

This Month in Bethesda – February 2011

Organizations are being invited to sponsor the convention and the Walk4Hearing. National sponsors of the 2011 Walk4Hearing to date include AARP, Phonak, T-Mobile, Advanced Bionics, Sorenson, Beltone/Resound, Cochlear Americas, and Ultratec. Last year's Walk4Hearing Business Chairs are back on board: Ultratec (Milwaukee), Sorenson (Salt Lake City), and Cochlear (Colorado). New Business Chairs are Knowles Electronics for Chicago, Advanced Bionics for Long Beach. We have a new National Business Chair, Mike Orscheln, CEO of Phonak and an Honorary National Business Chair Reed Doughty of the Redskins.

The online *HLAA American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists®* course is being reviewed and revised to update and streamline the material and make the course more interactive

To ensure the future of HLAA we are promoting planned giving and encouraging people to join the HLAA Legacy Circle. A new brochure is being printed and will be available to anyone who wants to know more about planned giving with HLAA in mind. Since the fall of 2010 when this became a focus of HLAA development, eight new planned gifts have been committed.

HLAA sent comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in response to their notice to assess the status of hearing aid compatible phones and the 2010 report. In order to prepare the HLAA comments and ensure that we were expressing consumer feedback, we ran a survey on our website. Over 750 people responded. We learned that there is still a lot of education to do as people did not know the immunity of their hearing aids, nor were they sure about what the ratings of the cell phones meant. We are currently doing a more in-depth analysis of the results and will send a summary to the FCC when that is finished.

We welcome a new part time national office assistant John Wood who will be working Monday through Friday afternoons. John is in college at the University of Maryland doing a double major in Cyber Security and a Master of Business Administration (MBA). He has a Bachelors Degree in History from the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He has excellent computer skills and experience having worked in a law firm providing computer administration and customer service to clients.

HLAA submitted comments to the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding captioning of movies. HLAA's position on movie captioning is that movies should be made accessible to people with hearing loss through either open or closed captioning. Consumers should be able to see any movie, any day, any time with the undue burden defense provided for small theaters that cannot afford to make the movies accessible. Thank you and congratulations to our grassroots supporters who sent in their comments. To date close to 1,000 comments have been sent to the DOJ.

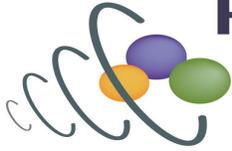
HLAA signed on to a petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requesting universal TV captioning. This means consumers are asking that all the exceptions to the captioning rules such as advertisements, trailers, and late night TV be eliminated.

Brenda Battat executive director has been invited to attend the March seminar of the Ida Institute on Living Well with Hearing Loss in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Ida Institute (www.idainstitute.com) was funded by Oticon to better understand approaches to treatment for people with hearing loss. Most of the participants will be audiologists from all over the world. Brenda will bring the consumer perspective. Sam Trychin Ph.D., and HLAA Board of Trustee Dr. Joe Montano, are frequent presenters at the Ida Institute.

This information is provided by the national organization of the Hearing Loss Association of America®. For more information about HLAA national advocacy and public policy work, Hearing Loss Magazine, the HLAA e-News, annual conventions, the Walk4Hearing™, the Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists®, and more, go to www.hearingloss.org. □

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Hearing Loss Association of Boulder

By Debbie Mohney, HLA of CO State Coordinator

March 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Saturday, Mar. 19th, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road, Suite C-112,
Boulder, CO 80303, behind Safeway

Invisible No More presentation on hearing loss
Debbie Mohney, HLA of CO State Coordinator

The next Boulder chapter meeting is on Saturday, March 19th, 2011, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Boulder Public Library, Meadows Branch with the “*Invisible No More*” presentation given by Debbie Mohney. Hearing Loss can sometimes make you feel like you are invisible. Come and learn why it’s time to make *Hearing Loss Invisible No More*. This wonderful presentation is used by permission from Michael Eury and the Hearing Loss Association of North Carolina.

We had a terrific presentation at the February meeting with Brittany Kelley from Envoy Medical about the Envoy Esteem completely implantable hearing aid. Amy, who has bilateral Esteems, came from Wisconsin to share her personal story. The Envoy Esteem has FDA approval, and over 4,000 people have been implanted. Amy shared with us that she struggled with regular hearing aids, which never really worked well for her. When her implant was activated in 2006, she was overwhelmed with how natural and clear the sound is with her Esteem. The Esteem has been shown to provide more gain than traditional hearing aids, a reduction in background noise, and no feedback. Amy related a story about how she heard sounds she had never heard before, such as music playing in the background of office buildings, or hearing her son singing quietly in the backseat of the car. Amy leaves her Esteem on 24/7; she wants to be sure she can hear her children or other noises in the house at night, including if the smoke alarm happens to go off in the middle of the night.

The Esteem is implanted into the mastoid bone behind the ear, similar to where a cochlear implant magnet is placed, and then it is attached to the bones in the middle ear. The Esteem processor looks similar to a pacemaker device, and it has a battery life of 4 ½ to 9 years, depending on whether the hearing aid is left on full time or turned off periodically. It is an option for people who: are 18 or older; have a stable bilateral sensorineural moderate to severe hearing loss; unaided speech discrimination test score greater than or equal to 40%; have normal functional Eustachian tube, normal middle ear anatomy, and adequate space for the implant.

You can visit www.envoymedical.com to learn more about the Esteem, and view other testimonials. It’s important to become fully informed so that you decide whether this is for you or not. The downside is that the Esteem is not covered by most health insurance, so it is an expensive endeavor. When the Esteem is implanted, there is an amputation of the bones in the middle ear, and if the implant is ever reversed, a procedure similar to a stapedectomy is done to restore hearing to what it was before the operation.

See maps and directions on page 5. ☐



Hearing Loss Association of Colorado

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Membership Contact: Marjorie von Frantzius 303-368-7838 voice

HLA of Colorado Springs Chapter

Chapter Contact: Mark Valkonen mv-hlaa@comcast.net

HLA of Fort Collins Chapter

Chapter Contact: TBD

HLA of Western Colorado Chapter

Chapter Contact: Amy Becktell hlaawco@gmail.com

To submit a news item, article, clipping, story, book review, new product, personal/general member news, etc., please contact Karen Keil, P. O. Box 472704, Aurora, CO 80047-2704 by mail or by home phone 303-363-8917 via CapTel 1-877-243-2823 or E-mail: kkeil75@yahoo.com. (Please include source, date (and page number if possible).)

Submission deadline for April 2011 newsletter: no later than Sunday, March 27th, at 9:00 pm. The newsletter is mailed at least 10 days prior to Colorado Springs monthly meeting.

A major objective of HLAA is to develop a constituency of hard of hearing people. This cannot be achieved without members throughout the U.S. Members of HLAA groups and chapters should be members of HLAA National to help accomplish the goals that will benefit all hard of hearing people and at the same time receive the benefits of that national membership.

Individual: \$35/USA, \$35/Canada/Mexico, \$45/Overseas (via airmail).

Professional: \$35/USA, \$45/Canada/Mexico, \$55 /Overseas (via airmail).

(Other types of memberships include **Library, Non-Profit Organization** and **Organization**, etc.)

For information, send a SASE to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Quote of the month

Worry clutters up tomorrow’s opportunities with yesterday’s troubles.

--- Gene R. Jerabek, Kingham, Arizona
Guideposts, March 2011, p. 16



Colorado Springs Chapter

By Chris Hampton, President

HLAA Colorado Springs continues to grow and next meeting we plan on focusing on the Walk 4 Hearing.

We greatly appreciate Patricia Graves, President Caption First, Inc. for providing captioning for our meetings.

We will meet on March 12th 1 - 3pm at Mission Medical Clinic near Constitution Blvd and Union Blvd in Colorado Springs.

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

When: Second Saturday at 1:00 PM January-October

Where: Mission Medical Clinic, 2125 E La Salle Street, Colorado Springs, CO
Chapter Contact: Chris Hampton

e-mail hampton116@gmail.com

HOH-LD-News, Vol. 46, Issue 6, February 5, 2011
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NPR Continues Captioned Radio Efforts

Things to take into consideration when trying to caption a radio newscast: how to convey sarcasm, irony, or seriousness; how to represent sound or ambient noise that's important to a story; how to differentiate the voices of multiple hosts and guests. Oh, and how to enable captioning on a medium that typically comes with no visuals. All of these are things NPR Labs has been working on for several years as they try to bring captioned radio into mainstream use. This fall, they'll begin a pilot program to test out captioned radio at stations around the country through display-capable digital radios and other devices like the Insignia Infocast. The hope is that, one day, captioned radio could also be viewed on mobile apps and tablets.

<http://tinyurl.com/4g3fpmj>



Hearing Loss Association of Denver. Chapter meeting Saturday, March 26th, at 1000 E. Englewood Pkwy, Englewood Civic Center. 1:00 pm for socialization and greeting one another. 1:30 pm program.

Your President attended the Boulder Chapter meeting on the 19th. The topic concerned the new completely implantable hearing aid, the "Envoy Esteem". Amy, a recipient from Minneapolis, who struggled severely all throughout her schooling, shared her story of how the Esteem had completely transformed her life to the extent that she no longer even considers herself "hearing impaired". Since this device is considered a hearing aid and not an implant, it as yet does not have any funding of insurance coverage for the consumer. It will take some time to gather support and advocacy. This is an important enough event for us in the hearing world that will want to consider having a program on this topic next year sometime.

Valerie Miller, our speaker in February, really enlightened us on the issues and problems we encounter in attaining any degree of "perfection" in our captions. There are many levels and factors involved in producing our captioning on our TV screen. The realtime captioner typically performs this service from her home, working for either a TV station, under contract to a cable company or she may be employed by a TV studio which in turn is served by a satellite company.

The captioned generally only hears an audio transmission and does not actually see the live speaker. The captioner cannot take a break for as long as four hours at a stretch, being unable to leave her workstation. (I need not go into a lot of detail, but personally that would be a huge challenge for me.) The skill level and experience needed is extensive, being equated to the time required to get a law degree. I think we gained a real appreciation for what it takes to perform this service. Often, the problems with the captions that show up on the screen are in [the] transmission or outside of the captioner's control. But that does not mean you should not complain to local channels when problems occur.

We are most happy to have William Iliff, AuD, to be with us this month. Dr. Iliff is the regional manager for the WIDEX Corporation. He took part in a seminar given last fall at the Center for Hearing Speech and Language. One of members had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Iliff and was highly impressed. Dr. Iliff, gave some insights on how we can derive more enjoyment from listening to music. Anyone who loves music and would like to get more out of the listening experience will not want to miss this presentation.

Your chapter is intent on putting forth a concerted effort to find new homes for used, broken or discarded hearing aids. Once these aids are found and donated to us, we will pass them on to our health care partners who will refurbish and morph these often forgotten aids into a gift of hearing for a child or adult who otherwise would not have such an opportunity due to limited means or access. These gifts will help persons both locally as well as internationally. The Appeal letters will be available at our Chapter meetings and will also be sent out in PDF form to each of you online. We would ask that you think of ways that help us in getting the word out in places of worship, senior or community centers, assisted living and retirement centers. Together we and make it happen and make a real difference.

Your chapter approved a Board initiated motion to amend the by-laws to stipulate that the subsidy Cap we provide to encourage members to attend the national HLAA convention this year (in mid June in Washington D.C.) will be raised from a total of \$300.00 to a total of \$500. (If one person was to attend, such designee would receive \$250. If two persons, then \$250.00 each, or if 5 persons wished to attend, each attendee would receive \$100.00.

We wish to thank Lois Sherry for providing refreshments for this month!

Chapter Contact: Dave Conant 303-777-2279 voice | **Membership Contact:** Marjorie von Frantzius 303-368-7838 voice **See map and directions on page 8.**

HLAA Chapters in Colorado
COLORADO
 CO – STATE CHAPTER
 COORDINATOR : Debbie Mohney e-mail HLAAColorado@yahoo.com
 Ph 303-938-9659
 (Note: Please notify me if you aren't able to reach your chapter contact)
State website:
<http://www.hearinglosscolorado.org>

Join the Hearing Loss Association of America e-mail E-News:
<http://www.hearingloss.org/membership/Sen.asp>

BOULDER CHAPTER (Boulder)
 When: Third Saturday of Month at 10:30 AM, Sept. - May
 Where: Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road, Suite C-112, Boulder, CO 80303
 Chapter Contact: Christie Nudelman e-mail hlaaboulder@yahoo.com

CENTRAL DENVER CHAPTER
 When: Fourth Saturday of Month at 1 PM, no meeting July/August (special event in Sept. and Dec., date TBA)
 Where: Englewood Public Library Anderson Conference Room 1000 E. Englewood Pkwy in Englewood Civic Ctr.
 Chapter Contact: Dave Conant Ph 303-777-2279 e-mail DCONANT2279@MSN.COM

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER
 When: Second Saturday at 1:00 PM January-October
 Where: Mission Medical Clinic, 2125 E La Salle Street, Colorado Springs, CO
 Chapter Contact: Chris Hampton e-mail hampton116@gmail.com

WESTERN COLORADO CHAPTER
 When: First Saturday at 10:30 AM Sept – May
 Where: Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81501
 Chapter Contact: Amy Becktell e-mail ajmelnick@hotmail.com or hlaawco@gmail.com
 Ph 970-241-2592

Updated: 03/13/2011

OPEN-CAPTIONED MOVIE TITLE RWC = Rear Window Captions (closed captions) ST = subtitles * = may play beyond	LOCATION (See http://www.reqmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx#CO and http://www.insightcinema.org/links.html for latest info), see also http://www.captionfish.com to find open/closed captioned movies	DATES
NOTE: If you wish to get the latest e-mail updates on open-captioned movies in Colorado, please send e-mail to kkeil75@yahoo.com to be added to the mailing list. Please see links above for latest updates.		
Grand Junction		
Rango	Regal Cinemas Canyon View Stadium 14	Mar. 15-17
Golden (Lakewood)		
The Adjustment Bureau	UA West Village Stadium 12	Mar. 11-17
Broomfield		
NA	AMC Flatiron Crossing 14	NA
Lakewood/Littleton		
Rango	Colorado Mills Stadium 16	Mar. 11-17
Rango	UA Meadows 12, Littleton	Mar. 15-17
The Adjustment Bureau	AMC Highlands Ranch 24, Littleton	Mar. 12-17* RWC
Denver		
NA	The Mayan, Denver	NA
NA	Chez Artiste, Denver	NA
Boulder		
NA	Century Boulder, 1700 29 th St.	NA
Westminster		
The Adjustment Bureau	AMC Westminster Promenade 24	Mar. 12-17* RWC

*HOH-LD-News, Vol. 46, Issue 6, February 5, 2011
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Find NetFlix InstantWatch movies with subtitles

Many readers have been upset that Netflix is increasing the number of movies and television shows available by video streaming through its InstantWatch service, but these movies and shows are not captioned. Meantime, Netflix has raised the cost of renting DVD and Blu-Ray disks, which individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing had previously fought to have available with captions or English subtitles. The National Association of the Deaf has pushed Netflix to change its service practices so that all individuals may enjoy the entertainment equally. Progress is being made, but it has been difficult to search and find which videos are accessible.

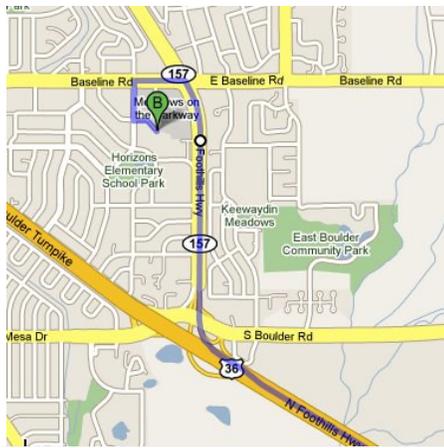
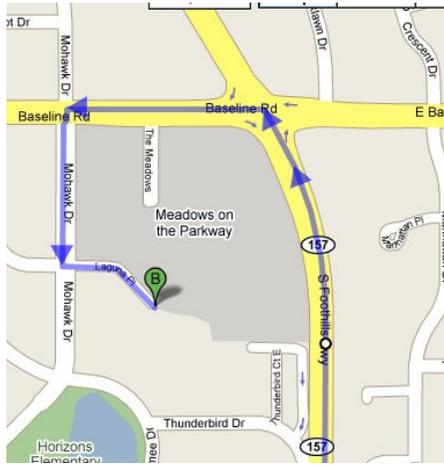
Now there's a blog that lists all of the movies currently known to be available by InstantWatch that have English SDH ("subtitles for the deaf or hard of hearing") as well as silent movies and popular foreign films with open subtitles. Below you'll find the instructions at the beginning of the blog, before the well-organized list of movies available. Kudos to the creator of this blog.

Check out the list at: <http://tinyurl.com/26n6ahp> □

Directions to Boulder HLA Chapter

Directions from Denver

Go on Highway 36 west from I-25. Exit on CO-157 Foothills Parkway ramp and merge (slightly left) into Foothills Parkway. Turn left onto Baseline Rd. Turn left at Mohawk Dr. Turn left at Laguna Pl. The library and its parking lot will be on the left.



HLA of Fort Collins Chapter News

March 26, 2011 at 3:00 pm

Rigden Farm Senior Living Center
2350 Limon Drive
Fort Collins, CO

Please join us!

Mohney's Musings

By Debbie Mohney, HLAA Colorado State Coordinator

Spring is almost here! Yay! I'm excited for the 2011 Walk4Hearing which is being planned! To sign up your team today, go to www.walk4hearing.org, choose the Colorado Walk and register. Returning walkers must register again for the 2011 Walk, if you've forgotten, please click on the "Forgot my password" to get a reminder. To look at the Colorado Walk page, please visit: http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraisers/ColoradoWalk?pg=entry&fr_id=1883

You are invited to the 2011 Walk4Hearing Kickoff on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 11am, at the Ken Caryl Ranch House at 7676 S. Continental Divide Road, Littleton, CO. It will be a wonderful informative event, and lunch will be provided! Please see the invitation in this newsletter!

I am also looking forward to attending the 2011 Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in Washington DC, June 16 – 19 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. This event is packed full of exciting activities! "Wicked" is showing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Chris Artinian, CEO and President of Mortons, and has a son who is deaf

who received a cochlear implant, and is part of the Artinian family featured in the Oscar-nominated film "Sound and Fury". I always learn something new at the research symposium, in the exhibit hall, and at the workshops. To learn more and register, please visit <http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/index.asp>.

Because I am a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America, I receive a wonderful magazine called *Hearing Loss Magazine*. I enjoy the stories and updates each month because they are always informative, and full of information. Dr. Mark Ross contributes regularly on new and current technology in hearing aids; he is a wealth of information. Even when you have hearing aids that you like, or maybe you are looking for something new, you can learn something new that you might not have thought of. We learn about advocacy efforts, such as movie captioning. We learn about upcoming events, such as the conference and the Walk4Hearing. And there are always personal journey stories shared by people with hearing loss. Hearing Loss Association is a consumer organization, and the best way to become an informed consumer is to learn all you can about your hearing loss and all the tools that are available to you. Become a member today, and start reaping the benefits: <http://www.hearingloss.org/membership/index.asp>

KICKOFF EVENT

COLORADO KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 9, 2011 | 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ken Caryl Ranch House | 7676 S. Continental Divide Road | Littleton, CO

R.S.V.P. by April 1, 2011

Debbie Mohney at hlaacolorado@yahoo.com or call 303-938-9659

Anyone interested in learning about how they can support the Walk4Hearing may attend. Space is limited, so please R.S.V.P. early and if attending, please indicate whether you prefer a meat or vegetarian dish. There is no charge to attend this event.

WALK EVENT

COLORADO WALK4HEARING

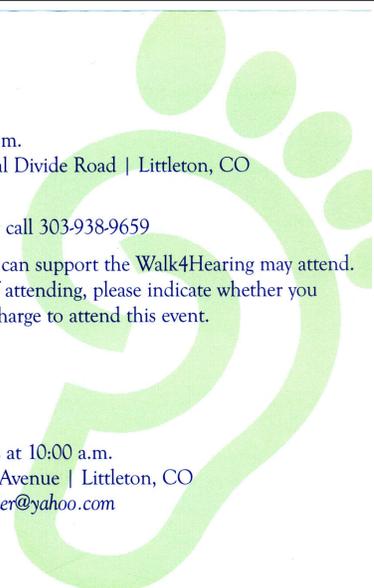
Saturday, May 21, 2011

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. | Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

Clement Park | Shelter #8 | 7306 W. Bowles Avenue | Littleton, CO

Walk Chairperson: Debbie Mohney at hlaaboulder@yahoo.com

www.walk4hearing.org



Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) Open-Captioned Live Shows

Captioned Live Showings Coming up in 2010/2011/2012 at Buell Theatre

9 to 5.....May 8 at 2pm
Billy Elliot.....June 5 at 2pm
Rock of Ages.....June 26 at 2pm
Les Miserables.....Sept 4 at 2pm
Hair.....Oct 16 at 2pm
The Lion King.....Dec 4 at 1pm
West Side Story...Jan 1 at 2pm (2012)

Please come and support this open captioning effort!

Tickets

Voice: (303) 893-4100

TTY: (303) 893-9582

Online: www.denvercenter.org

If you wish to get updates on these shows and any other shows in e-mail, please send e-mail to

kkeil75@yahoo.com to be put on the Captioned Movies and Shows e-mail list.

From the DCPA: Because Open Captioning uses a text display at the side of the stage, it is important that you alert our box office staff that you would like this service. This way we can ensure your seats are in the optimal location. Contact the Denver Center Box Office at (303) 893-4100; (800) 641-1222 or TTY (303) 893-9582. □

Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) ASL Sign Language Interpreted and Audio Description Live Shows

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts provides American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and Audio Description of all of our productions on select dates. We invite persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to join us for these plays and we will seat you in an optimal location to view the interpreters and the stage.

When you purchase your tickets, please alert our box office staff that you would like ASL interpretation, so

that we can secure appropriate seats.

Blind or low vision patrons can check out assistive listening devices for the Audio Description and large print versions of the Applause program magazine at the patron services desk in the Bonfils Theatre Complex and through house management at the coat check in the other theatres (photo id required).

For a Braille script, please call 303.893.6003 or contact jalexander@dcpa.org at least two weeks before the performance.

Ruined.....April 23 at 1:30pm
Superior Donuts.....May 7 at 1:30pm
9 to 5.....May 8 at 2pm
Billy Elliot.....June 5 at 2pm
Rock of Ages.....June 26 at 2pm
Les Miserables.....Sept 4 at 2pm
Hair.....Oct 16 at 2pm
The Lion King.....Dec 4 at 1pm
West Side Story.....Jan 1 at 2pm (2012)

Should you need assistance in ordering tickets to these programs, contact us at 303.893.4100, 800.641-1222 or TTY 303.893.9582. □

HLA OF WESTERN COLORADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The fledgling Western Colorado chapter of HLA had a successful 4th meeting on Saturday, February 5th, 2011 at the Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado. At least 11 people have become members of HLA, and we have almost completed the application process to become an official chapter of HLA.

We welcomed Namati Katungu, an Education and Training Program Specialist with the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), which is part of the Colorado Department of Human Services. Listening to Namati was very interesting because he used American Sign Language which his wife Mary interpreted into spoken English; then a remote captioner transcribed her words into writing on a display screen at the front of the room. This meeting clearly demonstrated

HLAA's commitment to providing information to our members in every form needed -- from verbal, to amplified, to written, and interpreted aloud!

Namati explained the CDHH's Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) for Coloradoans who are financially qualified (income below \$32,490), plus other free CCDHH services for hard-of-hearing and deaf people, including legal help, a website of resources, and financial grants. Namati also discussed a new mandated Education and Training Program that was implemented last fall to ensure that the deaf and hard of hearing have equal access to communication in programs and services that are provided by governmental agencies, public agencies and some private entities. More information plus the applications for free assistive phones are available at the CCDHH website: coloradodeafcommission.com. Namati also lent the chapter several books for our review.

Denice Roberts, from the Western Slope Technical Assistance Center, displayed a variety of assistive listening devices, such as phone, fire alarm and doorbell signalers. Thanks to the CCDHH for sponsoring the remote CART and the free lunch for this meeting.

On Saturday, March 5th, we will welcome Corey Hulse, Director of Security at St Mary's Hospital, who will talk about safety and security for people with hearing loss. Corey Hulse is an expert in safety and security and he is also an entertaining and engaging speaker.

The program speaker for the April 2nd meeting is Debbie Mohney, director of Colorado HLA, who will explain HLA's Walk4Hearing in Denver on May 21st. Ms. Mohney also writes a monthly editorial in the Colorado newsletter, offering a personal perspective on hearing loss; for example: *"When I first joined Hearing Loss Association of America (then called Self Help for Hard of Hearing People), I used to bluff my way through many conversations. Like a lot of people with hearing loss, I can still hear people talking to me, but I don't always hear what they say. I used to say that people mumbled a lot, and they didn't speak very clearly. I went to the chapter meetings and listened to what other*

people said about their hearing loss and gradually began to understand that there are many tools out there for dealing with hearing loss."

We will also welcome Suzanne Robinson, Sprint Outreach Specialist. Special thanks to Sprint for sponsoring CART for the April meeting.

In addition to our local monthly meetings, the Hearing Loss Association of Colorado's (HLACO) newsletter at www.hearinglosscolorado.org/newsletter is an excellent source of information.

We also encourage you to check out the information about the annual 2011 HLAA Convention in the Washington DC area at Crystal City, Virginia, June 16-19th, at www.hearingloss.org/convention. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other people with hearing loss, and reviews of each session will also be posted online after the convention ends.

All HLAA chapter meetings are free to members and non-members, including family and friends, and the monthly meetings are the first Saturday of every month. □

Western Colorado Chapter Free Monthly Meeting Saturday, March 5, 2011

With special guest, **Corey Hulse**, Director of Security and Safety, St. Mary's Hospital

Safety and Security for People with Hearing Loss

Do you know where your batteries are? What's in your emergency kit? People with hearing loss have unique needs to be safe and secure in their environment and during emergencies. Corey Hulse is not only an expert in safety and security, he is also an entertaining and engaging speaker. He will discuss what people with hearing loss can do to live safely.

There will be opportunities for attendees to ask questions and share concerns and insights.

Special thanks to the [Center for Independence](#) for sponsoring the captions for this meeting.

People of all ages and all types of hearing loss are welcome!

All HLAA chapter meetings are free to members and non-members, including family and friends. Meetings are held the

first Saturday of every month. Future meeting dates are April 2 and May 7.

**Saturday, March 5, 2011
10:30am – 12:30pm
Center for Independence
740 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**RSVP's are not required but
appreciated**

**Amy Beckett: HLAAWCO@gmail.com
Or 970-241-2592**

More from This Month in Bethesda – February 2011

HLAA is a member of the steering committee of the "National Disability Leadership Alliance - Nothing About us Without Us." In preparation for the upcoming election, and to ensure that barriers stopping people with disabilities from voting will be removed, HLAA signed on to a letter to President Obama urging him to fill the election commission's vacant seats. Here is a copy of the letter.

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned members of the National Disability Leadership Alliance urge you to quickly appoint commissioners to the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Our organizations, which are committed to extending to more than 37 million voters with disabilities the civil and voting rights that should be enjoyed by all Americans, devoted substantial resources to accomplish enactment of both the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act. The creation of the EAC was a critical component of that long and arduous struggle. Failing to appoint commissioners puts at risk both the advances achieved and continuing progress on extending full voting and civil rights to all citizens -- rights for which many have given their lives.

The EAC does valuable work to insure the reliability and validity of our nation's election systems. Ensuring that the Commission is at full complement will reinforce its capacity to fulfill its critical charge. In the spirit of your commitment to open and transparent government, the EAC's award winning web page has become the "go to" site for election administrators, advocates and scholars.

The Commission develops and fosters the professional development of our nation's more than 8,000 election administrators. It

improves the administration of elections through its many working committees and forums allowing multiple stakeholders to dialogue and problem solve together.

The unprecedented voting system standards it has developed have been recognized by nations around the world, many of whom have contracted with EAC for technical assistance on their own voting system standards and certification procedures. The EAC's certification program is helping state and local governments to save money. The agency, through its oversight role, coordinates with manufacturers and local election officials to ensure that the existing equipment meets its durability and longevity potential. The last thing states and local governments need in these tight budget times is to have to spend millions on new voting equipment.

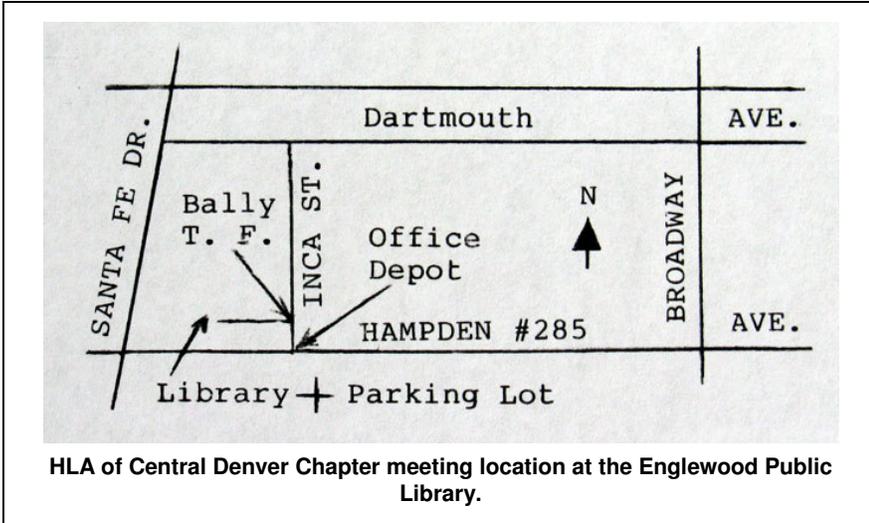
In addition, the Commission has a major role to play collecting accurate and comparable election data. With our nation's complex and diversified election administration system, central data collection is essential if we are going to improve our citizen's trust and confidence in election results.

Our nation still has much ground to cover before it fulfills the Help America Vote Act's mandate to make voting accessible. The EAC's leadership is essential to affording all Americans the right to vote "privately and independently".

As we rapidly approach the all important 2012 elections, the EAC needs a full complement of commissioners. Unfortunately, the White House and Congress have left these essential positions empty for an unacceptably long time. It takes time for new commissioners to settle in and develop relationships with the thousands of local election administrators -- further delaying these appointments will delay further advances and place at risk the gains made.

We look forward to your swift nomination of Election Assistance Commissioners and to your leadership in advancing these candidates through the approval process. Thank you for your support of the disability community and your prompt attention to this important request.

This information is provided by the national organization of the Hearing Loss Association of America®. For more information about HLAA national advocacy and public policy work, Hearing Loss Magazine, the HLAA e-News, annual conventions, the Walk4Hearing™, the Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists®, and more, go to www.hearingloss.org. □



Directions and Maps to Englewood Public Library

From East Hampden:

Turn right on to S. Inca St.

From West Hampden:

Turn left on to S. Inca St.

Turn left where the Bally store is and continue to go into the parking garage to

park. The library is on the right next to the garage.

From Dartmouth Avenue:

Turn left from the East or turn right from the West into S. Inca St. at the northern end.

Continue south on S. Inca St. Turn right where the Bally store is, and continue into the parking garage. Library is to the right.

See map on this page. □

HLAA Social Gathering!

Tired of ***just meetings*** and no fun? We would like to have a fun, social event! Please join us at 12:45pm on Saturday, April 16th for Lunch at Noodles and Company in Boulder (2602 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80305).

Then at 2 pm, we will head to Chautauqua Park for a hike- all levels welcome. Please meet at the Community House (handicap parking is located right next to this). Please see the map at <http://www.chautauqua.com/pdf/2011map.pdf>

This event is following the monthly Boulder meeting. If you want to join us for the meeting, lunch, and/or the hike; please just let us know so we can look out for you! Email us to let us know if you are coming to hlaaboulder@yahoo.com. □



Hearing Loss Association of Colorado

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Note to those on Boulder Chapter Mailing List

Check your mailing label for the numbers after your name. This is the year and month of the last newsletter you will receive. Please pay **\$15/year fees** to continue receiving the News. Checks are payable to HLA Boulder, and sent to Karen Keil, P. O. Box 472704, Aurora, CO 80047-2704. □