Bouncing around Disney Springs

Conferences are about socializing. People attend conferences not only to learn from the speakers but also to mingle with others and have a good time. It’s the atmosphere that makes a conference enjoyable.

The environment surrounding a conference is also important. Hosting a conference in a beautiful city with lots tourist options make one something that the attendees hold long fond memories. By this measure, ALDA hit a home run by choosing Disney Springs to serve as ALDAcon 2017 host site.

Disney Springs, formerly known as Downtown Disney, is an outdoor shopping, dining, and entertainment complex owned by Walt Disney World (WDW) in Orlando, Florida. Like the theme parks, WDW took a ‘no holds barred’ approach to sprinkling entertainment across four distinct sections that includes the Marketplace, The Landing, the Town Centre and the West Side. This makes Disney Springs a magical place that is just a short 10 minute walk from the ALDAcon hotel, B Resort. (Note: the hotel offers shuttle service to guests who rather ride.)

Conference attendees strolling over from the hotel will enter Disney Springs through The Marketplace. This is the primary shopping area and has all kinds of stores to choose from. One can find a wide-range of Disney-themed souvenirs in the World of Disney store. The Marketplace Co-op features clothing, accessories, art, collectibles, gifts, and housewares. Anyone with a sweet tooth will want to stop in Ghirardelli for a free chocolate sample and, possibly, a bag of sweets to take home.

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ALDA NEWS

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A welcome from the new ALDA News editor

Friends,

It seems like several lifetimes ago since opening my first copy of the ALDA News to be welcomed by the word ‘friends’. From the start, ALDA News’s creator and first editor, Bill Graham, opened each and every edition. Whether he realized it or not, that word meant more to those we received those early editions than just to kick off an article. It was our escape from the challenges that comes with being deafened and navigating life in a world that did not welcome them.

With this in mind, I simply cannot how honoured I am to have been appointed as the ALDA News Editor and hope that I can live up to the legacy of those who preceded me, which includes Bill (of course), Nancy Kingsley, and Terri Singer, as well as the ALDAns who have played a role in getting this publication out to the membership.

In this ALDA News edition, you’ll find a nice little article on Disney Springs, which is where ALDAcon 2017 is located. This piece outlines what conference attendees will find there and options for having a good time. There is also an article related to career management based on Dr. David Baldridge’s work. (In case you didn’t know, David is a long-time ALDA member!)

Another article provides though provoking question to concern related to the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 that recent became law in the United States.

Not to disappoint, readers will also enjoy ALDA mainstay articles including a message from ALDA President, Sharaine Rawlinson Roberts, a profile on a long-time ALDAn by the One of Us curator Karen Krull and Chapter Happenings as collected by Anne Smith.

(Full disclosure: The One of Us is about me and that piece was submitted a long time before my appointment! Honest!!!)

I hope you enjoy this edition.
Continued from Page 1

The next stop is The Landing. This is an entertainment area; set up as a fictional transportation hub and marina and features nautical-themed restaurants, including Jock Lindsey’s Hangar Bar and The Boathouse. Those looking for a little adventure can rent an amphibious automobile and take a spin on Lake Buena Vista. Or they can jump on the Areophile balloon and see Disney Springs from above.

Past the Landing comes the Town Center. This is a business-like district that has 1920s Spanish architectural theme. It features many well-known, upscale retailers, such as Anthropologie, Sephora, L’Occitane en Provence, Pandora, UGG, Johnston & Murphy, ZARA and Kate Spade and Trophy Room and many others.

West Side is the exposition center. This is where three ALDAcon activities will be held.

On Wednesday night, after the welcoming reception, a group will head over the Splitsville Luxury Lanes to knock over a few pins while enjoying dinner and drinks.

The following night (Thursday) is the Cirque Du Soleil’s La Louba performance, which is a phenomenal show that combines acrobatics, music and circus vaudeville. Later, on Saturday afternoon, is an exclusive showing of Wonderstruck at the AMC Disney Springs.

In addition to these attractions, Disney Springs offers a fantastic collection of eateries located through the area. The Market Place offers B.B. Wolf Sausage Co., the original Earl of Sandwich, Rainforest Café, T-Rex Café, and Wolfgang Pucks. On the West Side is Bongo’s Cuban Café, The House of Blues, the Smokehouse, Planet Hollywood and a restaurant in Splitsville Luxury Lanes. In addition to Jock Lindsey Hangar Bar and the Boathouse, The Landing has Cookes Of Dublin, Erin McKenna’s Bakery NYC, Morimoto Asia, Paddlefish, and more. Town Centre features Amorette’s Patisserie, AristoCrepes, Blaze Fast-Fire’d Pizza, D-Luxe Burgers, the Daily Poutine and Homecomin Florida Kitchen and Southern Shine.

Sideshows are common. One can come across the Floating Piano. Ride on the Marketplace Carousel. Watch a live bird show in front of the Rainforest Café. Enjoy performances at Riverboat Square.

There is so much more to Disney Springs than what it described above. It would take an entire ALDA News edition to cover it all. People attending ALDAcon are sure to find that a five-day conference simply is not offer enough time to take everything in!

Hope to see you in Orlando!
Friends,

ALDAcon 2017 is right around the corner as I write this column. The time spent in Orlando promises to be full of information, renewing friendships and making new ones, and hugs – lots of hugs! I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando.

I want to take this opportunity to update you on what the ALDA board has been up to.

First and foremost, the Board made the operation of our new website a priority. We had unforeseen challenges with the website’s launch and apologize for any frustration you may have experienced. Roy Miller, Region IV Representative, agreed to take the lead on the website. I think Roy bit off more than he anticipated when he answered my request to serve with an affirmative reply. He’s spent countless hours on this endeavor. Roy has worked closely with our website design company to fix bugs and taught himself coding by digging into places most people would never attempt – the backside of the website. Also working with Roy on various parts of this effort are Ken Arcia, Karen Krull, and Gloria Popp. Now I’m happy to report our website is running much smoother. Kudos to Roy and his team!

In other actions ALDA has participated in multiple advocacy efforts:

* ALDA signed on as a sponsor of legislation proposed by DC Deaf Moviegoers, an organization that is helping the local DC, northern Virginia, and bordering Maryland town populations to access open caption movies. Due to the high popularity of open caption movies and resulting high demand of coordinating open captioning showings in collaboration with chain theatres and even smaller movie theatres, DC Deaf Moviegoers is pursuing legislation that would mandate open caption movies at most major theatres in the DC area.

* ALDA signed a letter to the FCC from TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.) and other organizations regarding the need to continue supporting TTYs even with the rollout of Real Time Text and other text communication options. ALDA signed on along with Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD), Deaf Seniors of America, Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization (CPADO), and Trace Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC).

* A letter written and sent to Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) on July 10th by David Bahar at CSD and was signed by 54 organizations and individuals, including ALDA. At issue are the huge problems with certification of ASL interpreters and the chaos and challenges that have occurred because of RID’s actions suspending certification of interpreters. Consumers are suffering as a result.

* ALDA signed on to the official filing of comments addressing “Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet” (“Restoring Internet Freedom”) along with eight
other organizations. Comments emphasized the “importance of maintaining the Federal Commerce Commission’s (FCC) Open Internet rules to protect the ability of consumers with disabilities to make educated decisions about broadband access and use high-bandwidth, accessibility-oriented applications of their choosing”. If you’d like a copy of the filing, please contact me through ALDA’s contact form on the ALDA website.

There are other advocacy efforts in the works that I will share with you in the next issue of ALDA News. Until then, have a terrific autumn

**Career Success and the Deafened Professional**

*Miguel Aguayo, M.S.W. (with David Baldridge, Ph.D., M.B.A.)*

Research on the employment of people with disabilities typically focuses on the job accommodation process, job placement strategies, ways to help employers, and building a business case for hiring persons with disabilities. Research, however, rarely examines what people do to remain employed after acquiring a disability such as adult onset hearing loss. A ground breaking study conducted by long-time ALDA Dr. David Baldridge with his colleague Dr. Mukai Kulkarni addresses this topic. Their article, *The Shaping of sustainable careers post hearing loss: Towards greater understanding of adult onset, disability, disability identity and career transitions*, appears in the current issue of *Human Relations*: a top business management journal.

This article reports results of in-depth interviews with 40 successful deafened professionals and outlines strategies that deafened adults use to cope with profound hearing loss in the workplace. Findings revealed by the authors outline the transformation that adults who experience profound hearing loss undergo in order to remain successful.

In brief, the study finds that deafened people often initially try bluffing their way through workplace conversations until they realize that this coping strategy doesn’t work for long. Once they acknowledge that hearing loss is here to stay, they can explore disability-related accommodations and/or modify their approach to work.

Another finding is that many deafened people also redefine what work and career success means to them. The general public often views career success as upward mobility. In other words, a sequence of related occupations with increased influence, responsibilities and compensation. However, when someone experiences significant hearing loss or becomes deafened, career success may be redefined more in terms of continued financial independence rather than career growth. In other words, deafened
people may become more focused on avoiding involuntary joblessness, which is likely to happen if hearing loss occurs while working in an occupation in which hearing is essential (e.g., sound technician, English as second language teacher, etc.).

Baldridge and Kulkarni also find that many deafened people redefine career success by switching to new careers that provide meaning to them as deafened individuals. One just needs to look at the occupations of many ALDAns to see this. Quite a number of us are working in occupations related to hearing loss, vocational rehabilitation and/or disability advocacy. Perhaps the ultimate success occurs when deafened professionals are able to turn the notion of disability on its head by crafting jobs and businesses that directly benefit from their experiences as people who are deafened. That is, being deafened allows them to do their jobs better. For example, medical professionals who are able to use their personal experiences with hearing loss to better serve their patients who have hearing loss.

If you are interested in learning more, Dr. Baldridge will deliver a workshop on Career Success after Hearing Loss at ALDAcon 2017 in Orlando for Thursday October 12, 2017. Come and listen to what he has to say.

**Common Strategies for Career Success After Hearing Loss**

*by Dr. David C. Baldridge*

1. Maximize the benefit you receive from hearing aids, cochlear implants and other technologies and stay abreast of rapidly changing technology.

2. Take an unflinching look at how hearing loss impacts your work and your relationships.

3. Know yourself, find your highest and best uses, and craft your career/job accordingly.

4. Maximize your human and social capital and build strong individual relationships.

5. Choose a positive mindset and practice positive self-advocacy.

Please contact Dr. Baldridge at david.baldridge@bus.oregonstate for more information or to participate in his research.
Call the Nurse
By Anne Marie Killilea

Hello ALDAn! With so much on our minds when we travel, there is always something that we forget to do or pack. Making a list beforehand will help to create better organization and a check off list for those last-minute things we need to pack or do before we leave. Here are a few tips for those of us traveling to the ALDAcon in Orlando, Florida.

Make sure you have enough batteries! If you buy packets of multiple batteries on sale, ALWAYS check the expiration date on back. Some stores buy batteries in bulk and they can sit in the storage area for months without coming to the storefront for sale. While stores cannot be responsible for making sure that batteries are not expired, you should be able to do that and be choosy in which batteries you should purchase.

Pack comfortable clothes to wear! Being on a plane or driving in a car for several hours can cause the body to swell. Making sure you have comfortable shoes and clothes is important to having a relaxing trip to the convention. Enjoy meeting all new people! Being with others who understand the daily problems we face can be very supportive. It is amazing when I meet new people how much the same we are even if we are from a different state or country. We all have some type of hearing loss and work to do our best each day. Listen and learn from those around you. They have valuable stories to tell and know how important each one of us is to ALDA. Remember: ALDA’s Whatever Works philosophy!

Conferences involve trying all sorts of different foods. Those with food allergies should make sure to ask about the food and what’s in it before it’s tasted. We can get caught up in the moment and not realize what we are putting into our mouths. If it looks different, and you have not tried it before, ask what is in it and how it is prepared. Professional cooks do not take offense when questioned, in fact they are concerned about your health and want you to enjoy what they have prepared. Make sure you ask questions if you are not sure about the content in the food to protect yourself from a possible allergic reaction.

Rest, and rest some more. We spend so much energy trying to hear and communicate that when we are out of our normal routine, we can get exhausted. When we are exhausted we do not hear well and lose valuable time with other members of ALDA. If necessary, it is OK to take a short walk outside a conference room, or go outside for a break, or walk upstairs to your room to get a rest. After a short rest, we feel rejuvenated and can join in the convention and participate with others more effectively.
If traveling alone, it is important to keep some type of identification about you and your assistive technology with you. Things can happen and you may fall, or you may unexpectant drop your assistive technology. Keep hearing aide, BAHA, or cochlear speech processor numbers in two areas where you can retrieve them if necessary. Make sure that you also have your insurance information card with you in case you need it during the convention.

An important part of packing should be wearing a Medical Identification (ID) of some type so that others will know that you have a hearing loss. In case of an emergency, and you cannot respond due to not hearing the commands asked of you, it is important to have information ready for responders to read. I use the medical bracelets from Lauren’s Hope. They are classy pieces of jewelry that can be personalized with your basic health information, and appeal to everyone at any age. While I am not advertising this product, it is very important to have some type of medic alert identification on you to convey to others that you are d/Deaf and may have other medical issues.

Above all, have a wonderful time! Take a good look around you and feel that you are with others who experience various degrees of hearing loss and know what you are talking about. Enjoy your hearing and using your assistive device. Through trial and error, these assistive hearing devices have been improved over the years so that you can enjoy communicating.

Enjoy attending at the ALDAcon 2017!

Anne Marie Killilea, MSN, RN, EdDc lives in Boston, Mass. Write her at ALDAeditor@gmail.com
I first met Miguel way back when, in the early days of ALDA. We were in the same ALDA self-help group at Progress Center in Oak Park. That group was a lifeline for us. All of us were in various stages of hearing loss, still going through the grief and denial stages, and emotions were raw. Our loss affected us in different ways. I still remember when "Mike" as he was known at the time, invited me to his home with several others to be interviewed by Jeffrey Zaslow, a popular Chicago newspaper columnist. Even back then, Miguel was becoming an active advocate, before he found his life’s calling. Read on and enjoy discovering why I think Miguel is definitely “one of us.”

Name: Miguel Aguayo

Where were you born? I entered the world in the greatest city in the world – Chicago, Illinois.

What is your current residence? Toronto, Ontario, Canada

What is the cause of your deafness? Deafness came to me through a severe bout with spinal meningitis at the age of 14 years.

Age/year you became deafened? It happened in March 1970; a hell of a long time ago. So long I can’t remember what it was like to be a hearing person.

Marital status? I’m married to Kathryn Woodcock. We met at ALDAcon II and started dating after ALDAcon III.

What is your present job? I’m currently employed at a Senior Program Advisor in the Director’s Office of the Ontario Disability Support Program Branch, which provides financial assistance and employment service to people with disabilities in the province.

What is the worst job you ever had? I cooked steak as a Sizzlers Steak House for about three hours before hanging up the apron and walking out the door. Looking back, standing in front of the oven wasn’t so bad. I just couldn’t cope with trying to understand orders being called out by the servers.

Movie you want to see again? I can’t pick one. I love all kinds of movies.

Books you tell others to read? For escape, there is nothing better than the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

I stay home to watch: NFL football

Favorite pig-out food: Three Chicago classics: deep dish pizza, hot dogs, and Italian beef!
Hobbies: I’d like to do more imaging art but…

If I had more free time: I don’t think much about free time but I’d take a cruise if I had the opportunity.

The hardest thing about becoming deafened is: Living is emotional and psychological isolation was the most challenging thing for me. Although there were people in my life, mostly family, no one tried to understand what I was going through. The feeling of isolation continued even after socializing with people of deaf culture. Their experience of deafness was much different than mine. Feeling alone as a deafened person (during that pre-ALDA period) led me to making more than my share of unhealthy choices for myself. Fortunately, one of those choices led me to meeting deafened folk through ALDA.

I began accepting my deafness when I realized that deafness is just one part of the human experience and the disability aspect is due to barriers in the environment.

The worst thing about deafness is The worse aspect of being deaf is being forced to deal with silly stereotypes that hearing people hold.

The best thing about deafness is It’s part of who I am.

How did you learn about ALDA? I was handed an ALDA self-help advertisement by a counsellor who led a self-help group for people of deaf culture. As a deafened person he knew didn’t fit in his group and suggested that deafened self-help could offer the support I needed. So I took a bus over to Bill G’s famous Sedgwick flat, knocked on the door and the rest is history...

In what ways has ALDA enhanced your life? My life was rather unfulfilled prior to joining ALDA and meeting other deafened people. The highest level of achievement was graduating high school and staying off social security disability pension through a string of survival jobs before landing more secure employment with the United States Postal Service. I felt that there should have been more to life but the scope I set for myself was limited by the poor guidance that I received by a high school counsellor who believed that “deaf people can’t survive college”. So instead of post-secondary studies, I floated from job to job and trying to find some meaning to life.

My life started to turn around after ALDA came into it. I met deafened folk who worked in professional occupations. While the onset of hearing loss came after their university days, some became deaf while they were in college or before enrollment, which was demonstratively proved that my high school guidance counsellor was wrong.
Thus, after my first ALDAcon, I applied to the Social Work program at the Rochester Institute of Technology and then enrolled classes at Triton College while waiting for acceptance. Four and a half years later, I became the first person in my family, on both sides, to have earned a university degree, which lead to a graduate degree, a professional career and a value for life-long learning.

**When I am depressed,** I get quiet and try not to let it on.

**My most irrational fear is:** Making left turns while driving in an unfamiliar area. (Maybe this fear was internalized from watching a too many B-horror flick while growing up.)

**If I could hear again:** I don’t even ruminate that; deafness is just too big a part of who I am.

**The thing I like best about myself is** I have a knack for inspiring others – especially those who are unemployed, struggling and feeling at the end of their rope.

**Nobody knows I’ve never** I’ve never really understood algebra. It’s a mental processing thing…

**What I can’t stand is** People entrenched in the view that there are simple solutions to complex problems and dilemmas.

**Favorite memory:** It has to be the glowing look on the face of a friend who is living with epilepsy when she informed me of recent job promotion to district manager. You see, I met “Mary” (pseudonym) close to 18 years when I led the diversity program with the bank that she is employed. She was a discouraged job seeker at the time because identifying as having a disability results in being let go by two previous employers. I facilitated her being hired as a receptionist on a supportive team and she has never had to look back.

**Favorite saying:** “There is no such thing as a bad person; there are just people making unhealthy choices within the context of their lives.” This was the opening line of Dr. Richard Morales’ lecture of my first social work class during undergrad studies.

**The bottom line is:** Everyone in the world will become deaf if they live long enough. It’s just a natural part of life. We ALDAns just crossed the finish line first.
Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids: Possibilities & Problems

By Michelle Michaels

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is opposed to hearing aids sold over-the-counter (OTC) without the professional involvement of an Arizona licensed hearing healthcare provider.

It’s the law, but it’s not yet enacted. I’m talking about hearing aids sold over-the-counter to people with mild-to-moderate hearing loss at places like pharmacies and electronics stores. Now that the federal Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 was signed into law by the President, the regulation making process will begin. The FDA will write the rules and allow the public to comment on the draft regulations. But what will they say? Is this really a good thing?

The answer is: no one knows!

The existing research is inconclusive at best. So far, it has been demonstrated that a majority of consumers with untreated hearing loss are unable to diagnose the degree, type, and etiology of their hearing loss. When given choices, many will frequently choose a device inappropriate for them or one that could damage their hearing even further.

Most people with hearing loss don’t know they have it. When they suspect they have a hearing problem, they are unable to determine if it is unilateral, bilateral, sensorineural, conductive, or mixed.

Things to consider:

▪ Do they have high frequency loss, or low frequency, or symmetrical? Do they have a cookie bite hearing loss or ski slope, perhaps it is a reverse slope, or is it sudden, or gradual?

▪ Is there earwax, infection, a perforated eardrum, Meniere’s disease, or perhaps a tumor that will remain undiagnosed absent a visit to a licensed professional?

▪ Can a teenager across an electronics store counter or clerks standing behind the pharmacy checkout lines truly help consumers select the right device?

▪ Will the advent of OTC hearing aids lead to the end of insurance benefits for all or part of the cost?

▪ Will ineffective OTC devices persuade a new generation that ‘hearing aids just don’t work’?

Who knows!

Hearing aids, as they exist now, are sophisticated medical devices. Hearing loss is a complex medical issue that can be independently associated with cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, social isolation, and diabetes.
Something must be done!

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing believes that every person who has hearing loss and needs hearing aids should have access to them. Health insurance companies, including Medicare, should provide coverage for all or part of hearing healthcare. We support access to hearing screenings, hearing tests, aural rehabilitation, and the entire suite of evidence-based, research-supported, best practices for people with hearing loss.

Perhaps OTC hearing aids will increase access to quality hearing aids. Perhaps OTC hearing aids will be sold at a price that encourage those with previously untreated hearing loss to buy one and try it out. Time will tell.

Whatever happens, the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is here and help Arizonans protect their hearing, find resources for hearing assistance, and advocates for insurance coverage of hearing healthcare. It will also be there to help people pick up the pieces if the over-the-counter hearing aids do not deliver on promised benefits.

Chapter Happenings

By Ann Smith, Curator

Francine Stieglitz reports that the ALDA Boston annual 4th of July barbecue was held at the home of Jeanne and Hon Kennedy on Saturday afternoon, July 8th. The on-again/off-again rain did nothing to dampen our fun or hamper our appetites. Hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings were the main course preceded by a delicious assortment of appetizers. The desserts were plentiful although some of us were too full to do more than sample one of each. The swimming pool was enticing, and some members seemed to be having serious conversations while in the water. Betty Hauck entertained us on her violin with old favorites. When we left at 8:00, we all agreed it had been a delightful afternoon.

On Saturday afternoon, September 9, Jonathan O’Dell, Assistive Technology Manager/Training Specialist at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will be giving a presentation at the Lexington Library titled “A Cultural Context of Hearing Loss - And Why It Matters.”

On Saturday afternoon, October 28, again at the Lexington library, historical interpreter Pat Perry will be giving a presentation of witchcraft from the perspective of the accused and the accusers. Audience members may just find themselves accused of witchcraft and a trial may break out at any moment.
Tours at the Museum of Fine Arts are continuing. The August tour was about the Jewelry at the MFA; the September tour will focus on the African and Oceania Collection; the October tour will highlight the Contemporary Collection; and Conservation at the MFA will be the focus of the November tour.

It’s never too late to plan for festivities. Our Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 9, and our Annual New Year’s Brunch will be on Sunday, January 7th.

**ALDA Northwest Indiana** hosted a captioned play, The Tin Woman. Kathy Cortopassi graciously captioned the play for 10 of us. We had dinner afterwards at Doc's BBQ. Great food and fellowship. Looking forward to our next event! **Kim Mettache, President.**

**Sara Thompson** tells us that the **ALDA-Peach Atlanta** chapter met for their bi-monthly meeting on August 12, 2017. A special guest, Dr. Rebecca Quigg, was there to address issues members have when interacting with healthcare professionals. Dr. Quigg is a cardiologist previously from Northwestern University, where she was director of Cardiac Transplant. She now resides in Atlanta.

Dr. Quigg offered several suggestions for alleviating frustrations and concerns stated by members. She pointed out that there must be a streamlined effort on the part of both the patient and medical staff in order to communicate fully and clearly. She suggested that we put our needs in writing and have this inserted in the front of the medical chart. Since there is no interconnection between medical facilities (such as a private office and a hospital), creating your own informational template is a good way to communicate and, by law, must be included in the patient’s chart. She also suggested that we use a phone with Notes app or dictation systems to communicate with the medical personnel and record the visit, which is helpful both in the office and later review. As last resort, when communication needs are not being met by medical personnel, she suggested that we change doctors.

Several ideas were generated by members for later follow-up. It was a very helpful and informative meeting. **Marge Tamas** told us about one solution for improving communication and interaction between patient and medical personnel. The Communicator surgical mask is a window surgical antimicrobial mask that is FDA registered and available online at safenclear.com or Amazon for approximately $1 per mask. Marge passed out some samples, and members agreed that it could be one solution to frustrations related to communication that people who are deaf and hard of hearing encounter in medical facilities.

**Marty Maddox** of **ALDA Midwest** attended the SWC convention. She enjoyed seeing some ALDA people there.
Matthew “Magic” Morgan has had a long, storied career. He began learning magic at the age of six years after learning a coin trick from his grandfather, who had worked during a carnival at one time.

Liliana Morgan was born in Russia and has delighted audiences throughout Europe for more than a decade. Her appearances on stage incorporate Russian culture and dance.

They own The Little MAGIC Theatre, which is located in the heart of beautiful downtown Lake Geneva. It’s an intimate 60-seat theater, bringing the finest magicians and variety acts from all over the world all year long!

Visit The Litter Theater’s website for more information: Little Magic Theatre.

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**ALDA News wants to YOUR story!**

We just don’t want stories related to hearing loss and coping. We want to know more about you!

Send in your stories about what you do and what you enjoy in life.

Pass along news, jokes, cartoons, and artwork. Respond to articles by sending email or writing snail mail to the “Letters to the Editor” section and/or pose a health-related question our Ask the Nurse columnist.

The main theme for the winter issue is ALDacon experience.

You can write about a new experience from ALDacon 2017 in Orlando or one from a previous ALDacon. Please ensure that your story is between 500 to 800 words and a portrait of yourself (with permission to publish it).

The deadline for submission is December 1, 2017. But don’t wait till then! The ALDA News accepts articles any time!