

HLAA TC

November 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

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

December 21, 2024
Robyn DeCourcy
Guthrie Theater
Accessibility options at the Guthrie

January 25, 2025
Darlene Zangara, executive director
MNCDHH
Making your Voice Heard: Lobbying
at the State Legislature



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The November Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting (HLAA TC) will be held on November 16, 2024

See page 11 for further details

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



November came roaring in with a crazy snow storm on the 31st of October 😊! All of my life I have seen winter arrive. However, driving in the middle of it all was hair-raising as I was traveling north to see family. As I arrived in Roseau, it was mild and sunny. Go figure.

All that is to say: 'Welcome to Winter'!

As the holidays approach, remember that we have cards to pass out to the 'hearing world' that describe your communication needs as a hard of hearing person. While it may be challenging to advocate for what you need, this may be a good way to initiate communication at family and holiday gatherings.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next HLAATC Chapter Meeting on 16th of November at the Courage Center in St Louis Park.

At the meeting, holiday party agenda will be announced. It will be nothing complicated, just time to socialize and have fun together.



November 16th Chapter Meeting



Claudia Marseille

NOVEMBER MEETING - AUTHOR PRESENTATION

For our November 16th HLAA-TC Chapter meeting, author Claudia Marseille will be joining us via Zoom to talk about her memoir: “But You Look So Normal. Lost and Found in a Hearing World”.

Here is what is being said about the book: “But You Look So Normal is the inspiring story of life affected but not defined by an invisible disability. It is a journey through family, loss, shame, identity, love, and healing as Claudia finally, joyfully, finds her place in the world.”

The book can be purchased on Amazon in digital or hardcopy format, and is available through BARD. It may also be available through your local library and for purchase through other outlets. This book was an HLAA-TC book club selection earlier this year, and they recommend it.

Join us on Saturday, November 16th to meet the author, enjoy some inspiring words, and visit. Chapter meetings are held in the Board room, second floor, of the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis. Doors open at 9:30AM and the meeting, speaker, social time run from 10 - 12.

October Chapter Meeting Summary

Disaster Preparedness for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

by Christy Myers

Our October presentation on disaster preparedness was presented by TJay Middlebrook and Kelly Scherf of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Division (DDHSS).

TJay and Kelly discussed various projects that DDHSS is undertaking to help with communication during emergency situations. They have developed Communication Cards for first responders and are providing them training on communicating with people who are Deaf or have hearing loss. They are working with police, fire departments, EMS services and the Red Cross. Some of the training is in process and other training is being developed.

DDHSS is also creating a Hospital Kit to be distributed to hospitals to help medical personnel communicate with patients who have hearing loss. This is still in process but they have already distributed a slap bracelet that can be used to access resources when a patient has suffered sudden hearing loss. (Did you know that your doctor and medical clinics are required to provide you with captions if you ask? Automatic captions should be available at all times and CART needs to be requested in advance.)

They provided information and handouts for people with hearing loss and brought, for each person at the Chapter meeting, a folder of useful information on disaster preparedness as it specifically applies to people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Some of the issues discussed included:

- Text-To-911, a new service which enables people who cannot use the phone in an emergency situation to access 911 by texting 911 on your phone and texting your message.
- Hearing Loss Home Modification Checklist of the kinds of equipment that can help alert you to emergency and other notification systems. DDHSS provides free phone equipment (see the list on page 5 in this newsletter). The Red Cross provides free accessible fire alarms. Check the Red Cross website for further information. TJay also shared that you can contact your local fire department if you need help installing fire alarms.
- What to pack in an emergency, and websites and resources to get information

We were encouraged to be proactive by:

- Alerting your EMS and Fire Department that you are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and asking them to make a note so they are aware if they are called to your home.
- Use the live captioning on your phone to help with communication in emergency situations.
- Keep your devices in the same place every night so that you can find them in an emergency situation and take them with you if you need to leave.

Thank you to TJay and Kelly for this very informative presentation

Online Membership Payments

Christy Myers

Have you received your membership renewal email? We are implementing online membership payments this year as a courtesy to our members and prospective members. An email was sent out earlier to people who have been members in the recent past. If you can't find your email but want to pay online, you can use the link below, or go to the membership section of our website and find a link for payment there as well.

Renew membership here: [Annual Membership Renewal - Cheddar Up](#)

Please let us know how this process goes for you and please consider renewing your membership today to support our local Chapter. If you prefer to write a check, there is a membership form and return address on the last page of this newsletter - or you can bring your check to our Chapter meetings.

Accessible Phones Available Free

The MN ACT program administrator provides the following addendum to September's meeting summary that was in last month's newsletter. This is a list of the specific telephone equipment that the state of Minnesota will lend to qualified people, with links providing further information about each item:

Captioned and/or amplified phones

1. [Captel 2400i](#) Captioned phone that requires internet
2. [Clarity XLC8](#) Cordless amplified phone
3. [Clarity XLC8 GLT Deluxe](#) Captioned phone that doesn't require internet
4. ClearSounds CSC600 - big button corded amplified phone
5. Teltex [GLT with V2T-10](#) Corded amplified phone with captioning tablet

Cell phones

6. Apple and Android smartphones and tablets with pre-installed accessible apps
7. [Blindshell Classic 2](#) cell phone with large buttons that's hearing aid compatible. NOTE: We do not provide the Beep accessory shown in the video.

Phone accessories

8. [Artone 3 Max neckloop](#) NOTE: We do not provide the mic shown in the video.
9. Serene [RF 200 Cell phone ring amplifier and flasher](#)
10. Serene [SA 40 Cell phone amplifier](#)

HLAA-TC is participating in Give To The Max Day 2024

By Laura Hagemann

For the past several years HLAA-TC has participated in Give to The Max Day and we will be participating in it again this year on Thursday, November 21st. Early giving started November 1st. [Visit our Give To The Max page](#) to donate and read below for more details.

Give to the Max is Minnesota's annual fundraiser for Minnesota-based nonprofits and schools. The idea is to encourage supporters of your nonprofit to donate at this time to encourage their regular support. Additionally, all organizations participating in Give To The Max Day (GTMD) have the opportunity to win more than \$100,000 in [prize grants](#) by organizations that support GTMD like The Bush Foundation and [Regional Amplifiers](#).

Each organization uses the funds raised during GTMD differently. HLAA-TC uses funds raised for:

- Expanding our outreach to those with hearing loss in Minnesota.
- Funding meetings (supplies and technology for monthly meetings).
- Technology updates (Invest in hearing-related technology for meetings).
- Conferences (like the October 2022 "Hearing- Handle With Care: When Is Loud Too Loud?" Hybrid Conference).
- Twin Cities Walk4Hearing (the successful walkathon that happened at Como Park this past June).

Please [visit our Give to The Max page and consider donating](#). Thank you!



Theater Outing in December - Testing Hearing Devices

Yes, a theater outing is in the works! We have reserved 20 seats at Theater in the Round for the December 7th performance of Agatha Christie's "An Unexpected Guest" at 7:30PM. There are also plans afoot to gather as a group before or after to visit.

This is a chance to make our presence heard as members of the community of people who have lost much of their hearing and need extra assistance to enjoy spoken events such as theater performances.

In November a small group from HLAA-TC visited Theater in the Round to test their new assistive listening devices. Their system consists of phones which have an app that can be used with a hearing loop or ear piece to enhance hearing and an app which provides live captions. You can also use your own phone, as long as it is updated to recent software, to caption the performance or link via bluetooth or coil to the loop and ear pieces.

During our testing we found that the captioning in this small space worked pretty well both with the captioning provided on their phones and with the captioning we could access from our own phones. The hearing loops and ear pieces were less successful. We hope that by the time we visit, these issues will have been fixed. But even if not, in the small space, the live captioning should work for us. If not, the theater will certainly hear from us!

If you would like to join, please use the following link to reserve your space and purchase your ticket. Seats and hearing devices are limited.

hlaa-tc-theater-outing.cheddarup.com



October 2024 Book Club Summary

By Laura Hagemann

Thank you to the group who gathered on Zoom (in October) to meet with author Emma Viskic to discuss her book "Resurrection Bay" which is the first in a four book series featuring deaf investigator Caleb Zelic. See below for a summary of what we discussed, and our next book.

"Resurrection Bay" with Emma Viskic summary:

- "Resurrection Bay" is Book 1 in a 4 book series featuring Caleb, the books are: "And Fire Came Down"; "Darkness For Light"; "Those Who Perish." You can find out more about the books here: <https://emma-viskic.com/all-books/>
- Emma learned Australian Sign Language (Auslan). There are some obvious differences, such as American Sign Language (ASL) is largely one handed and Auslan is two. I found a [Video](#) that shows the differences and also an [Article](#)
- Emma also talked about learning lip reading (or speech reading as it is sometimes called). Emma mentioned she used a UK site called Action on Hearing Loss. I did find them and they have changed their name to Royal National Institute For Deaf People. Here is their [website](#) and they do have a [page on lipreading](#) with a separate site for [practicing lipreading at home](#).
- It was also recommended by one of our book club members that to work on your lip reading to watch something like a YouTube video first with captions and then without and no sound. (Good tip, thanks Ade).
- Emma also talked about having an Auditory Processing Disorder that she didn't quite realize that she had until she was writing Resurrection Bay. Here is a [Mayo Clinic article on APD](#) that explains it.
- We talked to Emma about the accessibility of the audiobook for those who had a harder time with accents or deeper voices but had to use the audio book. She recommended contacting her publisher and I followed up with her and she gave me some email addresses of who to contact. I will reach out and explain it's a matter of accessibility so it would be nice if someone like NLS/BARD could have permission to rerecord those audiobooks.
- I have also wondered about using other resources for turning a book into an audiobook. I found:
 - You can use Accessibility "voice over" function with your Kindle app and it will read the book out loud. It's not ideal because it's the very computer/robotic monotone voice so it could be hard to listen to for long.
 - I synced my AirPods with my kindle and turned on the accessibility feature on the kindle. This allowed the kindle to read the book out loud. I was having trouble with this, but will try again. I imagine it would be that computer/robotic voice and hard to listen to for long.

- I have also seen apps like [Speechify](#) that read out loud written text (you can upload text files, etc.). I haven't looked into this as it does cost but it might be worth a look.
- Emma also mentioned the series' adaptation for TV (Australian). She wasn't sure if it would end up going to completion (as is the nature of the show business).
- Emma's website has several resources, including a book group guide to the novel: <https://emma-viskic.com/guide-for-reading-groups-resurrection/>
- Her next book is set between the world wars. It features a female protagonist and takes place in Australia. (I forgot to ask when that would be published.)
- Emma's website: <https://emma-viskic.com/>
- I found a few video interviews with her [here](#) (about the 4th book) but a good interview. And [this one](#) with her publisher interviewing her.
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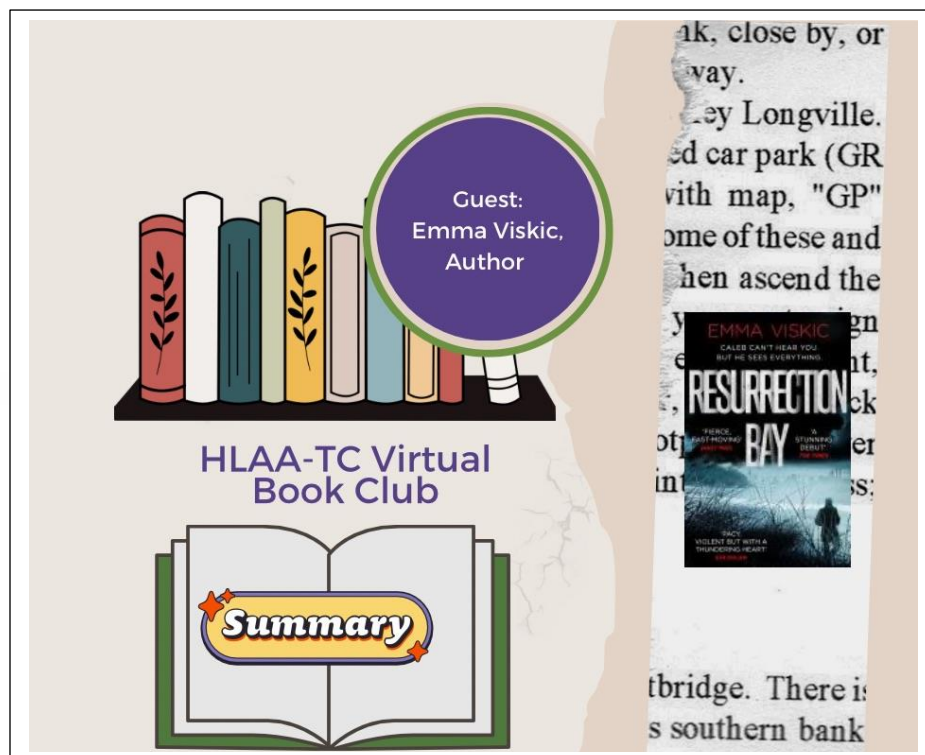
Next book and book club:

"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. [\[ZOOM-Register Here\]](#).

[Amazon Book Summary](#): Ilya Kaminsky's astonishing parable in poems asks us, What is silence?

To find out more about book club, visit our [webpage](#).



Ah, those Acrimonious Acronyms!

By Vicki Martin

I've known DHHS for a long time, and grown quite comfortable with him. A few years ago, the commission was born, and christened MNCDHH. This might seem innocuous enough, as the Commission (even when shortened to MCDHH) has a "C" in it and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services does not.

But the family has grown. Just in the last year I have seen, or even used all of the following:

DHHS
DHHSDHS
DDHSS
DDHHSS
DDHHSSD

The grand-daddy of them all, of course, is Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division of the Department of Human Services (DHHSDHHS)

These guys have been fighting with each other, and we need to put a stop to it.

A little sibling rivalry is one thing, but this is getting out of hand. What, for example, are we going to do with the younger folks, like DHHSHSD, DHSSD, DHSDHS, and DHSDSH?

Someone needs to insist on a bit of restraint. What would happen, for instance, if we suddenly had to deal with DSHHDHSD, DSSHHDHHS, DHDDHSS, DHHSHHDH, DSSHDDH

Q&A

IQ

AKA

ID

DSHHDHSDDDSSHHDHSDHDDHSSDHHSHHHDHSDSSHDDHHDSH
HDHSDDDSSHHDHSDHDDHSSDHHSHHHDHSDSSHDDHHHHHDHSD
DSSHHDHSDHDDHSSDHHSHHHDHSDSSHDDHHSDDSSHDSDDS

IDY

VIP

RSVP

This Space Available

Advertise your business here

\$50 per year

Contact treasurer@hlaatc.org

or info@hlaatc.org

Use "HLAA-TC Newsletter Ad"

In subject line

Advertise in our newsletter!

2 ¼ X 4-inch size (a little larger than a business card)

Our readers are the people your business serves

Reach your target audience!

Meeting information

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) will be held on November 16, 2024.

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

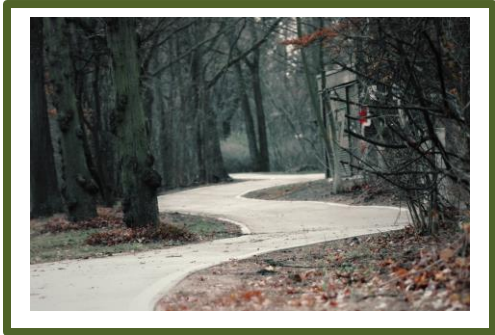
Registration: The meeting will be in-person only – no registration is necessary.

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.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: November 16, 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
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Welcomes You!

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