I’m at the receptionist’s counter at the clinic, checking in for my appointment. She is facing her computer and mumbling something. She pauses and glances at me, and my mental decision tree goes into action. Do I assume she asked me a question and I should ask her to repeat it, or was it something unrelated to me and I should let it go? My decision tree is composed of the following options from which to make a snap response: let it go, bluff, ask person to repeat, or explain that I am deaf and depend on reading lips.

The receptionist says something again, this time looking irritated. Is she annoyed at what she’s seeing on her computer or at me? I make a stab. “Is there a problem?” I ask, quickly explaining that I’m trying to read her lips because I’m deaf. She gets it, sort of. She talks louder, but I’m still not sure what she’s asking. My brain makes a lot of instant calculations based on the situation. Perhaps she needs to verify my insurance coverage, or my birth date, or….that’s it! I give her my birth date. Now she’s pointing toward the row of seats, which seems to mean I’m done with her and can sit down. I ask how long a wait it will be, and if the person who will call me can be told that I am deaf. But she’s already dismissed me and is looking at the person in line behind me.

I sit in the waiting area, wishing I could relax and read until my name is called, like most of the other people are doing. But I must be vigilant. Every time a staff person comes to the doorway and says a name, I look around to see if anyone is getting up. If not, I look back at the person and wait for her to repeat the name. In my case, it could be something that looks like my legal first name, or last name, or the nickname I usually go by, but it’s the name of someone else, who is now making his way toward where she’s standing.

Since I acquired and trained my hearing dog, it’s easier. But even Muffin, whose middle name is SuperDog, sometimes has trouble decoding if her person, whom she knows as “Lucy” or “Dr. Lucy,” as many of our acquaintances and colleagues know me, is also “Lucille,” or “Mrs. or Ms. Miller,” or any combination of the above, sometimes spoken with a decidedly foreign accent.

Eventually, it’s my turn. I follow the nurse into the maze of cubicles and offices. She is talking the whole time and I’m not getting a single word, but my mental decision tree decides to let it go, as I’m doing all I can just to keep up and not lose her around a bend. Our first stop has a scale. That I understand, so I set my purse down and get weighed. While I’m standing next to her, I grab the opportunity to explain that I’m deaf and that she needs to look at me when she’s speaking so I can read her lips. I watch her facial expression: confusion mixed with anger. “Oh,” she says and stops talking altogether as she motions to me to sit on the table and wraps the blood pressure cuff around my arm. Is it any wonder, while I’m having to be so vigilant, that my blood pressure reading is high? I haven’t even seen the doctor yet.

The doctor, after his perfunctory greeting, during which I manage to tell him of my deafness and that I rely on lipreading, spends quite a bit of our precious allotted 15 minutes gazing at his comput-
ALDA NEWS

Publisher:
ALDA, Inc.
8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2
Rockford, IL 61107

ALDA VOICE/TTY: 815.332.1515 or
866.402.ALDA (866.402.2532)
FAX: 877.907.1738
E-MAIL: info@alda.org
WEBSITE: www.alda.org

Editor-in-Chief:
Nancy Kingsley (Kingsnan@aol.com)
717.435.5514 (captioned telephone)

Managing Editor:
Linda Drattell (ldrattell@yahoo.com)

Editorial Review Board:
Mark Dessert (subvet633@verizon.net)
Carolyn Piper (wicwas@wcvt.com)

Technology Director:
Ken Arcia (technology@alda.org)

Chapter Happenings and GA to SK:
Ann Smith (fabsmith@att.net)

Advertising Inquiries:
Matt Ferrara (treasurer@alda.org)
V/TTY: 815.332.1515 or (toll-free)
866.402.2532

This publication contains
copyrighted material and may
not be reproduced in whole or in
part in any form without written
permission of the Association of
Late-Deafened Adults.

Graphic Artist:
Ellen Perkins (eebail@verizon.net)

ALDA 2017
Board of Directors

Sharaine Rawlinson Roberts, President
Steve Larew, Past President
Paul Wummer, Vice President
Terri Singer, Secretary
Matt Ferrara, Treasurer
Eleanor Shafer, Region 1 Director
Carol Postulka, Region 2 Director
Chris Littlewood, Region 3 Director
Roy Miller, Region 4 Director

Communicate with ALDA at:
www.alda.org/contact

Advertising Information

Full page (7.5 x 9.5")..........................$200.00
Half page (7.5 x 4.5")..........................$125.00
Quarter page (3.5 x 4.5")......................$75.00
Eighth page (3.5 x 2.25")......................$45.00

Ads may be submitted electronically via a pdf
file, a halftone-positive print, or as a negative,
and should conform to the sizes listed above.
Payment in full is due when submitting the
ad. Additional charges will be added for not
meeting size conformity or for non camera-
ready ads. ALDA does not endorse any product
or service advertised herein. Advertisers assume
full liability for the content of ads.
Our theme for this issue is “The emotional toil and fatigue of having to communicate in a hearing world, and ways we can mitigate this.” You will find an array of articles from writers describing personal experiences navigating the difficult waters we have all faced: trying to understand our own communication needs and explaining those needs effectively to others. We also have columns on other topics as well.

We start out with the story “Timeout Needed,” by Lucy Miller, who shares her experiences as a person with hearing loss in a medical office. In “Note from Nancy,” our Editor-in-Chief Nancy Kingsley discusses the benefits of the computer age in making connections and gaining information. Next, John Waldo covers what is happening in late-deafened advocacy in his regular column, “Advocacy Corner.” And in a twist on how to mitigate the toil and fatigue of communicating in a hearing world, Cary Tucker has written “Shut Up and Dance,” in which he tells us what he learned about the positive effect of social dance on interacting with others and improving one’s well-being. Carol Agate’s article, “Forty Years of Denial,” follows her personal journey of hearing loss as a result of scarlet fever when she was a young child, and her reflections on the impact of denying one’s hearing loss.

In “Oh Darn—I Can’t Talk Behind Your Back,” Debbé Hagner shares her experiences since receiving her cochlear implant, including the sounds she learned to hear, new discoveries she made each day, and her ability to handle group discussions. In “One of Us,” Karen Krull interviews Diana Fanuel, who is active in many deaf and hard of hearing organizations and has attended several ALDAcons. Jim Kurfess, in “How I Handle Communication with My Severe Hearing Loss,” writes about how he has utilized note cards to help him communicate his hearing loss needs to others in a variety of settings. Evette Ybarra, in “How I Cope with Hearing Loss,” emphasizes the need to first listen, then think, and then finally speak.

You will also find our other regular column, “Chapter Happenings.” Please check that out as well, as there is a lot of information shared in this issue!

If you have any comments about our articles or suggestions for future themes, we would love to hear from you! As of right now, please contact Nancy Kingsley at kingsnan@aol.com.

Linda’s Lines
Linda Drattell, Managing Editor

NOT A MEMBER?
Join online at www.alda.org
Or
Use the form in this issue of ALDA News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
1 Timeout Needed!
3 Linda’s Lines
4 Note from Nancy
5 ALDA’s Advocacy Corner
6 Shut Up and Dance
7 Forty Years of Denial
8 “Oh Darn—I Can’t Talk Behind Your Back”
9 One of Us
10 How I Handle Communication with My Severe Hearing Loss
11 How I Cope with Hearing Loss
15 Chapter Happenings and GA to SK
17 SKSK
18-20 ALDAcon Registration Forms
22 What Is ALDA?
Note from Nancy

By Nancy Kingsley, Editor-in-Chief

Several times, I’ve commented to people that my other home is in cyberspace. The computer—and now the smartphone as well—offers unparalleled opportunities to make connections and gain information in a highly accessible way for people with hearing loss. Email, instant messages, and text messages allow for easy written communication, and FaceTime makes speechreading possible. Many people stay in touch via Facebook, but so far I’ve avoided that avenue because I already spend more time online than I should!

I also enjoy watching Netflix streaming movies, keeping up with current events via Google News, researching on Wikipedia, buying from Amazon and eBay, and much, much more. I’ve taken a free captioned Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from Coursera (captioned MOOCs are also available from Open Yale Courses and edX). And of course, without a computer, putting the ALDA News together would be a tremendous challenge. The only thing more I’d like to see is universal captioning for online videos and news reports. YouTube’s automatic captioning has been improving but isn’t quite there yet, and not every YouTuber enables this feature. Nevertheless, the access we now have was unimaginable even a few decades ago.

I’d like to thank Linda Drattell for serving in the role of managing editor for this issue and the previous one. She recruited all the fine articles for both except for our regular features. I’m looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with whomever takes up the reins next.
ALDA’s Advocacy Corner

By John Waldo, Curator

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires many private businesses and state and local governments to provide “effective communication” for people with hearing loss unless doing so would impose an “undue burden” on the business. But the ADA does not spell out how effective communication should be provided, nor does it tell either us or the affected entities where the line lies between an “undue burden” and an acceptable one. So the specific benefits and protections we obtain under federal law depends on how the courts and federal agencies—particularly the Department of Justice (DOJ)—interpret those legal requirements and apply them to particular situations.

For the past eight years, the Disability Rights Section of DOJ has been an active and positive force. The section and department have adopted specific regulations that have generally been beneficial, such as the new regulation requiring all movie theaters that use the digital projection format to provide caption-viewing devices by mid-2018. The section has also actively investigated complaints and has entered into numerous settlement agreements that have enhanced communication access. DOJ has also filed a number of “statements of position” in private lawsuits urging the courts to adopt interpretations of the ADA that have been favorable to us.

I wrote the last newsletter piece after the election but before the new administration took office. I noted that every new administration brings new priorities and that we should not expect the DOJ under Attorney General Sessions to be as strong an ally as it has been in the past. To some extent, private actions can overcome a less active federal role; our hope was that the DOJ would not switch sides, so to speak, and become an active adversary.

As of this writing, it’s too soon to know what, if anything, might change. We’re still seeing DOJ reach some favorable settlements. (These are posted online at www.ada.gov). While senior leadership of the Disability Rights Section remains in place, there have been some attorney retirements, and the Trump administration hiring freeze may make replacement difficult. Reductions in force could become problematic.

There were also some important regulatory matters that were left unfinished when the administration changed. The most important to us were proposed regulations dealing with websites operated by private businesses. The appellate courts have split on the question of whether those websites are subject to the ADA requirement of providing “effective communication,” which for us means captioning online videos. The normally disability-friendly Ninth Circuit, which covers the western United States, has said no, that when the ADA imposed requirements on “places of public accommodation,” it meant actual brick-and-mortar physical locations. The counter argument is that when the ADA was passed in 1990, the Internet scarcely existed, but because Congress envisioned the ADA as improving access to public life for people with disabilities, the law should apply to Internet businesses as well. With the strong backing of the DOJ, a number of courts in the eastern United States have taken that position.

In 2014, DOJ began the long process of trying to adopt regulations that would impose ADA requirements on private commercial Internet sites. But time ran out and it postponed that effort until 2018, and we see no indication that the effort is continuing.

In the absence of a nationwide rule from DOJ, it will be up to the courts to decide that question. When different courts reach different conclusions, one of two things happens. Either there are different rules in different areas of the country, or the Supreme Court steps in as the final tie-breaker.

Should the Supreme Court get involved, I’m frankly not optimistic. The counter-argument to speculating on what Congress would have done in 1990 had it known about internet businesses is that Congress jolly well knows about Internet businesses now, and if it wants to apply the ADA to those websites, is can surely do so. Based on my reading of some of the decisions of nominee Neil Gorsuch, I’m virtually certain he would take the position that if there’s a problem, it’s one for Congress to fix. (I wouldn’t be at all surprised if one or more of the Court’s liberals would also take that position.)

My pessimism applies only to private websites. Websites of government entities of all sorts must be made accessible, and any entity that receives federal funds must make its websites accessible. So all is not lost, by any means. But if we want to see captioned material on private commercial websites,
Shut Up and Dance

By Cary Tucker

I have had a severe binaural hearing loss since elementary school, but only late in college did I really discover an extremely helpful strategy for interpersonal communication. For over a decade, I had suffered through or just avoided parties and other challenging social situations. However, during my junior year in college, I learned to dance.

As a nonverbal form of communication, dance offered a way for me to connect with other people without all the usual challenges of oral communication. Especially with ballroom and other forms of partner dancing, the personal connection was often quite literal. Rather than having to rely on my ersatz sense of hearing, I was able to communicate with others through my sense of touch. Over the years, I have even enjoyed taking classes and performing with dance partners who are blind.

There are quite a variety of people who like to dance, and I continually found that going dancing was a good way to meet people. As I gained more experience with dance, I probably also became a bit more confident. Not only did I meet many of my LinkedIn connections and Facebook friends on the dance floor, but the first woman I dated was a history teacher whom I met through swing dancing.

It’s happened before. Let me share a story from a man who is much better known for overcoming barriers involving sound. In his autobiography, General Chuck Yeager (an Air Force test pilot who was the first person to break the sound barrier) describes how he met his future wife while trying to arrange a USO dance. The day his squadron relocated to Oroville, California for training, Chuck and one of his pilot buddies visited the local gymnasium, where they found the office of the town’s USO social director, a very pretty brunette named Glennis. When Chuck asked if she could arrange a dance for 30 guys that very evening, Glennis looked annoyed. “You expect me to whip up a dance,” she exclaimed, “and find 30 girls on three hours’ notice?” So Chuck decided to make a move. “No,” he replied, “you’ll only need to come up with 29, because I want to take you.”

Of course, I don’t claim to have ever been quite as smooth as General Yeager, but I did continue to find reasons to keep dancing besides the chance to ask out a pretty girl. I have learned that there are many benefits to social dance, especially for people with hearing loss. While research has determined that hearing loss can lead to serious problems such as isolation, depression, and dementia, social dance can address them because it requires getting out of the house and interacting with other people.

I was struck with severe depression several years after college and did not begin to feel much better nor make any new close friends until I started going out swing dancing regularly. In my experience, social dance scenes can be highly supportive communities. Barbara Ehrenreich, a cultural historian, also claimed in her book Dancing in the Streets that danced rituals may have long served as a cure for isolation and depression.

What about dementia? A 2003 research paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine examined the relationship between leisure activities and the risk of dementia. The basic conclusion was that cognitive activities like reading and doing crossword puzzles offered some protection against dementia; however, the only physical activity that did so was frequent dancing, which was actually more effective than reading or crossword puzzles. In discussing this paper, a popular dance ethnologist at Stanford University named Richard Powers concluded that the mental acuity benefits of dancing come from rapid decision making, which is much greater in freestyle social dancing compared to the memorized steps in performance or competitive dancing.

In other words, if you have a hearing loss and are looking for reasons to take up or to continue dancing socially, not only can social dance make you happier but it may also help you keep your wits about you.

Cary has experienced severe to profound binaural hearing loss since childhood and now wears cochlear implants in both ears. While he currently works as a paraplanner for a small financial planning firm in Los Altos, California, he has also been an enthusiastic dancer and regular volunteer for organizations such as the Northern California Lindy Society, Connecting Through Dance, and the Santa Clara Ballet. Contact him at carywtucker@gmail.com.
Forty Years of Denial

By Carol Agate

A month in the hospital at the age of six was memorable, even though I didn’t feel the least bit sick. In those days the law required people with scarlet fever to be isolated. My poor sisters were quarantined at home, which was the law if anyone in the family had scarlet fever. They were 15 and 17, just the ages to be mortified by the big yellow quarantine sign on the door.

After I was released, I was unaware that my hearing had been affected. When I had the choice of where to sit in school, I always chose the front row, and it surprised me that most people preferred to sit further back. I thought my preference for the front was because of my poor vision, but many years later I realized it was because of my poor hearing. Glasses gave me 20/20 vision.

A few incidents stood out. Kids laughed at me because I thought the words in “McNamara’s Band” were “A credit to Rhode Island,” instead of “A credit to Old Ireland.” In my teens I was sitting on the beach chatting with a group of people that included my mother, who was unhappy that I wore glasses. As she often did, she said, “Let’s see how you look without glasses.” I told her I couldn’t tell what people were saying if I didn’t wear my glasses. Her retort made such an impression on me I remember it to this day: “Now you’re telling me you’re deaf as well as blind.”

Thus began a period of subliminal awareness but actual denial. I remember being in a noisy restaurant unable to make out what my date was saying, so when he smiled, I smiled. Then his voice came through loud and clear, saying “I see my family’s problems amuse you.” I didn’t realize that even though the restaurant was noisy, people with normal hearing were able to converse.

After I was married, my husband’s watch drove me nuts because it beeped every hour. At night I put it in the closet in a dresser drawer buried in his socks. I could still hear the beep, which reinforced my denial. I rejected any suspicion I might have a hearing loss because he couldn’t hear the watch and I could.

Further reinforcing my denial was that I had no trouble hearing people—I just couldn’t understand a lot of they were saying, and I thought that must be because I wasn’t paying enough attention. I often couldn’t follow the stories in movies, and I attributed this to being inattentive or unable to understand subtleties.

In my mid-forties, I saw an ad for hearing aids, explaining that a person with hearing loss could hear people speak but not be able to understand them. That was the first time I realized hearing loss didn’t mean I the inability to hear. The next time I took my father to the audiologist, I had my ears tested, and the mystery of the beeping watch was solved. I had what is called a “cookie-bite” hearing loss—I had perfect hearing at the high and low ends of the scale, but in the middle range (where voices are) I had a mild to moderate loss. The hearing aids available at that time were not a solution because high-pitched sounds would be amplified to the point where they would be intolerable. A doctor said the loss might have been due to childhood scarring, my first awareness that my scarlet fever hadn’t been as harmless as I had always assumed.

Over the years I saw audiologists fairly often because by this time both my parents were wearing hearing aids and I was their chauffeur. Technology finally solved my problem. The new aids had separate channels for different frequencies, so voices could be amplified without also amplifying sounds at the frequencies above and below them.

Hearing aids sufficed until my mild to moderate loss dropped to the level of borderline severe. It was as though the hearing loss I could expect with aging—given both of my parents’ age-related loss—had a head start. I then learned that the usefulness of hearing aids is limited. They are indispensable for conversations in a quiet room when I am no more than a few feet from the speaker, but the more the distance is increased, the less useful hearing aids become. Loudspeaker amplification is of little use because the sounds are so distorted that the words are often indecipherable. At a gathering where many people are talking, it is impossible for me to converse.

Audiologists never told me about the limitations of those expensive devices that promise to enable people to hear better, and they surely didn’t tell me about assistive listening devices (ALDs). Imagine an audiologist saying, “Now that you’ve paid me $6000 for those wonderful things that will help you hear, let me tell you how limited they are. You really should buy

Continued on page 13
“Oh Darn—I Can’t Talk Behind Your Back”

By Debbe Hagner

It has been over a year since I got a cochlear implant (CI). Many people tell me “Oh darn, I can’t talk behind your back anymore.” I often wonder—how much was really going on behind my back? I guess I will never know. So watch out! I can hear now!

Since I wrote my first article in the Spring 2016 issue, I have had people say, “Please continue to write more on what you learned or new things you heard.” After my second mapping, I didn’t understand the TV or the GPS in my car, but over time, I started to recognize words on TV. I would ask my friend Gary, with whom I share an interest in genealogy, if I heard blah, blah correctly and he would say, “Yes, that is right,” or “No.” I was disappointed some days but was reminded to be patient.

Then I started understanding the teller at the bank or the drive-through at McDonald’s, and was stunned. Little by little my hearing got better. I was really surprised by how well I understood Gary while the TV was on (loud) about six feet away. While we worked on genealogy, he would make me repeat what I heard, and before getting the cochlear implant, I would make several mistakes doing this.

One of the things that surprised me the most was the noise that came from Rice Krispies. For 40 years, I didn’t know that this cereal made a “pop crackle” sound and thought the Rice Krispies advertisement was a joke. I never heard these sounds through my hearing aid.

Over time I have not had to ask people to repeat things, and they commented that I look much more relaxed and my speech is better. I think I have said “huh” or “what” only once since I got the CI, which is really nice.

Other Discoveries

Hearing the announcer at ball games during spring training was always a challenge, but now I can understand the announcements!

At the gas station at RaceTrac, I was surprised to hear music on the overhead speakers. When I used my credit card, I could hear the beep again. Music and the beep were both new sounds to me.

Now I am enjoying music in my car and on Jango on my iPhone. I am surprised I can understand some of the words to some of the songs and can hear the “ding” when a rock or pebble hits my car.

I finally got around to listening to an audio book, and I enjoy reading and hearing The Devil in White City by Erik Larson, which is about the World Fair in Chicago. Very Interesting!

It is nice hearing the microwave “bing” when food is finished. When I made chicken in the oven, I was surprised I could hear the timer beep from six feet away.

I went to visit a friend, Denise, a genealogist and librarian, and while we were talking I kept hearing beeps. I asked her, “What’s that sound?” She explained that when books or CDs are being checked out, their magnetic strips are deactivated so an alarm will not go off at the door. Books being returned get re-sensitized to activate their magnetic security strip again, and a beep occurs as they are sensitized. I was really shocked that I could hear those beeps across the room, about 20 feet away. I never heard that sound before.

And by the way, it sure is a noisy world we live in!

Back-Seat Hearing and the Phone

What is really cool is I can understand my sister or my brother-in-law sitting in the front of the car, without my sister turning around so I can lipread her. Before getting my CI I, used to dislike using the speaker on the phone, as I could never understand the words, but now I understand almost all of them. One time I was on Skype with my sister when her husband called. She had the phone on speaker, and I understood what my brother-in-law said.

Groups and Family

Recently I traveled to a

Continued on page 16
One of Us
By Karen Krull, Curator

This issue’s interview is with Diana Fanuel. I had seen Diana at several ALDAcons before, but first met and talked with her when we shared a table at ALDAcon 2011. We shared a room for the Scottsdale ‘con, and I found a fast friend. She’s knowledgeable, easy to get along with, and active in many deaf and hard of hearing organizations like HLAA and the SayWhatClub. Read her interview to gain insight into why she is “one of us.” You can contact Diana at aldafann@hotmail.com.

Name: Diana Pease Fanuel
Where were you born? Passaic, NJ
What is your current residence? 413 Valley View, Pompton Plains, NJ
What is the cause of your deafness? Measles or a reaction to ototoxic medications treating it
Age/year you became deafened? Age nine
Marital status? Divorced
What is your present job? Happily retired for 13 years
What is the worst job you ever had? McCrory’s 5 & 10 store at age 15
Books you tell others to read? Anything by the Gear husband/wife team (W. Michael and Kathleen O’Neal Gear)
I stay home to watch: PBS Masterpiece Classics or POV
Favorite pig-out food: Dark chocolate nutty ice cream
Hobbies: reading, shopping
If I had more free time, I’d: take long (14+ day) cruises to new locales
The hardest thing about becoming deafened is: missing the punch lines of jokes or funny stories
I began accepting my deafness: after marriage
The worst thing about deafness is: not understanding accents or non-English native speakers
The best thing about deafness is: peace and quiet late in evening, and not being disturbed by noise when sleeping

How did you learn about ALDA?
A deaf woman told me about this organization

In what ways has ALDA enhanced your life? It provides social comfort and enjoyable networking

When I am depressed, I:
am lucky that I just count my blessings and never remain depressed

If I could hear again, the first thing I would do is: enjoy conversation with my grandchildren while riding in or driving a car

The thing I like best about myself is: my satisfaction with life

Nobody knows: my disappointments

What I can’t stand is: people who “know” me but refuse to acknowledge me with a nod or “hello,” never mind “how are you?”

Favorite memory: summers down the Jersey Shore
Favorite saying: Cultivate an attitude of gratitude

The bottom line is: Smile and the world smiles with you
How I Handle Communication with My Severe Hearing Loss

I am 84 years old and have used hearing aids for over 25 years, very successfully for the first 22—the past three, not so much!

In January 2015, when my wife and I sat at a table for six in a huge dining room on a cruise ship, I couldn't understand a word any of my tablemates said. My moderate hearing loss had become severe over a two-year period and became unavoidably obvious by way of that incident! Ever since then, I have been on a crusade to learn all I can about my hearing loss in order to try to minimize the serious consequences it has caused for me, my wife, my extended family, and others in my life.

After these two years of intense study, I have come to believe that hearing loss is the most complex, misunderstood, and devastating loss of our senses. My opinion is primarily based on my very difficult transition from moderate to severe hearing loss. The vast array of products, services, support groups, blogs et al. that exist to help people with hearing loss strengthens that opinion mightily.

The specific impetus for my creating the notecard communication device described here was that my wife was having her hip replaced in March 2016 and I had to be able to understand doctors, nurses, and staff at the hospital. At home, my wife has to shout, text, email, or use our telephone intercom system to talk to me. We can no longer talk room to room, front to back, side to side, or in passing like we did throughout our 57-year marriage. That took a lot of getting used to. It is devastating!

To mitigate this difficulty, I designed and printed a few business-card sized notes and showed them whenever appropriate at the hospital. The cards say:

I Have Hearing Loss
Please talk to me face to face
so I can read your lips.

The note cards worked so well at the hospital that I continued to use them in my everyday life. Inasmuch as digging a note card out of my pocket or wallet when I needed it was cumbersome, I put aside my ego and vanity and started wearing a larger plastic-coated double-sided note card on a lanyard around my neck. Wearing it has been an absolute blessing. My significant hearing loss has been made much more bearable when others know right away that the problem exists.

With the note in plain sight, I can confidently go anywhere! I am comfortable going to stores, shops, doctors’ offices, etc. I am comfortable because people who want to or have to talk to me are made aware of the seriousness of my hearing loss (why else would I wear such a note?) and are shown how to minimize it!

Caveat: Hearing loss is different for each individual, so what works for me will not necessarily be appropriate for others.

Not all visually impaired people need a white cane; many can see well enough to carefully navigate familiar terrain without it. Similarly, people with hearing loss can often navigate various situations without serious consequences, but when they are confronted with a vital need to understand others, a note like mine that is in plain sight can serve as a constant reminder to insure that doctors, lawyers, family members, etc. understand the hearing difficulty and are shown a solution. It works very, very well for me!

Here are some real life experiences I’ve thoroughly enjoyed since embarking on this course of action. Hardly a day goes by that I don’t have occasion to effectively use the note hanging around my neck!

We had to call in an air conditioning troubleshooter because our unit died. After I showed him the note hanging around my neck, I asked him to direct comments or questions to my wife, with me standing by to contribute when I could. After his presentation (we needed a new HVAC unit for $7500—ouch!), he said that his 16-year-old daughter has a hearing loss. He told us a lot about her and showed us a photo of her as a cheerleader. He added that her mother had a hearing loss since childhood but still danced and worked for years as a choreographer. I think their story is a wonderful example of what people with hearing loss actually do every day.

I told a supermarket customer service clerk that I had hearing loss and asked her to bear with me as I explained what I wanted. She agreed readily, completed the service flawlessly, and then told me that she too had a hearing loss, had recently been told that she possibly had a middle ear problem, and had an appointment with a doctor the next week. I wished her good luck; I think about her often and wonder how she is doing.

Continued on page 13
Yes, this is an impatient hearing world. No, struggles don’t cease as time goes on—actually, I’ve found that quite the opposite happens. But I’ve learned that what matters is HOW I cope, HOW I address those situations that remind me that I simply can’t hear. I am here to express that our hearing loss DOES NOT DEFINE US!

I’ve learned to embrace my whole person, finding the balance between my assets and my needed accommodations. To have effective interactions with others, I take the following steps: Listen, Think, and then Speak. I admit that the first step can be difficult, but it’s not impossible. As a person with a hearing loss, I naturally prefer to speak.

I make sure my hearing aid batteries are in good standing and that the lighting, seating arrangements, and noise control are satisfactory. I disclose my hearing loss very casually. For example, I may say, “I just wanted to let you know that I am hard of hearing and I may at times ask you to repeat yourself. Thank you for understanding and I am looking forward to fully participating in our conversations.”

During the actual conversation, I ask clarifying questions and pay attention to nonverbal expressions (facial expressions, body language, and gestures). If I experience negative feelings (frustration, disappointment, fear, sadness and/or anger), I fall back on my coping skills, excuse myself and cool off, and/or take deep breaths. On a personal note, I find it very difficult to “listen” to others, especially when I am not emotionally invested. I then take the time to process those emotional barriers.

I like this quote by Helen Keller: Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

Evette was born with a profound hearing loss that was not detected until she was four, at which time she received hearing aids. She taught herself how to lipread, and this skill helped her survive. She was mainstreamed in public school with the help of a wonderful speech therapist. When Evette went to college, she embraced the Deaf Community and is still actively involved. She taught ASL at West Valley College until her new job consumed most of her time. She loves being bilingual (ASL/English) but prefers to speak English. Evette received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from San Jose State University and has been a licensed clinical social worker since 2013. She is affiliated with ALDA-San Jose Bay Area as well as with the Quota Club of Cupertino (they provide services and financial assistance to hard of hearing people). She earned a first degree black belt many years ago and is now in the process of developing a class for children with hearing loss. Her long-term goal is to relocate to San Diego, but Santa Clara County has been her home for over 40 years. Contact Evette at bbisely@comcast.net.
ALDA's Advocacy Corner (continued)...  
Continued from page 5

Congress will likely need to act. Far from being helpful, Congress right now is our major problem.

There are two bills presently pending in Congress that could put crimps, major or minor, in private advocacy efforts. The first and more troublesome bill deals with class-action lawsuits.

Class actions are an important “force multiplier” in advocacy work. A good example is the action Tina Childress and ALDA filed against the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis, which had refused Tina's request for captioning of a musical coming in May of this year, then ignored my follow-up letter. Had it just been Tina bringing a case, the theater might have been able to resolve the issue by captioning the specific production she wanted to see. Adding ALDA helped some, but we still might have had to show how many ALDAns there might be in the St. Louis area, and how many productions they might realistically want to see with captions. In contrast, a class action claim lets us act not only on behalf of specific individuals and our organization but also on behalf of people with a similar need, namely, people who would need captioning to fully enjoy the theater's offerings. By potentially expanding our pool of claimants that way, we were able to address the theater's general policies going forward.

Our class-action approach worked. Tina and I and two advocates from St. Louis met with Fox management and attorneys. Fox agreed that it would begin offering one captioned performance of every production from now on. We achieved the desired outcome of systematic change, and we very likely could not have done so without the availability of class actions.

The so-called Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act of 2017 would have made our situation much more difficult. While that act seems to be aimed primarily at lawsuits seeking money damages for alleged misrepresentations related to stock prices, it sweeps very broadly indeed. Among other things, it would require attorneys (like me) to disclose whether I had ever represented the parties (like ALDA) in the past, and if I had done so, would not permit me to add a class-action claim. It would also change the way attorneys' fees are calculated, making it much more difficult to find attorneys who can charge their clients nothing, which is what I do, and get paid by the other side if they prevail.

ALDA joined dozens of other civil-rights organizations in a letter to Congress vehemently opposing the bill, but to no avail. It sailed through the House of Representatives on a straight party-line vote and is headed to the Senate. It's not as though the problems with the bill were ignored—amendments were proposed to exempt civil-rights lawsuits from its scope, and to change the provision hobbling attorneys who represent the same client repeatedly, but all were defeated, again on a straight party-line vote.

At least for the kind of cases we bring under the ADA, which does not permit private parties to recover damages, class actions are actually advantageous to the businesses. For them, the alternative to making general policy changes might well be repeated lawsuits, all of which would cost them money to defend. There's also a real question about whether penalizing an attorney and client with a continuing relationship is constitutional. We hope the Senate will be more receptive to these arguments than was the House.

The second problematic bill would require anyone bringing certain ADA claims to notify the business in advance of the violation and give the business the opportunity to fix the problem before filing suit. This bill appears to be aimed at what you might call “ADA trolls” who discern sometimes trivial violations, usually of provisions relating to wheelchair access, then either send out demand letters or file lawsuits, and often offer to go away for payment of some sum of money even if the business doesn’t fix the problem.

These “trolls” are poisoning the well for all of us. For example, one “troll” scam has been to use Google Earth to find motels that do not have the ADA-required lifts at their swimming pool and then send a demand letter or file a lawsuit even if the claimant has never actually patronized the hotel. Other “trolls” take advantage of the highly specific standards for wheelchair access and base claims on easily fixed matters like a light switch being in the wrong position.

I view this as a classic “baby and bathwater” problem. The “trolls” are indeed “bathwater” that needs to be thrown out without damaging the legitimate lawsuits—the “baby.” This issue has generated some very serious discussion among disability-rights lawyers. We haven’t yet come to a consensus, either on where the line lies between “bathwater” and “baby,” or whether there are solutions that make more sense than the proposal of giving notice and an opportunity to fix the problem.

Continued on page 14
Handle Communication (continued)...  
Continued from page 10

I had to buy something for my wife at a local drug-store and asked the pharmacist where to find it on the shelves. He started to tell me, glanced at my note, came out from behind the counter, and showed me where it was.

I have used the same barber for years, but when she first saw the note around my neck, she said, “I knew there was some problem whenever I cut your hair, but I couldn’t remember what it was. Now I will never forget.”

Last week I talked to a fellow resident about the fact that I can hear words well but cannot understand them unless I can read lips too. I showed him the note around my neck. He said “I didn’t know that that kind of hearing loss existed! Nor do hundreds of thousands of other people. Now, instead of telling the story, I point to the note around my neck and give out individual notes if I think that will help. I am working on how I can tweak my system to make it more helpful for me as well as for other people willing to try it.

I had a first appointment with a podiatrist and needed my wife to drive me to the office, as I only drive to very familiar places now. Once there, I could interact with the staff and doctor with only the note to help me. Last week I was out in front of our house when a car pulled up to the curb in front of my neighbor’s house, blocking part of our driveway. A woman got out and started to talk to me, so I lifted the card from my chest and showed her the note. She immediately walked around her car and talked to me face to face. It seems that there had been an unexpected death in the family and she had been asked to pick up something.

Just the other day I was out front when a resident I didn’t know and hadn’t seen before started to talk to me. When I lifted the note card off my chest and pointed to it to let her know of my disability, she said, “I know.” I was glad to know that word had spread throughout our community. Yesterday, a neighbor I know casually stopped and glad to know that word had spread throughout our community. Yesterday, a neighbor I know casually stopped and asked, “What’s new?” I showed him the note and he said, “So, what’s new?” We both laughed.

Jim is a passionate advocate for people with hearing loss. He and his wife PeeDee live in an age-restricted community in Fort Mill, South Carolina. The worst aspect of his loss is that he can no longer participate in what is considered a “normal conversation.” The transition from moderate to severe hearing loss was the most difficult of the many, many transitions he has gone through in his lifetime. Jim can be contacted at kurfelmouse@comporium.net.

Forty Years of Denial (continued)...  
Continued from page 7

some ALDs.”

I was lucky to live in a city with one of the country’s few retail stores that carried assistive listening devices. About 15 years ago, I went there for an amplified telephone and discovered gadgets that picked up where hearing aids left off. I became such a good customer that they started lending me new products to try out and give them a report.

I used one device for going to a restaurant with one other person, another for a restaurant with three other people, and another for meetings. Any of them worked for listening to TV. Then Phonak developed one mic that worked fairly well in different situations up to 10 feet away, so I keep that with me. I don’t go to movies unless they are captioned.

I’ve come to accept that hearing aids don’t do for people with hearing loss what eyeglasses do for people with vision loss: make everything normal. However, others don’t realize that. When I tell someone I didn’t understand what was said, I’m often asked whether I’m wearing my hearing aids. People don’t know that hearing aids increase volume but don’t provide clarity.

I look forward to the day when others who are hard of hearing come out of the closet. There’s almost as much of a stigma to hearing loss as there is to mental disabilities. Some people with hearing loss crawl into their shells because they can no longer socialize and don’t use devices that can improve their ability to participate in conversations.

After joining the Hearing Loss Association of America, I started a local chapter, attended the national conventions, and saw how many young people have a serious hearing loss. Because of its invisibility, we don’t realize how prevalent hearing loss is among people of all ages. So now that I take and lead classes in a school for retirement, I urge others to join me in the struggle to understand and participate.

Slightly revised and edited from the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement’s HILR Review. After her children were in school, Carol returned to college for a law degree. She worked as a prosecutor and defense attorney, a law clerk to the chief justice of the high court of American Samoa, and a clinical professor at Loyola Law School. As a volunteer lawyer for the ACLU, she went to the U.S Supreme Court on the case that got women admitted to Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs. Her final 21 years was as an administrative law judge in California. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts and can be contacted at carolagate@mac.com.
ALDA’s Advocacy Corner (continued)...

Continued from page 12

For what I do, and particularly for what I do on behalf of ALDA, this bill is not a serious problem. Unlike the excruciatingly specific standards dealing with physical access, there are no real standards for “effective communication.” We have to tell them what we need them to do, so we always do so before filing suit. Moreover, the way the bill is presently written, it applies to “architectural” barriers, which likely does not even cover communication issues.

Now to wind up with some good stuff. I’ve written in the past two newsletters about the Broadway Project, ALDA’s effort to systematically improve accessibility at live theaters. We wanted to begin with the major Broadway houses because they’ve got the money to develop technology that can be used elsewhere. I also reported that just before we formally invited the three largest owners to engage with us in consultation and negotiations, the Shubert Group—by far the largest owner of Broadway theaters—announced that it was examining methods of making captions available for every show and from every seat. Since we thought it would be a good idea to take “yes” for an answer—even if the answer came before we’d asked the question—we held off on any further requests until we saw how the Shubert effort played out.

Shubert decided, wisely, that it wanted to assemble a panel of likely users to provide feedback and advice, including people from outside New York City—over two-thirds of Broadway audiences do not live in the city. Jerry Bergman, a New Yorker who was part of the initial Shubert tests, helped assemble the panel, and I’m happy to report that the out-of-town members are Tina Childress and me. We are looking at a first meeting in mid-April to get to know each other and establish an ongoing system of consultation.

Shubert is exploring a means of providing captions to personal viewing devices—essentially a closed-captioning system not unlike what we see at certain movie theaters. As happened with the movies, some folks have questioned whether this approach is acceptable, or whether we should push for open captions.

As with pretty much everything else, there are tradeoffs involved. Open captioning has been done by placing a portable LED reader-board in the theater, usually in front of and on one side of the stage, and then positioning us in seats from which we can see the board and stage in the same line of sight so we can read the captions and watch the action with a minimum of head movement. This can work beautifully, but only for a very small number of people—the farther away you are from a seat where the board and the stage line up perfectly, the more you have to move your head and the less comfortable the accommodation is. Open captioning is difficult for the theater because of the need to block off certain seats, which can be problematic if the production is popular and sold out well in advance. At best, open captioning is available only intermittently—usually one performance of any touring show—and if you can’t attend on that day, you’re out of luck.

As happened with the movies, I think we need to acknowledge that closed, seat-based captioning is likely what we’ll get. It won’t be perfect. But I hope that by working in good faith with Shubert, we can find a system that is really good and that will let us go to any performance of any show. Who knows—someday you might even inherit a ticket for Hamilton.

Timeout Needed! (continued)...

Continued from page 1

er. When he turns to look at me, eyebrows raised, I have to figure out if he has asked me a question. I haven’t even gotten to the reason I’m there in the first place.

How many times do I have to go through this exercise with every transaction I make in the course of a day, being hypervigilant, explaining, doing all I can, before I burn out? And yes, like many of you, I wear a hearing aid, which gives me sound but doesn’t help with speech discrimination, and the cacophony of confusing sounds I can’t identify adds to the growing stress of the day.

My own solution is simple: I give myself a timeout or even a day off when I can. No interaction with hearing people, no hearing aid, relaxing at home while I get rejuvenated reading a good book or, weather permitting, puttering in my yard or playing Frisbee with Muffin. Even TV isn’t always relaxing, as reading captions take work, filling in the blanks caused by the captioning delays, missed words, and misspellings. When I take such a timeout, I can gear myself up for another bout of that highly attentive state.

Dr. Lucy Miller is a long-time ALDA member who attended many ALDAcons until events of recent years conspired to limit her travel to within her state. Lucy is a retired marriage and family therapist and educator. She has lived on Kauai, Hawaii for the past 25 years after having called California home for many years. Although retired and slowing down, she continues to serve on boards and do training on ADA issues. Her late husband, Dick Burkhalter, was also an active member of ALDA. Lucy can be contacted at drlucy@hawaii.rr.com.
Francine Stieglitz reported on ALDA-Boston’s happenings. The New Year’s Brunch was held at the Westford Regency on January 15. Heidi Reed, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH), began the program with an overview of upcoming activities and encouraged ALDA members to tune in to the governor’s speech and the proposed budget as it related to the Commission. The guest speaker, Megan D. Ford, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA, talked about how hearing aids have changed over the years and some of the challenges with today’s new hearing aid technology. She also gave a little history about herself and how she came to open her own practice, HearSmart Audiology. She brought samples of hearing aids that were dispensed in the 1990s, and members noticed how much smaller they have gotten since then.

On Saturday afternoon, February 18, a Valentine’s Day musical was held at Lou and Linda Sakin’s home. Betty Hauck told her hearing loss story and did a little tone testing so members could see whether they were able to hear the range from very high to mellow alto. CART was provided and members brought their favorite chocolate treat to share. The Annual State House Day was scheduled for March 13. On Saturday afternoon, April 8, members planned to attend a professional historical interpretation of “First Ladies from Martha Washington to Frances Clara Cleveland” at the Framingham library. CART was arranged, and the Annual Business Meeting was scheduled to follow.

ASL tours are continuing at the Museum of Fine Arts. In order to accommodate members who might not be able to attend on Saturdays, Sunday tours will alternate with Saturdays. Boston and environs are also offering several open-captioned, audio-described, and ASL-interpreted performances this spring.

ALDA-Chicago has announced its officers for 2017: Joe Linder, President; Marsha Swetin, Vice President; Sarah Wegley, Secretary; and Tom Garvey, Treasurer. Trustees are Michelle Donnelly, Debra Flowers, and Karen Krull. Committee Chairs are Linda Belice, Communications/Neighborhoods Program; Michelle Donnelly and Debra Flowers, Education/Technology; Marsha Kopp, Exhibits; Donna Punzio, Facebook; Karen Krull, Membership; Marsha Swetin, Newsletter; Heidi Adams and John Jun, Outreach; Dawn Linder and Donna Punzio, Socials; and Sarah Wegley, Website. Thanks to Linda Belice for this report.

Marty Mattox reports that ALDA-Midwest is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. She has led the group for all 15 years.

Sara Thompson reports for ALDA-Peach: At the November meeting, Marge Tamas and Kristin Stansell were selected for the two terms that were expiring at the end of 2016. Officers for 2017 are as follows: Marge Tamas, President; Jim Stansell, Vice President; Sara Hartman, Secretary; Steve Tamas, Treasurer; and Kristin Stansell, Member at Large.

ALDA-Peach met on February 22, 2017 for the yearly planning meeting and “unbirthday” celebration. Nine members and two interpreters were present. President Marge Tamas presided and captioned the meeting. Members discussed the progress of the new ALDA-Peach website and brochure. Paper invitations to the meeting were mailed in an effort to increase attendance. The group brainstormed ideas for the 2017 bimonthly meetings in the categories of support, social, service, and skills. These were approved by the board, and are as follows:

April: Home alerting systems
June: Interacting with the police
August: Tour of Georgia Aquarium
October: Georgia Tech Rehabilitation Technology Center tour (to be confirmed)
December: Annual holiday luncheon and officers’ election

Continued on page 16
Oh Darn (continued)...

Continued from page 8

genealogy convention with other “genealogy ladies.” For the first time I felt comfortable with them, and we had a blast! I didn’t feel left out, and I handed my article about my CI experience to several professional genealogists. One said that she got goosebumps on reading it. Another well-known genealogist asked me if he could use part of the article for his keynote speech in July. I was surprised and excited to hear this and said, “Yes, go for it!” I want the world to know that CIs work.

Before I had a cochlear implant, I didn’t care for groups, as it is exhausting to lipread everyone while trying to follow the conversation. At times, I would pretend I understood. After getting my CI, there were a few times when I didn’t catch what was said, as I guess my brain was tired. But I know I am not as tired as I used to be.

One of the things I was hoping for is that my nephew would call me or engage in conversation with me. Before getting the CI, I would initiate the conversation and it was always short and sweet. During the holidays, it was nice to be able to participate and listen to people’s conversation in groups and not feel left out. I only wish people would show more interest in or excitement about my hearing new sounds in my journey other than just saying “yeah.”

During presentations, I used to walk over to people who asked a question, as I couldn’t hear or lipread far away from the podium. Now, with the CI I can hear from the back of the room. Oh, WOW!

Next Steps

Occasionally I need to take my hearing aid out to give my brain time to focus and rest from the CI. The hearing aid is a booster but not sufficient as a stand-alone. One of things I complained about with a hearing aid is that there is no clarity, so I needed to lipread everyone. In addition, I could not hear the turn signal in the car or a siren unless it was close by. Now I can hear a siren but can’t always tell where it is coming from. [Editor’s note: identifying the location of a sound requires bilateral hearing.]

My primary doctor is thrilled to see my progress and suggests that I see a speech pathologist. You see, I have difficulty hearing and enunciating consonants that are similar—B, P, and D. When I say the word “ditch,” it sounds like “dish” or “fish” to people, and I would like them to correct me when I am saying it wrong. I am looking forward to more training from the University of South Florida on speech and auditory tools.

Stay tuned!

Debbe attended the Rochester (NY) Institute of Technology, where she graduated in 1981 and was awarded a bachelor’s of technology degree from the College of Applied Science and Technology. She later went to Marist College (NY), where she accumulated 32 credits towards a master’s degree in information systems. She was employed by IBM as a system test analyst. An interest in tracing her family’s roots led Debbe to pursue a professional career in genealogy. In 1996, she received a diploma in family history from Brigham Young University, making her one of the few accredited genealogists in the Tampa Bay area. Debbe’s private practice features special genealogy seminars and workshops. She also conducts confidential family background research and assists individuals to research family histories and develop supporting genealogy records. Debbe has served as president of the West Pasco County Genealogical Society for several years and is president of the Hearing Loss Association of America—Clearwater Chapter and vice president of ALDA-Suncoast. Her email address is debbe.hagner@gmail.com.

Chapter Happenings (continued)...

Continued from page 15

An ALDA-Peach Atlanta member, Yael Shaner, participated in the Women’s March on Washington (WMW) on January 21 to show her support for women’s rights, healthcare coverage, and disability rights. Yael reports that all activities were interpreted in sign language in person and on monitors and that a disability tent was set up by the WMW-Disability Caucus so that people with special needs could obtain assistance. Assistance was also provided for those with mobility needs. Yael cited a portion of the “Why We March” statement of the WMW Disability Caucus: “We strive to be fully included in and contribute to all aspects of American life, economy, and culture.” Thanks, Yael, for marching in support of disability rights for all of us. Editor’s note: CART should have been provided as well as interpreting.

Send your chapter news (for “Chapter Happenings”) and personal news (for “GA to SK”) to Ann Smith at fabsmith@att.net by May 23.
Your support is essential to help TDI maintain its advocacy work in our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. Here are some of our goals!

- Current Bills in Congress on Internet Access (HR #3101 & S #3304)
- Mandate for Captioned Telephone Relay Service
- Relay for Deaf-Blind Users
- Universal TV Captioning at All Hours
- Captioning at Movies, Live Events and Online
- National Broadband Plan
- Modernized NG-911 Services
- And much more...

Join TDI as a member and help us fulfill our mission for accessible telecommunications, media, and information technologies!

Contact TDI:
Phone: 301-589-3786; Fax: 301-589-3797; Video: 301-563-9112; TTY: 301-589-3006
info@tdi-online.org; www.tdi-online.org

TDI - Shaping An Accessible World

To overcome difficulties is to experience the full delight of existence.
—Arthur Schopenhauer
ALDAcon 2017
Registration

October 11-15, 2017
B Resort,
Orlando, FL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name:</th>
<th>Last Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nickname on ID badge:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City:</th>
<th>State:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postal Code:</th>
<th>Country:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>Type (circle):</th>
<th>Voice</th>
<th>Cell</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>CapTel</th>
<th>VP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Valid e-mail is required

I am a member of an ALDA Chapter/Group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearing Status (circle):</th>
<th>Late-Deafened</th>
<th>Hearing</th>
<th>Hard of Hearing</th>
<th>Born Deaf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This is my first ALDAcon:</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearing / Service Dog:</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dog must stay on leash

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I am a Personal Care Attendant:</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of Person Assisting:

Free registration, but must purchase meals

Full Registration prices include workshops, exhibits, entertainment, speakers, and the following events: Wednesday Reception, Thursday Lunch, Friday Lunch & Banquet, Saturday Karaoke Party, & Sunday Breakfast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALDA MEMBER REGISTRATION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPOUSE REGISTRATION:</th>
<th>Only applicable when combined with married partner's full registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name:</td>
<td>Last Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Special</td>
<td>Until Jan 15, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>1/16/17 to 7/31/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>8/1/17 to 10/4/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Special</td>
<td>Until Jan 15, 2017</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>1/16/17 to 7/31/17</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>8/1/17 to 10/4/17</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MILITARY VETERAN REGISTRATION:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Special</td>
<td>Until Jan 15, 2017</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>1/16/17 to 10/4/17</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION: (Please circle days)  
Note: Friday Banquet or Saturday Karaoke Party can be purchased separately below
(Includes lunch if registered before 10/4/17)

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Day</td>
<td>Thursday OR Friday</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Day</td>
<td>Saturday AM</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>No lunch included</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On & after 10/5/2017, online registration is CLOSED and you may register onsite only. Onsite registration includes workshops, speakers, and exhibit hall. No meals are included with onsite registration. Meals can be purchased onsite IF the hotel can accommodate the request. We encourage you to register in advance for the best value.

A LA CARTE Meals/Events: Please specify number of additional meal tickets (such as, for a non-registered guest). Please note that all meals are included in a full registration, except for onsite registration. No meals are included with any onsite registration, either full registration or single day. Single day registration meals as noted above.

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Luncheon</td>
<td></td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Luncheon</td>
<td></td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Night Banquet</td>
<td></td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Karaoke Party</td>
<td></td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Farewell Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional Side Trip: Cirque du Soleil

La Nouba, by Cirque du Soleil, at Disney Springs, 6pm performance on Thursday, October 12, 2017. Ticket(s) must be paid for by August 1 and are non-refundable.

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Ticket</td>
<td>Ages 10 and up</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Ticket</td>
<td>Age 3-9 only</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Qty:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join/Renew Membership:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (62 yrs or over)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lifetime Memberships: Bronze $500, Silver $1500, Gold $3000.

Tax Deductible Donation

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please total order and pay in full or use EZ Pay Plan below for partial payments.
**EZ Pay Plan**

If you wish to make partial payments toward your registration and/or hotel costs, please use the fields below. Total registration must be received by August 1 using this multiple payment plan, which locks in the rate in effect on date of registration. Minimum payment of $50 is needed to start.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment toward REGISTRATION</th>
<th>$_________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payment toward HOTEL</td>
<td>$_________________________ Total this payment $_________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Needs:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dietary needs are:</th>
<th>Allergies:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADA room kit needed: (circle)</td>
<td>(circle) YES / NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility accessible room needed: (circle)</td>
<td>(circle) YES / NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any other needs:

All workshops/events will feature sign language interpreters and CART (Communication Access Real-Time Translation). Workshop rooms will be looped, to assist those with T-coils.

**Roommate Match:**

By circling YES below, I agree to allow the ALDAcon roommate coordinator to share my information via email with any ALDA attendee of the same gender. Also, I agree to coordinate with my potential roommate to determine if we are a match. We will discuss items such as service animals, allergies, smoking, etc. We will then notify the roommate coordinator by email of our decision after determining if we agree to room together & share expenses. NOTE: All room reservations are the responsibility of the agreed-upon roommates.

I would like help finding a roommate: (circle) YES / NO I am a: (circle) MALE / FEMALE

**Refund Policy**

Requests for refunds (minus $50.00 handling and processing fee) will be honored until July 31, 2017. No refunds will be given from August 1, 2017 on. Contact ALDAcon 2017 co-planning chair Lois Maroney at loismaroney@aol.com for consideration of unique circumstances, such as illness or a death in the family.

**Method of Payment:**

We accept checks or money orders payable to ALDA, Inc. Credit card payments can be processed online only, payable through Stripe, our preferred online credit processor. Stripe will accept Visa, MasterCard, or Discover credit cards.

Print form and mail to:

ALDAcon 2017 Registration  
c/o Karen Krull  
7815 S. Central Ave.  
Burbank, IL. 60459 USA

**Reserve Your Hotel Room TODAY!**

Reserve your room at the B Resort, Orlando, FL today! The ALDAcon room rate is $119.00 + taxes and ends on September 19, 2017. B Resort phone number is (866) 990-6850; guests need to mention ALDAcon. Online reservation may be made at the following link:

Mobile Captioning
The Way It Should Be!

Receive Captions on Incoming and Outgoing Calls (iPhone & Android)
- Make Quick Calls From Your Contacts List
- Create Your Own Favorites List
- Access InnoCaption Voicemail With Captions
- Review and/or E-mail the Transcript to Yourself After Every Call
- Use InnoCaption With Your Landline Phone Through Alternate Voice Path (Outgoing Calls Only)
- Privacy - Captioning Agent Only Heats the Person Who You Call/Is Calling You
- 911 Access*
- Free for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing!

For More Information, Visit Our Website
WWW.INNOCAPTION.COM
Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter!

Available on the
App Store
Get it on
Google play

* Where available, calling 911 from a landline remains the best way to access emergency services.
What Is ALDA?

The mission of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) is to support the empowerment of late-deafened people.

Late-deafened adults are people who have lost their hearing in any degree after having acquired spoken language. ALDA members may or may not use hearing aids, may or may not use assistive listening devices, may or may not use cochlear implants, may or may not use speechreading/lipreading, and may or may not use sign language. What ALDA members DO is “whatever works.” This is the philosophy that keeps the doors to ALDA wide open to anyone who is interested.

ALDA is committed to providing a support network and a sense of belonging to late-deafened people, sharing our unique experiences, challenges, and coping strategies; helping one another find practical solutions and psychological relief; and working together with other organizations and service providers for our common good.

ALDA provides networking through local chapters and groups as well as our annual convention (ALDAcon). We offer social activities, advocacy, peer support, up-to-date information on new technology, and guidance for late-deafened adults, their families, and their friends on ways to deal effectively with the difficulties arising from losing our hearing. ALDA is inclusive, never exclusive. Members find themselves part of a family, with emotional and social support, and, above all, acceptance.

Membership in ALDA provides support for outreach: newsletters, brochures, mass mailings, public presentations, and participation in local and national events to spread the word about ALDA to the more than 31 million Americans, and other late-deafened people worldwide, who would benefit from our organization. ALDA also assists chapter leaders and regional directors to expand ALDA through more chapters and groups and increased membership.

You can join ALDA via the form in this issue, or go to www.alda.org or contact ALDA, Inc. at 8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2, Rockford, IL 61107, 815-332-1515 V/TTY. Membership entitles you to receive the quarterly ALDA News, which spotlights personal experiences of late-deafened people, and to attend ALDAcon at the lower member rate.

If you are interested in learning about ALDA in your area or seeing ALDA become active there, please contact your regional director (contact information is at “Contact Us” on the ALDA website).
(RENEW/J OIN) ALDA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Section 1.* (Please check one)  [ ] Personal Membership  [ ] Gift Membership  [ ] Business Membership
Your First Name: ___________________________________ Your Last Name: ___________________________________
Your Address:____________________________________________________________________________________
Your City: _________________________________________ Your State: _______________________________________
Your Zip / Postal Code: ______________________ Your Country: _____________________________________________
Your Phone: _________________________________________________________ Check Here If Phone Is “Text Only” [ ]
Your E-mail Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

Section 2.* Type of Membership (Please check one)
[ ] Regular Membership (61 and under) $30  [ ] Senior Membership (62 or over) $25  [ ] Veterans Membership $25
[ ] Business Membership $50  Lifetime Membership: [ ] Gold $3000  [ ] Silver $1500  [ ] Bronze $500
[ ] Donation Only (No Membership Selected)

Section 3. (Complete this section only if this is a GIFT MEMBERSHIP)
Recipient's First Name:______________________________ Recipient's Last Name: _________________________________
Recipient's Address:________________________________________________________________________________
Recipient's City: _______________________________________ Recipient's State: _________________________________
Recipient's Recipient's Zip / Postal Code: ____________ Recipient's Country: ______________________________________
Recipient's Phone: _________________________________________________ Check Here If Phone Is “Text Only” [ ]
Recipient's E-mail Address: _____________________________________________________________________________

Section 4. (Complete this section only if this is a BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP)
Business/Company Name: _____________________________________________________________________________
Business/Company Website (If Any) Address (URL): _______________________________________________________  

Section 5.* Payment Due
Membership Fee:   _______________ Tax Deductible Donation:  _______________
Total Payment Due:   _______________

Note # 1: You must complete a separate form for each person who is renewing their membership or joining ALDA. You cannot submit multiple memberships on one form.

Note # 2: If you wish to use a credit card for membership payment, you must do so by visiting www.alda.org and clicking on the "RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN ALDA" button.

Note # 3: If you are a member of a local ALDA chapter, there is a discount for a "Regular Membership" if your membership fee is paid by the treasurer of your local ALDA chapter (discounted fee = $25). So, if you are a member of a local ALDA chapter, please provide the name of that chapter below, give your chapter treasurer this completed form, and ask him/her to handle your payment.

Local ALDA Chapter Name: ____________________________

Print this form, include a check or money order, and mail to:
ALDA, Inc 8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2
Rockford, Illinois 61107-5336

* Required Section

Revised 04/12/2017
Be sure to check your address label. It shows the date your dues will expire. Don't let your membership lapse!

Visit us on the web at: www.alda.org

Make a Difference! Become a Lifetime Member!

Why a Lifetime Member?
A. ALDA and the work it does to support the empowerment of deafened people means a lot to me; I want to support ALDA financially
B. I don’t have to worry about forgetting to renew my dues
C. I plan to live to be at least 130 years old; think what a bargain Lifetime Membership will be!

Ann Smith, Lifetime Member

Lifetime Membership Tier
• Bronze $500 - $1,499: receive a personal letter from the President, bronze plaque
• Silver $1,500 - $2,999: receive a personal letter from the President, silver plaque and priority seating at future ALDAcons
• Gold $3,000+: receive a personal letter from the President, gold plaque, priority seating at future ALDAcons and complimentary registration to a future ALDAcon.

Lifetime Memberships may be tax deductible and can be paid in three annual installments by check or credit card.

Contact ALDA treasurer: treasurer@alda.org or visit www.alda.org