

# HLAA TC

# March 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

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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### President's email

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

**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 March Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting (HLAA TC) will be held on March 15, 2025

**See page 9 for further details**

# President's Message

*Robin (Byrdie) Coninx*



*Mission:*

*To open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education and advocacy.*

HLAATC Board elections will take place at the Annual HLAATC Chapter meeting in May 2025. The following board positions are currently open:

President

Vice President

Secretary

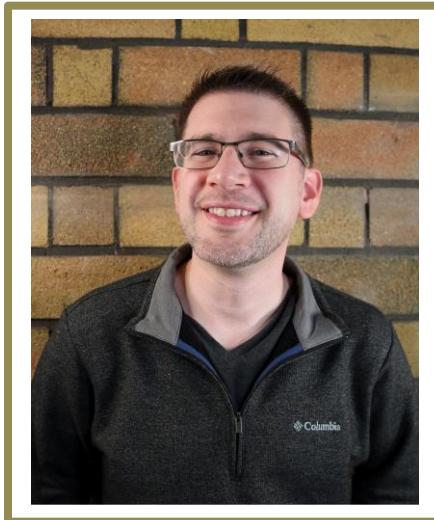
Treasurer



Nominations are now open for these positions. You may nominate yourself or another member for any of these positions. Send your nominations to:

Robin 'Byrdie' Coninx  
HLAATC President  
[president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)  
[presidenthlaatc@outlook.com](mailto:presidenthlaatc@outlook.com)  
TEL: 763-447-9672

## March Speaker



*Matthew Winn*

### **March HLAA-TC Chapter Meeting Research and Tips Regarding Hearing Effort**

Our March 15th Chapter meeting will feature Matthew Winn, professor of audiology at the University of Minnesota. He directs the Listen Lab, which focuses on speech communication and the factors that make it effortful for people with hearing loss – especially those with cochlear implants. After practicing as an audiologist in Washington DC, he began focusing on research to improve our understanding of listening effort, and on educating future audiologists.

In Matthew's words, here is a description of his presentation:

"The effort of listening can be a major barrier to socializing and doing your best work. This presentation describes what we know about hearing-related effort, including knowledge discovered by our lab here in Minnesota. As a group, we can talk about the ways we can manage our listening time to avoid burnout, and the ways our conversation partners can alleviate effort for us.

"I will also be available for anyone who wants to learn about federally-funded research (e.g. NIH sponsored projects) and how to understand the ways recent executive orders impact progress in hearing healthcare."

"Equipment, accessories and products to help you hear better and take care of your ears."

By Kim Fishman, audiologist,  
Hears to U

**MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING**

*February 2025*

[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)



**REC**  
Zoom  
Presentation  
Recording



## **Kim Fishman Presentation Now on You Tube: Equipment, Accessories and Products**

*By Christy Myers*

If you didn't brave the snow for our February Chapter meeting to hear Kim Fishman speak on the equipment, accessories and products available to help you hear better and care for your hearing health, you can access her presenting now on the HLAA-TC YouTube channel.

Just follow this link: [Fishman](#)

Kim Fishman is an audiologist and the owner of Hears to U in Hopkins, Minnesota. Kim is passionate about helping people hear better and is known for her patient-centered approach. She works closely with internal medicine doctors, firefighters, and the local community to provide top-notch hearing care and advocacy work.

In her presentation Kim gives an overview of the many types of hearing aids and products available to people with hearing loss. She talks about self-advocacy and finding the right fit for your individual hearing needs. Topics include the choices in hearing aids, ADA accessibility, new technology, assistive listening options, hearing health care, aural rehabilitation, tinnitus relief and tips for making hearing care more affordable.

Kim is also the owner of the online shopping platform, Hears Hearing and Hearables, for new and used hearing equipment and products.



March 3<sup>rd</sup> was the day slotted for 'World Hearing Day'

<http://www.hearingloss.org/toolkit>

The above link is to HLAA and their work: information on hearing loss and hearing care, tips and tools for how to make the most of the hearing you have.

Let's get the word out and please share the local support of HLAATC to all you meet!

### Invitation to a Retirement Celebration For Lisa Richardson!



April 19<sup>th</sup> 2025  
At 11:15 AM at the Courage Kenny located at:  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley MN 55422

Lisa's advocacy and skill of bringing CART to individuals with hearing loss has been since 1992! She has been a contributing member to SHHH/HLAAC for all of that time.

Please come and say thank-you in person or send a congratulatory note to [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org) that we will happily pass on to Lisa!

HLAA-TC February Zoom Book Club Summary  
*By Laura Hagemann*

HLAA-TC February book club met on Zoom on Tuesday, February 25th to discuss the novel “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride. Below is a summary with links of our discussion.

- **Plot Summary** (from author's website): "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 a 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."
- Author **Website**
- Author's **Biography** (from author's website): "James McBride is an award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter. His landmark memoir, *The Color of Water*, published in 1996..."
- Author's memoir on his mother **"The Color of Water"** (highly recommended by members Diane K and Melanie)
- Author's other **Books**
- Author Interviews:
  - Video (all videos have captions)
    - **PBS interview** with McBride where he discusses the inspiration for the character Chona was his grandmother.
    - **Riverhead books short video interview** where he plays the piano and talks.
    - **CBS Morning interview** on the novel, and focusing on community and disability.
    - **The Free Library of Philadelphia video** interview/event with the author (it's long: nearly an hour) but it is captioned.
- **An NPR Fresh Air Interview** (audio with transcript) where the author talks about his mother, positivity and kindness)
- A **Washington Post interview** where the author talks about his experience with disability
- This **AudioFile Magazine post** includes information about audiobook narrator Dominic Hoffman and a video interview (with captions).
- Historical Significance:
  - Of Place: **Pennhurst State School and Hospital** and **Pottstown, PA.** and **Chicken Hill**
  - Of Race and Religion: A **Lilith.org article** book club member Lynne sent that discusses religion
  - Of Disability: This very comprehensive **MN.gov webpage** on the history of institutionalizing for disabilities.
- Critical Reception of Book:
  - **Reader Reviews (average rating is 3.95)**
  - **Professional Reviewer Reviews (listed as "rave/positive" on this site called Book Marks that aggregates reviews)**

- [Professional Reviewer Reviews \(listed as "rave/positive" on this site called Book Marks that aggregates reviews\)](#)
- Themes Discussed:
  - **Deafness/Hearing loss:** Chapter 11: "Gone" is the first chapter written from Dodo's point of view and we discussed in book club how well the descriptions portray deafness and hearing loss. [This article in The Plough](#) written by the author of a book we've read previously (Sara Novic who wrote "True Biz") discusses how deafness is portrayed in McBride's novel.
  - **Remembering Characters in Fiction Books:** We discussed the importance of remembering characters and names in fiction books (this book definitely stretches our memory muscles with the 83 characters it uses). This [Book Companion website](#) offers a comprehensive listing of all 83 characters.
  - **Tone:** We discussed a common praise for the book by readers and reviewers where the tone was described as hopeful. As a group we were mixed on whether we found it hopeful.
  - **Hebrew Names:** Members with backgrounds in the Jewish faith mentioned enjoying the names and finding meaning in the Jewish names used and their significance.
- Additional Topics Discussed:
  - Was there a movie or TV adaptation of McBride's Memoir "The Color of Water"? Answer: No. The movie we were all thinking of from a few years ago that had a similar name was ["The Shape of Water."](#) That movie won several Academy Awards/Oscars and had a mute character who communicated by sign language.

## Upcoming Book Club Meetings

**MARCH BOOK CLUB: Tuesday, MARCH 25, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. ["The Boys of Riverside: a deaf football team and a quest for glory."](#) By Thomas Fuller (nonfiction), DB 124042 [[ZOOM-Register Here](#)] Zoom Meeting**

["The Boys of Riverside: a deaf football team and a quest for glory."](#) By Thomas Fuller (nonfiction), DB 124042. Synopsis: "The ... story of an all-deaf high school football team's triumphant climb from underdog to undefeated, their inspirational brotherhood, a ... portrait of deafness in America, and the indefatigable head coach who spearheaded the team." Published in 2024.

**APRIL BOOK CLUB: Tuesday, APRIL 22, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. FICTION BOOK TO BE ANNOUNCED [[ZOOM-Registration Link To Come](#)] Zoom Meeting**

I apologize for the delay in getting you the book list order for 2025. It will be placed soon in its entirety on the Book Club Page that you can view here at any time:

<https://www.hlaatc.org/book-club/>

# Coming soon!

## St. Paul Hearing Loss Resource Fair

### Where:

Elmer L. Andersen Human Services Building  
540 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Free parking in the Andersen parking ramp, 550 Cedar Street. Enter on Minnesota Street.

### When:

Thursday, April 24, 2025  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Exhibitors:

Exhibitor registration is now open! Sign up on the [St. Paul Hearing Loss Resource Fair exhibitor registration form.](#)

<https://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing/hearing-loss/resource-fair/stpaul/>

## Waiting for The Doc

Sitting in a waiting room with my stepmom while she and many others waited to be seen by their eye doctors, I notice how extraordinarily busy it was. Every minute or so, a nurse would appear at the entrance and call out a name. Someone would quickly rise, not wanting to miss their turn to take care of eye business after such a long wait.

Covid and most other highly transmissible diseases having retreated into the background amidst today's other uncertainties, few people were masked. Even most of the doctors and nurses were willing to take their chances on showing full face.

Then, one nurse in the roll-call stream appeared with a mask, and called out a name. No one moved, but many pairs of eyes turned toward hers. Silence. She called it out again. Still, no one moved, but kept their eyes riveted on her face. Surely, the next patient was right in the room. She tried once or twice more. People looked at each other quizzically, and looked around to see who might do more than move their eyes. Then she lowered her mask, smiling as suddenly she "got it".

"Charles", she called out, exactly as she had several times before. The man next to me rose immediately and headed her way. All other bodies relaxed, and faces exchanged smiles, happy that speechreading had found its target once again.

## Membership form

To join the HLAA TC Chapter, please print and complete this form and mail to:

HLAA TC Chapter  
P.O. Box 26021  
Minneapolis, MN 55426

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/TTY#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type:

(Please Select One. All Memberships are annual and renewed on September 15th of each year)

New Membership

Renewal

(\$25) - Individual Membership

(\$50) - Professional Membership

(\$15) - Printed Newsletter (optional - all memberships include a newsletter via email)

(\$\_\_\_\_) - Donation

**Please add up totals and mail this form along with your payment to the address listed at the top of this form.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

**\*NOTE: National Membership is a separate membership with privileges and publications (see [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)).**

### RECEIPT

This is acknowledgement that \$\_\_\_\_\_ has been received by HLAA-TC for \_\_\_\_\_

from:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting information

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) will be held on March 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](mailto: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**



## **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](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)

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

**Christy Myers**

**Karla Sand**

**Mark Daly**

**Michael Smith**

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

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