



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

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

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### ALDAgram – April 2019

Audiologist Jessica Radzano gave an informative and engaging presentation on April 6 at the Framingham library. She presented simple solutions to problems that we all have with hearing aids and cochlear implants. The large crowd asked excellent questions that Jessica was able to answer with illustrations from her powerpoint presentation.



Since it was ALDA Boston's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, there was a birthday cake and delicious treats brought by members. At the annual business meeting, Betty Saltzman was elected to the Board together with incumbents Karen Rockow and Linda Sakin .





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**  
**10:00 am- 12:00 pm**

**Great Hall, State House, Boston**  
**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents' Annual Day**  
**Program and Annual Awards**

**Afternoon Legislative Visits** to discuss community concerns and bills of interest. Try to schedule your visits in advance. Contact information for legislators is on the web at [www.malegislature.gov](http://www.malegislature.gov) To request communication access, contact Carl Richardson, the ADA Coordinator at the State House, by email at [carl.richardson@state.ma.us](mailto:carl.richardson@state.ma.us) or by phone at 857-400-5502. Requests are due by April 26.

**Upcoming ALDA Boston Events**

Our Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic & Barbecue will be held on Saturday, June 29 at the home of Ellen and Jay Perkins. Save the date now. More information will be coming the closer we get to the event.



**Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours**



There are still a few openings for both Art in Bloom tours on Friday, April 26. Registration has been extended until Wednesday 3/24. Don't delay in registering if you haven't done so already and would like to attend.



## Accessible Theater – April and May



### American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

*Femfinite: The Femme Show*

ASL Interpreted: Friday, May 31 at 8pm

### Huntington Theater, Boston

For more information, call Meg O'Brien at 617-273-1558 or email [mobrien@huntingtontheatre.org](mailto:mobrien@huntingtontheatre.org)

*Indecent:*

ASL Interpreted: Friday, May 10 at 8pm

### Boston Opera House, Boston

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

*Les Miserables*

ASL Performance: April 27 at 2pm

Open Captioned: April 20 at 2pm

### Emerson Colonial Theater

*Kinky Boots*

ASL Performance: May 11 at 2pm

Open Captioned: May 12 at 1pm

### Merrimack Theater, Lowell

Call the Box Office at 978-654-4678. Mention Open Captioning in order to secure the best view of the display.

*Cry It Out:* Sunday May 12 at 2 pm

### New Repertory Theatre, Watertown.

All performances in the Mainstage theater are looped. HLAA and ALDA members may use the code Audio 18 to get a discount.

*Becoming Dr. Ruth:* April 27 – May 19

### Trinity Repertory Theater, Providence, RI

Open Captioned performance

*Little Shop of Horrors:* May 1 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm



## News of Note

### **Legal Battle over Captioning Continues**

“A legal dispute over video captions continues after court rejects requests by MIT and Harvard University to dismiss lawsuits accusing them of discriminating against deaf people.” To read more, thank Barbara Johnson and go to <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/04/08/mit-and-harvard-fail-get-out-video-captioning-court-case>

### **Meeting with MCDHH Commissioner Steven A. Florio**



On Thursday, April 11, ALDA/HLAA member Robert Broker and his wife Carol met with Steven A. Florio, the new Massachusetts Commissioner for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in their offices in Boston. Here is a brief summary of Bob’s visit:

“---We felt most welcomed by the Commissioner, who warmly shared his time with us, as well as hopes and plans. We were advised that the Commissioner has been deaf from birth and our extensive conversation was through a sign-language interpreter who used my mini-mic to communicate with me. The Commissioner expressed empathy for the situation of my late loss of hearing as his hearing loss is life-long. I shared [a concept paper I had written] with him, as a non-professional, who hopes to open more doors of support through the many community level senior centers and their like in Massachusetts.

- We discussed fuller coordination with Elder Services and their local centers to provide more community level services for people with hearing loss.
- Further, the Commissioner expressed an avid commitment to improving their web site.
- As publication of the visor card is coming soon, the Commissioner endorsed the idea that individuals write their local journals to advise people of that fact.
- When we visited with the Deputy Commissioner, Tricia Ford, she advised us of widespread support for the visor cards received from local police chiefs.”