

# HLAA TC

# June 2024

## Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota



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

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

The HLAA-TC Board is in the process of putting together a roster of speakers and activities for the 2024-2025 season.

Suggestions and requests are welcome! A completed schedule will be distributed before meetings begin again in the fall.



### Contents

✚ Upcoming Meetings	Page 1
✚ President's Message	Page 2
✚ Notes from the President	Page 3
✚ Note from National	Page 4
✚ May Meeting Summary	Page 5
✚ Book Club	Page 6-7
✚ Photos	Page 8-9
✚ Southern Hospitality	Page 10
✚ Current board, meeting info	Page 11

#### Officers' emails

Robin Coninx – [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)

- [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)

- [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)

- [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

#### Directors at Large:

Christy Myers

Karla Sand

Mark Daly

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)

The September Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting (HLAA TC) will be held on September 21, 2024

**See page 11 for further details**

President's Message  
***HLAA-TC President's Message –***  
***June 2024***  
*Robin Coninx*

The ball got rolling on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June as HLAATC hosted a luncheon to welcome Barbara Kelley (Executive Director of HLAA national) and Ronnie Adler (Walk 4 Hearing Manager of HLAA to MN), while getting to know Barbara and Ronnie. I would like to give a shout out to the Green Mill for the excellent food and wonderful service.

As for the morning of the walk, I am searching for words to convey to all of you the feeling captured on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at the Walk 4 Hearing when arriving at Como Park in St Paul. Here is what I can tell you:

Imagine a pristine morning at a park, the sun shining and there is a field busy with action and anticipation of a gathering to support the world of individuals with hearing loss. That is exactly what happened on the June 2 at Como Park in St. Paul.

HLAATC Board members Christy and spouse, Mark and spouse with other family members, along with Byrdie and her son were all there to set up for the impending Walk 4 Hearing under Ronnie Adler's direction.

We were all busy setting up to welcome walkers and vendors plus VIPs who sponsored the walk. Laura and Karla of our board welcomed individuals looking for information at the HLAA/HLAATC booth. Maya Larson, HLAATC member assisted with setup and registration.

I am filled with gratitude for all who came out on a weekend and pulled together to make this a very successful day for our local chapter and those living with hearing loss!



## Announcements from the President

President Byrdie would like to call our attention to the HLAA National Convention coming up this month:

### **HLAA 2024 Convention in Phoenix, June 26–29, 2024** **Hearing Loss Association of America**

HLAA's first-ever event at a resort rather than an urban hotel, next year's convention in Phoenix, Arizona, promises to be a brand-new experience!

Join us at the luxurious Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass, June 26–29, 2024.

Highlights include:

- Get inspired by keynote speaker **Shanna Adamic** at the General Session.
- Explore **The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss** at the Research Symposium.
- Celebrate and connect at the lavish Welcome Back Bash and HLAA Awards.
- Learn about a wide range of topics in our educational workshops.
- See product demonstrations of the latest technology for people with hearing loss.
- Experience the magic of Auracast™ Bluetooth® listening systems.
- Walk through the Exhibit Hall featuring cutting-edge tech and hearing health industry professionals. Free Exhibit Hall-only passes are available.
- Enhance your chapter or state organization at the HLAA Leadership Training.

<https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/hlaa-2024-convention/>

## Take Note!



See page 11 of your September newsletter for instructions on joining the September 21 meeting. Details to be determined.

## From the Walk4Hearing team at National:

### **Twin Cities Walk4Hearing was a smashing success, way to go!**

We welcomed **237** participants from **23** teams, and raised **\$26,946.96**! Because of your hard work, people with hearing loss can receive the information, support, and resources they need to live their best lives. We can't thank you enough!

#### **We want to see ALL the fun!**

- Share your photos on social media and include [#walk4hearing](#) in your post.
- Tag us to reach a wider audience and so we can share your post!
- Show your experience on Walk Day in the [HLAA Community Central Facebook Group](#).
- Email your awesome photos to [walk4hearing@hearingloss.org](mailto:walk4hearing@hearingloss.org).

#### **Keep Showing Support.**

- Keep fundraising! There's still a chance to reach a \$1,000 milestone, a long-sleeve shirt. Fundraising ends on July 12.
- Thank your donors and ask if their company can match their gift – double the amount, double the impact!
- Spread the word. Tell your family and friends about your Walk Day experience.
- Stay connected and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

#### **Offline Donations After the Walk**

- Mail to the local Walk Treasurer:
  - Hollace Goodman  
10500 Rockville Pike Unit 1509  
Rockville, MD 20852
- Email matching gift forms to [development@hearingloss.org](mailto:development@hearingloss.org) or mail to:
  - Hearing Loss Association of America  
ATTN: Development  
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320  
Rockville, MD 20852  
HLAA EIN: 52-1177011



## **Summary of HLAA-TC meeting Saturday, May 18, 2024**

*By Laura Hagemann, Vice President*

The May chapter meeting of HLAA-TC was an in-person only meeting at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley, MN (no Zoom attendees). It was an end of the year indoor picnic. Since this was the last meeting of the 2023-2024 season, it was more informal with no presentation. Instead, attendees were encouraged to bring food to share (President Byrdie Coninx furnished Broasted Chicken and others brought salads and baked goods among other things).

President Byrdie Coninx started the meeting by encouraging everyone to introduce themselves. Then we watched a video that was an interview between (past presenter) Shari Eberts and Race Car driver Keenan Tully. The video was from The "This Week In Hearing" YouTube Channel and the video is entitled "Racing Beyond Barriers: Keenan Tully's Journey with Hearing Loss and Motivating Others."

Keenan has hearing loss and has started a podcast called "UnDEAFeated." In the video interview Shari Eberts covered the life, career and hearing loss of Keenan Tully. He was born and raised in England and grew up with considerable hearing loss. There was a period of time when he didn't wear his hearing aids (as a teenager) but finally started to wear them again and immediately could notice the benefits. Keenan now lives in the United States and is a race car driver pursuing NASCAR. The interview was an interesting and inspiring perspective from someone making their way in their career with hearing loss. Keenan speaks about hearing loss to inspire confidence in others living with hearing loss (and pursuing their dreams). You can find a link to the video, along with a transcript:

<https://hearinghealthmatters.org/thisweek/2023/keenan-tully-race-car-hearing-loss-stigma/>

After the video, the food was enjoyed and then Byrdie spoke briefly about the June 2, 2024 Walk4Hearing.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to everyone who brought food. We enjoyed the informal chat, informative video and delicious food.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we'll see you again in September for the new season of chapter meetings.

[Side note: some of you who attended the Twin Cities Walk4Hearing on June 2nd may have met Keenan Tully as he was at the Blue Moth Hearing Booth]

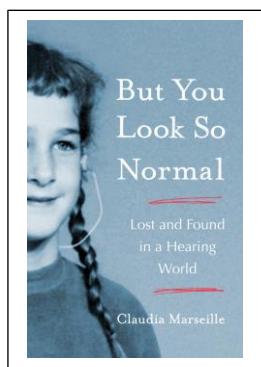


## Upcoming June Book Club

By Laura Hagemann

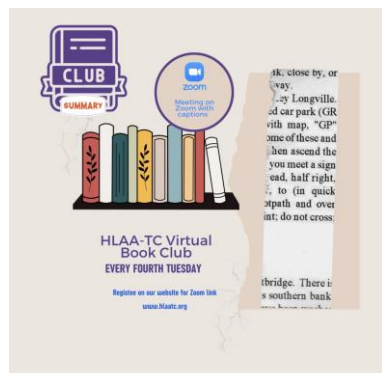
**JUNE 2024: “But You Look So Normal: Lost and Found in a Hearing World” by Claudia Marseille** [book not in BARD but author will be attending and audiobook was released when the book was]. **WITH SPECIAL GUEST AUTHOR CLAUDIA MARSEILLE.**

Tuesday, JUNE 25, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM- REGISTER HERE](#)] [Amazon Book Summary](#): By age four, Claudia Marseille had hardly uttered a word. When her parents finally had her hearing tested and learned she had a severe hearing loss, they chose to mainstream her, hoping this would offer her the most “normal” childhood possible. With the help of a primitive hearing aid, Claudia worked hard to learn to hear, lipread, and speak even as she tried to hide her disability in order to fit in. As a result, she was often misunderstood, lonely, and isolated—fitting into neither the hearing world nor the Deaf culture.



## May Book Club Summary Summer Book Club Preview

By Laura Hagemann



Thank you to the small group who gathered on Zoom to discuss “The Sign For Home” By Blair Fell on Tuesday, May 28th. The author didn’t join us but we had a great discussion. See below for links and topics discussed.

The June book is also listed at the end of this article (we will have the author join us).

About the book and author “A Sign For Home” By Blair Fell:

(Book Club, cont.)

- Author website: [Home – Blair Fell](#)
- Great interview with Fell: [Interview: The Sign for Home by Blair Fell | Authorlink](#)
- Another interview with author Blair Fell: [Jungle Red Writers: THE SIGN FOR HOME by Blair Fell](#) (make sure to read the fan questions with Blair’s answers at the bottom as he mentions his sensitivity reader DeafBlind artist Angela Palmer. A sensitivity reader is someone who has read the author’s manuscript to make sure content isn’t offensive, biased, etc.):
- Last September we had Rebecca Alexander present (who has Usher Syndrome , Type 3) to talk about her memoir “Not Fade Away” and she mentioned the Pro Tactile movement and she was involved with a PBS documentary on it that you can [check it out here](#).
- [Haptics and Pro-Tactile from the National Center on Deafblindness](#)
- [Haptics Video Series](#)
- Haptics as used in Technology (I mentioned that tech like the Apple Watch use haptics). [Check out this video](#).
- Angela Palmer was one of Blair Fell’s sensitivity and several members were familiar with her. She is an artist, her website: [Deaf-blind artist Angela Palmer](#)
- [A closer look at Jehovah’s Witnesses living in the U.S. | Pew Research Center](#)
- [Who Are Jehovah’s Witnesses? | About Jehovah’s Witnesses | JW.ORG](#)
- [Jehovah’s Witnesses – 15 Things to Know About Beliefs](#)

HAAA-TC Chapter meetings are on break for the summer months and resume in September, however the HAAA-TC Book Club continues to meet on Zoom during the summer on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm Central Time. Listed below are the summer book club dates and books. All are welcome. Meetings are captioned and if you have any additional accommodations needed or questions regarding the book club, please email Social Media Specialist and Book Club Coordinator Laura Hagemann [social@hlaatc.org](mailto:social@hlaatc.org)

**JUNE 2024:** [“But You Look So Normal: Lost and Found in a Hearing World” by Claudia Marseille](#) (see Upcoming Book Club, above)

**JULY 2024:** [“The Dolphin House”](#) by Audrey Schulman BARD/NLS: DB 110165. **WITH SPECIAL GUEST AUTHOR AUDREY SCHULMAN.** Tuesday, JULY 23, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM-REGISTER HERE](#)]. [Amazon Book Summary](#): “Based on the true story of the 1965 “dolphin house” experiment, this spellbinding novel captures the tenor of the social experiments of the 1960s in award-winning author Audrey Schulman’s tightly paced and evocative style.”

**AUGUST 2024:** [“Reflections from a different journey : what adults with disabilities wish all parents knew /](#) edited by Stanley D. Klein and John D. Kemp ; foreword by Marlee Matlin; BARD: DB 58425. Tuesday, AUGUST 27, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM-REGISTER HERE](#)]. [Amazon Book Summary](#): “[This book] presents 40 stories by successful adults who grew up with disabilities. They provide insights into what it is like to persevere in the face of community prejudices, and what it takes for families and children with disabilities to work together toward fulfillment.”

For more about the book club and a list of upcoming books for the rest of 2024, visit our webpage: <https://www.hlaatc.org/book-club/>



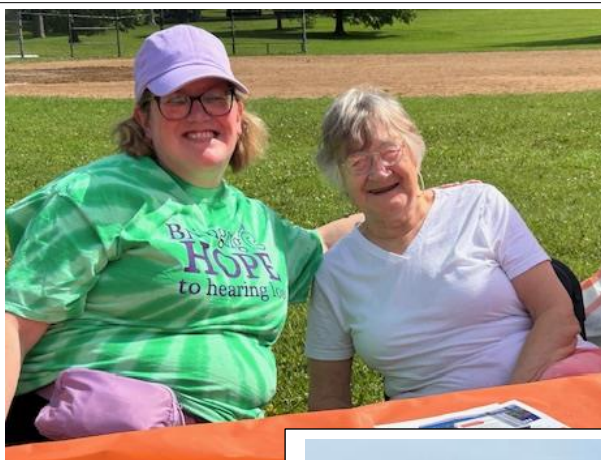
## The Day Before...

Hosting Barbara Kelley, HLAA Executive Director  
Ronnie Adler, HLAA Walk4Hearing Senior Manager  
At the Green Mill





## The Day Of...



## Southern Hospitality

By Vicki Martin

For lunch on my birthday, Dennis took me to a new restaurant in Woodbury called Southern Social. While he parked the car, I went in to ask for a table. "A booth would be good", I said to manager Gabrielle, "because I seem to hear a little better in a padded enclosure". "Sure," she said, "follow me".

There was a spacious, empty, padded booth near the end of the restaurant. I slid in to wait for Dennis. Before returning to the reception desk, she asked, "is there anything else I can do for you? Turn down the music, maybe?" I was astonished. It's not often that someone else thinks of doing that for you. "That would be great!" I said. And she turned it down. Frankly, the music wasn't too bad to begin with. But every little bit helps.

When we left, I let her know that I was impressed with her courtesy, and wanted to mention it in our newsletter. She was delighted, and signed (yes, *signed*) "Thank you, thank you very much", as she handed me her business card and reminded me to come again. Again, I was surprised. "You sign?", I signed. "Wonderful!"

Oh, I almost forgot ... the food was good too. But that Southern hospitality is the best!



## Board listing

Our current board consists of:

Interim President: Robin 'Byrdie' Coninx

Director at Large: Mark Daly

Director at Large: Karla Sands

Director at Large: Christy Myers

Interim President Robin 'Byrdie' Coninx wishes to thank Laura Hagemann for her service as Vice President of HLAATC. She will be missed at the board meetings.

Laura will remain involved with HLAATC as our Social Media Manager, and coordinating the HLAATC Book Club.

We also thank Ed Benck for his service as Director at Large. Ed has decided to resign from the HLAATC Board. Best of luck Ed, we appreciate you!

*HLAA-TC currently has openings on our board for Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Anyone interested please contact Interim President Byrdie at [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org).*

## **Meeting information**

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) will be held on September 21, 2024.

**Registration:** Details of the meeting are still under discussion. Check your September newsletter for meeting access and registration information.

**Meeting time:** Meeting begins at 10 AM.

**Accommodations:** All meetings are realtime captioned by Captioners from Veritext/Paradigm ([www.captioning-paradigm@veritext.com](mailto:www.captioning-paradigm@veritext.com)).



**HLAA TC**  
**PO Box 26021**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55426**



**Next meeting: September 21, 2024**

## **First Class**

### **HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

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

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

*Newsletter via email included in all memberships*

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Professional \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter only \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me for newspaper advertising

**Mail to: HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**  
**PO Box 26021**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55426**



Welcomes You!

**Interim President – Robin Coninx** [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)

**Vice President –** [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)

**Secretary –** [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)

**Treasurer –** [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

#### **Directors at Large:**

**Christy Myers**  
**Karla Sand**  
**Mark Daly**

**Contact Info. -** [info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

**Social Media - Laura Hagemann** [social@hlaatc.org](mailto:social@hlaatc.org)

**Newsletter Photographers: Dennis Martin, Christy Myers, Vicki Martin**

**Newsletter Editor: Vicki Martin** [editor@hlaatc.org](mailto:editor@hlaatc.org)