



Serving People with Hearing Loss and their Families

We'll see you at the Movies on Saturday Afternoon, May 18th!

The Landmark/Spectrum Movie Matinee Event will be held on Saturday, May 18 at 290 Delaware Avenue in Albany. We won't know the movie selections until a few days in advance, so we will send out an email with movies and times at the last minute. Tickets can be bought online at <https://www.landmarktheatres.com/albany-ny> or at the box office.

The Spectrum has only 8 CaptiView captioning devices, so please send an email by May 15 to dondporter@gmail.com if you plan to attend and hope to use a captioning device. We will alert you if there are already 8 people signed up. Plan on buying popcorn with real butter, home made brownies and other goodies at the snack stand. There is plenty of free parking off street behind the theater - follow the signs!



• Over the Counter Hearing Aids?

The AARP bulletin on "Your Health" for April 2019 highlighted information about hearing aids and devices in response to recent legislation which will permit the sale of some over-the-counter (OTC) hearing devices by 2020.. Will OTC devices help you? Those with more severe loss likely won't benefit, in part because they may need more customization and amplification in specific ranges than an OTC hearing aid offering may be able to provide. They may be better off working with an audiologist (a hearing professional who typically has a doctoral degree) or other certified hearing specialist, who can make sure any aid is fitted and adjusted correctly. PSAP's (personal sound amplifiers) and OTC hearing aids are not for people with severe hearing loss, single-sided hearing loss or hearing loss caused by other medical conditions.

But what, exactly, is an over-the-counter hearing aid? An OTC hearing aid would likely do pretty much what a good PSAP already does, but with FDA approval. It would be a digital device, probably with directional microphones,

Bluetooth and a telecoil, and presumably it would cost less. An OTC hearing aid could be sold direct to the consumer, without the involvement of an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser. An OTC hearing aid would be subject to FDA safety and efficacy standards. Most consumer activists support this initiative as a way of getting people to correct their hearing loss.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the trade group for speech-language pathologists and audiologists, supports these devices only for people with mild hearing loss. A recent study found that for those with mild to moderate hearing loss, hearing aids and OTC-like hearing devices are equally effective. Interestingly, what made the biggest difference in user satisfaction was the assistance of a fully trained audiologist. Those study subjects whose devices were fitted by an audiologist were the most satisfied with their device, compared with a fully programmed hearing aid or a device with standard manufacturer-supplied programming.

MAKE HEARING LOSS AN ISSUE OF NATIONAL CONCERN

CART

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WHO offers Free Hearing Screening App. A free screening hearing app is now available from the World Health Organization for iOS and Android. The app is especially recommended for those who commonly listen to loud music over personal audio devices. It can also be used by health workers to screen people in the community for hearing loss and refer them for diagnostic testing if they fail the screening. For more information and links to downloads, visit bit.ly/hear-who.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **June 19th: Dr. Wolff on “Adapting to Hearing Loss” at the
 Colonie Library Stedman Room**
- **July 10th: Business Meeting at 5:30 pm Executive Park,
 Entrance C, Stuyvesant Plaza**
- **August 3rd: Picnic!**
- **December 14th: Holiday Party!**

Reasons Why Self-help Groups are Good for You

- Provide a community of people with hearing loss who understand and are empathic to your unique problems
- Help you deal with the issues of hearing loss stigma
- Will help you understand your legal rights as a person with a hearing disability
- Will teach you coping and communication strategies
- Will help you to adjust and communicate your needs in a “hearing” workplace
- Will share technologies beyond your hearing aids that will enhance your ability to function in the world
- Will educate you on technologies and strategies for ensuring your safety
- Will show you how to stay tuned into family conversations

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| <p>For a special Remembrance, think of our Tribute Fund! Tribute donations are a thoughtful way to honor a birthday, an anniversary or any special event, or to memorialize the death of a loved one. You may also make undesignated contributions. The money from the Tribute Fund is used to make our meetings accessible to everyone. Just mail the form below with your check (payable to HLAA, Albany Chapter), to: HLAA Albany Chapter P.O. Box 9445 Schenectady, NY 12309 Your designee (or his or her family) will receive a prompt acknowledgement of your contribution. The gift amount is never disclosed.</p> | <h3 style="margin: 0;"><i>Your Memory Or Tribute Here</i></h3> | <p>This tax deductible donation is: <input type="checkbox"/> In HONOR of <input type="checkbox"/> In MEMORY of <input type="checkbox"/> Not Designated <input type="checkbox"/> \$ Total</p> <p>Donor's Name _____</p> <p>Donor's Address _____</p> <p>Please Acknowledge to: <input type="checkbox"/> Donor named above, or Name _____ Address _____</p> |
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U.S. Army Funds Testing of Drug to Prevent Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have received \$10.5 million from the Department of the Army to investigate whether an anti-seizure drug can prevent noise induced hearing loss. Hearing loss is the most common disorder experienced by military service members.

Researchers will evaluate the

anti-seizure drug zonisamide, which has been shown to protect hearing in animals when given in advance of exposure to loud noise. The drug blocks chemical signals that nerve cells use to communicate, and has a long history of safe use and few side effects.

From the May 2019
 ASHA Leader New Bulletin

HEAR NEWS is a monthly newsletter of Hearing Loss Association of America Albany Chapter (HLAA) We are a not-for-profit self-help group for individuals that are deaf, have hearing loss and/or impairments. Any mention of opinions, services or products does not mean endorsement, nor does lack of mention mean lack of endorsement.

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We welcome your input! Please send articles, inquiries and letters to the editor to the addresses listed above.

Please become a member of HLAA Albany Chapter, or at least give us a try – see the form on the last page.

Go NATIONAL! Join the Hearing Loss Association of America HLAA
 7910 Woodmont Avenue
 Suite 1200
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 301-657-2248 (voice)
 email: inquiry@hearingloss.org
 website: www.hearingloss.org

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

(Note: See www.hearinglossalbany.wordpress.com for more details)

- **Hearing Loss Association of America** — www.hearingloss.org
- **Hands and Voices** — www.handsandvoices.org
- **Hearing Like Me** — www.hearinglikeme.com
- **Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center** — www.gallaudet.edu
- **National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes** — nationaldeafcenter.org
- **Albany Law School Civil Rights & Disabilities Law Clinic** — www.albanylaw.edu
- **Office of the NYS Attorney General, Civil Rights Division** — www.ag.ny.gov
- **Young Adults** - www.hearingloss.org/content/young-adults-and-hearing-loss
- **American Tinnitus Association** — www.ata.org
- **Career & College Advice for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students** — www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/deaf-student-college-career-advice

Lion's Hearing Devices Loan-Out Centers — try out devices before you buy them!

- Madison Hearing Center, 14 Columbia Circle Drive, Suite 202, **Albany**, NY 12203 (518) 690-2060
- Madison & Saratoga Hearing Ctr, 414 Maple Ave, Suite 800, **Saratoga Springs**, NY 12866 (518) 584-0578
- Madison & Saratoga Hearing Ctr, 81 Miller Road, Suite 700, **Castleton**, NY 12033 (518) 689-0792
- Resource Center for Independent Living, 347 W. Main St., **Amsterdam**, NY 12010 (518) 842-3561
- Center for Better Hearing, 318 Ridge Street, **Glens Falls**, NY 12801 (518) 798-4800
- Resource Center for Independent Living, 401 East German St., **Herkimer**, NY 13350 (315) 866-7245
- HearUSA, 2200 Burdett Avenue, **Troy**, NY 12180 (518) 272-7323

Patronize These Accessible Venues!

And...if you know of other venues, please share them with us!

- **AMC Loews** (amctheatres.com) — Rotterdam — Captioning
- **Bowtie Cinemas** (bowtiecinemas.com) — Schenectady, Saratoga, Wilton — “cup holder” Captioning
- **Regal Cinemas** (regmovies.com) — Clifton Park, Crossgates, Colonie Center, East Greenbush, Wilton Mall and Aviation Mail — Captioned Glasses
- **Capital Repertory Theatre** (capitalrep.org) — Loop
- **Delmar Reformed Church** (drchurch.org) — Loop
- **Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady** (uuschenectady.org) — Loop
- **St. Mary's Crescent Catholic Church Clifton Park** (www.stmaryscrescent.com) — FM system
- **Our Lady, Queen of Peace Catholic Church**, Princetown Road, Schenectady, NY (www.olgprotterdam.org) — Loop
- **Christ Our Light Catholic Church**, (christourlightchurch.org) Loudonville, NY — FM System
- **First Presbyterian Church** (firstpresalbany.org) 362 State Street, Albany
- **Barrington Stage** (Barringtonstage.org) 1st six rows of Main Stage are looped
- **Spectrum 8** (landmarktheatres.com) — Infrared and CCR-100 Captioning
- **Loudonville Community Church** (www.lcc.org) — FM Receivers

Hearing Loss Association of Albany Membership Registration

- **Hearing Loss Association of Albany operates on a calendar year basis, and chapter registration fees are due on January 1 of each year.**
- Persons who would like to 'try us out' can opt to receive a trial newsletter for three months by checking "Trial Registration" on the form below.
- Registration fees collected are used for operating expenses, including this newsletter, and Professional Associates are cited in each newsletter issue.
- We thank you for supporting Hearing Loss Association of Albany, and we hope you will be able to participate.

Hearing Loss Association of Albany Membership Registration Form

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Chapter Fee (Calendar Year Basis):

Please indicate your choice:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single: \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trial Registration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution: (tax deductible) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Associate: \$100 or \$175 |
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