



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 January 2022



### Upcoming Meeting

**Hearing and Our Whole Body**  
11 a.m.- Noon  
Monday January 10, 2022

Please join us as Lisa Gumina, AuD, will discuss hearing loss and will give a general overview of how our sense of hearing is related to all of the senses throughout the entire body. In addition to her own practice, Dr. Gumina is part of a group involved with creating best-practice audiology guidelines that impact adults with severe hearing loss. During the program, there will be an opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Gumina.

This free virtual program with Live Captioning is presented by the Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. For more information, call Ana Pinshower at 847-784-6079.

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsceyvrz0jHd2kdIJXWOF1kiVkn8wpxNER>

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

### Recap of December Meeting

Ever hear of a Virtual Potluck? Well, neither had we until we held our annual Holiday Potluck on December 13.

We shared tales of our “Pandemic Projects”, new hobbies began during the pandemic. Jean Drath’s sewing doll clothes for her granddaughters, the perpetually unfinished HO train layout of yours truly and Liz Hupp’s river rocks painted with heartfelt messages and distributed around the North Side. Not to mention her newly acquired, nascent hearing guide puppy.

Two \$10 Starbucks gift cards were awarded; one to the person who had the ugliest holiday sweater; **Marsha**, and one for the most creative Zoom background **Elaine McCaffrey** (with help from Claire).

Special mention goes to Bindy Bitterman’s limericks (while not a new hobby). Bindy read and displayed her children’s book, “Skiddly Diddly Skat”. And although not from Bindy’s book, she offers this in the Scottish dialect:

O wad the pow'r the giftie 'ppear us  
To hear our friends as our friends hear us  
O wad the pow'r the giftie 'ppear us  
To hear our friends as our friends hear us

O wad the pow'r the giftie 'ppear us  
To hear our friends as our friends hear us  
To join a group, not sit aside  
To—just for once—let our brain glide  
Instead of working overtime

Thanks, Robbie Burns, I'll sign this: I'm  
Bindy Bitterman

## 2022 Chapter Sponsors

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

Margie Cox

### **Platinum Level (\$200 or more)**

Sharon King Foundation  
Elaine and John McCaffrey

### **Gold Level (\$100 or more)**

Mike and Jeanne Wehman

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

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

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.



## **New State Laws Taking Effect January 1**

- Minimum wage shall be \$12/hour this year (increasing to \$15/hour by 2025)
- Public Housing tenants may keep pets (two cats or one dog weighing less than 50 pounds)
- Purchased private vehicle sales tax increases
- College admissions not necessarily required to submit SAT or ACT scores
- Pharmacies must post a notice that consumers may request retail price information
- FOID (Firearm Owner Identification Card) and Concealed Carry Licenses processes streamlined
- Students may have up to five excused absences to attend to their mental health or behavioral health without providing a medical note
- State agencies and institutions are required to purchase Illinois and American flags that are made in the United States
- Schools are prohibited from discriminating against individuals on grounds of wearing natural or ethnic hairstyles, including dreadlocks, braids, twists and afros.
- Health authorities are prohibited from regulating or shutting down lemonade stands that are operated by children under the age of 16 (Hayli's Law).

- Juneteenth (June 19) is an official state holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the US. More detailed information regarding these and other state laws (totaling about 300 new laws) may be found at <https://www.ilga.gov>.

Some of the new laws might stand a chance to join a number of dumb laws still on the books in Illinois. Such as:

**In Chicago, it's illegal to go fishing in your pajamas.**

Or



**It is illegal to mispronounce Joliet as "Jolly-ette."**

## Social Security Changes

Approximately 7 million Americans will see a 5.9 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in 2022.

- SSI - \$841 (individual); \$1,261 (couple)

Alas, Medicare premiums will also rise

- Standard Medicare Part B premium will increase to \$170 per month.



The January 2 snowfall was the latest "first snowfall" in the Chicago area since data was first recorded in 1885.



## Zoom Hacks

We probably won't be abandoning Zoom anytime soon so here are some hints on improving your Zoom experience when it comes to decoding body language over Zoom.

Communicating in the virtual environment makes it harder to recognize crucial signals from others. By knowing what expressions and features to look for, it can become easier to recognize and respond to nonverbal communication.

### Observe clues to detect comprehension.

If people "get" what you're saying, they'll normally begin nodding as a signal that they understand. Alternatively, watch others' faces to recognize signs of confusion. When you provide a new concept, pay close attention to people.

### Recognize when others want to speak.

People use a range of gestures when they want to ask a question. Some may hold their breath, raise their shoulders high, inhale sharply, or furrow their eyebrows. (*ed. note:* As to our Chapter meetings, we started out raising our hand, either physically or using the chat function).

### Check for commitment.

Often, at any sort of meeting, you may need people to commit to a course of action. If so, you must be able to spot body language that reveals a lack of commitment. Watch for "truth slips." This is when people say "yes" while their body language contradicts it. Truth slips are evident when their heads nod or shake in a motion opposite of their words.

Source: Martin Brooks, Fast Company



## Movie Reviews

### Marvel Studio's film, "Eternals" will feature the first Deaf Superhero

*Eternals* is an epic-scale Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) adventure directed by Oscar-winning writer-director [Chloé Zhao](#). It focuses on a team of ancient aliens who emerge after the events of *Avengers: Endgame* to battle the monstrous Deviants they thought they had defeated long ago.

This is one of the MCU's most diverse outings; it features the franchise's first deaf character and first openly gay hero. It's also arguably the MCU's most mature and character-driven film to date. It has themes of sacrifice, unconditional love, and teamwork.

### Documentary "We Hear You" Shines a Light on the Hearing Loss Experience

This is a groundbreaking 1-hour documentary about hearing loss, the invisible disability that impacts 466 million people worldwide. Created and produced by people with hearing loss, *We Hear You* tells the story of 4 women battling the stigmas and challenges of hearing loss. The documentary was conceived, filmed and directed across two continents, all during the COVID-19 pandemic. A labor of love and advocacy.

While not currently in theaters, these movies are available from a number of streaming outlets.



The 2021 Walk4Hearing here in Chicago was done live and on the Chicago lakefront. Our Chapter donated a raffle prize as well as a \$300 sponsorship. Overall nationally nearly 5000 walkers, both physically and "online", raised an incredible \$1.1 million for HLAA and local Chapters to bring attention to hearing health and provide support and resources for people living with hearing loss nationwide.

While our Chapter's share is not yet known, results may be announced as early as March 2022.



Early Bird HLAA 2022 Convention  
Registration is OPEN!



**Note: HLAA requires all attendees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. For more information visit [HLAA's Vaccination Requirement page](#).**

**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.**



We are sad to report that John McCaffrey, husband of Elaine McCaffrey and longtime member of the Chicago North Shore Chapter of HLAA, passed away on Tuesday, January 4. Funeral arrangements are pending but we wish to extend condolences to Elaine and family.

## HLAA CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP FORM

The HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter 2022 Sponsorship Program term will begin January 1, 2022. Businesses, organizations, and people who want to support our Chapter can have the name of their business, organization, and/or their name(s) listed in our Chapter's newsletter through December 2022, in a special column in our Chapter's newsletter. We are inviting you to become a Sponsor. View the Sponsor's Column in our Chapter's newsletter which is generally on the first page. To become a Sponsor select from the following levels of participation:

- Premium Level (\$500 or more)
- Platinum Level (\$200 or More)
- Gold Level (\$100 or More)
- Silver Level (\$50 or More)
- Bronze Level (\$25 or More)

As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), our Sponsorship Program helps pay for live captioning and assistive technology both for virtual and in-person meetings, supports our advocacy for people with hearing loss, and other basic expenses of our Chapter. To become a Sponsor, please fill out the form below and return it, with your check made payable to the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter, and mail to HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter, P. O. Box #406, Glenview, IL 60025.

We currently are meeting virtually. We cannot speech read when others wear face masks.

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Please print clearly

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Name of the Business, Organization or Individual as you would like it to appear in our newsletter

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Individual(s) or Name(s) affiliated with Business or Organization to also be included

Contact Information:      Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Indicate Level of Sponsorship:    \_\_\_ Premium Level (\$500 or more)  
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Enclosed find check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to **HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter**

Thank you for your consideration and support! ~

## HLAA CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please renew your Sponsorship of The Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Our Chapter members continue to advocate for people with hearing loss. Over the Counter hearing aids will be available in the market place in 2022. Our Chapter members are a resource to help those with questions about their hearing needs. A copy of our January 2022 newsletter is enclosed in which you will find the Chapter Sponsors column. To renew your Sponsorship for 2022 select from the following levels of participation:

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\* Donations received before December 31, 2021 receive the full annual listing

~ Thank you for your consideration and support! ~