

# HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter June 2007  
Formerly SHHH Minnesota Chapter #1

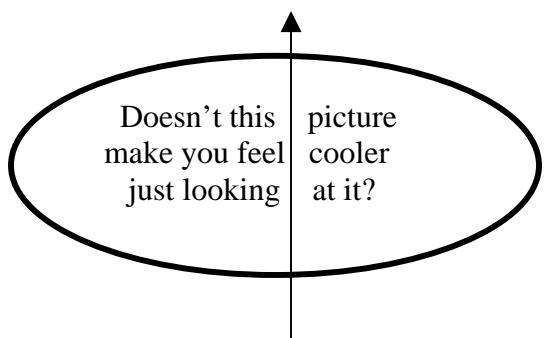


## JUNE 2007

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**NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST**

**THE NEXT MEETING IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 2007 AT 9:30 AM**  
**AT THE COURAGE CENTER**  
**ED ROOMS 1 & 2**



There is still time to register for the **convention in Oklahoma City**, dates of **June 21 – 24**. Join other HLAA TC members who are attending. See national website for more info.

[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Even though we did not have a formal speaker for our last meeting of the year, our morning was quite action packed indeed.

We thank **Suzanne Hagen** for her CART services, especially since she was under pressure to get to the Capitol for the last days of the legislative session. Thank you for NOT letting us down.

After a very successful year under her leadership, **President Merrilee** passed the torch on to me. I humbly accept the challenge and hope that I am worthy of following in her footsteps.

I am extremely fortunate to work with such a great **Board of Officers** in the coming season. **Secretary Sue Brabeck** and **Treasurer Bob Knoll** are continuing their duties for the second year. **Vicki Martin** accepted the position of **Vice President** after a unanimous vote from the members. With her experience, caring and vision, Vicki has a lot to offer to our group, and we are very lucky that she decided to join the Board.

**Merrilee Knoll** and **Linda Senechal** will continue the gargantuan task of putting our **NEWSLETTER** together. **Merrilee** will also continue to keep us informed on upcoming events for the hearing disabled such as classes, entertainment, conventions etc.

**Dave Miller** agreed to remain our website and electronics expert. Relief! No more tinnitus aggravation just from worrying about pesky technology issues!

Most of all, we have a very devoted group of **members**. During our short open forum session, some extremely relevant questions were brought up that we will revisit in the coming year. **Ralph Katz** raised the importance of recruiting *new* members.

Over the summer, lets all brainstorm on that topic.

Besides our delectable potluck lunch, the highlight of day came when **Bob Knoll** announced the *engagement* of our **Secretary Sue Brabeck** to her extremely significant other **Jim Smith**.

**Congratulations to both of you, Sue and Jim! We are so happy for you!!**

In closing, thank you members for your support and for a very productive year.

Together - as a team - we will **ALL** work to make the year 2007-2008 yet another success for HLAA TC.

Have a great summer.

See you in September! Does that remind me of a song? Oh, well.

Monique



## **Synopsis of our May Meeting**

HLAA Meeting May 19 2007 synopsis

Merrilee opened the meeting with thanks to Joe and Lori for all of their volunteerism, for HLAA as well as other projects. How do they do it all? We don't know, but they are an inspiration to us all.

Web master Dave Miller was also specially noted for all the time and expertise he has devoted to our wonderful website ([www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)).

Thanks were also due (and given) to 25 (yes!) other volunteers/donors.

Merrilee noted that we have pens and sticky notes to help spread the gospel of HLAA.

The Aware Fair (sponsored by DHHS) may not be funded this year. This would be quite a loss, as it is a big event, and draws a lot of new people.

Vicki Martin was elected to vice presidency, succeeding Monique Hammond for the 2007-2008 year, as Monique moves into the role of president and Merrilee retires (yeah, right!) from active duty. Other officers remain in their current roles: Sue Brabeck as secretary and Bob Knoll as treasurer.

Monique (MCDHH rep) reported on legislation. The hearing aid bank loaner program passed. Other bills are pending, and Monique warns that Governor Pawlenty has veto pen ready. A chocolate cake frosted with "Thanks from the MCDHH" was brought in as...um, no, not a "bribe"... "Incentive", yes!

U of M is still looking for volunteers to participate in their newborn study on CMV virus. Participants must be children born after August 1997. If you know anyone who might be eligible, please encourage them to volunteer.

Speakers lined up for the coming year include hearing dogs (OK, presumably the dogs themselves are not the speakers), a Starkey representative, and a lawyer to talk about disability law. We also look forward to having Michelle Rimmer talk to us about job coaching and resumes.

Due to the overwhelming response to Kristin Swan's presentation in 2007, we will also try to book her in 2008 for the second part of her talk about hearing loss in psychiatric care and treatment.

Bob reminded us that we earned over \$600 at the Lions Steak Fry. This is a major fundraiser for us, so he signed us on again for next year. HLAA shirts are also available at cost, and they too can help spread the word about us.

### **Discussion:**

Judi mentioned that she has introduced her therapist to the material from Kristin Swan (on caring for deaf and HH patients). Her therapist, in turn, is sharing this with others in the field, so it may reach even further than we knew.

Lions are developing a hearing aid program to help people purchase hearing aids. Bob has more information.

Monique noted a website ([www.ahearingaid.com](http://www.ahearingaid.com)) that can help us compare hearing aid prices. She found a \$900 difference from two different suppliers for the same aid.

Ralph suggested giving HLAA info to audiologists to distribute. Tri-fold brochures (and stands) were also recommended, as well as said hearing magazines.

(Continued on Page 4)

Last but not least, Bob announced that one Jim Smith had gotten down on bended knee and asked secretary Sue for her hand. Whoo hoo, yippee, and way-to-go! After all the hoopla, whistles, and cheering died down, there was a lull in the room, and someone asked,

“Did she say ‘yes’?”



(She did).

Submitted by our VP Vicki Martin

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To: Friends and Colleagues of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS)  
From: Bruce Hodek, DHHS Director

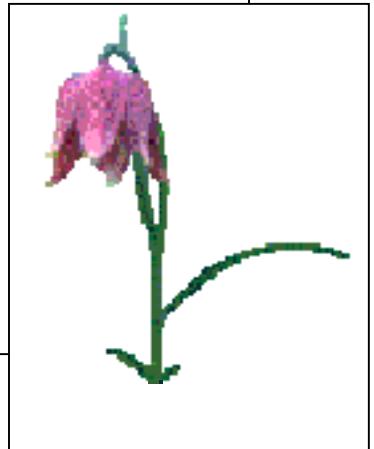
**Subject: Aware Fair**

I regret to inform you that the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS) of the MN Department of Human Services will not be sponsoring the Aware Fair activity in 2008. This is a difficult decision for us to make, but a necessary one. With increased demand for our services, including ever-growing individual client needs, training requests, and services related to deafblind and mental health, we have had to make difficult decisions about our staff resource allocation.

We certainly understand that Aware Fair is a valuable and much-anticipated bi-annual event. After 17 years of sponsoring or co-sponsoring it, it feels sad to let the project go. We hope that one or more other organizations will come forward and take over the work needed to make Aware Fair happen. If your organization is interested in doing this, please contact Marie Koehler, Regional Manager of our St. Paul office. (651.297-3640 (Voice), 1.888-206-6513 (TTY), or 651.297-1316 (VP). Marie will be glad to explain what's involved and share her knowledge of how to organize the event.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hodek  
DHHS Director



## BITS AND PIECES

For a story on her deafness, music, and her life, musician **Evelyn Glennie**

[http://www.evelyn.co.uk/live/hearing\\_essay.htm](http://www.evelyn.co.uk/live/hearing_essay.htm)

Read one written by the artist herself called "The Hearing Essay."

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Mary Meyer** sister of **Rocky Stone** the founder of SHHH passed away May 15, 2007. She and her sister Helen founded the SHHH Chapter in San Fernando Valley, CA in 1980.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The **Graeme Clark Scholarship** is a unique award open to Nucleus cochlear implant recipients around the world. Awarded by Cochlear. The deadline is June 29, 2007. It offers financial assistance to further your collage education. For the complete story see:

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

Community/168.asp

\*\*\*\*\*

Read about **Martha's Vineyard** where for 3 centuries almost everyone (even the hearing) signed.

Unfortunately due to "advancement" this is no longer the case. [http://www.technological.co.uk/html/contact\\_me.html](http://www.technological.co.uk/html/contact_me.html)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**From The Caucus**, political Blog, New York Times, May 17, 2007. Obama video with captioning in separate window, this may be the norm for the future with computers. Tommy Farr, an Iraq veteran and faculty member at Gallaudet University inspired this. Project readOn isn't a contractor for the Obama campaign. They create "user-requested captions," Pres. Obama:

<http://www.barackobama.com/closedcaptioning/>  
Project readOn: <http://www.projectreadon.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Water Tower View** opened Sept. 2006 in Greenfield, Wisc. near Milwaukee with 43 units geared for people 55 and older with hearing loss, either Deaf/deaf/HOH or db. It is 1 of 14 in the US centered around people with hearing loss. For more info. see <http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2006/04/10/story8.html>



## Train safety

<http://www.oli.org/>

### **Some Train Facts You Should Know:**

- (1) It is illegal to play or walk on railroad tracks
- (2) Train cars can have a 3 foot overhang on each side of the track. (3) Trains need a mile to come to a complete stop. Once the train's engineer can see you, it is usually too late to stop the train in time to avoid a tragedy." (4) Trains do not have flashing lights on them. (5) Rail road tracks DO NOT vibrate when a train comes.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**"Hear The World"** begun by Phonak has all sorts of celebrity connections, articles and fashions geared for the rich with hearing loss but very entertaining <http://www.hear-the-world.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Some famous people with hearing loss**-Bill Clinton, Barbra Streisand, William Shatner, Phil Collins (Genesis drummer and vocalist), Bono (U2 lead singer), Pete Townshend (guitarist with The Who). David Letterman, Steve Martin, Sylvester Stallone, Richard Thomas, Burt Reynolds, Sting, Engelbert Humberdinck, Eric Clapton and Cher are among the many thousands of entertainers suffering from tinnitus and other hearing impairments.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**"Through Deaf Eyes"**-the PBS documentary is available on DVD(\$26) and bookform (\$40). They can be ordered at Harris Communications (<http://www.harriscomm.com/>),Gallaudet University Press (<http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/catalog.html>) [www.ShopPBS.com](http://www.ShopPBS.com) and Netflix.

Want to **"dress up"** your hearing aid or cochlear implant? Visit this web site to see some fashion statements on hearing gear.  
<http://www.gearforears.com/>



**THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AND DEAFBLIND BILLS PASSED AND HAVE  
BEEN SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR AND ARE NOW LAW!!!!  
THANKS TO THE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING AND DEAFBLIND COMMUNITIES, THEIR  
FAMILIES, TO THOSE WHO TESTIFIED, TO ALL SUPPORTERS AND  
TO OUR CHAMPIONS- THE LEGISLATORS**

*Mary Hartnett*

**A. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)** The five bills we had related to Early Hearing Detection and Intervention passed. We convinced the legislators that Minnesota needed a Hearing Screening Mandate- we are in the bottom 5 of states in the country in the identification of babies with hearing loss and reporting them to the Department of Health. We now have a mandate and programs in place that will help families and babies flourish. The funds listed are for two years and are ongoing except for Parent Guides.

**1. Newborn Hearing Screening Mandate** (fees covered by hospitals and insurance) Minnesota now has a mandate for hearing screening. All babies will be screened at birth for hearing loss. An advisory council that has professionals and community members will help to design the protocols that will be followed. The cost will be paid by hospitals and insurance companies. The advisory board members will be selected and will meet by September 1, 2007. Thanks to Speaker of the House Margaret Kelliher Anderson and Senator John Marty and to Senate Minority Leader Dave Senjem and House Minority Leader Marty Seifert.

**2. Parent Guides for Families with Babies with Hearing Loss** - The \$199,000 will pay for trained parent guides to meet with parents and provide them with unbiased information about language, medical and educational choices. This funding lasts only for two years. We hope to come back and get it put into the base budget. Thanks to Representative Erin Murphy and Senator Sheran.

**3. Hearing Aid Loaner Bank** \$140,000 will cover the cost of an audiologist/director of a hearing instrument loan bank so babies have immediate access to amplification. The loans last an average of 7 months- until permanent aids can be obtained. The director gets donations of the latest equipment. Thanks to chief authors Representative Tom Huntley and Senator Lynch.

**4. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mentors** (\$80,000) Families with babies with hearing loss contract with a mentor trained through a national program and teach sign in the home to the entire family if that is the communication choice of the parents. Thanks to Representative Fritz and Senator Mary Olsen.

**5. Statewide Education Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Coordinator** (\$80,000 with an \$80,000 match from the Bremer Foundation) A statewide coordinator in the Department of Education will measure language development of babies with hearing loss, report the results to the families every six months and the aggregate data will be measured. Training will be provided in evidence based practices. Thanks to Representative Nora Slawik and Senator Charles Wiger.

**B. Expanding Hearing Aid Coverage to Include all children birth through 21** Minnesota now has the strongest hearing aid bill in the country. Families with fully insured plans can get a hearing aid every three years for both ears with no cap on the amount of the hearing aid. The deductible for the aid cannot exceed that of the standard policy. The law becomes effective August 1, 2007. Thanks to Senator Dave Tomassoni and Representative Sertich.

**C. Increased Funds for Support Service Providers (SSPs) and Interveners for DeafBlind Kids & Adults** An additional \$699 thousand will be provided every two years for direct services. This bill was initiated by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division with special thanks to Bruce Hodek. It's the first increase in 10 years. Thanks to Representative Tom Huntley and Senator Linda Berglin.

**D. An increase of 100,000 so the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People can continue and expand its work.** Thanks to Senator Metzen and to Representative Gunther.

**E. \$700,000 to Save Nationally Recognized Transition Program , VECTOR** Vector has a 95% rate of either helping train students 18-21 get and keep jobs or get them college ready and help them to graduate. The funds allow the program to offer services statewide. Thanks to Senator Scott Dibble and to Representative Mary Murphy.

**(Continued on Page 7)**

## **F. Bills that we supported, but didn't work on directly, that passed**

1. Special Education Growth Rate Reinstated-The Department of Education estimated that school districts would get \$699 million less in funds by 2009 if this growth rate had not been put back in place. School districts that had high numbers of children in special education saw increases in their budgets.
2. Funds Supporting Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf
3. Cultural Health Workers costs will be covered by Medical Assistance. Deaf Cultural Health Workers will partner with health practitioners and educators to incorporate American Sign Language and other modes of communication into health literacy, education and advocacy.
4. Health Care Interpreter Study- Stakeholders will meet to discuss insurance coverage of spoken and sign language interpreters and competencies in the summer and fall of 2007.

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!!!!! THIS HAS BEEN AN HISTORIC YEAR. WE WILL PLAN A BIG CELEBRATION THIS SUMMER OR FALL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US TO PLAN OR VOLUNTEER, PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

**PLEASE WRITE THESE LEGISLATORS AND LET THEM KNOW HOW MUCH YOU APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR OUR BILLS!!! CONTACT US AND WE WILL SEND YOU THEIR ADDRESSES.**

**ANOTHER WAY TO THANK LEGISLATORS IS TO OFFER TO WORK ON THEIR CAMPAIGNS OR WRITE LETTERS TO YOUR LOCAL PAPERS THANKING THEM FOR THEIR EFFORT. CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE OPTIONS.**

**THANKS AGAIN!!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Calendar of Coming Events

#### June 21 – June 24, 2007

HLAA National Convention in Oklahoma City



**NOTE: NO MEETINGS FOR HLAA  
TWIN CITIES IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST**

September, 2007: Michelle Kimmer (MN Employment Center) - job coaching for deaf and HOH

October, 2007: Rick McPhearson - attorney with the MN Disability Law Center

November, 2007: Hearing dogs

December, 2007: OSHA - Brian Alexander : NOISE - regulations and hearing issues

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

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter meetings are held at the **Courage Center** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (except June, July and August). Meetings start at 9:30 and last until Noon.

**We meet at Courage Center  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55422**

**Everyone is welcome!**

# ENTERTAINMENT

Read about our own **Kathryn Bakke** and the founder **Wendy Cheng** at **Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss ( AAMHL)**

<http://www.aamhl.org/>



## PERFORMANCES

The following performances will be Interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL) for people who are deaf, **or Captioned for people who are hard of hearing**. Selected performances offer reduced admission prices for the patron and one companion. When you call a Box Office, confirm the service (ASL, AD, Captioning), date, time, ticket price and anything else you need to know (length of performance etc.). If you attend a show, please share your feedback with the performing organization, interpreter and VSA arts of Minnesota.

Schedule updates are available by voicemail -- VSA arts of Minnesota, 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883 (voice/TTY) or the MACT Hotline, 612-706-1456 or 800-290-2428 (voicemail box 4). Schedules are posted on the Web at: [www.vsaartsmn.org](http://www.vsaartsmn.org), [www.mact.net](http://www.mact.net), [www.accesspress.org](http://www.accesspress.org) and [www.TCDeaf.com](http://www.TCDeaf.com).

- Seussical
- Flint Hills International Children's Festival
- Highlights of the Museum 1600-1900
- Queer Music Consortium Pride Concert
- Once Upon a Mattress
- Major Barbara
- Easter Parade
- Kiss of the Spider Woman
- Crimes of the Heart
- LOW
- The Student Price
- Taking Steps

**Deaf Weather** is coming in the next few months. Deaf Weather is the first Video broadcast through the Internet using sign language. Yes, the Meteorologist is deaf and is giving you the nation's first deaf weather.

You can sign-up now at <http://www.deafweather.com/> to be notified when the Deaf Weather website is up and running! Be the first to get the news in Your email box.

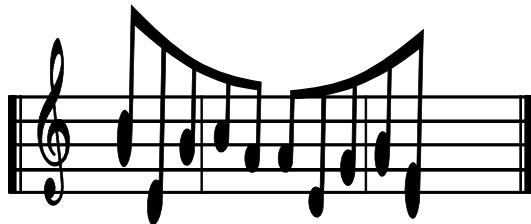
Deaf Weather is currently in its testing trial. By signing up, it will let The Deaf Weather staff know that you ARE interested and serious about Getting your weather in sign language.

Thank you Monique for this news lead.

## And more.....

- Grease
- Get Ready
- Barbie Seguy
- Generations ROCK!
- Fat Pig
- You Can't Take It With You
- Glitter and Be Gay
- Figaro
- Chicago
- The Prince & The Pauper
- Thoroughly Modern Millie

Thanks to **Jon Vsaarts** for the information.



### Now hear this!

Charter SHHH/HLAA member, Kathryn Bakke, is appearing in the Minneapolis Fringe Festival this summer!

Kathryn has a profound hearing loss in both ears. After earning a Master's degree in piano performance at the University of MN, she resumed her musical activities, first using one hearing aid, later two.

In 2002 she had a cochlear implant, and intensified her entertaining and speaking schedule until in 2006 she entertained and spoke all over the upper Midwest and beyond, over 250 times.

She is also a professional speaker, a member of the National Speakers' Association. Her topics are "Overcoming Impossible Challenges" and hearing loss seminars. She is beginning to write her first book "Sure I Can Hear! But I Want to Listen!!"

Her show for the Fringe is called: **"The Funny Side – Muddles Make Memories!"**

**Sports failures! Catastrophic camping! Erroneous ears! Direction disasters! Life's perplexing, precarious predicaments have a funny side!**

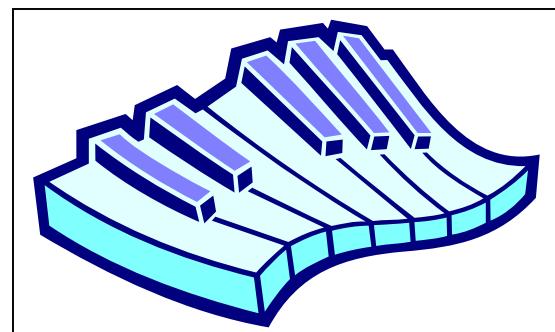
**Laugh, chuckle and snort your way through routines, stories and mesmerizing piano music – and go home with a smile!**

Robin Gillette, Lisa Richardson and Kathryn are enthusiastically discussing how to get captioning for one, possibly two of these shows. When we know which dates will be captioned, Kathryn will have it on her web site ([www.kathrynbakke.com](http://www.kathrynbakke.com)). Jon Skaalen will report it as well through the Artists' Pipeline. It will also be announced on the Fringe web site somewhere around mid July.

Kathryn's show will be at the following locations at the following times:

Patrick's Cabaret  
3010 Minnehaha Ave. So.  
Minneapolis, MN

Thursday, August 2 – 8:30 P.M.  
Saturday, August 4 – 5:30 P.M.  
Monday, August 6 – 8:30 P.M..  
Saturday, August 11 – 7:00 P.M.  
Sunday, August 12 - 2:30 P.M.



# ENTERTAINMENT

Remember to visit **Kerasotes Movies** at  
<http://www.Kerasotes.com/home.aspx> for the latest information about captioned movies.

Please call these places to verify information.

VSA arts of Minnesota newsletter,  
ARTS ACCESS. [www.vsaartsmn.org](http://www.vsaartsmn.org)

## Where can I see captioned movies?

MN Coon Rapids Kerasotes Showplace 16  
MN Coon Rapids Showplace 16

MN Eagan Regal Eagan Stadium 16  
MN Eagan Regal Eagan Stadium 16  
MN Faribault Cinema 6

MN Inver Grove Kerasotes Showplace 16  
MN Inver Grove Heights Kerasotes  
Showplace 16

MN Minneapolis Regal Brooklyn Center  
Stadium 20

MN Minneapolis Regal Brooklyn Center  
Stadium 20

MN Oakdale Oakdale Ultrascreen

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## Theatre

**U of M, Dept of Theatre Arts and Dance** has ASL performances the last Sat. of every **Mainstage** production. Call 612-624-2345

**Mixed Blood Theatre** has wheel chair accessibility and handicapped parking available near the door. Each of the shows is offered in ASL/captioned and audio description. Call the box office at 612-338-6131 and let them know of your request. Mpls location. Visit [www.mixedblood.com](http://www.mixedblood.com)

**Cross Community Players** – in Maple Grove, featuring Pink Ladies, Grease and Birds. ASL and handicapped accessible, if CART if needed let them know at 763-391-2787

**MN Centennial Showboat** (Harriet Island St. Paul) features “Sherlock’s Last Case.” Call 651-227-1100 for CART or ASL.

## **HEARING CONCEPTS IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, NOW SONUS.**

JERRI McMAHON CAN STILL BE  
REACHED AT HER OFFICE IN CRYSTAL  
AT 763-531-8454

THEY ARE WORKING ON A NEW AD



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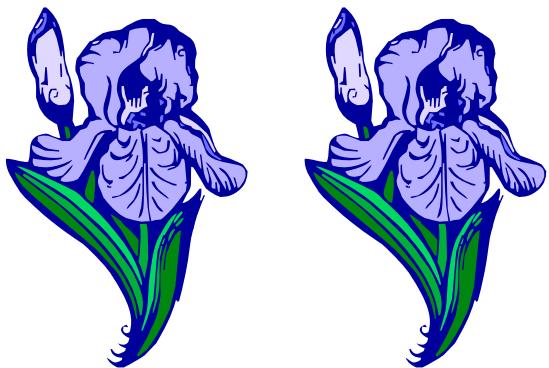
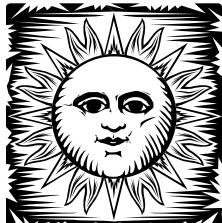
Fax: 952-831-4942

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

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, contact Merrilee Knoll 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** – Monique Hammond,  
*E-mail:* [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)

**Vice President** – Vicki Martin,  
*E-mail:* [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)

**Secretary** – Sue Brabeck,  
*E-mail:* [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)

**Treasurer** – Bob Knoll,  
*E-mail:* [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

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

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

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

**Newsletter Editors** -  
Linda Senechal, [cilinda97@yahoo.com](mailto:cilinda97@yahoo.com)  
Merrilee Knoll, [Rknoll5200@aol.com](mailto:Rknoll5200@aol.com)

This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

**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](http://www.paradigmreporting.com)). Please visit the chapter's web-site at [www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)**