



Hearing Loss Association of America

COLORADO

March 2012

Best HLAA State Newsletter Award 2009  
Serving HLAA Members and Friends in Colorado

<http://www.hearinglosscolorado.org>

# Colorado Walk4Hearing Kickoff April 7, 2012



## Hearing Loss Association of America

Invites you and your guests to join us for a complimentary luncheon at our

**Colorado**

**Walk4Hearing Kickoff**

**Saturday, April 7, 2012**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Ken Caryl Ranch House

7676 South Continental Divide Road, Littleton, CO 80127

**R.S.V.P. by Friday, March 30, 2012**

*Debbie Mohney at [hlaacolorado@yahoo.com](mailto:hlaacolorado@yahoo.com)  
or call 303-938-9659*

*Space is limited, so please R.S.V.P. early.*

Join us to learn more about the Walk4Hearing.  
*It's time to step up for people with hearing loss!*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Colorado Walk4Hearing**

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

Clement Park  
7306 West Bowles Avenue  
Littleton, CO

Walk Chairperson: *Debbie Mohney, [hlaacolorado@yahoo.com](mailto:hlaacolorado@yahoo.com)*

Walk Day Chair: *Christie Nudelman, [Christie\\_nudelman@comcast.net](mailto:Christie_nudelman@comcast.net)*



Ken-Caryl Ranch House

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# Hearing Loss Association of Boulder

By Christie Nudelman, Boulder HLA Chapter President

March 2012						
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**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
 Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road, Suite C-112, Boulder, CO 80303, behind Safeway

Please also mark on your calendars the great topic for the **March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

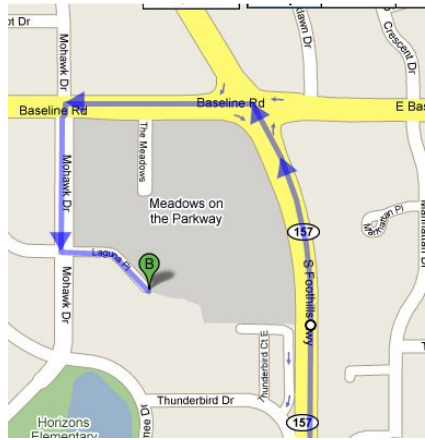
### All You Wanted to Know about Closed Captions and Subtitles on your TV and DVD Player

Jeremy Lovely, Technical Operations Supervisor at Comcast Denver, will fill us in on how to access and optimize the closed captions and subtitles available on broadcast programs and DVDs. He will also answer questions about connecting cables, set top boxes and remotes. Bring your questions to a person whose job it is to train Comcast personnel in these matters.

Even if you are not a Comcast subscriber there will be information that may benefit you generally.

### Volunteers Needed!

Seeking volunteers for the Walk4Hearing walk in whatever way you can help. It can be preparations prior to the walk or the walk day itself. No task too small to help!! Please respond to [Christie\\_nudelman@comcast.net](mailto:Christie_nudelman@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping out where you can. More details will be provided. Nothing is expected or demanded; opportunities will be matched to availability, interest and need of the chapters for the Walk4Hearing – Colorado walk. □

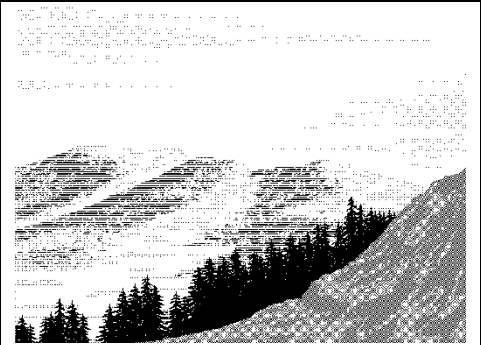


### Directions to Boulder HLA Chapter

**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.

### TDI AND CAPTIONED TELEPHONES

**TDI World Magazine**, Fall 2010, has a great article about Captioned Telephones entitled **THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE CAPTIONED TELEPHONE** (pp. 16-18). It covers several brands of captioned telephone available today. The *AccessibleTech* column (p. 8-9) covers the history of deaf communication over the years from the beginning with the key factor being TEXT. This is put out by **TDI, (formally known as Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.)**. It was established in 1968 originally to promote further distribution of TTYs in the deaf community and to publish an annual national directory of TTY numbers. Today, it is an active national advocacy organization focusing its energies and resources to address equal access issues in telecommunications and media for four constituencies in deafness and hearing loss, specifically people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind. <http://www.tdiforaccess.org> □



### Hearing Loss Association of Colorado

- HLAA Colorado State Coordinator: Deborah Mohney 303-938-9659 voice
- Newsletter Editor: Karen Keil 303-363-8917 CapTel
- HLA of Boulder Chapter**  
 Chapter Contact: Christie Nudelman [haaboulder@yahoo.com](mailto:haaboulder@yahoo.com)
- HLA of Central Denver Chapter**  
 HLA Cha Contact: Dave Conant 303-777-2279 voice
- Membership Contact: Marjorie von Frantzius 303-368-7838 voice
- HLA of Colorado Springs Chapter**  
 Chapter Contact: Mark Valkonen [mv-hlaa@comcast.net](mailto:mv-hlaa@comcast.net)
- HLA of Northern Colorado Chapter**  
 Chapter Contact: Don Willson [LoopNColo@comcast.net](mailto:LoopNColo@comcast.net)
- HLA of Western Colorado Chapter**  
 Chapter Contact: Amy Becktell [haawco@gmail.com](mailto:haawco@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 by calling CapTel 1-877-243-2823, then put in 303-363-8917 or E-mail: [kkeil75@yahoo.com](mailto:kkeil75@yahoo.com). (Please include source, date (and page number if possible).)

**Submission deadline for April 2012 newsletter: no later than Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 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**  
*Aspire to inspire before you expire.*  
 --- A New Church Sign cartoon

**Hearing Loss Association  
of America**  
Southeastern Colorado Chapter  
**Colorado Springs Chapter**

*By Chris Hampton, President*

The Colorado Springs Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association meets the second Saturday of each month, from 1-3 pm, at Mission Medical Clinic, 2125 E. LaSalle St., in Colorado Springs. We provide a loop system for the benefit of members and visitors with telecoils in their hearing aids.

Current chapter projects include "Stand Up for Hearing Loss," in which we encourage pastors and other leaders of public meetings to invite all those who suffer from hearing loss to stand up, in order to provide support to people who struggle alone with hearing loss.

The chapter is also working on outreach projects, including personal testimonials for our Facebook page, as well as a presence at local health fairs. The chapter also recently donated \$750 to Sertoma Club's HEARS program, to cover the costs of hearing aids for someone who cannot afford them.

**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](mailto:hampton116@gmail.com) □

**Denver HLA Chapter  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting**

Clockwise from left: Suzanne Robinson, Namati Katungu, Christie Nudelman



**Hearing Loss Association  
of Denver**

**Hearing Loss Association of Denver. Chapter meeting March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1000 E. Englewood Pkwy, Englewood Civic Center. 1:00 pm for socialization and greeting one another. 1:30 pm program.**

**We will meet in the Anderson room.** Last month we learned about some of the diverse services provided us by the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a Colorado State agency serving us through a tiny tax which shows up in our telephone bill. We need to be more mindful (and grateful) for what the Commission affords us.



**L to R: Namati Katungu, Christie Nudelman, Debbie Mohney, Suzanne Robinson**

We are indebted to Debbie Mohney, our State Coordinator, who serves in a volunteer capacity as a Commissioner on the CCDHH Board and Christie and Suzanne, (speakers for our program last month) who also serve actively on the accountability team board. There are just so many people who give generously of their time to try to make things easier and better for us in our daily struggle to hear and communicate better at various levels.

Both Suzanne and Christie provided Hi-Octane performances giving us information about the latest captioned telephones which make our use of the telephone much more enjoyable and productive. It is truly breathtaking to witness the speed and extent of how things have improved in recent years, If you have not already done so you owe it to yourself to check these new developments out. Leaflets and brochures will be available at the meeting.

Namati Katungu, wrapped things up in giving us a quick review of what the CCDHH does, and solicited input from our members on ideas as to where they can better serve us. One way the Commission can be more effective is for us to be more fully aware of their specific functions and the services they offer us.

Rebecca Novinger, who is with the Marion Downs Hearing Center (and also volunteers on Namati's team,) will be our speaker this month. Plan to be both inspired and better informed about the services the Marion Downs Center provides. You will also learn about tangible tips and tools you can use in your daily functioning, be it family, friends or your work environment. We have had some outstanding presentations from professionals associated with the Marion Downs Center, and you can count on Rebecca to also give a highly informative talk.

We wish to thank Ann and Paula for proving refreshments this month.

Finally, our revised membership directory will be published soon. If for any reason you do not wish to have you name listed in the directory, please notify Ann of your wishes.

**See map and directions on page 7.**

**Chapter Contact:** Dave Conant 303-777-2279 voice | **Membership Contact:** Marjorie von Frantzius 303-368-7838 voice □



## HLAA Chapters in Colorado COLORADO

CO – STATE CHAPTER

COORDINATOR : Debbie Mohney e-mail [HLAAColorado@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ajmelnick@hotmail.com) or [hlaawco@gmail.com](mailto:hlaawco@gmail.com)

Ph 970-241-2592

Updated: 09/09/2011 □

## Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) BOARD POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The *Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)* is a Type II agency, which has vacancies for the position of Commissioner. The CCDHH is a governmental agency dedicated to advancing effective communication and services for the citizens of Colorado.

The CCDHH Board Nominations Committee is seeking at least three (3) independent, enthusiastic and committed candidates for each of the following positions:

1. one member who is deaf,
2. one member who is late-deafened,
3. one member who is a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child,
4. one member who is a member of the public, and
5. one member who is a professional in the field of deafness.

The Board advises on policies that direct the CCDHH staff to take a course of action to meet the agency functions, mission and vision, promotes the interests of the deaf and hard of hearing constituents, and ensures the quality of communication access.

Job duties include, but are not limited to:

Serving a four-year term of office from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2016 except for a deaf member who will fulfill the remaining of the 2010 term (until June 30, 2014)

Monitoring the functions and performance of the agency

Preparing for Board meetings

Attending quarterly and special Board meetings

Becoming familiar with and able to represent/communicate the needs of your specific constituency

Serving on Board Committees

Representing CCDHH before the public, businesses, and the community

The positions are open to Colorado residents.

Commissioners receive no paid compensation for their service on the Board, but travel expenses are reimbursed in accordance with state travel regulations.

Submit your application for the Board position in writing to Romaine Pacheco, Director of Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, 136 State Capitol Building, Denver, Colorado 80203-1792. For more information or application, click the Offices of the Governor tab at

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovHickenlooper/CBON/1249674847715> for the Boards and Commissions page.

For more information on CCDHH, please visit [www.coloradodeafcommission.com](http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com) or contact Shelley Strickfaden, Nominations Committee Chair at [shelley.strickfaden@comcast.net](mailto:shelley.strickfaden@comcast.net).

The application deadline is **Friday, March 16, 2012**. □

### Captioned Movies in Your Area

Links to see captioned movie listings in your area may be found at:

<http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx#CO>

This link gives listings per state for Regal and United Artists theatres.

<http://www.captionfish.com> (you specify the city and state)

This link lists the showtimes of movies for all theatre chains and businesses that choose to show captions and share the showtimes with Caption Fish with the following kinds of captioning:

**OC** = open-captioned on the movie screen—seen by everyone

**RWC** = Rear Window Captions (closed) --captions from LED screen on back wall seen on reflector panels provided by the theatre

**ST** = Subtitles (like those seen in foreign movies)

**CV** = CaptiView (captions on a device for personal viewing – provided by the theatre) □

## Mohney's Musings

By Debbie Mohney, HLAA Colorado  
State Coordinator

I meet a lot of people who are seeking for answers to the problems they are experiencing with their hearing loss. Lately, I've been thinking about my own hearing loss journey, and how I got to where I am today. I have come to realize that it is not what someone else can do about your hearing loss, but what you can do for your hearing loss, to borrow and rework a phrase from John F. Kennedy.

When I was growing up, I did not wear hearing aids. Every year, I was tested in school and each time, they told my Mom that I needed to get in and get hearing aids. My ENT doctor recommended against getting hearing aids, he said I did too well, and he felt the stigma from the wires would be worse than the hearing loss. I didn't argue against that logic. As a teenager, I didn't want to stand out.

I developed some coping skills, such as lip reading, and going over to talk to people face to face, at a very early age. I sat in the front row at school, and I was proactive about asking questions and talking to teachers when I didn't understand something. Before captioning, I sat up close to the TV and turned the volume up. I went with friends to the movie; I would ask when I didn't understand something.

When I went to college, I got one hearing aid so I would be able to hear the professor when they faced the chalkboard, but I left it in the drawer otherwise. I had a couple of good friends in high school, and participated in as many activities as other teenagers, but I was always self-conscious of the fact that I could not hear well, especially when I would miss the joke's punch line. As I got older, I gradually stopped doing the social activities that I enjoyed. Parties were hard, it was intimidating

to talk to new people, I was always afraid of missing something. Of course, I was always good at bluffing, nodding, and smiling.

When I first found the Hearing Loss Association of America Boulder Chapter (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People back then), at first, I experienced the same nervousness about speaking in front of people, but soon learned that no one was judging me. Instead they understood what I was going through. I quickly felt comfortable.

It took me several more years before I really took the plunge to upgrade my hearing aids, but I eventually tried programmable behind the ear hearing aids, and I have not looked back since. Instead, I've found that I have to take charge of my hearing loss, look for devices that help me to hear the smoke alarm, the oven timer, and assistive devices for my phone, TV, in theaters, etc. I look for captioning whenever it's available.

Technology is a good friend. Take charge of your hearing loss. Learn all you can about technology so you can ask for the right hearing aids, or go for a cochlear implant evaluation, or looking for the other helpful devices. Advocate for yourself, and don't expect other people to know more about what you need than you do. Cut people some slack when they try but don't quite make it; realize that people are not mind readers. You can control your hearing destiny.

The 2012 Walk4Hearing is coming up on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at Clement Park in Littleton. To register your team, please visit [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org). If you have participating in previous years, follow the instructions for registering again this year, you should have received an e-mail with your walker information.

We will be having our Kickoff event on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at the Ken Caryl Ranch House. We have a great time raising awareness about

hearing loss and funds for Hearing Loss Association of America.

Thinking about attending the Hearing Loss Association of America national convention? It will be June 21 – 24, 2012 in Providence, RI. The convention is a great way to learn more about your hearing loss, and meet other people from around the country. It's like coming home to old friends who understand exactly what you are going through.

You can find everything you want to learn about at the informative workshops, research symposium and the wonderful exhibit hall. It's a great resource in one place, and there are all kinds of fun activities, including the banquet and a special event this year, WaterFire, a multi-sensory art installation of more than 100 dancing bonfires along the Providence River. Find more information and register online at:

<http://hearingloss.org/content/convention>

□

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

### Captioned Live Showings Coming up in 2012 at Buell Theatre

We offer Open Captioning at select performances for many of our shows. We invite persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to join us for these shows.

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. Seats for Open Captioning are also available online by entering the promo code **OCAP**.

Captioning is available on these dates:

[Beauty and the Beast](#).....Mar 18 at 2pm  
[Wicked](#).....May 20 at 2pm  
[The Adams Family](#).....Jul 1 at 2pm  
[Jersey Boys](#).....Aug 5 at 2pm  
[La Cage Aux Folles](#).....Sep 15 at 2pm  
[Memphis](#).....Oct 21 at 2pm

**Please come and support this open captioning effort!**

Tickets  
Voice: (303) 893-4100  
TTY: (303) 893-9582  
Online: [www.denvercenter.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jalexander@dcpa.org) at least two weeks before the performance.

<a href="#">Beauty and the Beast</a> .....	Mar 18 at 2pm
<a href="#">Great Wall Story</a> .....	Apr 22 at 1:30pm
<a href="#">Heartbreak House</a> .....	Apr 29 at 1:30pm
<a href="#">Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash</a> .....	May 6 at 1:30pm
<a href="#">Wicked</a> .....	May 20 at 2pm
<a href="#">I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</a> .....	Jun 24 at 2pm
<a href="#">The Adams Family</a> .....	Jul 1 at 2pm
<a href="#">Jersey Boys</a> .....	Aug 5 at 2pm
<a href="#">La Cage Aux Folles</a> .....	Sep 15 at 2pm
<a href="#">Memphis</a> .....	Oct 21 at 2pm

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



**Western Colorado Chapter Hearing Loss Association of America**

**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

**Casey Wren, Broadcast IT Manager, KKCO TV Television Captioning**

Casey Wren holds a BS in Radio and TV Broadcasting and a MS in Broadcast Management. He has worked as a Broadcast IT engineer for over 12 years with companies such as Bloomberg Television and Gray Television Inc. He spent the past 5 years teaching undergraduate and graduate level broadcasting courses focusing on FCC regulation and station management. He is a Grand Junction native, returning last May with his wife and 1 year old, to work at KKCO as the Broadcast IT Manager.

Casey will talk about captioning for the television, including regulations governing captions and the technology used to produce captions for both live and recorded television.

This meeting will be captioned and light refreshments will be served.

**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, 10:30-12:30.

**Saturday, March 3, 2012  
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](mailto:HLAAWCO@gmail.com)  
Or 970-241-2592 □**

*Please plan to stay after the regular meeting to help assemble community outreach packets and displays. We will serve a tasty pizza lunch!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS!**

**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 the first Saturday of the month, 10:30 – 12:30

**April 7: Jim Detterline**, Colorado Adventurer, Mountain Climber and Hearing Loss Advocate  
Jim has been associated closely with Longs Peak since 1979, when he made his first attempt on the 2000 foot high "Diamond" on the east face. He has 375 Longs Peak summits. Jim has been an advocate for those with hearing loss, as he has been similarly afflicted with hearing loss most of his life, and has worn hearing aids since 1985. Jim will provide an exciting visual presentation of his climbing and rescue adventures, and will include information about his hearing experiences.

**May 5: Program and speaker to be determined**



May is Better Speech and Hearing month and we plan to have an exciting program for our members and guests. We will also welcome the Accountability Team from the Hard of Hearing Education and Training Program from the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**May 19: Colorado Walk4Hearing, Clement Park, Littleton CO**

The Walk4Hearing is the annual event to raise funds and awareness for issues related to hearing loss. For more information about the walks: [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org)

**June 21 – 24: National HLAA Conference, Providence, RI**

The conference is full of workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall, and social events. Registration information is at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). The Keynote Speaker is Howard Weinstein, developer of hearing aids that run on new solar-powered battery technology and are distributed to people with hearing loss in developing world.

**All HLAA WCO Meetings are held at: Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction**

**For more information, questions, or comments: Amy Beckett: HLAAWCO@gmail.com or 970-241-2592**

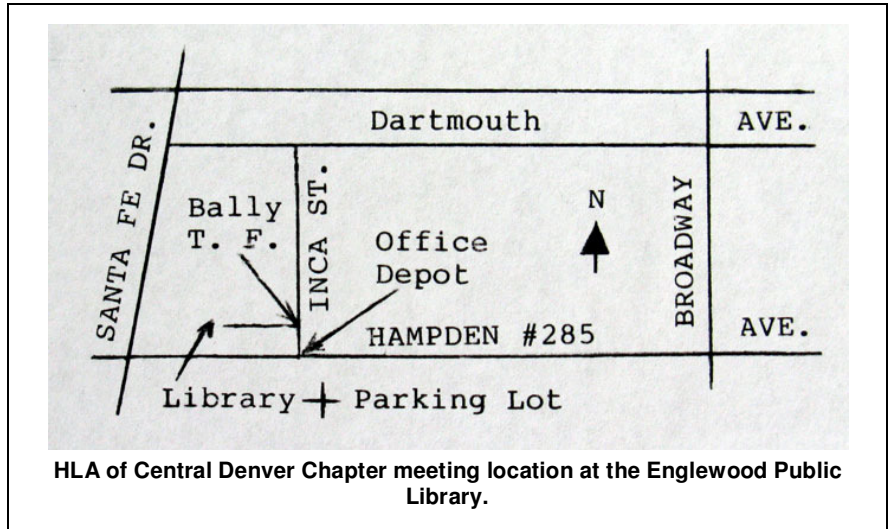
**Thanks to a grant provided through the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), all educational meetings are captioned. People of all ages and all types of hearing loss are welcome!**

**More about the Hearing Loss Association of America at: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)**  
HLAA is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. HLAA provides assistance and resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. HLAA is working to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss and impacts on communication access, public policy, research, and services related to hearing loss. □

**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. □

**Northern Colorado HLA Chapter**

No action on regular meetings at this writing. Don Willson is continuing to advocate for loop accessibility, and had loop accessibility installed in the Fort Collins City Hall chamber. An article on this appeared in the *Fort Collins Coloradan*, January 23, 2012, p. A1, A2. (See HLA of CO February 2012 newsletter).

Don is meeting with various groups on the topics of hearing loss and related aspects, and is spending most of his time in self-education on this area.

Contact:  
Don Willson  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Northern Colorado Chapter  
[LoopNColo@comcast.net](mailto:LoopNColo@comcast.net) □

*DeafDigest Blue - March 11, 2012*

**Deaf-Blind Composer for London Olympics**

Lloyd Coleman, a Briton, will be composing music for the upcoming Olympics in London. He is deaf-blind and is only 19 years old.

**The American Bar Association is looking for stories**

*Here is an email from an attorney with the American Bar Association looking for specific examples of discrimination in a courtroom setting.*

Hello all,

My name is Bill Phelan, and I am a staff attorney with the American Bar Association Commission on Disability Rights. We are seeking grant monies to develop and produce national standards for state courts on providing effective communication for those who are deaf/hard of hearing. We need to assess how much of a problem we have out there regarding this issue.

We are in need of decisions and news articles from the last 2 years about the denial of effective communication modifications by courthouses for individuals with hearing impairments.

Specifically, we are looking for any type of effective communication denial (i.e., not just sign language interpretation--but other accommodations such as CART or audio amplification) and we are looking for material related to any type of courthouse activity--not just trials/depositions (e.g., adoption proceedings, arbitration/mediation, jury duty, attorney meetings with judges). This material can include any type of party that is involved in courthouse activities (e.g., lawyers/judges, parties to a case, witnesses, jurors, visitors).

Many thanks,

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### **What do we really know about hearing loss and cognitive function?**

Competing schools of thought exist on the effects of hearing loss on cognitive function. Studies reporting an association assert that declines in sensory acuity limiting the flow of information to the brain cause declines in cognitive abilities.

But other studies reporting no association have argued that the decline in sensory acuity, a peripheral decline, does not necessarily affect central function. In some cases, an individual may become more resourceful and tap into more cognitive resources to compensate for the reduction in sensory input, leaving researchers perplexed about whether there is an effect. From the studies I reviewed, variability in study design appears to contribute to inconsistent results, such as those that included research participants with well-fitted hearing aids that compensate for hearing loss. Results were also confounded by researchers who employed different methods to quantify hearing loss or who failed to account for demographic factors that may have affected cognitive function. <http://tinyurl.com/86zuz3h> □

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### **The Best Phone Apps to Measure Noise Levels**

Every day, we encounter a variety of sounds that hum, buzz, and ring and at safe noise levels. However, individuals of all ages sometimes risk exposure to harmful noises that damage the sensitive structure of the inner ear and cause permanent or temporary Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). Inside the ear, small hair cells transmit electrical signals to the brain. These hair cells are often harmed or completely destroyed by extremely loud noises

at home, in the workplace, and as we go about living our lives. Common activities like attending rock concerts, working with shop tools, and operating lawn mowing equipment, as well as one-time occurrences like explosions, can destroy these delicate hair cells, resulting in hearing loss and even annoying tinnitus, or ringing in the ears. Luckily, with modern technology comes help in measuring the decibel level of sounds around us. We found some great smart phone apps that raise a red flag when users enter situations that reach noise levels that may contribute to hearing problems. The mobile nature of the smart phone makes it easy to take control of your health and hearing wherever you are, and avoid activities and locations that may be detrimental to healthy ears. Read on to learn more about our favorite iPhone and Android apps for measuring noise levels. <http://tinyurl.com/3fctfg9> □



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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. □