

HLAA TC

November 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

HLAA-TC meetings suspended temporarily for the remainder of 2025



Contents

✚ Board message	Page 2
✚ Attention!	Page 4
✚ Special Book Club Program	Page 5
✚ Oct Book Club Summary	Page 6
✚ Online miscellany	Page 7
✚ Accessible events	Page 8
✚ Membership form	Page 10

President's email

Kim Fishman, acting president

– president@hlaatc.org

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

www.hlaatc.org

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672

Contact Information - Minnesota

info@hlaatc.org

HLAA National - Maryland

www.hearingloss.org

The Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meetings (HLAA TC) will be suspended until after January 1, 2026

See page 11 for further details

Board Message
Kim Fishman
Vice President/acting President, HLAA-TC Twin Cities chapter

We Need You!

Join the HLAATC Board

Our wonderful Board President, Robin “Byrdie” Coninx, has stepped down for personal reasons. We’re deeply grateful for Byrdie’s years of dedication and service to our chapter.

Now, we’re looking for fresh faces and helping hands to join the HLAATC Board, possibly even as our next president! Without a few new volunteers, we may not be able to keep our chapter offering as many benefits, so your involvement truly matters.

Currently serving on the board are:

- **Kim Fishman**, Acting President - Vice President — vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- **Sharon Witt**, Treasurer — treasurer@hlaatc.org
- **Eve Boaheng**, Director-at-Large
- **Michael Smith**, Director-at-Large
- **Mark Daly**, Director-at-Large

Open Positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Director-at-Large

We’d love to fill these open spots soon!!

If you’re interested, and we hope you are, please visit our website at HLAATC.org or **email/call Eve** at eboaheng@onephg.com 507-828-4016 or **Sharon** at Sabwitt11@gmail.com to apply and help us keep our chapter thriving!

(Board message, cont.)

Note: Joining the board is rewarding, meaningful, and yes, fun! You'll help:

- Support and connect with our members
- Plan chapter meetings and find great speakers
- Build community partnerships
- Spread the word about hearing loss awareness
- Collaborate with other HLAA chapters and the national team
- Pitch in at events like Minnesota Walk4Hearing

Together, we can keep the HLAATC community strong and growing!

Kim

Give to the Max!

HLAA-TC is the Twin Cities voice for people with hearing loss. We are a chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's leading 501 (c)(3) organization representing people with hearing loss. We believe people with hearing loss can support one another, advocate for change, support the community and live vibrant, full lives.

Donate here: <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Hlaatcmn>





HLAA-TC Meetings are suspended for the remainder of 2025

Please stay tuned, and join us again in the New Year!

Greensleeves?



Do you ever wonder which battery is the charged one?

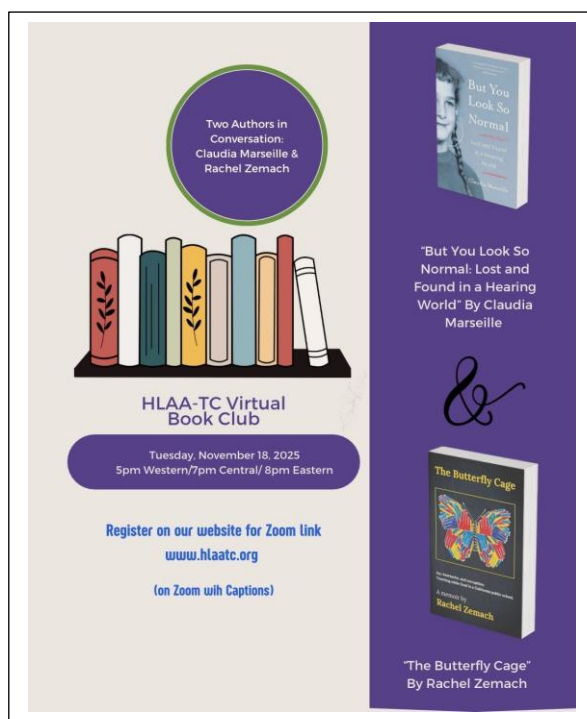
Colored battery sleeves are easy to make from fabric scraps, and might expedite that battery swap in the middle of your holiday get-together!



Upcoming Book Club Special Program: 2 Memoirists in Conversation

by Laura Hagemann

HLAA-TC November Book Club is meeting on Zoom at 5:00 pm Western/ 7:00 pm Central Time/ 8pm Eastern Time on the ***DIFFERENT WEEK***: *Tuesday, NOVEMBER 18*, for a special **book club discussion of TWO MEMOIRS** for a Special Program: Two Authors in Conversation: “[But You Look So Normal: Lost and Found in a Hearing World](#)” (Nonfiction) By Claudia Marseille BARD DB: 122941 AND “[The Butterfly Cage](#)” (Nonfiction) By Rachel Zemach (Claudia’s book in BARD & previously read by this book club, Rachel’s book not yet in BARD).



Synopsis of “But You Look So Normal...” 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.

Synopsis of “The Butterfly Cage”: A tender and perspective-shifting book that offers a rare level of understanding about the subtle and no-so-subtle layers of internalized oppression and deep feelings and dilemmas of Deaf people, written by former Deaf teacher Rachel Zemach.

Register Here for the Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscO6uqT8jEtR388rjswgwMwQ7Q6nt_bB9

Note: This particular book club will be recorded to be later placed on the HLAA-TC YouTube channel (only the discussion with the moderator and authors will be recorded and not the Zoom participant Q & A).

October Book Club Summary

By Laura Hagemann

The following is a book club summary of our October Book Club with author William Kent Krueger on his novel "This Tender Land."

- Previous links and information shared about the book and author can be found on this [HLAA-TC blog post](#)
- Some things to point out from those book discussion links from Krueger's website:
 - Recommended reading on Native American Boarding Schools:
 - [Pipestone](#) by Adam Fortunate Eagle
 - [Kill the Indian, Save the Man](#) by Ward Churchill
 - [Ojibwa Warrior](#) by Dennis Banks with Richard Erdoes
 - [Boarding School Seasons](#) by Brenda J. Child
 - [Education for Extinction](#) by David Wallace Adams
 - TO LEARN MORE: [The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#)
- Krueger is known for his mystery series that stars the recurring protagonist Cork O'Connor (of which he has published 21 books- the first in 1998 and the most recent this past September).
- He has written several books unrelated to his mystery series that he calls his "stand alone books." Those books include: "Ordinary Grace" (2013); "This Tender Land" (2019); "The River We Remember" (2023). He also had an earlier thriller unrelated to his mystery series: "The Devil's Bed" (2003).
- We talked about if there is a Native American Sign Language because in the book Mose (one of the four main children characters who is Sioux and is mute because of an unfortunate mutilation that happened to him in childhood) is taught American Sign Language (ASL) by Odie and Albert. Kent wasn't sure if there was. In my brief research I found that there is: Plains Indian Sign Language (PSL)/ "Hand Talk" and found this [website](#) with an [incredible video showing early usage of PSL](#) (taken in 1930). Here is [another video talking about "Hand Talk."](#)
- There was some interesting resources on Native American Sign Language additionally on the [National Park Service website](#): "The ability of members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to communicate with indigenous people through sign played a pivotal role in the success of the mission and is documented in the Expedition's journals." This web entry on native sign language goes on to mention George Drouillard who was hired by the Lewis Expedition to interpret Native Sign Language.
- We talked about Hoovervilles and I found [a resource describing them in detail](#) during the Great Depression.
- Krueger talked about how this book was his version of Huckleberry Finn. (He has said as much many times, including this [article](#) [enter your email address to read])

If you would like a transcript of the book club, please email Laura social@hlaatc.org

Hearing Blog excerpts

Hearing of America's current blog post offers some thoughts on tinnitus:

"...sugar intake may affect more than just your dental health. For some individuals, it may also play a role in **tinnitus**.

...fluctuations in blood sugar can impact the inner ear's delicate structures and potentially worsen auditory symptoms like tinnitus. While a direct causal link between sugar and tinnitus hasn't been definitively proven, excessive sugar consumption can lead to spikes and crashes in blood glucose, which may affect blood vessel tone and flow in the inner ear. The result? For some, the ringing or buzzing associated with tinnitus may become more noticeable.'

Read the full article here: [GlucoseandTinnitus](#)



They also connect us to some beginner's ASL signs.

"Incorporating a few ASL signs into your holiday traditions is a simple yet meaningful way to include more people in the festivities, especially those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Whether you're signing "thank you," "happy holidays," or "I love you," these small gestures can foster deeper bonds, spread joy, and enrich your celebrations. It can also be a fun family activity that encourages everyone — kids and adults alike — to engage with language in a new and inclusive way."

Try them out! [CasualASLforbeginners](#)

Thanksgiving



Captioned Arts & Culture Events in November and December 2025

The Minnesota Access Alliance (MNAA) provides an Accessible Arts & Culture Calendar for patrons who use accessibility accommodations such as ASL Interpreting (ASL), Open Captioning (OC), Audio Description (AD), Sensory Friendly (SF) accommodations or Disability-related topics.

Here is a sample of upcoming captioned events:

“Primary Trust” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis

Wednesday, November 12, 1:00 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/primary-trust-oc-2/?mc_id=12187

Friday, November 14, 7:30 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/primary-trust-asl-ad-oc/?mc_id=12173

“The Notebook” at the Ordway, St. Paul

Saturday, November 22, 2:00 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/the-notebook-ad-asl-oc/?mc_id=11842

“The Phantom of the Opera” at the Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis

Monday, November 24, 7:30 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/the-phantom-of-the-opera-oc/?mc_id=11919

“A Christmas Carol” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis

Friday, November 28, 7:30 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-christmas-carol-oc-5/?mc_id=12220

Sunday, December 7, 7:00 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/a-christmas-carol-oc-6/?mc_id=12221

“Annie” at Lakeshore Players Theatre, White Bear Lake

Sunday, November 30, 2:00 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/annie-oc/?mc_id=12245

“GOOSEBUMPS: Phantom of the Auditorium” at Park Square Theatre, St. Paul

Thursday, December 4, 7:00 PM

<https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/goosebumps-phantom-of-the-auditorium-oc/>

Friday, December 5, 7:00 PM

<https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/goosebumps-phantom-of-the-auditorium-oc-4/>

Saturday, December 13, 7:00 PM

<https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/goosebumps-phantom-of-the-auditorium-oc-2/>

Sunday, December 14, 2:00 PM

<https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/goosebumps-phantom-of-the-auditorium-oc-3/>

Sunday, December 14, 2:00 PM

<https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/goosebumps-phantom-of-the-auditorium-oc-3/>

“Cirque du Soleil: 'Twas the Night Before...” at Northrop, U of M campus, Minneapolis

Saturday, December 6, 1:00 PM

https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/cirque-du-soleil-twas-the-night-before-cc/?mc_id=12342

Find additional accessible events here: <https://calendar.mnaccess.org>

Thank you MNAA, for providing this accessibility information!

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).**

RECEIPT

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

from:

Name _____

Date _____

By _____

Meeting information

Meetings of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC)
are temporarily suspended

Stay tuned for further information in 2026

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

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



First Class



Welcomes You!

Acting President – Kim Fishman president@hlaatc.org
Vice President - Kim Fishman vicepresident@hlaatc.org
Secretary - secretary@hlaatc.org
Treasurer – Sharon Witt treasurer@hlaatc.org

Directors at Large:

Mark Daly
Michael Smith
Eve Boaheng

Contact Info. - info@hlaatc.org

Social Media - Laura Hagemann social@hlaatc.org

Newsletter Photographers: Vicki Martin

Newsletter Editor: Vicki Martin editor@hlaatc.org