

# HLAA TC MAY 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.

May 19, 2012 - Elections/Pot Luck, Linda Miller on Sam Trychin's "How to talk (and not talk) to Hard of Hearing people"

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

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

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

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## Officers' emails

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ☀ Carole Blowers and Linda Miller | <a href="mailto:president@hlaatc.org">president@hlaatc.org</a>         |
| ☀ Judi Swan -                     | <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

## Thanks, Presidents!

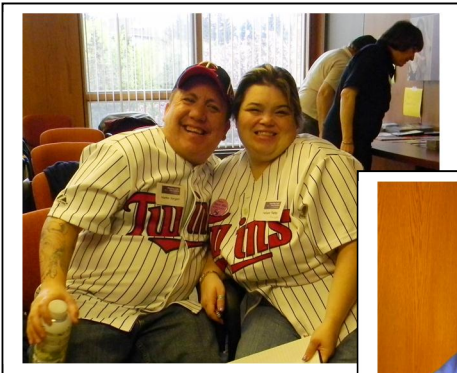
This month, a message to our presidents!



*Linda and Carole*

Would you believe we had a total of five presidents this year? Our most recent presidents, co-chairs Carole Blowers and Linda Miller, end their current term of responsibilities this month. We want to extend our heartiest thanks to both of them for stepping into the breach and so ably fulfilling the indispensable role of chapter president.

Thanks, in fact, to our entire board and all who served on it this year. They kept this organization going through difficult times, with hope, optimism and humor.



Vice President Judi Swan called the meeting to order. Bob Knoll introduced our featured speaker, Marlene Martinek. Marlene has been in the hearing industry since 1987. In 2004, while advocating for a 9 year old who was hearing impaired, she went to the Lions for help, and joined the Lions that same year. In 2008 she encouraged the Hearing Foundation to set up an affordable hearing aid program through recycled hearing aid collections. The program is strong and serves all of Minnesota.

Marlene explained the recycling program: the donated, used hearing aids are taken to Starkey for cash reimbursement. She requested our support to help place these boxes for aids and eyeglasses.

Three segments of the program were described:

1. Her work lobbying with clinics who work with Medical Assistance clients. Identifying clinics willing to participate has been a real challenge.

2. Recycling - Donated, used hearing aids that work can be directly recycled to patients, and others are sold to an all make lab at an average of five dollars each. They really want old aids, since manufacturers don't want to keep parts for repair over 5 years. Manufacturers are called to request free repair warranties, and it's rare that the five suppliers charge. Most replace parts free before returning aids to Lions. While pricing varies, everything is at Medical Assistance rates with \$500-600 being usual. This includes a one year warranty, 10 after-care visits and 12 packages of batteries.

3. Success Stories - In Alexandria, an elderly woman desperately needed hearing aids. A clinic in the area agreed to fit her with Lions aids.

In Dodge Center, a 6 year old girl needed hearing help. The Lions intervened with an arrangement whereby the Lions paid \$200, and the school paid \$200. The family also paid \$200, giving them a vested interest in the program. All this was done without the assistance of a clinic, since the school audiologist did the fitting.

Marlene closed by saying, "Every single person in this room can make a difference in someone's life simply by realizing and telling other people that you know recycling matters. By giving them back, you may very well help someone realize the gift of hearing. Instead of being isolated and not being able to get out, they will be able to get out and be able to converse. The goal is to be out there."

Treasurer Bob joined Marlene and told how he sold Merrilee's \$7,000 hearing aids on consignment for \$2,000. He presented a check to the Lions for this amount. He then gave Merrilee's two sets of hearing aids to her, along with another check for \$1,000 which was memorial monies received at Merrilee's passing. So, up to 9 persons will receive aids due to Bob's generosity.

Bob stated, "She's still giving, and I know how much we miss her. I know how much I do. But she is still giving, and I think she would be very, very proud today, of all of this."

Candi Meanders of Roseville provided our Member Spotlight. Candi lost her hearing at 3 or 4, while sick with chicken pox, scarlet fever and measles. Fitted with aids at 5, as she grew, so did peer pressure and she did not wear them from 7th grade to 28 years of age. Resuming again at age 34, she proceeded to obtain her first cochlear implant at the U of M. In 2008, she received a second implant at Mayo Clinic. Candi is active in Cochlear Implant Social, (see inset on page 7)

Our ASL Drill Coach, Vicki, a new grandparent, gave us words relating to family. Ending with "cute, sweet, milk, sleep, kinda covers it, that's all they do at that stage."

VP Judi reminded us of the Potluck for our May meeting, Board member elections at the May meeting, and the fall the fall Walk4Hearing. She is becoming involved with her local Oakdale Lions group, and is excited to mesh together HLAA/TC, Lions and Hearing Support Specialist schooling.

Treasurer Bob's report on the April Steak Fry showed \$975 raised serving about 175 persons. A very strong treasury is currently maintained, enough to buy equipment needed and the sound system. Bob adjourned the meeting.

## New columns to come

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 or in written form. The questions must have the name of submitter, but initials will be used if published, when requested.

### **FEEDBACK**

#### **Our Readers Write**

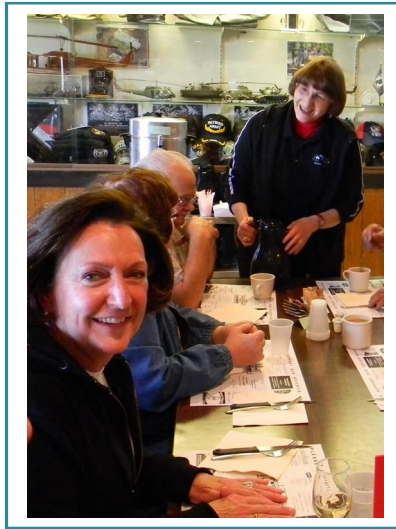
(or we wish they would!)

Also called "Letters to the Editor", this could be a great way for you to make your views known.

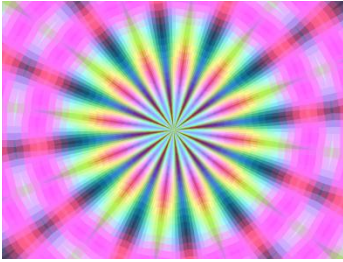
We will publish the Feedback column whenever YOU send us something to put into it!

Send your comments to the editors listed on the back page.





## Color Blind



*By Vicki Martin*

Does it matter what color your hearing aid is?

Being ever the pragmatic shopper, I have always tried to convince myself that only quality matters. The last time I bought a car, for example, I found just the right model for me. In fact, there were five of them at the same dealer, all identical except for color and mileage. All were the same price. Having convinced myself that the best bargain would be the one with the lowest mileage, I went prepared for my purchase.

The best bargain, by my reasoning, was a lovely silver-gray Subaru. I liked it. But it was a silver-blue one that really caught my eye. It had an extra thousand miles on it, but its color was irresistibly beautiful. I didn't buy it. Color doesn't matter, I told myself, quality does. Yet even now when I consider the pleasing silver-gray of the car I own, I can't help wishing that I had chosen the other one.

When it comes to hearing aids, most of us would probably agree that if it helps you hear, it doesn't matter what color it is. But I have learned something from a few of my very practical choices: color does matter. It matters on your car, it matters on your walls, it matters on your clothing. And it matters on your ears.

This was brought home to me by Yvain, our hard of hearing, blind and mentally challenged son, who lives in a group home for men with disabilities. He recently went for his audiology appointment as he does once or twice a year, and we learned he was eligible for new hearing aids. That was good news, since one of his old ones is missing and the other seems to not always work for him.

After his hearing test, the audiologist asked him if he'd like to go with the standard beige hearing aids again, or try a fun color. Since his hearing aids are often misplaced, I thought color would be the practical way to go. Maybe a colored hearing aid would be easier to spot than a beige one.

I didn't make the mistake of trying to persuade Yvain based on this reasoning, of course. Instead, I repeated the list of cool colors the doctor had given: Red! Blue! Purple! Giraffe! Zebra! His eyes – or rather his eye, lit with enthusiasm. "What do you think?", I asked.

"Animal!" he whispered so loudly I could hear some breathiness (though not the word).

"Animal?" I repeated. "You want animal?"

He nodded vigorously.

"Which animal?" I asked. "Giraffe or Zebra?"

With that, he launched into a percussion solo, pounding out on his knees the hoofbeats of his equine choice.

But wait! We weren't done yet. When the doctor showed us the actual array of "fun" hearing aid cases, I realized that Zebra, though more visible than beige, was still rather subdued. Yvain had impressions taken of his ears, and the doctor was

putting in the order for them when it occurred to me – they come in colors too!

“What about colored earmolds?” I asked her.

She turned around. “Yeah, we can do that!” she said.

“Red?” I asked. “Do they come in red?”

Zebra with red earmolds. Yvain has never been so enthusiastic about hearing aids before. Proof, I would say, that color matters -- even if color is only in one’s memory.

## TPT Captioning

Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) provides real time captioning for their Almanac and Almanac at the Capitol TV programs through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce - Telecommunications Access Minnesota. Staff from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services oversee this grant.

On **Friday, May 11, 2012** during (or immediately following) the **7:00 p.m. Almanac** program, TPT will solicit comments regarding their live real time captioning service. If you are unable to watch the May 11, 7:00 p.m. Almanac program, it will be repeated. For an up-to-date schedule check the TPT website at <http://www.tpt.org> and click on TV Schedules.

Please help spread the word. It would be great if TPT viewers from across the state would take time to watch the program and offer their feedback to TPT.

### Adult Cochlear Implant Social Group

Sunday, May 20, 2012

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Augsburg Park Library

7100 Nicollet Ave.

Richfield , MN 55423

612.543.6200

<http://www.hclib.org/AgenciesAction.cfm?agency=AP>

Host: Joe Sehl

Please send your RSVP to Joe Sehl

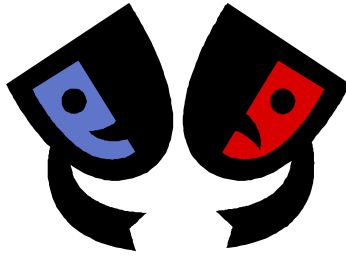
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You are welcome to bring a spouse, partner, friend, family member, and/or significant other to any of these events! If you would like to bring a refreshment to share that would be wonderful!

We hope you can make it! :)

**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.



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

The following performances through June 30 will be **Captioned**:

**\*\*\* Addams Family**

**Performed by:** Touring Company.

**Location:** Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Main Hall, 345 Washington, St. Paul.

**Captioning:** Friday, May 18, 7:30 PM (by c2 inc.).

**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/>.

**\*\*\* The Amen Corner**

by James Baldwin, directed by Lou Bellamy, musical direction by Sanford Moore.

**Performed by:** Penumbra Theatre, presented at the Guthrie Theater.

**Location:** Guthrie Theater Wurtele Thrust Stage, 818 2nd St. S., Minneapolis.

**Captioning:** Wed., May 23, 1:00 PM; Fri., June 15, 7:30 PM by c2 inc.

**Tix:** **Reduced to \$25 for Captioning** (regular \$24-68); phone: 612-377-2224, TTY 612-377-6626.

**Website:** <http://www.guthrietheater.org>.

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

By Neil Simon, directed by Zach Curtis.

**Performed by:** Park Square Theatre.

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

**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)

**\*\*\* Fela!**

**Performed by:** Touring Company.

**Location:** Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Main Hall, 345 Washington, St. Paul.

**Captioning:** Friday, June 15, 7:30 PM (by c2 inc.).

**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/>.



## Signs of Love' Musical

Signs of Love play, is an original, interactive musical performed in American Sign Language by children. Deaf performers along with voice interpreters present this exhilarating story uniquely accessible to all.

The play, Signs of Love, highlights the acting talents of local deaf children portraying everyday heroes found in our community and their transforming effect on one lonely boy's heart. The performance takes place at Lakeville Area Arts Center, (20965 Holyoke Ave, Lakeville, MN) on Friday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 19th, 1:00 p.m., and actors are Deaf children.

The Signs of Love play is a musical, presented in American Sign Language with voice interpretation for hearing audience members. The Signs of Love play empowers deaf children and highlights their talents while also providing service in the community. As part of the production, deaf actors worked with Lakeville First Responders . Police and Fire Departments . to provide training on how to best communicate with Deaf people in an emergency situation.

As part of the production, video shorts were created, such as an emergency scene and a wedding scene. For the wedding scene guests brought charity items wrapped as gifts. The charity gifts were donated to World Relief MN, an organization that supports immigrants settling in Minnesota.

Play tickets are \$12 and available online with a credit card at [www.signsofloveplay.org](http://www.signsofloveplay.org) or email [signsofloveplay@gmail.com](mailto:signsofloveplay@gmail.com) to purchase tickets with checks or cash.

This play is an opportunity for people to focus on our similarities rather than differences and to highlight the talents of Deaf children. It is a message of love and acceptance and all who see it will experience a sense of community and joy,+said Cindy Dively, Signs of Love co-director.



## Clarification: Speaker Record Keeper

Last month, Judi Swan announced that Vicki Martin would be our chapter's Speaker Coordinator. I did indeed agree to do this. However, the job title may be a bit misleading. It does not mean that I will find, decide upon and schedule speakers for our meetings. That will continue just as we have been doing. I will be keeping a list of speakers we have had, and suggestions for future speakers. Speaker Record Keeper may be a more apt job title. Judi's details were on the mark:

Provide Vicki with:

1. Ideas you may have on speakers or topics you would like to see at our monthly meetings.
2. Names and contact information for persons you know who may be willing to speak, who have something we can learn from them.
3. Names of speakers who have been with us in the past who may have updated information to share with us.
4. A topic you may be willing to share with the group that may have relevance or interest to our HLAA group.

Vicki, in turn, will keep track of this information, passing it onto the Board for their planning purposes.



Lee Perish, friend and sometimes attendee at HLAA meetings, died unexpectedly in February. Those who knew her miss her very much.

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## First Class

**Mail to: HLA Twin Cities Chapter  
PO Box 8037  
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**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)**