



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – September 2018

The first International Day of Sign Languages will be celebrated on 23 September 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf. Last December, The United Nations General Assembly declared 23 September as International Day of Sign Languages. The resolution was proposed by the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, following a request by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

Ambassador Walton Webson of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations said: ‘This resolution is an important milestone in our international promise “to leave no one behind.” The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is pleased to be part of this international day that will focus the world’s attention on the principles of the UNCRPD in calling for equality, especially in terms of accessibility, that allows an individual freedom of choice, dignity and independence of self without discrimination.’

The choice of 23 September commemorates the date that the WFD was established in 1958. (From the wfdeaf.org/news website)

Upcoming ALDA Boston Events

“Successful Communication Strategies for People with Hearing Loss” is the topic of our panel discussion about listening challenges on **Saturday afternoon, October 20** at the Lexington library. Ellen Perkins has designed an impressive flyer that will be sent out within the next week, but mark your calendars now for what promises to be a lively discussion.

Upcoming ALDA Events

The 30th Annual International ALDAcon will be held in Portland, Oregon from **October 10 – 14**. Will Lewis, Principal Technical Program Manager with the Microsoft Translator team, will be using Microsoft Translator rather than CART, so attendees will have the opportunity to observe this technology first hand.

Meet our CART reporters: Mona Leviton



Mona is a freelance CART provider in the Greater Boston area and for the Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. As Mona says, “Actually, I wouldn’t be doing CART at all if it wasn’t for Nancy Eaton. Nancy held a Workshop in 2004 at one of our state conventions to reach out to freelancers to become CART Providers. I went through a Mentorship program that she coordinated. I had been a Court Stenographer for the court system and the private industry since the 1980s and was ready to make the change to using my skills to help people with hearing loss. It has been very rewarding and I’ve never regretted it.”

Other Events of Interest

BAD CATS ENTERTAINMENT AND OUR DEAF SURVIVORS CENTER, INC. PRESENTS

THE **MOVIE PREMIERE** OF



One's got wit. The other, won't quit.

Hedy & Heidi 
The Lost Sister

Heidi Branch Jeffrey Branch Donnie Baker

SHOWING AT
WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER
128 Providence St., Worcester, MA 01604
OCTOBER 6TH, 2018 @7:00PM
Doors open at 6:00pm!

AGES 13 AND UP - \$15
AGES 6-12 AND AGES 60 AND UP - \$10
AGES 5 AND UNDER - FREE

FREE POPCORN FOR ALL!

Buy your tickets at: <https://goo.gl/sSPBfR>

Any questions or concerns, please contact ed@medi@smail.com



Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

We all had a rough start with traffic, but it was worth it to see the Casanova exhibit yesterday. The tour was superb, due in no small part to Karen Moss, our superb tour leader.



The next ALDA/HLAA tour, French Pastels, is on **Saturday, October 13** at 10:30. Look for registration information on Monday, September 24

Accessible Theater



Additional theater performances are listed in the August ALDAgram and on the ALDA Boston website www.aldaboston.org

New Repertory Theatre, Watertown

1776 will be playing in the Mainstage Theater from November 30 - December 23. Discounted tickets for all *1776* performances are now available to members of ALDA and HLAA. Use promo code AUDIO18.

Several of us are planning to attend the 8:00 performance on Friday, December 21. Tickets are \$53 in Tier A and \$37 in Tier B plus a \$4 service charge. Purchase your tickets online or call the box office at 617-923-8487.

If you would like to join us for dinner before the show, please let Ann Tanona know by emailing her at ARTanona@aol.com. We're hoping to go to La Casa de Pedro, which is very close to the theater. More information will be coming closer to the date.

News of Note

There is an inspiring article in the September issue of the *San Antonio Magazine* <http://www.sanantoniomag.com/September-2018/Feel-the-Beat/> about Emma Faye Rudkin, who founded the nonprofit "Aid the Silent," which works with deaf children and teens. The Good Vibrations Music Festival," the nonprofit's biggest fundraiser will take place later this month. "Deaf people love music," Rudkin says. "And nobody has any idea that they love music, so it is also about teaching the community how to throw deaf-accessible events." "Rudkin dreamed of a festival that would be unlike any other—an interpreter would be on-site but instead of standing on the sidelines, he or she would be as much a part of the performance as the musicians. Deaf people would have access to wearable devices, like backpacks, that would pulse with the vibrations of the drums and other instruments as notes were played on stage. An LED dance floor and a visual sound wave board would light up and synchronize with the tempo of songs, real time captioning would be available and those with hearing aids could take advantage of looping technology that would transmit sound directly into their devices when they were within a certain radius of the stage."

“New research has zoomed in on the brain's speech recognition abilities, uncovering the mechanism through which the brain discerns between ambiguous sounds.” The research was published in the Journal of Neuroscience and authored by Laura Gwilliams and Prof. Alex Marantz at NYU. The new study is the first one to show how speech comprehension takes place after the brain detects the first sound. To read more, go to

<http://www.jneurosci.org/content/early/2018/07/16/JNEUROSCI.0065-18.2018>

Scientists at Harvard Medical School say they have ended a 40-year-quest for the elusive identity of the sensor protein responsible for hearing and balance. Scientists have long known that when the delicate cells in our inner ears detect sound and movement, they convert them into signals. Where and how this conversion occurs has been the subject of intense scientific debate. No more, the authors say. “The search for this sensor protein has led to numerous dead ends, but we think this discovery ends the quest,” said David Corey, co-senior author on the study. Read more at <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2018/08/hearing-protein>



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