



# Colorado Walk4Hearing May 19, 2012



## 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)

### Image from the 2011 Walk4Hearing Walk Last Year



The Colorado 2012 Walk4Hearing Walk is coming up quickly on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at Clement Park in Littleton. To register your team, please visit <http://www.walk4hearing.org>. According to the website:

“To **register** or for more information about the Walk4Hearing near you, click on the Walk location that you would like to participate from the list [of locations]. If you need help getting started, then download [My Walk Center Help document](#) at

<http://hlaa.convio.net/site/DocServer/2011WalkCenterDoc.pdf?docID=261> for the registration steps and for a quick overview of the new fundraising tools available once you’ve registered.”

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 as follows:

**“Attention Returning Walkers:** If you have previously participated in the Walk4Hearing, you need to register again for 2012. First, click on the Walk location that you will be participating in. Then select the “Register” button. You will then be asked if you are starting a team, joining a team or walking as an individual. During the registration process please select “Returning Walker” and enter your username and password from last year. If you forgot your username, please go to <http://hlaa.convio.net/site/UserLogin> to request your login information.”

Some things to note: all walkers, not teams, raising \$100 or more **by Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, are eligible for a Walk4Hearing t-shirt.

The walk will be held, rain or shine. Please come out and join us! ☐

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# Hearing Loss Association of Boulder

By Christie Nudelman, Boulder HLA Chapter President

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**Saturday, May 19th, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm**  
 Colorado Walk4Hearing Walk, Clement Park, Littleton, CO  
**Colorado Walk4Hearing Walk**

The Boulder chapter will not have a May meeting, but will instead be at the Colorado Walk4Hearing Walk on May 19<sup>th</sup>, at Clement Park in Littleton. All members and interested people of the Boulder HLA chapter are encouraged to come to the walk. We hope to see you there!

The next meeting will be in September after a summer hiatus. Some Colorado members will be attending the Hearing Loss Association of America 2012 convention in Providence, Rhode Island, June 21-24. Please see details elsewhere in the newsletter on the annual convention. □

*HOH-LD-News, Vol. 51, Issue 5, May 5, 2012  
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## Airport Terminal has Visual Displays AND Loops!

In addition to significant visual enhancements, AZO's new terminal also features auditory improvements. Designers included two new systems to help ensure that visitors with hearing loss don't miss boarding announcements and other crucial information. The new terminal's Ascom paging system is integrated with WinFIDS, an electronic display system from Infax that drives flight information, ticket counter, gate and baggage claim displays. Announcements heard through the paging system are visually displayed on the monitors using an XML-based interface provided by Infax. Visitors who prefer to listen for announcements but have difficulty hearing them can use the airport's new hearing loop system. The system magnetically transmits sound to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils. To use one of AZO's "hearing loops," travelers switch their personal devices to the T (telecoil) position for clearer, amplified versions of public address announcements. Signs with the universal symbol for hearing loops identify their locations throughout the terminal, including individual devices at ticket counters and in-floor systems in the meet-and-greet hall and boarding areas.

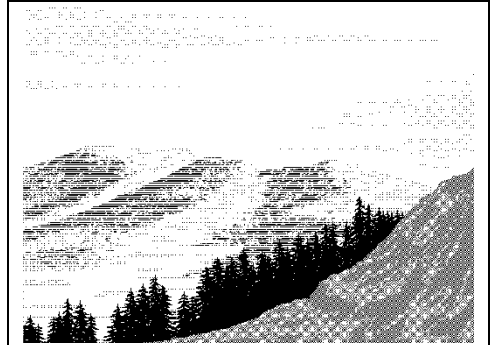
[http://www.airportimprovement.com/content/story\\_result.php?article=00341](http://www.airportimprovement.com/content/story_result.php?article=00341) □

*HOH-LD-News, Vol. 51, Issue 4, April 28, 2012  
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## Access Glasses put captions right in front of your eyes

Sony is working with American theater chain Regal Entertainment to introduce a new kind of glasses technology that can display closed captions for those with hearing problems. The new Access Glasses can show text in six different languages, which is then placed directly in the viewer's field of vision so that they don't have to constantly look at the bottom of the screen. The information is streamed wirelessly, and the location of the text can be adjusted to make things more comfortable. The glasses also include features for the blind or visually impaired, as they can be used alongside headphones to provide extra audio detail about just what's happening on screen. Regal - the largest theater chain in the US - started rolling the Access Glasses out this month, and expects to have them available in "practically all of its fully digitized theater locations" by early 2013.

<http://tinyurl.com/7oqw4vu> □



## Hearing Loss Association of Colorado

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*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 September 2012 newsletter: no later than Saturday, August 25th at 11:30 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

*Think big thoughts, but relish small pleasures.*  
 --- H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life's Little Instruction Book*

**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.

**May 12th HLAA Colorado Springs Meeting starting at 1:00pm.**

No news was available at press time for the May meeting. Their March meeting notes say that carpooling from Colorado Springs would be available for attending the Colorado Walk4Hearing Walk in Littleton on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see contact information below to get carpooling information.

**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) □

**Dr. Don Kim Speaks at Denver Chapter Meeting**



**Dr. Don Kim**

**Hearing Loss Association  
of Denver**

**Hearing Loss Association of Denver. Chapter meeting May 26th 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.** We had outstanding presentations in April from Dr. Don Kim, and Dr. Daniel Zeitler with Denver Ear Associates. Together, they brought us valued information which was either cutting edge technology or nuggets that we may have heard before but needed some expansion and reinforcement to improve our individual listening situations. Dr. Kim has generously expressed willingness to put his power point program online for anyone to access, whether you were able to make the meeting or not. This will be most valuable as sometimes we are not able to absorb all that was presented in the initial program and in this way you will be able to go back and review, and look at those aspects that we were most interested and be able to say, "Now I get it." It is all about being an informed consumer and discovering ways to help in our day to day functioning!

Dr. Kim also said he wanted to share information with his clients about our Chapter meetings. We applaud his intention and encourage all audiologists to publicize our presence and how we try in our coming together to better meet our individual needs.

As many of are aware, Marion Downs had planned to be with us in May, but she forgot she was age 98 and was just not able to go "full throttle" as she has in the past. It has been very hard for her to slow down. But her body recently did tell her to her to slow down a bit. So for now she has been advised to hold off on her seeking engagements, and hopefully maybe in the fall we will get her back with us. I can tell you that she really wanted to be with us!

Our annual Walk4Hearing Walk will be on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at Clement Park in Littleton. We are pleased to take part and support this event. The proceeds and just getting the word out benefit us all in so many ways. You will be a getting an appeal letter from me soon on how you can get involved and help.

So as the newsletter goes to press we do not have a confirmed speaker, but as soon as we get a commitment we shall send you all an e-mail or give you a call. Please stand by.

We wish to thank Janis Sabel for providing refreshments for this month.

We also want to publicize the need for a replacement for Eddee Griest, who has been responsible for faithfully bringing the pot and accouterments related to providing us with tea or coffee each month. Thanks to Eddee for serving us in this way for so long! Now it is time to "pass the sugar, please," to someone else.

Hope to see each one of you again soon!

**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 □

HOH-LD-News, Vol. 50, Issue 12, March 24, 2012

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## Better Hearing Institute Releases "Your Guide to Tinnitus"

The Better Hearing Institute has released "Your Guide to Tinnitus", which offers the latest information on the condition, causes, types, and methods for dealing with it. Although there is no cure, there are a number of things you can do to reduce its impact on your life.

[http://www.betterhearing.org/tinnitus/BHI\\_Guide\\_to\\_Tinnitus.cfm](http://www.betterhearing.org/tinnitus/BHI_Guide_to_Tinnitus.cfm) □

HOH-LD-News, Vol. 51, Issue 1, April 7, 2012

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## US begins stem cell trial for hearing loss

US researchers have begun a groundbreaking trial to test the potential of umbilical cord blood transplants, a kind of stem cell therapy, to treat and possibly reverse hearing loss in infants. The phase I trial follows promising studies on mice showing that such transplants were able to rebuild the structures of the inner ear, and some anecdotal evidence from humans, sparking hope of a cure for some forms of deafness. One of those people is two-year-old Finn McGrath, who suffered brain damage after being deprived of oxygen during a prolonged and complicated delivery, according to his mother, Laura. "His doctors told us he was at high risk for cerebral palsy, vision issues, hearing problems and mental retardation," she said in an interview with AFP. Finn's early days were an all-out struggle to survive, so for his parents, learning that he had failed his hearing tests and had damaged hair cells -- the sensory receptors in the inner ear that pick up sounds -- was almost an afterthought.

<http://tinyurl.com/6pusu3w> □

HOH-LD-News, Vol. 50, Issue 11, March 17, 2012

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## HLAA Releases Guide to Cochlear Implants

HLAA has released a wonderful educational guide to cochlear implants. It is a must read for anyone who is considering an implant, and we highly recommend it.

<http://tinyurl.com/7ubgdra> [Note: this is a link to a PDF file.] □

## 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

This month of May is Better Speech and Hearing Month. There's nothing more appropriate to draw attention and support to better hearing than the 2012 Walk4Hearing Walk. The Colorado 2012 Walk4Hearing Walk is coming up on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at Clement Park in Littleton. To register your team, please visit <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. Some things to note: all walkers, not teams, raising \$100 or more **by Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, are eligible for a Walk4Hearing t-shirt. The walk will be held, rain or shine. Please come out and join us!

Thinking about attending the Hearing Loss Association of America national convention? It will be June 21 - 24, 2012 in Providence, RI. Find more information and register online at: <http://hearingloss.org/content/convention>.

The registration deadline is **May 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you miss the deadline, there is the opportunity to register onsite at the convention. 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.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon! ☐

## 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:  
*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 Live 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 at least two weeks before the performance.

*Wicked*.....May 20 at 2pm  
*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.....Jun 24 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

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

### Clear Captions on Smartphones and other Mobile Devices

Captions are now available on your smartphone and other mobile devices via using the Clear Captions App, available for android smartphones, iPad, iPod Touch and iPhone. Your smartphone, the Clear Captions App and a cell connection are all that's needed. For non-cellphone devices like the iPod Touch, a cell phone is required along with a wi-fi connection to use with the Clear Captions App. See <http://www.clearcaptions.com/> for more information. ☐



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

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

**Better Speech and Hearing Month**

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 (CCDHH). Namati Katungu will give an update on the activities and plans for the CCDHH.

There will also be an opportunity for open questions and comments.

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, May 5, 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** □

**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

**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](mailto: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. □

**Discussion topic for the  
June 7th CCDHH  
community forum**

Many deaf and hard of hearing people are denied access to legal and medical services. This ongoing barrier has occurred in spite of the civil rights movement, and the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA requires attorneys and medical service providers engaged in private practice to provide equal access to their services by providing auxiliary services and aids necessary to ensure effective communication for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Such auxiliary services and aids include, but are not limited to qualified sign language interpreters, real-time captioning, and assistive listening systems/devices (hereafter "communication access services"). Many private attorneys and medical providers appear to be unfamiliar with their obligations under the ADA. Others may be unwilling to incur the costs to provide the necessary communication access services. As a result, many deaf and hard of hearing people are unable to retain private attorneys for critical legal matters including, but not limited to, criminal law proceedings, family law issues, probate, and employment law matters, and/or adequate access to medical services.

Timothy Chevalier, deaf-related Education and Training Specialist, will introduce CCDHH's recommendation to begin work on the establishment of a state-based communication access fund (CAF) with the Colorado bar association and medical providers to pool resources. This will make access more readily available to the deaf community and to individuals who are hard of hearing, and ensure that no one attorney or medical provider bears a disproportionate burden in the provision of communication access services. The shared information will identify how to facilitate the adoption of the CAF concept and provide 5 crucial elements that state bar associations and/or licensing agencies need to establish in order for this proposal to become a reality. He will invite an attorney, and a medical service provider to the community forum, and strongly encourage deaf community members, and individuals who are hard of hearing to attend for their input into this important issue.

When: Thursday, June 7, 2012  
Time: 5:45 p.m.

Where: Colorado Department of Human Services  
1575 Sherman St.  
Garden Level Conference Room  
Denver, CO 80203

(Source: CCDHH May 2012 Bulletin) □

### 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.

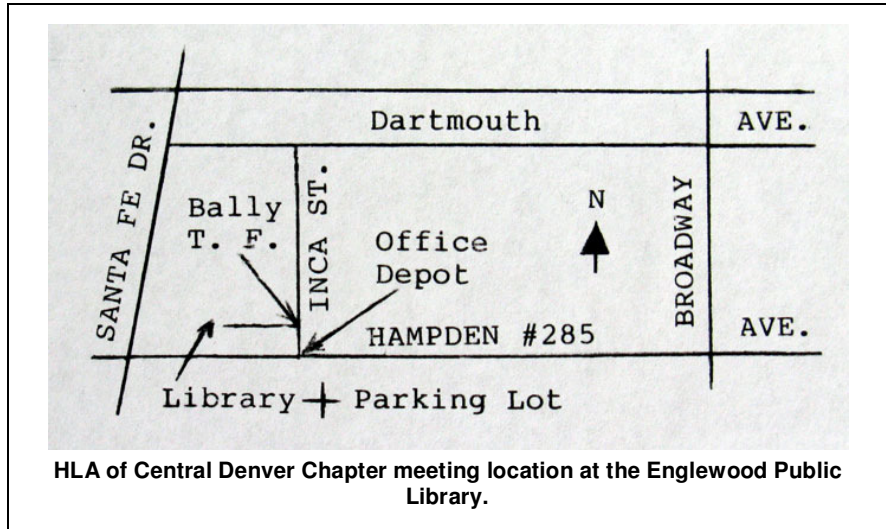
**From Dartmouth Avenue:**

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 Coloradoan**, 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) □

HOH-LD-News, Vol. 50, Issue 12, March 24, 2012  
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### Once deaf, birds can't keep a tune

The findings, by researchers at Duke University Medical Center, show that deafness penetrates much more rapidly and deeply into the brain than previously thought.

As the size and strength of nerve cell connections visibly changed under a microscope, researchers could even predict which songbirds would have worse songs in coming days.

"When hearing was lost, we saw rapid changes in motor areas in that control song, the bird's equivalent of speech," says senior author Richard Mooney,

professor of neurobiology at Duke. "This study provided a laser-like focus on what happens in the living songbird brain, narrowed down to the particular cell type involved."

Like humans, songbirds depend on hearing to learn their mating songs-males that sing poorly don't attract mates, so hearing a song, learning it, and singing correctly are all critical for songbird survival.

Songbirds also resemble humans and differ from most other animals in that their songs fall apart when they lose their hearing, and this feature makes them an ideal organism to study how hearing loss may affect the parts of the brain that control vocalization, says Mooney. He and his team report their findings in the journal *Neuron*.

"I will go out on a limb and say that I think similar changes also occur in human brains after hearing loss, specifically in Broca's area, a part of the human brain that plays an important role in generating speech and that also receives inputs from the auditory system," Mooney says.

About 30 million Americans are hard of hearing or deaf. This study could shed light on why and how some people's speech changes as their hearing starts to decline, Mooney says.

"Our vocal system depends on the auditory system to create intelligible speech. When people suffer profound hearing loss, their speech often becomes hoarse, garbled, and harder to understand, so not only do they have trouble hearing, they often can't speak fluently any more," Mooney says.

The nerve cells that showed changes after deafening send signals to the basal ganglia, a part of the brain that plays a role in learning and initiating motor sequences, including the complex vocal sequences that make up birdsong and speech.

Although other studies had looked at the effects of deafening on neurons in auditory brain areas, this is the first time that scientists have been able to watch how deafening affects connections between nerve cells in a vocal motor area of the brain in a living animal, says Katie Tschida, a postdoctoral research associate in the Mooney laboratory who led the study.

Using a protein isolated from jellyfish that can make songbird nerve cells glow bright green when viewed under a laser-powered microscope, they were able to determine that deafening triggered rapid changes to the tiny connections between nerve cells, called synapses, which are only one thousandth of a millimeter across.

"I was very surprised that the weakening of connections between nerve cells was visible and emerged so rapidly-over the course of days these changes allowed us to predict which birds' songs would fall apart most dramatically," Tschida says.

"Considering that we were only tracking a handful of neurons in each bird, I never thought we'd get information specific enough to predict such a thing."

The research was supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Source: Duke University □

### **New video logs from CCDHH**

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), through its contract work with Ryan Commerson and Timothy Chevalier's leadership, was able to create several new video logs, known as vlogs, for the website!

Click the vlogs below for specific issues or topics:

Introduction to CCDHH

<http://www.ccdhh.com/>

About the Education and Training Program

[http://www.ccdhh.com/technology/Education\\_and\\_Training.aspx](http://www.ccdhh.com/technology/Education_and_Training.aspx)

Information about how to make your auxiliary service request for the Colorado State Courts

<http://www.ccdhh.com/services/legalAux.aspx>

About the Grant Program

[http://www.ccdhh.com/resources/grant\\_program.aspx](http://www.ccdhh.com/resources/grant_program.aspx)

About System-level Advocacy

<http://www.ccdhh.com/advocacy/default.aspx>

A vlog, on a brief description about the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP), will be developed when the TEDP Coordinator position is filled.

Please let us know if you find them beneficial or have ideas for us to pursue in the future. We are already at work for the sixth vlog and we hope to be able to release it within a month.

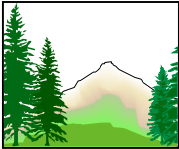
*(Source: CCDHH May 2012 Bulletin)*

*HLA of CO Editor's Note: The vlogs are open-captioned as well as ASL signed and has offscreen audio narrative, making it accessible to all.* □

## **Notice**

**This newsletter will  
resume with the  
September 2012 issue.  
The deadline for the  
newsletter is  
Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:30 PM.**

□



### ***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. □