



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

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – November 2019

Before you eat too much on Thanksgiving and before you have to shovel snow, let's look at some of the events that ALDA Boston members have participated in recently.



Steven Florio, MCDHH Commissioner, met with ALDA Boston members at the Lexington Public Library on Saturday, October 26, 2019. A number of issues were discussed including loop systems at public places, hearing aid insurance coverage, collective community advocacy, and other communication access concerns.

Several ALDA Boston members were at the ALDAcon in Kansas City. Below is a brief description of Sandy Spekman's time there.

"I attended the ALDAcon 2019 in Kansas City from October 23-27 and had a blast. I had attended some ALDAcons many years ago, but it's been a while. I mainly went to meet John Waldo, an ADA lawyer, because I've corresponded with him over the years and finally met him in person. I attended his workshop with another lawyer, Trevor Finneman, titled "Advocacy Update: How ALDA Is Making a Difference." Movie captioning (many don't like using captioning devices) and captioning at sports stadiums was the thrust. There wasn't too much on open captioning at live theaters, which is my area of interest. I would like to see more open captioned live theater on the South Shore and Cape Cod. I also attended a workshop on the ADA and houses of worship.

Tina Childress, co-chair of the ALDAcon, spoke on the topic of "Who Am I? A Deaf Identity Crisis." She filled in for another speaker at the last minute. It was interesting to hear her speak on being deaf, a bilateral cochlear implant user, an audiologist, a mother, a CI advocate, a community volunteer, etc. Tina recently won a lawsuit: "Fox Theatre (St. Louis) must provide captions for performances on demand, appeals court says". John Waldo told me that any appeals court decision applies to our entire country. I learned that we CAN ask for captioning on demand, according to the ADA law. Now I hope that other deaf and hard of hearing people will ask for live captioning at live theaters, especially in smaller cities that don't have it.

Many times I've been told that I'm the only one who ever asks for live captioning. I've asked many deaf and hard of people if they need captioning, and they say yes. However, when I ask them if they've asked for it, they say no. More of us need to speak up and ask for what the ADA law entitles us. We have work to do!"

Upcoming ALDA Events

You should have received the flyer for the 2019 Holiday Party **on Saturday, December 7**. If you haven't registered yet, please do so soon. Space is limited.

Karen Moss will be honored at The New Year's brunch on **Sunday, January 5, 2020**. Watch for the flyer

On **Saturday, February 8**, Jonathan O'Dell will be speaking at the Lexington library. Neither rain, nor snow will keep us from attending.

Jessica Randazzo, MEEI Audiologist, will give Part 2 of her presentation on hearing aids in April. Date to be confirmed.

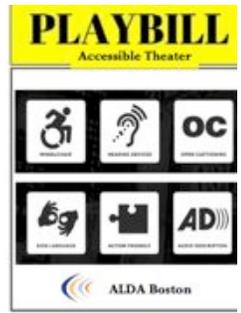


Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

There was a full house on November 17 for our last tour of the year, "Boston Collectors and the MFA" with a focus on the American permanent collections. There was so much to learn and so little time, but Karen did her best. This photo, courtesy of Wesley Ireland, is from our September tour, which focused on the European permanent collection.



Accessible Theater, December – January



American Repertory Theater, Cambridge

Moby Dick ASL Interpreted: January 5 at 2pm and January 8 at 7:30 pm
Open Captioned: January 9 at 7:30 pm and January 11 at 2pm

Boston Opera House, Boston For more information, go to www.bostonoperahouse.com/accessibility

Cats Open Captioned: Saturday, January 11 at 2 pm
ASL Interpreted: January 18 at 2 pm



Huntington Theater, Boston Tickets are \$20 for each patron with slight to profound hearing loss. To reserve tickets, please contact Interim Co-Director of Education Meg O'Brien at 617-273-1558 or email mobrien@huntingtontheatre.org

We All Fall Down Open Captioned: January 21 at 7:30 and January 29 at 7:30

New Repertory Theatre, Watertown When you make a reservation, mention that you'd like to take advantage of the open-captioned section. For more information and a full schedule of performances, go to www.newrep.org/2019-2020-season/

Oliver Open Captioned: December 14 at 3 pm



Remember that all performances in the Mainstage theater are looped. HLAA/ALDA members may use discount code Audio 19 for 15% off individual performances.

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

Fade: Open Captioned: December 8 at pm and December 18 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm

August Wilson's Radio Golf: Open Captioned: January 2 at pm, January 12, at 2 pm and 7:30 pm

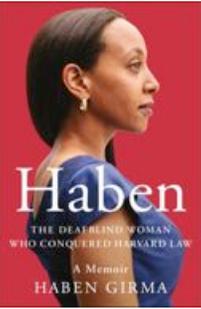
Merrimack Repertory Theater, Lowell, MA Open captioning performances are on third Sundays at the **2 PM matinee** of each play. Call the Box Office at 978-654-4678 when booking your tickets and mention your interest in open captioning.

The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberely December 15

Maytag Virgin January 9



News of Note:



“Figuring out Law School is grueling. Being deafblind doesn’t make it easier.” Haben Girma and her guide dog, Maxine, traveled all over the country to give talks on disability rights and inclusion. To read an excerpt from her new memoir *Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law*, go to <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2019/11/excerpt-from-the-deafblind-woman-who-conquered-harvard-law/>

Congratulations to Carol Agate, whose campaign for hearing loops in the Cambridge City Council meeting rooms has been successful. The City Council recently passed the following resolution: “That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to install hearing loop technology inside the Sullivan Chamber as part of the upcoming renovations to City Hall, and in other critical City meeting venues wherever possible.”

HLAA/ALDA member Bob Broker has penned some eloquent and thoughtful words. Here is part of it: “A person’s speech is the measure of human integrity. ‘Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor’ is one of only Ten Commandments. Witnesses may deceive or lie for which they may be held accountable with prison sentences. “Hearing speech” retains the exalted position in human relations it has had for tens of thousands of years. Hearing is that important. A lack of hearing is also that important!” Please email Bob at rbroker45@gmail.com if you’d like a copy of the full text.



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