

# SHHH & You

More than 24 million people in the U.S. have a hearing loss that can hinder daily communication. That translates to one in ten people. By age 65, one in three people has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects us, family, friends, co-workers -- everyone around us.

*Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH) is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well.*

SHHH believes that people can help one another, can be helped, and can participate successfully in society. The primary purpose of SHHH is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, advocacy, and support.

If you are not a member of National SHHH, you are encouraged to join. Membership includes the bi-monthly SHHH Journal, *Hearing Loss*, an outstanding information resource. Dues are \$25 for USA Individuals/Family, and \$50 for Professionals. Make checks payable to "SHHH" and mail to:

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A publication focusing on issues related to Hearing Loss

# The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN

Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

## Getting Hard of Hearing People "in the Loop"

By David G. Myers, Ph.D.

Those of us who have hearing aids with telecoils (T-coils) know that, with a simple button push, our aids can shut off their microphones and receive the magnetic signal from most recently manufactured phones. Bingo! In a noisy setting, the hearing aids block room noise and the telephone broadcasts right to our eardrums.

Pretty nifty. But not nearly so nifty as what I first experienced three years ago in Scotland. With 300 others, I was worshipping within the high stone walls of the 800-year-old Iona Abbey. Amplified but reverberating off the Abbey's hard surfaces, spoken words posed a challenge. Or so they did until my wife noticed a sign indicating an induction loop system—which transmits energy from an amplifier through a wire that surrounds the seating area. When I switched on my T-coil, the result was dramatic. The leader's words seemed to travel straight to the center of my head, her voice deliciously distinct. If I pulled the hearing aids out, her words went out of focus. Other hearing-aid settings boosted sound from distant loudspeakers, yet left me guessing at words.

Since then I've discovered that loop systems are now everywhere I go in Britain—in virtually every church, cathedral, and auditorium, and now even in selected looped bank teller windows and store check-out lanes. Indeed, the UK Disability Discrimination Act decrees that by the end of 2004 "Any business or organization providing a product or service to the general public must have an Induction Loop System fitted wherever information is verbally provided.

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