



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – April 2018



We had a great turnout last Saturday for Ellen Perkins' presentation on Hearing Assistive Technology. It was such a great topic that the 30 or more attendees eagerly participated in the discussion. We came away with so much information that it will take quite some time for us to digest. If we hadn't had to leave the library, we could probably have stayed another hour or two. Thank you, Ellen, for patiently answering all our questions.

ALDA Boston's 29 Birthday was celebrated with a lovely cake that Sherrie Wile brought. Those running for re-election to the Board were re-elected: Matt Ferrara, Louis Sakin, and Francine Stieglitz. Ellen Perkins has agreed to be the Media Strategist.



Upcoming Events of Interest

Thursday, May 17th is the rescheduled date for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents Day, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The flyer has already been sent out; let me know if you need another copy.

Cochlear Implants – How to Choose is the topic for discussion at the next meeting of HLAA Central. The meeting will take place on **Saturday, May 19th** from 10:00 – noon at the Northborough Public Library, 34 Main Street, Northborough, MA. Speakers are Ellen Perkins and Barbara Johnson. For more information, go to hlaacentralma@gmail.com

“Have you Heard What’s New in Hearing,” hosted by the Mass Eye and Ear Audiology Service, is a free educational event open to the public. The seminar will take place on **Tuesday, May 22**, at 5:00 p.m. in the Meltzer Auditorium, 243 Charles Street, Boston 02114. For more information and to reserve your spot, go to HealthSense@meei.harvard.edu

Accessible Theater 

Trinity Repertory Theater, Providence RI

The following performance is open captioned:

Ragtime: April 29, 2018 at 2pm

Boch Center, Shubert Theater

Dirty Dancing

Open Captioned: Sunday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m.

To order tickets, go to <http://www.bochcenter.org/buy/show-listing/dirty-dancing>

New Repertory Theater, Watertown

All performances in the main stage theater are looped.

Boston Opera House, Boston

On Your Feet

Open Captioned: Saturday, April 21 at 2 pm

ASL Interpreted: Saturday, April 28 at 2 pm

Aladdin

Open Captioned: Saturday, July 7 at 2 pm

(Tickets starting at \$44.50 go on sale on May 7)

To order tickets, go to <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/aps/ccet/EN/promotion/home>

Book of Mormon

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday, August 18, at 2pm.

(Tickets starting at \$44.50 go on sale on May 7)

To order tickets, go to <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/aps/ccet/EN/promotion/home>

News of Note

The band Huey Lewis and The News have canceled their 2018 tour due to Lewis experiencing a sudden hearing loss. Lewis thinks the cause of his hearing loss is [Meniere's disease](#), which is an inner ear disorder that causes vertigo, fluctuating hearing loss, tinnitus and ear pressure.



Author Ellie Parfitt posted on *Hearing Like Me* that the new horror film starring Millicent Simmonds, “A Quiet Place,” is “another film to hit the cinemas highlighting deaf culture. The film is set in the future and focuses on a family trying to survive after an alien attack. They use sign language to communicate and defend themselves from aliens. The aliens, who have hypersensitive hearing, rely on sound to hunt, attack and even kill their prey (animal or human) if it makes any sudden noise.... This film features many aspects of deaf culture including sign language, hearing technology and uses sound effects to create an environment for people to have an idea what it is like living in a world with limited sound.” Tina Thompson, who saw the open-captioned movie, said, “The acting was very good despite alien creatures eating up people !”

Does smoking put you at a higher risk for hearing loss? According to a study recently published in the journal *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, there may be a link between smoking and hearing loss. It's not clear why smoking causes hearing loss, but this study gives numbers to support that the two are related. The study found after following 50,195 adults in Japan for eight years that eight in 1000 people (who have never smoked before) develop high-frequency hearing loss each year. The rate of developing hearing loss in smokers was even higher, with 15 out of 1,000 smokers developing high-frequency hearing loss.

“These results provide strong evidence to support that smoking is a causal factor for hearing loss and emphasize the need for tobacco control to prevent or delay the development of hearing loss,” Huanhuan Hu, who led the study and is a senior researcher with Japan’s National Center for Global Health and Medicine, told Consumer Reports.



A new study by researchers at New York University found that sign language and verbal speech rely on the same part of the brain. The report, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, is the first to prove this specific connection in the brain between both sign language and spoken language. Researchers have known previously that sign language and spoken language are similar structurally in the brain. An article by New York University Public Affairs and

Michael Price in the *San Diego State University NewsCenter* explains this further. “What has been less clear to researchers, however, is whether the same circuitry in the brain underlies the construction of complex linguistic structures in sign and speech, such as phrases that describe objects using multiple adjectives and nouns.”



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