



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

Website: [www.aldaboston.org](http://www.aldaboston.org)

---

## ALDAgram – August 2015



The days are getting shorter, little by little, and that signals the approaching end of summer. August may not be the most exciting month, but the Perseid meteor showers are something to look forward to. If you have had a chance to see them, you know that they have been spectacular.



There is no scheduled ALDA event in August, but the rest of the year will be full, as will the first half of 2016.

Our twice-postponed panel discussion will take place on **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** in the Large Meeting room at the Lexington library. Look for the flyer, which will be sent out next week, and think about a favorite dessert to bring. When you think of September, you think of apples, not chocolate. We'll save chocolate for February.

**Sunday, October 25** is the New England Walk 4Hearing, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. We have ALDA t-shirts for all walkers as well as the official Walk4Hearing t-shirt for all walkers (registered online or on site) that raise \$100 or more. Alice and John Costa are this year's ALDA Boston Walk chairs.

**Saturday, December 12** will be our annual Holiday Party at Ann Tanona's house.

Our Annual New Year's brunch will be **January 3, 2016**. Place and speaker to be confirmed.

## Events of Interest



Boston Red Sox Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Night will be on **Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:10 p.m.** Tickets are \$35, Right Field Box. Five dollars from each ticket will benefit the DEAF, Inc. and Our Deaf Survivors Center non-profit organizations. Order at [www.redsox.com/deafhoh](http://www.redsox.com/deafhoh). Questions? Contact Jake Levine, Boston Red Sox at [jlevine@redsox.com](mailto:jlevine@redsox.com) or call 617-226-6284.

Deaf Inc is again offering an **Emergency Resources Information Workshop** together with MCDHH and E911 State on **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 4:00** at Deaf Inc., 215 Brighton Ave., Allston. The workshop is for those who are Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened. For more information and to request CART, ALDS, or a Deaf/Blind interpreter, please contact Sandra Bass, Independent Living Specialist at [sbass@deafinonline.org](mailto:sbass@deafinonline.org) or call 617-505-4821.

MCDHH recently honored seven staff members who retired following long time service to the Commonwealth. Retiring staff members were recognized for careers spanning 10-41 years of working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities in Massachusetts through MCDHH and earlier government agencies. In a ceremony held on July 28, 2015, a Governor's Citation was awarded and an engraved crystal clock was presented to each retiree:



Left to right: Debra Lobsitz, Roberta Perry, Cher Allen, Denise Hines, Gigi Doran, Gail Sallop, Carole Rossick

## **Urgent - Please Take Action**

Recently, Hearing Health Foundation and HLAA learned that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted a [study](#) on the prevalence of disability in the U.S. The study examined vision loss, cognition, mobility, self-care and independent living, but it failed to mention hearing loss, the **third** most common public health concern after diabetes and heart disease. [Hearing Health Foundation](#) is outraged by this gross oversight and finds the exclusion of people living with hearing loss from the report to be a troubling concern. Failing to acknowledge hearing loss diminishes the fact that having a hearing loss is a concern worthy of attention and treatment, as well its impact on a person's quality of life, ability to work, and full participation in society.

Hearing Health Foundation is not sitting back quietly, HLAA is not sitting back quietly either, and neither should you! They will be sending letters to representatives at the White House and CDC asking them to take swift and meaningful steps to correct this gross error, acknowledge hearing loss as a disability, and amend the report accordingly.

You can take action too!. Contact: Maria Town, White House Office of Public Engagement, [Maria\\_M\\_Town@who.eop.gov](mailto:Maria_M_Town@who.eop.gov) Tell Ms. Town that

1. People with hearing loss cannot be ignored and must be included along with other disability groups in all studies that impact public policy and programs
2. CDC must do a study on prevalence of hearing loss in the states
3. CDC must partner with HLAA on future projects regarding people with disabilities to ensure that people with hearing loss are included and studies are presented in an accessible way

“People with hearing loss have been denied communication access in hospitals and doctors’ offices, and by public programs such as Medicare which does not currently cover the cost of hearing aids,” said Anna Gilmore Hall, executive director of HLAA. “The release of the report comes on the heels of celebrations surrounding the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we are stunned they failed to understand the impact of excluding hearing loss as a disability that needs to be addressed.” Send your email today. Let us know if you hear from them. Send all comments and questions to [info@hearinghealthfoundation.org](mailto:info@hearinghealthfoundation.org) or to [Lise Hamlin](#), HLAA director of public policy.

Please forward this message to your friends, families and colleagues and encourage them to take action!

## Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2015

The tours at the MFA have been thoroughly enjoyed , and the August tour from the MFA’s permanent collection of Asian art was no exception. **“Well done by Karen Moss,”** said Jim O’Donnell. He continued, “Opening my eyes to the many diverse aspects of Chinese and Japanese art of old. Much more appreciation now”. Beth Holland concurred and said it was a great exhibit and she thoroughly enjoyed it.

Joan Rothney, who had been on the Hokusai tour, said, “Each time I’ve attended I have come to appreciate more and more [Karen’s] depth of knowledge and engaging presentation. This tour, following Hokusai, was especially informative.”

Betty Saltzman, who is a new ALDA member, liked the lively discussion of Asian history. She was pleased that the ALDS worked so well that she never had to say “What?” Betty plans to be a frequent tour participant.



The next accessible MFA guided tour, from the MFA’s permanent collection of Asian art, will take place on **Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**. Registration details have been sent to all ALDA members.

## News of Note

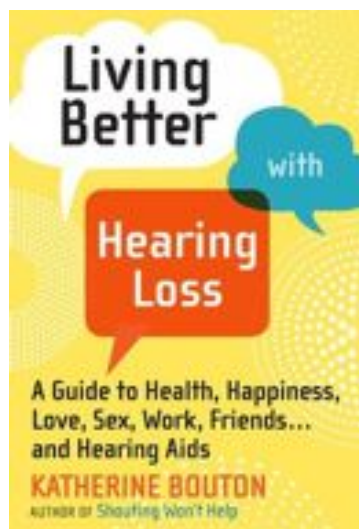
On July 24<sup>th</sup>, *The Boston Herald* printed a story highlighting MCDHH's progressive collaboration with the MA Jury Commission. MCDHH is pilot testing a system through which Deaf prospective jurors who use ASL interpreters will have the opportunity to go through the selection process and potentially serve on a jury. Please see the link below for the article by Bob McGovern, Boston Herald legal reporter.

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news\\_opinion/local\\_coverage/2015/07/deaf\\_will\\_soon\\_get\\_the\\_court\\_all\\_for\\_jury\\_service](http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/07/deaf_will_soon_get_the_court_all_for_jury_service)

“Inflammation Boosts Drug-Induced Hearing Loss in Mice” is the title of an article in the July 29 issue of *Science Translational Medicine*. A class of readily available and low-cost antibiotics called aminoglycosides are commonly used to treat certain types of life-threatening infections, but these medicines damage the ear, causing hearing loss, ringing in the ears (tinnitus), or balance disorders. Results from a new mouse study funded in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) show that the widespread, or systemic, inflammation that accompanies severe infections worsens the drug's toxic effects on hearing, leading to permanent hearing loss. The findings are published online as the cover article in the July 29 issue of [Science Translational Medicine](#) and are the topic of a [Focus editorial](#) in the journal. The results suggest that patients treated with aminoglycosides are more likely to develop permanent hearing loss than previously believed. At particular risk for the debilitating impact of hearing loss are newborns and premature babies treated with aminoglycosides. According to the authors, about 80 percent of 600,000 admissions into neonatal intensive care units in the United States are treated with aminoglycosides each year.

Hearing Restoration Project (HRP) consortium scientists, [Andy Groves](#) and [Stefan Heller](#) were recently published in [Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience](#). Their research showed that by blocking a signaling pathway in supporting cells, another pathway, known as "Notch pathway," causes the supporting cells to turn into hair cells. However, this effect is only seen in very young animals, before the onset of hearing. This suggests that although the Notch pathway may be a therapeutic target for hair cell loss, additional factors may be required to promote regeneration in humans. Learn more about the [HRP, research](#), and the [path to a cure](#) for hearing loss and tinnitus!

This month's book is recommended by Peggy Ellertsen.



“I LOVED Katherine's book. I could go on and on about it. I recently gave my copy to someone who is relatively new to hearing loss treatment, with a new cochlear implant and little rehabilitation follow up. The person has been struggling, without a clear sense of how to make it better or what was needed. The person said to me something that I think is so profoundly important, I wrote it down and put it on my desk. "Nobody tells you how to live with it" (IT being hearing loss.)

“I think Katherine's book tells people who are lost or struggling or stuck how to live with it. The book is so thoroughly researched, it is a gold mine of information for the person who is brand new to figuring it out as well as to us veterans. I also found the book to be exhilaratingly upbeat, spirited, and, more than anything courageous. Katherine is somebody who almost lost just about everything before she started facing her hearing loss head on, and she tells her story with unabashed honesty. In doing so, she forces hearing loss out of the closet and into all of the situations that a life fully lived might include.”

NB: The book was published by Workman in June and is also available as an e-book or print on demand.

ALDA Boston does not endorse any product or services.