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## Description of a Hearing Loop

A hearing loop is a special type of assistive listening system that transmits an audio signal from a venue's sound system electronically, wirelessly, and directly to telecoil-equipped listening devices. Most hearing aids and Cochlear implants are telecoil-equipped, i.e., they have a builtin telecoil to receive a signal transmitted by a hearing loop. Some of the world's most sophisticated audio spaces use a hearing loop to provide assistive listening (for example, the new David Geffen Theater in the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles, the IMAX Theater in NASA's Cape Canaveral Visitor Center, and the classrooms in most Apple Stores.)

A hearing loop is installed on the main level of the Sanctuary of Ahavath Achim Synagogue. On the main level, users of telecoil-equipped listening devices will be able to hear clearly the sound captured by the microphones on the bimah without hearing surrounding background noise.

## What is a Telecoil (T-coil)?

A telecoil (or T-coil) is an alternate input for a hearing aid. The T-coil is a tiny coil of copper wire that is built inside most, but not all, hearing aids and Cochlear implants. The normal input for a hearing aid is one or more tiny microphones that pick up surrounding sound (that you *want* to hear) as well as surrounding noise (that you *don't* want to hear). A more-familiar alternate input for a hearing aid is Bluetooth which can receive an audio signal from a smartphone or other Bluetooth device without receiving surrounding background noise.

Telecoils were first put into hearing aids more than sixty years ago to receive the magnetic signal generated by the speaker in the handset of a telephone (hence the name telecoil). The magnetic signal received by the T-coil was much clearer than the audible squawking from the speaker that was received by the hearing aid microphone. Since then, engineers determined that a simple low-voltage current can deliver clear audio through a magnetic signal to T-coils in large spaces such as auditoriums.

## Does My Hearing Aid Have a T-coil?

If you are not sure if your hearing aid or Cochlear implant has a T-coil, ask your hearing aid provider the following questions:

- Does my hearing aid have a built-in T-coil?
- If so, when may I come by to have the T-coil program activated and to learn how to switch from the microphone input to the T-coil input and back?