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May has been designated as Better Hearing and Speech Month for more than 76 years. We must continue to make others aware of how loss of hearing and speech affect people. One of my favorite quotes of Helen Keller is “Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people.”

Think back to when you first got your hearing aid or implant. What were some of the sounds you heard? Here are a few on www.raiseyourhand.info. “My favorite sound is the chirping of crickets on a warm summer night.” “My favorite sound is popping popcorn....” “My favorite sound is the wind rustling through the trees.”



May is also a busy month because we are getting ready for **Celebration '16 on June 5**. Celebration '16 is a collaboration between ALDA Boston and HLAA Boston to honor the Hearing Loss Support Groups of New England. If you haven't replied to your invitation yet, please do so soon so that we have enough refreshments for everyone.

Our Annual 4th of July Picnic and Barbecue



This year's get together will be a pre-4th of July picnic to be held on Sunday, June 26th at the home of Jeanne Kennedy on Wayside Inn Road in Framingham. Details will be coming soon,. Please save the date NOW.

Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2016

The next accessible tour at the MFA will be on June 18th. You should have received an email telling you how to register. There will be no tour in July; tours will resume in August.

Two of my favorite floral displays at Art in Bloom 2016 were Reed Organ and Three Sisters of the Copeland Family.



News of Note

The Spring 2016 **What's Up** newsletter from The Center for Living and Working is filled with lots of information. For a copy, email Kim White at kwhite@centerlw.org

Hearing Health's Spring 2016 issue is also filled with lots of important information. "The Pros and Cons of PSAPs by Elizabeth Stump is definitely worth reading. "The debate over personal sound amplification products (PSAPs) includes issues of cost, safety, efficacy, and regulation. Where does that leave the consumer?" To receive a free subscription to Hearing Health, go to www.hhf.org/subscribe

"New brain research may help treat single-sided deafness," according to a paper published in *Medical News Today* on May 23, 2016. To read further, go to <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/310203.php>



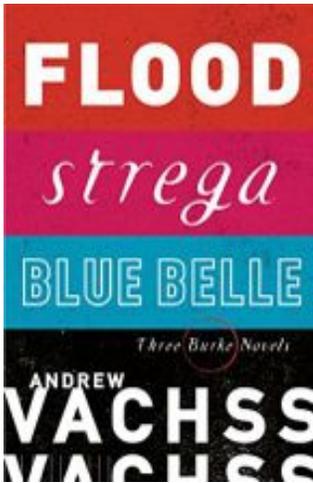
Caption Massachusetts. Caption Massachusetts is a brand new organization created to help provide access to open-captioned movies. Caption Massachusetts will regularly set up open-captioned movies and plays across the state. Primarily using Regal theaters, popular movies as well as movies voted upon by people who follow Caption Massachusetts on Facebook, will have open-captioning movie dates that will be available for all the public to attend across the Bay State. Currently, Caption Massachusetts is working to get the following upcoming movies an open-captioned date: *The Jungle Book* (which was already open-captioned in Westborough), *Captain America*, *Finding Dory*, *Independence Day: Resurgence*, *The Legend of Tarzan*, and more! Sign up for Caption Massachusetts' e-mail newsletter here <http://eepurl.com/bZgcVz>. The best way to get alerted to events is to follow the Facebook page. While you are on the Facebook page, consider turning all notifications from the page in order to subscribe to events and get alerted on every single event. Caption Massachusetts is run by Evan Brunell, who organized a *Batman v. Superman* open-captioned showing in March. He has been active in the deaf community all his life and particularly over the past eight years, organizing events and leading seminars. For more information, go to captionmassachusetts@gmail.com



Vote on Movie Theater Locations

Caption Massachusetts is currently performing a poll to determine which movie theaters the organization should concentrate its efforts on. While all theaters will receive outreach for open-captioned movies, the results of this poll will allow us to determine where to best concentrate our efforts. [Please vote here](#). The poll will remain open indefinitely so people can continue sharing their preferences.

What are you reading?



I haven't read any of Andrew Vachss' books, but he has written a great many (33 novels alone). He is probably best known for his Burke series. In that series, Burke meets and adopts as his brother a man known as Max the Silent. Max is a Mongolian warrior who is deaf and doesn't speak. "Burke is one of the most cold-blooded yet strangely honorable protagonists in the history of crime fiction, an outlaw who makes his living by preying on the most vicious of New York City's bottom-feeders, those who thrive on the suffering of the defenseless."

If anyone has read any of Vachss' books, please let me know so that we can share your review.

Wishing you a safe

**Memorial Day
Weekend**