

HLAA TC

September 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

September 21, 2024
Kirk Anderson, TED Specialist
Minnesota DHS, and YOU
Equipment and Favorite App Demos

October 19, 2024
Kelly Scherf and TJay Middlebrook
MN Dept of Human Services
Disaster Preparedness for People
with Hearing and/or Vision Loss

November 16, 2024
Claudia Marseille, Author
“But You Look so Normal”
Presentation on Her Memoir on
Living with Hearing Loss



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Officers' emails

Robin Coninx – president@hlaatc.org

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

www.hlaatc.org

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672

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info@hlaatc.org

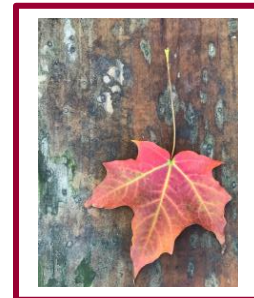
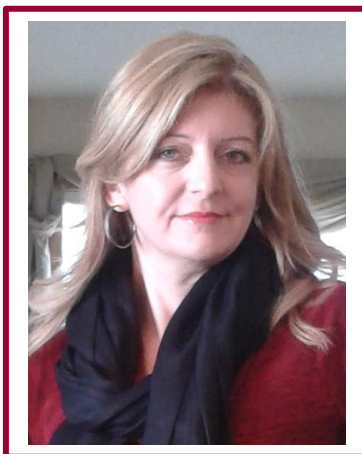
HLAA National - Maryland

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 –
September 2024***
Robin Coninx



Welcome to Fall!

HLAATC is gearing up again to have our chapter meetings, which will take place the 3rd Saturday of each month, September through May!

Here is what HLAATC is all about: (if you have a friend who is hard of hearing, please pass HLAATC information on to them)

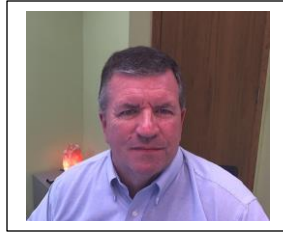
Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAATC) is a 5013c not-for-profit organization that supports individuals who identify as Hard of Hearing, and who use listening and spoken language. These individuals may also use technology to support their access to spoken language, such as: Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids that can stream from electronic media or from the environment, phone apps that can convert speech to text, CART to caption all speakers in the room, hearing loops to connect the speaker voice through t-coils in hearing aids. The main way we communicate is with spoken language.

It is vital that we get the information out to hard of hearing individuals who are looking for a community that understands the challenges and struggles of being hard of hearing.

Come join us as it is our goal to help you have well-rounded support on your life's journey with hearing loss.

Interim President, Robin 'Byrdie' Coninx!

September 24th Chapter Meeting Equipment and app Demos



Kirk Anderson, TED Specialist
Minnesota Department of Human Services

DHS phone equipment loan program presentation

Kirk will describe the phone loan program
and play videos demonstrating how the phones and their apps work.

App Demos

YOU!, HLAATC members

Do you have equipment or an app that you have found useful in your life with hearing loss? If so, consider telling us about it at the meeting and, even better, bring it along and show us how it works.

Let's spend our first meeting learning about resources, sharing our experiences and getting reacquainted.

Please join us and please invite those you know who experience hearing loss or have family with hearing loss. Together we can make our lives even better. Our meetings are held in the Board Room at Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis from 9:30 until noon on the 3rd Saturday of the month, September through May. Our meetings this year will be in person only as the hybrid format just did not work out well at all last year.

2024/25 Meeting and Activity Schedule

Your Program Committee has spent the summer putting together a schedule of speakers and activities that we think you will enjoy. (See the list below). We are still working on some of the activities and will fill in the schedule with more information as it becomes available. If you have suggestions or requests for this year's activities, let me know (Christy Myers, cmyersphoto@gmail.com).

Thank you very much to the people who put together this schedule of speakers and activities: Christy Myers, Karla Sand, Mark Daly, Laura Hagemann, Maya Larson and Robin Coninx.

2024-25 Program HLAA-TC

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 21	Kirk Anderson, Ted Specialist Minnesota Department of Human Services and YOU	Equipment demos from State Phone loan program and Favorite App Demos from our Members
October 19	Kelly Scherf and TJay Middlebrook DDHHSS, MN Dept of Human Services	Disaster Preparedness as it Pertains to People with Hearing and/or Vision Loss
November 16	Claudia Marseille, Author “But You Look so Normal”	Presentation on Her Memoir on Living with Hearing Loss
December 21	Robyn DeCourcy, The Guthrie Theater	Accessibility Options at the Guthrie Theater
December Outing TBD		Possible Theater Outing
January 25 2025	Darlene Zangara, Executive Director, MN Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind & Hard of Hearing	Making Your Voice Heard - Lobbying at the State Legislature
February 15	Jon Slock, Co-founder Break the Bubble	Avoiding Isolation - How to Make New Friends and Engage in Enjoyable Activities in the Twin Cities
March 15	Matthew Win University of Minnesota	Update on latest research from CATSS regarding hearing and vision
March Outing TBD		Lobby Day
April 19	Kim Fishman, Audiologist Hears to U	Understanding the Hearing Health Maze
May 17		Annual Meeting
May Outing TBD		Tour at Resound
June Event TBD		Walk for Hearing Twin Cities
July 12-14		HLAA National Convention Indianapolis

Save the date for the Hearing Loss Resource Fair
September 28, St. Paul
October 3-4, St. Cloud,
February, (date tbd) Duluth



Minnesota Department of Human Services

P.O. Box 64969
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0969
O/VP: 651-964-1452
Text: 651-357-8383
mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing

It's Official!

As of August 1, 2024:

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division name changed to the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services Division.

These changes were made to reflect the services and supports we are already providing to people who are deafblind and the community. We are not changing the scope of our work.

Membership Renewals

Christy Myers

It is that time of year again to renew your support of our Twin Cities Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA-TC).

This coming year you can expect some great speakers on interesting topics, opportunities to get to know equipment and apps that can help you in your hearing journey, and time to socialize and create community. We are even planning a few outings, so stay tuned.

Help us by doing the following three things:

Complete the membership form at the end of this newsletter and return it with your payment

Volunteer. This group will not be able to continue without your support. Robin has provided a list of ideas (see below). Take a look and find something that fits you. It is a great way to feel more involved and get to know each other better

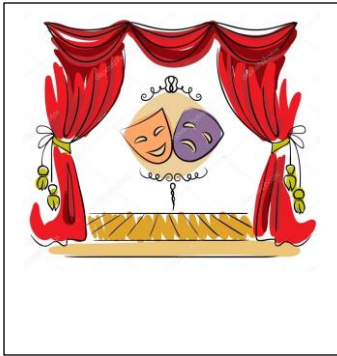
Invite someone you know who has hearing loss. It is together that we can make real change to open the world of communication to those of us with hearing loss.

New this year: we are in the process of setting up online payments and mailings, so expect to receive a mailing via email in the next month (unless you have paid your dues by then, of course.)



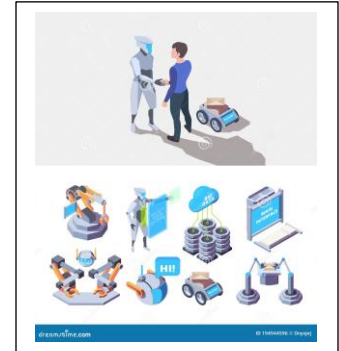
Help Wanted for Chapter meetings **We need volunteers for the following tasks!**

- Bring items up from storage at Courage Center for each meeting
- Organize meeting items on welcome table
- Set-up table and chairs for meeting
- Greeter for each meeting
- Bring snacks
- Bring coffee
- Tech assistant



Outings Anyone?

Christy Myers

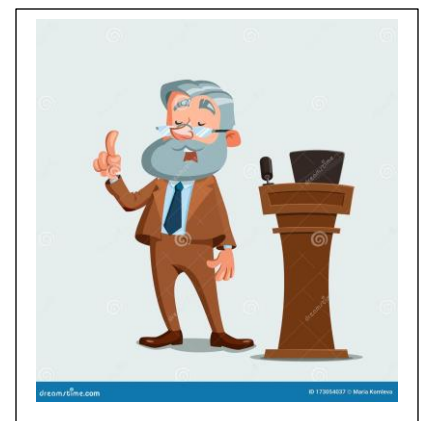
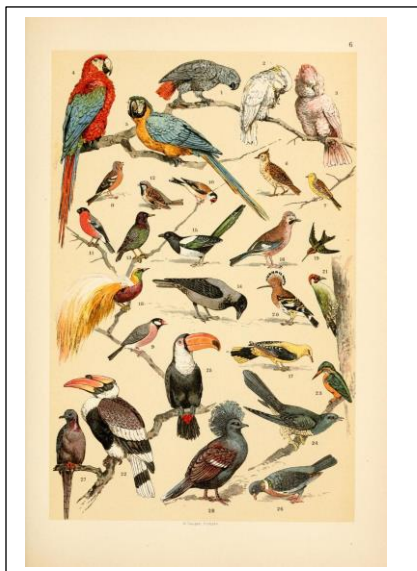
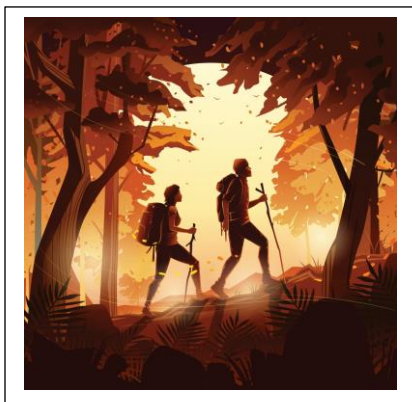


You will see that on our schedule of Chapter meetings for the year, we also have some outings listed. At present, these are in the planning stages and your input will be appreciated. In December, for instance, we think it would be fun to attend a play together and try out the newer accessibility options that some theaters are now offering. Could this be a trip to see *A Christmas Carol* at an open captioned performance at the Guthrie, or possibly an Agatha Christie play at Theater in the Round? Both theaters are making a real effort to provide access to people with hearing loss. We could try it out and tell them what we think.

If you are interested in attending a play, please let me (Christy Myers, cmymersphoto@gmail.com) know, or talk to anyone on the Board at our Chapter meetings. We will send more information later.

In March, we are thinking about attending lobby day together at the state capitol to make our voices heard there. And in May, perhaps we can tour one of our local hearing aid manufacturers. All of these outings are still in the process of planning but we are hopeful. Any other ideas?

Let us know what type of outing you would enjoy. As a group, we would be in a stronger position to demand accessibility for our hearing loss, so let's get out of the house, have some fun together and make a positive impact on the world of hearing loss.



Byrdie shares with us this **voter preparation workshop** information from:
Anne Sittner-Anderson, Director of Communications
Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing

Members are encouraged to attend at least one of these important events
and learn about their rights as voters.

Note that these workshops are taking place on Monday and Tuesday, September 16 and 17 – so don't delay to register!

First Event: Online Voter 101 Workshop with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

When: Monday, Sept 16, 2024 from 6-7:00 pm

Where: Attend from home or wherever is convenient for you. The Zoom registration link is https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodeqqpz0uEtPbshv_FCxl7pzrrlVwGHm3#/registration

Benefits: Melanie Hazelip from the Secretary of State's Office, will share all the information you need to know to participate in this year's election. She will cover the different ways to vote, your rights as a voter, and the different options if you need assistance while voting, and more. There will be opportunities to ask questions.

Accessibility: ASL interpreters and CART (captioning) already provided. For additional requests, email Jessalyn.akerman-frank@state.mn.us by Sept 11, 2024.

Original announcement: Access the original announcement on the Commission's website at [Voter 101 Online Workshop on Monday, September 16, 2024](#).

Second Event: In-Person 'Get Registered to Vote' Event in Honor of National Voter Registration Day

When: Tuesday, Sept 17, 2024 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Where: The Dendros Group, 2642 University Ave W #140, St Paul, MN 55114

Benefits: Many! Do you like playing trivia? We will have a voters trivia activity. Pizza and freebies will be provided. Hennepin County is bringing their accessible voting machines for community members to try. You will also be able to meet the Commission's outreach and civic engagement team members and ask any questions you have about voting. You will also be able to register to vote!

Accessibility: Interpreters and CART (captioning) will be onsite. For additional requests, email Jessalyn.akerman-frank@state.mn.us by Sept 11, 2024.

Original announcement: Access the original announcement on the Commission's website at [Commission Hosting a 'Get Registered to Vote' Event](#).



Announcing Fall Book Clubs with Author Guests

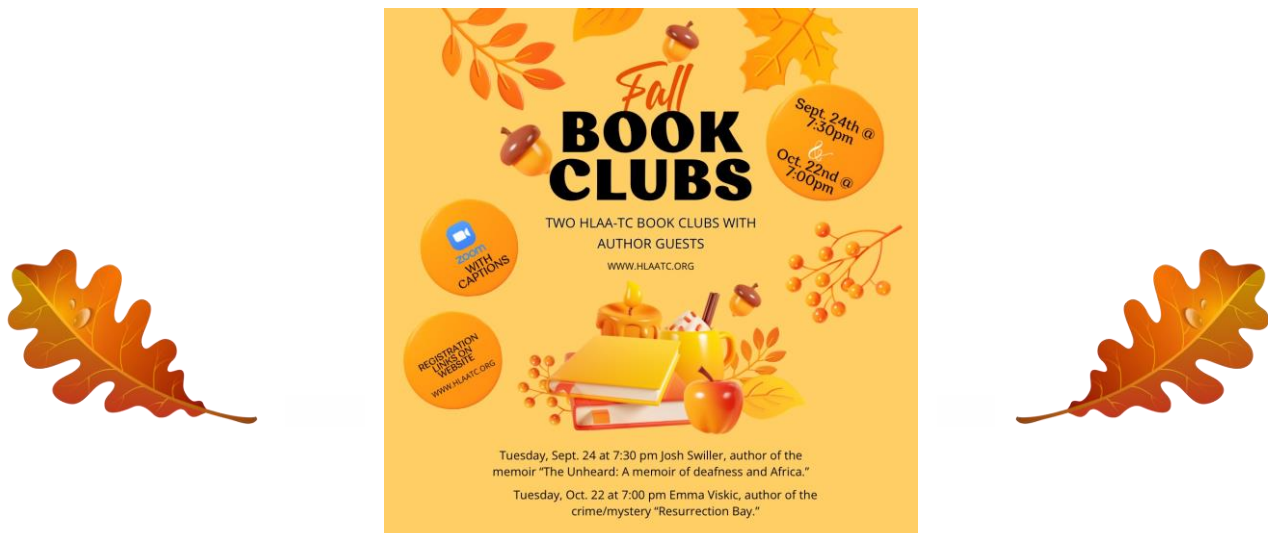
By Laura Hagemann

The HLAA-TC Book Club that meets on Zoom every fourth Tuesday of the month on Zoom will be welcoming authors for the next two book clubs. We alternate each month between reading fiction and nonfiction.

This month (September) we are reading the nonfiction/memoir ["The unheard: a memoir of deafness and Africa"](#) by Josh Swiller **WITH GUEST AUTHOR JOSH SWILLER**. BARD/NLS: BARD only: DB 67060. We are meeting a half hour later than we typically do: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 24, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. [[ZOOM-Register Here](#)]. [Amazon Book Summary](#): A young man's quest to reconcile his deafness in an unforgiving world leads to a remarkable sojourn in a remote African village that pulsates with beauty and violence.

In October our little book club goes international (again... we've had other authors from other countries) when we welcome Australian author Emma Viskic to discuss her crime/mystery book with a Deaf character: ["Resurrection Bay"](#) By Emma Viskic BARD/NLS: DB 110305. **WITH SPECIAL GUEST AUTHOR EMMA VISKIC**. Tuesday, OCTOBER 22, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM-Register Here](#)]. [Amazon Book Summary](#): Caleb Zelic's childhood friend has been brutally murdered—fingers broken, throat slit—at his home in Melbourne. Tortured by guilt, Caleb vows to track down the killer. But he's profoundly deaf; missed words and misread lips can lead to confusion, and trouble.

As always, HLAA-TC Book Club is captioned (we use the computer/AI Zoom captions for book club). All book clubs are open to everyone and since we do publish the meetings on the HLAA virtual meeting national calendar we do get people joining us from across the country and state. A list of the rest of the 2024 books is on our [Book Club Page on our Website](#) and we will be announcing the 2025 line up of books in the next month. If you ever have any questions about or suggestions for book club, please reach out to HLAA-TC Social Media Specialist Laura Hagemann social@hlaatc.org



Fall Meeting Lineup Announced

By Laura Hagemann

HCAA-TC has updated our website to include all the Fall 2024 board meetings, chapter meetings and book clubs. We will be having in-person only meetings for chapter meetings at Courage Kenny (3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422) and will continue to meet on Zoom for book clubs. Please visit our [Meeting page](#) on our website and see the graphic below for a list of 2024 meetings. We will be adding the 2025 meetings soon.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to one of our board members, such as Interim President Byrdie Coninx at president@hlaatc.org. And if you would like to see something on our website or social media or have a question or suggestion for the HCAA-TC Book Club, please contact HCAA-TC Social Media Specialist (and book club organizer) Laura Hagemann at social@hlaatc.org and for more information about the book club you can visit our [Book Club Page](#).

Follow us on: [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), and join the discussion on the [Facebook Group](#) page.

SEPTEMBER Chapter Meeting: Saturday, September 21 9:30 am – 12:00 pm “Equipment demos from state phone loan program and favorite app demos from our members.” By Kirk Anderson, TED Specialist, Minnesota Department of Human Services and YOU (HCAA-TC Members). In Person ONLY at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley.

SEPTEMBER Book Club: “[The unheard: a memoir of deafness and Africa](#)” by Josh Swiller (nonfiction/memoir) WITH GUEST AUTHOR JOSH SWILLER. BARD/NLS: BARD only: DB 67060. Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 24, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. [[ZOOM-Register Here](#)]. [Zoom Meeting](#)

OCTOBER Board Meeting: Wednesday, OCTOBER 2, 2024, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. open to members to attend. Email president@hlaatc.org for link. [Zoom Meeting](#)

OCTOBER Chapter Meeting: Saturday, October 19, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm “Disaster Preparedness as it pertains to people with hearing and/or vision loss” By Kelly Scherf and TJay Middlebrook from Department of Health and Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Division. In Person ONLY at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley.

OCTOBER Book Club: “[Resurrection Bay](#)” By Emma Viskic BARD/NLS: DB 110305. WITH SPECIAL GUEST AUTHOR EMMA VISKIC. Tuesday, OCTOBER 22, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM-Register Here](#)]. [Zoom Meeting](#)

NOVEMBER Board Meeting: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 6, 2024, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. open to members to attend. Email president@hlaatc.org for link. [Zoom Meeting](#)

NOVEMBER Chapter Meeting: Saturday, NOVEMBER 16, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm “A discussion of a life lived, and a memoir written about hearing loss” By author Claudia Marseille (author of the recently published memoir “But You Look So Normal”- an earlier book club selection). In Person ONLY at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley.

NOVEMBER Book Club: “[Deaf Republic](#)” by Ilya Kaminsky (Poems). BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 22694, BARD: DB 94920. Tuesday, NOVEMBER 26, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM-Registration Link to Come](#)]. [Zoom Meeting](#)

DECEMBER Board Meeting: Wednesday, DECEMBER 4, 2024, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. open to members to attend. Email president@hlaatc.org for link. [Zoom Meeting](#)

DECEMBER Chapter Meeting: Saturday, DECEMBER 21, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm “Accessibility options at the Guthrie Theater” By Robyn DeCourcy, The Guthrie Theater. In Person ONLY at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley.

DECEMBER Book Club: “[Sitting pretty: the view from my ordinary, resilient, disabled body](#)” by Rebekah Taussig (nonfiction), BARD: DB 101063. Tuesday, DECEMBER 24* (date will change), 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [[ZOOM-Registration Link to Come](#)]. [Zoom Meeting](#)

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.

Social Media Manager, HLAATC Book Club coordinator: Laura Hagemann

HLAA-TC currently has openings on our board for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Anyone interested please contact Interim President Byrdie at 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.

Location: Courage Kenny, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422

Registration: The meeting will be in-person only – no registration is necessary.

Meeting time: Meeting begins at 10 AM (social time at 9:30).

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

The meeting room is also looped for enhanced hearing directly to your hearing aids or Cochlear implant using T-coil.

HLAA TC
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



Next meeting: September 21, 2024

First Class

Membership Form HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

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

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

Newsletter via email included in all memberships

_____ Individual \$25 (includes digital newsletter)

_____ Professional \$50

_____ Donation _____

_____ Printed Newsletter (optional) \$15

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



Welcomes You!

Interim President – Robin Coninx president@hlaatc.org

Directors at Large:

**Christy Myers
Karla Sand
Mark Daly**

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