“Using art to rediscover your passions and find new ways to navigate the world.”
Amanda Singer

We are all born with an inherent need for art. While most become observers, others develop a passion and gift to move, create, and help us all feel connected through images and sound. The swirls of a Van Gogh, the trills of a flute, the leap of a dancer defying gravity. Whether it’s the silent spectator viewing an art show feeling the tingle of goosebumps as a new piece is unveiled; or the roaring cheers of an audience at a rock concert, we can all resonate with the deep satisfaction that art provides for us.

Continued on page 6
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Dear ALDA Friends,

ALDAcon 2018 is just around the corner, October 10-14, in Portland, Oregon. It promises to be both a great time socializing with fellow deafened adults, as well as educational. Richard Pimentel, a Vietnam War veteran who lost most of his hearing in an explosion during the war, will be our keynote speaker. Will Lewis, Principal Technical Program Manager with the Microsoft Translator Team, will speak at Thursday’s luncheon. On Friday evening following the I. King Jordan Award Banquet, Gael Hannan will perform. I have known Gael from our interactions at various conferences across the county and can tell you that she is a fantastic writer, actress and speaker.

There are terrific workshops on tap, as well. It is a convention you do not want to miss. If you have not yet registered, it is not too late. To register, go to: https://alda.org/aldacon/registration/. We hope to see you there!

ALDA election time is upon us. The positions available during this election are: President, Vice-President Director for Region III and Director for Region IV. Anyone can run for President or Vice President, while the Director positions require candidates to reside in the region they are running. Of course, all candidates must be paid-up members of ALDA. If you are interested in running or want to nominate someone, please email Steve Larew at slarew@aol.com. The deadline for receiving nominations is November 2, 2018.

This will be my last column as president of ALDA. My term expires December 31, 2018. It has been my pleasure to serve as president for the last two years. I look forward to seeing you in Portland in October.
When it comes to using technology to assist my hearing, “I have commitment issues!” My hearing’s random 0 to 60 fluctuations have made finding devices to assist, and remaining loyal, challenging. Last week, during my audiogram appointment, I felt the unusual need to discuss my ideal hearing helpers (i.e. non-invasive, self-governed devices) with the audiologist.

In learning this, he suggested help from an Assistive Listening Device (ALD) professional. He explained that the role is a resourceful informant who assists persons with hearing challenges to select technology and devices to meet their specific hearing needs. In doing further research, I came across Wikipedia’s definition of ALDs:

An Assistive listening device (ALD) is used to improve hearing ability for people in a variety of situations where they are unable to distinguish speech in noise. ... A common usage is to aid people who are hard of hearing (HOH) by amplification and better sound to noise ratio (SNR).

Although the term ‘ALD’ is new for me, my use of ALDs is old news. In fact, I retain high criticism for ALDs and recite a motto: “If it does not fit, I will not commit” as an ode to express my non-committal relationship with devices. Justifiably, most will agree that no one hearing solution has proven to be perfect. For this reason, I am always overjoyed to explore the next great device; most recently Wear & Hear On Demand.

Wear & Hear On Demand products are a subsidiary of Alango Technologies Ltd, headquartered in Israel. A few months back, when I learned the products were not yet on the market, I reached out to Alango’s President and CEO, Dr. Alexander Goldin, to gain additional insight. A few emails later, I was able to SKYPE with Ruth Bridger, Marketing Director of Assistive Products, one May morning (the time difference made it 12am for me), and it was well worth it. During our discussion, Ruth provided a thorough overview on the three current Wear & Hear products: BeHearNow (Bluetooth Headset), HearLink (TV Transmitter for Assistive Listening), and SALT (Smart Assistive Listening Transceiver).

Continued on page 5
Editor’s Block continued from page 4

The devices’ ability to slow speech, amplify sound, and perform hearing tests sound impressive. Notably the devices would fulfill my ideal; non-invasive (no medical procedure is necessary) and self-governed (user has immediate ability to switch settings frequently to accommodate hearing fluctuations).

As I anxiously await the market debut of the Wear & Hear products, I have subscribed to the company’s mailing list. In addition, I check their events page often to view scheduled locations for demos.

In the meantime, join me as I indulge in this Fall 2018 AN, featuring Amanda Singer, Sara Lundquist, Mary Beth Napoli, and John Goeghegan as guest writers. In addition, our recurring columns, as always, are sure to excite. This issue is packed with good vibrations and off the rocket inspiration! This edition of AN is informative and so inspiring. I am prompted to create a new motto: “I hear therefore I cheer!”

What is your motto as related to your hearing? You can tell me at ALDACON or you can email me at ansubmissions@alda.org

Enjoy!
“Deafining the Artist Within” continued from cover

“We are all born with an inherent need for art.”

In a society where deafness is misunderstood, and ‘Deafhood’ is often as foreign as a rare musical instrument, art is not exclusive to the hearing world. It is not reserved for those that are the “same,” but in fact just the opposite. Where limitations in other areas may prove problematic to those with hearing loss often, art does not; and it does not require working ears to appreciate or participate, contrary to what some may think.

Growing up as a hearing individual, my love for multiple art mediums only intensified as I explored further. From the oboe and xylophone, to singing in my school’s musicals, to forming shapes on canvas with my charcoal covered apron, there was nothing that ever told me I couldn’t do it. My own self-doubt and perfectionism tended to be my biggest obstacles with each new music scale, or stroke of the brush in my painting. More than anything, dancing was my go-to; joyous, grieving, or anything in-between, my limbs were there to carry me through space.

Continued on page 8
ALDA’s ADVOCACY CORNER

John Waldo, Esq

ALDA advocacy continues to shake up the world of live theater as reported last month. The case at issue was a lawsuit against the Fox Theater in St. Louis which ALDAns Tina Childress and Mary Stodden were individual plaintiffs, and ALDA and HLAA-Greater St. Louis were organizational plaintiffs.

A federal court in St. Louis, Missouri ruled in April that the Fox Theater does not satisfy its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They are not compliant with ADA because they provide access through captioning for only a single performance of a production on a date selected by the theater. In addition, they are non-compliant because they require patrons needing ADA assistance to make a request in advance.

In August, I was privileged to attend and speak at a conference organized by the Kennedy Center called the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disabilities (LEAD). The conference attendees were predominantly representatives from non-profit art organizations (i.e. live theaters, museums, festivals, and various parks.) The attendees usually serve as the access coordinators for their organizations, so these were people trying to do the right thing for individuals with disabilities.

I attended as a representative for ALDA. I presented the perspective of those of us who need the access that the attendees who serve as access coordinators were trying to provide. I also spoke from the perspective as a professional lawyer who represents organizations like ALDA that advocate on behalf of people with hearing loss; not as a threat, but to provide them with “ammunition” they might use with their managers and board to emphasize the importance, both as a practical and legal matter, as related to providing accessibility.

Not surprisingly, the possibility that live theaters may have to offer captioning for any performance, and not just for one or two, has been an eye-opener for the theater business. Two reactions I heard repeatedly at the Kennedy Center conference were (1) that the theaters themselves (a.k.a. access coordinators, not necessarily the ultimate decision-makers) are really looking for ways to provide captioning for every performance when a request is made; and (2) that a lot of people are interested in finding new and less expensive ways to make that possible.

Continued on page 9
In 2017, after a year of ASL courses, my health took a turn. Included in the array of symptoms, was hearing loss. I was diagnosed with Ménière’s Disease and within months, I was bilateral, with severe-profound hearing loss. After a short stint of sadness and fear, I decided that my deafness would NOT be a disability; I would not allow it to take away my passion, or change the course of my career as the owner of a dances studio. I continued my journey with sign language, became involved in the community, and began to bridge my art with my deaf experience.

I am asked why I enjoy music if I cannot hear it the way I once did and my response is always the same – I can FEEL the music. The base pounds heavily through my feet and up into my chest. When I read sheet music, the notes “pop” off the page in sweet, familiar, rhythmic patterns. As I watch words glide across the screen of a lyrics video, it all makes perfect sense. My methodology of “listening” may have changed, but I am still “hearing” the latest summer favorites on the radio, and remembering melodies of my childhood playing over and over in my head.

Strangers often pity me, especially if they know I am a dancer. “How can you dance to music you cannot hear?” they ask. While I do my best to explain and do so joyously, they often seem perplexed. For me, it is all about accepting, adapting, modifying, and continuing to live the life I imagined for myself.

As late-deafened individuals, it is more often than not, a tragic loss when our hearing (something we may have taken for granted) is gone. My message for those mourning is to rediscover your passions and find new ways to navigate the world. You will find beauty in things you never imagined, and discover that you can do a lot, despite the challenges of hearing. My art has given me an outlet to cope and the opportunity to keep my identity, with just adding “Deaf” to my title as an artist. Whether it is an art form or something else, you can be amazing.

Find the colors, the light, the music note in your life.

Deaf artist resources:
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As previously reported, the Broadway League theaters spearheaded by the Shubert Group, is working on a system where captions are prepared in advance. Essentially, a very long PowerPoint, with hundreds of slides, would be created and displayed through a software program. The software program would use both lighting cues and voice-recognition cues to synch the captions with the pace of that specific performance. The captions would then be transmitted wirelessly to individual smartphones, through an GalaPro App. The GalaPro app appears to be one of those deals that can work really well, but does not always work. To their credit, the Shubert Group sought community input, and Tina Childress and I are part of their advisory panel. When we tried GalaPro on Broadway last November, the captions were essentially perfect. But reports about efforts to take GalaPro “on the road,” when the Broadway shows go on tour, have been met with mixed reactions: some really good results, some not so good. Nevertheless, we heartily encourage all of these efforts, and remind ourselves that we can not let the hope for perfect blind us to the reality that what we are getting, even if not perfect, is hugely better than nothing.
A Few of My Favorite Things

Every since receiving my cochlear implants three years ago, I have become addicted to sounds. I listen to all waking moments in awe of the return of sound. Most of the time, I do not use any assistive devices. When I wish to stream audio from my phone or iPad to listen to audiobooks or music, I use either the Artone 3 MAX BlueTooth neckloop or my BOSE QC35 noise cancelling headphones.

The Artone is so light and easy to use. I don’t even know I have it on. I love it so much that I have two of them charged at all times. Some days I spend many hours listening to audiobooks while doing things around the house and I do not want to run out of battery power at a key moment in the book! The BOSE QC35 headphones deliver a fabulous true stereo effect for music.

After listening with only one ear for several decades, the experience of hearing two separate musical tracks simultaneously is wonderful. It makes me feel like I have been dropped into the center of the band. They also work great while traveling.

Some of my favorite water items are EarGear covers and Nammucaps. I LOVE hearing while in the ocean! The sounds of the waves, children laughing, my family talking.....are priceless. With waterwear covers my cochlear implant processors are safe. I use EarGear Rondo covers with tether and clip and clip it to my swimsuit or swim shirt. The clip is designed well and has never come loose even after a full beach day. Then I wear a Nammucap to provide extra security and jump right in the ocean. This set up has been terrific. Everything sounds great and stays securely in place.

What are a few of your favorite things?
GalaPro is not the only game in town. The Smith Center, a large theater in Las Vegas, Nevada, has a particularly impressive and ambitious program. They prepare their own captions in house, then transmit them to viewing pads called iCaption devices. The synching is done by a live operator who is on staff. The result is that Smith Center can offer closed captioning to personal viewing devices for every show and from every seat. As an added bonus, Smith Center will, upon two weeks’ notice, provide open-captioning (the captions are displayed on a portable LED reader-board placed to one side of the stage).

Other improvements seem to be in the works. For example, Shubert is spearheading an effort to create a library of captions from older shows no longer on Broadway, but performed frequently around the country (i.e. the “classic” musicals from Rodgers & Hammerstein). A developer in Chicago is working on software that will allow captions to be created readily from scripts. Our hope is that in the near future, theaters of all sizes will be able to access captions for a vast variety of plays and musicals.

The Fox Theater is appealing the trial court’s decision. I have not seen the brief yet, so I am not aware of what the argument will be. But in my estimation, the decision of the trial court was well reasoned, and I expect it to stand. Having a similar decision coming from a court of appeals will provide some additional “heft” and, in that sense, it will benefit all of us.

A favorable court ruling on the Fox Theater’s non-compliance (ADA is not satisfied by offering captioning only for selected performances on a date selected by the theaters) is an important step forward. However, we should not over-play our hand here. Yes, I think that if any of us can’t attend a scheduled captioned performance for a show we want to see, we should get in touch with the theater and ask for an additional captioned performance.

If the theater provides open captioning on a portable reader-board, it also has to make seats available to enable viewing of the caption board and the stage, allowing them both to be seen in the same line of sight. In addition, the caption-provider needs to be available. It is in our best interest, if we request captioning for a non-scheduled show, to give the theater as much notice as possible, with optional dates and times to make this work for us. However, using this option, it simply might not be possible for the theater to match a workable date with a captioner’s schedule and available seats. If the theater is willing to work on putting together all of the pieces, but is unable to make it work, we should thank them for a good-faith effort.
ALDA Member John J. Geoghegan, recently published his memoir about what it is like to suffer sudden, adult-onset deafness in the UK. The memoir is set with a future publishing date of October 1, 2018, at least in the US.

The memoir titled "Hear Today, Gone Tomorrow: A True Story of Love, Hearing Loss, Heartbreak and Redemption" recounts what happens when a seemingly successful husband, father and business executive is struck by a precipitous hearing loss so severe it renders him deaf overnight. In short order, he loses his job, his house, his family and his mind. But that's nothing compared to what happens when he finds himself cast into a hearing world that does not want to listen.

“I wrote my book hoping to educate the hearing world about what adult-onset, deafness is like as well as to share my experience with those similarly affected.” ~ John Geoghegan

ALDA News has obtained a copy of the memoir’s press release and plans to interview John in a future AN issue to find out more about what makes him “one of us”. In the meantime, you can learn more about John on his website via https://www.johnjgeoghegan.com/
It is hard to believe that the summer is almost over. It seems like yesterday, I attended my Grandson’s High School graduation in May, and now he is packing to go off to college.

Fall is fast approaching. The two things I like about fall are Football and ALDAcon. This becomes the perfect opening to remind you that ALDAcon 2018, Portland, OR is also fast approaching. If you haven’t registered yet, stop reading this and go to ALDA.Org to register.

The balance sheet for the ALDA bank accounts is as of July 31, 2018:

- ALDA Operation Expenses: $54,493
- ALDAcon 2018 Account: $36,036
- Scholarship Funds: $36,013

As of July 31, 2018, the total cash in the ALDA Bank accounts is $126,542.

Please keep in mind that this figure is high because we have the ALDAcon Registration and Sponsorship money in the accounts and the expenses will not be paid until after the Con.

All Federal and State (IL) forms that were required for 2017 and 2018, to date, have been filed.

All outstanding bills have been paid. We are about on budget.

FINANCE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER ALERT

I am looking for volunteers for the Finance Committee. The committee will be looking into different fundraising campaigns.

And, as a reminder, ALDA, Inc. is a non-profit Corporation and any donations may be tax deductible. Also, some employers have matching donations plans. If you have any questions regarding donations, please contact me at MATTF812@Comcast.Net
When I took my marriage vows 18 years ago, I became a couple. The kids came next and our family was born. We do everything together. If the kids are off somewhere, then I am with Chad, my husband. We just do not do things separate. Perhaps we separate for hours in a day here and there, but never overnight. I am not against doing things separate. We just do not seem to do it. This has been my tribe, until now.

“This was new and wonderful.”

For the most part, I live what is considered a “traditional” life. However, I need to tell you of an adventure; about something I did that is so nontraditional for me. I travelled to two cities over a weekend, and met 4 ladies who I had only met and interacted with via an online forum for hearing loss. We agreed to meet at a café in Minneapolis, MN to kick off the weekend. I could never imagine that I would drive three hours, park, walk inside a café, and wait to meet friends that I have never met face-to-face before. This was new and wonderful.

I will be honest, I was nervous. These women were strangers, theoretically, but I felt I knew them forever. One of the women I was meeting once said “you need to find your tribe, you need to find a group where you belong”, and boy was she right! Once all the women arrived, there was an incredible feeling of sisterhood; one of acceptance, mentorship, and care from women that have your back. We ended up having a fabulous lunch and discussion.

After we left the café, we travelled to Red Wing, MN, home of the Red Wing boots and shoes retail store. We were very fortunate to have good weather, as we were in the midst of a Minnesota winter where the weather can be harsh.

“The ice had been broken and laughing was one of the most prevalent sounds.”

Continued on page 15
Upon arriving in Red Wing, we met the 5th member of our tribe at the house we would be staying at. We did a little sightseeing in Red Wing and visited Hager City, a neighboring town. We enjoyed a drink at a dark bar at the infamous St James Hotel. Lip reading is hard in the dark so cell phone flashlights came into play as well as the fun of shadow puppets. The ice had been broken and laughing was one of the most prevalent sounds. We even had a chance to visit the biggest boot, a huge Red Wing boot. During our time together, we laughed a lot and even talked about serious issues in our lives. We ate and drank the most wonderful margaritas that just happened to be on National Margaritas Day. We meshed well and it felt so good to be sitting down with these women that had so much they could share with me. It was a feeling I never wanted to end. We decorated hearing aids during our arts and crafts time. We had an adult woman’s slumber party.

I started thinking about our little group or tribe and it made me think of the book, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. This book is about a group of girls of different backgrounds, family structures, and sizes but ironically, a single pair of pants fit them all. It made me think of this tribe of women because we are from all over Minnesota, are different ages, and use a variety of ways to hear (hearing aids, cochlear implants, lip reading, signing), yet it all worked! We were able to communicate effectively. We are a tribe of strong, fierce, deaf, and hard of hearing women. I cannot wait to visit with them all again. Take time to find your tribe and when you do, be involved with them, learn from them, teach them, and love them. You will be glad you did!
ALDA’s Advocacy Corner continued from page 11

The long-running efforts by ALDA and other advocacy groups to make movies accessible are coming to a successful conclusion. Nationwide uniform federal regulations are now in effect.

The regulations require all theaters using digital projection systems to offer individual viewing devices that enable us to see closed captions, so called because the captions are only visible to patrons who ask for the viewing equipment. The regulations are available online at https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/titleIII_2010_regulations.htm#a303

The regulations specify a minimum number of viewing devices that must be available, require that those devices be kept in good working order, and require that a staff member be available at all times to assist us in operating the devices. Importantly, the theaters are also required to inform us in all advertising, including their websites, that captioning is available and for which movies. While most theaters are complying, including all of the major theater chains like AMC, Regal and Cinemark, some smaller theaters do not appear to be compliant. And here is an area where we need to exercise self-help and be proactive. We need to reach out to non-compliant theaters in our individual communities, remind them of their obligations under the ADA, and ask them to come into compliance at the earliest possible moment.

So how do we determine whether a movie theater we like is compliant? First, the regulations apply only to indoor theaters (not to drive-ins) that use digital projection systems. Any theater that shows first-run movies, whether mainstream films or “art-house” movies, is using digital systems, since traditional .35mm “film” is essentially gone. Second, look at the theater website or other advertising to see if the theater indicates which movies are offered with captions and which are not. If the website does not indicate that captioning is available, then the theater is not in compliance.

I would hope that if any theater, that any of us wishes to attend, is not in compliance, we would contact the manager, politely remind them of their obligations, and ask them for a response. I suspect that in many cases, the problem may be that the theater is providing captions but is failing to let us know that it is doing so. In other cases, it may be that the theater plans to offer captioning at some point, but simply hasn’t gotten around to doing so.

This latter situation provides us with an interesting opportunity. The regulations state that the theaters are never required to provide open captioning, in which the captions are displayed on the screen itself, like foreign-movie subtitles. But, it also states that a theater has the option of complying with the regulations by offering open captioning either for every showing or on request prior to the start of the show.
Some smaller theaters that are either waiting for closed-captioning equipment or wish to avoid the cost of buying that equipment altogether are complying by offering open captioning on demand. Since open captioning is the display mode most of us prefer, let us encourage all non-compliant theaters to elect that option, at least in the interim. Who knows?

They may find that offering open captions on demand does not drive away hearing audiences, and may decide that it is a good thing for everyone.

While most of ALDA’s advocacy efforts have succeeded, we do not win them all; at least not on the first try. I have reported previously on the lawsuit involving access to Fathom Events, the “special events” like Metropolitan Opera, Broadway and London stage performances and classic movies shown at many theaters, are almost exclusively shown without captions. ALDA sued the three largest theater chains: AMC, Regal and Cinemark. They show Fathom Events and, more importantly, also own Fathom.

Our argument was that because essentially anyone can put captions into a format that will allow the captions to be displayed on the individual caption-viewing devices, ADA requires that Fathom material be similarly formatted and displayed. We argued that because the ADA assigns the obligation to provide access through means like captioning to the “place of public accommodation,” which clearly includes movie theaters, the theaters either in their own right or as owners of Fathom, have the obligation to do that.

The theaters did not argue that this could not be done. Rather, they argued that the federal movie-captioning regulations, that affirmatively require theaters to display captions when captions are furnished by the studio, exempt them from the need to do anything else. The trial court agreed with them, and threw the case out.

We are appealing that decision. While the arguments are fairly esoteric even to lawyers, involving as they do the interplay between laws, regulations and commentary, we think we have a solid shot at reversing the trial court’s decision.

Photo via http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/epcap/training-services/self-advocacy-and-empowerment.php
When asked to identify which piece of technology is important to me, as a nurse, I immediately think of all the things I use to help people improve their health. One piece of technology that immediately comes to mind is my stethoscope. The stethoscope is a simple piece of technology which enables one to hear body sounds while assessing patients, but one has to have full use of their ears with the standard type of stethoscope. However, there are amplified stethoscopes that help healthcare workers who may have mild to moderate hearing loss hear the sounds the body makes. In addition to these amplified stethoscopes, there are ones that have recorders built in the central tubing so that alarming sounds that the body makes can be recorded and heard by others. If you happen to have an extra $600, a stethoscope that has a built-in ultrasound and oscilloscope can be purchased for those who have severe hearing loss or are profoundly deaf.

In pondering the reasons for these different types of stethoscopes, surely there are reasons why they were invented. Someone had to have an idea of how to improve the stethoscope so that others with hearing loss would be able to use it. Therefore, the real improvement of technology comes from thinking. It comes out of the frustration with not putting up with the way things are. Challenging our world in creating better devices for us to use comes from one simple thing that we all have: our brains.

Let us take a step back and take a deeper look at what we innately have within our brains and how we can use it through learning. For example, when I first became deaf, I started to read all that I could on how to “become deaf.” Karen Rakow’s book became my bible. I read it from cover to cover. I learned how to use my eyes to hear. I learned why I was so tired trying to listen to regular conversations. I learned how to get closed captions on my TV. I used my brain to learn how to maneuver through the hearing world as I was losing my hearing.

Branching out from my inner self, I learned a great amount about family and relationships. I learned who I could trust and who I could really talk to. I learned that at first my family did not understand just how my hearing loss impacted them. I depended up on them to change as I was becoming deaf. I also learned that there were “friends” along the way who used my hearing loss as a problem for them.

Continued on page 19
ALDA meetings became a joy for me to attend and taught me how to identify better friends.

As a professional nurse, I learned that some nurses did not speak about their own hearing loss as they feared they would lose their positions as nurses on a busy floor. Some late-deafened nurses left the profession. On the other hand, I also learned that there were nurses who took their hearing loss to another level and provided comfort to those who became deaf due to medications and therapies that saved their lives, but cost their hearing. Some nurses went into teaching and became the best nursing educators any student would love to have. Other nurses used sign language in a different way to help those patients who were on respirators, had throat cancer, or other diseases that made it impossible to speak. They encouraged patients to make up their own “sign language” and still be able to communicate. These nurses used their technology and their brains to develop their nursing profession into something more than what it was before.

Technology does not have to be outwardly materialistic, it is something that provides us help and direction into what we do each day. Each one of us has the ability to use our brains to create a better life for ourselves. We have to learn how to tap into the wonderful technology of our brains and teach the hearing world how to change to help us go through our everyday lives.

Our brains, the technology within us, are precious. Therefore, question the world. Think about how things could be better. Discuss the ideas you have. Create change. Use the technology within.

Hearing Impaired E-Scope II w-Convert Headphones
ALDA BOSTON
Francine Stieglitz reports that the Annual ALDA Boston picnic and barbecue on Saturday, June 30 was fabulous. The heat wave did not stop anyone from having fun. Heartfelt thanks to Ellen and Jay Perkins for hosting, and to all the others who helped Ellen and Jay. We were pleased that Heidi Reed, Massachusetts Commissioner for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, was able to attend as were Karen Moss and Valarie Roe Burrows, the current and former Museum of Fine Arts ALDA/HLAA tour leaders. Here are some of the emails we received from attendees:

“It was a wonderful gathering! Thank you, all. I know it takes a lot of planning and a lot of work to put together a successful event like that, and I know it’s very much appreciated. “ (BH)

“The cookout was awesome. This was a nice large gathering and did you notice how everyone mingled, caring and sharing, and just happy to see one another. I was in heaven.” (PH)

“It was so nice to see everyone relaxed and communicating. I look forward to another year with ALDA. Regards to all.” (BS)

There’s lots of accessible theater for members to enjoy in August and September.

Our **September 16** ALDA/HLAA accessible tour at the Museum of Fine Arts will be about Casanova’s Europe, and we’re sure to have a large crowd.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Night at Fenway Park will take place on **September 12** when the Red Sox play the Toronto Blue Jays. Go Sox!

The Lexington library will be the site of our October 20 event. There will be a lively panel discussion of successful coping strategies by ALDA members. CART will be provided, as will refreshments, of course.

Then we’ll rest until our Holiday Party on December 15.

ALDA CHICAGO
Linda Belice tells us about three recent ALDA Chicago events:

Thirtieth Birthday Party (see photo below) - On April 15, 2018, thirty members and several guests attended an ALDA Chicago 30th Birthday Party celebration, which was held at the William Tell Restaurant in the Holiday Inn Chicago SW in Countryside, IL. Everyone enjoyed great food from the "All American Buffet," raffle prizes and a silent auction, which helped to raise money for ALDA Chicago, and also sent one lucky split-the-pot winner home with a smile.

Continued on page 21
Everyone had a great time! It was wonderful for all of us to catch up on what’s going on in each other’s lives since the last time we were together.

**Paddleboat Cruise** - What started out as a very gloomy day ended with beautiful blue skies and fun for 18 members who joined us on a paddleboat trip up and down the Fox River. We all wondered whether this social would actually happen as the rain came down in heavy torrents in the morning. But following our Board meeting, many of us met up for lunch at Smitty’s and others enjoyed a picnic lunch near the dock by the river. We got our exercise by walking to and from the paddle boat, but it was well-worth the walk. It turned out to be a wonderful social that the chapter will repeat in the future.

**Cleo’s Pool Party** - Cleo’s Annual Pool Party (the 31st of its kind for Cleo as hostess for ALDA) was on **Saturday, June 30**, and as always, we all had a great time! The very first pool party, before we were even called ALDA, was on May 16, 1987. That social was the second gathering of the group, the first one after the initial get-together at Bill Graham’s. Like previous pool parties, the yard was set up very nicely with tables, seating and tents – always very welcoming and a great way to socialize. There was plenty of food too, including an array of appetizers and delicious desserts. Since temperatures were in the 90s that day, most people did go in the pool. Those who did not either sat outside or went into the air-conditioned house to chat and socialize. Even with the hot weather, a terrific group made for a successful ALDA social.
This issue’s interview is with Cady Lear Macfee, who will be a co-planning chair for 2019 ALDAcon. Cady was born and raised in Kansas and currently resides in Overland Park, KS, the same location where the 2019 ALDA Convention will be held. Cady lost her hearing initially at the tender age of 2. Spinal meningitis took most of her hearing in her right ear, and all of it in her left ear. At 17, she experienced tinnitus non-stop for 3 months. She lost her remaining residual hearing and opted for a cochlear implant shortly after that. Cady is married, her husband’s name is Brian, and they have a son, Liam, age 4, and two dogs, Jaxson and Beasley. She works for Hamilton Relay as the state outreach Coordinator in Kansas. Here is what Cady revealed about herself.

**KK:** What book or books do you recommend others read?
**CLM:** Unfortunately, I do not read a lot of books. I read mostly children’s books with my son.

**KK:** You simply cannot live without…..
**CLM:** I can't live without chips or sparkling water. I'm addicted!!!

**KK:** Your little known talent is:
**CLM:** Is sarcasm a talent?

**KK:** Hardest thing you’ve done is:
**CLM:** Hardest thing I have done was getting the cochlear implant surgery and the aftermath of that.

**KK:** Your funniest hearing loss moment is:
**CLM:** Funniest moment. I have two! First, my brother has asked me to house sit for him one weekend. I was all alone and I heard this annoying beeping noise. I checked all the rooms, alarms, everything! I called my brother late at night and told him what I was hearing. He asked me what room I'm in now, and I said, the kitchen. He told me to shut the refrigerator door. I had no idea that it made a beeping noise! Second, I had been away for school or work for some time that I really didn't know any of the kids in my neighborhood. My dad who is a big kid at heart, was talking to some of the kids outside one day and asked me to come outside. He told them I have a magnet in my head without telling them the real reason why I have the magnet in my head. He told the kids he likes to put me on the refrigerator so he knows where I'm at all the time. All the kids ran home after hearing that fearing that their own parents will do that to them!

*Continued on page 23*
KK: When and how did you learn about ALDA?
CLM: I was working for Hamilton Relay and they had asked me to go to ALDA conference to work. That was in 2012 in South Carolina.

KK: Do you belong to an ALDA chapter or group?
CLM: We do not have an ALDA chapter here in Kansas City, but we are hoping to start a chapter by January.

KK: Have you ever attended an ALDAcon? If so, which ALDAcon was your first conference?
CLM: I have attended ALDAcon twice; South Carolina in 2012, and New Mexico in 2014, both times, I came for work.

KK: In what ways has ALDA enhanced your life?
CLM: I bawled my eyes out at the first ALDA conference. I went to Tina Childress' presentation on “He said, She said.” I was a newlywed, but we were having some trouble understanding each other because I'm hard of hearing and he's hearing. Tina's presentation made a huge impact on me and I shared some tips and what I learned from her presentation with my family and husband.

KK: Who or what inspires you the most?
CLM: My son is my biggest inspiration. He's my everything.

KK: People would be surprised to learn that you.....
CLM: ... married a guy that bullied me about my hearing loss in middle school/high school. You can say that he has changed for the better.

KK: Your biggest pet peeve is:
CLM: Biggest pet peeve is people chewing their food and talking to me at the same time!

KK: Your favorite childhood memory is:
CLM: My favorite childhood memory would have to be moving to a new town and making friends with 4 other deaf/hh girls my age after attending a school without any.

KK: Your favorite saying is:
CLM: Life is not a competition. I don't know if it's a quote that someone said, but I was going through some difficult time and often comparing myself to others. I realized, this is my journey, not a race.

KK: The bottom line is:
CLM: Have fun! Life is short!
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Susana Flores '16
B.S. Museum Studies, and immersion in Deaf Studies
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NEW AN Submission Guidelines for Quarterly Newsletters

ALDA News (AN) is getting a facelift! Here are the submission guidelines to help us bring you even more of the best of ALDA News. With these guidelines, we anticipate a timely, more uniform submission process to help ensure your news and information is published with the accuracy and detail it deserves.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS - Shared expressions of hearing loss challenges and experiences.
- Submit articles in MS Word or other word processing software
- Word count shall not exceed 500 words.
- While themes have been designated for each AN issue for topic guidance, it is acceptable to deviate.
- Please be sure to include a headline.
- Submit high-resolution photos with captions for articles submitted.

VIDEO SUBMISSIONS - Shared videos of ALDAns
- Be sure video files are clear and free of viruses.
- Videos submitted shall not contain offensive language, offensive graphics, or violence to humans or animals.
- Before submitting video links, please check the link to make sure it works.
- Kindly obtain permission from all parties in the video notifying them of your AN submission.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS - Shared Photo(s) of ALDAns
- Please submit high-resolution photos of at least 250 dpi or an 8 x 10 photo
- Include a caption for each photo submitted.
- CHAPTER/GROUP SUBMISSIONS - Shared Chapter/Group newsworthy events and happenings
NEW AN Submission Guidelines for Quarterly Newsletters

CHAPTER/GROUP SUBMISSIONS - Shared Chapter/Group newsworthy events and happenings
• Designate one person per chapter/group for all submission per issue
• Include high-resolution photo(s) when possible
• Include the who, what, when, where, and why for all submissions
• Submit articles, videos, and photos to ansubmissions@alda.org

ALDA reserves the right to edit all articles, videos, and photos submitted for size and content. We hope you continue to submit insightful, empathetic, and supportive news and information that inspire, inform, and ignite who we are as members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. We eagerly await your submission!

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