

# HLAA TC

## JUNE 2012



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

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

August 4, 2012 - Walk4Hearing Kickoff Dinner, place and time to be determined

September 15, 2012 - HLAA TWIN CITIES CHAPTER Meeting – beginning of 2012-2013 season

September 16, 2012  
Annual potluck Cochlear Implant Picnic at Brookview Park in Golden Valley, 11 -3:00

September 29, 2012  
TWIN CITIES Walk4Hearing Lake Calhoun Thomas (South) Beach. 9 AM registration, 10 AM walk!

October 20, 2012 - HLAA TWIN CITIES CHAPTER Meeting

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### Officers' emails

|  |
|--|
| • Judi Swan - <a href="mailto:president@hlaatc.org">president@hlaatc.org</a>               |
| • Monique Hammond - <a href="mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org">vicepresident@hlaatc.org</a> |
| • Bob Knoll - <a href="mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org">treasurer@hlaatc.org</a>               |

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

HLAA National - Maryland  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

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

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

## Officers for 2012 - 2013



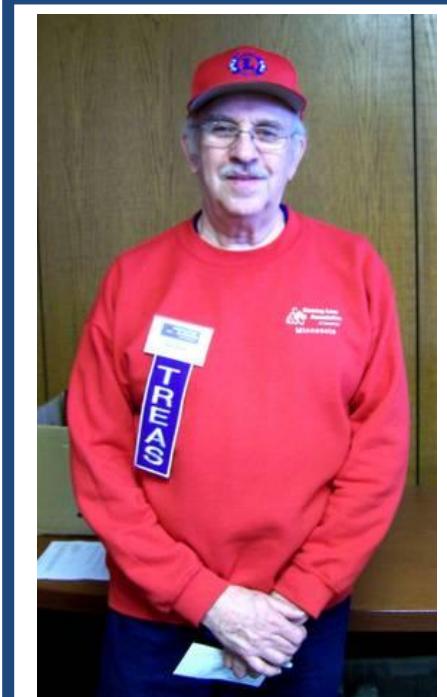
*President Judi Swan*



*Vice President Monique Hammond*



*Secretary Candace Meinders*



*Treasurer Bob Knoll*

Reserve the 3rd Saturday of each month from Sept. through May for the HLAA -TC meeting. Your officers are working hard to make the meetings interesting and informative for you.

Co-president Linda Miller opened the meeting, inviting participants to coffee and free information on the tables.

Co-president Carole then introduced Linda Miller, an active member and Board member, as our speaker. Her topic, "How to talk, and not to talk, to Hard of Hearing People," based on Sam Tychin's material. She met him at a Milwaukee conference; he is a Clinical Psychologist and has a hearing loss. The information she provided from his books and talks focus on surviving and communicating in our world.

- Rule 1. Look for areas in noisy situations that help us hear more adequately.
- Rule 2. Anticipate situations beforehand and find the best area for your hearing needs.
- Rule 3. Tell others how best to address and talk to you.
- Rule 4. It is our responsibility to educate others.
- Rule 5. We need to pay attention to the speaker.
- Rule 6. Ask for written clues of keywords if needed.
- Rule 7. Clarify plans and directions.
- Rule 8. Do not bluff and pretend to hear.
- Rule 9. Arrange for breaks if discussion is long.
- Rule 10. Provide speaker feedback positively.
- Rule 11. Do not interrupt too much.
- Rule 12. Set realistic expectation goals for understanding.



Next, came Communication Rules for Speaking to H.O.H. persons

- Rule 1. Get their attention first.
- Rule 2. Keep face clear of obstacles.
- Rule 3. Do not have objects in mouth.
- Rule 4. Speak clearly at a moderate pace.
- Rule 5. Use facial expressions and gestures.
- Rule 6. Give clues when changing subjects.
- Rule 7. Rephrase, if not understood first time.
- Rule 8. Don't shout.
- Rule 9. Avoid noisy backgrounds
- Rule 10. Be patient, positive and relaxed
- Rule 11. Talk to person, not about them.
- Rule 12. If in doubt, ask for suggestions to improve communication.



A video of the correct and incorrect way to address many different situations that we all face in our daily lives was shown, it was by Sam Trychin. Twenty vignettes offered much discussion on each one and many ideas were brought out that were very helpful.

*Continued on next page*

*Synopsis continued*

Linda closed with, "Sam tells us that we can be our own best advocate, that we have to, in order to make it in this world. We have to take the burden on ourselves and tell people what we need, but it's the best that we can do."

Coffee break pause was taken.

Candi informed of the Cochlear Implant Social group the following day.

Mary, our quote lady, gave a Maya Angelou quote, "I firmly believe that there is no place that God is not."

Sue Brabeck shared an article which was in a recent National Geographic (Titanic issue) about looping. This generated much feedback, and recognition of the fact that the US needs to "Loop America," much like the Europeans have done so successfully.

The door prize was drawn and Holly won a beautiful handmade apron.

Elections for 2012-2013 year were held and the following are the new officers for the coming year:

Judi Swan - President  
Monique Hammond - Vice President  
Candace Meinders - Secretary  
Bob Knoll - Treasurer  
Vicki Martin - Speaker Tracker (not an elected position)



Bob announced that his sought-after position as a trustee Board member of the Lions Hearing Foundation has been accepted.

The Defeat Hearing Loss Walk was announced for June 9th, at the U of M Landscape Arboretum.

The Second Annual Walk4Hearing will have its' Kickoff Dinner on August 4th, the place and time have not been announced yet.

Bob reported the treasury is in good shape, helped by the \$975 from the Steak Fry.

Judi mentioned that a third editor is needed to balance the workload of putting out a monthly newsletter. See Vicki Martin if you are interested. Also, two new columns will debut in the fall, "Letters to the Editor", handled by Vicki; and "I Have a Question," in which Judi will answer hearing related inquiries.

Linda adjourned the May meeting, and all retreated to the Potluck Luncheon.

## New Column

A new column called "I Have a Question" will be starting with the fall issue of our HLAA Monthly Newsletter. Vice President Judi Swan will be the facilitator.

Utilizing the experience as a deaf person, training as a Hearing Support Specialist, her involvement with Hearing Loss Association of America/Twin Cities, and research, she will take questions related to hearing loss and search out the answers.

Questions may be submitted to Judi by either email at [swanjudi@yahoo.com](mailto:swanjudi@yahoo.com) or in written form. The questions must have the name of submitter, but initials will be used if published, when requested.

## Correction:

I, Candi Meinders, have a few corrections from my member spotlight. I lost my hearing at 6 years old from chicken pox, scarlet fever, or measles. My parents did not take me to a specialist till I was in the 7th grade and I was fitted with my first aids soon afterwards. Partly because of peer pressure, I only wore them during 7th grade and I did not wear them again till 27 years of age for about 29 days because that was all I could afford then. I resumed wearing aids again when I was 34 years of age and wore them 8 1/2 years until I obtained my first cochlear implant at the U of M in 2002.

*From Bruce Hodek, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Division, MN Dept of Human Services, May 15, 2012*

### **National Council on Aging Links**

## **Hearing loss: It's a family affair**

Jacqueline Holton and her husband Lynn have taught line dancing at their community center for years. But when Jacqueline noticed more than "selective hearing" issues with her husband, she urged him to get a hearing test. Hearing loss affects 9 million seniors but is often untreated. As part of Better Hearing Month, NCOA and United Health Foundation are educating older adults about the signs of hearing loss and how to get help.

[Watch the video](http://waystohelp.ncoa.org/site/R?i=l9Fp9wl3MWNufiXaTTIgUQ) at <http://waystohelp.ncoa.org/site/R?i=l9Fp9wl3MWNufiXaTTIgUQ> |

[Get a free brochure](http://waystohelp.ncoa.org/site/R?i=94Uaon784rAqeMdwmh_Ttg) at [http://waystohelp.ncoa.org/site/R?i=94Uaon784rAqeMdwmh\\_Ttg](http://waystohelp.ncoa.org/site/R?i=94Uaon784rAqeMdwmh_Ttg)

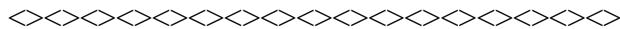


## **Adult Cochlear Implant Social Group**

Sunday, June 10, 2012, 1 – 4:00 pm  
Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Drive,  
Maplewood

Host: Candace Meinders

RSVP to [cmeinders@usinternet.com](mailto:cmeinders@usinternet.com)



**The TED Program** has been distributing a big button, easy-to-use, amplified cell phone as part of their inventory. If a Minnesota resident qualifies for the TED Program, the phone will be provided at no cost to the client but the client is responsible to pay (what I would consider reasonable) the service plan. The service plan includes no contracts, no early termination fees, free activation fee, operator assistance, live nurse, voicemail and car charger and leather case. Either a landline or wireless cell phone can be selected, unless the client needs both devices for health or emergency reasons. To learn more about the TED Program qualifications, visit [www.tedprogram.org](http://www.tedprogram.org) or contact [sarah.maheswaren@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.maheswaren@state.mn.us) , 651-431-5962.

## **Cochlear Implant Info**

Interested in finding out more about cochlear implants? A support group meets every month, usually on Sunday. To find out about the next group meeting, email Sara Oberg at [soberg3@fairview.org](mailto:soberg3@fairview.org).

Also, an annual picnic of cochlear implant users, candidates, and their families is held in September at Brookview Park in Golden Valley. This year it will be held on September 16 from 11:00 – 3:00. This is an opportunity to talk with many people of all ages who have a cochlear implant.

## ***A Message from your New President Judi Swan***

*Dear Fellow Members & Friends of HLAAC,*

*It is with great joy that I will serve as your president in the coming year for HLAAC/TC. Thank you for the trust you place in me.*

*I have felt led to invest the rest of my life developing and discovering the principles that produce healthy and knowledgeable advocacy for the deaf/HoH, and to stimulate growth in our chapter.*

*I will do my best to help others like myself, who know and experience 24/7 the difficulties that go hand-in-hand with a hearing disability.*

*We can work and serve together as we move forward in our team efforts. Remember the Walk4Hearing Campaign, and gather people to your team, or help out on someone else's effort. We all win.*

*As your Board meets a couple of times before September, to gather speakers and events that will keep our meetings interesting and fresh...we all look forward to a new, exciting year...see you in September!*

## Blue Ear

From the *New York Daily News*, May 26, 2012

Four year old Anthony Smith of New Hampshire didn't want to use his hearing aid, telling his mom that superheroes don't wear them. She emailed Marvel Comics when he wouldn't wear them to school.

Editor Bill Rosemann of Marvel, who has a 3-year old son, got to thinking what they could do to show that superheroes do wear hearing aids. "Maybe we can create a superhero that will make him feel good about wearing his hearing aid," Rosemann told The Daily News.

Rosemann first sent the Anthony's mom a comic book cover of Hawkeye, a member of the Avengers who lost his hearing. He also forwarded her email to some of Marvel's artists, who pitched in to create *Blue Ear*, a superhero whose distinctive listening device gives him supersonic hearing. The hearing device lets him hear "an ant hiccup on the other side of the country," Nelson Ribeiro, Blue Ear's co-creator, told CBS News HealthPop.

"The Blue Ear, along with the other superheroes of Inter-C.O.M., who are all special needs children, have banded together to use their newfound powers to fight crime and teach the world that no matter who you are, everyone has a hero inside of them."

"Thanks to my listening device, I hear someone in trouble," Blue Ear exclaims below in an otherwise inaudible cry for help.

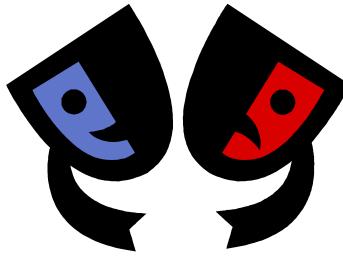
The company's gesture already has achieved the important goal that started it. Anthony now wants to wear his hearing aid "to fight bad guys and help people."



Image from Marvel Comics web site

Read more at **Marvel Comics** web site!

[http://marvel.com/images/gallery/story/18801/meet\\_the\\_blue\\_ear/image/920198](http://marvel.com/images/gallery/story/18801/meet_the_blue_ear/image/920198)



## **Summer Performances and Arts Events presented with Captioning Services**

The following summer performances are **Captioned**:

### **Guthrie Theatre**

**Website:** <http://www.guthrietheater.org>; **phone:** 612-377-2224, TTY 612-377-6626. **Tix:** **Reduced to \$25 for Captioning** (regular \$24-68);

### **The Amen Corner**

**Location:** Guthrie Theater Wurtele Thrust Stage.

**Captioning:** Fri., June 15, 7:30 PM

### **Roman Holiday**

**Location:** Guthrie Theater McGuire Proscenium Stage, 818 2nd St. S.,

**Captioning:** **Wed., July 18, 1:00 PM; Fri., July 20, 7:30 PM.**

### **Sunshine Boys**

**Location:** Guthrie Theater, 818 2nd St. S.,

**Captioning:** **Fri., Aug 17, 7:30 PM.**

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**Location:** Park Square Theatre, 408 Saint Peter St. (20 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Place), St. Paul.

### **Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Captioning:** Saturday, June 9, 7:30 PM; Sunday, June 10, 2:00 PM.

**Tix:** **Reduced to** half-price (\$18.50); **phone:** 651-291-7005.

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

**Location:** Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, St. Paul.

### **Fela!**

**Performed by:** Touring Company.

**Captioning:** Friday, June 15, 7:30 PM.

**Tix:** \$27-88; if using Captioning, request seating in that area; **phone:** 651-224-4222, TTY 651-282-3100 **Web:** <http://www.ordway.org/accessibility/>.

**FACEBOOK:** Sign up to connect with ASL Interpreted and Captioned Performances Across Minnesota on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ASL-Interpreted-and-Captioned-Performances-Across-Minnesota/257263087700814>)

## Pictures from the May Meeting

Vicki, Sue & Monique



Angie  
at the  
key-  
board



Check our Facebook page for upcoming events and last minute changes! Go to HLAA-TC on Facebook!!



Plan now to participate in the 2012 Walk 4 Hearing. The Minneapolis Walk will be held on September 29, 2012 at Lake Calhoun. The national 2012 fundraising goal is \$1.3 million. The Minneapolis W4H goal is \$40,000. Funds raised are shared between national and local HLAA.

## There are many ways to be involved in HLAA's Walk4Hearing.

The Hearing Loss Association of America's (HLAA) Walk4Hearing is the largest walk of its kind in the country that raises awareness and helps to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss. HLAA's Walk4Hearing is held in multiple cities across the country. Since 2006, over 26,000 walkers have stepped up and helped raise money for programs and services for people with hearing loss and their families. Money raised is shared between the national organization and local Walk sites. Examples of how funds are used include:

### National Programs and Services

- Provides timely and reliable information about hearing loss through its website, *Hearing Loss Magazine*, the online e-News, the Hearing Loss Support Specialists Training, message boards/chat forums, monthly webinars and holds annual conventions
- Works at the national level to affect legislation that impacts people with hearing loss, whether it's funding for hearing aids and cochlear implants, communication access in public places, or other important issues
- A nationwide network of 200 chapters providing personal support and 14 state organizations advocating for expanded state services
- Support for parents of children with hearing loss at [www.kidsandhearingloss.org](http://www.kidsandhearingloss.org)
- Outreach to veterans returning with hearing loss
- Social networking site for young adults with hearing loss at [www.hearingglossnation.org](http://www.hearingglossnation.org)

### Local Programs and Services

- Captioning and hearing assistive technology at HLAA chapter meetings to make them accessible
- Scholarships toward college tuition for students with hearing loss
- Funding for hearing aids and devices for people who cannot afford them
- Installation of hearing assistive technology in public places, such as community rooms and public libraries
- Captioning of live theater productions
- Seminars on coping with hearing loss for families

You may start your own team, or join with another team that is already formed, or walk as an individual. It is not mandatory that every walker on a team raise money for the Walk, but it is hoped that they will if they can. You may get support for the walk from your family, friends, neighbors, and/or coworkers.

For complete information on the Walk, go to

[http://hlaa.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=walk\\_home\\_page](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=walk_home_page)

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**Our next meeting is September 15, 2012**

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**Vice President – Monique Hammond**  
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**Secretary – Candace Meinders**

**Treasurer – Bob Knoll,**  
treasurer@hlaatc.org

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

**Photos – Ross Hammond**

**Newsletter Editors -**

Vicki Martin gimme88@aol.com  
Linda McIntire, cilinda97@yahoo.com

This month's editor is Linda McIntire

**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)**