



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

Join us for our regular meetings at the North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd, Northfield, IL on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Weber Lounge.
www.hearinglosschicagonorthshore.com

HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter Newsletter March 2024



through December 31, 2024. way our Chapter is able to continue hosting monthly This opportunity is one

2024 Chapter Sponsors

Premium Level (\$500 or more)

Platinum Level (\$200 or more)
Jerry Folz and Stacie Boney

Gold Level (\$100 or more)
Elaine McCaffrey
Bindy Bitterman
Robert and Jean Draths
Betty DeGryse Buino
Mike and Jeanne Wehman
Robert Dwyer
American Hearing Research Foundation

Silver Level (\$50 or more)
Judith Blake
John and Mary Breen Sandra
Pearson
Marion Anders
Andy and Carol Ban

Bronze Level (\$25 or more)

Please review this sponsor listing to ensure that we have properly listed your information. Let us know if any corrections are required. Thank you.

If you haven't already done so, please consider becoming a Sponsor or renewing your support as a 2024 Sponsor for a year beginning January 1, 2024

interesting and informative programs, weekly activities, technology overviews, and sharing experiences for mutual benefit.

A Sponsorship enrollment form is included at the end of this newsletter. Please enroll as a sponsor today!



Monday, March 11, 2024
10:00 am – noon
North Shore Senior Center

Introducing the Work of *Child's Voice*



You are invited to this interesting and important presentation by Wendy Deters, MS, CCC/SLP, Executive Director of Child's Voice School. Wendy is the daughter of the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter members Carol and Andy Ban.

As a Certified Speech, Language Pathologist, she will explain how young children, ages 3-8, with hearing loss are taught to develop listening skills and how to speak. These basic abilities enable them to progress to their local mainstream schools, and to benefit throughout their lives socially, academically and in their work.

The mission of *Child's Voice* is to empower children with hearing loss to be successful in all educational and social settings by optimizing their listening, speaking, and academic skills. *Child's Voice* strives to be recognized as a global leader in listening and spoken language education.

Child's Voice is the only non-public program offering listening and spoken language education

in northern Illinois. *Child's Voice* serves about 400 children and their families annually from more than 30 different school districts in the Chicago area. Learn more by visiting their website at <https://childsvoice.org/>.

There will be live captioning in the Weber Room, which is equipped with a hearing loop. This free, informative program is presented by the Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Visit us at www.hearinglosschicagonorthshore.com or for further information, please call: Camila Olaya at 847-784-6297.

Monday, April 8, 2024
10:00 am – noon
North Shore Senior Center

Open Discussion About Your Hearing Loss and Ways to Deal With It

Everyone is invited to join us and to bring your questions and hearing problems to this supportive group. We will exchange ideas and experiences with hearing issues, strategies, and technology, including the new OTC hearing aids and cochlear implants. We look forward to seeing you there!

There will be live captioning in the Weber Room, which is equipped with a hearing loop. This free, informative program is presented by the Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Visit us at www.hearinglosschicagonorthshore.com or for further information, please call: Camila Olaya at 847-784-6297.



Studies Find Gene Therapy Helps Deaf Kids Hear

Laura Ungar
Associated Press

Hereditary deafness is the latest condition scientists are targeting with gene therapy which is already approved to treat illnesses as sickle cell disease and severe hemophilia. Although this treatment targets only one condition, similar strategies may expand the reach.

Globally, 34 million children have deafness or hearing loss, and genes are responsible for up to 60% of cases. Gene therapy has allowed several children with inherited deafness to hear. A small is pretty astounding. Still, he added, many questions remain, such as how long the therapies will last and whether hearing will continue to improve in the kids.

Also, some people consider gene therapy for deafness ethically problematic. Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, a deaf philosophy professor and bioethicist at Gallaudet University, said that there's no consensus for gene therapy targeting deafness. She also said it's important to get members of the Deaf community involved in discussion about prioritizing gene therapy, particularly as this is perceived by many as potentially an existential threat to the flourishing of signing Deaf communities.

Meanwhile, researchers said their work is moving forward. This is real proof showing gene therapy is working. It opens up the whole field.

Editor's note:

Although the entire article is more than what could be included here, these excerpts come from the Chicago Tribune, February 28, 2024. If you have an interest in following more of this article, please

study documents significantly restored hearing in five of six kids treated in China. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia announced similar improvements in an 11-year boy treated there. The Philadelphia hospital, one of several sites in a test sponsored by a subsidiary of Eli Lilly, reported that their patient heard sounds for the first time after being treated in October, 2023.

Columbia University's Dr. Lawrence Lustig, involved in another study, said although the children in these studies don't wind up with perfect hearing, even a moderate hearing loss recovery in these kids

HLAA 2024 Convention Registration Now Open!

Join us in Phoenix, June 26 – 29

Early Bird Pricing available through March 31

Is this your first HLAA convention?

Scholarship opportunities are available for first-time convention attendees through March 15. For more information, please check with your Chapter administration or contact the HLAA at

convention@hearingloss.org

let Mike know and he will provide you a copy or a link to the original source.



This year's workshops will cover a variety of topics, including:

- Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants Can Improve Your Quality of Life
- Why is it So Hard to Treat Sensorineural Hearing Loss?
- Cybersecurity and Hearing Loss
- HLAA's Advocacy ABCs
- Growing Up with Hearing Loss and Raising Kids with Hearing Loss

It will all take place at the **Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass** in Phoenix for HLAA's first-ever resort-style convention in the beautiful southwest.

Resort Highlights:

- Onsite club activities for kids
- Watersports on the sprawling Gila River, including paddleboards, kayaks and river boats
- Upon registering, you'll lock in a special hotel rate of \$165 per night plus tax. Parking is free at the hotel
- Complimentary shuttle to nearby outlet mall and casino
- Two championship golf courses, a spa, and a Forbes Five-Star therapeutic oasis

In addition to the tickets provided by NorthLight Theatre for Open Caption performances, the following information is provided by The League of Chicago Theatres.

ACCESSIBLE THEATRE SHOWS

The League of Chicago Theatres is committed to working with Chicago area theatres to make live shows accessible to everyone. They offer: Touch Tour (TT), ASL-Interpreted (ASL), Audio-Described (AD), Open-Captioned (OC), and Autism-Friendly (AUT). You can find the specific accessible performances on their Access calendar.

For more information, visit the website: <https://chicagoplays.com/access/>. If you have any questions, call 312-554-9800 V or info@chicagoplays.com.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids What You Should Know

On Friday, February 23, Elaine McCaffrey presented at the Glenview Library. Those of you who attended, either in person or via Zoom, can attest to its success as expressed by the enclosed letter from Janet McIntyre, Manager of Adult Community Engagement at the library. Thank you, Elaine, for representing our Chapter, its mission and providing a resource for the community, particularly those with a hearing loss.

Dear Elaine,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your exceptionally informative presentation last Friday on "OTC Hearing Aids: What You Need to Know."

Your presentation was not only insightful but also professionally delivered, showcasing your expertise in the subject matter. The attendance numbers speak volumes about the relevance and interest in the topic, with 21 individuals present in person and an impressive 28 joining

via Zoom. These numbers are truly remarkable! Kim and I are genuinely looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you again in the future. Your expertise and dedication make you an invaluable partner in our endeavors.

Furthermore, I've received an abundance of positive responses from the participants regarding your presentation. Your ability to engage and educate clearly resonated with them, and I'm confident it will have a lasting impact.

As promised, I have already shared the handout with all Zoom participants and will be sending out the recording link to all attendees later today. Additionally, I apologize for the hearing loop issues experienced during the presentation. Rest assured, the library is actively addressing this matter by reaching out to a technician to test and resolve the system's functionality.

Once again, Elaine, thank you so much for your outstanding contribution. Your dedication to providing valuable insights is truly commendable, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with you.

Thank you,
Janet McIntyre |
Manager, Adult Community Engagement



**Glenview
Public Library**

HLAA CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP FORM

The Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is inviting you to become a Sponsor of our 2024 Sponsorship Program for a term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 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 a special column in our Chapter's newsletter. View the Chapter's newsletter at www.HearingLossChicagoNorthShore.com. 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)

Our Sponsorship Program helps pay for live captioning and maintenance of the hearing loop for our in-person meetings. Your support helps our members continue to advocate for people with hearing loss and be a resource to help others with questions about their hearing needs. To become a Sponsor, please fill out the form below and return it with your check payable to the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter; **mail it to HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter, P. O. Box #406, Glenview, IL 60025**. *The HLAA Chapter is a tax-exempt, charitable organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions under the IRS Code 501(c)(3).*

Please print clearly

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

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

Contact Information: Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Indicate Level of Sponsorship: ___ 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)

Enclosed find check for \$_____ payable to **HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter**

~ *Thank you* for your consideration and support!