



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – January 2018

A great group of 30 hearty ALDA members braved the cold to attend our annual ALDA Boston brunch on Sunday, January 7. New member Joan Marcous came down from Manchester, NH with Eleanor McPherson Shafer and new member Sandy Spekman and her husband Hyman came up from Plymouth, MA. We missed the other 15 of you who were ill and unable to attend.

Commissioner Heidi Reed welcomed everyone and brought us up-to-date about what MCDHH is doing, including helping those with traumatic hearing loss and victims of crime.

Bridget O’Sullivan Somogie, Esq. from the Massachusetts Securities Division then spoke about consumer protection. She urged us to be aware of scams such as lottery scams and grandparent scams. In fact, just last week, a couple in Beverly, MA lost \$60,000 in just such a grandparent scam.

We enjoyed many trips to the buffet areas. Omelets were very popular.





Reminder: ALDA Boston dues have gone up as of January 1, 2018. We held individual dues at \$15.00 for fifteen years, but increased costs for CART, the website, and other operating expenses justify the increase. The new rates are \$20 for individual members and \$30 for professional members. Dues may be sent to the ALDA Boston post office at the address above.



Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

We are waiting for the 2018 Spring schedule of accessible guided tours. Stay tuned!

Accessible Theater



Below is the schedule for January and February. The full 2017-2018 schedule is on the **ALDA Boston** website (www.aldaboston.org)

American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

HEAR WORD! Naija Woman Talk True

Open Captioned: Feb. 8, 7:30PM & Feb. 11 @ 2:00PM

Audio Described: Feb. 9, 7:30PM & Feb. 11 @ 2:00PM

Trinity Repertory Theater, Providence RI

The following performances are open captioned:

Into the Breeches!: January 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Othello: February 18, 2018 at 2:00 pm

New Repertory Theatre, Watertown

All performances in the main stage theater are looped. The next production in the main stage theater, *The Bakelite Masterpiece*, will be performed in March.

Boston Opera House

Get tickets in person: Boston Opera House Box Office, 539 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111.
Box Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm. Get tickets by phone: (617) 880-2419

For Accessibility information for the Boston Opera House, go to
<https://www.bostonoperahouse.com/buying-tickets/accessibility.asp>

LOVE NEVER DIES

Open Captioned Performance

Open Captions by c2

Saturday, February 3rd, 2pm

Tickets starting at \$44

Click [Here](#) for Open Caption Tickets

American Sign Language Performance

Saturday, February 10th, 2pm

Tickets starting at \$44

Click [Here](#) for ASL Tickets

Audio Described Performance

Description by Laura Willis

Sunday, February 4th at 1pm

Tickets starting at \$44

Click [Here](#) for Audio Described Tickets

WAITRESS

Open Captioned Performance

Open Captions by c2

Saturday, February 24th, 2pm

Tickets starting at \$44

Click [Here](#) for Open Caption Tickets

American Sign Language Performance

Saturday, March 3rd, 2pm

Tickets starting at \$44

Click [Here](#) for ASL Tickets

Audio Described Performance

Description by Laura Willis

Sunday, February 25th at 1pm

Tickets starting at \$44

Click [Here](#) for Audio Described Tickets



SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, March 8, 2018
10 am – 12 pm

A gathering of Statewide Advisory Council members, community members, legislators, and state agency directors at the Great Hall, State House, Boston

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Annual
Day**
Program and annual awards

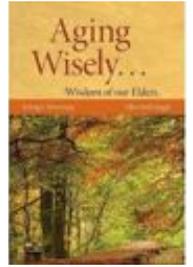
For more information and/or to request close vision/tactile interpreters:
Ami.Hanigan@MassMail.State.MA.US. Deadline for communication access requests is: February 8, 2017

Afternoon Legislative Visits:

Meet with your legislators to discuss community concerns and bills of interest. Schedule your visits in advance: find your legislators' names and contact information on the web at <https://malegislature.gov>. To request communication access: contact the ADA Coordinator at the State House by email at carl.richardson@state.ma.us or via phone at 857-400-5502. Requests are due by February 22nd.

News of Note

Nancy Sonnabend has just had two chapters published in **Aging Wisely...Wisdom of Our Elders** by Irving I. Silverman and Ellen Beth Siegel. I recommend the book highly.



America's first national deaf television network relaunches. The Silent Network, the nation's first national television network geared to viewers who are deaf and hard of hearing, announced in a press release issued Oct. 26 that it has relaunched its television service. The Silent Network will present all programming in sign language, open captioning, and full sound, granting accessibility to everyone. The revival is the result of a new partnership between the Media Data Network (Las Vegas, Nev.) and the Deaf Television Foundation (Austin, Texas), which operates The Silent Network. To view more, go to http://thesilentnetwork.tv/?page_id=502



Kyle DeCarlo, the Managing Founder of Deaf Health Initiative, was recently interviewed by Beth Doane, contributor to HuffPost. Read this very important work at https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/huffington-post-qa-with-kyle-decarlo_us_5a11ecc6e4b023121e0e9418 According to DeCarlo, the end goal with the Deaf Health Initiative is to simply improve health outcomes in the Deaf population – to improve the hospital experience for deaf and hard of hearing patients, encourage more deaf/hard of hearing students to pursue a career in STEM, reduce health disparities within the Deaf population, and to consult with healthcare organizations on best policies and practices for sign language users.

An innovative gene editing method may prevent deafness, according to *Medical News Today* (21 December 2017). Researchers at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, MD, have now used precise genome editing technology called CRISPR-Cas9 on a mouse model to remove a gene variant that can lead to total loss of hearing. "We hope that the work will one day inform the development of a cure for certain forms of genetic deafness in people," says David Liu, one of the researchers involved with the study. Liu and colleagues detail the process and their findings in a paper published in the journal *Nature*.