



Wake Chapter Newsletter Nov/Dec 2025

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[November Program Change: Hearing Aids Program Postponed to January](#)

Due to a scheduling conflict at our host site, we've postponed the November 20 program on "What's New in Hearing Aids." But we've added a lunch social in early December, that we hope you'll be able to attend (see the the [page 2 article](#)).

The program, which will feature a presentation by Samantha Shopovick, Au.D., the president of Now Hear This®, a Raleigh audiology clinic and a sponsor of the North Carolina Walk4Hearing, is now scheduled for **Thursday, January 22**.

This event will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall and also will be available via Zoom. The church address is 200 High Meadow Drive in Cary.

The Zoom link will be distributed to the Wake Chapter newsletter email list a few days prior to the meeting. If you know others who don't already receive our newsletter, please encourage them to email Steve Barber (steve.barber@earthlink.net) and ask to be added to the newsletter email list.



For in-person participants, beverages and snacks will be available during and after the presentation. The hall is equipped with a hearing loop, which will provide telecoil-equipped hearing aid or cochlear implant users with an enhanced listening experience. Captions will be provided for both the in-person and Zoom audiences.

Voted "Raleigh's Best" for five years in a row, Now Hear This® is dedicated to exceptional patient care. By using advanced programming methods like real ear measurements, this team helps people hear at their very best.

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Attend the Wake Chapter Holiday Lunch Social



Get your holiday season off to a rousing start with friends old and new at the Wake Chapter holiday lunch social on Sunday, December 7, at Bocci Trattoria & Pizzeria in Cary. You're welcome to attend the event with a guest.

Please RSVP to Steve Barber (steve.barber@earthlink.net) by Monday, December 1, so we'll be able to tell the restaurant how many diners to expect.

Plan to arrive at 12:30 p.m. The chapter has reserved a private room at [Bocci](#), which is located at 2425 Kildaire Farm Road.

The price is \$20.95 per person plus tax and an 18% gratuity. Included with the lunch is a Banquet Menu with a choice from four entrees (lasagna, bake ziti, eggplant parmigiana or fettuccini alfredo), soup or salad (house or Caesar), Italian bread and coffee, tea or soda. No menu substitutions are permitted, and attendees will be billed individually.

The event won't include a formal program, just plenty of time to socialize with others with hearing loss and savor a delicious meal.

'Tis the Season for Chapter's Scholarship Program

Application season will soon be here for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Wake Chapter scholarship program.

The chapter has awarded scholarships to 14 high school seniors with hearing loss since 2020. The number of annual recipients has ranged from one to four.

Applications for 2026 Wake Chapter scholarships will be available from the HLAA Wake Chapter website (<https://www.nchearingloss.org/wake>) in late December. Submissions will be accepted from January through March, and recipients will be announced in May.

Applicants must reside in Wake County and be seeking acceptance at an accredited university, college, community college or trade school. They also must have a moderate hearing loss or more and wear a hearing aid or cochlear implant. Financial need is not a consideration. The \$750 award will be sent to the recipient when s/he begins classes.

The program is funded by generous donor support of the Wake Chapter team in the North Carolina Walk4Hearing, a hearing health awareness and fundraising event held annually in October.

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[NC Walk4Hearing Makes a Splash!](#)

Rain and wind didn't deter 256 people from participating in the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) North Carolina Walk4Hearing on October 12 at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary.

Event donations currently total \$34,892, and donations will continue to be accepted through December 15 via the [North Carolina Walk4Hearing webpage](#).

Below are a handful of "official" NC Walk4Hearing photos. More photos have been shared on the [Wake Chapter Facebook page](#).



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[Chapter Members Visit Raleigh Arts Hub](#)

A few representatives of the HLAA Wake Chapter discussed assistive listening systems with staff members of the [Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts](#) during a recent visit to Raleigh's major hub for arts and entertainment.

The visit also included a tour of the complex, which includes the A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater, Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh Memorial Auditorium and Kennedy Theatre.

These venues use an assistive listening system comprising an FM transmitter paired with small FM receivers and a patron's choice of either earphones or a neckloop. The neckloops are a recent system enhancement. They were donated to the Center earlier this year by the HLAA Wake Chapter.

Patrons may request an assistive listening system with a neckloop from an usher or box office staff member. A driver's license is required to receive a device, and there is no charge. A neckloop can help people with telecoil-enabled hearing aids or cochlear implants improve their ability to hear and understand speech and music. A neckloop is more comfortable than earphones for many users of hearing devices and it will not generate distracting feedback.

Please note that a neckloop does not work unless your hearing devices have a telecoil that is activated. If your devices utilize a smartphone app, check your program or audio source list to see if it includes a telecoil (or "T-coil") option. If not, check with your device provider to see if such an option is available for activation.

The HLAA Wake Chapter visitors suggested that the Martin Marietta Center devise a means for patrons to verify that their assistive listening device works properly before taking it from a lobby pick-up point into a venue. The HLAA Wake Chapter also provided an update on Auracast, a Bluetooth technology that's in early stages of development in assistive listening systems.

During the tour, the Center staff shared the rich history of the facility, which opened in 1932. The most unique feature of the original building, Memorial Auditorium, was the fire station underneath the stage. The fire station remained in service until 1969. The complex expanded in 2001 to include the A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater and Meymandi Concert Hall.

[Learn More About Hospital Safety](#)

The HLAA Wake Chapter September program meeting on "Communicating Better with your Healthcare Providers" generated significant interest.

If you'd like to learn more about communicating in a hospital, the Hearing Loss Association of America recently hosted a webinar titled "Hospital Safety and Hearing Loss: A Hospital Panel Discussion."

Viewing a video of the webinar you will discover how hospitals are making health care safer and more accessible for patients with hearing loss – and how you can advocate for yourself or your loved ones.

A link to the video is available at <https://www.hearingloss.org/resources/hospital-safety-and-hearing-loss-a-hospital-panel-discussion/>.

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Tech Focus: TV Audio Streaming Options

Do you have trouble hearing the TV despite having hearing aids or a cochlear implant (or two)? There are several ways you can stream clear audio directly to your hearing aids and CIs.

- **TV Streamers:** Most hearing aids and cochlear implants are compatible with one or more brands of TV streamers. TV streamers can plug into audio output jacks (usually on the back or sides of a TV or on the back of a sound bar, if you have one). Many TV streamers have three ways to use a patch to connect to any audio source with the right audio outputs. Just choose the right type of patch cord (and any adaptor, if needed). TV streamers usually do not mute TV speakers, making them suitable for use while watching TV with others.
- A TV streamer can be used with more than just a TV. It can be used with a CD player, computer ... any audio source with a supported audio output jack. Most recent TVs have a fiber optic (TOSLINK) audio output jack. Most other sources and many TVs have a 3.5 mm audio output jack. Older TVs might have RCA jacks. Just choose the right type of patch cord (and any adaptor, if needed).
- **Remote Microphones:** Some hearing aids and cochlear implants have compatible remote microphones that can stream TV audio to them.
 - They can simply be placed near the TV and stream what they hear as a microphone to your hearing devices. This is an alternative if it's difficult to physically get to the audio output jacks.
 - Some also have a 3.5 mm audio output jack that you can plug into your TV's 3.5 mm audio input jack (if your TV has one). When patched in this fashion, the remote microphone becomes a transmitter that streams the patched audio to your hearing devices. This does not usually mute the TV speakers.
 - **Roku:** If you use Roku to stream video programs to your TV, you may not need a TV streamer or remote microphone to get clear audio to your hearing devices, be they hearing aids, CIs or even compatible Bluetooth headphones or earbuds. **NOTE: Any of the following Roku streaming approaches will mute TV speakers, so it's only suitable for personal use.** Here are three ways that Roku may be able to stream audio to your hearing devices:
 - **If Your Roku Remote Has a Headphone Jack:** You can plug in a neckloop (if you have telecoils), headphones, or any transmitter (like your remote microphone, if it has an audio out headphone jack) that will stream the TV audio to your compatible hearing aids or CIs.
 - **Stream Directly from Supported Roku TV:** Some Roku (only selected Plus Series, and Pro Series) TVs support standard Bluetooth. Most modern hearing aids use ASHA or LE Bluetooth. so they cannot pair with any Roku TVs. But if you use standard Bluetooth headphones or earbuds, those may be able to receive streamed audio from some Roku TVs directly.
 - **Stream from Roku through Your Smartphone:** If you have a smartphone that streams to your hearing aids or CIs, many Roku devices can use the Roku app on your smartphone to stream via WiFi to your smartphone, which then streams to your compatible hearing devices.
- WiFi can add a noticeable delay if your WiFi router is an older, slower version. Also, Bluetooth delay from older Bluetooth versions may add to the latency. But unless you're trying to speechread the TV video as you listen to the audio, the delay doesn't matter.

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Understanding the Future of Assistive Listening



Auracast™ broadcast audio is generating tremendous excitement – but how does it fit alongside tried-and-true hearing loops?

That question and others will be answered in an upcoming 30-minute public webinar offered by the Hearing Loss Association of America. The webinar will break down what each technology does best, whether venues should switch immediately, and how using both together can create the most inclusive listening experience possible.

Available via Zoom, the webinar takes place Wednesday, December 3, at 3 p.m. Register at

https://hearingloss.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tc_tKA0vTjO_1eI7gePtGQ.

BEGINNINGS Grateful for Wake Chapter's Support



Due to the loss of state funding, [BEGINNINGS](#) for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing has been forced to drastically reduce its services.

However, the organization recently expressed thanks to its supporters and the sponsors of its recent fundraising event in Raleigh. The HLAA Wake Chapter numbered among those sponsors. Here is the message distributed by BEGINNINGS:

“We are so grateful to everyone who joined us for the 6th Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ! Thanks to your support, the evening was filled with delicious oysters and BBQ, great music, and the joy of connecting with our incredible community, all while raising funds to support families of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

“A special thank you to our amazing event sponsors for making this possible:

TowneBank, Comerica Bank, UNC REX Health, The Myo Project, The Care Project, Maynard & Associates, Kelly & Graham Day, Nancy & Mike Voiland, Kellie Falk & Joe Patterson, Duke Head & Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences, Hearing Loss Association of America – North Carolina, Sertoma Club of Raleigh, and Hearing Loss Association of America – Wake County.

“We also deeply appreciate our in-kind sponsors for their generosity:

Total Wine & More, R&M Blue Pig BBQ, Joe Bunn/Bunn DJ Company, Earps Seafood Market, Longleaf Swine.

“Because of your support, BEGINNINGS can continue providing guidance, resources, and connection to newly identified families, helping children with hearing loss thrive. Thank you for helping us make a difference!”

The mission of BEGINNINGS is to inform and empower parents as they make decisions about their Deaf or Hard of Hearing child. In addition, BEGINNINGS is committed to providing technical assistance to professionals who work with these families to help the children achieve full participation in society.

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