



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

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

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## ALDAgram – October 2019

October is National Protect Your Hearing Month. According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), “Nearly 24 percent of U.S. adults ages 20 to 69 have features of their hearing tests in one or both ears that suggest hearing loss from loud noise, based on a 2017 study by researchers from the NIDCD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” Turn down the volume!!



### Upcoming ALDA Events

We're looking forward to seeing you on **Saturday afternoon, October 26**. MCDHH Commissioner Steven Florio will be meeting with us. He will be talking about the work of the Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with emphasis on how the Commission can help those of us who are late deafened.

The annual ALDA Boston Holiday Party will be on **Saturday, December 7**.

The New Year's brunch will be on **Sunday, January 5, 2020**.



### Museum of Fine Arts Accessible Guided Tours

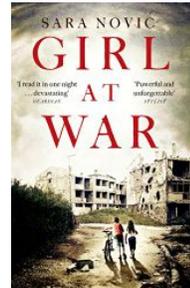
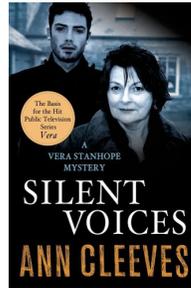
“Boston Collectors and the MFA” with a focus on the American permanent collections. This will be our last tour for this year on **Sunday, November 17**. Don't miss it! Registration will begin on Monday, October 28.

## In Memoriam – Nancy Eaton



At the first ALDA meeting I attended, Nancy was working at a little machine transcribing what people were saying. Since I knew very few people at the meeting, at the break I went over to talk to her, and she told me about CART. That was the start of our friendship. We emailed frequently, mostly about books she recommended. As Terri Charles, Linda Sakin, and others have said, Nancy was an avid reader and a frequent patron of the Reading library. Accordingly, ALDA Boston has made a donation to the Reading library in Nancy's name. Nancy also loved to travel, to experience other cultures, and she'd send postcards to people from her travels. You can still leave a message on Nancy's tribute wall: [www.dewhirstfuneral.com](http://www.dewhirstfuneral.com)

Mysteries were one genre that Nancy especially liked. Her favorite authors included Linda Fairstein, Louise Penny, and Ann Cleaves among others. She liked books by Colin Cotterill, especially the Dr. Siri series. Since I am originally from New York, she was always recommending books with a New York setting. She'd watch mysteries on TV, e.g. Vera, Shetland ("I have to say the pace is a little slow.")



In the May 2015 ALDAgram, Nancy Eaton recommended *Girl at War* by Sara Novic, set in Croatia. Besides writing fiction, Novic, who is deaf, teaches at Columbia University and has a deaf-rights website called *Redefined*. She says that she started the website as 'an anger project, but a productive one.' "She'd been reading some op-eds about parents of deaf kids advocating for cochlear implant surgery, and she wrote a counterpoint op-ed in response, but no one wanted it. So eventually she decided to publish it herself, and *Redefined* was born. To her surprise, 'people are reading it!' The topic is heated, she acknowledges, in part because it's usually the case that a deaf kid has hearing parents. That means 'it's a weird kind of identity . . . you probably don't share it with your family.'" Has anyone read *Girl at War* since it was recommended here?

## Accessible Theater, October – December, 2019



**American Repertory Theater, Cambridge** Open captioned and ASL performances will resume in January with the production of *Moby Dick*.

**Boston Opera House, Boston** For more information, go to [www.bostonoperahouse.com/accessibility](http://www.bostonoperahouse.com/accessibility)

*Disney's The Lion King* Open Captioned: Saturday, October 5 at 2 pm  
ASL Interpreted: Saturday, October 12 at 2 pm

*Come From Away* Open Captioned: Saturday, November 9 at 2pm  
ASL Interpreted: Saturday, November 16 at 2pm

**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](mailto:mobrien@huntingtontheatre.org)

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*  
Open Captioned: Tuesday, October 1 at 7:30 pm; Wednesday, October 9 at 2 pm  
ASL Interpreted: Friday, October 4 at 8 pm

**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/](http://www.newrep.org/2019-2020-season/)

*Trayf* Open Captioned: Sunday, October 20 at 2 pm  
*Oliver* Open Captioned: Saturday, 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**

*A Christmas Carol:* Open Captioned: Sunday, November 10 at 12:00 pm  
*Fade:* Open Captioned: Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 pm; Wednesday December 18 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

**Merrimack Repertory Theater, Lowell, MA** Open captioning performances are on third Sundays at the **2:00 PM matinee** of each play. Call the Box Office at 978-654-4678 when booking your tickets and mention your interest in open captioning.

*Cambodian Rock Band:* November 3  
*The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* December 15

## News of Note:

From the *New York Times* on October 2: Transcribing Takes the Next Step. “The rapid improvement in speech recognition technology, which over the past decade has given rise to virtual speech assistants such as Apple’s Siri, Amazon’s Alexa, Google Voice, Microsoft Cortana and others, is spilling into new areas that are beginning to have a significant impact on the workplace.” To read the full article, go to



[www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/technology/automatic-speech-transcription-ai.html?smid=nytcare-ios-share](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/technology/automatic-speech-transcription-ai.html?smid=nytcare-ios-share)

Hearing loss in early childhood is known to change how sounds are processed in the brain, but new research shows that even mild to moderate levels of deafness can result in these changes. (eLife. Oct. 1, 2019; <http://bit.ly/2o2kaja>.) Researchers at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom conducted a longitudinal study to examine late auditory evoked responses and mismatch responses to nonspeech and speech sounds for 46 children with mild to moderate hearing loss (MMHL). They found that younger children (8 to 12 years old) with hearing loss showed relatively typical brain responses, similar to those of children with normal hearing. The brain responses of older children (12 to 16 years old) with hearing loss, however, were smaller than those of their hearing peers. To read the full article, go to

<https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/breakingnews/pages/post.aspx?PostID=327>



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