles to stop! Never underestimate the emotional toll on the train engineers in case of accidents. We thank Larry for this most informative talk and wish him success in his efforts of saving lives.

Officers' notices were kept to a minimum. President Merrilee invited us to write to the FCC and voice our opinion regarding further exemptions of closed captioning. Consult page 10 of the October paper on this issue.

In closing, some great news from treasurer Bob: we have money in the bank. We would like more, so let's pick up tickets to sell for the steak fry in April.

Thanks again to PARADIGM for making our meeting communication accessible to all with CART. As always, what a marvelous job!



***HLAA believes people with hearing loss can help themselves and one another to participate fully and successfully in society.***



## ***MEET HENRY***

Henry and his brother Spencer attended the AWARE Fair at Brookdale and stopped to Chat with Bob at our booth. His Mom, Jackie, was kind enough to tell Bob more about this happy guy.

Henry was born August 22, 2005. At the point Henry and I were being discharged from the hospital a nurse told me that Henry had not passed his new-born hearing screening and that we should follow-up with our pediatrician. I called our pediatrician right away and by the time Henry was five days old we had our first appointment with the audiologist. That began the journey of Henry's first year...Henry has severe to profound bilateral, sensorineural hearing loss. Henry had hearing aids (provided by the Lion's) at three months old. Though the hearing aids did not benefit his situation, various screening and testing determined he was a good candidate for Cochlear Implant. At nine months-old (in May of 2006) he had Cochlear Implant surgery on his right ear at the University of Minnesota. The implant was hooked up in June and Henry has been showing more and more reaction to the sounds around him. As special education and speech therapy continue I am sure Henry will amaze us more each day.

Jackie works in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.



## ***Feed My Starving Children Volunteers***

**Our HLAA group has been schedule for 12/28/06 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Brooklyn Park. Ten adults have signed up to pack meals..**

**For Directions, please go to:**

**<http://www.fmssc.org/Locations/default.asp>**

***Dear Volunteers,***

***Thank you for volunteering at Feed My Starving Children. We are happy to have you here!***

***Your gift of time and energy will make a difference in the lives of thousands of children. You will have a unique opportunity to discover how the simple, hands-on action of packaging nutritious meals deepens everyone's sense of spirit and community. At the same time, you will make a real difference in the lives of desperate children in desperate lands.***

***Since you'll be joining us, I'd like to offer you some ways to share your involvement that will enable us to continue growing the program and making a difference.***

***We've heard from many volunteers - including the thousands of kids who help - that their experience was made more powerful when they supported our mission in ways beyond volunteering. For example, volunteers have found that our Pledges For Hope Program lets them engage friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers in this life-giving mission. Please visit this link: <http://www.fmssc.org/Donations/default.asp> for more information on how to donate.***

***Sincerely,***

***Patty Kleve, Volunteer Coordinator, FMSC***

## HELP! I'm losing my hearing!

Well, actually that's been happening for the past 40 years for me, so that's old news. What is occurring now is that I am *literally* losing my hearing . . . . aids. The past couple of months they become so loose that I am constantly pushing and re-pushing them back where they are supposed to be. Add to that more electronic feedback, and I've got an annoying situation. Why was this happening when they are less than a year old?

This was brought to the forefront one recent day at the post office. I was conducting my business with the nice post-office lady, but she kept staring at my right ear. Knowing that some people's eyes do tend to stray towards hearing aids, I tugged my hair down over my ear in an effort to hide the device and let the post-office lady converse with me, not with my ear. After concluding my business, I turned away, and caught myself in a reflection. Lo and behold, there's my right hearing aid, dangling in a tangle of my hair, completely 'uninstalled' from where it should be! Oh my!

After a call to my audiologist, I found that the most common reason for this is when the wearer loses weight. Having recently shed 14 pounds, this was an "ah-HAH!" moment for me. Although 14 pounds is not a 'lot' of weight, those of you that know me understand that this is a significant portion of my size 6 frame.

I had no idea that weight loss can affect the fit of hearing aid earmolds. Not only does it affect the fit, but looser hearing aids can cause more whistle and feedback. No wonder I've been miserable. So, keep in mind next time you're on the treadmill – one of the many rewards for losing weight can be a trip to see your friendly audiologist for new earmolds. Don't go 'losing it' the way I did!



Sue

## Deafweekly special report

October 29, 2006 Editor: Tom Willard

I am sending out this news release from Gallaudet University. More information will be found in the next issue of Deafweekly on Wednesday.

UNITY FOR GALLAUDET ! ! !

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Board of Trustees

DATE: October 29, 2006

RE: Board of Trustees Meeting

Today, we announce with much regret and pain that after serious deliberation in a special, all-day Executive Session of the Board of Trustees, we have voted to terminate Dr. Fernandes' appointment as President-Designate (currently effective) and President (effective beginning January 1, 2007) at Gallaudet University.

We understand the impact of this decision and the important issues that inherently arise when a Board re-examines decisions in the face of an on-going protest. The Board believes that it is in the best interests of the University to terminate Dr. Fernandes from the incoming President's position. Although undoubtedly there will be some members of the community who have differing views on the meaning of this decision, we believe that it is a necessity at this point. The Board is continuing to meet to discuss transitional issues.

It has certainly been a difficult and trying time for our Gallaudet community. Now is the time for healing. The hope of the Board of Trustees is for our beloved community to come together to work for a stronger and better Gallaudet.



## BITS AND PIECES



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**Sister Florentine Goulet** turned 90 in October. Sister Florentine has been a member of HLAA TC (SHHH) for many, many years. We all wish you good health and happiness. Take care now.



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**Want a TTY in your car?** You can! OnStar by GM announced a new TTY compatible in-car that is offered for little or no extra charge through the GM Mobility Reimbursement Program for eligible subscribers. This dealer-installed option is available now on a wide range of 2007 model year GM vehicles including the Saturn Relay, Buick Terraza and Chevrolet Uplander. [www.onstar.com/tty](http://www.onstar.com/tty)



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"**Sounds from Silence**" published in 2000 by Professor Graeme Clark is now out of print but can be downloaded for \$24.95 at [http://www.ebooks.com/ebooks/book\\_display.asp?ID=219180](http://www.ebooks.com/ebooks/book_display.asp?ID=219180)



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<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=community&id=4566411>

**Culvers Restaurant in Fort Wayne, IN** has a solution to the **drive through** for deaf and HOH - pen and paper



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**CART- Paradigm** has been with HLAA TC for a long long time. We have some business cards if you want to suggest them for anything where CART would be helpful. Visit their web site and see some bios of the people we have come to love and appreciate over the years.

<http://www.paradigmreporting.com/>

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**Laurent, SD** the new town that was planned for ASL users has dwindled because of no funds to get the project going. They now plan to reestablish a town called Spencer, SD that was hit in 1998 by a tornado and cut the population in half.



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The Community Emergency Preparedness Information Project (**CEPIN**) NEW URL is coordinated by Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. <http://www.cepintdi.org>

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### ASL PRACTICE

If you are interested in **conversing in ASL** these groups (free & not a class) meet at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at these locations.

**Har Mar** 6 PM, every Friday of the month, Har Mar Mall, 2100 North Snelling Ave. Roseville, MN 55113, 651-639-9256

**Burnhaven Shopping Center** 7PM, Nov. 10, 24, Dec. 8, 22, Jan. 12, 828 West County Road 42, Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-892-9280.

Call the store to confirm or check this web site:

- 1) [www.BarnesandNoble.com](http://www.BarnesandNoble.com)
- 2) Left side - Find Your Local Book Store - type zip code
- 3) Left side - Find An Event
- 4) Type in info. EX. # of miles, type of event (Conversational Group if you want ASL), date range (this wk, this month, next 3 months).



***HLAA promotes self-confidence; empowers individuals with skills to improve their lives; and provides an opportunity for affiliation among people with hearing loss, their friends, families, and professionals.***





## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE HOLIDAY PARTY



You won't want to miss the HLAA Holiday Party at our regular meeting on **December 16**. Here's what to expect.

**Food:** Lots of it! It's pot luck, so sign up at the November meeting so we don't end up with only desserts (wouldn't that be awful!)

**White Elephant Gift Exchange:** We have had some very interesting gifts in year's past. Each person that brings a gift will be eligible to take one home. Please make sure your gift is suitable for either a man or woman. It is the perfect time to "regift" something you have received in the past that wasn't quite what you wanted. Bring out that unusual item that has graced your basement for several years. Now is the time to let it go. If you are still stuck, you CAN go to the store and purchase something, but no expensive items please! Keep the cost at \$10 or less. Wrap it up and bring it to the party.

**Cookie Donation and Sale:** Bake one batch of your holiday best (OK, buy them if you are not a baker), and the donated cookies will be shuffled into boxes so each one will have a nifty assortment. We then offer these assorted cookies for sale to members and guests, and the proceeds are donated to a worthy cause.

**It is always an enjoyable event!!**



## What's New in Hearing Aids?

**Siemens** Hearing Instruments, Inc. has a new Centra. It's their "new wave", a trainable hearing aid that learns your volume preferences, automatically adjusting to match your preferences. The Sound Smoothing feature recognizes and reduces annoying noises like rustling paper, clanging dishes, and breaking glass while preserving the sound of voices and conversations. The hearing aid has a directional microphone system, feedback reduction or elimination, and a wind noise reduction system.

Siemens has an entire section on its website related to Children and Hearing Loss at [http://www.siemens-hearing.com/hearing\\_aids/children/index.aspx](http://www.siemens-hearing.com/hearing_aids/children/index.aspx).

They also have a "Hearing makes Friends" hearing instrument guide with user-friendly information and illustrations to show how to attach an ear mold and how to insert and remove the hearing instrument correctly. There's a section on hearing instrument care and use and another on troubleshooting.

Info: <http://www.usa.siemens.com/hearing>

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**Oticon**, Inc. manufactures digital hearing solutions for mild to profound hearing losses. The company now uses a thin tube system to replace the standard earhook, tubing and earmold on their behind the ear hearing instruments.

I hear that Oticon's new Delta hearing aid has been a hot seller. It's a triangular wedge less than an inch long and very light in weight. It is surprising that so much can now be packed in such a small device. It comes in 17 different colors, not one of them the ubiquitous "flesh". . . What is different and encouraging is that Delta buyers seem to be showing a trend to get help for their hearing loss earlier because it is small and trendy. For more information: [www.oticonus.com](http://www.oticonus.com)

# Entertainment



**Movie Info.?** To find a movie theater near you that has captions, simply type in your zip code at this Web site [www.Fomdi.com](http://www.Fomdi.com)

## **At the Guthrie: EDGARDO MINE**

ASL Performance: Friday, December 8, 7:30 PM

DESCRIPTION: Based on a compelling true story, Uhry's new play is set in 1850s Italy where under Papal law a Christian cannot be raised by Jews. After being secretly baptized by a housemaid, the infant Edgardo is taken from his Jewish parents and raised as a Catholic.

## **Science Museum of Minnesota**

offers Rear view captioning and DVS for most films in the Omni theater or the 3D Cinema. The Omni Theater is located at 120 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. Show times vary but are approximately hourly during regular museum hours: Monday-Wednesday 9:30-5:00, Thursday-Saturday 9:30-9:00, Sunday 12:00-5:00. TTY 651-221-4585; [info@smm.org](mailto:info@smm.org); [www.smm.org/visitorinfo/hours/showtimes\\_dynamic.php](http://www.smm.org/visitorinfo/hours/showtimes_dynamic.php) or [www.smm.org/info/accessibility.php](http://www.smm.org/info/accessibility.php).

## **Almanac on TV each Friday at 7 PM on TPT**

, gives you an hour of closed captioned news about the Twin Cities. Things from the history books and new things happening to us. If you enjoy the captions please let the station know at <http://www.tpt.org/>

## **Anybody wanna go? Captioned Performance At the Mixed Blood Theatre**

### ***Vestibular Sense* – Friday November 17 at 7:30**

When a young man with autism and a perseverant predilection for roller coasters gets caught up in Fourth of July hi-jinks at a Norse theme park, his autism proves to be simultaneously an advantage and a bane. This touching, comic drama illustrates the frustration and élan of people with autism and the friends, family, and colleagues who surround them. Written by Garrison Keillor's co-screen story writer for the "A Prairie Home Companion" movie.

The captioned performance is on Friday, November 17 (also ASL and audio described that night) **\$24**

To buy tickets for *Vestibular Sense* you can call the box office at 612-338-6131 or order online at <http://www.mixedblood.com>. If you email Linda Senechal ([cilinda97@yahoo.com](mailto:cilinda97@yahoo.com)) before Tuesday, November 14, she will purchase your ticket for you when she buys her own (but you will have to sit with her!).

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## Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Clinic

**Paula Schwartz, Au.D.**

Doctor of Audiology

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**952-224-0308**

fax 952-831-4942

[plschwartz@msn.com](mailto:plschwartz@msn.com)

link through [www.audiologyconcepts.com](http://www.audiologyconcepts.com)

### Please note

Opinions expressed in  
this newsletter are those  
of the person  
submitting the  
information and not  
necessarily those of  
HLAA MN Chapter #1.  
Mention of goods or  
services does not mean  
endorsement nor should  
exclusion suggest  
disapproval.

You might not be able to do  
everything at once, you can  
however do it all in one place.

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**Please contact Merrilee at  
[rknoll5200@aol.com](mailto:rknoll5200@aol.com)**

**HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**  
**PO Box 8037**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037**  
**First Class**



**HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**

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**Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037**

**HLAA Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You**

**President –** Merrilee Knoll, (763) 537-7558 TTY, V  
*E-mail:* president@hlaatc.org

**Vice President –** Monique Hammond,  
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

**Secretary –** Sue Brabeck,  
*E-mail:* secretary@hlaatc.org

**Treasurer –** Bob Knoll,  
*E-mail:* treasurer@hlaatc.org

**Aloha Event Coordinator –**  
Ellen Thibodo, (651) 423-2249 (TTY)  
*E-mail:* ThibodoD@aol.com

**Contact Info.** info@hlaatc.org

**Newsletter Editors -**  
Linda Senechal, cilinda97@yahoo.com  
Merrilee Knoll, Rknoll5200@aol.com

This month's editor is Linda Senechal

**Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN. We gather at 9:30 to socialize and the meeting starts at 10 AM. All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning (www.paradigmreporting.com)*. Please visit the chapter's web-site at [www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)**