



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – January 2017

Another fantastic New Year's Brunch was held at the Westford Regency on January 15th. Heidi Reed, our wonderful Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH), began the program with an overview of activities that are coming up and encouraged ALDA members to tune in to the governor's speech and the proposed budget as it relates to the Commission. **The Annual State House Day will be on March 13.** Three areas that the Commission is currently focusing on are access to healthcare, independence, and resilience in times of crisis. In addition, the Commission has also stepped up its work with training and building awareness among the police. Lou Sakin mentioned that over the past few years, he and Linda had talked with people in other states about resources for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and that we don't realize how lucky we are to have the Commission as well as all the other resources here in Massachusetts.



Our guest speaker, Megan D. Ford, AuD, CCC-A, FAAA then spoke. She had been asked to talk about how hearing aids have changed over the years and some of the challenges with today's new hearing aid technology. Megan gave a little history about herself and how she came to open up her own practice in Littleton called HearSmart Audiology. She brought with her examples of the hearing aids that were being dispensed in the 1990s and how small they had gotten over the years. She mentioned that the biggest complaint was about batteries. High-tech hearing aids that are doing noise cancellation draw a lot on the battery.

Megan then talked about connectivity and wireless technology and managed care companies. She mentioned PCAST, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, which has recommended that hearing aids be made more accessible by allowing the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids without requiring a hearing test and medical clearance. Megan also mentioned bundling and unbundling so that clients will know what the fees are for devices, insurance, programming, etc. After an hour of speaking, we had to let Megan stop, or the questions might have continued for another hour.



A heartfelt thank you to Heidi, Megan, and Nancy Eaton, our CART reporter, for an impressive morning.



January is Membership Renewal Time

Many thanks to those who have already renewed their membership. The 2017 membership fee remains at \$15.00. What better bargain could you ask for?? If you haven't yet renewed, please take a moment to do so now. Our address is at the top of the ALDAgram.

Upcoming ALDA Events

Saturday afternoon, February 18, will be a Valentine's Day musicale at Lou and Linda Sakin's home. Betty Hauck will tell her story of hearing loss and will do a little tone testing so that we will be able to see if we can hear the range of tones from very high to mellow alto. CART will be provided. Bring your favorite chocolate treat to share. Space is limited, so RSVP to Louis Sakin at louissakin@aol.com or call 508-620-1148 (Voice/TTY)

On **Saturday afternoon, April 8**, we will be treated to a professional historical interpretation of "First Ladies from Martha Washington to Frances Clara Cleveland." This show looks at the personal and private details of our very public First Ladies. The presentation will take place at the Framingham library. CART will be provided. The Annual Business Meeting will follow.

Other Events of Interest

The next Bionic Ear Association (BEA) meeting will be on Sunday, March 19 from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Watertown Free Public Library, 123 Main Street, Watertown, MA. A panel of members will talk about what processor programs and assistive devices work best for them. For more information, contact Barbara Abineri, BEA chapter leader, at barbabineri@gmail.com

On Saturday, March 12, HLAA Boston will present a workshop conducted by representatives of three implant companies: Advanced Bionics, Cochlear Americas, and Med-El. The workshop will give participants an opportunity to learn about and experience online auditory training options. MA Eye and Ear Infirmary 3rd floor, 234 Charles Street, Boston.

The next tour will be on **Sunday, February 5**: Americas: Making Modern



“A five-gallery exhibition on the third floor of the MFA’s Art of the Americas Wing explores what it meant to be in the vanguard of Modern art in the 20th century. From Frida Kahlo to Jackson Pollock, original voices of Modern artists working in the Americas were influenced by a variety of contemporaries, teachers, rivals, and friends. Incorporating diverse sources of inspiration, 20th-century painters took their artistic practice in dramatic new directions. Each gallery represents a moment—from Mexico City to New York to Boston—illustrating the evolution of Modern art in North America. Featuring new acquisitions, rarely seen loans, and masterpieces from the MFA’s collection, the installations provide fresh perspectives on Modern artists working in the 20th century.”

If you haven’t registered yet, please do so immediately since the tour is almost filled. Registration closes on Friday, January 27th.

There is no tour in March.

Accessible Theater



Broadway in Boston

Tickets to *Cabaret* are now on sale. The open-captioned performance is on **Saturday, February 4 at 2 pm**. The ASL performance is on **Saturday, February 11 at 2pm**. The audio-described performance is on **Sunday, February 5 at 1 pm**.

Tickets to *Curious Incident* are also on Sale. The open-captioned performance is on Saturday, March 11 at 2pm. The ASL performance is on Saturday, March 18 at 2pm. The audio-described performance is on Sunday, March 12 at 1 pm.

Performances are at the Boston Opera House. For tickets, go to:

<https://oss.ticketmaster.com/aps/ccet/EN/buy/browse> or get tickets by phone at 617-880-2419 or in person at the Box Office, 539 Washington Street, Boston

American Repertory Theater

Purchase your tickets for ASL Interpreted, Open Captioned, Audio Described, or Sensory Friendly performances via phone at 617.547.8300, in person at the Loeb Drama Center, 54 Brattle Street, or by email at ticketsservices@amrep.org and let the customer service representative know which performances you are interested in. Ticket Services hours are Tuesday-Sunday from noon - 5PM, or until 1/2 hour prior to curtain.

Trans Scripts, Part I: The Women

Audio Described: Feb. 2, 7:30PM & Feb. 5, 2PM
Open Captioned: Feb. 2, 7:30PM & Feb. 5, 2PM
ASL Interpreted: Feb. 1, 7:30PM & Feb. 4, 2PM

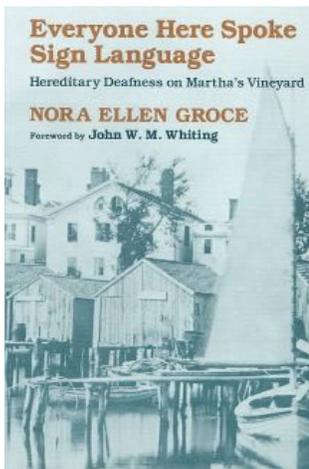
The Night of the Iguana

Audio Described: Mar. 16, 7:30PM & Mar. 18, 2PM
Open Captioned: Mar. 16, 7:30PM & Mar. 18, 2PM
ASL Interpreted: Mar. 12, 2PM & Mar. 15, 7:30PM

Trinity Repertory Company

A Midsummer's Night Dream will be open captioned on Sunday, February 12 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25 each with the code "OC:" For more information regarding Open Caption Performances and other accessible programming, click [here](#) or contact the box office at 401-351-4242. Providence, RI is only an hour away by train or car.

What are you reading?



“From the seventeenth century to the early years of the twentieth, the population of Martha's Vineyard manifested an extremely high rate of profound hereditary deafness. In stark contrast to the experience of most deaf people in our own society, the Vineyarders who were born deaf were so thoroughly integrated into the daily life of the community that they were not seen--and did not see themselves--as handicapped or as a group apart. Deaf people were included in all aspects of life, such as town politics, jobs, church affairs, and social life. How was this possible?

On the Vineyard, hearing and deaf islanders alike grew up speaking sign language. This unique sociolinguistic adaptation meant that the usual barriers to communication between the hearing and the deaf, which so isolate many deaf people today, did not exist. “

Medical Anthropologist Nora Ellen Groce, who wrote the book, grew up in Chilmark. The book was published in 1985, but there is now interest in reviving sign, as indicated in the article ““Reviving Sign Language on Martha’s Vineyard is Person and Historical Mission” by Alison L. Mead. The article appeared in the *Vineyard Gazette* on December 22, 2016. You can read the article at

<https://vineyardgazette.com/news/2016/12/22/reviving-sign-language-island-personal-and-historical-mission>



<https://www.facebook.com/ALDA-Boston-218441261508504/>

Join us on Facebook and share your favorite way to stay warm.

ALDA Boston does not endorse any product or services.