



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 October 2022



Upcoming HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter Programs:

**All meetings will be virtual until further notice.**

### **At Last! What You Should Know about OTCs (Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids)**

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.  
When: Monday, Oct 10, 2022 11:00 am until Noon.

OTC Hearing Aids will hit the market beginning October 17. Our Chapter President, Elaine McCaffrey, J.D., Member of the HLAA Board of Directors, will explain important points for you, your family, and friends to consider to determine if OTCs are right for you and what to look for when making your purchase.

HLAA has information including a Tip Sheet to help you decide if OTC hearing aids are right for you. Its website, [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) will be updated as we learn more, and as events develop. It's important to educate yourself about the features of the hearing aid, for example, the length of the return policy which should appear on the label of the box.

Millions of American adults with mild to moderate hearing loss will soon have more choices in hearing aids and the ability to get them without seeing a doctor or hearing care professional first. There will be time to ask questions.

This free virtual program is presented by the Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Zoom registration is below.

You are invited to this Zoom meeting.  
When: Oct 10, 2022 11:00 am Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYqf-2spj0qE9LJ\\_1vQT-wKHbh4uYZ2g1mf](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYqf-2spj0qE9LJ_1vQT-wKHbh4uYZ2g1mf)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For more information, contact Ana Pinshower at 847-784-6079 or please visit us at [www.HearingLossChicagoNorthshore.com](http://www.HearingLossChicagoNorthshore.com).



### HLAA Hospital Safety for People with Hearing Loss Panel Discussion.

Monday, November 14, 2022  
10:30 am to Noon

Representatives from Rush University Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, UChicago Medicine and Swedish Hospital part of NorthShore, will discuss what accommodations their hospital has for people with hearing loss in light of the effects Covid has had on the hospital systems. The program will open with suggestions on how to advocate for yourself and loved ones in medical settings.

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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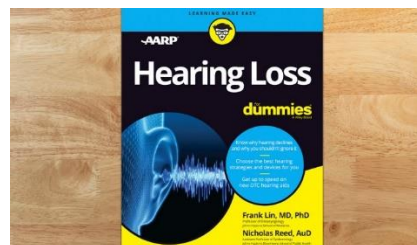


**Annual Holiday Social Event** Monday,  
December 12, 2022  
11:00 am to Noon

## October is Long Term Care Planning Month

### Hearing Loss for Dummies

AARP, Frank R. Lin, M.D and Nicholas Reed



With new advice on just-released over-the-counter hearing aids

Hearing loss can be frustrating, but in fact it's common and treatable. *Hearing Loss for Dummies*, written by top experts in the field in collaboration with AARP, walks you through how to get the help you need to clearly hear the sounds of life — whether you're at home, at work or out and about. And hearing health is critical: Hearing loss can increase your risk of falls and injuries, isolation and depression, and even cognitive decline and dementia.

Authors Frank Lin and Nicholas Reed at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine lay out the steps to hearing health:

- Understanding how hearing works — and how it changes as we age
- Finding specialists that you can trust
- Determining whether you need testing and, if so, where to turn
- Learning practical solutions for hearing better at home, at work, on the phone, and in restaurants and theaters
- Choosing the right hearing aid, including just-approved over-the-counter hearing aids, and getting them adjusted to work for you
- Exploring the pros and cons of cochlear implants and other surgical options
- Covering the costs of hearing health care

If you're concerned about your own or a friend or relative's hearing, this is the one book you'll need. For what can seem like a complicated, stressful and lengthy process, *Hearing Loss for Dummies* tackles the topic head-on and provides you with expert guidance to put your mind at ease on the path to better hearing.

About the authors

Frank R. Lin, M.D. is director of the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health and a professor of otolaryngology, medicine, mental health and epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Nicholas Reed is an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a joint appointment in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Although the HLAA does not usually recommend specific brands or products, *Hearing Loss for Dummies* is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million.

## Chapter Sponsors

### **Premium Level (\$500 or more)**

Margie Cox

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Sharon King Foundation

Elaine and John McCaffrey

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Mike and Jeanne Wehman

### **Silver Level (\$50 or more)**

Marion Anders

Andy and Carol Ban

Jean Draths - in memory of John McCaffrey

Dr. Robert Dwyer

### **Bronze Level (\$25 or more)**

Debra Ann Borales

Jean Z. McCulloch

Ruth Reagel

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.

## Chapter Election

The results of the election held at the July Annual Meeting - this year held via Zoom - are as follows

### Officers:

- Elaine McCaffrey – President
- Jean Draths - Vice President & Secretary
- Mike Wehman – Treasurer

### Steering Committee:

- Marion Anders
- Carol Ban
- Elizabeth Buino,
- Liz Hupp,
- Sharon King,
- Christine Rudolph



## Chicago Walk4Hearing 9/24/2022



The Walk4Hearing was a success! At last tally *Team Sound Off for Hearing* raised \$3,068. The HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter won third place for raising the most money and received \$100. Amazon gift card as a result.

Special thanks go to Jill Rovani and her husband who stepped up to help Christine Rudolph, as well as volunteering at the Walk; Diedre Keane, Lincoln Park Chapter President, whose work on the raffle resulted in a record contribution; and Marion Anders and Mike Wehman for volunteering to help at the Walk.

## On-going projects need your help!



### Opportunities to Participate in Research on Lipreading and Audiovisual Speech Recognition

Portions of this article have appeared in a previous newsletter.

The George Washington University, with the support of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is carrying out studies on speech-recognition training. SeeHear LLC is hosting studies with the approval of the George Washington University

### Purpose of the Studies

The purpose of this research is to develop effective methods for training lipreading for adults with hearing loss. While we do not think that most people with hearing loss need to rely entirely on silent lipreading, we know that lipreading can be very helpful during face-to-face communication in

noisy environments in which listening is very difficult.

### Activities during the Studies

Participants will use their own computer at home during all parts of the studies. Everyone who qualifies for the study may be invited to carry out a series of tests such as a hearing screening, vision screening, and tests of speech recognition. Some participants will be invited to carry out training activities.

Three sessions of the study will be carried out remotely during teleconferences with the researchers. Training sessions will be carried out by participants on their own. About three hours will be needed for the teleconferences, and about six hours to complete the independent activities.

### Who may qualify for the study?

We seek individuals who:

- Are 18-85 years of age (Study 1 or Study 2);
- Have normal-hearing or have been diagnosed with hearing loss acquired in adulthood (Study 1);
- Have been diagnosed with hearing loss (mild to moderate) acquired in adulthood (Study 2);
- Primarily heard and spoke American English during the first 10 years of their life;
- Have not had major concussions or other brain injury or disability;
- Have normal or corrected-to-normal vision;
- Have access to a desktop or laptop computer with an internet connection fast enough to stream movies and with sound output by loudspeaker loud enough for understanding speech in quiet.

If you have a hearing loss it would be preferable if participants could provide an audiogram taken in the previous 2 years.

Please note that a study may not be available, if we have already accepted the planned number of participants, or if other qualifications are not met.

Please feel free to read the consent documents for the available studies and additional qualifications. Participation will require your consent at the bottom of the consent form.

[Click to Preview Consent Form for Study 1.](#)(18-85 years old).

[Click to Preview Consent Form for Study 2.](#)(18-85 years old and diagnosed hearing loss)

### Member Jean Draths participated in the studies:

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 10-13%. I received a nominal Amazon gift card to thank me for my time. **To participate, email [study@seehear.us](mailto:study@seehear.us) or Dr. Edward Auer at [eauger@gwu.edu](mailto:eauger@gwu.edu).**

Also, I was a beta tester for a neckloop study conducted by Shure, Inc., a global leader in audio electronics located in Niles. I met with Scott Snyder and John Heard at the Shure offices. 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](mailto:snyders@shure.com).**

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

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