



HLAA TC DECEMBER 2011



2011

December 17, 2011—Holiday
pot luck luncheon, white elephant
gift exchange, cookie sale

2012

January 21, 2012 - Rhoda
Nelson, "Hearing Lips & Seeing
Voices" Part 2

February 18, 2012 - Costco,
Howard Malone / Kate McGuire

March 17, 2012 - Linda Miller
speaks on Sam Trychin, Rebecca
Lander from Walk4Hearing

April 21, 2012 - Marlene
Martinek, Lions MD5M Hearing
Foundation

May 19, 2012 - Elections/Pot
Luck, Open Mic

June 21 - 24, 2012 - HLAA
(National Convention)
Providence, Rhode Island

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Officers' emails

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HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

www.hlaatc.org

HLAA National - Maryland

www.hearingloss.org

MN Contact Information - Minnesota

info@hlaatc.org



**Hearing Loss
Association**
of America

Twin Cities Chapter

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

Paradigm - Each meeting is captioned by
Paradigm (CART) who has been with us
since 1991. We want to thank Lisa,
Jayne, Angie, and Kristi for their valued
service.

Hearing Loss Association of America **Twin Cities** Chapter (HLAA TC) is held the 3rd
Saturday of the month (except June, July and August). We meet at The Courage
Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55442



Our Greeter



President and VP



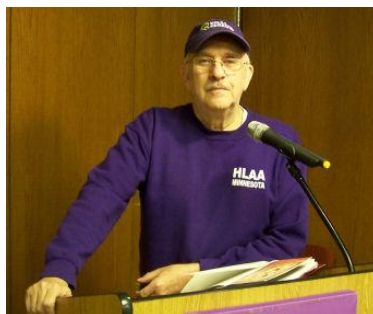
It's ASL time



CART Jayne



Our speaker



Our treasurer



Our MCDHH Rep.



Our VP

November 2011

November Meeting Synopsis submitter by Judi Swan

Merrilee opened the November meeting, welcoming Jayne, our CART lady. Vicki began the ASL words with the theme "Birthdays."

Mary gave the monthly quote about being thankful. A new feature called "What's That?" Merrilee showed and described her infrared TV listening device, she told how helpful it was to her TV viewing pleasure and it is available at Harris Communications.

Monique gave an update on the MCDHH; including the commissions recognition of the need to develop an educational program for those persons entering the field of hearing instrument dispensing. They are currently missing out on the practical education portion of helping the hearing impaired. When recently inquired on the status of this from the commission, in October, she was informed it remains on the agenda.

She also spoke of the well-known Starkey overseas efforts to provide hearing instruments to children and informed us that Starkey has a new US program entitled "Hear Now" which is helping in the same manner. The possibility of a future Starkey speaker was also brought up, which Monique stated could offer a wealth of information to our group.

The featured speaker, Deborah Bailey, one of our members, was introduced to speak on "Communication Strategies." She began by talking of how "cued speech" which involves 40 signs that represent English sounds, help her, this combined with spoken English assists in her communication needs.

She has created series of little handmade booklets, inspired by a children's craft project. With various titles-introducing self, communications needs, etc. In these booklets, she gives the simple facts, and what the deaf and HOH need to communicate with hearing persons. She touched on medical situations, law enforcement, persons demonstrating an item, and pointed out that listening is a lot more work for the HOH.

Much discussion opened, and the fact that medical alert jewelry can be very helpful in emergencies, identifying ourselves, and being our own advocate.

The definition of deafness covering many communities and issues was discussed since the medical and emergency communities often do not really know how to define deafness. Deborah closed by offering order blanks for her little booklets, Merrilee thanked her for the enlightening talk.

Judi updated on the congressional bill for hearing aid tax credits. The bill has expired quite some time ago; she will be working with Klobuchar and Franken's office for a possible reintroduction after the holidays.

Judi informed us of a web site DOTSUB.COM, which allows a person to write their own captions for videos as well as view videos posted by others, all captioned.

The email Judi received from Marcus Theaters informed that they are currently switching technology in the theatres and have a new system which is called Captiview. She promised updates on further info. regarding this system which promised to CC all movies except for 3D.

(Continues on Page 4)

Their last contact stated that they had the goal of the end of quarter one of 2012, to be up and running at all showplaces.

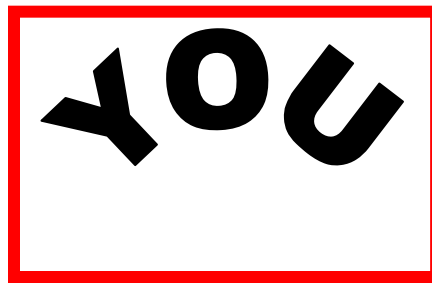
VP Judi reminded us of the Christmas potluck on December 17, with a cookie sale, white elephant gift exchange and potluck meal.

Treasurer Bob spoke on the Walk4Hearing, stating that it isn't positive that a Mpls. Walk will be held in 2012. He gave the estimate of benefit to HLAA TC as 6 to 7, 000 dollars. The April 11th steak fry is scheduled and he will try to have tickets printed and ready in December.

Merrilee thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.



The very best of the holiday; happiness, peace and gratitude from the President, Vice President, Secretaries, Treasurer and Editors of HLAA TC.



2011

DONATIONS - 3M, Hammond's, Knoll's

ADS – Jerri McMahon (Sonus in Crystal), Paula Schwartz (Audiology Concepts in Edina), UPS (Brooklyn Center), Harris Communications (Eden Prairie), Fastsigns (Brooklyn Center)

Paradigm CART – Lisa Richardson, Angie Sundell, Jayne Carriker, Kristi Arntzen

PHOTOGRAPHER - Ross Hammond, Merrilee Knoll

NO JOB DESCRIPTION - we ask and they say “yes” regardless of what it is... Linda Senechal, Mike & Janet Day, Shannon & Tiffany Turley, Hunter & Holly Sargent, Ross and Monique Hammond, Lisa Richardson, Jodi Ostman, Gary Phillips, Sue Brabeck, Mary Andresen, Sue Brabeck, Dennis & Vicki Martin, Judi & David Swan, Candace Meinders

NEWSPAPER WRITERS - Linda Senechal, Vicki Martin, Judi Swan, Carole Blowers, Sue Brabeck, Monique Hammond, Merrilee Knoll, Shannon Turley, Marie Koehler, Rebecca Lander, Ellen Thibodo, Mary Hartnett

REPORTERS - people who give the editors news leads for the paper - Lisa Richardson, Judi Swan, Mike Day, Carole Blowers, Linda Miller, Ellen Thibodo, Marie Koehler, Rich Diedrichsen, Monique Hammond, Sue Brabeck

CONTACT PERSON – Merrilee Knoll

LOOP SYSTEM - Ross Hammond, Linda Miller, Carole Blowers, Hunter Sargent, Bob Knoll

EDITORS - Linda Senechal, Vicki Martin, Merrilee Knoll

COFFEE COMMITTEE - Tiffany & Shannon Turley, Holly & Hunter Sargent

WEB MASTER - Dave Miller

FACEBOOK - Linda Senechal

SET UP and CLEAN UP - Tiffany and Shannon Turley, Holly & Hunter Sargent, Mona Anderson & all officers

GREETER - Mary Andresen

SIGN POSTERS - Shannon, Tiffany, Holly Turley

SPEAKERS THIS YEAR - Mary Hartnett, Ron Wolff, Judi Swan, Beth Cherryholmes and Nancy Starr, Rhoda Nelson, Dave Vlastuin, Deborah Bailey

SPECIAL PROJECTS IN 2011 – Walk4Hearing/Steak Fry/St Cloud Conference/MCDHH/DHHS

OFFICERS - Carole Blowers, Linda Miller, Hunter Sargent, Merrilee Knoll, Shannon Turley, Holly Sargent, Bob Knoll, Judi Swan

PBS the Internet, Videos and Captions

Editor's Note: Dana Mulvany - I met Dana a number of years ago at an HLA convention. For years I had been reading her emails posted on many HOH web sites which always had so much information on new items, technology, advocacy, etc. She's very informational and shares what she finds out, to our good luck. This email has to do with PBS/the internet and frustration with captioning.

Today, I happened to discover that PBS.org had started to provide closed captions for Masterpiece Theater earlier this fall season. I found this out on my own after learning on Facebook.com that "Return to Cranford" had been put online; I went to the PBS.org site, clicked on the video, and was first presented with an uncaptioned video (an ad). When the Masterpiece Theater video started playing, I noticed that there was a "CC" option in the player (after bringing my cursor into the area of the video), and then clicked on it to turn on the CC.
(It's necessary to bring the video back to the beginning in order to catch all the dialog.)

I've learned since this discovery that PBS hadn't apparently made the captioning work for Internet Explorer yet. I was using the free Google Chrome browser. I would expect PBS to make the captions work with all browsers, however.

Many other television programs from other networks are available with captions at other web sites, too. CNET.com was perhaps the first web site to announce that they would start captioning their videos. (New ones can take a couple of days to get captioned.) Hulu.com offers captions for virtually all dramas and comedies from ABC, NBC and Fox and some series from pay TV networks. MSNBC quietly started offering a combination of subtitles/captions and an interactive transcript without any fanfare or a press release. TED.com doesn't show television programs but eventually provides English subtitles for every single one of its videos.

The 21st Century Video and Communications Accessibility Act, signed into law in 2010, will require all television programs that were originally captioned and which are broadcast online to be provided with captions. Thus it can be expected that more and more web sites will start providing captions for their online videos. Soon, if we've missed the broadcast of a television program, we'll be able to catch up with that television program if it's provided online!

Dana Mulvany
Differing Abilities
<http://dmulvany.blogspot.com/>

Number Crunching

By Sue Brabeck

I bought a new whiz-bang hearing aid this spring. The one I had, a Starkey Destiny CIC, was still working fine, but was getting on to 5 years old. I knew that technology has changed a lot in those 5 years, so I went to see Cami, my audiologist.

Cami really (really really!) knows my hearing issues and problems and my many little pet peeves about settings. She introduced me to the latest Starkey product, the Wi. She let me try it for months and months, making a lot of changes here and there. The product is new and had a few technical bugs, but she worked with Starkey and together, over time, we worked it all through to my clear satisfaction. It doesn't give me great hearing, but it is an improvement over my old Starkey Destiny. But how MUCH improvement is worth the expense?

After Cami and I worked through everything, I got the bill. Eeeeeek! I had been expecting the numbers I was presented, so it really wasn't a surprise to me, but seeing the \$2752 on paper was still a bit shocking. Ouch!

While the harsh reality of \$2752 was difficult to see, and even more difficult to write out on a check (teensy-weensy writing!!), during the months of trial, I had worked on rationalizing the expense. But, as HA users, how do we do that? How much would we pay for better hearing?

My Dad taught me a good lesson growing up, in that when faced with something like this, to break the \$\$-numbers down into something meaningful, before letting the whammy of the cost be a knee-jerk deterrent.

Here's what my thought process was – if I had a box on my kitchen counter, and each day I had to put some cash in there to function a bit better at work, to enjoy watching TV more, to be less scared of the phone, to be a bit less exhausted in the evening -- how much cash would I put in the box? \$50 a day? Probably not. \$1 a day? For sure.

The \$2752, broken down over an arbitrary life of a HA of 3 years (1095 days) comes to \$2.51 a day, less if my new HA lasts longer than 3 years. My question then was “Am I willing to pay \$2.51 each day for better performance?” Definitely!

It's this kind of analysis and number-crunching that made me feel better about the new Starkey Wi. Up front it's a serious expense, but amortized it over time, it broke down into something far more do-able.

The cost of hearing aids is a serious deterrent to many people. Individual economic situations as well as HA needs are unique. We each need to approach the expense with our set of rationalization tools and thought processes. Mine might seem too simplistic, but it worked for me!

Two of our members have had their first or second CI's, they are Linda Senechal and Dave Miller.



St Cloud

Meets the first Tuesday of each month
(March to December)
at Whitney Senior Center
from 6 - 7:30 PM.
Contact; Rich Diedrichsen at
Rich.Diedrichsen@state.mn.us
or Linda Hendrickson at
320-252-5867

Thank you to **Candace Meinders** for saving so many newsletter over the years. Vicki Martin the newest editor will house them as reference for working on the paper.

I hope everyone was able to watch the **Can Do Canines** on Ch. 4 news a couple of wks ago featuring a remarkable couple with their service dog. Here is another great story about a different person and her dog Jasmine, from the org. **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People**. <http://tinyurl.com/72efv92>

Amy Sargent at age 27 started losing her hearing, she is now deaf, read her story called "A Survival Guide for New Deafies!" more info. at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfk0pnt9fDQ>

Rod Saunders the first patient to undergo the multichannel cochlear implant operation at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in 1978, told **Professor Graeme Clark** the man who invented and championed the bionic ear, that the device was wonderful for speech but shocking for listening to music. Professor Clark received the CSL Florey Medal at a ceremony November 22, 2011 in Canberra, Australia

Arlene Romoff, a dynamic speaker with an uplifting story in her two books, "Listening Closely: A Journey to Bilateral Hearing" and "Hear Again: Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant." <http://www.listeningclosely.com/>

Join **Fred Flintstone** as different degrees of hearing loss are explained in cartoon fashion. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EJ4g3J6cJM>

Rock fan **Robert McIndoe**, 52 (London) committed suicide after going to a rock concert which caused his **tinnitus** to become so bad he had not slept for 3 months. His wife said he, "just wanted to end the pain." His psychiatrist said: "He accepted death as a side effect of stopping the noise." (Editor's note: Many of our HLAA TC people have t., there is no cure, but there are some remedies that help - keep looking for the remedy that works for you. It's hard very hard but stay strong).

FCC now requires religious broadcasters to carry closed captions Update Dec. 1, 2011

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 required the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a suitable timetable by which television broadcasters and equipment manufacturers would be required to provide closed captioning (or provide a text transcription of their programs) for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. The FCC required broadcasters to fulfill the closed captioning requirement by January 2006, but gave an exemption, called the "Anglers' Order," to small and medium sized religious broadcasters. The FCC has now reversed that decision. Broadcasters currently exempt from providing closed captioning have 90 days to comply, or obtain some other exemption. More at:

<http://tinyurl.com/3maxtvx>

JOTTINGS FROM JUDI

Judi Swan

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, I MADE REFERENCE TO TWO RECENTLY DISCOVERED WEBSITES THAT MAY INTEREST OUR MEMBERS. HERE ARE THOSE CONTACTS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

FOR A VIDEO CAPTIONING SITE, WHICH ALLOWS ONE TO MAKE THEIR OWN, OR VIEW OTHER CLOSED CAPTIONED FEATURES, GO TO dotSUB.com - AND FOR THE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THEATRE CAPTIONING IN THE METRO TWIN CITY AREA MARCUS SHOWPLACES, SIMPLY TYPE INTO YOUR SEARCHBAR - MARCUS CAPTIVIEW - AND IT WILL LEAD YOU TO INFORMATION WHICH INFORMS OF THEIR SYSTEM.

Rear Window Captioning at Marcus Theaters.



From Vicki Martin

Judi Swan did some investigating and shared with us at our November meeting movie captioning is coming to Marcus Theaters. I'll believe it when I see it! But in the meantime, I asked them about it too, to confirm if it is really true -- and simply to boost the number of people letting them know that we want this.

What if we all did that? We can! Go to www.marcustheatres.com. On the home page, there is a small "contact us" button in the upper left corner. Simply select "contact us" and then enter your name, email address and comment. That's all. There is no need to register, create a password, sign up for emails or anything else. Let's all do it now.

Five things every hard of hearing person knows (but sometimes forgets)

By Vicki Martin

1. Laughing because everyone else is laughing isn't always a good idea.
2. There is no reasonable answer to "Is that loud enough?"
3. When the cashier calls out "I can help somebody over here", it won't be you.
4. When the host asks "Would anyone like some...", you are not going to get any.
5. When "Silent Night" is the order of the season, you get to have the real thing!

ENTERTAINMENT



@@

Thank you to readers who offered ideas to help us figure out how to continue this Accessible Performance Calendar with greatly reduced funding! We are exploring some of those ideas now. If you have a chance, PLEASE send us a few words of how this calendar is important to you, or how you use it to find information you may not find elsewhere in order to attend a show with the services that benefit you or friends. These comments may help in encouraging a potential funder. Send any ideas to us via email (access@vsamn.org), or call 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883, ext. 2. THANK YOU for your interest!

To hear a weekly listing of accessible performances, call 612-332-3888.

On the web, accessible performances are listed at <http://www.vsamn.org/calendar.html> or <http://www.accesspress.org>. **c2 (caption coalition) inc.**, which does most of the captioned shows in Minnesota, also captions shows across the country: <http://c2net.org>.

@@

Hi, Folks!

Just wanted to remind those of you that have not yet RSVP'd, but plan to attend the annual Aloha Holiday party on Saturday, to RSVP no later than Thursday, December 8. I know some of you were waiting to see what the weather is supposed to be like on Saturday. Fortunately it's going to be a sunny, dry day! Let me hear from you! ThibodoD@aol.com

When: Saturday, December 10, 2011
Time: 5 pm to 11 pm
Social Hour: 5-6 Dinner begins at 6
Where: The Summit Executive Office Suites
1500 McAndrews Road West
Burnsville, MN 55337



❖ **Accessible movies:** Open captioning see <http://www.captionfish.com/>

❖ **Almanac**, a program shown statewide on Twin Cities Public TV (TPT), Channel 2, is **Captioned** on Fridays, 7:00 PM

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Our next meeting is December 17, 2011

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Linda Senechal, cilinda97@yahoo.com

This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

Meetings are held the 3rd 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