



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

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ALDAgram – July 2020

2020 is the year that ALDA Boston has turned 31! We have no cake to share because the Annual Business Meeting and the Election of Board Officers has had to be postponed. Look for the Ballot for Election of Officers, which will be sent out via email around the middle of August.



The ALDA Boston 4th of July picnic didn't take place this month, but here are a few photos from other years.



Date unknown

At the home of Karen Peebles in Newton, MA. We were probably having a Board meeting before the barbecue. See the food in the garage.

July 2012 at the Sakins

Alice Costa is explaining something important to John Costa and Terry Stewart.





July 2017

Jeanne and John Kennedy once again graciously hosted the ALDA Boston 4th of July barbecue

Patricia Holland with a festive basket display



July 2018

At the home of Ellen and Jay Perkins. The heat wave didn't stop anyone from having fun. Betty and Peter Saltzman and Nancy Sonnabend.

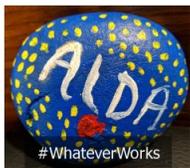
Face Masks and Hearing Loss

There have been numerous articles in the press recently about various kinds of face masks and the difficulties they often impose on deaf and HoH people. HLAA Central has put together a summary of Face Masks and Health Care Communication. In addition, ALDA Inc. is testing several different types of masks, including Rafi Nova, Safe’N’Clear, ClearMask, and Humanity Shield.

Here are a few articles worth reading:

1. “People with Hearing Loss are Challenged in Era of Masks.” This very good article appeared on July 16 in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. Read the article at <https://www.telegram.com/news/20200716/people-with-hearing-loss-are-challenged-in-era-of-masks>
2. “ASHA Urges CDC to Emphasize Need for Clear Face Masks for the Hearing Impaired.” This article appeared in *The Hearing Review* on June 9. To read the article, go to https://www.hearingreview.com/inside-hearing/organizations/face-masks?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=HR+Today+Jun+2020&campaign_type=newsletter
3. “These Transparent Face Masks Might Make you Feel Normal Again” appeared in *Popular Mechanics* on June 10. It describes a mask developed in Switzerland that is completely transparent. The company HMCARE plans to start selling the new masks in 2021 directly to medical professionals. The full article can be found at: <https://hearinglosscentralma.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/transparent-face-mask--future-of-surgical-face-masks-1-4-1.pdf>
4. “Masks are a Barrier against the Coronavirus” writes Sara Nović in *The Washington Post*. But “it’s not those of us who are deaf or hard of hearing who have to wear them. Instead, it’s hearing people who want to make themselves understood.” Offering clear masks as a “solution” relies on the all-too-common idea that it is easier to heap equipment, technology and individual support upon a deaf or disabled person than to make society broadly accessible, to retrofit equality rather than to design for it in the first place.” To read the full article, go to <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/07/16/masks-are-barrier-against-virus-they-also-pose-major-hurdle-deaf-people/>





What Does "Late-Deafened" or "Hearing Loss" Look Like?

by Linda Bilodeau - June 16, 2020

We all know what hearing loss is, but what does it look like? I'm often asked how I feel about my hearing loss, how I treat it, and how I cope. Truthfully, I ignore the fact that I don't hear normally, slap in my hearing aids, and hope for the best. Yet, there are days when I wonder what it might be like to converse without aids or to hear every word in a song. It would be lovely not to feel exhausted after spending two hours with friends, struggling to hear against background noise.

It doesn't matter what type of hearing loss you have, late-deafened, conductive, sensorineural, mixed or single-sided. As someone experiencing the loss of a sense, you can easily become discouraged. You might feel left out. People may purposely avoid you because they don't know how to handle your hearing loss. You might decide that socializing is no longer easy or comfortable so you stay home, hibernating. *To read the full article, go to <https://alda.org/what-does-late-deafened-or-hearing-loss-look-like/>*

News of Note

U. Mass Amherst is conducting a short survey to learn more about how using face masks and video-conferencing affect your ability to communicate. You must be 40 years or older, and you get a chance to win a free iPad. To participate, go to surveys@news.hearingtracker.com

 iHEAR Medical's new @Home iHEARtest campaign offers a free FDA-approved home hearing screener, targeting adults who suspect hearing loss but are unable or reluctant to visit a clinical setting during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. To read the full article, go to <https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/breakingnews/pages/post.aspx?PostID=391>.

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