



Regular chapter meetings of HLA Fox Valley are not held in January & February. We will resume in March. The CI group and H.O.P.E. will hold meetings. See the chapter calendar on page 4 for dates, times, etc.

### Annual Holiday Social

Monday, December 9, 2019

Appleton Yacht Club

1200 S. Lutz Dr.

5:30—6:15 PM Cocktail Hour\*

6:15 PM "Souper Supper Time!"



Put your 'elfin' ears on and be one of Santa's elves for a 'Souper Evening'!

Celebrate HLA Fox Valley Chapter's 35th birthday!!

It's potluck, so we hope you'll bring something for all to enjoy. As this is being written, we are looking for 3 more souper soups; preferably in a crockpot that will provide at least 8 servings. We have 3 already signed up; a nice variety.

Or, you could bring a salad or an appetizer, or some yummy bread that goes with soup!

**The chapter will provide dessert.**

**If you could let us know what you plan to bring at: Hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com we'd be assured to have enough!**

Whatever you bring is what we will eat! + CAKE!

Participate in a 'White Elephant' gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift. No fair peeking!! It should be something fun, silly, a regift, whatever, but it should be nice; not naughty! And who knows, even if you pick it, you may not get to keep it!

**Christine says "Get your ears on! Be an elf yourself, and win a prize for the best elf outfit!"**



### Chapter Officers Elected at November Meeting

A slate of officers was presented and elected at the November meeting. The 2020 leadership team will consist of:

**President:** Christine Klessig    **Vice President:** Dale Voskuil

**Treasurer:** Michelle Frisbie    **Secretary:** ?? (Needed.)

Jane Young, Rhonda Clancey & Julie Olson will remain on the board as members-at-large. The Board could benefit from having 2 more people on board. If you are interested, let us know at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com This is a 'working board'. Everyone on the board should agree to communicate online, and to assume responsibilities that will benefit the chapter. The board meets every other month. Most board meetings are held at the Neenah Library.

### Evaluation forms turned in by those who attended

***Shining New Light on Hearing Loss, the HLAAWI state conference, showed that the event was a big success!***

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter organized and sponsored the 2019 conference, with Christine Klessig and Julie Olson acting as co-chairs.

The Bordini Center, where the conference was held, was superb! Bordini's state of the art hearing loop and visual technology, along with CART provided by Margo Lucas, gave us excellent communication access. 126 people were in attendance.

It was a treat to meet and hear Barbara Kelley, the executive director of HLA, veteran David Schible from Savannah, who works with the national Veteran's Virtual HLA Chapter, Dr. Ackerman from Signia who spoke on tinnitus, Dr. Peggy Troller who shared her expertise on hospital care for people with H.L, and Wisconsin's own Dr. Juliette Sterkens, who serves as HLA's professional advisor on hearing loop technology, speak on loops and other assistive technology.



Exhibits & food added to the conference. Thanks to all who registered, exhibited, spoke, and helped organize and run the event.

## CART = Communication Access Realtime Translation

Everyone who attended the HLAAWI State Conference in Appleton experienced communication access provided by a state of the art hearing loop, and also by CART. We received funds from the Service Fund through the Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), to cover the costs of this service.

CART is provided by a highly skilled stenographer using a stenotype machine with a phonetic keyboard and special software. A computer translates the phonetic symbols into English captions almost instantaneously. It is truly amazing!

Along with 'amazing', we have an unsung heroine who provides this service for all regular HLAA Fox Valley Chapter meetings, who also provided CART for the state conference. Margo Lucas RPR,CCP,CBI, CART Provider, travels from the northern Milwaukee suburbs to provide CART for us. We call her "Margo the Magnificent", and are grateful for her services. What a remarkable job she does! **Thank you Margo!**



If you were at the annual meeting of HLAAWI on Friday evening prior to the conference, you learned that funding for CART service may be available for certain events, both private and public. CART = American Sign Language in value, and there are times when this speech to text service is the only way to provide accommodations. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/service-fund.htm>

A lot of photos were taken at the state conference. What a treat to see people learning, having fun, mixing, and relaxing in an environment where hearing isn't pure frustration! Many photos will be included in the HLAAWI online newsletter, which will be posted in mid-December. Look for the newsletter at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org) in a couple of weeks.

We'd love your feedback!

## Subscription Battery Club Offer for HLAA Members...



It may be hard to imagine not being able to use your hearing aid or cochlear implant for an extended time period because you've run out of batteries, but it does happen, especially if you don't live near a place that sells batteries. The hearOclub, has a membership program that provides a consistent supply of batteries in the mail with free shipping. This group started out focusing on adults in senior living communities, but has grown to include people of all ages who like the convenience of knowing they will have a steady supply of batteries. While HLAA does not endorse *this product or service*, we are pleased to make the offer below available to HLAA members.

HLAA members can sign up online for hearOclub using the coupon code "HLAAMember" at [hearclub.com](http://hearclub.com) or by calling 833.LISTEN-2 (833.547.8362). Sign up for a 1-year hearOclub subscription and receive **\$30 worth of free batteries plus a battery tester keychain – a total value of \$40**, exclusive to HLAA members. (You will need your HLAA membership number to register.)

**NOTICE: If schools in the Appleton area are cancelled due to weather, our meetings will also be cancelled.**



## Interested in Attending the 2020 National HLAA Convention?

To be considered for a stipend, apply in writing, to any member of the chapter board of trustees. (See e-mail contact information on page 2, or mail to our P.O. box.)

### Deadline for stipend application is March 10th.

Register online at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) Early Bird discounted registration rates opens in January. We encourage those who go, to share rooms and travel costs if possible, but that is up to you to arrange. Talk to others from the chapter now.

Attending a national HLAA convention is an awesome experience. Many hard of hearing people say it's like going to a 'summer camp' where everyone understands your communication challenges and no one cares if you're different...because you're not!

Most who go once, want to go again. Think about it and let us know soon, if you are interested. We will try to let you know who else plans to go so you can plan together.

**New Orleans is an incredible convention city!  
You may want to stay a few extra days!**



**Important!!!** Two bills that will help provide communication access, are up before the WI House of Representatives now! AB 615

requires hearing loops to be installed in all new government buildings. AB616 mandates that people who sell hearing aids be required to inform their customers about the value and capabilities of telecoils in hearing aids. Bills can be read online.

There is a brief period where constituents can contact their elected officials to ask them to support these bills by signing on to them. More information about this, along with a link to legislators by geographical region, can be found at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)

The only way our law makers will know this is important to us is to hear from us. Please do your share.

## Looking For 2019 Sponsors!

The chapter's 2020 appeal letter will go out in January. We hope we can count on you in the new year. Sponsors help cover the costs of facility rental, newsletter printing & mailing, convention stipends, and numerous other expenses the chapter incurs. HLAA FV is a 501(c)(3) registered non profit. Donations are tax deductible. Those who donate in December will be on the 2020 list, but credited in our books for 2019. **Thank you to all the sponsors that supported HLAA Fox Valley Chapter in 2019.**

### Letter from Barbara Kelley, Executive Director of HLAA

Dear Members of the Fox Valley Chapter, Members of the HLAA-Wisconsin, and all Wisconsin Members, Chapters and Supporters,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at the 2019 HLAA-Wisconsin State Conference and supporting your theme of "Shining New Light on Hearing Loss." I had a wonderful trip – your hospitality, professionalism, and the well-planned program made the trip rewarding. I feel honored to be part of the events and meet so many wonderful people. I came home saying, "The nicest people live in Wisconsin!"

Of course, the cake, the cheese, the lunch, the tailgate party, the flashlight, and the "Be the Change" sign are all delightful. You don't miss one detail! And, I hope Emil is feeling better.

Thank you, Wisconsin, keep going doing what you are doing. I am proud of you and grateful for what you do. Happy Holidays to all of you!  
Barbara

**Barbara Kelley**  
Executive Director  
Hearing Loss Association of America



Lots of technology to learn about & information to pick up.



J. Lapidakis, J. Olson, T. O'Connor, B Kelley & C. Klessig. (Leaders of the 'Pack'!)



Happy 40th Birthday to HLAA!



Veteran David Schible shared insight on noise induced H.L.



A VFW color guard opened our event.

## 2019 Chapter Sponsors

### Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

#### ENT Specialists of WI Audiology

Katie Armatoski AuD, Mark Conradt AuD, Tricia Roe AuD,  
Cathy Dreifuerst AuD, Tamara Mischka AuD, Erin Kruegar AuD,  
Holly Rusch AuD

#### Fox Valley Hearing Centers, Inc.

Candy McGinnis AuD, Jody Jedlicka AuD, Stephanie Long AuD  
Melissa Dintelman AuD, Brittany Uitenbroek AuD

#### Haviland Hearing Aids Inc.

Peter J. Zellmer, AuD. Kyle Martell, AuD

#### Hearing Clinics of Wisconsin

Robert Broeckert MS-CCC-A  
Rural Audiology Services Kari Kramer AuD, Becky Franz MS CCC-A

**Judy & Larry Benish, Douglas Grant MD, Jim Machalk, Howard Porter, Raymond Smith, Thomas & Linda O'Connor, Janet Muhich & Sharon Ihrig (in memory of James Muhich)**

### Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Anonymous, Jo Kintopf-Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Mary & Liz Ginke, Christine Klessig, Mike & Susan Landreman, Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Rosemary Smith, Carol Smokovich, Jan & Diane Veenendaal, Walt & Phyllis Ziemke

### Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, O.C. & Pat Boldt, Suzanne Brown, Charles & Judy Hastert, James Hemmen, Ione Muehlenbein (in memory of Paul), Julie & John Olson, Charles E. Rud, Joyce Rudolph, Sharon Salm, LeRoy Sauer, Karen Lindberg-Schuppe, Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Barb & Russ Soderberg, Aurelia Stampf, Jerome & Phyllis VanHandel, Paul & Harriet Zucker

### Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Barbara Crusans, Kevin Gossens, Lorna Hamilton, Betty Lange, Patty Reimer, George Van Amber, Katie Weber, Ken & Mary Ann Walter

**We are grateful to these 2019 Sponsors for their generosity and support of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter. Their support allows us to print & circulate this newsletter, to pay rent to hold regular meetings in an accessible facility, to provide information & materials to those who attend our meetings, to educate ourselves & others on new technology, to provide stipends for members to attend educational events, & so much more. Thank you!**

**We also thank everyone who has made smaller donations to our treasury, & to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more.**

**Our meetings are open to the public, and are run by volunteers.**

*HLAA shares information, educates, advocates & provides support to people with hearing loss who choose to live in the hearing mainstream. [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) for more information.*

**HLAA does not endorse products, providers or services. We share information that makes it possible for people with hearing loss to make informed decisions.**

There are many people to thank for volunteering to help with HLAAWI conference. Brian Haines of Consulting with Clarity made sure all the technology used was spot on! The folks who organized the raffles helped HLAAWI raise over \$1200 for scholarships.



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

### 2019—2020 Chapter Event Schedule

**December 9:** Holiday Social (Details on front Page)  
**January 8:** Chapter Board Meets 5:45 PM Neenah Library  
**January 20:** CI Group meets 6 PM (see next column)  
**January 23:** H.O.P.E. Group meets 1-3 PM at UUF  
**March 9:** Next Regular Chapter Meeting (Watch for March newsletter.)  
**March 10:** Deadline for convention stipend requests.

At the January 8th Board meeting decisions will be made about the 2020 chapter programs. This is YOUR chapter. Please speak up about what you'd like. People are funny! They're very verbal about saying what they don't like, but don't tell us what they'd like!

Panels? Presenters?  
Discussion Topics? What??

PLEASE TELL US!



HLAA's mission is to share information, educate, advocate & provide peer support. What brings YOU to our meetings?

### 2019 Chapter Leadership Board

#### Officers:

**President:** Christine Klessig [bommaklessig@gmail.com](mailto:bommaklessig@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Dale Voskuil [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** VACANT (Seeking support & Phone Contact)

**Treasurer:** \*Michelle Frisbie [michellefrisbie@gmail.com](mailto:michellefrisbie@gmail.com)

**Program Chair & CI Group Chair:** \*Rhonda Clancey  
[rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com)

**Member at Large & Newsletter Editor:** \*Julie Olson  
[julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)

**Member at Large:** \*Jane Young [YBLUEJAY@aol.com](mailto:YBLUEJAY@aol.com)

**Phone Contact/Social:** Vacant...Need Help Here!!

**H.O.P.E. Chair:** Nancy Gilbertson [nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com)

**Chapter e-mail:** [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**Support Crew:** Dave Gilbertson, Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel, 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.

\* Designates Members of the Chapter's Current Board of Trustees.

While Membership in HLAA is not required to attend the events we sponsor through Fox Valley Chapter. We do encourage you to join the national HLAA organization that has been making a positive difference for people with hearing loss since 1979.

Membership information at:

[www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/](http://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/)

### HOPE Discussion and Support Group

Provides an opportunity for you to share your experiences & ask questions of others who have hearing loss. H.O.P.E. gathers on the 4th Thursday afternoon of the month, in the sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 Phillip Lane, Appleton, from 1-3PM.

Join us to 'Hear Other People's Experiences.'

Nancy Gilbertson is the moderator of H.O.P.E.

Contact Nancy at: [nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com)



### Cochlear Implant Support/Discussion Group Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, January 20th at 6:00 PM

Meets quarterly in the Community Room at Neenah Festival Foods. That room is upstairs above the deli; and is accessible by elevator. This group is open to anyone with a cochlear implant, and also to those who are interested in learning more about them. Rhonda Clancey is the group's moderator. [rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com) Contact Rhonda if you'd like to be placed on the CI group's email list.



"We LOVE to HEAR!"

### Moonlight Sonata: Deafness in Three Movements, an HBO Documentary Film debuts Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky's HBO documentary, deals with her parents and her son's hearing loss, and will debut on HBO on December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a story about love, family, and finding your voice.



Filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky has been surrounded by deafness her entire life: Brodsky's parents are deaf and her son Jonas lost his hearing at the age of four. While Jonas can now play piano with the help of cochlear implants, his aging deaf grandfather will help him learn how to embrace his own deafness while experiencing Beethoven's music in a profoundly new way.

Weaving visceral animation and sound design with intimate family footage captured over 80 years, *Moonlight Sonata* chronicles a deaf boy's journey to learn the anguished sonata Beethoven wrote just as he was blindsided by his own deafness.



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