



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – November 2015

The New England Walk for Hearing on October 25 was once again a wonderful time to get together for a worthy cause. Our ALDA Boston captains, Alice and John Costa, did a fantastic job of collecting donations that will be used to provide CART services for us. Here are some of our walkers. Do you recognize them?





(photo by Peggy Ellertsen)

Here is Captain Alice, MFA tour guide extraordinaire Karen Moss, and circus performer Patricia Holland.





Upcoming ALDA events.

Flyers will be coming closer to the date.



Karen (Keefe) Pebbles' story, Part 2

[*In Their Own Words*, ALDA Presidents, 1990-2015, is a new publication from ALDA Inc. Karen (Keefe) Pebbles, who was ALDA Boston president for several years and ALDA Inc. President in 2006, was involved with moving to Texas and missed the publication deadline. The second part of her story is printed here.]

My experience of being on both the Boston chapter of ALDA and the national board of ALDA was like day and night. Between the two, I've gained knowledge. I favored the chapter over national partly because we were closer and worked well together effectively. My chapter leadership skills didn't quite match the national. With our hearing loss, it was difficult to communicate long distance via emails/texts and keeping everyone in line to help ALDA moving forward. ALDA Inc. is a volunteer organization. To run and oversee the national board requires thick skin and grits. I didn't quite have it in me at the time. So being on the local chapter was fun. I had the pleasure of working with many different board members of ALDABoston - Matthew Ferrara, Jonathan Motts (deceased), Ellen (Bailey) Perkins, Carol Ann Menton, Carol Hilbinger, Tina Thompson, Danielle (Thompson) Oaches, Michael laPensee, Lou and Linda Sakin, David and Sally Cohen, John Lawrence, Francine Stieglitz, and too many others to list here. And not to forget to mention the wonderful, supportive CART Providers- Nancy Eaton and Stefanie Farrell.

My time on both the chapter and national level has given me the opportunity to learn the strength to heal and to grow strong. For that, I am forever grateful to those whom I've met and whose lives have touched me in many ways. From that experience, I have given back through both my line of work and in every day living. I work for CaptionCall, a captioned phone company that empowers people with "life is calling" experience. It's rewarding watching the smiles, the tears and the laughter manifest from sad faces of those who thought their lives of phone usage was long over. Love it!

My wishes for ALDABoston and ALDA, Inc., are for them to continue with their mission of educating, advocating, resourcing and supporting (EARS) the lives of those struggling with hearing loss. Show them the way, show the light at the end of the tunnel, show them that there is life after hearing loss. Give back what ALDA has given you.

In closing, you all are not far from my thoughts and prayers. New England is and always will be in my blood. I will continue to support the Patriots (no matter what they are guilty of) and the Red Sox. Let's look out for each other both on Facebook and at annual ALDAcons. Until then, stay well and be well. Much love to you all.

Karen (Keefe) Pebbles

News of Note

Valarie Roe Burrows has sent in a fascinating article from of *The Atlantic* titled ‘How a Musician Copes with Career-Ending Hearing Loss’ by Janet Horvath. Definitely worth reading at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/10/a-musician-afraid-of-sound/411367/>

Irene Kalfon shared an article in October 15th issue of *The Boston Globe* titled ‘Startup Targets Hearing Loss.’ Read the full article at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2015/10/14/third-rock-ventures-launches-startup-develop-hearing-loss-treatments/fXhqxTHV5JhCoyFsk425uI/story.html>

‘Inner ear gene discovery offers clues about restoring hearing, balance.’ Read the *Medical News Today* article at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/301570.php?tw>

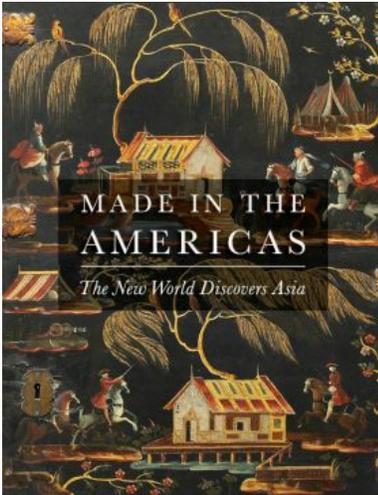
Healthy Hearing offers several suggestions on how to trouble shoot common hearing aid problems in their newsletter. Go to: <http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/50736-Troubleshooting-common-hearing-aid-problems>

2015 Citizens Legislative Seminar

ALDA Board member Linda Sakin sent in this report on the 2015 Legislative Seminar:

‘‘For two days in October I traveled to Boston to attend the Citizens Legislative Seminar at the Massachusetts State House along with forty other citizens each nominated by their state senator. These two days were tightly scheduled sessions to introduce us to the complex process of how a bill becomes a law. For me, there were three highlights of this interactive learning process. First, we had the opportunity to be part of a mock senate session with a debate and vote for an actual senate bill. The second activity was a docent tour of the State House with a brief history of the State House. The third item that was important was a detailed discussion of the best practices for effective legislative advocacy. Included was a review of a bill’s passage through committees, debate to vote, and governor’s signing. Added to these items were sessions with many senate personalities as well as individuals from the State Archives, senate committees and the director of the Edward Kennedy Institute. The entire experience is repeated at least once each year. I would encourage anyone who wants to be an active citizen to consider becoming part of this learning experience.’’

Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2015



The last ALD tour of 2015 will be on Saturday, December 19. As our fabulous tour guide Karen Moss says, “**Made in the Americas** is worth seeing because there are connections between what we have just seen in *Class Distinctions* and the *Made in the Americas* exhibit in terms of global exploration and trade.”

Registration details have been sent to ALDA members.

Remembering Diane Nettles

Diane Nettles passed away at the end of October. MCDHH Commissioner Heidi Reid has written the following remembrance of Diane:

Diane was well known for her steadfast advocacy and leadership within the Deaf community in western Massachusetts. She was an active member of the MCDHH Statewide Advisory Council (SAC), and was very dedicated in traveling to Boston to represent western MA concerns in countless meetings. As a SAC member, Diane and her husband Lee chaired the planning committee for the very successful first State House Day, which has now evolved into our annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents Day at the State House. She brought in sponsorship funds that made it possible to support the State House Day with keynote speakers and host a roundtable discussion with Deaf and Hard of Hearing advocates from across the state. She served as President of the Western Massachusetts Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (WMADHI) and led the organization in legislative advocacy as well as in convening social and cultural events, which bring the community together for information sharing, support, and fun. She was among the advocates who partnered with the National Association of the Deaf to pursue legal action which is resulting in captioning of online college courses. Most recently, Diane retired from her career in human services within the state of CT, and was an active volunteer advocate with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services (DHILS) which is a program of Stavros and serves Springfield and surrounding communities.... We remember Diane with tremendous gratitude for the truly caring person she was, and for her commitment, courage, enthusiasm, and love with which she brought perspective and advocacy to improve and strengthen services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in MA.



Happy Thanksgiving Day!



ALDA Boston does not endorse any product or services.