



Chapter Building Workshop and Dinner with Ed Ogiba, our HLAA Director for Chapter Development in Metro Denver, CO August 22-23



Colorado HLAA Chapter Leaders with Ed Ogiba, HLAA Director for Chapter Development at Dinner in Englewood, CO



Workshop in Highlands Ranch, CO with Colorado HLAA Leaders from all over Colorado
See Mohney's Musings on page 5 for further information. □

HLAA Updates

National Company Recognizes Benefits of HLAA Chapters

Wed, 03/19/2014

EarQ, a company that provides consulting to hearing health care practices and education, recognized the

contributions of HLAA Chapters. Their website states: "At local community levels, organizations are building a foundation from which great changes can be made. There are hundreds of these localized movements occurring, but here are snapshots of just some of the efforts made by organizations in 2013 and plans for 2014."

EarQ goes on to highlight some HLAA Chapters activities. An example here:

HLAA "Hear Here" Hartford Chapter

The Hear Here chapter raised over \$90,000 for Walk4Hearing through a kickoff event at the Old State House that started with Governor Dannel Malloy speaking of his personal challenges with dyslexia. Also at the event, the National Theatre of the Deaf performed a shortened version of "Journeys of Identity." The chapter was able to award three college scholarships to high school students. In April, Hear Here will have Justin Osmond as a guest speaker to share his story of success as an adult with hearing loss. –

See more at: <http://www.earq.com/news/local-organizations-lay-foundation-for-hearing-healthcare-awareness#sthash.mzmcplbt.dpuf>. □

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Hearing Loss Association of Boulder

By Debbie Mohny, HLAA Colorado State Coordinator

September 2014						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Hearing Loss, Accessibility and Other Areas

Saturday, September 20, 2014, 3pm – 5pm,
Frasier Meadows, 930 Ponca Pl., Boulder CO 80303.

HLAA -Boulder September 2014 meeting will be on Saturday, September 20 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm and held at:

Frasier Meadows
930 Ponca Pl.
Boulder, CO 80303.

In the Assembly Hall, 4th floor
Please sign in at front entrance and you will be directed from there.

Our speaker will be:

Candice Alder
Outreach Consultant for the Colorado
Department of Human Services
Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

Candice will share her knowledge of ADA, including specifics regarding access to assistive listening devices and CART services.

Directions to Frasier Meadows Retirement Community: From U.S. 36, take Foothills Parkway north, Left on Baseline, Left on Mohawk, Left on Pawnee Drive. Circle around to the front of Frasier Meadows. There is parking along some of the street, and some for guests in the parking lots, please be mindful of signs.

When you come in the front door, you will need to sign in and note that you are going to the Assembly Room on the 4th Floor. Because of the flooding in September 2013, the main elevator had been out of service but may now be back in service. There are also elevators down in the side hallways from the main elevator, then the Assembly Room is back at the center by the main elevator. Questions? Please send email to hlacolorado@yahoo.com. □

DEAFDIGEST GOLD - FEBRUARY 16 2014

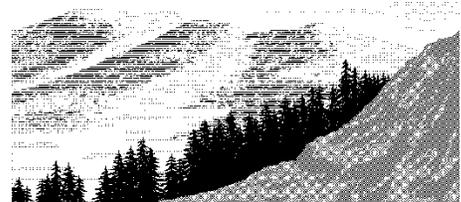
DEAF PEOPLE WITH PERFECT SPEECH

There are some deaf people with perfect speech. They practiced their speech every day all their lives until it has become perfect. But their perfect speech comes at a price. Many hearing people refuse to believe that these perfect-speech people are deaf. And as a result, there have been unpleasant moments while mingling with the hearing. This is the reason why some of these perfect-speech deaf are more comfortable with the deaf!

Did you know that –

Diana Orlando, who was deaf, but did not mingle with the deaf, was a corporate executive with the Regan Communications Group, responsible for the company finances. This company was based in Salem, MA. Reason for her success was her ability to mingle with the hearing, despite her hearing loss. She passed away early in 2014.

<http://deafdigest.net/newsletter/deafdigest-blue-february-16-2014/> □



Hearing Loss Association of Colorado

HLAA Colorado State Coordinator: Deborah Mohny
303-938-9659 voice

Newsletter Editor: Karen Keil 303-363-8917

HLA of Boulder Chapter

Chapter Contact: Kim Thompson

hlaboulder@yahoo.com

HLA of Central Denver Chapter

Chapter Contact: Bernie Steinberg

bermiedan@yahoo.com

HLA of Colorado Springs Chapter

Chapter Contact: Dianne Reitan

HLAColorSprings@gmail.com

HLA of Northern Colorado Chapter

Chapter Contact: Don Willson LoopNColo@comcast.net

HLA of Western Colorado Chapter

Chapter Contact: Amy Becktell hlawco@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 or **E-mail:** kkeil75@yahoo.com. (Please include source, date (and page number if possible).)

Submission deadline for October 2014 newsletter: no later than Wednesday, September 24th 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

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

-- Paul Boese



By Dianne Reitan, President

The Colorado Springs Chapter of HLAA meets the second Saturday of each month, September through May, from 1-3 pm, at The Independence Center, 729 South Tejon Street, in Colorado Springs. Parking is available in the parking lot behind the building. Enter through the back entrance. Our meeting room is on the 2nd floor, and has a professionally installed hearing loop system. Live captioning (CART) is also provided.



Greetings from the new Colorado Springs Chapter President, Dianne Reitan.

On a beautiful Saturday in August, state chapter leaders spent the day with Ed Ogiba, HLAA Director of Chapter Development from our national office. Deliverables is a word that Ed wants us to focus on going forward and we all agreed. For our chapter, we decided to take Ed's suggestion and for the next year, focus on the new attendee experience and educational programs that cater to those that have the most questions about communication strategies, assistive listening devices, and demystifying the hearing aid purchase process.

In the next twelve months, we also want to focus on giving our attendees the best media experience possible through an improved website, convenient webinars, and informative email templates with easy email access to our chapter leaders as well as links to our website and Facebook pages.

Our members value their HLAA friendships and wanted more social time at our meetings thus October, December, February and April will be fun holiday gatherings (Halloween, Christmas, Valentines and Easter). Our September 13 meeting will be the first of five speaker programs for the next year; come join us to hear Dr. Zeitler from Denver Ear Associates and learn about cochlear implants. *(continued on page 4)*

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER
When: Second Saturday at 1:00 – 3:00 PM Sept-May
Where: The Independence Center, 729 South Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Chapter Contact: Dianne Reitan
e-mail HLAACoSprings@gmail.com □



The next Hearing Loss Association of America, Denver Chapter meeting will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, September 27, 2014, at Englewood Public Library, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO 80110 (Hampden & Santa Fe). Chapter contact: Bernie Steinberg, berniedan@yahoo.com.

By Paula DeJohn

Denver Chapter members had various adventures during the summer as we flew or drove to faraway places, renewed friendships and joined family gatherings. In my own case, I covered a lot of ground (and air) to Boston, Providence, Cape Cod, Nashville, and Ireland. President Bernie Steinberg had a great visit to South Dakota, and discovered there is much more to that state than a bunch of presidents. Past President Dave Conant has been testing a new cochlear implant.

At the June meeting, members shared stories and experiences related to hearing. We all are concerned about the noise level in restaurants, loud music, and the general noise levels in our modern society. It is not only unpleasant; it may also be harmful. We also discussed how best to communicate with family members, and how to respond to people who may be impatient with our inability to hear them. Bernie recommends saying, "Say again?" rather than "I'm sorry?" because you don't have to be sorry if the other person fails to speak up.

Our annual picnic was to be at Creekside Park in Glendale on August 30.

See map and directions on page 7 for the September 27th meeting. □

Welcome New Commissioner



The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) welcomes its newest commissioner, Lucas Marquardt, on the board as the commissioner representing the hard-of-hearing population.

Lucas first moved to Colorado from California in 1997 to attend college at CU-Boulder. In 2001, he graduated with a degree in finance and information systems and went on to receive his MBA in accounting from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in 2006. While living in Australia, he was able to pursue his dream of playing competitive rugby at the international level.

Due to a childhood accident, he became hard of hearing.

Having recently retired from a rugby career, spanning close to 15 years, Lucas decided to be an advocate for employment and accessibility of new technologies for this growing group of Coloradoans who became or hard-of-hearing later in life.

He currently resides in Denver and his firm, Blue Jeans Capital, helps start-ups and emerging businesses raise capital from investors in the local community. *(Source: CCDHH August 2014 Newsletter)* □

HLAA Chapters in Colorado

CO – STATE CHAPTER

COORDINATOR : Debbie Mohney e-mail HLAAColorado@yahoo.com

Ph 303-444-2781, Boulder, CO

80304-3106 (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 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Sept - May

Where: University of Colorado, Dept of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Bldg, 2501 Kittedge Loop Road, Room 230, Boulder, CO 80309.

Chapter Contact: Kim Thompson or Debbie Mohney, 303-938-9659 e-mail hlaaboulder@yahoo.com

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: Paula DeJohn, Secretary, Ph 303-617-6135 e-mail paula.dejohn@yahoo.com

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

When: Second Saturday at 1:00 – 3.00 PM Sept - May

Where: The Independence Center, 729 South Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Chapter Contact: Dianne Reitan e-mail HLAAcoSprings@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: 09/09/2014 •



Hearing Aid Compatible Cell Phones

Cell phones have become almost a necessity to some but, until recently, they didn't work too well for the hard of hearing. That's no longer the case. Thanks to the efforts of HLAA and others some cell phone are now hearing aid compatible (HAC) and work well for many with hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Those HAC phones can be identified by the symbol shown here that should appear on the packaging of the phone.

Federal law requires manufacturers to make at least fifty percent of the phones they produce HAC models. Those phones will meet or exceed the FCC requirements for hearing aid compatibility Labels that indicate the "M" (hearing aid microphone) and "T" (telecoil) rating of a cell phone will appear on the outside packaging while an explanation of the package labeling will appear in the product insert.

M and T ratings of 4 are the highest and only cell phones that test to a rating of at least M3 or M3 and T3 will be labeled as HAC. A phone rated M4/T4 is the highest rated.

While you might be able to use a phone with a lower rating, it may have interference or other problems interacting with your hearing aids that a HAC phone does not.

The hard of hearing are encouraged to try cell phones before buying. Full retail stores of service providers must have all of their hearing aid-compatible phones available with service to try the phone before purchase.

You can access a very detailed and comprehensive explanation the whole topic of cell phones and hearing aid compatibility at

<http://www.hearinglosshelp.com/articles/hacphones.htm>. □

Colorado Springs continued from page 3

The leadership team of the Colorado Springs chapter is very excited about the future of HLAA. As someone who has worn hearing aids for over 40 years since I was two years old, I value the information, support, education and advocacy from my HLAA membership. I'm honored to serve other people like myself and I look forward to strengthening our chapter along with the rest of our leadership team and members. I want to extend a special thanks to Pauline Weiss who served as chapter president for two years. Under her leadership our chapter has become the 'go to' hearing loss resource for agencies and other non-profit organizations in our city. Because of her team's hard work, we are poised to continue our advocacy work on behalf of those who are hard of hearing. Very exciting, indeed! □

Captioned Movies in Your Area

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

<http://www.regmovies.com/Theatres/Captioning-and-Descriptive-Video#CO>

This link gives listings for Regal and United Artists theatres in Colorado.

<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)

SONY = SONY® Access Glasses showing closed captions via infrared transmission (can be put on over prescription eyeglasses), provided by the theatre. •

Mohney's Musings

By Debbie Mohney, HLAA Colorado State Coordinator

What a summer! I hope you all had a great summer, and were able to get away even if just for a few days!

The summer started, for me anyway, at the Hearing Loss Association of America 2014 Convention in Austin, TX. Every year is a little different, but it's always like coming home for me. HLAA has become my family and I look forward to catching up every year.

This year's opening session featured Richard Einhorn, who is a composer, and experienced sudden onset hearing loss. Richard's experience is both unique and similar to each one of us with hearing loss. As a composer, the hearing loss was instantly devastating. As a consumer with hearing loss, Richard attacked his hearing loss with the expectation that he would find a solution. While he still has the hearing loss, he has discovered and put to use a myriad of technology which includes using his iPhone as a hearing aid. With today's technology, we have so many different ways to help us hear better, and Richard has found a way to continue his music even if it is not the same as he did before.

As a state and chapter leader, I attended several workshops geared especially for leaders, as well as other workshops to learn about the latest in hearing loss. It's always a treat for me to attend the workshops, as I love to continue to learn, and I always go away with something new, or something that renews my interest. This year was no exception. We are always looking for ways to involve new people in our chapters, and we came away with renewed enthusiasm for building our chapters.

The exhibit hall was full of vendors and great products and information! It is easy to come home with so much material, this year I worked hard to just come home with a few things. The exhibit hall is one of the best perks when attending the convention, you learn so much by talking and sharing.

We also held a Chapter Building Workshop in August with our Colorado Chapter leaders, and each of our chapters was well represented! I want to

thank each one who attended: Dixie Barnes, Amy Becktell, Ann Befiglio, Deborah Hurley, Karen Keil, Ann Monson, Vickie Pacheco, Dianne Reitan, Bernie Steinberg, Robin Taber, Kim Thompson, and Pauline Weiss! And I want to thank Ed Ogiba, our HLAA Director for Chapter Development for coming to Colorado to put on the training!

I want to encourage each and every one of you to think about ways that you can share your chapter with people you know or meet in your community. We work hard to provide quality programs and opportunities to meet other people with hearing loss. We can use volunteers to help out at our meetings, to help build awareness, become involved, and support us as we spread the word about Hearing Loss Association of America in Colorado! Attend your chapter meetings, and ask your chapter leaders who you can help!

Get out to your chapter meetings, it's going to be a great Fall! □

Northern Colorado HLAA 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 □

The Results are in from the Communication Access Technology Survey

Tue, 08/26/2014
Many of you gave valuable input to a topic that is important to you as a person with hearing loss. The results of this survey confirm what we know – that technology is key to living with hearing loss. This information will be used to develop programs with you in mind including the HLAA Consumer Technology Initiative. Thank you for responding. We will likely have more surveys and we appreciate your willingness to participate.

Read the Final Evaluation Report on the Communication Access Technology Survey here at <http://tinyurl.com/pruxbwd>.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/haa-comm-access-tech-survey-results>

Anxiety – Where to Start

By Claudia Reiche



Anxiety is an issue that touches the lives of many. In grade school, we had to memorize poems and recite them in front of the class. Worse, during music lesson we were expected to sing alone in front of everyone while fellow students had to rate the performance. I remember the uncomfortable anxiety the night before and while sitting in class waiting for my name to be called. It seemed like a form of torture. Today we are told that public speaking creates so much anxiety in people that it is worse than the fear of dying.

Be it the anxiety before going to work, having a dentist appointment, exams at school, or confronting an uncomfortable situation or person, feeling anxious seems to have become almost epidemic. So many people suffer from intense anxiety that it is one of the top counseling issues. Fortunately, it is also one very treatable condition. No one needs to suffer through endless, debilitating anxiety.

Since there are various kinds of anxiety and numerous causes for it, a thorough diagnostic assessment is strongly recommended. It is also important to have realistic expectations when it comes to addressing the issue. If you have had anxiety for many years, it is unlikely that the problem will be solved within a couple of weeks. Also, not everything works for everyone. It will take some work to determine what is most beneficial for you.

The most unhelpful strategy is to try one or two things that may not work one hundred percent and then give up saying that nothing helps. It will be more like cooking: a little bit of this, a little of that,

high temperature in the beginning, slow cooking for a period of time, trying some different ingredients, and after repeated attempts settling on a recipe that works for you (someone else may enjoy different ingredients or quantities).

There is, of course, a lot of self-help literature concerning this subject, and it is always a good start to educate oneself and try helpful techniques such as meditation, deep breathing, acupuncture, etc. Even medications are a possibility (best used in conjunction with therapy). But sometimes a little more support is needed, and counseling is a great way to receive it. Take a deep breath and make the first step towards reducing anxiety.

Claudia Reiche is a registered psychotherapist in Longmont, CO who offers counseling and works with people dealing with tinnitus and hearing loss. For more information, please visit: www.coloradotherapy.com. Reprinted by permission. The opinions are those of the author and not of HLAA. Inclusion of a product does not mean HLAA endorsement nor does exclusion of a product mean disapproval. □

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

Captioned Live Showings Coming up in 2014 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:

<i>Pippin</i>	Sep. 20, 2014	2 pm
<i>The Unsinkable Molly Brown</i>	Oct. 19, 2014	1:30pm
<i>Kinky Boots</i>	Nov. 9, 2014	2 pm
<i>Jersey Boys</i>	Dec. 13, 2014	2 pm
<i>Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i>	Dec. 27, 2014	2 pm
<i>Forbidden Broadway: Alive & Kicking!</i>	Jan. 25, 2015	2 pm
<i>Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella</i>	Feb. 15, 2015	2 pm

<i>Motown The Musical</i>	April 18, 2015	2 pm
<i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	April 25, 2015	2 pm
<i>Annie</i>	May 10, 2015	2 pm
<i>Wicked</i>	June 27, 2015	2 pm
<i>The Book of Mormon 2015</i>	Aug. 30, 2015	2 pm

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 Live Shows e-mail list**.

Accessibility Newsletter Available!

Also, you can sign up for the Accessibility Newsletter from the Denver Center for the Performing Arts by sending an email to ckrueger@dcpa.org with the subject topic entitled "Accessibiity Newsletter" to request it by email. You can also see listings of accessible live shows here at this link at www.denvercenter.org/accessibility.

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 with promo code **ASL**, 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 Bonfills Theatre Complex and through house management at the coat check in the other theatres (photo id required).

For a Braille script or large print program, please call 303.893.4836 or ckrueger@dcpa.org at least two weeks before the performance.

<i>Pippin</i>	Sep. 20, 2014	2 pm
<i>You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!</i>	Oct. 12, 2014	2 pm
<i>The Unsinkable Molly Brown</i>	Oct. 19, 2014	1:30pm
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	Oct. 26, 2014	1:30pm
<i>Kinky Boots</i>	Nov. 9, 2014	2 pm
<i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>	Nov. 15, 2014	1:30pm
<i>Jersey Boys</i>	Dec. 13, 2014	2 pm
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Dec. 20, 2014	1:30pm
<i>SantaLand Diaries</i>	Dec. 21, 2014	2 pm
<i>Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i>	Dec. 27, 2014	2 pm
<i>Forbidden Broadway: Alive & Kicking!</i>	Jan. 25, 2015	2 pm
<i>Appoggiatura</i>	Feb. 8, 2015	1:30pm
<i>Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella</i>	Feb. 15, 2015	2 pm
<i>Benediction</i>	Feb. 22, 2015	1:30pm
<i>Motown The Musical</i>	April 18, 2015	2 pm
<i>One Night in Miami</i>	April 19, 2015	1:30pm
<i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	April 25, 2015	2 pm
<i>The 12</i>	April 26, 2015	1:30pm
<i>Annie</i>	May 10, 2015	2 pm
<i>Wicked</i>	June 27, 2015	2 pm
<i>The Book of Mormon 2015</i>	Aug. 30, 2015	2 pm

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



There are always flowers for those who want to see them.
– Henri Matisse

Directions and Map to Englewood Public Library

From East Hampden:

Turn right on to S. Inca St.

From West Hampden:

Turn left on to S. Inca St.

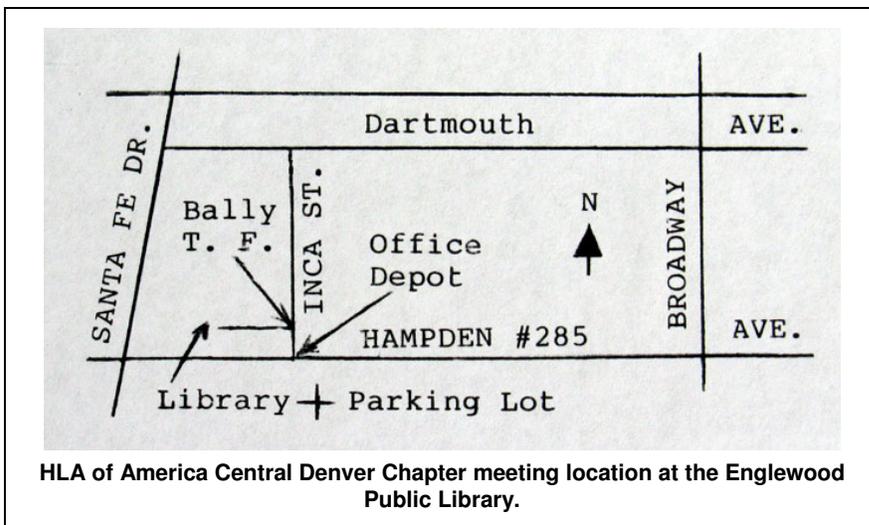
Turn left where the Bally store is and continue to go into the parking garage to park. The library is on the right next to the garage.

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. □



CCDHH, Candice was the Director of Technical Assistance and Training at the Rocky Mountain ADA Center. We are Happy to welcome Candice to the Western Slope in her new position.

HOH-LD-News, Vol. 55, Issue 4, April 27, 2013
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Gene Linked to Hearing Loss Caused by Noise AND Aging

An international team of researchers led by the Miller School's Xue Zhong Liu, M.D., Ph.D., has identified the first gene to be associated with both noise-reduced and age-related hearing loss. The gene, P2X2, appears to be crucial to the preservation of life-long normal hearing and for protection against noise.

In the study published January 24 in the early online issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Liu, associate professor and Director of Research in the Department of Otolaryngology, and his team found that a mutation in P2X2 increases the susceptibility to both age- and noise-related hearing loss associated with DFNA41, a form of progressive nonsyndromic hearing loss that begins early in life, often in adolescence, and progresses with age. Generally accompanied by high frequency tinnitus, high-pitched ringing in the ears, the hearing loss ranges from severe to profound over decades.

"Age-related hearing loss and noise-induced hearing loss are two of the most common morbidities in the world, affecting more than 500 million people, but virtually nothing is known of the genetics that underlies them," said Liu, also an associate member of The John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics, which collaborated on the study. "Our identification of the P2X2 gene as a factor in progressive hearing loss is the first step in understanding the genetic causes of both noise-induced and age-induced hearing loss."

Funded by the NIH's National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), the researchers specifically discovered that the P2X2 mutation found in DFNA41



**Western Colorado Chapter
Hearing Loss Association of America
Free Monthly Meeting
Saturday, September 13, 2014**

**Employment Rights and
Personal Advocacy**

**Candice Alder, Outreach
Consultant (Hard of Hearing)
Colorado Commission for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing**

The Western Colorado Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America opens the new program year with a presentation covering Employment Rights and Personal Advocacy. This program will present an overview of the Employment Provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its impact for working people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

Candice Alder is the recently hired Outreach Consultant for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). She specializes in serving the Hard of Hearing communities. Prior to working with the

This meeting will be captioned. An induction hearing loop is also available. 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 the month, 10:30-12:30.

Note the special date for September only!

**Saturday, September 13, 2014
10:30am – 1:30pm
Center for Independence
740 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501**

For questions or further information contact:

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

More about the Hearing Loss Association of America at: www.hearingloss.org

More about the Center for Independence at: www.cfigi.org

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Don't wait. The time will never be just right. – Napoleon Hill

results in defects in sensory hair cells in the inner ear, which eventually lead to ongoing hearing loss. The study establishes, at the cellular and molecular levels, that the function of this ion channel, previously known to be involved in sensory signaling and pain, has a major impact on noise-induced and age-related hearing loss.

"This is groundbreaking work," said Miller School Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., who is also Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs. "Not only does it give scientists a way to develop a targeted treatment for progressive hearing loss in humans with DFNA41, it also may open doors to the treatment of noise-induced and age-related hearing loss in the wider population."

Noting that DFNA41 is the first example of a human disease caused by a mutation in the P2X2 gene, Fred Telischi, M.D., Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology, said, "The findings emphasize the importance of a genetic approach for uncovering hearing impairment related to noise exposure and aging."

For the PNAS study, "Mutation of the ATP-gated P2X2 receptor leads to progressive hearing loss and increased susceptibility to

noise," the researchers identified two Chinese families with DFNA41 and found that members of those families who carried the mutation and were exposed to noise as young adults had significantly poorer hearing at high frequencies than those without the mutation. Those without it had no hearing loss when exposed to noise.

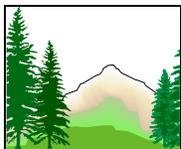
Then the investigators manipulated human cells and mice to determine the role of the P2X2 in progressive hearing loss. They tested the effect of exposure to moderate noise - levels within legally permissible limits for long-term human exposure - on a group of normal wild mice and a group that had the gene deleted. They found that, when exposed to moderate continuous noise from birth to young adulthood (15 weeks), both the wild and knockout mice experienced hearing loss at the frequency (kHz) of exposure. However, in the knockout mice, hearing was significantly impacted not only at the exposed frequency, but at higher frequencies - that is, across the entire hearing spectrum, which indicates noise as the cause for these losses.

Other Miller School researchers on the study included first author Denise Yan, Ph.D., research assistant professor of otolaryngology;

Asli Sirmaci, Ph.D., a former post-doc at the Hussman Institute; Lilin Du, research associate, and M'hamed Grati, assistant scientist, both in the Department of Otolaryngology; Susan Halloran Blanton, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Hussman Institute and associate professor of human genetics; and Mustafa Tekin, M.D., associate professor of human genetics. International collaborators included clinical colleagues in China. Also contributing were Mary-Claire King and Tom Walsh at the University of Washington; Hongbo Zhao at the University of Kentucky; Bechara Kachar, M.D., chief of the NIDCD laboratory of cell structure and dynamics; Allen Ryan at the University of California San Diego; Zheng-yi Chen of Harvard Medical School; and Gary Housley and Peter Thorne of the Universities of New South Wales and Auckland, respectively.

Source: University of Miami □

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Hearing Loss Association of America - Colorado

Karen Keil, Editor
P. O. Box 472704
Aurora, CO 80047-2704

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