



The newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Albuquerque Chapter

WIRED FOR SOUND

Hearing Loops Hit the Rails and the Tarmac

Stephen O. Frazier, Hearing Loss Support Specialist

The transportation industry appears to have "discovered" hearing loops and their benefits for hard of hearing travelers.

Amtrak has just signed a contract for 500 new train cars that will feature hearing loops with an option for an even larger number. In New York the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) is testing loops on the city's bus fleet and, mimicking the successful introduction of 1,000 looped subway cars in San Francisco, placed an order for a similar number for the Big Apple where all subway information booths are now looped. There are also emergency call buttons at the NYC subway platforms that have a hearing loop in addition to a loudspeaker for communicating with an agent. San Francisco is in the process of finishing the installation of loops at platforms for their BART trains.

Penn and Grand Central stations in New York and Union Station in Washington feature hearing loops at some ticket and information counters, and, in New York at least, more are coming. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has recently announced new disability requirements for the many transportation hubs they manage in the greater New York City area. Hearing loops are now mandated for the departure gates and information counters at any new or significantly renovated airport terminal at their five airports. The information counter mandate also applies to rail, bus and ferry terminals.

With the completion of the new Delta Airlines terminal at New York's LaGuardia Airport (where all departure gates are looped) there are now eigh-



teen US airports that offer the technology in one form or another. The terminals in Austin, TX and Phoenix are the nearest "looped" airports to Albuquerque but the Director of Aviation at the Sunport assures me that looping the gates is on her "to do" list.

One manufacturer of commercial airplanes has been experimenting with the installation of loops in a new small airliner. Meanwhile, Virgin Atlantic Airlines now offers passengers on their international flights the option of a neckloop instead of ear buds for in-flight entertainment.

Awareness of hearing loop technology is also increasing. More and more hearing care offices around the country are adding hearing loop & telecoil info to their websites and installing loops in their waiting and fitting rooms, and some are even adding loop installation to the services they provide to people with a hearing disability.



New looped Amtrak train photo

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is published by the
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER
Providing support and advocacy for
people with hearing loss

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Hearing Loss Association of
 America – Albuquerque
chapter

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18 Dec Meeting 10:00 AM - Noon On **Zoom**

As long as COVID high case rates remain, so do restrictions. We will continue meeting only on Zoom the rest of 2021. Our Web Page (HearingLossAbq.org) will have updates and the link to join the Zoom meeting.

Over the Counter Hearing Aids

Speaker: Mary Clark



Over the Counter Hearing aids will be available soon. What do the new proposed FDA regulations mean to YOU the consumer? Our speaker has a background in regulatory affairs in the medical device industry, as well as being a lifelong hearing aid wearer, and an advocate.

There are as many questions as answers that our speaker would like to share with you so you can become an informed consumer of Over The Counter (OTC) hearing aids, or to help advise someone who comes to you with questions about them.

Mary Clark was active in HLAA ABQ for a number of years until other priorities necessitated stepping down, but she still has a passion for both teaching and advocating for people learning about hearing loss and hearing aids.

This program will be an expansion of the article from the November newsletter article.

Check our Home Page, HearingLossAbq.com, for the latest information on upcoming programs.

Last month's talk by Carolyn Adamski was uniquely inspirational. Unfortunately, most members did not get the Zoom link, but a recording is available. We encourage you to view it at <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/iBr8CyG9FhJe5SMgraAh-f5UgMaMpYnhwO5Gfd7oflliaAfHMY780GjtUeEVv6boS.L-wuRsyXnxx4fDvHs> with passcode **5gTYIs.w**.

The HLAA ABQ Chapter is always looking for volunteers. You can man a special project. You can help us out for a few months, or consider a longer-term commitment. "Try us out" for a month or two. We will provide orientation for working on a nonprofit board, share our chapter's mission and goals, and discuss topics we can use your help with. If interested, contact any board member (contact info at left), or use the chapter email hlaabq@gmail.com.

Here in NM, the list of looped venues continues to grow. It can be found at www.LoopNM.com/Venues.html.

Where Christmas music is concerned, Carrie Underwood is just one of the many singers who, at Christmas time, is asking, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" For many attending Christmas services and hoping to hear the words in some of their favorite Christmas songs and hymns, the answer is too often "no". They may hear the tune but the lyrics are there only in their memory, not coming

as understandable words from the choir or a brave soloist. This doesn't have to be. Hearing loops and telecoils can give each hard of hearing member of the congregation a seat in the very front pews.

Almost every denomination is represented on the following list of known places of worship in the greater Albuquerque area, promising visitors attending services there the ability to hear what everyone else hears and to fully participate in the celebration of Christmas.

ALBUQUERQUE

Abiding Word Lutheran Church
 Alameda Bible Church
 Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living
 Calvary Chapel Southwest
 Central United Methodist Church
 Christ the King Anglican Church
 Christ United Methodist Church
 Christ Unity Church
 Church of the Risen Savior
 Congregation Albert
 Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Faith Lutheran Church
 First Assembly of God
 First Assembly of God
 First Baptist Church
 First Congregational Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 First Unitarian Church
 First United Methodist Church
 * Hoffmantown Church
 La Mesa Presbyterian Church
 * Los Altos Christian Church
 Monte Vista Christian Church
 Montgomery Church of Christ
 Mountainside Church of Christ
 Northeast Church of Christ
 Our Lady of the Annunciation RC Church
 Paradise Hills United Methodist Church
 * Prince of Peace Catholic Church
 Queen of Heaven Catholic Parish

Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living
 Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church
 Saint Chad's Episcopal Church
 Saint John XXIII Catholic Community
 Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral
 Saint John's United Methodist Church
 Saint Joseph on the Rio Grande
 Saint. Luke Lutheran Church
 Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
 Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
 Saint Paul Lutheran Church
 Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
 Sandia Baptist Church
 Sandia Presbyterian Church
 Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Shepard of the Valley Presbyterian Church
 Unity Spiritual Center

BELEN

First Methodist Church

CEDAR CREST

Mountainside United Methodist Church

EDGEWOOD

Good Shepard Lutheran Church

PLACITAS

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

RIO RANCHO

Church of Christ
 High Desert United Methodist Church

Yearly dues are \$15 per household. They are due in January, but you may pay yours early and get it out of the way in 2021.

Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church

SANTA FE

Church of the Holy Faith
Cristo Rey Catholic Church
First Presbyterian Church
Saint Anne's RC Church

Smith's Community Rewards Shop at Smith's with their Rewards card, and Smith's will make a donation to HLAA Albuquerque chapter. You get your usual rewards points.

Call 1-866-4141 to sign up or re-enroll.
The HLAAbq NPO number for Smith's is 14881.

CIICA CONVERSATION: the Impact of the Pandemic on Cochlear Implant Services

Sue Archbold, Ph.D., and Brian Lamb, OBE, coordinators for the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action¹ (CIICA)

The Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA) held its first monthly conversation for the CIICA network in October. Anita Grover, CEO of AVUK, led the group discussion. CIICA brought together eight countries, Ecuador, Slovenia, UK, Finland, Iran, Canada, Turkey and Sweden, representing users, families, advocacy groups and providers of services to share their experiences with health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. CIICA's goal is to ensure that good communication is supported and rehabilitation is available.

Discussion leader Anita Grover shared some of her experiences as a cochlear implant (CI) user and as a provider. Grover posed the questions;

- What has been your experience?
- What have we had to re-think?
- What have we learned as a result?
- What do we need to do now?

There were some important issues to emerge in discussions:

¹<https://ciicanet.org/>

Saint John the Baptist RC Church
Universalist Congregation of Santa Fe

** This facility lends neckloop receivers.*

Amazon Smile You can donate to the Albuquerque Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America every time you make a purchase of most of the products from Amazon.

Go to <http://www.hlaabq.com/amazonsmile.html> for more information and detailed instructions on how to designate HLAA-ABQ Chapter as your charity of choice when you make amazon.com purchases.

Once you have set it up, always log into smile.amazon.com to purchase from amazon. 0.5% of the purchase price is automatically donated to HLAA Albuquerque Chapter—at no cost to you.

- Masks and Communication
- Impact of Reduced Services
- Growing Waiting Lists, Including for Children
- Remote delivery and use of online services
- Funding for Cochlear Implants (CIs) and services

For questions or more information, email HLAA at inquiries@hearingloss.org.

See the complete blog at <https://www.hearingloss.org/ciica-conversation-the-impact-of-the-pandemic-on-cochlear-implant-services/>

A man sitting next to his friend who is hard of hearing says, "Can you lend me \$250?"

His friend replies, "I can't hear you. Try my other ear."

The man moves to the other side, thinks for a moment, shrugs, and says, "I said, can you lend me \$300?"

His friend turns to him, raises an eyebrow, and pointedly says, "Go back to the first ear."

You can always pick out a person who is HoH. He's the one who keeps dancing after the music stopped.



Thanks to those listed below for their generous donations.

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Bronze \$50 - \$99

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Carol Emerson
Kim Granzow
Bette Jean Ingui
James & Sharen Koch
Paul Merritt
Fran Neil
Ira J. Rimson
Rod & Bobbi Rodríguez

Friends - up to \$49

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The Hearing Loss Association of America is a volunteer association of Hard of Hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is a non-profit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. Membership in the national organization is by annual dues, which are separate from the annual Chapter fee paid to your local chapter. National membership includes a subscription to the bi-monthly publication Hearing Life.



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