



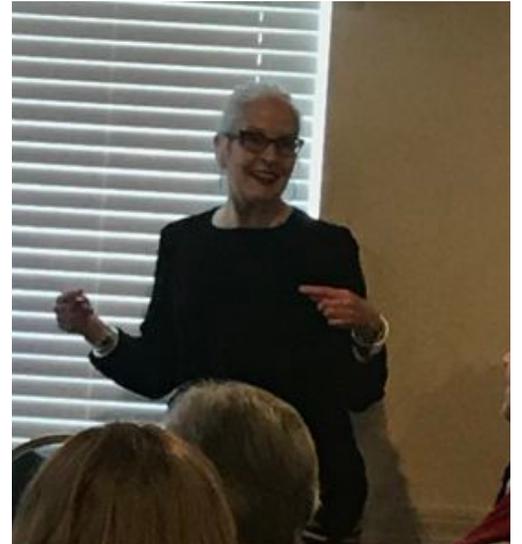
ALDA Boston – P.O. Box 600622 – Newtonville, MA 02460

Website: [www.aldaboston.org](http://www.aldaboston.org)

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## ALDAgram – January 2019

The ALDA Boston brunch at the Westford Regency on January 6 was the perfect way to start off the New Year. The weather was cooperative, the food was delicious, and the conversations among the 40 who attended were spirited. Thanks again to Linda Sakin, who facilitated the conversation with outgoing MCDHH Commissioner Heidi Reed, and to Mona Leviton for providing CART. Heidi was the Commissioner for 16 years and served under 4 governors. She talked about the history of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day, which will be on Wednesday, May 15, this year, and she encouraged the membership to apply for one of the awards. There are awards for Outstanding Advocate, Legislator, Service Provider, Young Advocate, and Organization. Heidi also encouraged us to be active at the State Level and she mentioned the need to pass a hearing aid bill for adults. There has been growth in awareness of the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, accessibility and technology, and we need to keep the momentum going.



## It's Membership Renewal Time



The ALDA post office address is at the top of the ALDAgram, so please take out your pen while you are reading this and write a check for your \$20.00 dues. You are the voice of ALDA, and we are only as strong as our members. (Have I said that before?)

## Upcoming ALDA Events

Our Valentine's Day Chocolate Madness will be held at the Lexington library on **Saturday, February 16 from 2:00 – 4:30**. The theme is Self Advocacy, and Ellen Perkins will be the facilitator. Look for the flyer that will be coming soon.



ALDA Boston's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be **on Saturday, April 6** at the Framingham library. Take a walk down memory lane at the display table with copies of newsletters and announcements from ALDA Boston's early years. The Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers will also take place. Program to be announced, but save the date now.

## News of Note

On December 14, 2018, Text-to-9-1-1 was deployed across the Commonwealth. This is one of the most exciting changes for accessibility to emergency services in more than 20 years. When a citizen sends a text message to 9-1-1, it will be routed to an emergency call center based on the location information provided by the carrier. For this reason, when a citizen sends a Text-to-9-1-1, they should make every effort to text the town name, address or location that they are located in. Text-to-9-1-1 is the ability to send a text message to reach 9-1-1 emergency call takers from your mobile device. To answer frequently-asked questions about the service, go to <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/12/21/Text-to-9-1-1%20Public%20FAQs.pdf>

Jane Brody had a thought-provoking article in the December 31 issue of the *New York Times* titled "Hearing Loss Threatens Mind, Life and Limb. As Brody writes, "Not only is poor hearing annoying and inconvenient for millions of people, especially the elderly. It is also an unmistakable health hazard, threatening mind, life and limb, that could cost Medicare much more than it would to provide hearing aids and services for every older American with hearing loss." Read the full article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/31/well/live/hearing-loss-threatens-mind-life-and-limb.html>

Lisa Goldstein posted an article in *HearingLikeMe* on December 19 titled “Microsoft, Skype, and Alexa aim to be more accessible to the deaf.” Goldstein writes, “It’s taken some time for accessibility to catch up” but “the last several months have seen positive changes in the right direction.” Attorney John Waldo says that “people need to understand that ‘live’ captioning has a specific meaning to those of us who use it. There’s a differences between an actual person doing the captioning vs. AI. Therefore different terminology should be employed.” Read the full article at <http://www.hearinglikeme.com/microsoft-skype-and-alexa-aim-to-be-more-accessible-to-the-deaf/>



## Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

ALDA/HLAA accessible tours will resume in March. In the meanwhile, there are some wonderful exhibits at the museum, and admission is free on Wednesdays after 4 pm.

### Accessible Theater January – March



#### **American Repertory Theater, Cambridge**

Purchase tickets at 617-547-8300 or by email at [Access@amrep.org](mailto:Access@amrep.org)

##### ***Othello***

ASL Interpreted: February 3 at 2PM and February 6 at 7:30PM  
Audio Described: February 2 at 2PM and February 8 at 7:30PM  
Open Captioned: February 2 at 2PM and February 7 at 7:30PM

##### ***Endlings***

ASL Interpreted: March 13 at 7:30PM and March 17 at 2PM  
Audio Described: March 15 at 7:30PM and March 16 at 2PM  
Open Captioned: March 14 at 7:30PM and March 16 at 2PM

#### **Huntington Theater, Boston**

For more information on the Huntington's access programs, please call Meg O'Brien at 617-273-1558 or email [mobrien@huntingtontheatre.org](mailto:mobrien@huntingtontheatre.org)

##### ***Romeo and Juliet***

ASL Performance: March 15 at 8pm  
Open Captioned: March 20 at 2pm and March 26 at 7:30pm  
Audio Described: March 16 at 2pm

## Trinity Repertory Theater, Providence, RI

Open Captioned performances

*An Iliad*: February 10 at 2:00 pm

*Macbeth*: February 3 at 2:00 pm and February 13 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

*The Song of Summer*: March 17 at 2:00 pm and March 27 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

## Boston Opera House, Boston

For more information, go to <https://www.bostonoperahouse.com/accessibility>

### *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical*

ASL Interpreted: February 9 at 2pm

Audio Described: February 3 at 1pm

Open Captioned: February 2 at 2pm

### *School of Rock*

ASL Performance: February 23 at 2pm

Audio Described: February 17 at 1pm

Open Captioned: February 16 at 2pm



 <http://aldaboston.org>

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