



Our mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Chicago North Shore Chapter Newsletter September 2022



Following upcoming Virtual Chapter meetings for 2022:

- September 12, 2022: Steve Thunder How Sound for Hybrid Meetings Works. See details
- October 11, 2022: Over the Counter Hearing Aids, 11 a.m. - Noon
- November 14, 2022: HLAA Hospital Safety Program Panel of Chicago Area hospital representatives 10:30 - Noon
 - December 12, 2022: Annual Chapter Holiday Party, 11 a.m. - Noon

**You are Invited to a Zoom meeting
September 12, 2022 11 a.m. – Noon**

How the Sound for Hybrid Meetings Works

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtD0-grTgpHNdz4qjqkYD_U8QZJV2RihgK

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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You are invited to join us at this virtual presentation as Steve Thunder, BSE, President of Thunder Hearing and Sound, LLC, explains how microphones that combine both live and streaming sound can create hybrid meetings, namely, meetings that are both in-person and virtual. The North Shore Senior Center provides many hybrid meetings, so this topic is of great interest to us. There will be questions and discussion about this fascinating and timely topic as well.

This free virtual program will have live captioning and is presented by the Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. For more

information, please call Ana Pinshower at 847-784-6079.

2022 Chapter Sponsors

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We are very grateful to these Sponsors for their generosity and support of the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter.

NOTE: If your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know. Sponsor Application forms are included at the end of this newsletter. Please consider renewing or becoming a new sponsor of our Chapter.

HLAA is the nation's leading organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA holds annual conventions and Walk4Hearing events across the country, has local chapters for support and information, and advocates for 48 million people in the U.S. with hearing loss.

hearingloss.org



Chicago Walk4Hearing



Date: 9/24/2022

Location: Lincoln Park
Cannon Dr. between W. Diversey
Pkwy. and Fullerton Parkway
Chicago, IL

Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Registration Starts
10:30 a.m. Stage Presentation
10:45 a.m. Walk starts (5K/3.1 miles)

The **Walk4Hearing** is the only nationwide event bringing attention to hearing loss and promoting the importance of hearing health. Participating in Walk4Hearing means joining thousands of people across the country and right in our neighborhoods, who understand what it's like to live with hearing loss. It's about sharing an experience, learning from each other, and taking the first step toward better hearing health.



Opportunity to help researcher

Two on-going projects need your help!

The Communication Neuroscience Laboratory of George Washington University is seeking participants for an on-line speech reading (lip reading) study. I found this study to be very enjoyable. An assessment was made of my speech reading comprehension both prior to the beginning of the study and after the training sessions. My speech reading comprehension rose by between 1013%. I received a nominal Amazon gift card to thank me for my time. To participate, email study@seehear.us or Dr. Edward Auer at eauer@gwu.edu.

Also, I was a beta tester for a neckloop study conducted by Shure, Inc. I met with Scott Snyder and John Heard at the Shure offices in Niles. We had a pleasant conversation about many hearing related issues and challenges. I then provided feedback on the sound quality of various neckloops Shure is developing. Afterwards I had lunch with Scott and John in their cafeteria followed by a tour of the facility. I was able to spend some time in the very charming onsite mini-museum which displays the evolution of Shure products over its 100 year history which includes past advertisements of Shure products and photographs of various musicians using Shure microphones. I received a nominal MasterCard gift card to thank me for my time. To participate in this project, please contact Scott Snyder at snyders@shure.com.

I found both studies to be very interesting and enjoyable. Feel free to contact me for further information about these projects.

Jean Draths

Jeandraths@gmail.com

Save the Date: A Conversation with Marlee Matlin

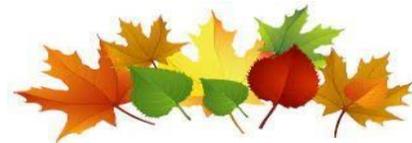
Wednesday, September 14, 7pm

[Register Now >>](#)

In celebration of Deaf Awareness Month, Marlee Matlin will share the highs and lows of her Hollywood career and journeys as an activist. This program will be offered in ASL and translated through an interpreter.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events.

[View Full Calendar of Events](#)



Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids (OTC)

By Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, [Hearing Loss Association of America](#)

You're taking a first step to treating your hearing loss. Many people wait years to act, so we're glad you're addressing your hearing health!

The new category of Over-the-Counter (OTC) hearing aids, expected on store shelves starting in mid-October, could be a **good place to start** for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss.

What should you take into consideration as you begin the search for an OTC hearing aid?

One major key to success is a good return policy, which the FDA did not require in its **rule released August 16**. So, it's up to the consumer to check this critical feature.

Why is it so important?

- **Innovation** – New types of devices are expected in the OTC space. Some could work well in testing, or in certain situations, but perform differently for you.
- **Individual differences** – Your hearing loss is unique to you, and what worked for your neighbor or friend, may not work well for you.
- **No instant results** – Hearing aids are different than glasses. Your brain may need 2–4 weeks to adjust to listening and perceiving sounds in a new way.
- **Trial and error** – You will need a few weeks to test a device out in different situations. Do they help you at work, or in a crowded restaurant? Testing and logging your reactions from different situations over a few weeks is ideal.

Avoiding problems.

- Look for a comprehensive return policy on the box, and more details may be online.
- Make sure you understand policy details, and that it gives you enough time to truly test the device.

- If an OTC hearing aid has significant problems, **file a complaint with the FDA**, or call 1.800.FDA.1088. • Don't give up! If the first product doesn't work, try another.
- You're not alone! HLAA knows that addressing your hearing health is an important step to overall well-being.
- We support millions of Americans, like you, who have hearing loss.
- Stay tuned to HLAA for **news** on OTC hearing aids as it develops, and other hearing health issues and resources.
- Consider joining an **HLAA Chapter**, and participating in a **Walk4Hearing** near you to meet and support others with hearing loss.

Could OTC Hearing Aids Help You?

CHECK OUR TIP SHEET FIRST



Editors' note: We frequently publish website links to further information related to newsletter articles. If you have a problem with a link, please let us know and we will attempt to provide a printed copy of the reference.

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The Chicago North Chicago HLAA Chapter does not endorse specific products or organizations.

Thank you for your consideration and support!