

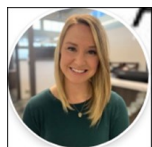


September 2021 Chapter Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2021

6:30 PM Via Zoom Videoconferencing

Program: Living WELL with a Holistic Approach



Callie Huft, occupational therapist,
and Anna Brayton, nutritionist, will



present our September program via Zoom videoconferencing. They will share their holistic approach to the human experience that honors, not just physical health, but also considers the intricacies of how mental and emotional health influence pain and healing.

This program comes to us recommended by chapter members who have heard them present elsewhere. They work as a team, and are employed by The Chiropractic Advantage in Appleton.

Sharing the Word about HLAA...

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter joined Volunteer Fox Cities (VFC), to reach out to our regional communities for assistance, and to educate, advocate and provide information about living well with hearing loss. VFC held a summer bash carnival on Thursday, August 19th to thank their volunteers, and at the same time to highlight some of their nonprofit organizations. We participated with information and a prize wheel at our booth. **We met some wonderful volunteers from other organizations, & shared information about HLAA.**

We also put together a large mailing project to reach out to Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) throughout the state of Wisconsin, to network with them and promote hearing loops. Many thanks to our HLAA-FV member volunteers for your time and camaraderie! It was fun! We'll be participating in more of these outreach events and doing more mailing projects. **Of course we are going to need more help from our chapter volunteers to make that happen.** Stay tuned for opportunities via this newsletter, the HLAawi website, at www.hlaawi.org/chapters, or check out our page on VFC's website: https://getconnected.volunteerfoxcities.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=120664

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM:

1. **Register in advance for the meeting at:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcOutqDwpEteQsr-DZKPpglOqIH2K6Dtv>
2. **If you get this newsletter in print, e-mail us at:**
hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com We will send you the live registration link by e-mail.
3. All registrants will receive an notice of registration, AND a meeting reminder the day of the meeting.
4. Sign in at 6:15-6:20 so we can start at 6:30. (If you've not used Zoom before, you may have to sign up. Follow prompts. This is a one time thing.)
5. **Join with audio and also with video.**
6. The host will let you into the meeting room.
7. **ENJOY THE PRESENTATION!**
8. Time for discussion afterwards.



Similar events are coming up in October and November. If you can help, please let us know. E-mail us at: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

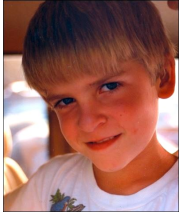


So many hard of hearing people could benefit from what HLAA shares. Let's get our information out to them! It's no fun to be alone with hearing loss. HLAA should not be one of the best kept secrets out there! Share our information with others, including your doctors. **Let us know if you need materials.**



Looking Back at HLAA Fox Valley Chapter's History - Remembering Our Parent's Support Group

Years ago Fox Valley Chapter had a successful subgroup for parents. We have fond memories of the kids and the families that participated in that group. Now those kids are adults with kids of their own. We'd like to share some of their stories.



Matthew

Matthew Benish was born on March 1, 1983. He had trouble breathing shortly after birth and was transferred to the infant intensive care unit at Theda Clark Hospital where he was diagnosed with "persistent fetal circulation." He remained there for about one month. At that time he was given a 50% chance of survival. We were blessed to have had such dedicated medical professionals and to be close to such a great hospital in the Fox Valley. Because he was a patient there, we were offered the opportunity to have him tested for hearing loss, which was then discovered. His hearing loss may have been caused due to lack of oxygen or medication.

It was recommended that we make an appointment with Dr. Jack Kile at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Speech & Hearing Clinic. More testing was done, and a profound hearing loss was determined. Matt received his first hearing aids at 9 months. We felt bad for Matt. But Dr. Kile's unique special way in dealing with such infants helped us to learn to focus on Matt's needs rather than on our own disappointments. We were able to hire teachers who came to our home to work with Matt. They taught us methods to use. An early challenge was deciding to enroll him in the Appleton Area school district rather than a school with strictly sign language education. He entered the early childhood program at age four. Matt proceeded from kindergarten through sixth grade at Badger school. During this time a parents group developed in SHHH (now HLAA) with seven families. We all became members of SHHH. Chapter member, Margaret Ferris, a retired teacher of deaf and hard of hearing children, helped our parent group get organized and become successful. It was so comforting to be able to share our feelings with the other families. We met at various homes and were able to share how the kids were doing. We shared ideas that worked and also what didn't. One idea was to tie fishing line on the hearing aids and then tie them together with a pin on the back of the shirt. This was so helpful because Matt would remove his aids quite often. One time I was looking for his aids and found them in a pop-up toy, which had to be taken apart to retrieve them. We wanted him to meet other children with hearing challenges and do things together. We went bowling and even went camping. The kids even performed a Christmas show for SHHH.

The Lions Organization has a marvelous camp in Rosholt, that offers camping experiences for kids with special needs. Specific weeks were scheduled just for kids with hearing loss. Matt went to camp for several years and developed life long friendships with other campers. Those kids had different degrees of hearing loss and some also had other issues. Matt's is severe asthma. That sometimes received more attention than his hearing loss.

To learn more about the hearing issues, we attended meetings and sometimes had speakers. Margaret Ferris arranged for a specialist from Canada to speak to us. We were very fortunate those early years to have this parent group and the truly dedicated professionals who worked on our behalf. Matt continued seeing Dr. Kile for hearing evaluations for many years. Dr. Kile was impressed with Matt's proficiency in lip reading. Matt's dad, Larry represented parents on the "Governor's Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing" and went along with Dr. Kile to the meetings in Madison. We tried to learn sign language, but never became very proficient in it. Today Matt is very oral, but fluent in sign language and lip reading. It's been a challenge but so worthwhile. We are thankful for SHHH for bringing us all together, and continue to support the organization today.

Judy Benish, Matthew's Mom (Coordinated by Leanne Loveless)

PS: Stay tuned for the rest of Matt's story in a future newsletter. We hope to feature some of the other children from that group too.



Margaret Ferris (1920-2014), with one of 'her children'. Each year HLAA presents a college scholarship in her name through the Community Foundation. Margaret, who had hearing loss herself, spent years as an educator. She was very active in our chapter, and is greatly missed.



[Mayo Clinic Connect](https://connect.mayoclinic.org/group/hearing-loss/), an online community, is organized into groups related to health conditions. Hearing Loss is one of over 50 groups. It's another good place to learn. If interested:

Go to <https://connect.mayoclinic.org/group/hearing-loss/> All posts are anonymous.



The 2022 national HLAA Convention will be held in Tampa Florida. There are national scholarships available for first timers. The chapter will

provide some financial support for those who wish to attend. More information will be published in the next newsletter. There is information, now, at the HLAA website about the event. www.hearingloss.org



'We Hear You' Named Best Film on Disability at Cannes Festival

August 2021 'We Hear You' was named Best Film on Disability in the June 2021 Monthly Awards of the Cannes World Film Festival. As a monthly winner the film is automatically entered in the Annual Competition for a chance to become a Grand Winner and be screened in Cannes during the festival's annual Award Ceremony.

This documentary was conceived, filmed, and directed across two continents, all during the COVID-19 pandemic. The film features 4 women with hearing loss, each navigating stigmas, setbacks, and successes as they strive to live well despite the challenges of hearing loss. The producers of this film are involved in HLAA.

Documentary Summary

When you have hearing loss, conversation is like a game of Wheel of Fortune. Some of the letters are blank. Others are filled in. People with hearing loss take these incomplete sounds and put them into words or phrases that make sense in the context of the conversation. It doesn't always work, leaving us isolated and alone. The pandemic made this worse, as masks took away our superpower — lipreading. We struggle to fit into the hearing world, yet there is a silver lining — meeting one another. HLAA is a place where people meet.

We Hear You shines a light on the hearing loss experience. It shows a more inclusive world — one that is built for us too. It shatters stigmas of hearing loss that linger, even in our own community. It highlights the ways people with hearing loss rise to advocate and build a better world for us all. *We Hear You. Now Hear Us!*

This will be featured via Zoom on Thursday, Sept. 23, at 6 PM CDT. Register to participate at: [We Hear You | Now Hear Us Documentary](https://www.hearingloss.org/we-hear-you-now-hear-us) — Talkback with the Filmmakers - Hearing Loss Association of America or at www.hearingloss.org



HLAA has been meeting with members of Congress, encouraging them to vote YES! to expand Medicare to include hearing aids and services. New legislation is coming up soon that we hope will include a provision for hearing health care under Medicare.

Tell your Senators and Congress members that hearing health care is important to you!

Visit their official websites to send your emailed comments. Or visit their Facebook pages. They listen to voters!

[Find your representative](https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

[Find your senator](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

The Sponsor Program is Fox Valley Chapter's Main Fundraiser. Names will be added as donations are received. If your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know immediately. **If you would like to support the chapter this way, send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952.**

hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com



2021 Chapter Sponsors

Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

Ascension Audiology - Debra Engebos AuD, Lisa Esser Aud, Susan Iwanski, AuD

Fox Valley Hearing Center - Melissa Dintelman AuD; Jody Jedlicka, AuD; Stephanie Long, AuD; Brittany Uitenbroek, AuD; Candy McGinnis, AuD

Haviland Hearing Aids - Peter J. Zellmer, AuD; Kyle Martell, AuD

Rural Audiology Services, Inc. (Waupaca)

Becky Franz AuD, Cari T. Kramer AuD

Larry & Judy Benish - **Jim Machalk** - **Helen Hardt Fund**

Tom & Linda O'Connor - **Jay & Babbette Robitchek**

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Anonymous, Pat Boldt, Charles & Judy Hastert, Jim Hemmen, Christine Klessig, Mike & Sue Landreman, Howard Porter, Julie Reisinger, Thrivent Match, Karen & Tom Schuppe, Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Carol Smokovich, Barb & Russ Soderberg, Dr. Juliette Sterkens & LeRoy 'Max' Maxfield, Grace & Bill Zurovitch

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Anonymous, Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, Laurin Boushley, Suzanne Brown, Jo Kintopf Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Liz & Mary Ginke, Kevin Gossens, Joyce Hannemann, Charles & Judy Hastert, Karen Kasten, Barb Merry, Julie & John Olson, Patty & Tom Reimer, Joyce Rudolph, Jodi Solvedt, Jerome & Phyllis Van Handel, Paul & Harriet Zuiker

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Barbara Abhold, Lorna Hamilton, Don Harteau, Fred Lilly, Robert Opsteen, Kenneth & Mary Ann Walter, Katie Weber, Kathleen Wiers

We are grateful to everyone who has made smaller donations to our treasury, & to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more. You all help make our chapter successful.

Our Mission: To share information, educate, advocate and provide support to people with hearing loss who choose to remain in the hearing mainstream with technology.

Meetings are open to the public, and are organized and run by volunteers. Like most small organizations, we need more volunteers!

**Don't Raise Your Voice in Frustration...
Improve Your Argument. Advocate!**

Our newsletter is available by regular mail or e-mail.
The e-mail version is in color with live links.
Let us know your preference if you wish to change.

Disclaimer—HLAA does not endorse products or services. Mention of such is intended to provide readers & those who attend meetings with information on products or services that might be of interest, & is not a recommendation or endorsement.

HLAA-Fox Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 25
Menasha WI 54952-0025

2021 Chapter Calendar

September 13: A Holistic Approach to Coping

September 15: H.O.P.E. Social

September 21: Cochlear Implant Support Group

October 11: The Impact of Hearing Loss on your Brain

November 8: Get in the Loop with Juliette Sterkens

December 13: Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club

NOTE: Because our meeting facility has not yet opened to outside groups, it looks like we'll be Zooming this Fall.

Did You Know this?

Since 1979, our organization has enjoyed the volunteer service of thousands giving their time and talents. The HLAA Chapters and State Organizations are wholly volunteer-led and run. The Walk4Hearing depends on people stepping up to chair the Walks, form teams, and help out with many aspects of the Walk4Hearing. The HLAA Board of Directors is 100% volunteer driven. Because of millions of volunteer hours, HLAA can fulfill its mission of providing information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter was founded in 1983 and is one of the oldest chapters in the United States.

HLAA is the only consumer organization whose mission focuses on people with hearing loss who choose to remain in the hearing mainstream. Thanks HLAA!!

2021 Chapter Leadership Board

Officers:

President & Newsletter Editor: Julie Olson* julieo@athenet.net

Vice President & HOPE Chair: Dale Voskuil* voskuild@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michelle Frisbie* michellelfrisbie@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Klessig* bommaklessig@gmail.com

Program Chair & CI Group Chair: Rhonda Clancey*
rclancey@hotmail.com

Member at Large: Jane Young* YBLUEJAY@aol.com

Social Committee: Christine Klessig*, Grace Zurovitch,
Chris Moylan

Chapter e-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Support Crew: Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel, Colleen Van Rooy, & Paul & Harriet Zuicker

Feel free to contact any of us personally, or use the chapter's e-mail address. We will respond as soon as possible.



Cochlear Implant Group Update

Join our Cochlear Implant support group on Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00 PM via Zoom videoconferencing. E-mail me for the link to the Tuesday meeting. Please sign in by 5:55PM.



When you participate in our informal discussion group, you will learn about the newest technology, and how it has changed people's lives. This is the perfect place to find support or to find a mentor or even be a mentor. Learning from other people who know what you are experiencing helps a ton!

Feel free to e-mail me with any questions and/or to get on our special CI e-mail list. rclancey@hotmail.com

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator



If all goes well, we will have our first H.O.P.E. gathering in months at Lions Park, 3155 N. Longwood Lane, in Appleton at 1:00 p.m. on Sept. 15. We'll meet at the pavilion. You don't have to commit to attending, but if you're interested please e-mail me so I know you are interested. I will send details and a reminder near that date. This will be an informal get-together to socialize with old friends and, it is hoped, new friends. H.O.P.E. held a similar meeting last summer, which proved to be a fun event.

Should there be a surge of COVID in the Valley, we will make a decision about holding the event and notify you. Please, if you decide to attend, be vaccinated. This pandemic has worn on everyone. I hope this gathering will help restore the special bond we have with our friends who have hearing loss. Thanks to Jane Young for her help planning this.

Dale Voskuil, H.O.P.E. Moderator voskuild@gmail.com



You don't have to join HLAA to participate in our activities. Meetings are open to anyone interested in learning to live well with hearing loss; theirs or someone else's. HLAA, a consumer organization, shares information, educates, advocates and provides support. Living with hearing loss is challenging, but there's plenty of help, some of which can be hard to find. Stigmas attached to poor hearing often keep people from seeking support. That's a shame because we can do a lot to help one another. Some of the best help comes from others who have walked the walk and learned good coping strategies. HLAA brings people together to share experiences, to learn from each other, and enjoy educational presentations. Meetings are captioned. HLAA deserves our support. We'd love to have you on board, and hope you might consider joining HLAA when you learn how helpful HLAA is. www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/