

Colorado Walk4Hearing May 19, 2012

By Karen Keil

Over \$22,000 were raised for our walk. The rain kept away most walkers except the stalwart and hardy. Two or three employees from our sponsor Texas Roadhouse Grill came to walk with us, too. My family and I went to Texas Roadhouse Grill afterwards for lunch, and we had one of the walkers as our waiter! He said he was cold but enjoyed being there for the Walk!



Mandy Harvey, a deaf singer, sings the national anthem a cappella.



Walkers starting out on the walk in the rain.



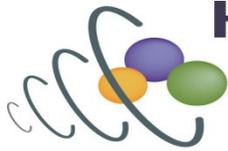
We came and walked, rain or shine, for hearing loss awareness!

Employees from sponsors Cochlear America and Lockton also came to walk with us, too. Despite the rain and cold, it was invigorating walking in the quiet of the morning for a great cause supporting Hearing Loss Association of America, both nationally and locally, and bringing awareness of hearing loss as a national concern. Thank you all for your support!

□

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Hearing Loss Association of Boulder

By Debbie Mohney, HLAA Colorado State Coordinator

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Saturday, September 15th, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
 Social Lunch at Noodles, 1710 Twenty-Ninth St, Boulder, CO, followed by a captioned movie at Century Theatre, Twenty-Ninth Shopping Mall, Boulder, CO

Social Lunch at Noodles followed by Captioned Movie

The Boulder Chapter will meet for lunch at Noodles, 1710 Twenty-Ninth Street, Boulder, CO on Saturday, September 15, 2012, at 11:30am and a captioned movie afterwards at Century Theater at Twenty-Ninth Street. Century Theater has captioned movies, and we will have a schedule of movies showing that afternoon available at the meeting to attend after lunch. Century Theater has a **limited number of the CaptiView viewers**, so **please RSVP** to hlaacolorado@yahoo.com if you plan to attend, and we will let Century Theater know how many viewers to have available. See you all on September 15th! ☐

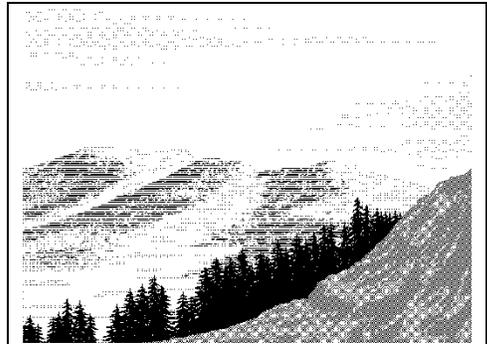
Get in the Hearing Loop – Demonstration and Community Information meetings.

Dr. Juliette Sterkens, AuD, HLAA Hearing Loop Advocate, will be in Colorado to speak about Hearing Loops. (see flyer in newsletter for more information).

There are three meetings:

- **Wednesday, October 3rd, 2012, 5:30 – 7pm** at Grace Presbyterian Church – 9720 N. Highway 85 (Santa Fe & HR Pkwy), Denver (Organized by Highlands Ranch Senior Outreach and Assist2Hear LLC)
- **Thursday, October 4th, 2012, 10:00 – 11:30am** at Heather Gardens Clubhouse – Sandberg Auditorium – 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, Aurora, CO (organized by Heather Gardens Association and Assist2Hear LLC)
- **Saturday, October 6th, 2012, 1 – 3pm** at East Boulder Senior Center - 5660 Sioux Dr, Boulder, CO (organized by Hearing Loss Association of Boulder)

These meetings are for anyone interested in learning more about Hearing Loop technology and would like to see more accessibility for public venues. Please contact Debbie Mohney at hlaacolorado@yahoo.com or 303-938-9659 for more information. ☐



Hearing Loss Association of Colorado

HLAA Colorado State Coordinator: Deborah Mohney
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hlaaboulder@yahoo.com
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 Chapter Contact: Dave Conant 303-777-2279 voice
 Membership Contact: Marjorie von Frantzius 303-368-7838 voice
HLA of Colorado Springs Chapter
 Chapter Contact: Pauline Weiss
HLAACoSprings@gmail.com
HLA of Northern Colorado Chapter
 Chapter Contact: Don Willson LoopNColo@comcast.net
HLA of Western Colorado Chapter
 Chapter Contact: Amy Becktell hlaawco@gmail.com

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

Submission deadline for October 2012 newsletter: no later than Saturday, September 22nd 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

When you accept a blessing from someone, you are giving a blessing in return.
 --- Judith Toth Bigham, Nova, Ohio



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

By Pauline Weiss, 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 (entrance in back, by lower parking lot). We provide a loop system for the benefit of members and visitors with telecoils in their hearing aids.

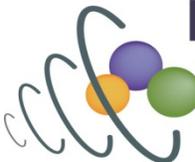
September 8th HLAA Colorado Springs Meeting, 1:00pm.

At our August meeting, we elected new officers: Pauline Weiss, President; Vickie Pacheco, Vice-President; Elizabeth Wieland, Secretary; and Dixie Barnes, Treasurer. Many thanks to outgoing President Chris Hampton for his two years of outstanding service! Our August meeting also featured Namati Katungu, Education and Training Specialist for the Hard of Hearing through the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mr. Katungu gave a report on the state website tool that collects data for analyzing the communication accessibility of state agencies and other public organizations. Several members of the task force that developed this assessment tool were available for questions.

Our September 8th meeting will feature Rebecca Novinger, formerly of the Marion Downs Center, to give a presentation about personal advocacy, especially in the workplace. Colorado Springs chapter members are currently working on packets to provide to audiologists and their patients with information about the chapter as well as information on telecoils and installation of induction loops in their offices and other public places.

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: Pauline Weiss
e-mail HLAACoSprings@gmail.com □



**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**
of Denver

Hearing Loss Association of Denver. Chapter meeting September 22nd 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 a lovely picnic at Creekside Park in Glendale. Beautiful day, great food, conversation and fun people to be with. Folks shared summer memories of their summer doings.



The Denver Chapter Picnic

Your President attended the HLAA Convention in June in Providence, R.I. Excellent presentations and everything was so well organized. Glad for air conditioning as it was very hot and muggy outside. Next year's Convention will be in Portland, OR, so hopefully more folks from Colorado will be interested in attending! (Providence was great for me as I have Family in New England!)

The speaker for this month is still pending confirmation. Will let you all know about the speaker and topic as soon as date is secured. We will also be confirming Marion Downs being with us in October. That will be very exciting! Then in November (3rd Saturday due to Thanksgiving weekend) Laura Hansen with "Assist to Hear" will be with us to share all the latest in progress in "looping" Colorado and the world! Looping was the keynote topic at the Convention!

Bernie Steinberg has applied for a Hearing Assistive Technology two-day HLAA-sponsored seminar in October. We plan to have Bernie share his expertise derived from this intensive training event at the earliest opportunity. We applaud Bernie for expressing interest in this specialized training. He will become an even greater asset to us within our Chapter.

We learned at the picnic of a severe shoulder injury which Garlan Jacobson, incurred in mid-June. She required surgery to repair the damage and has been undergoing rehab therapy to help restore her functioning. We are so sorry to hear about this and we wish Garlan well and hope that she will be able to be back with us soon!

We look forward to seeing you all 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 Mohny e-mail HLAAColorado@yahoo.com
Ph 303-938-9659

(Note: Please notify me if you aren't able to reach your chapter contact)

State website:

<http://www.hearinglosscolorado.org>

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

BOULDER CHAPTER (Boulder)

When: Third Saturday of Month at 10:30 AM, Sept. - May

Where: Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road, Suite C-112, Boulder, CO 80303

Chapter Contact: Debbie Mohny e-mail hlaaboulder@yahoo.com

CENTRAL DENVER CHAPTER

When: Fourth Saturday of Month at 1 PM, no meeting July/August (special event in Sept. and Dec., date TBA)

Where: Englewood Public Library Anderson Conference Room 1000 E. Englewood Pkwy in Englewood Civic Ctr.

Chapter Contact: Dave Conant Ph 303-777-2279

e-mail DCONANT2279@MSN.COM

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

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

Where: Mission Medical Clinic, 2125 E La Salle Street, Colorado Springs, CO

Chapter Contact: Pauline Weiss

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: 08/31/2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 20, 2012

CONTACT: Nancy Macklin
Director of Events and Marketing
nmacklin@hearingloss.org

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA) APPLAUDS SUPPORT OF CONSUMER-DRIVEN HEARING HEALTH CARE

BETHESDA, MD: In an unprecedented joint communiqué the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) delivered a statement focusing on consumer needs in the delivery models of hearing health care and recognizing the changing face of the hearing health care environment.

HLAA applauds ADA, the Academy, and ASHA for joining HLAA in supporting consumer needs and setting a path for audiologists to evaluate how their practices will respond to and work in a new hearing health care delivery system.

The statement echoes and reinforces HLAA's long-standing campaign for accessible and affordable hearing health care through itemization, price transparency, and audiology services beyond the sale of hearing aids, including aural rehabilitation counseling and information about assistive listening and alerting devices. HLAA also supports consumer options in designing hearing health care to include family participation and education, measuring consumer satisfaction, and providing options for serving consumers who bought their hearing aids from another source such as the Internet. In addition, HLAA encourages audiologists to enlist the support of trained peer mentors.

Brenda Battat, executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America said, "This is a watershed event for consumers. It validates HLAA's policy on accessible and affordable hearing health care. Now it's up to individual audiologists to show they are part of the shift to consumer-driven hearing health care." Diana Bender, president of HLAA's Board of Trustees added, "We are thrilled to see that the three national professional organizations for audiologists are working together to ensure their members get the news that hearing health care needs to be accessible, affordable and available to a far wider number of consumers." This joint letter is a tremendous first step. HLAA looks forward to collaborating with audiologists, audiology organizations and hearing aid manufacturers to provide consumers more hearing health care options.

About Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Rocky Stone, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions (HLAA Convention 2013 is in Portland, Oregon, June 27-30), produces Walk4Hearing® events, hosts online learning, and more. HLAA has an extensive network of chapters and state organizations. Further information can be found at www.hearingloss.org. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: 301-657-2248. □

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

One of the things is great about being involved with Hearing Loss Association of America is that we can all make a difference for people with hearing loss. Our chapters and the *Hearing Loss Magazine* give us opportunities to learn all about hearing loss and what we can do to communicate effectively. Technology has evolved over the years and it uses the building blocks of technology from over the years. The hearing aid and cochlear implant companies continue to introduce new models, programming, and features continually. Wireless technologies are becoming standard, utilizing bluetooth, and we can still use older technologies such as FM, Infrared, and Hearing Loops to help us connect in all the different group hearing situations we encounter.

It's important to become educated about choices that we have. The newest technologies beckon us by connecting us to the same technologies that our hearing peers use, iPhones, Android phones, MP3 players, tv's, etc. The older technologies that use the telecoil in our hearing aids connect us to larger facilities, movies, theaters, speeches, conventions, etc. Aided by captioning, all of these different venues become infinitely available to us.

The only problem is that there are many venues that don't have the equipment installed that allow us to be connected. When we encounter venues that aren't adequately equipped, we can learn how to advocate effectively, and we have legal backing with the Americans with Disabilities Act, along with other federal and state laws.

Juliette Sterkens, Au.D. has been named as the **new HLAA hearing loop advocate**. She is an audiologist in private practice in Wisconsin, and has led a successful loop initiative which has led to nearly 200 hearing loop installations in that state. Juliette will be in Colorado to make several presentations to increase awareness about hearing loss and the need for an increase in the use of hearing loops. We will be having a meeting, ***Get in the Hearing Loop on Saturday, October 6, 2012, 1 – 3pm at the East Boulder Senior Center, 5660 Sioux Dr. in Boulder.*** Please see the **flyer** included with this newsletter, and **the announcement** about the meetings in Colorado [page 2].

Become a part of the hearing loop movement here in Colorado. Efforts to help increase installations in our communities will help not only our own accessibility in public venues, but will help other people with hearing loss who don't currently have access and may not even be aware that technology exists that can help them to hear better. Hearing loss can be an isolating event in our lives, and having access can bring us back to activities that we might not be participating in because of our hearing loss. Make time to become a part of a project that can have a profound effect on our community!

I also want to thank everyone who was a part of the **2012 Colorado Walk4Hearing** walk, our 6th walk in Colorado! We raised over \$22,000 this year, benefitting Hearing Loss Association of America and our local programs, including the Marion Downs Hearing Center Foundation, Center for Hearing, Speech and Language, and Cherry Creek School program, all of which have programs that benefit the deaf and hard of hearing. I want to thank our dedicated committee members, Christie Nudelman (walk day chair), Mark Valkonen (treasurer), Bernie

Steinberg, Chris Hampton, Karen Keil, MJ Scherr, Bob Knox, Rogers Coke, and Sharon Henne.

We will begin planning for our **2013 Colorado Walk4Hearing** walk in the next few months, and I would like to encourage you to become a part of this wonderful event. We need your help on the committee, join our great group of volunteers! If you are interested, please contact me at hlaacolorado@yahoo.com. □

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:
- La Cage Aux Folles*.....Sep 15 at 2pm
 - Memphis*.....Oct 21 at 2pm
 - War Horse*.....Jan 20, 2013 at 2pm
 - Jekell & Hyde*.....Feb 10, 2013 at 1pm
 - Catch Me If You Can*.....Mar 10, 2013 at 2pm
 - Chicago*.....Mar 23, 2013 at 2pm
 - Spamalot*.....Mar 30, 2013 at 2pm
 - Mary Poppins*.....May 4, 2013 at 2pm
 - Les Miserables*.....May 25, 2013 at 2pm
 - Peter and the Starcatcher*..Sept 1, 2013 at 2pm
 - Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.Sept 15, 2013 at 2pm
 - Sister Act*.....Oct 6, 2013 at 2pm
 - Evita*Jan 2014 TBA
 - Once*Apr/May 2014 TBA
 - The Doyle & Debbie Show*.Spring 2014 TBA

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.**

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.

La Cage Aux Folles.....Sep 15 at 2pm
Fences.....Oct 7 at 1:30pm
The Three MusketeersOct 14 at 1:30pm
Memphis.....Oct 21 at 2pm
The Giver.....Nov 11 at 1:30pm
When We Are MarriedDec 9 at 1:30pm

White Christmas.....Dec 16 at ??pm
War Horse.....Jan 20,2013 at 2pm
Jekell & Hyde.....Feb 10, 2013 at 1pm
Grace, Or the Art of Climbing...Feb 17,2013 at 1:30pm
Romeo & Juliet.....Feb 24,2013 at 1:30pm
Catch Me If You Can.....Mar 10, 2013 at 2pm
Chicago.....Mar 23, 2013 at 2pm
Spamalot.....Mar 30, 2013 at 2pm
A Weekend with Pablo Picasso...April 21,2013 at 1:30pm
Other Desert Cities.....April 28,2013 at 1:30pm
Mary Poppins.....May 4, 2013 at 2pm
Sense & Sensibility, the Musical...May 19,2013 at 1:30pm
Les Miserables.....May 25, 2013 at 2pm
Peter and the Starcatcher..Sept 1, 2013 at 2pm
Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.Sept 15, 2013 at 2pm
Sister Act.....Oct 6, 2013 at 2pm
EvitaJan 2014 TBA
OnceApr/May 2014 TBA
The Doyle & Debbie Show.Spring 2014 TBA

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, September 8, 2012

What's in Your Communication Toolbox? Featuring Jay Tinglum, ADCO Hearing Products, Inc.

At our September kick-off meeting we are honored to host Jay Tinglum, from ADCO Hearing Products, Inc., and a long-time supporter and advocate for better communication for people with hearing loss. ADCO is located in Englewood, CO, and Jay is a popular speaker at front-range HLA chapter meetings.

presentation will focus on creating a Communication Toolbox, including Techniques, Attitudes, and Technology.

Jay will also bring a small selection of hearing assistive devices and equipment for demonstration. If you are interested in seeing a demonstration of a specific item, please contact Amy Beckett. After the meeting Jay will be available to answer individual questions. Equipment can also be available for purchase after the meeting.

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

More about ADCO Products, Inc.: <http://www.adcohearing.com>

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

All HLA 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, September 8, 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
Or 970-241-2592 □

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming meetings. You don't want to miss these informative sessions!

All HLA 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. (No meeting in June, July, and August)

October 6: Implementation of Daylight Project – Renee Drollinger, Colorado West, Inc.

Hearing loss and mental illness can be similar because both are health issues that require medical treatment, but often have stigma or shame attached. Having both hearing loss and mental illness can be especially difficult. The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of

Hearing (CCDHH) sponsored Colorado Daylight Project, a collaborative effort designed to provide assistance to Colorado publically funded behavioral healthcare providers to advance access to behavioral health services to Coloradans who are deaf and hard of hearing. Colorado West Regional Mental Health Center has implemented this project at its mental health centers. Come learn more about this program and how it can help people with hearing loss.

November 3: Speech-Reading Skills for Adults

The chapter is working to coordinate an educational session about speech reading using sources from the District 51 school system audiology department. While it can be easier to learn speech reading skills as a child, there are tips and skills that adults can also use if they experience hearing loss later in life.

December 1: Annual Covered Dish Holiday Meal

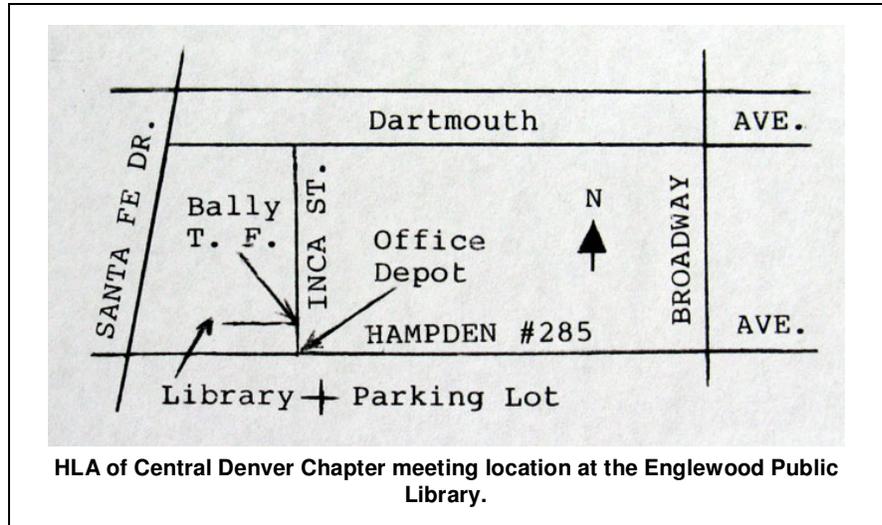
Please join us as we gather with family, friends, and supporters in an informal setting to get to know each other better and to learn how our hearing loss stories are different, but also very similar.

Chapter Planning Meeting Summary

Many thanks to Betty Rauh, Deb Thompson, and Denice Roberts for attending the Chapter Planning Meeting on August 23. Special thanks to Denice Roberts for hosting the meeting at her office and for taking the meeting minutes. The group generated many ideas for programs for 2013. Also, Betty, Deb, and Denice volunteered to follow up on our community outreach project by delivering materials to hearing loss service providers in Grand Junction, Montrose, and Grand Junction.

We are also asking for volunteers to fill open chapter committee positions. These volunteers will be selected at the October meeting. Please contact Amy if you are interested in a position. **WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!** Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. According to our By-Laws, more than one person can be on a committee. Please let Amy know if you need more details about these positions. Details will also be published in the next newsletter.

Correspondence
Newsletter



- Treasurer
- Public Relations
- Community Outreach
- Membership
- Facilities Liaison
- Database Manager

HLAA WCO Chapter Volunteer/Fund Raising Activity



Amy Becktell and Trudy Winkour

On August 24, Trudy Winkour and Amy and Dennis Becktell ventured to the Demolition Derby at the Eagle County Fairgrounds. Our chapter was approached by the Derby organizers to help pass out earplugs for this very loud event. We asked for donations for the earplugs, and all proceeds will be given to the chapter after the accounting is completed. We passed out information about our chapter and about noise-induced hearing loss and the importance of protecting your hearing. We were not able to stay for the event, but it was **LOUD!** We were happy to help, and will appreciate the donation to the chapter. □

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Harmonin study adds new piece to Usher syndrome puzzle

Scientists have long known that harmonin aids in sensing sound in the inner ear, but a new finding suggests that the protein is also involved in transmitting sound information from the inner ear to the brain, adding a layer of understanding of harmonin's role in Usher syndrome. "Usher syndrome is the most common inherited form of combined deafness and blindness," said Amy Lee, PhD, an associate professor of molecular physiology and biophysics and otolaryngology at the University of Iowa and the lead author of the study in *Nature Neuroscience* (2011;14[9]:1109). Experts estimate that four of every 100,000 babies born in the United States are affected by Usher syndrome. Three to six percent of them are deaf, and an additional three to six percent are hearing impaired, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). <http://tinyurl.com/6nky2a6> □

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. □

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 □

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The Next Startup Boom: Hearing Aids?

The iPod generation may face a real problem: hearing loss. As younger generations routinely plug in their ear buds, they could unwittingly join the millions of American's who suffer some degree of hearing loss. "The extensive use of music players among the iPod generation is likely to accelerate hearing

loss and could lead to a pick-up in demand for hearing aids in the next 10 to 20 years," according to Ingeborg Oie, analyst with Jefferies, the global securities and investment banking group. So it's no surprise that startups have begun to tap into this growing demand. Case in point: Audicus. The web-based startup hopes to become a disrupter in the space with its unorthodox approach to hearing aids. "With this massively growing market that we are seeing both from the younger generations, as well as older population segments, we are positioning hearing aids in the realm of accessory instead of old school medical device," says Audicus founder Patrick Freuler. The startup plans to compete with traditional hearing aid makers, like Siemens, by dropping the cost of their products by 70 percent, he said.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/48742832> □

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Genetic Testing Can Explain Hearing Loss and Guide Therapy

Audiologists have been predicting for years that a single blood sample would be used to quickly detect a multitude of underlying

genetic causes for hearing loss. A test at the University of Iowa in Iowa City does just that, screening genome sequences associated with syndromes ranging from Pendred to Usher and for genes linked to hearing deficits. What does this advance mean to those who treat the hearing impaired? A lot, said Jeff Simmons, who coordinates the Cochlear Implant Center at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, NE. "I think it has multiple uses," he said, aside from being able to pinpoint a cause. "From a clinician's point of view, [genetic testing] can help tell us where we want to go in terms of remediation."

<http://tinyurl.com/cb85nqs> □



Denver Chapter Picnic #2 □



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