



ALDAgram – May 2015

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. According to Lisa Packer, staff writer for *Healthy Hearing*, May has been dedicated as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the United States since its founding in 1927 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). President Ronald Reagan, who was the first president to be fitted with hearing aids while in office, authorized a congressional proclamation declaring May 1986 as Better Hearing and Speech Month, with the intent of raising awareness of hearing and speech disorders. Congress introduced a resolution declaring May 2004 to be National Hearing and Speech Month and commended those states that had implemented mandatory newborn hearing screenings. As of today 43 states, plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, have mandatory newborn hearing screenings, while the other seven states have an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program in place. (If you'd like to read Lisa Packer full article, go to <http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52440-Better-hearing-month->)



Thank You to Helene Ferrara, John Lawrence, Carol Menton, and Molly-Jane Rubinger for renewing their membership and for their donations to ALDA Boston.

Members on the Move

Former ALDA president and former ALDA Boston president Karen Keefe has moved to Texas, just outside of Austin. Karen will continue to work for Caption Call in the Houston area.

Paul Wummer, who would drive for seven hours from Pennsylvania for our Annual New Year's brunch, is moving to Portland, Oregon this summer, but he'll remain an ALDA Boston member even though it's unlikely that he'll be able to make it to the 2016 Annual Brunch.

Ears to You! Joan Rothney is the latest ALDA Boston member to receive a Cochlear Implant. Her surgery was done at University of Massachusetts Medical Center.



Upcoming ALDA Events

The annual ALDA 4th of July picnic and barbecue will take place on July 5th at the home of Lou and Linda Sakin. Mark your calendar now for **Sunday, July 5**, and look for the flyer in the next week or two. Admission will be by donation to one of the area food banks. This event is open to ALDA-Boston members and their families and friends only.

The twice-postponed panel discussion and Chocolate Madness will take place on **Saturday, September 26th** at the Lexington library. Did you write that down on your calendar?? There's no snow in the forecast.

Other Events of Interest

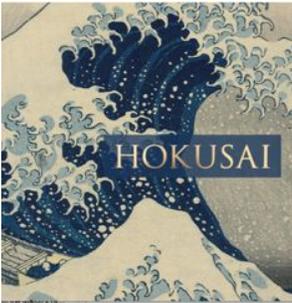
For May updates, workshops and class information from DEAF Inc., go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvtWsk9Gfyg&feature=youtu.be>

MCDHH is collaborating with the Disability Law Center and the Disability Policy Consortium in planning the next Listening Session Report meeting, which will be held in Worcester Union Station on May 30th from 10:30 – 1:00. RSVP before May 27 to MAIL@DLC-MA.ORG

The next meeting of the Bionic Ear Association will be on June 14th from 1 – 3 pm at the West Suburban YMCA, 276 Church Street, Newton. For more information and to RSVP, contact Chapter Leader Barbara Abineri barbabineri@gmail.com.

Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2015

The DaVinci tour on Friday, May 29 is filled. The next tour will be on June 20th. Registration for the Hokusai tour begins on Monday, May 26th and ends on June 6th. Since the museum wants to accommodate as many members as possible and since the number of assistive listening devices is limited, the museum will implement a policy of one guest per HLAA/ALDA member for the Hokusai tour and for all other tours going forward.



From MFA Preview: “The MFA’s Japanese art collection is the largest and finest outside Japan. Katsushika Hokusai’s print known as “The Great Wave” is a highlight of the upcoming exhibition ‘Hokusai.’ No other single image evokes the beauty and terror of nature as this one does.”



ALDAcon 2015 Scholarship

Desert Vibes

ALDA offers a limited number of scholarships to help defray the cost of attending an ALDAcon to those who need financial assistance. The scholarship covers the registration fee and the hotel room expense but does not cover travel expenses. Applicants must be members of ALDA, Inc. and current in their membership dues. Priority in awarding scholarships is given to first-time attendees of an ALDAcon. Contact Carolyn Piper at wicwas@wcvt.com to obtain a scholarship application and for any additional information or questions you may have. While email is preferred, you may also contact Carolyn at 82 Piper Place, Huntington, Vermont 05462. Please note: The deadline for submitting a scholarship application is **July 1, 2015**.

Train the Trainer Program

HAAA in partnership with Gallaudet University, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), and Hands & Voices, is seeking applicants for a consumer train-the-trainer program. If you are interested in becoming a consumer trainer please complete the application form found at the following link:

<http://websurveyor2.airws.org/Community/se.ashx?s=2511374545973A0A>

Applications are due on **JUNE 15, 2015**.

The Senate Ways & Means FY16 Budget

From Commissioner Heidi Reed: The budget, which has now been released, “allocates \$5,654,031 to MCDHH. This SWM allocation is above the Governor’s H.1 allocation and below the House Ways & Means allocation. Both the Governor’s H.1 Budget and the SWM Budget would require cost saving reductions including Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services (DHILS), Assistive Technology (AT) funding.... Updates will be shared as the FY16 Budget process moves forward.”

News of Note

Valarie Burrows has recommended reading “The Seventy-Seven-Year-Old Tech Bro Who Wants to Fix Your Hearing” in the May 5 issue of *The New Yorker*. Andrew Marantz has written a fascinating piece about Rodney Perkins, a former ear surgeon into California “whose most recent company is Soundhawk, which makes a Bluetooth headset that amplifies sound.” To read the full article, go to

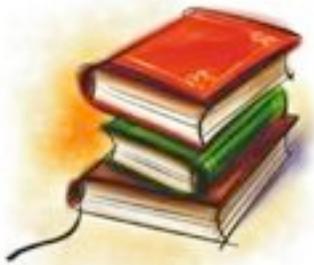
<http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/the-seventy-seven-year-old-tech-bro-who-wants-to-fix-your-hearing>

Ellen Perkins has suggested the article “Community Health Workers Bridge Gap to Hearing Loss Treatment” in the May 2015 issue of *The Hearing Journal*.

<http://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/pages/default.aspx>. “One-third of Americans age 65 to 74 and about half of those older than 75 have hearing loss, but only 20 percent of people who might benefit from treatment seek help. As a result, the need for innovative solutions to untreated hearing loss represents an urgent public health problem.

One innovative strategy that is just beginning to be tested in the United States is the use of trained community health workers (CHWs).” Ellen reports that MCDHH is looking into this.

Terri Charles shared the following article: “University of New South Wales researchers have discovered how the brain balances hearing between our ears.” According to UNSW Professor Gary Housley, the senior author of the research paper, "A major limitation of hearing aids and cochlear implants is their inability to work in tandem and support good hearing in noisy conditions.... The ultimate goal is for cochlear implants in both ears to communicate with each other so that the brain can receive the most accurate soundscape possible. This research will help us move closer to that goal." To read more, go to <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/293829.php>



I recently finished reading *A Maiden's Grave* by Jeffery Deaver and learned, among other things, what Signed Exact English (SEE) is. The book was made into an HBO movie starring James Garner and Marlee Matlin. Has anyone seen it?

This month's book, recommended by Nancy Eaton, is *Girl at War* by Sara Nović, set in Croatia. Besides writing fiction, Nović, who is deaf, teaches at Columbia University and has a deaf-rights website called *Redefined*. She says that she started the website as ‘an anger project, but a productive one.’ “She'd been reading some op-eds about parents of deaf kids advocating for cochlear implant surgery, and she wrote a counterpoint op-ed in response, but no one wanted it. So eventually she decided to publish it herself, and *Redefined* was born. To her surprise, ‘people are reading it!’ The topic is heated, she acknowledges, in part because it's usually the case that a deaf kid has hearing parents. That means ‘it's a weird kind of identity . . . you probably don't share it with your family.’ ”

ALDA Boston does not endorse any product or services.