



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

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ALDAgram – January 2016

ALDA BOSTON celebrated the start of 2016 with a fabulous holiday brunch at the Westford Regency. Commissioner Heidi Reed, Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, welcomed everyone and talked about what the Commission has planned for 2016 and what we can do to increase awareness of hearing loss. Caitlin Parton, Disability Law Center, who was the featured speaker, talked about advocacy and empowerment. Her talk sparked a lively Q & A discussion that might have gone on even longer but we had to vacate the room at 1:30. Many thanks to Lisa Nihan-Demeule for providing CART.







January is Membership Renewal Time

Many thanks to those who have already renewed their 2016 membership: Barbara Abineri, Carol Agate, Alan Clayman, Alice Costa, Jim Dalis, Peggy Ellertsen, Matt Ferrara, Moira Hennessey, Carol Hilbinger, Barbara Johnson, Lydia Kaufman, Gerri Lyons, Alfred Maurer, Carol Ann Menton (with a donation), Jim O'Donnell (with a donation), Ellen Perkins, Heidi Reed, Karen Rockow, Joan Rothney, Lee Salvucci, Gerard Sevigny, Lou Sakin, Linda Sakin (with a donation), Sue Schy, Terri Stewart, Tina Thompson, Rosemarie Trevani, Beth Wilson.

If you haven't yet renewed, please take a moment to do so now. Our address is at the top of the ALDAgram. You are the voice of ALDA, and we are only as strong as our members.

Welcome New Member Kate Phaneuf from Westford, MA. Carol Ann Menton, whom Kate met at a training course over the summer, suggested that Kate join ALDA. Kate graduated from BU School of Medicine and is on the BUSM Alumni Committee, where is she has been working on a project for the Medical School campus.

Upcoming ALDA Event --- February 13, 2016



“How to Talk with Your Legislators”

By now you should have received the flyer that describes the February 13th event, which will take place in the Large Meeting Room of the Lexington library. That room is looped, and CART will be provided. ALDA member Ellen Perkins, who is a Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer at the Center for Living & Working, Inc. and Statewide Advisory Council Member, will offer a mini-class titled “How to Talk to Your Legislators.” The class is similar to the mini-class that Ellen will be offering on Wednesday evening at the MDCDD office in Boston.

Don't forget to bring your favorite chocolate treat, and we'll provide the drinks.

Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours, 2016

There will be no tour in January. Registration is now open for the February 20th tour of the Pavilion galleries in the corners of the Americas Wing on L1 and L2. We'll be looking at decorative arts in style in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.



Oak Hill mansion (~1800) in South Danvers, MA designed by Samuel McIntire (1757-1811) of Salem, MA



George Jaffrey's home (1730's) in Portsmouth, NH

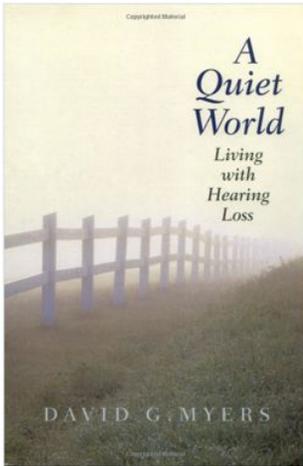
News of Note

The Winter 2016 issue of *Hearing Health* has so many good articles that it's difficult to highlight just one. There are several stories about Activism that begin "with just one individual who, in taking a stand—for accessibility, equal rights, or safe noise levels – is making a difference to many." If you have taken a stand for quiet, access, or equal rights, why not share your story. Submit your story to editor@hearinghealthmag.com. If you want a free subscription to *Hearing Health*, go to <http://hearinghealthfoundation.org/?pg=subscribe>

Speech Banana. Tilak Ratnanather is an associate research professor in biomedical engineering at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. Ratnanather, who got a cochlear implant in one ear in 2012 "to preempt the onset of age-induced loss of residual hearing," believes that without auditory training on a weekly basis, the CI is suboptimal. Consequently, he has developed *Speech Banana*, an app that is now available for the Apple iPad (and will eventually be available for other platforms). Why the name *Speech Banana*? Ratnanather says that the region of the audiogram that shows where human speech falls is shaped just like a banana. I downloaded the app the other day, and I can't wait to start using it for auditory training.

HLAA Strongly Supports Recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Council Report That Will Ease Restrictions on Hearing-Aid Access. As a result of these findings, the Council has made several recommendations. These include creating a class of hearing aids for over-the-counter sale, easing the restrictions on the marketing of Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs), and requiring hearing-aid dispensers who perform standard hearing tests and fittings to provide customers with a copy of their results at no cost and in a format that can be used by other dispensers and vendors. To read the full report, go to <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20151029006490/en/>

Katherine Bouton has written an excellent article in the latest issue of *AARP Health* about personal sound amplification products (PSAPs) and advances in technology. Titled "Earables" and More New Hearing Devices for 2016, Bouton reports that "new kinds of devices to improve hearing are booming." Read the article at <http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2016/hearing-aids-wearable-technology.html>



David G. Meyers' book *A Quiet World: Living with Hearing Loss* was published by Yale University Press in 2000, but its content is still relevant today. According to the blurb for the book, some 28 million people in America and 350 million people worldwide live with hearing loss. How do these people and their families cope? What are their experiences of pain, humor, and hope? What support do medicine and technology now offer them, and what is on the horizon? "In this engaging and practical book, David Myers, who has himself suffered gradual hearing loss, explores the problems faced by the hard of hearing at home and at work and provides information on the new technology and groundbreaking surgical procedures that are available.

"Drawing on both his own experiences and his expertise as a social psychologist, Myers recounts how he has coped with hearing loss and how he has incorporated technological aids into his life. The family and friends of the hard of hearing also face adjustments. Myers addresses their situation and provides advice for them on how best to alert loved ones to a hearing problem, persuade them to seek assistance, and encourage them to adjust to and use hearing aids."

COMING JUNE 5TH

CELEBRATION '16

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