



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – March 2018

Between nor'easters, snowstorms, and a blizzard, we had a wonderful presentation at the Lexington library last Saturday, March 10 by Jonathan O'Dell, Assistive Technology Manager/Training Specialist, MCDHH. Although the title of the presentation was "Coping with Hearing Loss," Jonathan gave us much to think about when using the word "coping." He said "how deeply entrenched we are in our cultural environment and how much of an effort it takes to reframe our narrative of how we see ourselves, how we are seen by others, and how we can and must upend both in order to get beyond the coping perspective."



If you haven't renewed your ALDA Boston dues yet, please send your dues (\$20) to the ALDA Boston Post Office, P.O. Box 600622, Newtonville, MA.

Upcoming ALDA Events:

Saturday, April 21, is ALDA Boston's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. We'll be meeting in the McAullife library in Framingham. Ellen Perkins will be presenting on Assistive Technology. CART will be provided. Refreshments at 1:30. The flyer will be coming soon. If you forget the date, go to the ALDA Boston website: www.aldaboston.org.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Annual Day was postponed because of the weather. We'll send out an email as soon as the new date is announced.



Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

Two Art in Bloom tours have been arranged for ALDA/HLAA members on Friday, April 27. One tour will be in the afternoon and the other will be in the early evening. Look for registration details on April 9.

The full schedule of tours is on the ALDA Boston website.



Accessible Theater

Below is the schedule for March - May. The full 2018 schedule is on the **ALDA Boston** website.

American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

The White Card

ASL Interpreted: March 17 at 2PM

Audio Described: March 18 at 2PM

Trinity Repertory Theater, Providence RI

The following performances are open captioned:

Native Gardens: April 8, 2018 at 2pm

Ragtime: April 29, 2018 at 2pm

Boston Opera House, Boston

On Your Feet

Open Captioned: Saturday, April 21 at 2 pm

ASL Interpreted: Saturday, April 28 at 2 pm

New Repertory Theater, Watertown

All performances in the main stage theater are looped.

The Bakelite Masterpiece, March 17 – April 8. Discount tickets are available for ALDA and HLAA members for the above production. The discount is good for \$15 off the regular price. Use the code Audio15.

Shubert Theater, Boston

The Humans

Open Captioned: Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 pm

ASL Interpreted: Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 pm

Hanover Theater, Worcester

The following shows will be ASL interpreted at the 6:30 performance:

Jersey Boys: March 18

Rent 20th Anniversary Tour: April 8

Bright Star: April 15

News of Note

Phonak has partnered with Advanced Bionics to develop a new microphone technology, MultiBeam Technology, that will help people with hearing aids and cochlear implants hear better in noise. By utilizing multiple microphones in six directions, MultiBeam Technology captures speech from 360 degrees, which is then calculated and compared. The direction with the best signal-to-noise ratio is automatically selected. Phonak said the technological processing complexity is almost 10 times higher than its previous technology, and the power consumption was reduced more than one-third with MultiBeam Technology, which has been in development since 2009. In a study conducted at the University of Dallas involving 10 participants, speech understanding improved up to 61 percent in a group conversation in 75 dBA of noise compared with that when using hearing aids alone in the same setting. Linda Thibodeau, PhD, who led the research, said this new technology will allow people with hearing challenges who have resigned from attending social functions, family gatherings, and business meetings to experience significant improvements in speech recognition. "This could ultimately lead to improved quality of life as they confidently reconnect with others using discreet, convenient, and highly versatile technology," she said. To read the full article, go to

<https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/breakingnews/pages/post.aspx?PostID=155>

A new free app called The Galapro App is making theaters more accessible for deaf and hard of hearing people by providing closed captions directly to their phone. This is big news for deaf theatergoers, as closed captions are often hard to come across at live shows. Gala Prompter, a startup company based in Tel-Aviv partnered with The Shubert Organization to make captions available at their 17 Broadway theaters in New York City. "Up until 15 years ago, deaf theatergoers in New York had only occasional access to sign language performances," Robert Wankel, president of The Shubert Organization told NPR. To read more, go to *Hearing Like Me, February 13, 2018*

New research has uncovered an increased risk of mild cognitive impairment among individuals with a form of hearing impairment called central hearing loss,” according to Rodolfo Sardone of the National Institutes of Health. The study was reported in Medical News Today. Read more at

https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/321050.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-uson

What are you reading?

Jonathan O’Dell has recommended *You Are Not So Smart* by David McRaney. McRaney talks about present bias. Watch a short segment on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qaRHPeBvyo>



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