

# Hear & Now

November 2009

A Publication of the Adult Loss Of Hearing Association, Inc.  
Hearing Education Advocacy Rehabilitation



Happy Thanksgiving !

## Upcoming Events

November 17, 1:00 to 2:00 pm (Tuesday)

**Jon Richins**, audiologist from Tucson Ear, Nose & Throat Audiology, will tell us about room acoustics and its effect on hearing. The acoustic environment reinforces the need for assistive listening devices, but also helps folks with "interior decorating". Jon is also a musician, and will bring his guitar and give us a song to see how we hear music over the loop system at ALOHA.

November 21 (Saturday) 11:30 a.m. (prior to Open House) Annual Meeting & Election of Board Nominees: *See page 3.*

November 21 (Saturday) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.  
**Open House & Dedication of the Pignatelli Assistive Listening Media Center at ALOHA. Wine & Cheese and other refreshments, plus door prizes!**  
*See flyer inside.*

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## **Donate Used Hearing Aids**

There is a need for used hearing aids to supply the **Pima County Hearing Aid Bank**. The hearing aids are refurbished and given to seniors on low-income. Used hearing aids can be dropped off at ALOHA. The Sertoma Clubs of Tucson also plan to have drop-off boxes in offices where hearing aids are sold.

## **FDA Website Includes Info on Hearing Aids**

Point your computer browser to [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). Hearing aids are under "H" on the A to Z bar. Note: T-coil can be used with devices besides telephone.

## CLASSES, ETC.

(Optional: Members get discounts on selected classes)

**Beginning & Intermediate Sign Language Classes**  
***Taking Requests For Class in January Also, for Intermediate Class.***

Cost: \$50 Member  
\$75 Non-member

**Speech Reading Class:**  
***Class in Spring Taking Names Now!***

Instruction combines lip-reading and environmental strategies.

Cost: \$50 member  
\$75 non-member  
\$25 spouse

**Assistive Device Demos:**  
**by appointment only.** Listening and signaling devices demonstrated. None for sale, but a vendor list is available. Also, loop demos.

**Peer Support Meetings:**  
Weekly, on Tuesdays, 1 to 2 PM.  
Loop amplification.  
Friendly discussions and info shared about hearing aids, assistive devices, inductive looping, etc.

**Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
(Closed Mon., Fri., & weekends)

# MEETINGS

Desert Cochlear Connections Group  
At ALOHA 4001 E. Fort Lowell

**December 5th 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Program:** Joe Pelatt will speak focusing on the new Nucleus 5 system, plus give a brief overview of the Baha device. Joe is the new Cochlear Awareness Network Manager for the Southwest Territory, and is an 11-year cochlear implant user.

**Call or E-mail for the future dates**  
**795-9887 info@alohaaz.org**

Cochlear implant information, DVD's, etc. can be borrowed.

**New:** Cochlear Americas donated a practice program of sounds, words, sentences, music. It is installed on two ALOHA computers. Call ahead and come in to try it!

**Cart Transcription:** Paid for by member Mead Almond. **Thank You!**

**NOTE** Donations needed to continue to provide CART transcription for Cochlear meetings. \$150 per 2-hour session, but any amount appreciated!

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## **Special Thanks To Al Guevara**

Al has maintained the ALOHA website for a number of years, and we really appreciate his talent. [www.alohaaz.org](http://www.alohaaz.org)

Need a webmaster for your homepage, business or nonprofit? Al is searching for web work. He is a self-employed IT contractor, in the field of SEO, and has eleven years of experience. [al@Tucson-WebDesign.com](mailto:al@Tucson-WebDesign.com) or call 520-510-3000.

Green Valley ALOHA Support Group:

MEETING: Monday, December 7,  
10:00 a.m. to noon

This meeting will be a holiday party. Call Mary or Lou (below) for information.

**To find out about future meetings, you may call Mary 648-1266 or call Louis (Lou) 625-9536**

They meet at La Posada in Green Valley, usually on the 1st Monday of the month. Loop amplification is provided.



More Places with Inductive Loops  
(or other amplification)

Sears Hearing Aid Center in Tucson Mall

Valley Christian Church  
18140 S. La Canada, Sahuarita, AZ

**Thank You For the Donations!**

**Donation In Memory of Kay Tate**

**Mead Almond, Donation for CART Svc**

**Raytheon Employee, Giving Prgm.**

**Tucson E-CAP, by ALOHA member**

**A.L.D.A., Cynthia Amerman**

**Other Donations from : Jerome Holder, Don Sawyer, Herman Posternak, Frances Harris, and Southwest Hearing Care.**

**New Business Member:**

**Carlson Ear, Nose & Throat Associates.**

## Annual Meeting & Election of Board Members:

When: November 21, 11:30 a.m. (Prior to the Open House)

Candidates: (All board members serve without compensation)

**Bruce Stewart, MD (Incumbent)** Dr. Stewart is an Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist in private practice. He joined the ALOHA board in 1990 and has served several years as board president. He is dedicated to serving people with hearing loss.

**Eleanor (Dede) Wilpizeski, MA CCC-SLP (Incumbent)** Dede is in private practice as a Speech Language Pathologist. She joined the ALOHA board in 1998, and was Nominating Committee Chair for several years. She is enthusiastic about ALOHA's mission, and has cheerfully helped with fund raising.

**Sally Hart, B.A., J.D., MBT (New Candidate)** Sally was appointed to the ALOHA board in July of 2009, and now seeks election for a three year term. She is an attorney for the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., with expertise in Medicare, AHCCCS, and elder law. She wants to help with beneficiary coverage issues, as well as board work generally.

**Joy (Davene) Newman, Retired Businesswoman (New Candidate)** Joy was appointed to the ALOHA board in July of 2009, and now seeks election for a three year term. She plays a leading role in the Sertoma organization at the State level, and in particular in the Midtown Sertoma Club in Tucson. She is interested in fostering a more collaborative relationship between ALOHA, Sertoma, the U of A Speech, Language and Hearing Department, and other organizations that offer services to the Deaf and to the Hard of Hearing.

★ *Members, please come to the Annual Meeting at 11:30 prior to the Open House, meet the candidates, and give them your vote of approval, and discuss ALOHA goals and priorities.*

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**New Membership Form:** On the last page of this newsletter is the new membership form adopted by the board of directors. For most members, **January is membership renewal time.** Some people like to send their dues and/or donations before the end of the year for tax purposes.

**How Would You Prefer to Receive the ALOHA Newsletter?** We have received suggestions from members to send the newsletter by e-mail instead of mailbox. If you would prefer to receive it by e-mail, please let us know at [info@alohaaz.org](mailto:info@alohaaz.org) It is said that many organizations and businesses are doing this.

Allen Smith, ALOHA computer volunteer, has donated an all-in-one printer/scanner/copier which will help in many ways to get timely information out to our members and the public. Thank you, Allen, for this gift, and also for all you do to help ALOHA use current technology.

Now, all we need is a new copy machine to do more of our printing jobs in-house.

Report on the First International "Hearing Loops" Conference, September, 2009  
By Professor David Myers, Hard of Hearing Advocate

The conference was hosted by the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People near Zurich, Switzerland. It was attended by nearly 100 people from fifteen nations. American participants included the Hearing Loss Association of America's executive director, Brenda Battat, past board president Richard Meyer, Hearing Access program chair Janice Schacter, Wisconsin audiologist Juliette Sterkens and her loop engineer husband, LeRoy Maxfield, two representatives of American loop companies (Fred Palm of Assistive Audio and Terry Simon of Wireless Hearing Solutions, and yours truly).

**Some take-home points: (Editor note: minimally shortened to fit the page)**

- Loop manufacturers want to recreate the listening clarity, as signal to noise ratio, that we would experience if standing one foot from someone speaking.
- In the Nordic countries, including Finland, I was told assistive listening is almost entirely via hearing loops.
- Nordic country hearing aids all come with a default t-coil setting. A Swiss audiologist noted that some Swiss people choose the cosmetics of completely-in-the-canal aids over those with telecoils, {but} it was noted most Swiss hearing aids have T-coils because the audiologists prioritize functionality over cosmetics.
- One Swiss company annually sells 10,000, of their small Univox amplifiers for TV room use, in Sweden alone.
- The Ampetronic company demonstrated strategies for maintaining an even field strength in buildings with embedded metal, and for containing sound with minimal spillover.
- Loop engineer David Norman explained IEC standard for loops, and set up two more loops that broadcast in English and in German.
- Concluding resolutions at the conference, with virtual unanimity were:
  - 1) Hearing aid manufacturers, manufacturers of cochlear implants, physicians, audiologists and hearing instrument specialists shall communicate the benefits of hearing aid and cochlear implant telecoil receivers for phone listening and assistive listening and educate people who are hard of hearing accordingly.
  - 2) Venues and service points where sound is broadcast shall offer assistive listening, such as induction loop systems designed to the IEC 60118-4:2006 standard, that broadcast sound directly to the hearing aids and cochlear implants, enabling them to serve as customized, wireless loudspeakers (without the need for extra equipment).

The full text of the resolution, and of a supporting discussion paper, are now available at the conference website: [www.hearingloops.org](http://www.hearingloops.org). This statement from the global hearing loss community will surely encourage and add credibility to all who envision a future in which hearing aids have doubled functionality, by serving as affordable in-the-ear loudspeakers wherever sound is broadcast.

*Editor Note: David Myers was ALOHA's inspiration to start the "Let's Loop Tucson" project in 2006. Around 70 venues in Tucson and Green Valley now have looping.*



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ALOHA Board 2009:

- Bruce Stewart, President
- Pamela Wood, Vice President
- Don Poore, Treasurer
- Louis Touchette
- Dede Wilpizeski
- Dale Henson
- Patricia Clinch
- Kimberly Dale
- Sally Hart
- Joy Newman

- Loretta Butler, Office Director

**Office Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM, Tues. - Thurs.**

**Please call in advance to confirm hours.**

**Thanks!**

**New Combined Fed. Campaign #68532**

**You can reach us at:**

Telephone (Voice) - (520) 795-9887

TTY - (520) 795-9585

FAX - (520) 795-9887 then \*51

E-Mail - [info@alohaaz.org](mailto:info@alohaaz.org)

ALOHA's Internet Site: <http://www.alohaaz.org>

**Non-profit Tax ID# 86-0554154**

ALOHA's Office Location:

4001 E. Fort Lowell Road (East of Alvernon)

Tucson, AZ 85712-1011



Let's Loop Tucson & Arizona!