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### **ALDAgram – April 2015**



Besides having to pay income tax in April, New England celebrates Patriots Day and the running of the Boston Marathon. If you are an early riser, you can watch the reenactment of the first battle in Lexington if you get to the Battle Green by 4:00 in the morning. Then it's time to watch the Marathon. This year, a dozen runners in their 80s are signed up to make the 26.2-mile trek from Hopkinton to Boston. They come from eight different states. Jimmy Green from Marblehead is the only local octogenarian. The only woman over 80 in the race is Katherine Beiers, a former mayor of Santa Cruz, California.

Donations to Boston Strong are now being given to the One Fund Center at Mass General. to help cover medical procedures for survivors of the 2013 bombing.

### **There's still time to renew your ALDA Membership....**

Many thanks to those who have renewed their 2015 membership since the last ALDAgram was printed: Bijan Afshartous, Charles Barnes, Merlyn Cajolet, Mary Ellen Eastridge, Renee Hecht, Carol Hilbinger, Marylyn Howe, Carol Keenan, Jeanne Kennedy, Irene Kalfon-Shein, Rebecca Lenick, Ann Maderer, Melvin Mallock, Lee Salvucci, William Smith, Kathleen Strutt, Terri Loewenthal, Geoff Weaver, Harriet Wollman.

And grateful appreciation for donations from Charles Barnes and Terri Loewenthal. Marylyn Howe, our erstwhile ALDA Inc. president who now resides in Georgia, has already paid her 2016 dues, as have Marie Callahan and Board member Al Maurer. You all rock!

## Meeting with Megan

If you missed the Meeting with Megan on Sunday, April 12th, you missed a wonderful afternoon. The sun was out in full force and contributed to a delightful and informative afternoon with Megan Ford, AuD. Alas, the photos did not come out except for this one of our hostess Ann Tanona, who is resting after baking for the previous seven days. Next time, we will make sure that no one eats lunch ahead of time. There were so many delicious tea sandwiches, various kinds of scones, all kinds of cookies, all kinds of teas, and much more.



“Navigating Insurance for Hearing Aids” was the title of Dr. Ford’s presentation, and she provided a lot of information in an easy to understand format. She had several handouts, and we will have extras at our next meeting. For example, I didn’t know what a Hearing Instrument Specialist (HIS) was, and Megan explained the difference between a Hearing Instrument Specialist and an Audiologist.

This year, ALDA Boston’s 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with more delicious treats at Ann’s house, and we all sang Happy Birthday to ALDA. For the first time ALDA elections were done by email. The three incumbents for election were re-elected, and the Board decided to keep their same positions for 2015-2016.



## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day

On Tuesday, May 14, many of us were at the State House for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day. It was good to be able to connect with friends and acquaintances we hadn't seen in some time, but all of us came together for a good cause. According to Commissioner Heidi Reed, "Tuesday's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day at the State House has been described as the best ever. Almost 250 people attended; the most participants since we began hosting an annual State House Day."



Our Cart Reporter Nancy Eaton was a recipient of the Outstanding Service Provider award. Here she is accepting the award from State Senator Jason Lewis of Reading



Accepting one of the Outstanding Advocate Awards this year is Peggy Ellertsen, HLAA and ALDA Boston Member. Here is Peggy with Commissioner Heidi Reed and Kelly Kim, chair of the Statewide Advisory Council to MCDHH.

(photos by Jonathan O'Dell)

## Upcoming ALDA Events



Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory will be closed during Memorial Day Weekend. Therefore, we are postponing our panel discussion until September.

## Other Events of Interest

On Saturday, May 9th, psychologist Sam Trychin and audiologist Dusty Jessen will present "*Communication Strategies for Listeners with Hearing Loss and Their Communication Partners: How to Make It Work*". Cornerstone Village Common House, 175 Harvey Street, Cambridge, MA. Space is limited. Register with Carol Agate at [carolagate@me.com](mailto:carolagate@me.com)

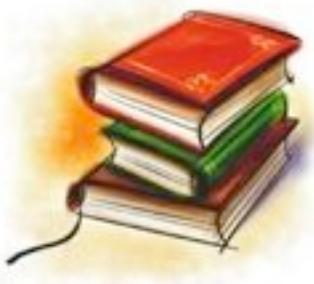
## Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2015

It is time to register for the DaVinci tour, which will be on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Sundays are usually quieter than Saturdays, so that should make hearing better. Sign up at [lwarren@mfa.org](mailto:lwarren@mfa.org) today! Registration closes on May 1.

## News of Note

“Boston Marathon Bombing Survivors Deal With Lingering, Invisible Injury: Tinnitus.” You can listen to the six-minute talk and/or read it here at <http://wgbhnews.org/post/boston-marathon-bombing-survivors-deal-lingering-invisible-injury-tinnitus>. It is not captioned but the print portion is the same as what is spoken.

From Hearing Health Foundation E-News: **Where in the World are my Closed Captions? Read the quality rules for closed captions at** <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=af8793c2-d3d8-432c-ad0b-da2d742c2a35&c=df31dd70-5fc5-11e3-b0b0-d4ae5275b546&ch=e01622f0-5fc5-11e3-b0c6-d4ae5275b546>



Mystery lovers among us will no doubt like reading *A Maiden's Grave* by Jeffery Deaver. I haven't finished the book yet, but here is a blurb from the back of the book: “Eight deaf girls and their teachers are pulled off a school bus along a windswept Kansas road. They are held hostage in an abandoned slaughterhouse by escaped murderer Lou Handy and two fellow inmates, who threaten to kill one hostage an hour unless their demands are met.”

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