

HLAA TC

January 2018



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

Next Speaker:

January 20, 2018

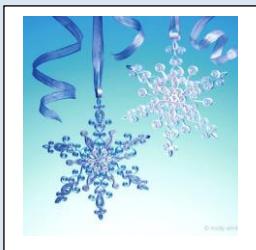
Emory David Dively,
Office of Mary Hartnett, MCDHH
Legislative Update

February 17, 2018

Peggy Nelson, Center for Applied
Translational Sensory Science
CATSS research update

March 17, 2018

To be announced.



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Officers' emails

- **Christine Morgan** - president@hlaatc.org
- **Kathleen Marin** vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- **Lionel Locke** - secretary@hlaatc.org
- **Marie Saliterman** - treasurer@hlaatc.org

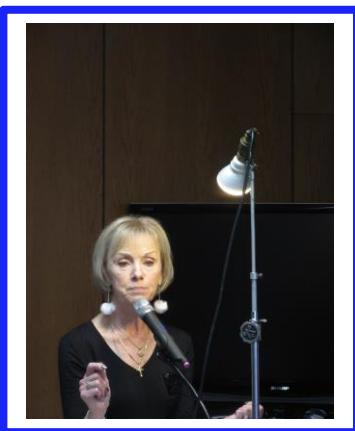
HLAA TC Website - Minnesota
www.hlaatc.org

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672
Contact Information - Minnesota
info@hlaatc.org

HLAA National - Maryland
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 Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55442. The meeting adjourns at noon.

President's Message



HLAA-TC President's Message

JANUARY

I am absolutely not going to talk about the weather!!!!!!

We only have 5 more months remaining of our session. We've had a great first half and there are more exciting speakers and topics to come.

We will be getting our legislative update from Emory Dively, Deputy Director of the Commission of Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. Then in February, we have Peggy Nelson from CATSS with a research update. Lots of good information from both of these sources. You won't want to miss these presentations. Actually, I would encourage you attend as many presentations as you can. We strive to provide you with the best topics and speakers to keep you well informed.

We will be having our elections of officers soon and

we would love to have you become more involved in your organization. Marie and I will be stepping down. Would you like to be the VP? The Treasurer?

Also we will be needing at least one (maybe two) greeters asap as Barbara and Mike are away. Our members and visitors would love to see a smiling, friendly face when they come in the door. No sourpusses need apply! Let me or one of the other officers know as soon as you can.

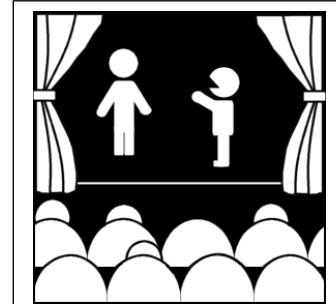
Seriously though.... we have a great and viable chapter. So many of you stepped up to help with the conference. We would love to have you get more involved in learning how the chapter functions and helping make it even better. We love new blood!!!!

That being said, I hope you have a terrific 2018.

Christine

Additional words from the president:

NOTE to those who attend the Brave New Workshop productions: You need to call at least 5-7 days ahead of the production to request ALDs. They do NOT own them but merely rent them upon request.





Kathleen Marin, Vice-President

Meeting Summary December 16, 2017

President Christine Morgan opened the meeting at 10am. Each board member spoke briefly, asking for a donation of a pocket talker, thanking the members for all their help during the conference, reminding us that we can now text to 911, and that the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra is a mix of music and speaking, and they are getting more ALDs. Then past president Monique Hammond introduced our speakers, covering the topic of equitable access at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport: Phil Burke, Director of Operations at the MSP airport; Andrew Palmberg, Chairperson of TDAC, the Travelers with Disabilities Advisory Committee; George Callow, Supervisor, TSA; and Anita Bellant, Diversity Manager, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). All speakers are also members of MAC.

Phil started by sharing the MAC vision: your best airport experience, for every segment of the traveling population. He also reported that our MSP airport won the award for the best large airport in North America, according to Airport Service Quality. Andrew explained that equal access is giving everyone the same opportunities or services, regardless of disability, and equitable access is giving more opportunities or services to the people who need them. That way, everyone has the same experience. They then provided several examples at the airport: wider aisles to accommodate a wheelchair; vertical displays of products so everyone can reach them; restaurant tables that accommodate wheelchairs and families or groups; emergency training exercises using volunteers with disabilities; developing a technology to help people with low vision navigate the airport; VRI, or video relay interpreting at the information booth; remodeled restrooms with service animal relief areas, accessible stalls, adult changing rooms, and no noisy hand dryers; hearing loops at the information booths and conference room with the eventual goal of loops in all the public spaces; therapy dogs; a program on the weekend to introduce travelers to the airport and reduce their anxiety; flow-through elevators; new signage with international symbols; and closed captioning on all TVs.

George described the Passenger Support Program and TSA Cares, a national program available at all larger airports. The goal of this program is to provide whatever assistance is needed, starting at the curb, getting through check-in and screening, going to the gate and responding to changes of gates or times of flights. This service is also available to people with temporary disabilities, like a broken ankle. Basically, an officer is

(December meeting summary, cont.)

assigned to each traveler who registers with the program and will get them through the airport in the most expedient and efficient way.

Anita emphasized the importance of contacting her or the customer information line with questions or concerns about accessibility and accommodations. Moreover, any suggestions we have will benefit not only ourselves, but other passengers as well.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to our holiday party and socializing, including with our speakers. We had a lot of fun with the white elephant gift exchange, the pot luck and the cookie sale. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Introducing our January Speaker



Emory David Dively

Emory David Dively, deputy director on MCDHH joined the Commission in the summer of 2016. He has an extensive background in budgeting, development of office systems, data archiving, supervision, communications, and technology. His unique skills aid the Commission in managing the scope, timelines, and budgets for the many activities and events undertaken by the Commission. Emory has a B.A. in Deaf Culture Ministries and an M.A. in Communications and Leadership. He is a Coda (Child of Deaf Adults) and personally has a hearing loss. If asked, Emory would be happy to explain why the Packers are the best football team in the U.S.

Emory is a member of the Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MRID), the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens (MADC), Hearing Loss Association of America - Twin Cities (HLAA-TC), and ADARA.

He also serves on the Minnesota Historical Society's Access Advisory Committee.



A LESSON IN GRATITUDE

Kathleen Marin

As many of you know, I had radiation treatment of my acoustic neuroma followed 18 days later by cochlear implant surgery on the other ear. What most of you don't know is just how debilitating this process was for me because I had an uncommon response to the radiation. In addition to the normal fatigue and headache for the first several days after radiation, I later developed sudden hearing loss, vertigo, nausea, balance problems, distorted vision, facial spasms, headaches, distorted taste (chocolate tasted VILE – a true punishment!) and incredible fatigue that I described as Superwoman being shot with kryptonite. This all started 2 days after my implantation and, according to Mayo, the timing was just coincidental. And speaking of timing, this was during the holiday season and lasted for weeks. Plus, it made recovery from the surgery that much more challenging.

Over the years, I have encouraged many people to ask for help and accept help that was offered. I was now in the position of having to practice what I preached. What a role reversal! I'm the main caregiver in my family, plus the main organizer in the home, plus I worked for quite a few years as a psychologist. I had to sit back and watch as my husband took over all the household tasks, like cooking, cleaning, laundry, shopping. And he did them very, very well. In addition, he took care of me. My generous neighbors not only brought over food but "atmosphere," holiday candles, napkins and decorations, especially appreciated since we were delayed in decorating for Christmas. I contacted hospice and let them know that I would not be able to see my mother very often, and they came through and made sure she had visitors most days. I could not have made it through the rough times without my friends. They picked me up and took me out: breakfast, lunch, a craft show, holiday exhibit, etc. They listened while I shared my fears, let me cry, at least as much as I was able to with the restriction of not being allowed to blow my nose, and reassured me that we would all adapt to whatever my new situation turned out to be. Other friends offered advice and support via email and Facebook.

I cannot imagine trying to cope with all of this without relying on friends and family. Their love and concern made my recovery faster and smoother. Sharing the pain as well as the humor brought us closer together, which is saying something since we've been friends for 20 years or more. The same holds true for family. I believe my friend put it best when she said that helping me helped them, made them feel like they were important and could do something tangible for me. Just as I would want to help out a friend, they wanted to help me. So, the next time you are in a bind, remember that it is a kindness to ask for and accept help from your friends and family! Oh, and by the way, I am well on my way to returning to my normal, energetic, positive self. The best part? Chocolate tastes good again!

(reviews by Vicki Martin)

Book review: O Kinky Turtle! (by Jo Bailey)

According to the book's subtitle, this is a collection of "Stories of Misheard Adventures". We've all had them. In hindsight, most of them can be pretty funny. Author Jo Bailey capitalizes on this truth in her willingness to laugh at herself, and share her experiences with her readership.

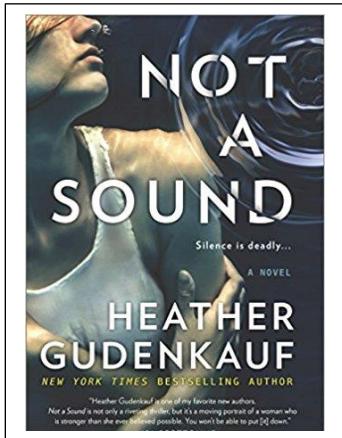
Jo has a Master's degree in Speech and Hearing Disorders, and she intersperses her stories with informational sidebars containing 'Hearing Advice', 'Hearing insight', or 'Did You Know?' questions answered.



The book is available in paperback from Amazon, and may be available soon as an e-book. At \$14.95, it is a bit pricey for such a slim volume, but is good for a few laughs. It could also provide a tactful way to provide information about hearing loss to someone new to the game.

By the way. The title 'O Kinky Turtle!' derives from Jo's experience participating in her church choir. "Lead on, O kinky turtle," she sang loudly. No one noticed the errant consonants.

Book review: Not A Sound (by Heather Gudenkauf)



Available in bookstores, and at Amazon

Hardcover \$17.70

Paperback \$12

e-book \$9.99

audio CD \$27.75

Heather Gudenkauf, a deaf author, has written a mystery thriller whose main character is also deaf. Amelia is thrown into an unexpected and disturbing situation when she discovers the body of a fellow nurse. In any thriller – real or fictional – we feel safest if we can see without being seen, and hear without being heard. The deaf or hard of hearing reader has a special kinship with this protagonist, knowing as we do how difficult it is for her to hide.

The author knows what it is to be deaf, and she nearly nails it for the reader too, except for one thing – for someone who has been deaf only a couple of years, Amelia is just a little too good at speechreading.

Gudenkauf is an experienced mystery writer who tells a good story. Let her tell it to you.



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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: JAMES S. PANKOW, PHD, MPH

The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis MN is one of four ACHIEVE locations nationwide

Calendar item:

Please join us for:

Adult Cochlear Implant Social Group

Sunday, January 14, 2018 1:30 – 3:30 PM

The Palisades Party Room 560 Sandhurst Drive W. Roseville, MN 55113

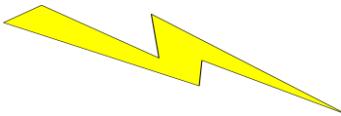
Host: Candace Meinders 651-489-0454 or 651-788-5185

The number "560" is NOT shown on the front of the building. The building is a smaller brown office building that is between the 550 and 570 buildings. Look for the brown/tan large sign on Sandhurst that says "Palisades Apartments Club House" and turn in that driveway and drive all the way up to the smaller brown building. There will be signs on the building directing you to the party room on the first floor. 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!

Sara Oberg, B.M., M.A., CCC-SLP

WONDERSTRUCK Revisited

By Vicki Martin



Six years ago (January 2012), we reviewed the book Wonderstruck in this newsletter. It has now been made into a movie.

Here are a few excerpts from that 2012 review:

Book Review: Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick

"If you've heard about Hugo, you've heard about Brian Selznick. His novel, The Invention of Hugo Cabret, is novel indeed, with its illustrations conveying part of the story. It has gotten a lot of press lately, having been made into a movie (Hugo) that is currently playing in 3-D. 3-D movies, by the way, are not captioned..."

In Wonderstruck, Selznick takes his visual storytelling a step further. His characters are two children, one of whom is born deaf. The other is partly deaf, losing his remaining hearing at the age of 12...

The blog at schoollibrary.com reports that 'Selznick was fascinated to learn how sound, introduced to movies in 1927, affected deaf viewers: "Movies, for the first time, excluded the deaf," Selznick said. "I had never thought about that".'

Will Wonderstruck become a movie? Most likely. Will it be 3-D, and therefore not captioned? We are living in a time when captioning is technologically feasible for any length video, but taking movie technology to the next (3-D) level may mean that 'Movies, for the second time, exclude the deaf'."

Now, Wonderstruck has become a movie. That movie and its featured Deaf actress Millicent Simmonds are the topic of an article in the September/October 2017 issue of Hearing Loss Magazine.

The following comment from the *alldeaf* website could suggest that movies, for the second time, may indeed exclude the deaf: "Closed Captioned Glasses and Regal Cinemas. ... have open caption. As I just recently learned it can be turned on or off at the movie theaters. Just not in 3D" (from *alldeaf.com*).

A more hopeful view is expressed by NCAM (National Center for Accessible Media): "Though concern has been expressed by some as to what the viewer experience would be when watching open or closed captions with a 3D movie, theater and studio representatives have been satisfied with successful demonstrations of both open and closed caption systems with 3D movies."

There is a way to find out what the "viewer experience" would be. I think we all know what it is.

Humor:

(excerpted from an email that is going around, sort of like what we used to call a "chain letter")

Subject: Seenagers

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much.

People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains.

Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Miscellany

(Dear Abby, Pioneer Press Nov 26 2017)

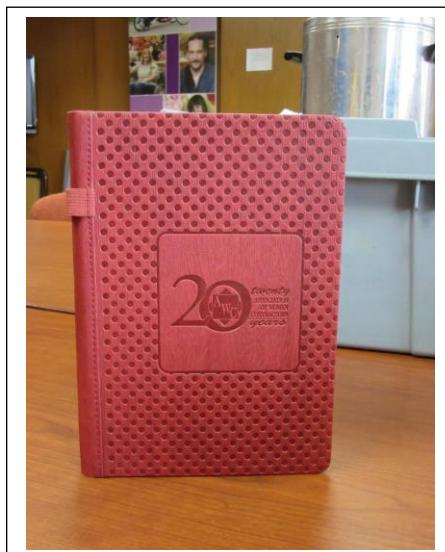
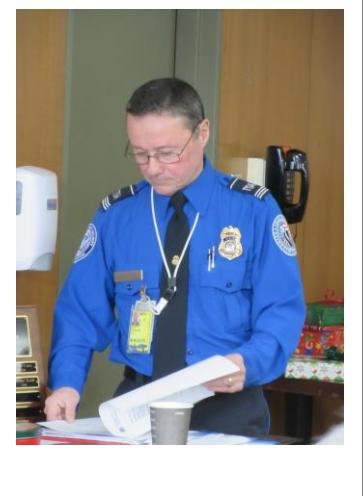
Dear Abby: I have hearing loss. My insurance isn't very good, and the monthly payments for a hearing aid are the equivalent of a car payment, so I try my best and do without. .. The problem is that my husband refuses to talk louder for me or make any attempt to improve our communication... It's like he's taking my hearing loss personally, as though somehow my hearing loss is my fault....I feel depressed and isolated, and I'm not sure what to do...

Dear Can't Hear: Of course you feel depressed and isolated. Your husband... hasn't accepted the fact that you have a hearing disability, so he's punishing you for it... Please have your hearing checked by an audiologist to determine how much of your hearing you have lost. Take your husband along so a professional can explain it to him. And be sure to ask if there may be lower-cost options for an assistive device that won't bust your budget.

(Editor adds: might her isolation be reduced if she could find people with a similar disability to communicate with? Do we know of such a group???)



Scenes from the December Meeting and Pot Luck 2017



FOUND: Notebook left after December meeting. If it is yours, please contact a board member to retrieve it at an upcoming meeting!





Wayzata Lions Club

Provides real-time captioning and other support services to the TC/HLAA with their generous donations.

Jerri McMahon, BC-HIS
Sr. Hearing Instrument Specialist

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Our next meeting is: January 20, 2018

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treasurer@hlaatc.org

Contact Info. - info@hlaatc.org
Photos – Christine Morgan, Kathleen Marin

Newsletter Editor -
Vicki Martin, editor@hlaatc.org

Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute in Golden Valley, MN. We gather at 9:30 to socialize and the meeting starts at 10. **Accommodations:** All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* (www.paradigmreporting.com). The meeting room is also looped for T-coil or receiver.

Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.hlaatc.org or visit us on Facebook: groups/HLAA-TC.