

# HLAA TC

# February 2023

## 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

**February 18, 2023**  
Nolan Johnson, (MED-EL):  
Aural Rehabilitation

Email ([secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)) for meeting link.

**March 18, 2023**  
Johnathan Taylor:  
Music and Hearing Loss

**April 15, 2023**  
Shari Eberts, author  
How to Live Skillfully with  
Hearing Loss



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### Officers' emails

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HLAA National - Maryland

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

The February Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting (HLAA TC) will be a Zoom meeting on February 18, 2023  
Email the secretary ([secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)) for meeting information and link.

## President's Message

*HLAA-TC President's Message – February 2023*

*Robin Coninx*

MNCDHH is looking for individual nominations of people who have positively impacted the Hard of Hearing community. The deadline is right around the corner! Please nominate ASAP!

**Lobby Day 2023 Awards** is open for nominations this week! Do you know someone in the community who does amazing work? Who may be overlooked? Do you know anyone or a young person who is making changes or inspiring others in our community? Who would you like to nominate for this award and why do they qualify for this award?

The deadline to send nominations is February 10, 2023.

The Youth Award is awarded to youth who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing who have demonstrated strong leadership skills.

The Citizen Advocate Award is awarded to individuals who have done exemplary work in advocating for and with deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Minnesotans.

Civic Engagement Award: The Civic Engagement Award is awarded to a person or an organization that has worked to increase the civic engagement of deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Minnesotans.

The Education Excellence Award is awarded to individuals who work in an education setting with deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing students.

Access Award: The Access Award is awarded to those who have done notable work in increasing the accessibility of services for and with deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Minnesotans. Examples of accessibility support include captioning, interpreting, public access, or accessible technology.

The Humanitarian Award recognizes the work of a deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing person or organization in our community who are devoted to the welfare of humanity.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to those who have done distinctive work for and with deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Minnesotans that spans 20+ years of contributions.

Questions? Email [jessalyn.akerman-frank@state.mn.us](mailto:jessalyn.akerman-frank@state.mn.us)

**About Lobby Day:** Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing Lobby Day is on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. There will be training opportunities, appointments with legislators, a rally and awards ceremony in the Rotunda, Capitol tours, a poster session with students, and more! You will have the opportunity to meet with your legislator to explain which bills are important to you and why. Learn more about [Lobby Day!](#)

### **TOWN HALL MEETING**

The Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (MNCDHH) and the Hearing Loss Association of America, Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) are hosting a town hall meeting centering on people with hearing loss who use speaking and listening to communicate. We invite all members of the hearing loss community, as well as professional and families to attend.

Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to noon on ZOOM

Register in advance for this meeting using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtfuGurzMoGdCGnir8RZiW1lRscYI8AurY>

Happy February! Winter is half of the way through her snow and cold!

*~Byrdie*

## Meet the Board



### Director at Large *Karla Sand*

I am Karla Violet Sand. I was born and raised in southern Minnesota. I am 84 years old, with many tales to share. I attended colleges in Mankato, Minneapolis and St. Paul. I married and moved to Puerto Rico and The Hague for ten years. My husband was an educator in American international schools, and I was an administrative assistant and teacher recruiter. We moved back to Minnesota, with a one year stop in Washington D. C.

I was employed in nonprofits as a Human Resources Representative. Later I changed professions and worked as a Medicare counselor for 10 years. That was a daily routine of answering calls from the Minnesota senior population. During the last year of answering telephone calls, I noticed my hearing and understanding of callers was difficult at best.

I needed hearing aids. I retired early from a job I felt was perfect for me. I could relate to callers because I too was a senior citizen. But to give assistance you must be able to hear the callers. I could not.

I've spent my early retirement years bringing to the community the problems associated with losing your hearing at a later age. It is very challenging, and I want to use my time as a board member for HLAA-TC to bring this issue to the growing number of seniors experiencing hearing loss, and to the communities they live in.

I am a mother, grandmother, great grandmother and a very active senior person who looks forward to each day of making sure our population has a fun, creative, loving and eventful time of their lives.

Karla Sand

# Summary of HLAATC meeting Saturday, January 21, 2023

*By Signe Dysken, Vice President*

**Darlene Zangara, Executive Director** of the Minnesota Commission for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (MNCDHH), was our guest speaker. Ms. Zangara shared her background, which includes childhood hearing loss and parents with deafness. Ms. Zangara currently has a profound hearing loss and uses hearing aids and speech reading, but is also fairly dependent on sign language. Her husband recently developed a new hearing loss.

Ms. Zangara's credentials include a BA in deaf education, some years of teaching, MA in counseling from Gallaudet, and PhD in leadership change from Antioch University.

MNCDHH is a government organization advocating for communication access and equal opportunity for Minnesotans who are deaf, deaf/blind or hard of hearing. The organization is mandated by statutes and governed by Governor-appointed board members who oversee support from the state. The Commission does a lot of legislative work. Aspects of their work:

- Monthly Video Updates (with captioning)
- Website and social media channels that provide information.

Important Staff Members:

a. **Darlene Zangara**, Executive Director, [Darlene.g.Zangara@state.mn.us](mailto:Darlene.g.Zangara@state.mn.us)

a. **Maya Larson** – is hard of hearing and legally blind. She is the office administrator and communications specialist and is Darlene's right-hand person. [Maya.larson@state.mn.us](mailto:Maya.larson@state.mn.us)

b. **Andrea Riffe** – hard of hearing specialist, working on projects to see what is needed in the hard of hearing communities. Andrea is hard of hearing. [Andrea.l.riffe@state.mn.us](mailto:Andrea.l.riffe@state.mn.us)

c. **Keenan Gao**: hard of hearing specialist. Community and civic engagement work. Keenan also supplies information for program development.

Recent workshops:

- Recent workshop on assistive listening resources, T-coil and looping technology --- presented by Monique Hammond, who is an important resource for the Commission.
- Workshop on closed captioning in public places – done in collaboration with the Dept of Human Rights. Legislation is proposed that recognizes that captioning is a human right. The workshop also addressed how to lodge a complaint if required captioning is not turned on at request.

Strategic Plan: Focus on developing a plan for the next 2 years, including priorities for legislative issues. Volunteers are welcome to make recommendations.

Current Projects:

- Beginning January 26<sup>th</sup> -- **Basic training on working with the legislature** – eg how to meet your legislator. **Lobby Thursdays** present opportunities via Zoom or in person, for information and experience on meeting your legislators.
- **Lobby Day 2023 at the Capitol is March 7<sup>th</sup>**, in person. Check-in is at the Vault in the basement. That event lasts from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, but work continues throughout the day. An hour of training from 9:30-10:30AM., then a session on current bills, run by Alicia Lane, the government relations director, who works regularly with legislators. Next, appointments with legislators, poster sessions and finally a rally and awards. Reception from 4:30 PM. The Board is deeply involved in this and welcomes volunteers.

*(meeting summary, cont.)*

- **Town Hall** meeting to collaborate more with the Commission: This ZOOM meeting will take place Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> (see details in President's message, p.2 of this newsletter). The Commission is interested in hearing the priorities of the deaf community.
- **Over-the-counter hearing aids** – how to publicize information – radio? TV?

Ms. Zangara encouraged HLLA members to **attend a Board meeting of the Commission.**

Budget: There is need for interpreters and CART expertise and need for financing to advance public policy issues. CART is needed for all legislative hearings, but not all hearings have CART. Captioning helps not just the hard of hearing; it also helps legislators who need to review a topic. CART is preferable to digital voice recognition captioning because CART is more accurate and thus important in legislative meetings.

Potential Legislative issues:

- Hearing aid affordability for adults – insurance coverage versus voucher or tax rebates
- Closed captioning in public places to be enabled for TV display in public places. Allow filing a complaint if captioning is not available or is not turned on at the request of a customer. Rep. Daniels from Faribault is invested in this issue.
- Communication access during emergencies.
- State employees with disabilities – update and clarify recruitment and retention bills. Enrolling in CONNECT 700 can help a person with a disability get priority in State hiring.
- Education – certified deaf interpreters in classrooms – should be recognized as educational interpreters.
- Financial aid for deaf education: Students in Special Ed departments get tax credits or funds to help with schooling. Similarly, college deaf and hard of hearing majors and postgraduates studying deaf education should get the same.
- Communication access – there is a need for attention and accommodation to IEP in cases when the parent has hearing issues or other disabilities. Parents need education on the importance of an education plan for their children with hearing disabilities, even if mild.
- Track and document locations with loop systems, also telecoil education for audiologists.
- Prescription labels with Braille
- Address the restrictive requirements for board members that seem excessive.

**Other Discussion Points from January meeting:**

- Poor acoustics at the Capitol – a significant problem. See the little red box in the House area of the Capitol for a device that connects to telecoils. (Karla)
- Karla discussed her work in helping seniors who become deaf at a later age – and the need for good captioning on TVs and for education of the general population about the issues.
- Jeannie (Deaf hard of Hearing Services division of DHHS) will present a webinar (April 11 at 10 AM and again April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM) on assistance for seniors who are hard of hearing – eg assistive living devices, CART – so seniors can maintain their independence.
- Monique discussed noise mitigation to prevent hearing loss. She also recommended going to the MNCDHH website to work to learn how to make a case to the legislature.

## **Book club Author will be attending the February Book Club!**

*By Laura Hagemann*

The HLAA-TC Book Club is excited to announce that the author, Joanne Greenberg, for our February novel selection will be joining us by Zoom for our book club discussion of her novel

*I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* on Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 pm (Central Time).

*I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* (published in 1964) is a novel about mental health. We recently decided to expand our reading criteria to include books about more than just hearing loss/deafness). It is highly regarded and was made into a movie in 1977 that was nominated for a Best Adapted Screenplay Academy Award (Oscar). [If you have Amazon Prime, the 1977 movie is [available to watch on Amazon Prime Video](#).]

She has written many books and has experience with the deaf community in Denver (you can read more about that in the blog post she wrote that I link below). One of the other novels Greenberg wrote is more directly related to deafness called: *In This Sign* (1984). (Not on Kindle, but [on Amazon in paperback/hardcover](#). In BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BRJ01411; BARD: TB 03470.) Plot summary: “From the award-winning author of *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*, Joanne Greenberg presents a poignant novel of a family whose love and courage enable them to survive in the silent world of the deaf. Abel and Janice Ryder began their married life together with all the hopes and dreams of a young couple deeply in love. But before long they realize that their deafness stands as an immense barrier between them and a society that seems to work only for those who can hear.”

To find out more information about Joanne Greenberg (she also published under the name Hannah Green), read these links:

- [A blog post that Joanne Greenberg wrote](#) about her experience having *In This Sign* turned into a TV movie called ‘Love Is Never Silent’ (Hallmark Channel, 1985 [[DVD can be purchased on Amazon](#)]). You can also watch [this YouTube video](#) of the director of the TV movie talking about using Deaf actors for many of the roles.
- [A recent article \(July, 2022\) in the Denver Post](#) about Ms. Greenberg.

If you plan to read one or both of the books, or watch the movie or TV movie, or you would just like to watch or participate in the discussion with Ms. Greenberg the HLAA-TC Book Club would love for you to join us (book clubs are open to everyone and have captions). The book club with Joanne Greenberg is Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 pm (Central Time). For a Zoom link to this book club, please email Laura Hagemann [social@hlaatc.org](mailto:social@hlaatc.org)

(book club, cont.)

Book Club 2023 Updated Books and February Selection  
By Laura Hagemann

On Tuesday, January 24th the HLAA-TC book club met on Zoom to discuss the autobiography [“I’ll Scream Later”](#) By Marlee Matlin. The group enjoyed talking about Ms. Matlin’s varied career and life and discussed that [Ms. Matlin has become the first deaf director in the DGA \(Director’s Guild of America\) with her direction of a TV show episode of the new drama on Fox](#) called [“The Accused”](#) (the episode Matlin directed aired on January 24th).

After discussing Matlin’s book we moved on to discuss our upcoming reading schedule. Due to book availability we have changed the book reading order for 2023, it is as follows:

**All HLAA-TC Book Clubs meet on Zoom (with captions) every fourth Tuesday at 7:00pm (Central Time) [unless otherwise stated]**

(NLS= National Library Service for the Blind (BARD); LOC= Library of Congress)

**FEBRUARY 2023:** [“I never promised you a rose garden”](#) by Joanne Greenberg (Fiction) BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 18074, BARD: DB 12303

**March 2023:** [“Chasing Space: an astronaut’s story of gift, grace and second chances”](#) by Leland Melvin (nonfiction/memoir) BARD/NLS: Yes: Braille BR 22112 and BARD: DB 89168

**April 2023:** [“True Biz”](#) by Sara Novic (Fiction). BARD/NLS: Yes, BARD only: DB 107579

**May 2023:** [“What’s that pig outdoors: Memoir of Deafness”](#) by Henry Kisor (nonfiction/memoir) BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 08392; BARD: DB 31492

**June 2023:** [“Deaf Republic”](#) by Ilya Kaminsky (Poems). BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 22694, BARD: DB 94920

**July 2023:** [“Blind Rage: Letters to Helen Keller”](#) by Georgina Kleege (nonfiction/memoir) BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 16939, BARD: DB 63900

**August 2023:** [“The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn”](#) by Colin Dexter (fiction/mystery).BARD/NLS: BARD only: DB 108526

**September 2023:** [“Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found”](#) by Rebecca Alexander (Nonfiction/Memoir) BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 20582; BARD: DB 80043

**October 2023:** [“Murder on Lexington Avenue: A Gaslight Mystery”](#) by Victoria Thompson (Fiction/Mystery).BARD/NLS: Yes, BR 24532 in process; BARD: DB 81245

**November 2023:** [“Haben”](#) by Haben Girma (nonfiction/memoir) BARD/NLS: Yes, Braille: BR 22702; BARD: DB 96188

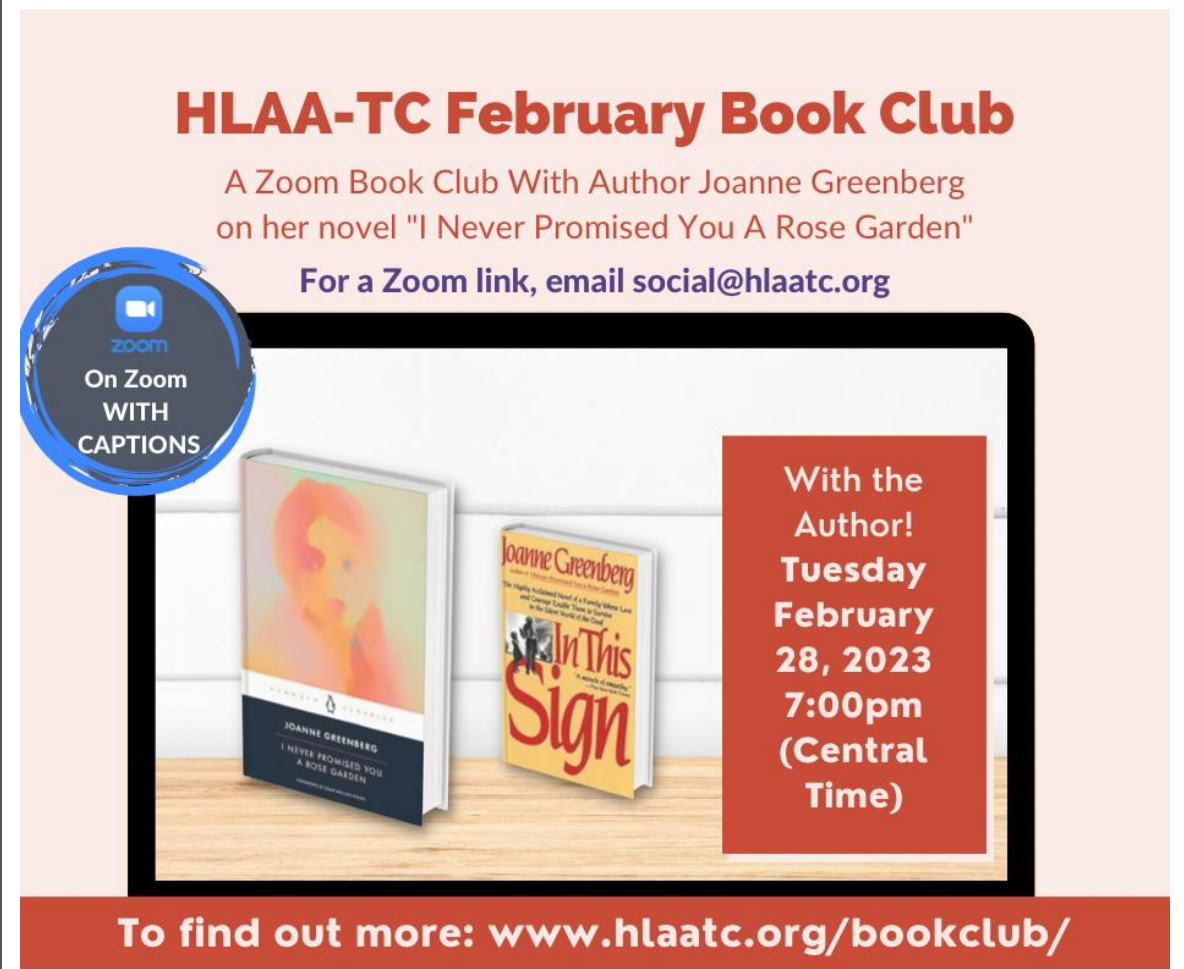
**December 2023:** [“Keeping Lucy: A Novel”](#) by T. Greenwood (Fiction) BARD/NLS: BARD only: DB 96120

(book club, cont.)

### **About the HLAA-TC Book Club:**

The HLAA-TC Book Club meets every month throughout the year on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We alternate between reading fiction and nonfiction books each month and our selections often deal with hearing loss, deafness or disability. We are meeting virtually on Zoom and have had several authors and special guests join us to discuss the books. We meet in the evenings on Zoom (with computer/AI captions). For more information and/or to receive a Zoom link, please email Laura Hagemann (HLAA-TC Social Media Specialist) at [social@hlaatc.org](mailto:social@hlaatc.org)

Visit the Book Club page on our website: <https://www.hlaatc.org/book-club/>



**HLAA-TC February Book Club**

A Zoom Book Club With Author Joanne Greenberg on her novel "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden"

For a Zoom link, email [social@hlaatc.org](mailto:social@hlaatc.org)

On Zoom WITH CAPTIONS

With the Author!  
**Tuesday  
February  
28, 2023  
7:00pm  
(Central  
Time)**

To find out more: [www.hlaatc.org/bookclub/](http://www.hlaatc.org/bookclub/)

The graphic features two book covers: "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden" by Joanne Greenberg and "In This Sign" by Joanne Greenberg. A red banner at the bottom contains the website link.



## Loop Minnesota named Finalist for ACG's BOLD Award



Congratulations to Loop Minnesota for being named a Finalist for Minnesota's Association for Corporate Growth's BOLD Awards in the non-profit category!

The award is to recognize BOLD (original, daring, inventive and bold) work. It is both a "business excellence" award that recognizes the work done toward a particular goal: in this case, making hearing accessible.

During an interview, Mayor Jake Spano of St. Louis Park said that Loop Minnesota was being BOLD - to approach the city about installing the hearing loop in the Council Chamber, strongly recommend it and then help finance and install it. HLAA-TC also contributed to the installation of the Loop.

Founded in 2014, **Loop Minnesota** is a Communication Access-Oriented, non-profit 501(c)(3) Organization dedicated to helping Minnesotans with Hearing Loss hear and understand speech clearly, especially in venues with background noise. (HLAA-TC members Ross Hammond and Monique Hammond are President and Vice-president, respectively, of Loop Minnesota).

Loop Minnesota advocates for the installation throughout the State of Minnesota of hearing assistive systems known as hearing loops (induction loops or audio loops). Loop Minnesota also supports and provides information on any technology that helps people hear better and improves access to communication and information: FM and Infra Red (IR) Systems, Closed Captioning (CC), CART (Communication Access Real Time Transcription) and other assistive devices.

The awards event is scheduled for February 28, 2023 5 PM - 8:30 PM CST at the Minneapolis Event Centers (212 2nd St SE).

If anyone from HLAA is interested in attending and showing their support:  
<https://www.acg.org/minnesota/events/2023-acg-mn-bold-awards>  
<https://cvent.me/aLXYx3>

Loop Minnesota is working with the event organizers to have a temporary hearing loop available during the award ceremony event

## **How to find a looped venue in Minnesota (and elsewhere)**

There are a number of ways to check on a location to find out if it has a hearing loop.

Loop Minnesota's website includes an alphabetical list of looped venues in the upper midwest, and a map showing their locations.

<https://www.loopminnesota.org/>

These were also found:

<https://time2loopamerica.com>

covers all US states and has a search bar that lets you filter for the name or type of venue you are looking for.

<https://loopfinder.com/> likewise lets you search by city, venue name and category

<https://hearingloop.org/> Offers information about the whys and wherefores of hearing loops, and has link to hearing loop finders in its text

These lists are not cross-linked, so if you don't find what you are looking for on one list, check the others too.

### **Google Maps**

The Winter 2023 Hearing Life magazine (HLAA publication) features a page on hearing loops. The big news on this front is that **hearing loops are now included on google maps!**

<https://www.google.com/maps> on your computer, or google maps app on your smartphone gives you instant access to information about hearing loops in many locations. It even works in Europe (or in China!), or wherever you are traveling.

#### **Instructions for finding loops on google maps:**

**On a computer:** go to google.com/maps. Find any listing and click on the right arrow next to the location description. It will show you what accessibility features are available)

**On a smartphone:**

open a Google Maps listing  
under the photos, scroll to the right to find the 'about' tab  
click on 'about' and scroll down to 'Accessibility'  
assistive hearing loop will be listed if one is available at the venue

(Or, briefly: select venue/about/accessibility)





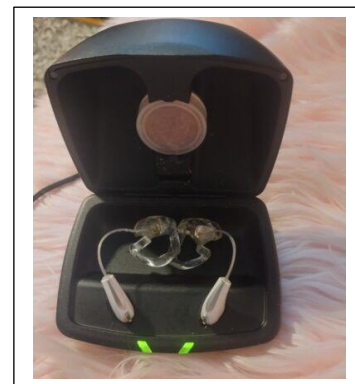
David Swan, loving husband of former HLAA-TC president Judi Swan, passed away on January 25, 2023.

He wanted to offer his pair of Starkey Livio Edge AI rechargeable hearing aids to someone who will be helped by them.

Our hearts go out to Judi as she passes on his gift.

(If you are interested in these hearing aids, please contact Vicki Martin, [gimme88@aol.com](mailto:gimme88@aol.com))

Starkey Livio Edge AI rechargeable hearing aids=>



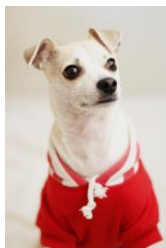
## FEEDBACK

Our Readers Write  
(or we wish they would!)

Also called “Letters to the Editor”, this could be a great way for you to make your views known.

We will publish the Feedback column whenever YOU send us something to put into it!  
Send your comments to the editor listed on the back page.

HLAA TC  
PO Box 26021  
Minneapolis, MN 55426



**Next meeting: February 18 on Zoom**

### First Class

#### HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Name.....

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*Newsletter via email included in all memberships*

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



Welcomes You!

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The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom Feb 18, 2023. Open to socialize at 9:30 AM, formal meeting 10 AM.

**Email the secretary ([secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)) for meeting information and link.**

**Please visit the chapter's web-site at [www.hlaatc.org](http://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](http://www.paradigmreporting.com)).