

HLAA TC

January 2022

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.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Zoom meetings continue through the end of the 2021-22 season:
(email treasurer@hlaatc.org for invite)

January 15, 2022
Darlene Zangara:

Report from the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (MNCDHH)



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www.hlaatc.org

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Meetings of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom until further notice.

President's Message



HLAA-TC President's Message January 2022

How many of us stayed up on December 31st to be sure that 2021 actually left???

Here's hoping, wishing, and praying that 2022 will be a healthier, happier year!

While some of our readers head to warmer climates, other hardy souls will brave the Minnesota January (myself included).

Our January presentation will be by Darlene Zangara, the Executive Director of the Commission. Darlene will update us on some of the Commission's exciting endeavors and plans for the new year, including legislative agendas.

In February, we will hear from representatives of Minnesota Hands and Voices. This organization does some amazing work with and for Children and Young Adults. Come and learn more about their mission and impact in Minnesota.

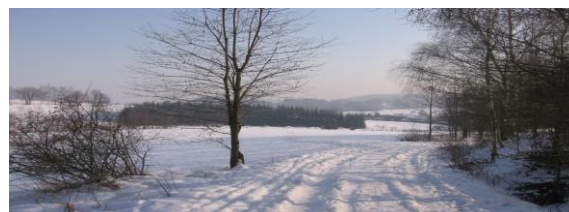
The Board is keeping an eye on the everchanging Covid situation in Minnesota. Right now, we continue to plan for an in-person, end-of-the-year get together in May. Of course, that could change.

As always, we thank those of you who have come forward to assist the Board, as many Chapters are in a crisis situation. We do need and welcome your help and assistance. We aren't asking you for a long-term commitment. A year would be a help!

None of us want to see the demise of the Twin Cities (the only Minnesota) Chapter. We have a mission to fulfill and we (the very small current Board) cannot do it alone. If you have a desire to get involved in some way, please contact me (president@hlaatc.org) or Lionel (treasurer@hlaatc.org).

Be safe, be happy, and please be kind!

Christine



Board Members

Christine Morgan
president

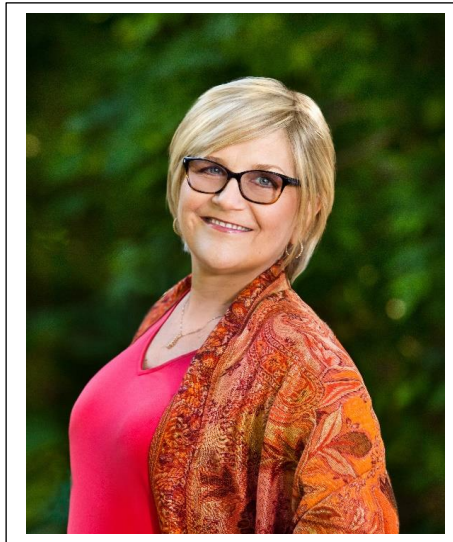
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Vicki Martin
Social Media Specialist
Laura Hagemann

January Speaker



Dr. Darlene Zangara

The speaker: Darlene Zangara, Ph.D., LPC, is the Executive Director for the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.

The talk: Legislative and Commission Updates

Background: Darlene Zangara, Ph.D., LPC, is the Executive Director for the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.

Dr. Zangara believes in servant leadership. A person of great empathy and foresight, Darlene started out as a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students in a self-contained classroom. Next, Darlene became a clinical therapist, providing mental health, vocational, educational assessments, and counseling services. She was also an adjunct instructor for psychology, and later, interpreting and transliterating training courses.

Darlene has a Bachelor of Sciences in Deaf Education from Bowling Green State University, a Master of Arts in Counseling with the Deaf from Gallaudet University, and a Doctor of Philosophy, Leadership and Change from Antioch University.

Feeling a gravitational pull towards stewardship, Darlene moved on to key leadership roles. To date, she has served as a director or executive director for several organizations including:

(January speaker, cont.)

- "Me Too!" A Substance Abuse Prevention Project for Deaf Youth, funded by the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Services
- "We Too!" A Resiliency Enhancement Project for Deaf Youth with Special Needs, funded by the Ohio Department of Drugs and Alcohol Services
- DeafLink - The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Network Center, funded by the Ohio Department of Drugs and Alcohol Services
- Ohio Resource Center on Deafness"
- CSD of Ohio, Division Director
- Centers of Excellence, CSD Headquarters
- Olmstead Implementation Office, State of Minnesota

Working collaboratively is important to Darlene. She works side-by-side with her team members because she believes more is accomplished when people work together, sharing the same vision and desired outcomes.

Tell us about your Favorite Captioned Theater!

If you are like me, you have been giving your streaming devices a good workout this year!

Between the weather and the pandemic, most of us have not been seeing the inside of many movie theaters lately. However, in anticipation of better days to come, it's been suggested that we begin collecting information about captioned movies in real, popcorn-filled, people-bumping theaters, where we might consider going when we can be with others face-to-face once again.

If you missed it in the December 2021 issue, take a look at Laura's glowing report on one local theater: **"Minnesota is now the first state in the country to have a movie theater with 100% open captioning ALL THE TIME!"** [St. Anthony Main Theaters in Minneapolis, MN](#) now offers open captioning all day, every movie, every showtime, every day."



Last minute update:

Let's keep the momentum going!

Send your favorites to editor@hlaatc.org

Please include the following information if you can:

Name of theater

Approximate location of theater

Type of captioning available

How to you find out which movies have captioning

How to obtain the caption equipment?

Is the captioning equipment reliable?

Link to their website

Is the website accurate in showing which movies are captioned?

Are there special features that you love about the theater?

Any things you are not so crazy about?

MSP Film Society has taken over all five screens of St. Anthony Main Theatre. They will be renovating the space and will provide 'open and closed caption options.' We are unsure if that means every movie will have open captions every day. Visit this site to find out more about the new St. Anthony Main Theatre, <https://mspfilm.org/mee-t-the-new-main/>

December Meeting Summary

Barb Schneider

President Christine Morgan welcomed everyone to our Christmas meeting, especially those who have not been with us for a while, and introduced the other officers; Jayne was our wonderful transcriptionist. Everyone showed their Christmas finery and voted for best outfit via chat. Winners were (in order) Laura, Ade and Christine (tied), Sue and Lionel (tied). Gift cards are mailed.

Christine's report: Upcoming speakers: January: Capitol report from MNCDHH Director Darlene Zangara; February: Hands & Voices who serve school age D/HH students; Spring: hoping to get Northern Voices, a Roseville school for children who are hard of hearing. Interesting lineup! Christine and Lionel had to leave early and wished everyone safe and healthy holidays.

InnoCaption Director of Regulatory Affairs and In-House Counsel Christina Duarte, and Marketing Director Matt Goncalves were the presenters today. HLAATC does not promote any program but offers info on any that are requested. InnoCaption is a free, multi-award winning mobile app for real-time captioning on cell phones found on the app store. The choice of CART stenographer or voice recognition, both confidential, is unique in the industry. Because issues of accuracy or power surges can affect service, users can switch methods anytime during the call, so they are in complete control. Speed of translation for both methods is "instant", very fast.

Regarding privacy, stenographers undergo background checks and can only hear one side of the call. Transcripts are on your phone, not saved by InnoCaption, and although InnoCaption uses Google platform, they have their own servers. Christina stated that they have undergone "some pretty intense security assessments" and passed them all. In medical contexts, the FCC considers relay services to not violate HIPAA privacy rules.

Font size is flexible and includes a dyslexic font; voice recognition in Spanish was just launched. Any video conferencing platform that has a dial-in can use InnoCaption. Call forwarding is used from your cell phone to Innocaption number, and visual voice mail retains messages. DeskView is available to read captions on computer screen and has a number of helpful features. The cell phone number can be used across multiple platforms and can be used to call landline phones for audio only. Emergency 911 calls are prioritized but can't ping exact locations. Christina emphasized there are some situations where InnoCaption should not necessarily be used, due to the context limitations of the stenographer. Braille is not integrated at this time, and usage solutions for the deaf blind community are continually being tested.

(December Meeting Summary, cont.)

Demos are on YouTube; for support issues: support@InnoCaption.com.
Matt: Matt@InnoCaption.com Christina: regulatory@InnoCaption.com PowerPoint slides of the presentation are available from Christine: president@hlaatc.org

After voting for best Christmas outfits, everyone readied for a group photo by Matt, and wished all a happy holiday.

Consider the benefits of your helping others with hearing loss feel less alone. All of us possess unique gifts to help keep our chapter a premier resource in the Metro and beyond. Just ask what's needed and you'll find a meaningful way to connect. Email Christine, president@hlaatc.org or Lionel treasurer@hlaatc.org, for opportunities.



Holiday Cheer Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of our December meeting's Holiday Cheer contest!

By popular vote,
Laura Hageman won first place and a \$25 gift card,
Ade Haugen won second place and a \$15 gift card and
Sue OBrien won third place and a \$10 gift card.

Christine Morgan was also tied for second place and Lionel Locke for third, but as Board officers, declined the offer of a gift card.

Thank you to our winners and all of the other members who spiced up our December meeting with their fun and imaginative holiday outfits.



A Brief Explanation of the Facebook page and the Facebook Group
by HLAA-TC Social Media Specialist
Laura Hagemann

On Saturday, December 18th those who logged on to the HLAA-TC Zoom monthly chapter meeting at 9:30 were greeted by the HLAA-TC Social Media Specialist Laura Hagemann. Laura gave a brief explanation of the difference between the [Facebook Page \(HLAA-Twin Cities\)](#) and the [Facebook Group \(HLAA-TC\)](#).

<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="font-family: cursive;">Facebook Page</h2><p>HLAA-Twin Cities</p></div> <div style="text-align: center;"> “Front yard”</div> <p>Public “Front-facing” page. (More professional)</p> <p>Run and posted by the HLAA-TC social media specialist only</p> <p>Posts focus on more professional-toned posts and articles.</p>	vs.	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="font-family: cursive;">Facebook Group</h2><p>HLAA-TC</p></div> <div style="text-align: center;"> “Backyard”</div> <p>Public “backyard” facing group. More informal</p> <p>Anyone can post content to the page</p> <p>Since anyone can post content is geared towards discussion</p>
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(Facebook, cont.)

A quick way to describe the difference between the two is the “Front Yard” versus “Backyard” analogy. [The Facebook page \(HLAA-Twin Cities\)](#) is the “front yard” and is more professional in tone and only posted on by the Social Media Specialist (Laura). The group (HLAA-TC) is the “backyard” and is more informal and can be posted on by anyone. Another important distinction between the two is that the Facebook page can be “liked” (thumbs up) and the Facebook group can be joined (membership). This gives the distinction between the page having fans and the group having a community of members.

As we move into 2022 and are still meeting virtually for our monthly chapter meetings, it is becoming important to build a virtual community. If you are a member of Facebook, please join our [group page \(can be found by clicking this link\)](#). We hope to get discussions going. If you are not on Facebook please subscribe to our blog and we can get discussions going that way (comment on blog posts).

If you have any suggestions for our social media you can comment on the Facebook page, [Facebook Group](#) or our blog. You can also reach out to HLAA-TC Social Media Specialist Laura Hagemann via email social@hlaatc.org

Book Club Announcement: The HLAA-TC virtual book club has decided to take January off and we will resume meeting (on Zoom) in February.

Humor break

“I sent my hearing aids in for service three months ago...
I haven’t heard anything since.”

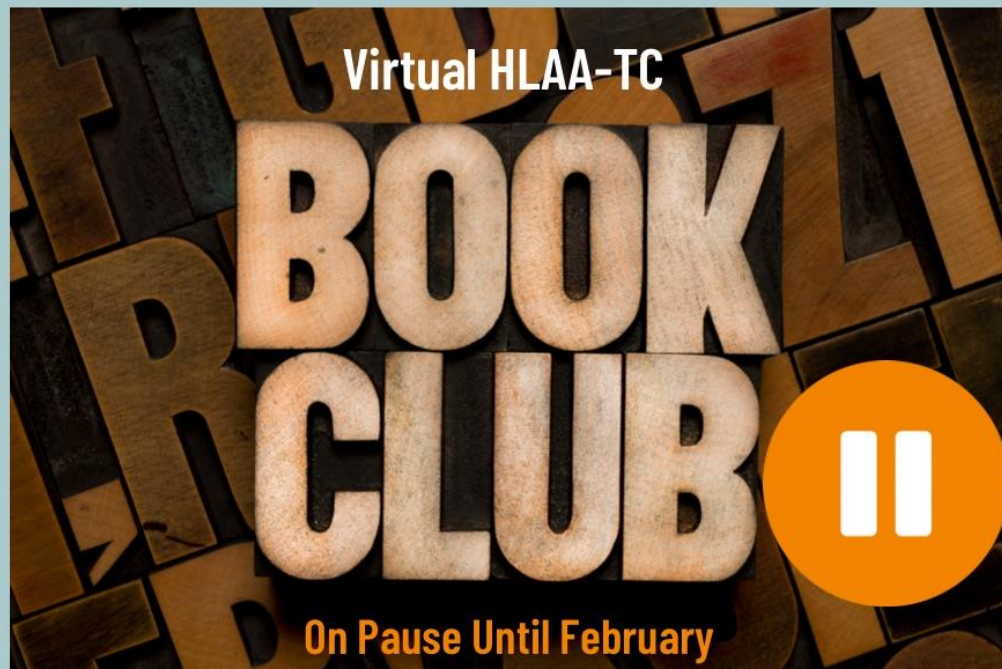
*(And these, from doctor’s notes in patients’ charts:
culled by Christine Morgan)*



- Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
- On the 2nd day the knee was better, on the 3rd day it disappeared.
- The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
- Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital.
- While in the ER, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.
- By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped and he was feeling much better.
- Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.
- And my favorite: The patient refused an autopsy.

HLAA-TC Virtual Book Club is paused until February

By Laura Hagemann



After meeting (virtually on Zoom) almost every month since April in 2021, the small but mighty HLAA-TC Virtual Book Club has decided to take the month of January off and will resume in February. After reviewing many books both fiction and nonfiction the group has made a preliminary reading schedule to get us started.

As of now these are the books on our reading schedule. We alternate fiction and nonfiction and try to focus on hearing loss or disability.

(Book Club, cont.)

For February: [Book \(Memoir\): Signs of Survival: A Memoir of the Holocaust.” by Renee Hartman. \(Children's Nonfiction/Memoir\)](#)

For March: [Book \(novel\) “The Listening Eye” by Patricia Wentworth \(mystery\)](#)

For April: [Book \(memoir\): “Burn Down the Ground: A Memoir” by Kambri Krews \(Nonfiction/Memoir\)](#)

For May: [Book \(novel\): “Deafening” by Frances Itani](#)

For June: A Nonfiction selection

For July: A Fiction selection

For August: A Nonfiction selection

For September: A Fiction selection

For October: A Nonfiction selection

For November: A Fiction selection

For December: A Nonfiction selection

Just like in months past we will announce monthly which book we are reading and when the next book club is scheduled. As of now, we have no plans to meet physically and plan to continue meeting on Zoom with live captions.

If you would like to see a list of books read and to be read, please visit the [Book Club page on the HLAA-TC website](#).

If you would like to be involved in a future book club, please email Laura Hagemann at social@hlaatc.org You don't need to be a member of HLAA, or HLAA-TC to participate in the book club.

From the Starkey News update Dec 1 2021:

We found some interesting stories around the web: (ctrl+click to read the article)

[Deaf and hard-of-hearing scientists call for equity, inclusion](#)

[Scientific American: COVID Can Cause Strange Eye and Ear Symptoms](#)

[Opinion: Cover hearing aids, not a questionable Alzheimer's drug](#)

[Medicare hearing aid coverage could be 'transformational', says Nicholas Reed of the Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health](#)

[Eternals Introduces Marvel's First Deaf Superhero. But Accessibility Issues Still Plague Moviegoers](#)

[Dr Cliff Covers the Relationship Between Tinnitus and Suicide](#)

[Hearing Loss & Dementia: What's the Connection?](#)



Aduhelm vs. Hearing Aids:

Excerpted from: "Cover hearing aids, not a questionable Alzheimer's drug"
Saint Paul Pioneer Press – November 19, 2021

(Written by Adriane Fugh-Berman, professor in the department of pharmacology and physiology at Georgetown University Medical Center, and Dave Stanke, research associate at PharmedOut. The article was written for the Chicago Tribune.)

"The FDA recently made two important decisions – one bad, one good – that will affect people with cognitive decline.

"The approval of Aduhelm (aducanumab), an expensive and controversial treatment for Alzheimer's disease, has been roundly and deservedly criticized, and the manufacturer's close relationship with the FDA questioned.

"The approval of the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids, on the other hand, should be applauded by anyone who cares about dementia and cognitive decline.

"Friends and family may confuse a person's loss of hearing with cognitive decline; certainly, difficulty hearing conversation can cause miscommunications, impair social interactions, and contribute to anxiety and frustration.

"The article went on to say that "no drug that reduces plaque, including Aduhelm, has reversed dementia...It turns out, though, that hearing loss can actually cause a decrease in cognitive ability. And while most causes of cognitive decline are not reversible, this one is: evidence indicates that hearing aids protect people against further decline."

A good strategy for deciding among several possible solutions to a problem is, try the easiest, safest, and cheapest one first. Hearing aids already exist, and they are safe: if they cause any problems, they can easily be removed.

The writers state that "a set of hearing aids would cost less than a tenth of what one year of Aduhelm would cost."

HLAA TC
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



Next meeting: Zoom on January 15

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State.....Zip.....

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

*Newsletter via email is included in all
memberships*

_____ Individual \$15
_____ Professional \$50
_____ Supporting \$100
_____ Newsletter only \$15
_____ Contact me for newspaper advertising

**Mail to: HLAA Twin Cities Chapter
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426**



Welcomes You!

President -
Christine Morgan - president@hlaatc.org

Vice President –
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Treasurer –
Lionel Locke treasurer@hlaatc.org

Secretary –
Lionel Locke secretary@hlaatc.org

Director at Large -
Christy Myers director@hlaatc.org

Contact Info. - info@hlaatc.org

Newsletter Editor -
Vicki Martin, editor@hlaatc.org

Photos – Vicki Martin
Social Media - Laura Hagemann social@hlaatc.org

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom on January 15, 2022. Open to socialize at 9:30 AM, formal meeting 10 AM.

Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.hlaatc.org or visit us on Facebook: groups/HLAA-TC.

Accommodations: All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* (www.paradigmreporting.com).