



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – August 2017

Were any of you lucky enough to see the total eclipse yesterday? It was the first total eclipse to pass over the entire United States in 99 years. The total eclipse lasted only between one and three minutes, but the partial eclipse was visible from all Lower 48 states. I hope you wore your eclipse glasses to watch it.



In 1972, I traveled to Cap-Chat in the Gaspé to view my first solar eclipse. We camped out in a field full of telescopes. Alas, the clouds impeded the view at that long-awaited moment, but it was great fun and I got to practice my less-than-fluent French.

Share your solar eclipse photos on the ALDA Boston Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/ALDA-Boston-218441261508504/>



Upcoming ALDA Events

We hope you'll be joining us on **Saturday afternoon, September 9**, when Jonathan O'Dell, Assistive Technology Manager/ Training Specialist at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will be giving a presentation at the Lexington library titled "A Cultural Context of Hearing Loss - And Why It Matters." Bring your questions.

On **Saturday afternoon, October 28**, Historical Interpreter Pat Perry will be giving a presentation of witchcraft from the perspective of the accused and the accusers. Audience members may just find themselves accused of witchcraft and a trial may break out at any moment. Save the date now for a fantastic event.



Other Events of Interest

On **Tuesday, September 19th**, the Plymouth chapter of HLAA will host Stu Nunnery, whose talk is "Rebuilding Your Musical Self after Hearing Loss." The presentation will be at the Plymouth Public Library from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Stu will focus on his personal experiences and present the latest research on the brain and hearing rehabilitation. For more information, contact Sandy Spekman at sspekman@gmail.com

Join Deaf community friends and support DEAF, Inc. and ODSC on **Wednesday September 6th**, at 7:10 pm at Fenway Park for the Red Sox Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night. A notice has been sent to all ALDA Boston members.



Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

August's tour of Jewelry at the MFA was very informative. Said Lydia Kaufman, "Alan and I were delighted to be at the Revival Jewelry Exhibit at the MFA. Karen Moss is an excellent Tour Guide, and she explained the changes in jewelry and the different jewelry stones through the years." Registration details for the **September 10th** tour of the Africa and Oceania Collection have been sent.

Accessible Theater



The Phantom of the Opera will be open captioned on **Saturday, September 16** at 2:00. The ASL Interpreted performance will be on **Saturday, September 23** at 2:00. The audio-described performance will be on **Sunday, September 17** at 1:00. For Accessibility Information for the Boston Opera House, go to <https://www.bostonoperahouse.com/buying-tickets/accessibility.asp>

Fun House will be open captioned on **Saturday, October 21** at 2:00. The ASL Interpreted performance will be on **Saturday, October 28** at 2:00. The audio-described performances will be on **Sunday, October 22** at 1:00. For Accessibility information for the Boston Opera House, go to <https://www.bostonoperahouse.com/buying-tickets/accessibility.asp>

All performances in the main stage theater of the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown are looped. From **September 2 – 24**, *Ideation* will be playing.

News of Note

The BIG news is that the Senate has passed the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017. "The Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 would make certain types of hearing aids available over the counter to adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. In addition, the proposed legislation would require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate this new category of OTC hearing aids to ensure they meet the same high standards for safety, consumer labeling and manufacturing protection that all other medical devices must meet. This will give consumers the option to purchase a safe, high-quality FDA-regulated device at lower cost."

An article in *The Hearing Journal* on Monday, August 7, reported that "an end-to-end system that monitors the brain activity of hearing-impaired individuals to enhance speech intelligibility has been developed at the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science, bringing cognitive hearing aids one step closer to reality (*J Neural Eng.* 2017). The system, which combines the latest single-channel automatic speech-separation algorithms into the auditory attention-decoding platform, automatically separates the individual speakers in the mixture it receives, and determines which speaker is being listened to using the listener's neural signals. It then amplifies the attended speaker's voice to assist the listener. The process is completed in less than 10 seconds." (Thanks to Terri Charles for finding this article.)

Registration is now open for Fall ASL classes sponsored by the Center for Living and Working in Worcester. For more information, contact Kim White at kwhite@centerlw.org

What are you reading?



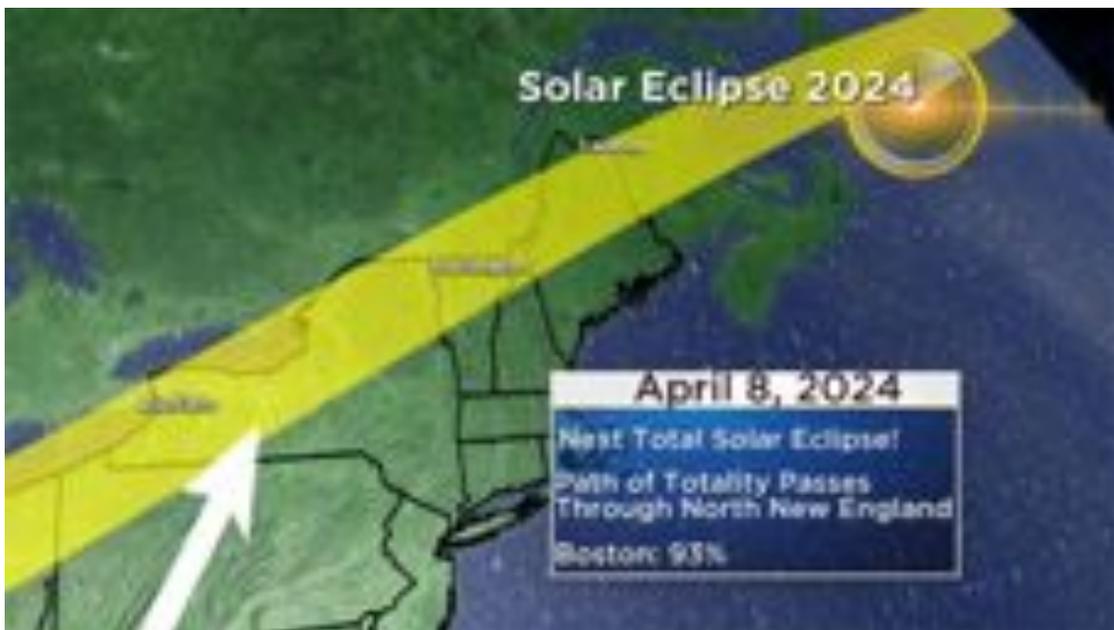
The London Review of Books Blog of July 21, 2017 has a fascinating article about Nicaraguan Sign Language written by John Perry. The full article is at

https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2017/07/21/john-perry/nicaraguan-sign-language/?utm_source=LRB+blog+email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20170725+blog&utm_content=usca_subs

Nicaraguan Sign Language is now an internationally recognized sign language. “Judy Kegl, a US sign language expert, established in 1986 that a structured language had emerged.” “A language has been born before our eyes,” Steven Pinker wrote in The Language Instinct. Pinker, a cognitive scientist, argues that “humans are born with an innate capacity for language.”

(Many, many thanks to Valerie Burrows for sending on this article.)

Save the date for Boston’s Total Eclipse Celebration!



ALDA Boston does not endorse any product or services.