

# HLAA TC

# March 2015



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.

## March 21, 2015

Tanya Gahler, "Hear the Possibilities"

## April 18, 2015

Gary Johnson, "Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft"

## May 16, 2015

Mary Bauer, "DHHS services for people with hearing loss"

Annual elections and pot luck lunch



## Contents

■ President's Message	Page 2
■ Meeting Synopsis	Page 3
■ Notes from Treasurer	Page 4
■ Counting on Tech	Page 5
■ Accessible Arts	Page 6
■ Freebies	Page 7
■ Events	Page 8
■ Photos	Pages 9-10

## Officers' emails

- **Christine Morgan** - [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)
- **Lionel Locke** - [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)
- **Lisa Richardson** - [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)
- **Marie Saliterman** - [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

**HLAA TC Website - Minnesota**

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

**HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672**

**Contact Information - Minnesota**

[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

**HLAA National - Maryland**

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

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) is held the 3rd Saturday of the month (September thru May). We gather at 9:30 to socialize, and begin our meeting at 10 AM at The Courage Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55442. The meeting adjourns at noon.

# President's Message

January 2015



*Christine Morgan*

## President's Message

March 2015

By the time you read this, Meet with Your Legislator Day (March 4) will be over. Most of you are aware that the issues have major impact on those of us with hearing loss. Captioning, hearing aid tax credit, regulations regarding t-coils when being sold a hearing aid, are just a few of the issues. Lionel (our Vice President) attended and will give us a review during the March chapter meeting. I hope that many of you had the opportunity to participate.

You may also be aware of the confusion "out there" regarding people with hearing loss. I am not speaking about the culturally Deaf (usually but not always pre-lingual). Culturally Deaf use visual means of communication as opposed to auditory. What makes this all the more interesting is that the culturally Deaf are such a small minority when it comes to people with hearing loss.

Many bureaucrats, educators, industry and the public do understand how necessary it is to make the distinction between culturally Deaf and those with hearing loss (previously known as hard-of-hearing). We are often thrown together in one "category" rather than providing separate programs and services to each group. We do have some overlapping but distinct needs, however.

Most people find the concept of total deafness easier to understand than partial hearing loss. I have heard many stories about people with hearing loss being offered ASL interpreters when so few of us know ASL. Medical clinics are required to provide the signing interpreters but are not required to providing captioning, looping, etc. I'm not going to get into the ADA issues at this time but legally they are required to be sure the patients understand what transpires during a visit, etc.

If we mention our hearing loss, we are offered more volume! We go to certain theaters and are offered headsets that don't work well with hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. We are thrilled with theaters that offer plays with captioning. Though a loop would be better but for many of us, this is the first chance in many years to attend a play and know what is going on. I could go on and on about this but I will get off my soapbox.

Let's consider HLAA-TC as not only a support group providing education and advocacy but also a special interest group. Unlike the culturally Deaf, we often hide usually our hearing loss, sometimes deny it, and are embarrassed by it. Instead, let's get the word out. Let's speak for the silent majority with hearing loss. It's time to demand (politely, of course) that we be provided with the services we need and deserve. The first step is to let "them" know what we need in order to improve our ability to understand and communicate. That first step can make a world of difference for all of us.

Christine

## HLAA TC February Meeting Synopsis



by Lionel Locke  
HLAA-TC VicePresident

President Christine Morgan called the meeting to order at 10 AM. She welcomed all those in attendance and then introduced our speaker Dr. Barbara Friedman from the University of Minnesota. Barbara has a Clinical Doctorate in Audiology with a joint emphasis on pediatrics and adult cases. Her current work load is diagnostics, hearing aids and cochlear implants. She presented information on features of hearing aids and cochlear implants along with tips troubleshooting and maintaining equipment.

Dr. Friedman began her presentation by stating that we cannot make hearing perfect; our expectations need to be realistic particularly with severe hearing loss. In order to have good communication, we need both a talker and a listener. Even normal hearing people have difficulty at times in adverse situations. Communication then may be difficult for all people.

Dr. Friedman explained the audiogram, adult hearing loss characteristics, the outer and inner ear structure, and the cochlea (with 20,000 hair cells and nerve endings in normal ears.) Hearing aids will amplify sound to make up for missing hair cells; cochlear implants will bypass those hair cells connecting 20 channels to 20,000 hairs highlighting our need for expectations about perfection with our hearing technology. Patience is the key in enjoying what we can hear with our equipment.

New technology continues to reach the market; Dr. Friedman outlined several new features for hearing aids including Duo-phone features, directional microphones, noise reduction, frequency compression, Bluetooth connectivity, microphone and hearing aid filters, drying agents, and reverberation reduction.

Dr. Friedman answered many questions from the audience during her presentation including implant studies at various clinics, how often do you adjust hearing aids, different testing methods to determine adjustments, fine tuning of equipment, and hybrid implants.

Dr. Friedman closed her presentation with a list of things to do: Ask your audiologist, learn about your equipment, keep it repaired and clean, ask questions, let people know about your hearing difficulty, join groups, and be your own advocate.

After the break, the group was given a brief sign language lesson from Vicki Martin, then President Christine Morgan's presentation on US Presidents who had hearing loss. Vice President Lionel talked about "Meet your Legislator Day: on March 4th and upcoming legislation both State wide and National.

Our treasurer Marie talked about the steak fry and Bob Knoll announced he had more tickets to sell. There being no further business to discuss, President Morgan adjourned the meeting.

### Thanks – and Safety Notes

Marie Saliterman  
*Treasurer, HLAA-TC*

Thank You to everyone who has signed up for Membership for the 2014/15 term. Please see page 12 for Annual Membership pricing due each September. We want to keep you informed, engaged and happy with HLAA-TC. Everyone on the board is open to your ideas and/or suggestions.

I am also on the Board for DHHS (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services) and one of the Committee members shared a link to a video with us. The video was developed by Tarra Grammenos regarding interactions between police officers and individuals who are deaf. It reconfirms the information that we learned from Speaker Wendy Devore a couple of months ago. The same pertains to Hard of Hearing people. In my opinion it is very good video and wouldn't hurt to view so we remember to stay calm and know what to do should an interaction with a police officer occur.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtbDQwwePWk>



## Counting on Tech

*Vicki Martin*



I can't complain that there aren't enough assistive devices. Shall we count them? Besides the requisite hearing aid and cochlear implant, I have a pocket talker with multiple microphones, a remote control for my CI, several programs on each hearing device, two different captioned telephones, a "wand" microphone, silhouette headsets, an FM set (transmitter and receiver), a standard neckloop, and an amplified neckloop. Each of these depends on one or more of the following: an assortment of cables (each having two ends, and choices of mono or stereo and 2.5mm or 3.5mm on each end), several adapters (with same choices), and batteries (disposable or rechargeable). If these were fashion accessories, I could be having fun. These accessories, however, don't need to look good. I just need to make them work together.

Let's say I pick up that FM receiver. The transmitter also must be on, and working. It must have a good microphone. I'll need a neckloop. An adapter. The right program settings on both my hearing aid and cochlear implant processor. Still doesn't work? Maybe it's the batteries in the receiver. (Insert new batteries). Nope, still doesn't work. (Put old ones back in). Oh, then maybe it's the battery in the amplified loop. No, it wasn't that one either. Oh, wait! What if both batteries are getting low? And maybe I should check the batteries in my hearing aid and CI processor too. I make sure there are good batteries in everything, but....it still doesn't work. Well, it could be something wrong with the device itself. But which device? Receiver? Loop? Transmitter? Hearing aid? CI processor? Let's guess it might be the amplified loop. The battery is good, but could the amplifier be broken? Or maybe there is a break or crack in the wire. Or it could be the adapter. Is it mono or stereo?

As the number of variables in a setup increases, the number of combinations of things that could go wrong rises exponentially. A modest guess at the number of critical points of connection might be ten (four devices, each with its own batteries/cables/adapters/programs/microphones as appropriate). With a Y/N (either it works or it doesn't) possibility for each, that gives us 2 to the 10th power – or, more than a thousand ways for it all to not work together.

The wonder is that it often does.

When I get it all assembled, adjusted, and strapped on with various pockets, clips and ties, I am ready. For what, one might wonder. All that appears to be missing is the detonator.

Fashion statement it is not.

At least they all come in basic black.



Accessible Arts  
(A sampling of accessible theater offerings)



**\*\*\* The Manchurian Candidate**

Music by Kevin Puts. Libretto by Mark Campbell

**Performed by:** Minnesota Opera

**Location:** Ordway Center Music Theatre, 345 Washington St., St. Paul.

**Captioning:** March 7, 12, 14 at 7:30 PM; March 8 & 15, 2:00 PM. Sung in English with English **captions** projected above the stage at every performance.

**Tix:** \$25-200; phone: 612-333-6669.

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

**\*\* The Illusionists.**

**Location:** Ordway Center Music Theatre, 345 Washington, St. Paul.

**Captioning:** Thursday, March 26, 7:30 PM.

**Tix:** \$33-110; **if using captioning, request seating in that area;** phone: 651-224-4222, TTY 651-282-3100

**Web:** <http://www.ordway.org/accessibility/>.

**\*\*\* Annie.**

Touring show. Book and score Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin

**Location:** Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis.

**Captioning:** Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM. (Captioning by c2 inc.)

**Tix:** \$49 to \$89. Limited seats are available at the lowest price level to patrons using captioning services on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices apply for up to two tickets for each patron requiring captioning. Additional seats may be sold separately and at regular price. To order, email [accessible@broadwayacrossamerica.com](mailto:accessible@broadwayacrossamerica.com); phone: 612-339-7007.

**Website:** <http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/accessible>.

# FREEBIES!

## (Awesome equipment at no cost!)

### PHONAK HEARING AID

One Phonak Hearing Aid

### CAPTEL PHONE

Captel telephone complete, with handbook

### STREAMER

One Phonak Bluetooth System-Streamer

contact: Judi Swan at [swanjudi@yahoo.com](mailto:swanjudi@yahoo.com)

### CI FILTERS

Set of filters for Cochlear Americas Nucleus 5

Contact: Vicki Martin at [gimme88@aol.com](mailto:gimme88@aol.com)

### MICROPHONE

Unitron uMic with mini USB splitter. Requires UDIRECT 2 and Unitron Hearing Aids.

Contact: Christine Morgan at [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org) or at the HLAA-TC meeting.

Got stuff?

Advertise here to find a home for hearing equipment or accessories you can no longer use.

Make someone happy!

## STEAK FRY HLAA-TC'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Wednesday April 8, 2015

tickets \$11

5-7 PM

Crystal VFW

5222 Bass Lake Road

Tickets available at the March HLAA-TC meeting, and at the door

Volunteers needed -- See Bob Knoll



## Loop Minnesota

**Loop Minnesota** meets on the *second Friday of the month* in the St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers located at 5005 Minnetonka Blvd. St. Louis Park. The meetings run from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The Chambers are "looped."

Everybody is invited to join our group and discussions as we set out to Loop Minnesota. First-time guests are treated to pizza. Your ideas and input are both needed and welcome. Visit us at [loopminnesota.org](http://loopminnesota.org) and let us know if you plan to attend.

Next meeting date: **Friday April 10, 2015 11:30 – 1 PM**

## March Cochlear Implant Group

Historic St. Paul Union Depot

Sunday March 29, 2015

1:30 to 4 PM,

hosted by Donna Savage

The Railroad Authority has approved a free room for our group: the Historic St. Paul Union Depot Gateway Conference Room on the 3rd floor.

find near-by parking at <http://www.uniondepot.org/about/parking/>

There is also free Street parking at meters on Sundays in downtown St. Paul.

The Green line light rail stops at the front of the Union Depot and several buses also go directly to the depot.

The building is on the National Register of Historic places.

St. Paul Union Depot

214 4th St E, St Paul, MN 55101

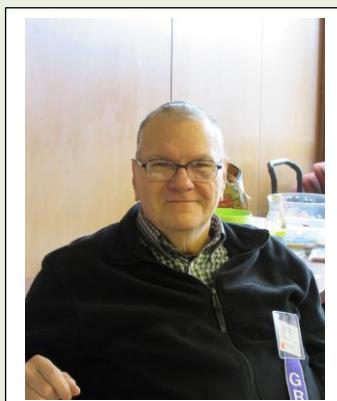
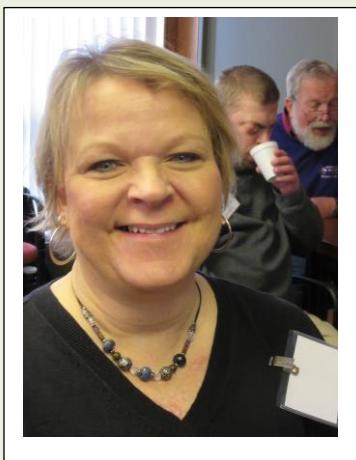
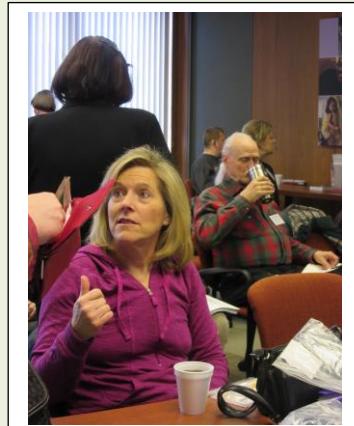
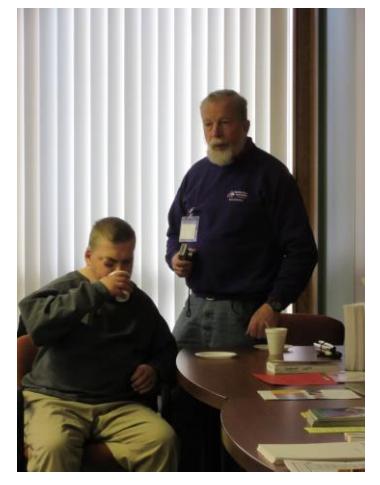
## February HLAA-TC Meeting



February speaker  
Dr. Barbara Friedman



## February HLAA-TC MEETING



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



Let us help you with that.

**The UPS Store™**

Shipping Services

Packaging Services

Mailbox & Postal Services

Copying Services

Finishing & Printing Services

©2003 United Parcel Service of America, Inc.



6066 Shingle Crk PKWY  
Near Target  
Brooklyn Center MN 55430  
763-560-1282  
(fax)560-1014

## Neighborhood Licensed Audiologist

Privately Owned Clinic • Support Local Business!

Individualized Care and Attention

Respect Your Hearing!



**CHEARS™**  
AUDIOLOGY

[www.chearsaudiology.com](http://www.chearsaudiology.com)

KIM FISHMAN  
Licensed Audiologist  
19 Years Experience

5808 W. 36th St., St. Louis Park, MN 55416 • 952.787.0672

**Jerri McMahon, BC-HIS**

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist



Lic. # MN - 2009

Tel: 763-533-5722

Fax: 763-533-5654

[jerri.mcmahon@amplifon.com](mailto:jerri.mcmahon@amplifon.com)

5640 W Broadway Avenue

Suite B

Crystal, MN 55428

Visit us on-line at [www.miracle-ear-crystalmn.com](http://www.miracle-ear-crystalmn.com)

Newly updated!  
*clarity*  
*Ensemble™*

**The Amplified Captioned Phone  
that Keeps You in the Conversation!**

- 50dB amplification
- 8" captioning touchscreen
- Speakerphone



**FREE Catalog!** [www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com) • (800) 825-6758

**100% Satisfaction Guarantee: Free Shipping & Returns!**

\*details on website

BROOKLYN CENTER  
**FASTSIGNS**

- Full Color Banners
- Vinyl Lettering & Decals
- Tradeshow Products
- Magnets & MORE...

392@fastsigns.com • 6098 Shingle Creek Pkwy

**763.503.1503**



*HLAA-TC would like to thank our  
professional members for their support.*

We appreciate your doing business with our advertisers. However, we cannot endorse any particular individual or business that advertises in this newsletter.

HLAA TC  
PO Box 8037  
Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037



**Our next meeting is March 21, 2015**

## First Class

### HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State..... Zip.....

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

Individual \$15

Professional \$50

Supporting \$100

Newsletter only \$15

Contact me for newspaper advertising

**Mail to:** **HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**  
**PO Box 8037**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037**



**Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You!**

**President - Christine Morgan -**  
president@hlaatc.org

**Vice President - Lionel Locke**  
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

**Secretary - Lisa Richardson**  
secretary@hlaatc.org

**Treasurer - Marie Saliterman**  
treasurer@hlaatc.org

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

**Photos -** Vicki Martin

**Newsletter Editor -**  
Vicki Martin, editor@hlaatc.org

**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) or visit us on Facebook: groups/HLAA-TC.**