



The newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of America Chapters in New Mexico  
**WIRED FOR SOUND**  
Vol. 26, No. 6 February, 2012

# FDA approves study using stem cells to treat hearing

HOUSTON – January 12, 2012 – Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and Cord Blood Registry® (CBR) are launching the first FDA-approved, Phase I safety study on the use of cord blood stem cells to treat children with sensorineural hearing loss.

The study, which will use patients’ stem cells from their own stored umbilical cord blood, is the first-of-its-kind, and has the potential to restore hearing. This follows evidence from published laboratory studies that cord blood helps repair damaged organs in the inner ear.

The year-long study will follow 10 children, ages 6 weeks to 18 months, who have sustained post-birth hearing loss. To ensure consistency in cord blood stem cell processing, storage, and release for infusion, CBR is the only stem cell bank providing clients for the study.

“Children only have 18 months to acquire language skills and, if a child does not hear well, they will not acquire the language skills to speak normally,” said James Baumgartner, M.D., sponsor of the study and guest research collaborator at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School.

Parents will be interviewed by phone to determine eligibility of their children for the study. Those who meet the criteria will be admitted to Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital to undergo a series of blood tests, hearing and speech tests, and an MRI that will view the tracts that send signals from the inner ear to the brain. For complete details, go on line to:

[http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/HearingLossTrialLaunch\\_cordblood.pdf](http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/HearingLossTrialLaunch_cordblood.pdf)

### THIS MONTH’S MEETINGS: All on Saturday, Feb.18

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

All on Sat, March 17

Albuquerque  
Program Pending

Las Cruces  
Deafness and Deaf Culture

Santa Fe  
Program Pending

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HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF ALBUQUERQUE  
*Providing support and advocacy  
for people with hearing loss*

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**NEWSLETTER & WEB SITE**

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Funds for outreach and CART services  
at HLAAbq meetings are provided in  
part by

**The State of New Mexico  
Commission for Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing Persons**

whose mission is to provide effective  
leadership, education, advocacy and  
programs to reduce barriers to the  
social, economic, educational, cultural  
and intellectual well-being of Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing New Mexicans and their  
families, friends and colleagues.



## NATIONAL HLAA NEWS:

### Predatory pursuit of students by for-profit colleges

HLAA as well as other disability and consumer advocacy organizations were welcomed to a meeting the Senate HELP Committee (Health, Education, Labor and Pensions) focusing on issues related to predatory recruiting of students by for-profit colleges. At that meeting, participants discussed the newly released report by the US Government Accounting Office (GAO) detailing questionable academic practices, as well as poor results for these colleges. "Once again a report reveals that too many students at for-profit colleges end up without a diploma and saddled with debt," said Senator Tom Harkin.

76% of for-profit colleges are owned by Wall Street firms, including Goldman Sachs. Once these firms take over the schools, often academic considerations became secondary to profits. Even though over 86% of revenues comes from federal tax payer dollars in the form of student loans and grants, these colleges spend the majority of their revenues (approximately 60%) on marketing and profits, not academics. For example, Bridgepoint Education, a publicly traded for-profit company spent 29.7% of its income on marketing, 30.3% on profits. Other for profits spent between 18%-22% of their funds on marketing. CEO Andrew Clark of Bridgepoint Education, Inc's compensation in 2009 was \$20.5 million.

The HELP Committee got involved because many of these students found that after taking the coursework, they couldn't get the jobs they were looking for. Many ended up not finding jobs at all. Others found jobs but at a lower salary than people who attended state or community colleges. And all were saddled with debt. Without a job, these students find it difficult to pay back their loans. The rate of defaults on government loans has increased steadily since 2005.

The HELP Committee is also concerned because they are seeing more and more veterans targeted by these companies. The New York Times September 21, 2011 reports that returning veterans eager to earn post-secondary degrees have been exploited by unscrupulous for-profit companies. PBS' Frontline reported that some recruiters signed up Marines with serious brain injuries who could not remember what courses they were taking. "Vast sums are involved. Between 2006 and 2010, the money received in military benefits by just 20 for-profit companies soared to \$521.2 million from \$66.6 million." (NYTimes, For Profit Colleges, Vulnerable G.I.'s," September 21, 2011.

We know that people with disabilities in general, including people with hearing loss, are often underemployed or unemployed in the best of times. In a sagging economy, we are often "last hired, first fired." People who are out of work often turn to schools to get the education and training they need to get back to work. It wouldn't come as a great surprise if people with disabilities were among those targeted by these for-profit companies.

HLAA is seeking input from students, or people who know students, who have been targeted by these companies. If you have information on this topic, contact us ([LHamlin@hearingloss.org](mailto:LHamlin@hearingloss.org)). People who want to do better by going back to school should have all the information they need to get the best education possible.



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### REGISTER TODAY FOR THIS UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE

Register on line at [www.hearingloss.org/content/convention](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention), or call (301) 657-2248 to register or to request a registration form.



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Viewing WaterFire will be a highlight of your Providence experience.

# Albuquerque chapter news



by *Mary Clark, Chapter President*

## February's program: Hearing Aids 101

Did you ever wonder if you can clean the wax out of your hearing aid on your own, without having to take it to the audiologists office? Did you know that consistent whistling is not normal, and could mean you have a poor seal with your mold, or a hole in the tubing for your hearing aid mold? If you are prone to getting moisture in your hearing aid, do you know what to do to help keep it at a minimum, and help prevent troubles with your hearing aid? If you want to use the t-coil on your hearing aids with a room loop at your church, but your hearing aid is set up to answer the phone automatically when you put your phone up to your ear, with a magnet on the phone – did you know with this setting, you won't be able to use the room loop?

In addition to discussing some everyday problems with hearing aids, we'll reserve some time for questions and answers with our audiologist advisor, Carol Clifford.

This program promises to be both a practical session, as well as learning about things we didn't know about our hearing aids. You won't want to miss this one!

### Details:

### Saturday February 18 - Time: 10 a.m.

Doors open for refreshments and social time at 9:30, program starts at 10 and goes until 11:30, including time for Q&A.

All meetings include CART, a loop, ASL interpreters AND refreshments.

### Speaker: Carol Clifford Au.D.

Topic: What you always wanted to ask the audiologist, but were afraid to ask:

The most common problems and troubleshooting tips.

### Place: Los Altos Christian Church

11900 Haines Ave NE

## Mary's tips of the month:

When you are traveling, what is your most stressful situation? This is one time when I DO wear my "Face Me" button. It helps strangers understand that I need their help to hear. I am actually sitting in an airport writing this right now, and the things I've done are: I asked if I can preboard the flight, since I cannot understand the announcements over the loudspeakers. They have usually been very agreeable; once I explain I have a severe hearing loss.

When you are away from your own home where you have everything set up for accommodating your hearing loss, what do you bring with you? I bring my shake awake alarm clock, I bring my neckloop, in case I will be listening to something either on my phone, or on the computer, I always have a flashlight, in the event of a power outage, and I need to communicate with someone in the dark, I can use it to see the face of the person I'm talking to. At the hotel, I tell them I have a hearing loss, so in the event of an evacuation, they will need to notify me. I always check out the TV and make sure it is enabled to show closed captions, before I unpack, so if it is not working, or I need a different room, I can get moved before I get situated. I am quick to mention to the car rental people, or the hotel people, or the airline counter that I have a hearing loss, and they will usually either speak up, or slow down, and take extra care to be sure I have understood what they have said.

**Fundraisers:** We had talked about doing a wine tasting, and asked you to keep watch for updates, but after more research, the board has decided we are not prepared to tackle this project at this time. We may pursue it in the future, but for now, we are discussing other ways to raise funds for our chapter. Once our program is finalized, we'll be sharing it with you so you understand what we are trying to do!

### ALBUQUERQUE MEMBERS ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Our chapter could not provide the newsletter, web site, outreach and advocacy efforts it does without the generous financial support of the members through their dues and donations. Chapter dues are considered due on January 1 of each calendar year regardless of what the date was when they were paid in the previous year. Please show your support for HLAAbq by renewing your membership now using the form on the inside back cover of this newsletter and mailing in your renewal today.

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#### This month's featured Audiologist: **Catherine Worth**

*"Our goal is not to sell hearing instruments... our goal is to help our patients with the communication problems and to impact their lives in a positive way."*



While Catherine Worth was the Director of Audiology at Lovelace Medical Center in the 1980's, she opened the Hearing Store in the lobby of the then newly renovated Lovelace on Gibson. The Hearing Store was closed after she left Lovelace in 1992. Since that time technology has become so sophisticated that it requires special expertise. "Because hearing instruments don't do everything for everybody, ATS provides an invaluable service for our patients", says Catherine. Similar to ATS' vision to provide technology solutions that improve the quality of life for those with hearing loss, Catherine believes patients should be empowered through available technology to communicate as openly and freely as possible.

Worth Hearing Center, the only Audiology Certified practice in Albuquerque, provides diagnostic hearing evaluations for people of all ages and fits hearing instruments based on an individual's lifestyle and budget needs. The staff of Worth Hearing Center provides the highest level of patient care. "We have experienced professionals who offer expert advice, we have extraordinary technology at an exceptional value".

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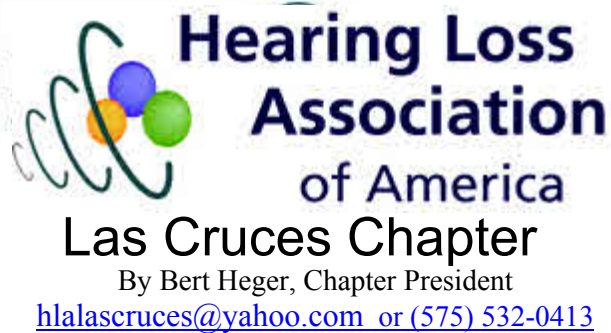
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## January Meeting

Our January meeting featured a lively discussion of ways to get beyond saying "Huh?" 35 people shared experiences and ideas about ways to let people know you did not hear while also letting them know what would help us understand. The January meeting was followed by a steering committee meeting and a report on the chapter's progress.

## Our February 18 Program:

### Update on the Services of the New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Tim Farr, Hard of Hearing Specialist for the New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will describe the programs and services of the Commission. We will hear about interesting new developments, especially in land-line and cell phones.

The meeting will be followed by a short steering committee meeting. Anyone is welcome to stay and attend.

### **Our Meetings are Captioned**

Our meetings are captioned so you can *read as well as hear* the program. *Our 2012 sponsor for the captioning service is Livingston Hearing. Dr Lori Kay is the Las Cruces the audiologist for Livingston Hearing.*

### **Meeting Time and Place**

Our free chapter meetings are held at 1:30 on the third Saturday of the month at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite Street, Las Cruces. The chapter meets every month except for July and August. *The Munson Center is just South and East of downtown. From Main Street and Lohman, go east, toward the mountains, about three blocks and turn right onto Mesquite. The building is well marked and the parking is easy.*



The funding for CART (captioning) at our meetings is provided by the Livingston Audiology and Hearing Aid Center.

## Our March 17 Program: What You See Can Help you Hear

B.J. Burlingame, a retired speech therapist and member of the American Speech and Hearing Association will introduce us to the process known as speech reading or lip reading. What you see can often help you understand what you are listening to because the visual clues can supplement the sounds you hear.

### **Upcoming Programs**

Although our April program topic is still pending, the May program, chaired by John Johnson will be Deafness and Deaf Culture.

## Suggest a Topic

Let us know if you have a topic you want to hear about. We will do our best to schedule it.

### **Thank You Presenters, Volunteers, and Sponsors!**

### **Our 2011 Donors:**

- **The New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons**
- **Advanced Hearing**, Dr. Kelly Frost, senior audiologist
- **ATS Resources**, [www.atsresources.org](http://www.atsresources.org), a vendor of assistive devices for hearing and vision impairment.

### **Our Volunteers:**

We thank **Concha Dunwell**, **Tim Farr**, and **Alexis Zarret** for their sign language interpreting during our programs.

**Mike and Karen Lieberman** and **John Johnson** have assisted in hosting and as leaders and planners for our group.

Also, **Ann Switzer** has worked on publicity for our Chapter.



Upcoming meeting.....

## WHAT'S NEW IN HEARING AIDS?

Dr. Bopanna Ballachanda of Premier Hearing Centers will discuss the latest technological advances in hearing aids.

The Chief Executive Officer of Premier Hearing Centers in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, Dr. Ballachanda holds a Ph.D. in Auditory Neuroscience with specialization in Audiology. A former faculty member at Purdue University and the University of New Mexico, he is the past President of the New Mexico Speech-Language Hearing Association and was on the board of directors of the American Academy of Audiology from 2007-2010. He is internationally known as a result of the publication of two books and numerous articles in hearing care journals.

*There will be a PA system and a hearing loop in operation to help you hear the presentation.*

**WHEN: Saturday, February 18th @ 10 a.m. (Note new meeting time)**

**WHERE: Unitarian Universalist Church**  
107 West Barcelona Road

For additional information on this meeting or on the Santa Fe Committee, contact Tom Dillon by email at [TomDilloniii@msn.com](mailto:TomDilloniii@msn.com) or call 982-7788

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### January meeting focused on benefits of HLAA membership

There were 17 people on hand for the second educational meeting organized by the HLAA Santa Fe Committee when Steve Frazier, New Mexico chapter coordinator for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) discussed the benefits afforded those who join the organization.

Those benefits include a subscription to an award winning bimonthly magazine plus discounts on the purchase of hearing aids and assistive listening devices and special text only mobile phone plans and more.

The group was given a questionnaire containing a list of possible future programs and asked to indicate their preferences. They were also invited to suggest other program ideas.

The formation of a Santa Fe chapter of HLAA was discussed and volunteers were sought to help in

getting one established. Two individuals came forward and volunteered to join the current committee members in these efforts but more are needed.....

### Will you help ?

A Hearing Loss Association chapter is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to providing education and support to those with hearing loss. They are governed by a board of directors that plans and conducts the meetings and carries on other programs to benefit the hard of hearing in their community.

**Volunteers are needed to serve on a Santa Fe chapter board.**

**For more information or to volunteer, contact the committee chair, Tom Dillon at:**

**[TomDilloniii@msn.com](mailto:TomDilloniii@msn.com) or 982-7788**

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# Assistive Technology

by Steve Frazier, Hearing Loss Support Specialist

## Hearing aid comparisons: get the right features for you

To get the most for your money when buying hearing aids, it makes sense to review some features that are available before purchasing. This way you will only pay for the features you want and need and don't pay for features you don't need or won't use. When you compare hearing aids, here are some of the more popular features:

### Channels

More channels means the better the hearing aid can be tuned to your hearing needs and preferences. Fewer channels means fewer tuning options to your specific needs. For some types of hearing loss, more channels are essential in order to fit the amplification (referred to as "gain") to the specific loss in each frequency range.

### Directional Microphones

If you are in a loud environment, but you want to focus on the person speaking in front of you, directional microphones can help by reducing the level of sounds coming from the left, right, and behind you. Assuming you are facing the person you want to hear, directional microphones can help "pull" that person's voice out of the background noise.

### Automation

Many of today's best hearing aids can do everything, without you having to push a button and are basically computers for the ears. These high-end models continuously analyze the sounds around you and automatically adjust the volume, auto-tune the microphone's direction, and reduce unwanted noise. They are able to identify everything from the background noise at your favorite eatery to the wind blowing on the golf course and reduce this background noise automatically.

*While today's digital hearing aids can be re-programmed in many cases to accommodate changes in hearing, some people choose to purchase new hearing aids in order to benefit from new features that come with advancements in hearing aid technology.*

### Wireless Connectivity

Today there are wireless connections everywhere and the same is true with the newest hearing aids that can pick up wireless signals, keeping you hooked in with the rest of the world. Cell phone calls can be routed directly to your hearing aids, along with your television, iPod, MP3, PDA, and more - helping you stay connected to the world of technology around you.

Even entry-level models come packed with features. So what's important to you? Make a list. Then, make an appointment to see a hearing professional.

## How long do hearing aids last?

Hearing aids typically last three to five years, although in some cases they may last much longer. The miniature components in hearing aids tend to wear out over time, and even when repaired, do not have the same integrity as new components.

Although hearing aids are fragile miniature electronic devices, they are exposed to humidity, perspiration, earwax - and sometimes rain, hairspray and

other factors that aren't ideal for a tiny medical device. Use of special hearing aid dehumidifiers, which help remove moisture from the hearing aids when not in use, has been shown to prolong the life of hearing aids.

These devices can be obtained from your local hearing center or audiologist. Additionally, cleaning your hearing aids regularly will help ensure they have a long life.

In many cases, hearing loss tends to gradually worsen over time. Therefore, new hearing aids may be required to fit your hearing loss as it changes. While today's digital hearing aids can be re-programmed in many cases to accommodate changes in hearing, some people choose to purchase new hearing aids in order to benefit from new features that come with advancements in hearing aid technology.

SOURCE: <http://www.healthyhearing.com/>



In World War One (WWI), parrots were kept on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France because of their remarkable sense of hearing. When the parrots heard enemy aircraft coming, they would warn everyone of the approaching danger long before any human ear would hear it.

SOURCE: January 2012 CaptionCall Newsletter



# Coordinator's Comments

By Steve Frazier, NM HLAA State Coordinator

## Local hearing loss conference a great opportunity to learn

The national HLAA convention is a great way to have a learning vacation but it doesn't come cheap. The air fare, hotel and meals can add up to a substantial sum.

Every other year New Mexicans have the opportunity to attend a similar event right here in Albuquerque and the cost is dramatically lower even if you're an out-of-towner and have to rent a hotel room.

The conference features two full days of workshops on a variety of topics and you can pick and choose from an impressive list of concurrent presentations. It's like a year's worth of HLAA chapter meetings rolled in

just a couple of days. Nationally known experts like psychologist Dr. Sam Trychin who specializes in hearing loss related issues are included in the roster of presenters and numerous vendors display their products and services in the exhibition space have participated at past conferences and will undoubtedly do so again.

Lou Ferrigno - better known as the Incredible Hulk on TV - will be a keynote speaker for the event. Ferrigno is a former sheet metal worker and body-builder turned TV star who was motivated to become a bodybuilder because, as a teen, he was teased by peers for being hard of hearing.

Another speaker listed at the NMCDHH web site is deaf wrestler Matt Hamill who began his career as an amateur and went on to perform on TV's Ultimate Fighter reality television show.

The conference also gives you the opportunity to meet, compare notes and learn from others who are hard of hearing - a great way to share tips on coping. Check it out at:

[www.http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us/COHL/2012.aspx](http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us/COHL/2012.aspx)

## Earwax and hearing aids

Cerumen or earwax is a self-cleaning agent produced in your ears with protective, lubricating, and antibacterial properties. Earwax is not really a "wax" but a water-soluble mixture of secretions (produced in the outer third of the ear canal), plus hair and dead skin. Earwax is not formed in the deep part of the ear canal near the eardrum, but in the outer one-third of the ear canal. It naturally works its way out of the ear through movement of your jaw while speaking and chewing.

But for patients who wear hearing aids, special attention must be paid to make sure earwax does not damage the aid or impair function. Cerumen in the ear canal can cause the hearing aid to fit poorly and not seal properly. If the hearing aid fits poorly, sound produced by the aid passes around it and out of the ear canal, where it is picked up by the microphone and reamplified. A positive feedback loop is created and audible, high-pitched feedback results. Cerumen removal eliminates feedback, when the feedback is due to excess cerumen.

Too much earwax can also damage the listening device. In fact, current estimates from various hearing aid manufacturers indicate that **60 to 70 percent of all hearing aids sent for repair are damaged as a result of contact with cerumen.**

Patients who wear hearing aids should have their clinician examine the ears for impacted cerumen during a routine healthcare visits, but this does not need to occur more frequently than every three months. Examination is accomplished by removing the hearing aid and inspecting the ear canal with a handheld otoscope. If the patient has bilateral hearing aids, the second ear is examined after replacing the first hearing aid, to facilitate communication.

If your doctor finds evidence of earwax impaction, he or she may need to perform a variety of techniques to help remove the obstruction. These include:

- Flushing the ear with cerumenolytic (wax-dissolving) agents, which include water, saline, and other agents of comparable efficacy.
- Using irrigation or ear syringing.
- Manual removal with special instruments or a suction device, which is preferred for patients with narrow ear canals, eardrum perforation or tube, or immune deficiency.

For more information on earwax impaction or hearing aids, please visit [www.entnet.org](http://www.entnet.org).

NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING  
**2012 CONFERENCE ON HEARING LOSS**

Join us for a dynamic, educational & networking conference

**When:** April 25<sup>th</sup> & April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Where:** Albuquerque Marriott Hotel  
2101 Louisiana Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
505.881.6800

**Time:** 8am-4pm (registration @ 7am daily)

**Registration Fee:**

**Early Bird Registration**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
\$50 for 1 day, \$90 for 2 days

**Regular Registration**

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
\$60 for 1 day or \$100 for 2 days

**Registration Information:**

- Registration includes continental breakfast & daily lunch
- Each participant must submit their own registration form
- All participants must register & pay by April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Please make checks, PO or credit card payable to the Albuquerque Marriott
- Payment & registration form should be mailed to NMCDHH
  - NMCDHH, 2500 Louisiana Blvd, Suite 400, Albuquerque, NM 87110
- Confirmation letter will be sent once payment is received
- Refunds will not be given after March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Onsite registration will not be available
- Purchase Orders will be accepted until March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012
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**Hotel Information:**

- \$81 plus tax Standard room rate available from April 24<sup>th</sup> –27<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Call 505.881.6800 to reserve your room
- Request the Conference on Hearing Loss room rate



## An OASIS of sound

*By simply pushing a button on their hearing aids they wirelessly connect to the signal from the loop and block out much of the background sound.*

There is an Albuquerque chapter of the very popular program for people over 50 called "OASIS." It might be billed as continuing education but it's really a way to experience new ideas and gain knowledge about the world around us. Albuquerque's OASIS classes have just become more accessible to those with hearing loss through the installation of a "hearing loop" in the meeting room.

Hearing loops are the assistive listening system of choice for most hearing aid users. The loops utilize what is called a telecoil in hearing aids that negates the need to remove the devices and don a borrowed headset in order to hear the speaker in a meeting hall, theater or church. By simply pushing the telecoil button on their hearing aids users can block out much of the background sound while wirelessly connecting to an electromagnetic signal carrying the speaker's voice to their hearing aids for dramatically improved clarity.

Hearing loops are becoming increasingly popular in America. The NY Times recently reported on page one of their Science Section on a loop installed at Washington's Kennedy Center specifically to make a production of the Broadway show "Wicked" more accessible to the hard of hearing.

The Times reported that noted "... composer Richard Einhorn had despaired of truly enjoying a concert or Broadway show before encountering a hearing loop" at the Kennedy Center. He was so impressed with the clear, crisp sound that Einhorn is now promoting hearing loop installation at venues in New York City. The Kennedy Center loop also received praise from hundreds of members of the Hearing Loss Association of America who attend the performance in conjunction with their ongoing convention in Washington.

The OASIS hearing loop was donated and installed by Mike Langner, a retired Albuquerque radio engineer and looping aficionado who is a member of the Loop New Mexico Committee with help from Samuel Castillo of nonprofit assistive devices retailer ATS Resources.

Falling back on his radio experience, Langner included a wide-range automatic volume control circuit with the installation to compensate for speakers with overly loud or soft voices in order to provide the best possible speech clarity for those listening through the telecoils of their hearing aids. Upon hearing sound from a loop using the telecoils in her hearing aids for the very first time, OASIS regular Barbara Katz said, "Wow! That's amazing!"

The OASIS classroom joins the Albuquerque Little Theater, over 60 churches, public meeting rooms and other venues in New Mexico in offering a hearing loop to those visiting their facility.

Albuquerque OASIS offers programs in the arts, humanities, current events, health and wellness and volunteer opportunities. The catalog listing classes and information on joining this nonprofit organization is available at libraries or by calling (505) 889-0927 to request one.

The catalog and other information is also available on the Internet. Go to [www.oasisnet.org](http://www.oasisnet.org) and follow the links to locate Albuquerque.

### OTHER RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF KNOWN LOOPED FACILITIES IN NM

**Alameda Bible Church - Albuquerque**  
**Church of Christ, Mountainside - Albuquerque**  
**High Desert United Methodist - Rio Rancho**  
**Risen Savior Catholic Community - Albuquerque**  
**St. John United Methodist - Santa Fe**  
**St. Peter Catholic Church - Roswell**  
**Vortex Theater - Albuquerque**

**See the complete list 70 facilities at:**  
**[www.HLAAbq.com/LoopNM.html](http://www.HLAAbq.com/LoopNM.html)**



*We thank these donors\* for their very generous support of the Albuquerque chapter*

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A special thank you to the UNM Department of Linguistics and the student volunteers for providing American Sign Language interpreting at our meetings and to the many chapter members who volunteer to assist in setting up and conducting our meetings.

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\* Donors listed here have made a donation to the chapter within the last twelve months

All donations to the Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque or to the Hearing Loss Association of America are tax deductible

The HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA is a volunteer association of Hard of Hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is a nonprofit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. Membership is by annual dues which are separate from the annual Chapter Fee paid to this local chapter. National membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly publication **Hearing Loss Magazine**.

National dues are: Individual: \$35; Student: \$20; Library/Nonprofit: \$50; Professional: \$60; Corporate: \$150

To join, go to: [www.hearingloss.org/](http://www.hearingloss.org/) or send your name, full mailing address, email address and a check or money order in the appropriate amount to:

Hearing Loss Association of America  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

For more info: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)  
(301) 657-2248 V  
(301) 657-2249 TTY

If you wish to make a donation toward the educational and advocacy efforts of the national organization, you can do so using the form below



**Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque - Annual dues, Subscription, Donor form - 2012 CALENDAR YEAR**

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## New training and development coordinator at Commission

**Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 17, 2012** – The Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) has announced that a contract was awarded to Rhiannon Sykes-Chavez to be the Training & Development Coordinator.

The Training & Development Coordinator provides educational assistance to state agencies, and specifically, ensures agency compliance with regulations pertaining to hearing loss and effective communications pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In addition, the Training & Development Coordinator Co-Chairs the bi-annual Conference on Hearing Loss mentioned [see page 9 for more conference information].

“Ms. Sykes-Chavez experience as a Signed Language Interpreter and past experience as an Event Coordi-

nator lends the Commission a specific set of skills needed for this position. We are very excited to have Rhiannon join our team and continue to provide high quality workshops across the State.” said Shannon Smith, Interim Executive Director.

Individuals interested in scheduling a free workshop can download the request form at <http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us/Training.aspx>.

For information on the 2012 Conference on Hearing Loss, please visit <http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us/COHL/2012.aspx>

### About NMCDHH

The State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons provides effective leadership, education, advocacy and programs to reduce barriers to the social, economic, educational, cultural and intellectual well-being of Deaf and Hard of Hearing New Mexicans and their families, friends and colleagues. For more information, call 1.800.489.8536 or visit [www.cdhh.state.nm.us](http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us).



Copies of *WIRED FOR SOUND* sent to those living outside of the greater Albuquerque area are made possible by a generous grant from the State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.