



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – February 2019

More than 25 people attended the Advocacy discussion at the Lexington library on Saturday, February 16. Ellen Perkins did an outstanding job handling the questions and comments. This was truly an interactive afternoon. Ellen talked about Self Advocacy, the first step of which is acceptance. There was almost unanimous agreement on the need for more and easier access to CART services. Ellen also talked about getting involved with our legislators and finding bills of interest. Since Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day is at the State House on Wednesday, May 15, this would be a good time for us to contact our legislators and set up a face-to-face meeting with them.



World Hearing Day is March 3: Get Your Hearing Checked

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “nearly 1.1 billion young people worldwide between the ages of 12 and 35 are at risk of hearing loss due to prolonged and excessive exposure to loud sounds. This figure includes young folks who listen to music through personal audio devices, including smartphones.” WHO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have issued a new international standard for the manufacture and use of personal audio devices to make them safer for listening. The WHO-ITU safe listening guidelines can be found at

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/280085/9789241515276-eng.pdf>



It's Still Membership Renewal Time!!



If you haven't yet paid your 2019 membership dues, please take out your pen while you are reading this and write a check for your \$20.00 dues. The post office address is at the top of the ALDAgram.

Upcoming ALDA Events

30 Years of Fabulous

ALDA Boston's 30th 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. We hope to have a few of the original Board members at the meeting. The Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers will also take place.

Our guest speaker will be Jessica A. Randazzo, Au.D., CCC-A, Audiologist at Mass Eye and Ear who specializes in fitting hearing aids and cochlear implants for adults. Her talk is entitled "Help! What to Do When Your Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant Breaks."



Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

ALDA/HLAA accessible tours will resume on **Saturday, March 30th** with a tour of the Art of Southeast Asia. Registration will open on March 11. Art in Bloom will take place on Friday, April 26. Details for both tours will be forthcoming.

Accessible Theater – March and April



American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

Purchase tickets at 617-547-8300 or by email at Access@amrep.org

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

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

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

Little Shop of Horrors: April 14 at 2:00 pm, May 1, 2019, at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Boston Opera House, Boston

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

A Bronx Tale

ASL Performance: April 13 at 2pm

Audio Described: April 7 at 1pm

Open Captioned: April 6 at 2pm

Les Miserables

ASL Performance: April 27 at 2pm

Audio Described: April 27 at 1pm

Open Captioned: April 20 at 2pm

New Repertory Theatre, Watertown. All performances in the mainstage theater are looped. Use the code Audio 18 to get a discount.

Cardboard Piano: March 23 – April 14

Becoming Dr. Ruth: April 27 – May 19

News of Note

A new study conducted by a team from Vanderbilt University found that bilingual children with hearing loss learned new vocabulary better when taught using bilingual instruction. The researchers evaluated the effectiveness of bilingual and monolingual teaching practices to identify which method would work best with these children who face unique but under-investigated challenges in language learning. As someone whose professional career was involved in teaching non-native speakers, I am pleased that the “findings do not support the widespread, but understudied, recommendation to teach bilingual children with hearing loss or other disabilities exclusively in English.” The full article can be found at <https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/breakingnews/pages/post.aspx?>

“**Health Practitioners Get Real on Impact of Hearing Loss in Hospice Care**” was posted on February 11 in the *Hearing Journal*. “Researchers found that hearing loss significantly affects the quality of care for patients in these facilities, and impaired lines of communication that are vital to patients’ treatment.” The study recommended that hearing loss be formally addressed in palliative care including providing assistive listening devices to those who may need them.. But the basic but vital starting point is awareness. Read the full article at <https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/breakingnews/pages/post.aspx?PostID=245>

Google has released two new Android apps, *Life Transcribe* and *Sound Amplifier*, to help those who are hard of hearing communicate more easily and independently in a wide variety of settings. Live Transcribe automatically translates spoken words into text on the user's phone screen. App users can also choose from more than 70 languages and dialects to read accurate captions in the language that's being spoken, and they can respond to who they're speaking with on a type-back keyboard. Live Transcribe is powered by Google's speech recognition technology, so the text adjusts as the conversation flows. This app is currently in beta at <http://bit.ly/2GwaLXR> and as an accessibility setting on the Pixel 3 smartphone.

The other new app, *Sound Amplifier*, helps people with hearing impairment carry on conversations in loud environments by boosting quiet sounds and reducing unwanted or distracting noises through their headphones. App users can personalize their listening experience for each ear by adjusting audio and microphone settings with a simple tuning interface. Sound Amplifier is available on the Play Store (<http://bit.ly/2GCNIAf>) and supports Android 9 Pie or later phones and comes pre-installed on Pixel 3.

<https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/breakingnews/pages/post.aspx?PostID=244>



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