



ALDA Boston – P.O. Box 600622 – Newtonville, MA 02460

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ALDAgram – April 2016

On April 9th ALDA went to the dogs. Many, many thanks to Carl Richardson and his guide dog Merrick and Carol Agate and her service dog Molly. They provided an informative and pawisitively awesome afternoon.



It was also ALDA Boston's 27th anniversary as well as our Annual Business Meeting. Karen Rockow, Membership Chair, reported that the three incumbents on the ballot were reelected and Ellen Perkins was elected on write-in ballots. At the Board meeting afterwards, Linda Sakin moved that the Board keep the same positions that they had had in 2014-2016. That motion passed unanimously.



Many thanks again to Nancy Eaton, who provided CART.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day will take place at the State House on Thursday, April 28th from 10 a.m. – 12p.m. In addition to awards for Outstanding Advocate, Organization and Service Providers, legislators who have supported the D/HH community will be recognized. Hosted by the MCDHH Statewide Advisory Council of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2016

Registration has now closed for the Art in Bloom tours.

Visiting Masterpieces: Pairing Picassos is the theme of the next ALD tour, which will be on Saturday, May 21st at 10:30. Registration will be open on April 30th.



"This exhibition centers on pairing and juxtaposing works by Pablo Picasso (1881–1973). A loan of four major works from the Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Switzerland, and loans from private collections will complement the MFA's holdings of painting and sculpture by the artist, looking at different stages of his career and his exploration of form."

News of Note

Google has awarded Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI), “a two-year grant for a project to create scalable access to affordable, accessible, and accurate captions for any live event by combining available speech-to-text technology with real-time caption corrections made by event-designated peers in addition to caption streaming via the internet.” That is a mouthful. The subtitle is easier to understand: Millions of Individuals Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stand to Benefit from Highly-Accurate, Low-Cost, Captioning Services. Read more at <https://tdiforaccess.org/2016/04/google-awards-tdi-two-year-grant-for-project-in-web-based-captioning-services/>

Medical News Today reports in its April 13th weekly newsletter <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/308792.php> that scientists at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at McGill University have made an important discovery about the human auditory system and how to study it, findings that could lead to better testing and diagnosis of hearing-related disorders. The researchers detected frequency-following responses (FFR) coming from a part of the brain not previously known to emit them. FFRs are neural signals generated in the brain when people hear sounds.

This month’s Hearing Loss Help eZine is packed with information on a myriad of subjects, including ototoxic drugs that can damage your ears, tinnitus and other phantom sounds, information on Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and/or Assistive Devices. Read more at <http://hearinglosshelp.com>

Starting in mid-2017, the FCC will require live- and near-live broadcast programming appearing online to be captioned within 12 hours. According to Eliot Greenwald, deputy chief of the FCC’s Disability Rights office, programmers and distributors will be given some leeway on timing and accuracy. Greenwald stressed that the FCC rules relate to IP transmission of programs that have been shown on TV, and not to consumer-created content appearing on the likes of YouTube, or content like Netflix’s slate of originals, since they were not originally broadcast on TV with captions. <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/news/technology/fcc-live-programmers-will-get-some-leeway-online-captioning/154505>

Celebration '16, June 5

Peggy Ellertsen and I are finalizing details for *Celebration '16* to be co-hosted by the Boston chapters of HLAA and ALDA. Your invitation will be coming in about two weeks. Meanwhile, here is a blurb about Gael's new show:

Hearing loss isn't funny - but Gael Hannan is.

Huh? Life with a Cranky Cochlea is a tour de force solo show, drawn from a lifetime of communication muck-ups. In a compelling and hilarious performance, accompanied by acclaimed violist Alexander Vavilov, Gael brings the world of hearing loss out of the shadows, taking us from the horror of childhood spelling tests, to the Diary of a Mad Hearing Aid User, to the comic dangers of bluffing your way through life's conversations – interwoven with the poignant story of a woman's struggle to communicate with the people she loves.

For anyone who has hearing loss, or who knows someone who does, or who simply says pardon more than three times a day, HuH? Life with a Cranky Cochlea is a must-see.



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