

HLAA TC

February 2025

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

February 15, 2025

Kim Fishman

HearsToU

Equipment, accessories and products
to help us hear better and
take care of our ears

March 15, 2025

Matthew Winn

University of Minnesota
Update on latest research
on hearing and vision

April 19, 2025

Jon Slock

Break the Bubble

Avoiding isolation in the Twin Cities



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www.hearingloss.org

The February Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting
(HLAA TC) will be held on February 15, 2025
See page 8 for further details

President's Message

President Byrdie would like to share this advance notice with you: The 2025 Walk for Hearing, Minnesota Edition, is scheduled for June 21 at Como Park.

Mark your calendar now!

2025 Twin Cities Walk4Hearing

June 21 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



January 25 Chapter Meeting summary

Christy Myers

Commission Legislative Agenda and Lobbying at the State Legislature

Our January Chapter meeting speakers were Darlene Zangara, Executive Director and Alicia Lane, Government Relations Director, from the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing. The meeting was divided into two sections. The first was a presentation by Darlene and Alicia via an open Zoom meeting arranged by the Commission during which Alicia talked about the legislative process as well as the Commission's role in impacting legislation. Following the Zoom meeting, Darlene answered questions in person at the Chapter meeting.

The role of the Commission is to work towards system change in Minnesota laws and policy that impacts communication access and equal opportunity for deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing persons. The Commission's job is to advise the governor on these issues and to work with state agencies, legislators and the judiciary.

Alicia encouraged us all to contact our legislators and to show up at the capital and make our voices heard to help with awareness of our issues.

Areas that the Commission is following to determine impacts on our community include, among others, the proposed use of AI to help identify Medicare fraud, making the Task Force on Aging more aware of our issues and possibly creating an age-related hearing loss task force for the Commission, various initiatives in education and anticipating issues that might arise for children in school, the Metro Deaf School and dealing with the interpreter shortage.



February 15th Chapter Meeting

*Kim Fishman, HearstoU Audiology Clinic
Equipment, Accessories and Products*

Our February Chapter meeting will feature Kim Fishman presenting on Equipment, Accessories and Products to Help You Hear Better and Take Care of Your Ears.

Kim Fishman is an audiologist and the owner and CEO of HearsToU Audiology Clinic in Hopkins, Minnesota, as well as Hears, Hearing and Hearables, an online shop providing access to hearing aids, accessories and other products for hearing health from a variety of manufacturers.

Join us on February 15th for Kim's presentation and our Chapter meeting. Social time begins at 9:30 am and the meeting and presentation will begin at 10AM.

This meeting is in person only.



Kim Fishman

January Book Club Summary

By Laura Hagemann

HLAA-TC Book Club met on Tuesday, January 28th to discuss the memoir-in-essays "[Sitting Pretty: The View from my Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body](#)" by disability advocate Rebekah Taussig. The author was unable to join us but we did have a nice discussion with our group and welcomed new participants.

Summary of January Book Club:

- Author [website](#)
- Author [Instagram](#)
- Author [Podcast](#) (It's about parenting and the [video trailer](#) for it does show Rebekah more present day with kids)
- A [YouTube Video](#) where she discusses the book
- Rebekah has a substack (website/blog) where she writes regular essays (you can subscribe to it for free). This entry is entitled "[Dear Son of a Disabled Woman](#)" (you can read the essay or listen to her read it).
- As was mentioned during book club, Rebekah has a children's book that she has written coming out this Spring (April 2025) called "[We Are the Scrappy Ones](#)"
- During book club we discussed the multiple meanings behind the idiom "sitting pretty." Here are several definitions and links related, see below:

[Cambridge Dictionary Definition](#): "to be in a good situation usually because you have a lot of money (for example: they bought their house when prices were low, so now they're sitting pretty)

[Dictionary.com](#) discusses the use of the word pretty in this idiom.

A few interviews on Rebekah and/her memoir:

[An overview of the book by National Endowment for the Arts](#)

[A YouTube Video Podcast called "TELUS Talks"](#) that is a nearly 40 minute interview with Rebekah (with captions).

[Another YouTube Interview](#) with Rebekah on Parenting, Education and Disabilities

Additional items of mention:

- Otter transcription app: <https://otter.ai/>
- [Sound Recognition Accessibility option on iPhone](#): (runs on iOS 14 and later) called sound recognition. It alerts the user if the iPhone detects a sound you want it to listen out for. (You can customize the sounds you want it looking for: doorbell, water running, sirens, baby crying, etc.)
- Open Caption Movies (we talked about how they are a preferred accommodation for those with hearing loss and yet they aren't offered widely). Here is a resource for finding Open Caption Movies near you:
- [Big Screen](#) lists open caption theaters and movies throughout the US.

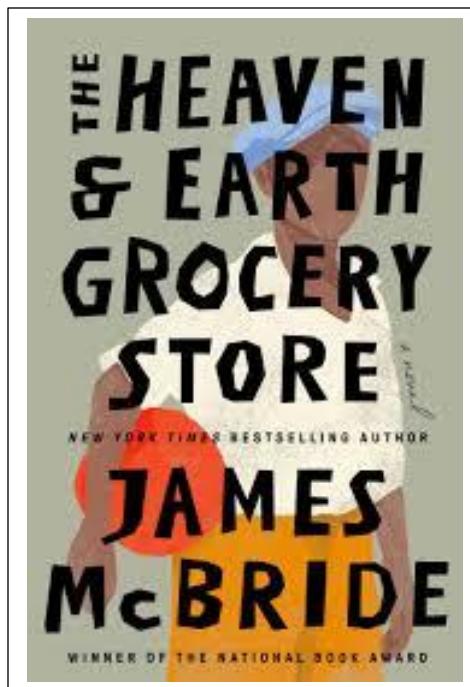
February Book Club Book
Laura Hagemann

FEBRUARY 2025: ["The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store"](#)
by James McBride (fiction), BARD: DB 115655.

Tuesday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Central Time.
[\[ZOOM- REGISTER HERE\]](#)

Summary: "In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for the deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe."



Captioned Arts & Culture Events in February and March 2025

The Minnesota Access Alliance (MNA) provides an **Accessible Arts & Culture Calendar** for patrons who use accessibility accommodations. The links below connect to more details online at <https://calendar.mnaccess.org>.

Selected shows with CAPTIONING:

“Hadestown” at the Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis

Sunday, February 16 1:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/hadestown-asic/?mc_id=11151

Sunday, February 16 6:30 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/hadestown-4/?mc_id=11152

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis

Wednesday, February 19 1:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-idsummer-nights-dream-oc/?mc_id=11550

Saturday, February 22 1:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-midsummer-nights-dream-oc-2/?mc_id=11551.

Friday, February 28 7:30 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-midsummer-nights-dream-ad-oc/?mc_id=11549

Sunday, March 2 1:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-midsummer-nights-dream-oc-3/?mc_id=11552.

Sunday, March 9 1:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-midsummer-nights-dream-oc-sf/?mc_id=11554

Wednesday, March 12 1:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-midsummer-nights-dream-oc-4/?mc_id=11553

“School Pictures” by Theater Latte Da at the Ritz Theater, Minneapolis

Friday, February 28 7:30 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/school-pictures-oc/?mc_id=11361

Saturday, March 1 2:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/school-pictures-oc-2/?mc_id=11362

Saturday, March 7:30 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/school-pictures-oc-3/?mc_id=11363

Sunday, March 2, 2:00 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/school-pictures-oc-4/?mc_id=11364.

“Life of Pi” at the Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 PM https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/life-of-pi-oc/?mc_id=11153

Update from State Services:

State Services

On August 1, we changed our name to Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services. This change reflects the fact that deafblind services are an important part of our work. It also reflects that all of our services are available statewide.

This is a little longer than our previous name, and we will no longer use DHHSD for short. To refer to us, use our full name the first time you mention us: Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services. After that, please use State Services.

[Updated Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services brochure](#)

[Updated Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services fact sheet](#)

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Upcoming [Hearing Loss Resource Fairs](#) will take place in:

- Duluth on Thursday, February 13, 2025
- St. Paul on Thursday, April 24, 2025.

Meeting information

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) will be held on February 15, 2025.

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: February 15, 2025

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!

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