

ARA Consumer Springboard

The Consumer Springboard is designed to provide a starting point for those searching for internet resources and support programs for the deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing. Inclusion in the Springboard listing does not imply the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology's endorsement of any individual or organization. Any views or opinions presented in sites listed are solely those of the author(s) of those sites and do not necessarily represent views or opinions of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology. The Academy recognizes Mitch Turbin, Ph.D. (VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research in Portland, Oregon) for his work in compilation of sites for the Consumer Springboard.

Organizations:

1. Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell):
www.agbell.org
Through advocacy, education, research and financial aid, AG Bell helps to ensure that every child and adult with hearing loss has the opportunity to listen, talk and thrive in mainstream society.
2. American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB):
www.aadb.org
For people who experience both hearing and vision impairments, this membership organization consists mostly but not solely of individuals with Usher Syndrome, a genetic, progressive condition. Publishes a quarterly journal, an online newsletter and convenes biennial national conventions. Provides local and national advocacy, education and personal support.
3. Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA):
www.alda.org
"...is about communication and acceptance of every deafened individual. Some people lip-read, some sign, some use hearing aids, some have cochlear implants, and some need to have others write down what they are saying - and at ALDA all the above is okay! ALDA's official communication philosophy is 'Whatever works!'" ALDACon conventions, some local groups and hard copy and online resources and advocacy are available.
4. Beyond Hearing:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/search?query=beyond+hearing>
One of the oldest and best known online communication lists for hard of hearing people, with many enthusiastic members who've participated for years and bring a wealth of wisdom and passion to the conversation.
5. Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA):
www.hearingloss.org
The largest organization of, and for, hard of hearing people in America. Over 250 local chapters which meet monthly, annual national conventions around the country with up to 1000 attendees, a bimonthly magazine, and many online resources. Provides education, advocacy, and many opportunities for personal support and sharing.

6. International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, (IFHOH):
www.ifhoh.org
A truly world-wide organization. Conventions are held every 4 years at different sites around the world; the next will be June 25-28, 2012 in Norway. Provides a variety of useful online information, including position statements on important issues such as cochlear implants. IFHOH chose "hard of hearing" as the preferred label to be used for people with partial hearing everywhere.
7. National Association of the Deaf (NAD):
www.nad.org
Founded in 1880, this large organization promotes the culture and legal rights of the American Sign Language (ASL) based community. Convenes local groups and national conventions, publishes a variety of information.
8. Say What Club:
www.saywhatclub.com
A world wide online organization, hosting several different discussion groups about hearing loss, or as meeting places for hard of hearing people. Also has a wealth of online information and periodic national conventions at different sites around the US.

Resources:

9. Better Hearing Institute (BHI):
www.betterhearing.org
A not-for-profit corporation that educates the public about the neglected problem of hearing loss and what can be done about it. Founded in 1973, BHI publishes a number of useful articles, booklets, and other material available on and through its website.
10. Hearing Loss Web (HOH/LD News):
www.hearinglossweb.com
A useful web site, but an especially interesting weekly e-newsletter on a wide range of topics of interest to hard of hearing and oral deaf people, including scientific advances, the latest in technology, advocacy and personal experiences of hearing loss.
11. Healthy Hearing:
www.healthyhearing.com
A commercial online website and newsletter that carries interesting articles and resources.
12. Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC):
www.nvrc.org
While NVRC is primarily a resource and advocacy organization for its local community, its location near Washington DC positions it as a major player in national advocacy efforts. Its director and newsletter editor ensures that the range and depth of NVRC advocacy work and its more-than-daily newsletter is of the highest quality.

13. PEPNet- Post-Secondary Education Network for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students:

www.pepnet.org

This is a federally funded national network promoting post-secondary education for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deafblind. Search the site using keywords like “hard of hearing” and “assistive listening devices” and you will find free books, articles, etc., full of useful information.

14. Neil Bauman, PhD, Center for Hearing Loss Help:

www.hearinglosshelp.com

Neil Bauman has both a PhD in History and a Doctor of Theology, Th.D. A severely hard of hearing cochlear implant user, he has developed a comprehensive web site with a large library of informative articles and very comprehensive catalog of assistive technology.

15. Samuel Trychin, PhD; Living with Hearing Loss Programs:

www.trychin.com

Dr. Trychin is a widely known and respected psychologist who has been wearing hearing aids for over 50 years. He publishes a number of workbooks and other resources about coping with hearing loss for hard of hearing people and their communication partners and conducts in person and online trainings.

16. Mark Ross, PhD; Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement:

www.hearingresearch.org/ross/index.php

Dr. Ross is an eminent audiologist who himself experiences a severe to profound hearing loss, now using a cochlear implant. He posts numerous valuable articles online that explain many dimensions of living with hearing loss, hearing aids, cochlear implants, audiological research etc, in very clear yet comprehensive language.