

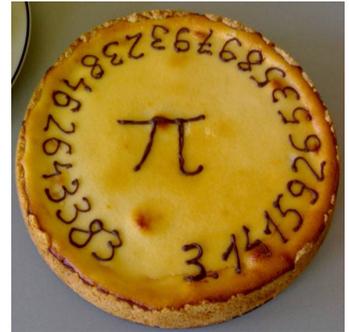


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ALDAgram – March 2015

Saturday is Pi day. Pi Day is celebrated every year, but this year is special. 3.1415 comes only once a century. And if you include the time of 9.26 a.m. and p.m., you add three more digits to Saturday's pi: 3.1415926. In math terms, pi is an irrational number and cannot be expressed as a ratio of integers. Even though the weather may get cold again, there's no better time to practice making a pie for our rescheduled chocolate madness on May 23.



It's Still Membership Renewal Time

Thank you to Lydia Kaufman, Evelyn Flaherty, and Sherri Wile for renewing their 2015 membership. And a very special thanks to Marie Callahan, who has paid her 2016 dues!!!

Many thanks also to Joan Rothney, who made a donation to ALDA Boston "for all your good works."

Alas, the mailbox was not stuffed with renewals the last time I was there. But if you haven't yet renewed, please do so now. Next week, the new slate of officers for 2015-2017 will be sent out, and only paid up members will be able to vote. The ALDA address is at the top of the ALDAgram, so please take out your pen while you're reading this and write a check. You won't get any phone calls to remind you, but you may get a note from Matt Ferrara, our treasurer. You are the voice of ALDA, and we are only as strong as our members.





Upcoming ALDA Events

Sunday afternoon, April 12, will be a variation on a high tea with scones and savories at the home of Ann Tanona in Natick. Megan Ford, Aud. of HearSmart Audiology in Littleton, MA will be our guest speaker. She will discuss dealing with insurance for hearing aids and CIs as well as how to buy hearing aids. Ann has once again generously opened her home to ALDA members and friends. If you haven't been there before, you are in for a treat. Ellen Bailey has designed a delicious-looking flyer that will be in your mailbox shortly.

The Annual Business meeting and Election of Officers will take place after Megan's talk. This year, we are sending out the ballots for the Election of Officers via email. Nominations must be received by March 20th. The ballots will be sent out on March 21st or March 22nd and can be returned by simply hitting "reply."

Saturday, May 23rd is our rescheduled Valentine's Day Chocolate Madness and Panel Discussion at the Lexington library. The flyer will be sent out next month, but mark that calendar now.

Other Events of Interest

April 14th is Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day at the State House, so keep on adding events to your calendar. We are delighted that Peggy Ellertsen will receive the Advocate Award this year.

Save the Date for the 10th Biennial Northeast Cochlear Implant Convention 2015 July 17-19, 2015. The convention will again be at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, on the shores of Cedar Lake. For more information, go to www.neciconvention2015.org

Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2015

Registration is now closed for the March 21st tour. April's tour, "Art in Bloom," will take place on Friday, April 24th. This year especially, everyone will be looking forward to seeing flowers in April.

Please note that the May tour date has been changed to Sunday, May 17th so that it does not conflict with our Chocolate Frenzy and panel.

Theater Tickets

The next open-captioned performance at the Boston Opera House is “Dirty Dancing” on Saturday, May 2, at 2:00. Performances are at the Citi Performing Arts Center Emerson Theater, Boylston Street, Boston. For tickets, go to http://boston.broadway.com/accessible_services/

Trinity Repertory Theatre in Providence has made arrangements with C2 Captioning Company to provide open captioned performances of “A Flea in her Ear” on Sunday 4/12 at 2:00. Tickets are available by phone at (401) 351-4242 and in person at the theater’s box office. All seats for this performance are \$22. Be sure to specify Open Caption seating.

News of Note

Wireless Technology to Improve Communication in Noise, presented in partnership with Seminars in Hearing. This webinar series features highlights from the journal *Seminars in Hearing* (2014, Vol. 35, issue 3) on the topic of wireless technology to provide the best possible hearing and rehabilitation solutions for people of all ages, both those with hearing loss and those with special needs.

Phil Hyssong, one of the founders of Alternative Communication Services (ACS) LLC, EduCAPTION (EC), LLC and PostCAP (PC), LLC was recently appointed by the FCC to the Video Programming Subcommittee of the Disability Advisory Committee. The Disability Advisory Committee was established by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Video Programming Sub-Committee is charged with addressing the issue of video programming access (including closed captioning, video description, access to video programming apparatus, and access to televised emergency information.

The Accessible Technology Coalition (ATC) offers free webinars every month. The webinars are listed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ATCoalition/info?tab=overview>

There is an excellent list of financial aid resources for hearing technology on the AG Bell Listening and Spoken Language Knowledge Center. Go to <http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org/Document.aspx?id=859>

From Caitlin Parton, Esq., Staff Attorney, Disability Law Center, Inc.:

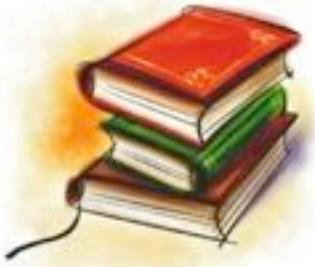
“The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and four deaf and hard of hearing individuals have sued Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for failing to caption the vast array of online content they make available to the general public.

“Harvard and MIT offer an incredible amount of information online in video, podcast, or other formats with audio, but much of it is uncaptioned or inaccurately captioned. This content is not limited to courses - there are videos of campus talks by the likes of President Obama and campus visits by stars such as Lady Gaga, cooking classes, educational videos intended for K-12 students, "self-help" talks, morning prayers, and so much more. We are asking the court to order Harvard and MIT to caption their online content.

“We are looking for deaf and hard of hearing individuals who would be interested in participating in our cases against Harvard and MIT as class members.

“Do you use closed captioning? Have you tried to watch videos on the internet and can't because they are not captioned? Would you be more likely to watch videos if they had captioning?”

Please email Caitlin if you would be interested in participating. Her email address is cparton@dlc-ma.org. She would like a response by the end of the month.



In January, I said that I had not yet read *Burn Down the Ground* by Kambri Crews. After I sent the ALDAgram, member Paul Wummer wrote that he had heard Kambri Crews speak at an ALDA meeting in New Jersey a few years ago and was astounded by her talk. *Burn Down the Ground* is a memoir of a young girl growing up in rural Texas with deaf parents. I read the book in two days and was astounded also. It is definitely worth reading.

Irene Kalfon has recommended this month's selection, *Song Without Words: Discovering My Deafness Halfway through Life* by Gerald Shea. From the description on Amazon: *Song without Words* tells the astonishing story of a man who, at the age of thirty-four, discovered that he had been deaf since childhood, yet somehow managed to navigate his way through Andover, Yale, and Columbia Law School, and to establish a prestigious international legal career. Gerald Shea [has written] a witty and candid memoir of how he compensated for his deafness--through sheer determination and an amazing ability to translate the melody of vowels.

Here's a little taste of spring from



ALDA Boston does not endorse any product or services.