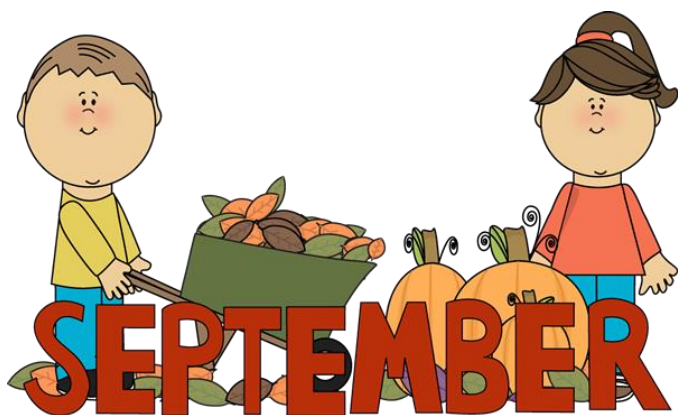




Our mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

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



September 2023

**Don't miss September 11
meeting!**

Premium Level (\$500 or more)

Platinum Level (\$200 or more)

Liz Hupp

Gold Level (\$100 or more)

Elaine McCaffrey

Jean Draths

Betty DeGryse Buino

Mike and Jeanne Wehman

Silver Level (\$50 or more)

Marion Anders

Andy and Carol Ban

Bronze Level (\$25 or more)

We are very grateful to these Sponsors for their generosity and support of the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter. **Please Note:** If your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know. Thank you.

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.

Mike Wehman mikewehman@outlook.com

Liz Hupp liz@hubb.com

Upcoming HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter Programs

Hearing Advice to Make You (and Your Ears) Smile

September 11, 10:00-11:30

Juliëtte Sterkens, AuD

Audiologist Dr. Juliëtte Sterkens is a hearing loss and hearing loop advocate with the national non-profit Hearing Loss Association of America. She hopes that everyone will take something away from her presentation that is helpful in their lives and that it helps you understand that many people with hearing loss need a variety of “tools” to hear their best.

Participants will learn:

Reasons why hearing aid users have difficulty hearing, even when using state-of-the-art hearing aids:

- The benefits of ADA mandated assistive listening systems, as well as how and where to find them
- Ways people can take charge of their hearing loss

Hybrid - Free!

161 Northfield Road, Northfield.

Cohn Auditorium is equipped with a hearing loop and captions will be provided.

Register for this hybrid program at nssc.org, by email LifeLongLearning@nssc.org or call 847.784.6030. If you have difficulty registering contact me: elainemccaffrey1@gmail.com

October 9: Lisa Gumina, AuD, F-AAA, CCC-A Doctor of Audiology, will present on **Hearing Loss and Music: Hearing, Music and Memory**. Learn about these three very important topics and how they are all interconnected. Discussion will involve functions of the brain and many fun facts

about what we can learn about a person through Music.

Good Vibrations You Can Wear

Haptic* technology delivers a way to feel music through skin for hearing challenged.

Jay Alan Zimmerman, a deaf composer and musician, used to position himself near loudspeakers, straining to feel the vibrations of songs he could not hear. So when offered to test a new technology, a backpack known as a haptic suit, designed for him to experience music as vibrations on his skin – a kickdrum to the ankles, a snare drum to the spine – he was excited.

Developed by the company *Music: Not Impossible*, the device consists of two ankle bands, two wrist bands and a backpack that fastens over the ribcage. The suits are unique in that the devices turn individual notes into specific vibrations. The development of the suits has benefitted from recent advancements in microprocessors, wireless technology, batteries and artificial intelligence, all key components in the emerging market of wearable haptic devices.

Originally a mission to develop a way to transmit the experience directly to the brain, it has expanded to a goal of creating a tactile experience of music that was available for everyone, including people without hearing loss.

* Defined as the use of technology that stimulates the senses of touch and motion, especially to produce in remote operation or computer simulation the sensations that would be felt by a user interacting directly with physical objects.

Condensed from an article appearing in *The Chicago Tribune*, August 23, 2023.

Mumbled, muffled streaming TV

There's a line that Americans are repeating in their homes all over America as they watch TV these days, said Brian X. Chen in *The New York Times*: “What did he just say?” If you have trouble hearing your favorite streaming shows, you are far from alone. “All of my customers have issues with hearing the dialogue,” says a home theater specialist

who has seen a continuing decline in audibility. Thin TVs with hidden speakers are an issue. But so is wild inconsistency in volume between channels.

There have been some efforts to help. Speaker company Sonos' soundbar offers a speech enhancement mode, and Amazon has rolled out a "dialogue boost" feature for a few shows. Sometimes these features help, sometimes not. "And if all else fails," turn on the subtitles.

This article appeared in the September 1, 2023 issue of *The Week*.



October 1, 2023

Join our Chapter's team SOUND OFF FOR HEARING

HLAA [Walk4Hearing](http://www.hearingloss.org) is a nationwide campaign which brings hope to people with hearing loss in 20 cities, meeting them in their communities to raise awareness and show support. Teams of family and friends join with local HLAA Chapters and nonprofit and business partners to raise funds for local programs and promote hearing health.

Register at www.hearingloss.org or contact Christine Rudolph at c1rudolph@comcast.net for assistance.

Lincoln Park
Cannon Dr. Between W. Diversey Pkwy and W. Fullerton Parkway, Chicago, IL
9:30 am Registration starts
11 am Stage Presentation
11:15 am Walk starts--5K/3.1 miles

Local Walk Co-Chairs

Ed O'Brien eobrien@mutare.com

Colleen Harrah cdharrah83@gmail.com

Walk4Hearing Senior Manager

Ronnie Adler radler@hearingloss.org

Illinois Passes Law Requiring Insurance Providers to Cover Hearing Aids

Sharon King, Advocacy Chair of our Chapter, reports that Illinois has recently enacted legislation that requires insurance coverage for hearing aids and related services for individuals of all ages who are hearing impaired. This legislation extends current legislation applicable to individuals under 18 years of age. The new legislation will be effective January 2025.

Illinois State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria), who sponsored the legislation, stated that "Illinoisans shouldn't have to pay ridiculous fees for something that is necessary for their health and well-being", observing that "These devices [hearing aids] make daily routines attainable and allow a high quality of life for those who are hard of hearing."

Sharon King will follow the implementation of this legislation. We will keep you up to date in this newsletter on developments as they occur.



**Karen Aguilar, Vice President of
Communication at CHS, the Chicago
Hearing Society, has requested that
we pass along this invitation from
The Chicago Fire**



CHICAGO FIRE FC

Chicago Fire FC welcomes members, friends and family of Chicago Hearing Society to enjoy discounted tickets to our match and enjoy a night together at Soldier Field!

RAFFLE: 20 kids will be selected to get field-level access to watch the final 20 minutes of the match! (*\$10 per raffle ticket*)

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

- National Anthem in ASL
- Pre match gathering inside Soldier Field
- National Anthem performed by CHS Members
- ASL Foam Finger Giveaways
- Player ASL video



CHICAGO FIRE FC | NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

7:30pm Kickoff

Soldier Field
1410 Special Olympics Dr, Chicago, IL 60605

Registration Link
chicagohearingociety.org/chicago-fire/



More Information
CHSCOA@anixter.org
(773) 248-9121 (V) or (773) 904-0154 VP