



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – January 2020



Another wonderful New Year's brunch at the Westford Regency on Sunday, January 5, and the weather was perfect. The guest of honor was Karen Moss, our extraordinary tour leader for the ALDA/HLAA accessible tours. Valarie Burrows, our former remarkable tour leader, began her opening remarks by telling us how the ALD tours started more than seven years ago when few guides were trained in using assistive listening devices. Those who spoke to add their words of praise to Karen included Jim O'Donnell, Carol Agate, Linda Sakin, Betty Saltzman, Alice Costa, Matt Ferrara, and Sandy Spekman.



January is membership Renewal Month. If you haven't yet paid your 2020 membership dues of \$20.00, please take a moment to do so now. Dues should be made out to ALDA Boston and sent to ALDA Boston, P.O. Box 600622, Newtonville, MA 02460. Your dues help us to offer such events as the New Year's brunch, the Holiday Party, the Valentine's Day event, the 4th of July get-together, and many other gatherings.

Upcoming ALDA Events

Jonathan O'Dell, Assistive Technology and Training Specialist at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will be the speaker at our Valentine's Day Chocolate Madness on **Saturday, February 8 from 2:00 – 4:30**. He will explain Training and Technology Services at the Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) as well as address other topics of concerns to us. CART will be provided. You should have received the flyer. If not, please let me know.

The 2020 Massachusetts Deaf & Hard of Hearing Constituents' Day at the State House is on **Monday, March 30th**. The morning event takes place in the Great Hall from 10am to 12:00pm. Constituents can then visit their legislators in the afternoon. Award nominations are due on January 31.

Jessica Randazzo, MEEI Audiologist, will give Part 2 of her presentation on hearing aids on **Saturday, April 18**, at the McAuliffe Framingham Library. Details will be coming closer to the date, but please mark your calendars now. April 18th is also the date of ALDA Boston's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

News of Note



“Singular Hearing, a Canada-based company, [has] introduced an advanced machine learning algorithm that turns a smartphone into a sophisticated hearing assistive device enabling improved conversations even in noisy places. According to a December 4th press release, the company will unveil its AI-powered hearing app, HeardThat, at CES 2020. HeardThat turns a smartphone into a digital hearing assistant, tuning out background noise to enable individuals with hearing loss to hear speech more clearly, allowing them to engage in conversations they would otherwise have trouble hearing.” The app will be available in early 2020 on Android and iOS. “It joins a growing number of smartphone-based apps that provide amplification or signal-to-noise ratio improvement and could serve as a viable substitution for traditional hearing aids for some persons with hearing loss.” To read more, go <https://hearinghealthmatters.org/blog/2019/app-heardthat-better-hearing-loss-noise/>



AMERICAN
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On December 12, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3, which includes Section 602 titled, “Providing Coverage for Hearing Care under the Medicare Program”. Section 602 of the bill adds new hearing benefits, including hearing aids, for Medicare

beneficiaries with severe to profound hearing loss and also includes a number of provisions sought by audiologists and consumers. The American Academy of Audiology (AAA), the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) are committed to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have meaningful access to hearing-related services provided by audiologists consistent with evidence-based practice and contained in the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019 (H.R. 4056).

Accessible Theater, January – March

American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

Gloria: A Life

ASL Interpreted: February 16 at 2PM and February 19 at 7:30PM
Open Captioned: February 20 at 7:30PM and February 22 at 2PM



Citizen Bank Opera House, Boston

Mean Girls

ASL Interpreted: February 8 at 2:00 PM
Open Captioned: February 1 at 2:00 pm

The Band's Visit

ASL Interpreted: April 4 at 2:00 PM
Open Captioned: March 28 at 2:00 pm

Huntington Theater, Boston

We All Fall Down

ASL Interpreted: January 24 at 8 PM
Open Captioned: January 29 at 7:30 pm

Sweat

Open Captioned: February 12 at 2pm and February 18 at 7:30 pm

Merrimack Repertory Theater, Lowell, MA

Open captioned performances are on third Sundays at the 2 PM matinee of each play. Call the Box Office at 978-654-4678 when booking your tickets and mention your interest in open captioning.

Maytag Virgin: January 26

Nina Simone: Four Women: March 1

New Repertory Theatre, Watertown

All performances in the Mainstage theater are looped. HLAA/ALDA members may use discount code Audio 19 for 15% off individual performances. For more information and a full schedule of performances, go to www.newrep.org/2019-2020-season/ You may also take advantage of the open-captioned section of the theater for the performance of

Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical on February 8 at 3:00 pm

Trinity Repertory Theatre, Providence, RI

American Sign Language interpretation is available by request for certain performances with 6 weeks advance notice. Please contact Jordan Butterfield at (401) 453-9214 or jbutterfield@trinityrep.com for more information. Open Captioned performances are as follows:

August Wilson's Radio Golf: February 2 at 2 pm

A Tale of Two Cities: February 23 at 2 pm; March 4 at 2pm and 7:30 pm

Sweat: March 5 at 2pm; March 15 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm



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.



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