You might think that as a child with a hearing loss, I would have grown up being used to social situations where it is difficult to follow what is being said and what is going on. It wasn’t like that for me. In fact, in many ways, I was socially stunted because of my hearing loss.

Much of what goes on is accessed through the ears. Conversations are happening around us everywhere we go, and people learn about social graces by listening to the comments of others. (This is called incidental learning.) We learn how to use words to convey emotions, social norms, acceptable behavior, and small talk. On more than one occasion, people have mentioned that I don’t waste much time getting to the point, and as a result, I sometimes come across as rude. I’m not actually being rude—I just know that by the time I get to the end of small talk, I’ll be worn out from trying to follow the conversation and be so mentally exhausted that I’ll miss important parts. I’m sure some of you reading this can relate. It’s so much easier just to get to the point, but that’s not the norm. People talk a lot without saying much before arriving at what they actually want to communicate. The small pleasantries of discussing the weather, asking how the family is, and even a simple “how are you” can turn into a huge discussion.

I’ve noticed through the years that as my hearing deteriorates further, it becomes easier for me to talk a lot about nothing just so I won’t have to ask the other person time and again, “I’m sorry?” or “Could you repeat that, please?” If I do most of the talking, there is less chance that I will answer inappropriately. That is my biggest fear when it comes to socializing, and I spent many years isolating myself because of it. I don’t know the scientific name for this phobia, if there is one. It was never a problem for me until I went to the dinner party that changed that.

I was married to a military police officer in the early 1980s. This was before I got my first hearing aids. (It was actually this man who set me up with the audiologist that prescribed my first ones, courtesy of the U. S. Army, while we were stationed in Europe, but this happened after the story I’m about to tell you.)

That husband—I’ll call him M.P. for military policeman—received orders to report to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. I was 22 at the time. We opted to live off base in a house near Kings Ferry and Ogeechee. The landlord lived on the other side of the watermelon patch behind the rental. He was very friendly, the epitome of Southern hospitality, and invited us to his home for dinner the next day with some of their friends. His wife, he said, made the best barbeque in these parts. Although I was nervous about meeting new people and making new friends, I knew it was important to accept the invitation.

M.P. went through processing the next day. He had a bad reaction to the typhoid fever vaccination and was sent home early. He began developing a fever and needed to get into bed. By now, it was late afternoon, and we were expected at Mr. and Mrs. Landlord’s house in just a couple of hours. While I was debating whether I should stay home and be a nurse, M.P. said to just go to the neighbor’s for dinner. It wasn’t like I was driving across town—I would be right next door, and he wanted to be left alone and sleep.

I walked past the watermelon patch up to Mr. and Mrs. Landlord’s home. Mr. Landlord introduced me to their adult son and their friends, a young...
ALDA NEWS

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My progressive hearing loss (which eventually resulted in deafness and a cochlear implant) developed before communication access was required by the ADA and made available through current technology. I was able to understand a speaker who was close to me, such as a tour guide, but other forms of spoken or sung entertainment (like TV, movies, and live theater) were impossible for me to follow. Instead, I became an avid reader.

After the ADA was passed and various forms of captioning were developed, I was able for the first time to watch TV and DVDs. I never developed much interest in TV, but I found watching captioned DVDs to be a valuable way of avoiding boredom while exercising on my treadmill. Advocates helped to bring open captioning to live theaters in NJ, where I lived at that time, and when I moved to Pennsylvania six years ago, I advocated successfully to get my local live theater (the Fulton) to provide this access as well. This effort was helped by VSA’s development of a captioning method that enables a member of theater staff to enter and scroll the captions, making it unnecessary for the theater to hire outside personnel for this purpose. The LED screen is also provided by VSA (which was formerly known as “Very Special Arts”), as well as a short training period. Unfortunately, despite this assistance, no other live theaters in the area have been willing to caption their performances. I’ve occasionally had the happy experience of finding a captioned video in a museum or historic site, but more often, such videos have been inaccessible.

I had been able to see movies with Rear Window Captioning in NJ (which were provided as a result of a settlement with the state), but this access was unavailable in Pennsylvania until several recent court decisions caused some chains to begin offering it. As of this writing, the Regal theater in my town hasn’t yet been equipped with Regal’s Sony Entertainment Access closed-captioning glasses, but I did have the opportunity to try them out in another location.

Although the availability of access is still incomplete, I could never have imagined in pre-ADA days that I would someday be able to participate as much as I now can.
A few years ago, my sister and her family planned a visit to New Jersey that included a day trip to the neighboring Big Apple. Sightseeing, dinner at Carmine’s, and a Broadway show guaranteed an exciting, entertaining, and yes, tiring, day. Since our visits are few and far between, I was looking forward to spending quality time together. My enthusiasm, however, was dampened by the thought of seeing Wicked. The famed Broadway show had been purposely selected as the evening’s entertainment, since my sister and her family hail from Kansas, the land of Dorothy Gale. For those unfamiliar with the plot of Wicked, it’s a twist on The Wizard of Oz, told from the perspective of the witches before Dorothy’s arrival in Oz.

Not that my lukewarm feelings were any reflection of the talent and allure of the show, mind you. Wicked had terrific reviews, and having watched The Wizard of Oz countless times as a child, I was curious about this production. The reason for my hesitation was one that ALDArs could appreciate. For many of us with hearing loss, enjoyment of the arts has historically been as elusive as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. The prospect of sitting cluelessly in a darkened theatre, with actors and actresses hopping merrily across the stage, was compensation for the boredom I was sure to experience. My only complaint (and a small one at that), was that the opportunity to spend the day with family in New York City was too rich to pass up, even if three hours of that day would likely be spent fitfully napping in my theater seat. It would be an expensive nap, no doubt, but I rationalized that the fun to be had in the other nine hours of the day would compensate for the boredom I was sure to experience.

Although I was not terribly excited by the thought of seeing Wicked (or any other show), the opportunity to spend the day with family in New York City was too rich to pass up, even if three hours of that day would likely be spent fitfully napping in my theater seat. It would be an expensive nap, no doubt, but I rationalized that the fun to be had in the other nine hours of the day would compensate for the boredom I was sure to experience.

So, after an enjoyable dinner at Carmine’s, we headed to the theater and began making our way upstairs to our seats. Approaching the second floor, my sister looked up and saw a colorful banner hanging from the ceiling. It had a picture of the familiar “slash through the ear” symbol, and it was advertising some sort of unfamiliar device. “Look, Ei,” Kathy said, “is that something you can use?” I looked more closely, expecting it to be an ad for assistive listening devices (which would have been useless to me). But instead, it mentioned something called an I-Caption, and the “caption” part of the name immediately grabbed my attention. “Hmm,” I thought, “I suppose it can’t hurt to check this out.” A spark of hope glimmered, as I began to wonder if I’d be able to enjoy the show after all.

I approached the booth and asked the clerk about this “I-Caption” gizmo. She showed me the device, which was about the size of a smartphone, and explained that when the show began, the device would start displaying captions automatically. No setup needed, no buttons to push (literally!), no special seating required. The I-Caption was synched to the show, so the captions would display at precisely the same time someone was speaking. It sounded almost too good to be true.

Perking up, I forked over my driver’s license, providing the necessary assurance that I was not a pickpocketing criminal. After locating our seats, I settled in, thoughts of naps and boredom now replaced by the anticipation of seeing the mysterious I-Caption at work. The lights dimmed and I cradled the device in my hand, anxiously wondering if this experience was going to be a hit or a miss. Finally the curtain rose, and as if on cue, the newfangled device lit up at exactly the same time. So far, so good. Then words began appearing on the little screen, followed by music notes to indicate that the cast was singing. True to the advertising claims, the words corresponded to the characters’ movements. I sat in my seat for the remainder of the program, engrossed in all that was transpiring on the stage. Every lyric, every word, even nonverbal cues, appeared on the screen, maximizing my experience.

My only complaint (and a small one at that), was that I had to constantly hold my arm up to align the captions with my view of the stage. When my arm got tired, I rested it on the seat, watched the action on the stage, and looked quickly down at the captions. This arm-stretching, interspersed with bobblehead movements, was tiring, but at least I could take my nap after rather than during the show. [Editor’s note: if a suitable stand were provided, it wouldn’t be necessary to hold up the device to allow for simultaneously reading the captions and viewing the stage. However, some people have focusing problems when trying to alternate views of the distant stage and the close-up captions. A large LED caption display placed near the stage resolves this difficulty.]

With the curtain call a few hours later came a deep sense of gratitude for those who have tirelessly advocated for accommodations in the arts and entertainment arena. Thanks to their efforts, those of us with hearing loss can enjoy TV, movies, theater productions, tours, and so on. While much still needs to be done, there has been a huge leap forward from the dark.

Continued on page 10
Awesome Captions Benefitting Everyone, One Word at a Time!

By Angie (Fugo) Fuoco

Captions are awesome! They put everyone on a level playing field— hearing people, late-deafened people, and folks trying to eke out the words with hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other assistive listening equipment. We’re in awe when we see captions, and we now see them more often in AWE (Arts, Worship, and Entertainment). The captions may be produced by CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation), CAN (computer-assisted notetaking), or voice recognition software, or they may appear on a screen or glasses. They’re not yet ubiquitous, but in the past few years, I found increasing opportunities to enjoy them.

ARTS

My first encounter with captions was at NYC’s Metropolitan Opera in 1996, where I used them for translation purposes (but they really help those of us with hearing loss, too). A friend and I went to see Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano, in Così fan tutte (in Italian idiom, “All [women] are the same”). I remember staring at the seat back in front of me to read a captioned display of the opera, sung in such high Italian that even with better hearing back then, I still received it. I remember trying to eke out the words with hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other assistive listening equipment.

Then came Wicked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in 2011. The Kennedy Center is renowned for accessibility of all kinds, and our special performance included nearly 600 attendees of the Hearing Loss Association of America’s (HLAA) convention in Alexandria, VA. Captions were visible throughout the auditorium; text scrolled across four-foot-long magical “drop screens” suspended from various points in the ceiling, which allowed full view of both the captions and the stage from all seats.

This was not the case at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. In the 2011-12 season, the Fox offered a single trial captioned performance of each of its Broadway series shows; since I love Wicked and wanted to support my local theater’s first venture into captioning, I got tickets for a friend and myself. It was nothing like the Kennedy Center performance; we sat a few rows back at the extreme left side, with a full view of both the temporary caption screen and… a huge column! Our view of the stage, except for the far right corner, was blocked. At intermission time, my resourceful friend and I took empty front row seats at the left edge of the center section. This had a view of the caption screen, though Fox staff had warned that we would not be able to see the captions; by disregarding their advice, we enjoyed the last half of the show with full visibility of both the captions AND the stage. A few months later, I took another friend to see Les Misérables—another show that I have seen multiple times—but my first captioned Les Mis performance (and the first captioned performance of any kind for my friend) was a bust. Again, we were seated in nearly the same extreme left seats in view of the huge column. Many of the hard of hearing patrons at these two and the other Broadway performances gave the Fox such disappointment-laden feedback that I do hope they will change things around if they offer these kinds of performances again. And sadly, none of the seats in the captioned section were available for wheelchair users, so fellow ALDA-Peach member Robin Titterington couldn’t join us. [Editor’s note: the theater can be asked to indicate seating areas where the captions and stage are both readily visible; if possible, this should include wheelchair seating.]

Then came the Sony closed-captioning glasses for movies. In awe of this novelty after briefly hearing about it, I, the ever last-minute, no-notice show-up, decided to join the ALDA Peaches at the movies on May 11. Yael Shaner had called ahead to let the theater know that a handful of Peaches would be there to try out the new glasses on The Great Gatsby. So what could go wrong, right?

Well, once we got through at least 20 minutes of uncaptioned previews, the movie started with none of our six pairs of glasses working. Xan Burghardt quickly became our “Chief Complaintress” and sacrificed extra Leonardo DiCaprio time to address the situation with management. So after 20 minutes of the movie, the captions were finally on. The manager apologized that someone had to turn the captions track on, because if all of them are on at the same time in multiple theaters, they can cause interference with each other.

Once we got the glasses working, there was an adjustment period – you could choose among near, medium, and far projection, and I don’t think I ever figured out which was best. We saw the captions appear at the bottom of the glasses, looking like they were at the bottom of the movie screen. And though...
Holland America Cruise Line Experience: A Hearing Impaired Perspective

Editor’s note: The U.S. Supreme Court determined that cruises sailing from the U.S. (even if the line is foreign-owned) are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Over a decade ago, a disability access organization filed class action lawsuits against five major cruise lines, including Holland America, resulting in a settlement to provide wheelchair access. By a rule of the Department of Transportation issued on July 6, 2010, televisions on the ship must have closed captioning and the ship must provide effective communication of all onboard information (including safety procedures) via auxiliary aids and services. Travelers with hearing loss should make their communication access needs known when reserving a cruise. If the cruise line fails to comply with ADA mandates, the passenger can file a complaint with the Department of Justice (which will sue if there is pattern of discrimination or an issue of public importance; the DOJ can also obtain damages) or a private lawsuit (which can require compliance but no damages).

My wife and I took a seven-day Holland America cruise to the Caribbean in February 2013. This wasn’t my first cruise, and I noticed that they haven’t improved their services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The problems began with the safety drill on the day we boarded, which takes place before leaving shore. I told the crew that I have a hearing loss and may need written assistance to follow the safety instructions. That wasn’t available, and they asked if I was with someone on this cruise. When I said I was with my wife, I was told to listen closely to the broadcasted instructions and ask my wife if I needed something repeated. This is what I do anyway, but having a printed sheet to follow along would have helped immensely and prevented my wife from having to give me a condensed version.

The television in the room came with very limited closed-caption capabilities. The ship did not have the latest technology, and not all channels had closed captions. When the ship was at sea and relied on satellite transmission for Internet and television, the service deteriorated even more and the closed captions almost totally disappeared. The front desk was unable to do anything but apologize and say it was just too bad, not their fault, nothing they could do, and have a nice day! When closed captioning was available, it had to be manually turned on from the remote to the TV and not the room remote, which most of the staff didn’t know, so another obstacle was getting it turned on when it was available. Yes, they had a DVD player and videos I could borrow from the front desk, and closed captioning could be used with the rental movies. However, I wanted to watch the TV broadcasts, news, and network specials.

There was a movie theater on the ship, but closed captioning wasn’t available and no one knew if it could be enabled in the theater, or how to do it if it could be enabled. So many frustrating hours were spent trying to get someone to answer questions or furnish information. There is a great need for staff training about the needs of guests with hearing loss, along with ship retrofitting to provide it.

It was impossible for me to hear and understand when the captain came on the public address system, or when announcements were made by the crew. They appeared nowhere in writing or captioning in the rooms, in the halls, or where monitors were available. If you didn’t have a hearing companion, you were just out of luck and on your own to find out some other way.

I spent hours talking to the front desk and various staff members about how they could improve services to their guests with hearing loss. Some took notes and some just looked at me like I was an alien and said they would pass my suggestions on, but no one took any positive actions to help me. Finally I went back to my room, made up my own “Cruise Ship Guidelines for Hearing Impaired Guests,” sat down with a member of the ship’s administrative staff, and went over them with him. He said he was impressed with my handout and would take it to his supervisor and forward it to the cruise line headquarters. To this day I have no idea where those guidelines went or what happened to them.

None of the ports of call where we stopped had any hearing loss services available either, including hearing aid batteries or hearing aid repair centers. There are no ADA laws in those Caribbean countries, so no one takes the initiative to have services or assistance available. The Shore Excursions were the most difficult and disappointing. Touring on buses with no provisions to hear and understand the guides, made them not only not enjoyable but also a lost opportunity to learn and feel like a part of the tour group. Neither the tour guides nor the ship excursion staff had any printed materials or aids to help people with hearing loss to learn or understand what was covered or mentioned on the tour. I was made to feel as if they had never met any guests with a hearing loss.

Continued on page 15
Enjoyment Despite Hearing Loss

By Bob Elkins

When I was a young child, I had two fervent wishes. The first was to find a way to stop my parents from fighting.

“Mommy, Daddy, why are you yelling at each other! Can't you be nice?”

“We're talking normal,” my father would always reply. Then he would turn back to my mother and say for the millionth time: “Lousy disposition; you have a lousy disposition, that’s all” or “Why don't you change your clothes; you embarrass me” or “I'm a working man; don’t you know that by now?”

My first wish never came true. My parents remained together until one of them died after 50 years of talking “normal” to each other. While still very young, I finally accepted that there was nothing I could do to stop their arguing. So I formulated my second wish. I thought about how people can close their eyes, but not their ears. How nice it would be to turn off my ears to enjoy silence. Little did I know that in time my second wish would come to be only too true.

But just like King Midas who wished that everything he touched would turn into gold but neglected to wish he could turn off his magical power, the day would come when I could turn off sound by simply clicking off my hearing aids. The problem is that, as miraculous as hearing aids are, they do leave much to be desired. It's not the same as having normal hearing. If I could have one more wish, it would be to undo my profound hearing loss despite the risk of having to listen to a lot of noise.

This brings me to the theme of this issue: “HOW DOES HEARING LOSS AFFECT OUR ENJOYMENT?”

I admit I don't have the answer for overcoming the challenges perfectly, but by using the latest developments in technology and working on my attitude, I can maximize my enjoyment.

Years ago, Dana Mulvany, a hard of hearing social worker, showed up at a social event with a PockeTalker (an assistive listening device to improve hearing in noisy surroundings, such as restaurants). And let me tell you, no matter how persuasive a person with normal hearing is about claiming that a particular restaurant is a quiet place to eat, there is no such thing as a quiet restaurant! The truth is that an individual with normal hearing has the ability to screen out background noise, which is not the case for people with hearing loss. However a PockeTalker used with a directional mike does the job of drastically reducing the competing interference from such noise.

That's the helpful technology, but I need an attitude adjustment in order to use it. I find it difficult to advertise my deafness to everyone by holding a microphone in the face of others. Invariably, the individuals I am talking to assure me they do not mind, but I feel uncomfortable parading a PockeTalker.

Now with going to movie theaters, it's a different story. I continue to love seeing movies; I simply avoid seeing them in movie theaters. Instead .I watch closed captioned movies on a DVD player. The main drawback to watching movies at home is the temptation of making repeated trips to the fridge. But if we are talking enjoyment, I enjoy movies at home more than going to the theater.

My wife Ling likes us to go on guided tours, but it's hard to predict whether this is going to be a rewarding activity or just torture. I will go up to the tour guide and explain that I am deaf. I say deaf rather than hard of hearing because it's difficult to explain hearing loss—deafness seems to be more readily understood. I tell the guide that I need to be in front facing her and she needs to articulate carefully and move her lips. Sometimes the tour turns out acceptably, but most of the time it does not.

At one time I had a passion for square dancing, but I find no enjoyment in this activity anymore, since I can no longer understand the caller and can't figure out a way to overcome that hurdle. There isn't enough time between calls for me to observe what the other dancers are doing in order to copy their movement before the next call is given. However with the rapid progress of technology in the area of text-to-speech, I bet that in time a way will be found to flash the calls where they can be seen by the dancers so that those of us with hearing loss can enjoy square dancing in the same way that we can attend an open-captioned stage play. I look forward to that.
One of Us

By Karen Krull, Curator

I met Tom Hagney and his wife Mary at ALDAcon in Colorado Springs, after communicating with them by email for several months. Tom was raised in New Jersey and moved to Colorado in 1965 to attend college. He loved the climate in Colorado and never left to go back to the East Coast. Tom became a police officer in the Denver Police Department in 1969. While employed there, he worked on his degree in forensics/chemistry and transferred to the police laboratory in 1975, retiring in 1997. He has two children from a previous marriage and three grandchildren.

Tom loves the outdoors and enjoys traveling. Mary shares his wanderlust, and they spend their time visiting family, camping, racing, and traveling. Their dream was to retire on a sailboat and sail the Caribbean, until they discovered that Mary gets seasick. They opted to see as much of this country and Canada as possible, so they sold their house and bought a motorhome. They live on the road, wintering in central Texas and traveling during the rest of the year. They have been to all but two states on the mainland (Hawaii cannot be reached by road) and to nine Canadian provinces. For the past four years, they’ve summered in the Colorado mountains to escape the heat, and they spend time fishing with their grandson. Read on to discover more of Tom’s life journey. You can reach him by email at tmhagney97@gmail.com.

Name: Thomas R. Hagney (but I go by Tom)

Where were you born? Lakewood, New Jersey

What is your current residence? Anywhere, USA (officially Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but I travel in a 40’ motorhome)

What is the cause of your deafness? Loud noise, at first from gunshots and then from fan noise exceeding 110 decibels for eight hours a day, five days a week, and 48 weeks per year for over seven years.

Age/year you became deafened? I was first made aware of my loss at age 36 in 1983. Apparently I’ve had a slow progressive loss over many years. I had about 50% loss at that time, which reached 90%+ by 2011.

Marital status? Married to Mary for 31 years

What is your present job? Retired forensic chemist (trace analyst) / police detective (retired in 1997)

What is the worst job you ever had? Repairing an overflowing septic system and working with my father in general construction.

Movies you want to see again? Ironman—lots of action and special effects

Books you tell others to read? All Tom Clancy and James Patterson novels

I stay home to watch: Mentalist, Elementary, Suits, NCIS, Burn Notice, and Revolution

Favorite pig-out food: Fresh bread and anything sweet

Hobbies: Fishing, woodcarving, biking, and kayaking

If I had more free time, I’d: get back into radio control soaring and golf

The hardest thing about becoming deafened is: communicating—educating others about how to speak in order for me to hear (however, this isn’t an issue anymore, since I now have a cochlear implant)

I began accepting my deafness: in 1997, at age 50

The worst thing about deafness is: isolation, since it was easier to withdraw than try to communicate

The best thing about deafness is: silence, especially while sleeping

How did you learn about ALDA? Through Robin Titterington on the LDAchat forum in Yahoo! Groups. I happened to be in Colorado when ALDAcon was in Colorado Springs, and Robin encouraged me to attend.

In what ways has ALDA enhanced your life? It made me and my wife aware of how to better communicate with others, and I met some wonderful people. But the biggest thing was learning about cochlear implants. I received one in April 2011 and have been steadily improving, with the help of my wonderful audiologist.

When I am depressed: I almost never am depressed, but chocolate always helps.

My most irrational fear is: losing my wife; she is my closest friend, my constant companion, my strength, and the love of my life

If I could hear again, the first thing I would do is: go to the movies without closed captioning

The thing I like best about myself: I’m mostly friendly and helpful to others

Nobody knows: I am content being

Continued on page 15
Getting Captioning for Live Theater

By Margreta von Pein

I grew up close enough to New York City that my parents took the family to Broadway and off-Broadway shows several times a year. With this background, I learned to love the theater and continued to go to plays in college. I acted in a few and wrote a one-act play that was produced by a college where I was employed in New York. Then, slowly, I began to realize I wasn’t hearing what was going on up there. Shakespeare’s plays were all so familiar that my brain let me think I was hearing those words, not just remembering them. I began to attend fewer and fewer plays, and then none at all. As with other aural experiences, I just accepted not having the theater in my life anymore. I loved the theater and I’d lost it, like music and those sweet nothings in the night.

Then, at the Indianapolis ALDAcon, I (and 200 other ALDAns) got to see a live performance of *Julius Caesar*. Through the generosity of the late Mary Clark, the Indiana Repertory Theater did a free daytime, fully captioned and signed show. It was fabulous! I was back in the theater again for the first time in decades. Thanks to Mary Clark, I am going to plays again where I live. Seeing that *Julius Caesar* performance inspired me to return home and ask the local theaters for captioning. I was also inspired by John Waldo’s work in obtaining movie captioning.

In the San Francisco East Bay hills is an outdoor theater that produces four plays each summer, always including two by Shakespeare. I started there because it was the professional theater group closest to my town and I could reach it via public transportation. First, I emailed asking about captioning and spent some time finding the right person to talk with. John Waldo had told me about a theater captioning company in Reno, which I contacted. They had already captioned some plays in San Francisco, so I told them I was asking the California Shakespeare Theater (CalShakes) in the East Bay to caption. The captioning outfit got in touch with the theater to explain what captioning was and what it would cost.

The theater asked me to pick which play I wanted to see and assured me they would get back to me about when my choice would be captioned. I asked about the ticket price and they already had decided that they would offer captioned seat tickets at a discount. When I knew which date would be captioned, I notified all the deaf and hard of hearing groups I knew of in the Bay Area. The theater provided a section of about 50 seats directly behind the screen at stage left. We could read text and see all across the stage in one glance. I saw and “heard” one of my favorite Shakespeare plays, *The Tempest*, in the twilight hills above the Bay.

The theater only captioned for one day in that first year, but during the summer, the administration asked me for feedback. One conversation led to another, and I said I wanted to see every play in next year’s season. They hired the same company to caption again, and the next year, they captioned both Shakespearean plays. They also had the screen angled so that half the audience could read it. CalShakes wanted to offer captioning to a wider audience, and this summer, with a grant from the Theater Development Fund, they will caption all four plays. The first one I will see is *Romeo and Juliet* and the second is *A Winter’s Tale*. CalShakes is now advertising the captioning on its website, and I expect to see my deaf and hard of hearing friends fill up the seats for those captioned performances.

Margreta retired after 25 years as a college English teacher and moved to the San Francisco Bay area. She was just elected as ALDA’s Region 4 director and can be contacted at mvpein@yahoo.com.
We Want to Be Recognized As People Who Are Deafened

By Muhammad Akram

In many documents we read the term “impaired” concerning various disabilities, such as “hearing impaired” and “visually impaired.” In our “Pakistan - National Policy for Persons with Disabilities,” which was published in 2002, these terms were used. However, people in the Deaf community have long identified themselves as deaf, and there are also people who identify themselves as hard of hearing and others who identify themselves as deafened. The term “impaired” is seen as negative and obsolete. [Editor’s note: objections to “impaired” seem to be related to its use in connection with hearing loss but not vision loss; “visually impaired” is used by organizations of and for people with vision loss, at least in the U.S.]

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an international organization representing the Deaf community (those who use sign language as their primary language). There is an International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), which says that they also represent people who are deafened. In addition, there is an International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP), which is said to be the mother of IFHOH. As far as I know, there is no international organization of people who are deafened, although there are such organizations in various counties.

In 1991, WFD and IFHOH made the following agreement: “Both organisations recognise and respect the right of individuals with hearing losses ranging from mild to severe to profound to regard themselves as either ‘deaf’ or ‘hard of hearing,’ and both organisations agree to recognise the terms ‘deaf’ and ‘hard of hearing’ in their official terminologies. Both organisations agree that the term ‘hearing impaired’ is not an appropriate term and that deaf and hard of hearing individuals should not be identified under this single category.”

IFHOH thought that “hard of hearing” included late-deafened / deafened people. However when the WFD and IFHOH made the agreement, the people who were representing deafened people in IFHOH were upset. Commenting on this agreement, Ms. Liisa Sammalpenger (a former officer on deafened issues in the Finnish Hard of Hearing Federation) said, “The agreement between WFD and IFHOH is from 1991, 22 years ago. We who presented papers about deafened issues at the IFHOH congress in 1992 were shocked; what have they decided about us?”

Other deafened friends also believe that deafened is not the same as hard of hearing, and the term “hard of hearing” cannot identify us. I personally have profound deafness, but I am not “Deaf” (sign language is not my first or primary language) nor I am hard of hearing. It sounds very odd to me to identify myself as “hard of hearing,” and it sounds odd to the general public, too.

Recently, we were having an email discussion where it was stated, “We are international organizations and use ‘deaf and hard of hearing’ at UN agency meetings, etc.” Yes, there is no international organization of people who are deafened, but does this mean that “we, the existing international organization, have decided about you, and you have to accept and identify yourself as hard of hearing”? [Editor’s note: ALDA has international members and is a voting member of IFHOH but isn’t directly represented at the UN.]

IFHOH claims that they include late-deafened adults and that is all right, but then isn’t it IFHOH’s responsibility to protect the rights of deafened members? We identify ourselves as deafened / late-deafened, not as hard of hearing. I personally believe that the term “deafened” should be included along with deaf and hard of hearing, and many deafened friends around the world agree.

Muhammad Akram lives in Pakistan, leads ALDA-Asia Pacific, and is a former chair of the ALDA International Committee.

Eileen Here (continued)...

Continued from page 4

ages of years past.

We hope you enjoy this issue of ALDA News, with a variety of stories and news about late-deafened experiences. As always, let me know if you have any comments or suggestions for improving the newsletter. And please consider writing for our next issue—we’d love to hear from you.
Awesome Captions Benefitting Everyone (continued)...
Continued from page 5

many of us would have liked increased font size or a change from neon green to a color that was more readable against the movie background, we all appreciated this new access option.

WORSHIP

I can usually hear worship services by using an assistive listening device, but that’s not the case for my late-deafened friends. The first captioned service I attended was an Erev Shabbat (Friday night) service last October at The Temple in Atlanta. Harriet Frankel’s congregation got CART that evening just for her, as she was being honored during the service for her 96th birthday. Her daughter, Ellen Matson, came to Atlanta from New York for the event. It was a treasure to see Harriet enjoy the service and to watch her being acknowledged as the most seasoned member of the congregation. The Temple provides captioning for several special services a year for her.

I asked Harriet if she’d like to attend my congregation’s Chanukah service on December 8, if I got captions provided so she could enjoy the service. I said I would drive her there and take her to ALDA-Peach’s holiday party afterwards. She heartily agreed, and that Saturday, we made a bit of history. A couple whose first language was Spanish came up to us after the service and asked for a transcript (which our CART provider, Heidi Thomas, was able to provide) because they benefitted from the captions, too. And Harriet enjoyed her first time at a Messianic synagogue so much that she has a future chapter of a book reserved for her experience!

This spring, I set up captions for a Messianic Passover Seder held at the First Baptist Church in China Grove, NC. Ron Kolodziej, a member of ALDA-Carolina Flight, also attends there. David Harrison’s article covers the details of this hearing-accessible experience, but to me, the biggest hit was the captions. The Seder was held in a basketball court/auditorium with such high ceilings that sound was lost, even for those who hear well, especially at the back of the long room. Many people benefitted from Vicki Pinson’s computer assisted notetaking that evening. We also learned that captions on a big screen aren’t good for people with certain vision problems, so next time, we’ll set aside a tablet or two on which to provide captions for friends with both hearing and vision loss.

ENTERTAINMENT

We all know that one of the hardest things about hearing loss is missing those all-important punch lines! So hark back to 2010, when I attended Milwaukee’s HLAA convention. Although I was in my mid-40s, I sneaked out with the under 35-and-those-not-admitting-they’re-over-it HLAA friends to ComedySportz® Milwaukee, where HLAA had hired CART for our deafened enjoyment! At ComedySportz®, two teams of “act-letes” compete in front of an audience of “judges” for #1 in the laughter factor. And what a side-splitting blast it was, because no one was left out, going “What’d he say... what’d he say, for crying out loud?!?” while others were already rolling in the aisles. We all rolled with the “punches” (i.e., punch lines) as they were handily keyed in by our CART provider and flashed across the screen only a second after everyone who heard began laughing. How she held her sides in and typed at the same time, I’ll never know; but thanks to her, we all enjoyed the show!

At the 2009 HLAA convention in Nashville, the conference crowd had been treated to the first captioned performance of the Grand Ole Opry, and that too, was a delightful entertaining experience, with about 450 HLAA attendees using assistive listening devices, ASL interpretation, captions, or any combination of the three.

Recently, I suggested to Dave Litman and ALDA-Carolina Flight (since I hang out with them these days) that we need to hire a captioning service so we can go to a comedy club!

Angie works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta and in her spare time climbs mountains, rides roller coasters, and surfs couches all over the world. Her most treasured Saturdays are spent in North Carolina or wherever ALDAcon is held. She can be reached at angiefugo@yahoo.com.
Using the New Sony Closed Captioning Glasses at My Regal Theater

By John A. Prokop

In May, my wife and I attended an evening premiere of the movie Big Wedding at the Regal theater in Pinellas Park, Florida to try their new Sony closed captioning glasses. I had been hearing all about them in the media, so I decided to try them out. [Editor’s note: Sony officially calls them the Sony Entertainment Access Glasses; they are also used for providing audio description for people with vision impairments and translations into various languages.]

After purchasing our tickets, I asked for the glasses. I had to provide my driver’s license as collateral and sign into a log on a clipboard. I was told to return the glasses at the end of the movie but was given no verbal or printed instructions for their use. I asked, “How do I use them and turn them on?” and the cashier replied, “They are already turned on—just put them on when the movie starts,” which I did.

The lenses were clean and I adjusted them to my comfort. Soon the captions appeared in my glasses and I had to make some additional adjustments to keep them centered at the bottom of the glasses. The captions are lime green and there are no other color options for easier visibility, so I had to use the default. Lime green was not the easiest color for me to read, but I made myself get used to it.

For the most part, the captions were perfectly sync- ched with the movie. I don’t wear glasses, so it was like having to wear temporary glasses such as sunglasses. However, once I started to get some fatigue from wearing them (after about 30 to 45 minutes) and/or moved my head or body position, I lost the captions. At first I thought the captioning machine went out and was wondering what I should do next: report it, wait to see if the captions reappeared, or reposition the glasses (remember, there were no instructions on their use). I began to fidget with the glasses, hoping maybe it was an adjustment issue, and the captions reappeared when I moved the lenses sideways and up or down. I then realized that the glasses had to be positioned in a certain place to capture the captions. I also learned that I couldn’t assume just any position I wanted in my seat, and I needed to be mindful that changing my position could affect the captioning.

After 1-1/4 hours, the fatigue of wearing the glasses became more evident. Wearing them became bothersome and I wished I could take them off, but I did not want to miss any of the movie’s ending. Luckily, the movie ended 15 minutes later and I could remove the glasses. I did not notice anyone else in the theatre using them. If I had, I would have been interested in their reactions.

My overall assessment of the glasses was that they were satisfactory as an alternative to open captions, but I prefer open captions. I wasn’t really pleased with the lime green color of the captions; white captions might have been easier to read. The comfort of the glasses was an issue for me after 45 minutes; maybe a different size of lenses or frames could be tried to increase the comfort factor. [Editor’s note: The weight of the glasses may cause discomfort after a period of time; a different size of lens or frame may not be able to resolve the weight issue.]

What if you wear glasses to see? Do you wear the captioning glasses on top of your own? I don’t know. [Editor’s note: The glasses are designed to be able to fit over other glasses.] I give a rating of B- on the glasses overall, so if I had to, I would wear them again. I am also hoping Sony will come out with a Version 2 and give us some more options if we do use them.

Before leaving, I stopped back at the ticket counter to return the glasses. The cashier did not ask me any questions about them, so being the hearing loss advocate that I am, I asked to see the manager and gave her some customer feedback.

I suggested providing printed information on the use of these glasses, including what to do if you lose the captioning, how your position can affect the captioning, the color of the captions, and the fact that the glasses are recharged in between movies. (How do I know this? I had to ask.) I also advised providing advice on how to minimize fatigue from wearing the glasses. For example, I suggested removing the glasses briefly and rubbing the bridge of the nose. The manager thanked me for taking the time to talk to her and offered me a free pass for my next visit. It was a nice gesture and a reward for being an advocate for people with hearing loss.

Update: I went back to the Regal theater on June 8 to watch another movie and used the Sony captioning glasses again. The theater now provides a printed instruction sheet to explain how the glasses work, which is a really helpful aid. The bad news is that I had to ask for it.

Each set of glasses is programmed for the room you will be sitting in. It is extremely important for the ticket seller to make sure you go into the right room at the right time with the correctly programmed unit and the right printed ticket (unfortunately, this important information is not in the handout).
**Messianic Synagogue Reaches Two Milestones for Hard of Hearing People**

*By David M. Harrison*

On Friday, March 29, 2013, my wife Cathy Hart and I attended a Passover Seder in China Grove, North Carolina. It was a beautiful setting in the gymnasium of a Lutheran church.

The first milestone event was that the banquet hall was equipped with an FM assistive listening system for hard of hearing people. Ten hard of hearing guests used the units and about 15 more should have tried them. I was in the back of the hall and could hear perfectly, which was a blessing.

The second milestone event was the captioning provided by a caring human angel in the congregation. All the words spoken by the rabbi were flashed on the big screen above him. All hard of hearing and deaf people were able to see, hear, and understand clearly. Captioning is new in houses of worship. It has been my prayer and desire to encourage congregations to provide captioning as an outreach to hard of hearing people. A captionist can work from any point in the world using two computers. It is a wonderful service for any house of worship.


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**Using the New Sony Close Captioning Glasses (continued)...**

*Continued from page 12*

I bought tickets for the 11 a.m. showing in room 5, but the cashier printed out the showing for 10:30 a.m. in room 10. When I arrived in the room, the captions didn’t match the screen, and I was bewildered. After five minutes, I went to find help and spoke with three different staff members, who were all clueless about the glasses, how they worked, and how to help me if I had a problem.

I finally went back to the manager, who explained I had the wrong program setting for the room I was in. She reprogrammed my box for the right room, but by then I had missed the first 11 minutes of the movie. I went back to the manager’s office at the end of the movie for “Advocate Round Two” on what they could do to make sure problems like this could be avoided in the future. I stressed the importance of employee in-service training about these glasses, especially on how they work and how to solve common problems with them and assist customers. I had wasted much valuable time asking for help from employees who didn’t know anything about the glasses. Yes, I did get another free movie pass for my efforts and for losing 11 minutes of the movie’s opening, but I would rather have been able to attend without any problems.

One last closing remark. When I used the captioning glasses the first time, I didn’t eat any refreshments while I watched the movie. However, the second time I purchased popcorn and a drink. When I was chewing the popcorn, the glasses moved up and down on my head in perfect synchronization, which made the captions move up and down and in and out of the glasses. So I lowered my overall rating of the glasses from a B- to a C-. The discomfort from wearing them, the poor color of the captions, and problems eating with the glasses on made their use a less than enjoyable experience. I also wondered whether the Sony glasses are3D compatible. I had already left the theater when this question popped into my head, so I didn’t get an answer. I really didn’t want to go back for “Advocate Round Three,” as we were going to get lunch and I was already holding up the people I was with. [Editor’s note: The Sony glasses can be used with a detachable polarized3D filter.]

I guess “An Advocate’s Work Is Never Done.” Now that sounds like a really good bumper sticker for our ALDA group.

John lives in St. Petersburg, Florida and is a member of both ALDA and the Hearing Loss Association of America. His email address is jet@ij.net.
couple. The gentleman was an officer from the base where M.P. was just processed. I don’t remember much about his girlfriend other than she was lovely and so soft spoken that I didn’t hear her well. I let them carry the conversation and I didn’t say too much.

As the hostess prepared each plate, I began to lose my appetite. The meat was a gray stringy concoction with a watery gray sauce. Not wanting to be rude, I began to think about what I could say so she wouldn’t put as much on my plate as she was giving everyone else. When she looked my direction as she picked up a plate, I requested, “Not too much for me, if you don’t mind. My husband and I had a very late lunch today.”

While I was watching the hostess as she began putting a small portion on my plate, the officer sitting across from me asked, “Where is he at?”

“He’s home in bed,” I replied.

Mrs. Landlord frowned and gave me an odd look. I glanced at her husband, who gave me a very stern look. Then I looked at the officer who had asked me the question. His face was red, and it looked as though he was trying to keep from laughing.

Warning bells went off in my head. Something just wasn’t right. I asked the officer, “You did ask me ‘Where’s he at?,’ didn’t you?”

Still red-faced, he slowly shook his head no. “I asked, ‘What did you have for lunch?’ ”

To say I was greatly embarrassed is an understatement. To this day I don’t remember what the food tasted like, what we talked about, or anything else other than how quickly I left for home with the excuse, “I need to go check on my husband.”

I can laugh about this today, because it really is funny. However, back when I was young, inexperienced, and awkward in social gatherings, this misunderstanding caused me to not go anywhere socially without M.P. I lost many wonderful opportunities by allowing that moment to define my social choices. I missed out on friendships, meeting fascinating new people, and traveling with other military wives when we were stationed in Europe. As a young woman, I didn’t know how to explain my hearing loss or advocate for myself.

This is why I believe it’s so important to have support groups such as ALDA and HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) and why I love reading stories about other deafened, hard of hearing, and Deaf people. I also think it’s why blogging is on the rise among us. If you haven’t checked out some of these blogs, I encourage you to do so. You’ll learn, you’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll understand, and you’ll relate. Here are a few blogs I like to visit:

Amy Sargent aka Deaf Girl Amy is a wonderful writer, advocate, and blogger at http://deafgirlamy.com/thriving-deafie-spotlight.html


Author Shanna Bartlett Groves, aka Lipreading Mom, blogs at http://lipreadingmom.com

Charlie Swinbourne, a TV screen writer in the UK, publishes an international e-daily, “The Limping Chicken,” at http://limpingchicken.com

If you’re looking for a place that covers a wide variety of issues regarding deafness from bloggers around the world, check out http://www.deafread.com

For the top blogs that cover deafness, go to http://deaf.alltop.com

While you’re at it, stop by my blog at http://xpressivehandz.blogspot.com, where there is something new each week. I also encourage others to guest post. Do you have something on your mind you would like to share? Email me and put “Blog Post” in the subject line.

Joyce has had a hearing loss since childhood and became deaf as an adult. She grew up in the Pacific Northwest and now lives with her Fabulous Husband Gary and their nine-year-old son in a small borough nestled in the heart of Amish country between the cities of Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Their favorite weekend activities are traveling and exploring neighboring counties, parks and festivals. In the winter, Joyce likes to crochet blankets and scarves. She can be contacted at xpressivehandz@hotmail.com.
Holland America Cruise Line (continued)...

Continued from page 6

Everyone whom I approached was unprepared to even suggest any alternatives to me. I spent considerable time talking to tour guides and shore excursion staff, trying to convince them to make printed materials for their tours to enable people with hearing loss to feel included and part of the tour experience. Most just looked uncomfortable when I brought up things they could do and provide. I spent much time and energy advocating during the entire trip but somehow felt it was all in vain.

At the end of the tour I spent a lot of time filling out the cruise evaluation form, where I again expounded on the problems I encountered and the responses I received from the staff. To this day I have never heard back from anyone, even though I asked to be contacted to discuss these problems with headquarters staff.

This was not an advertised deaf or hard of hearing cruise, so I guess they had not prepared to have any guests with special communication needs. I think deaf and hard of hearing people should be welcomed on all cruises at all times. The technology exists today to meet so many of the challenges that we encounter, and some sensitivity of the cruise lines and their staff could make these problems nonexistent or easily resolved. How much longer do we have to wait?

John lives in St. Petersburg, Florida and is a member of both ALDA and the Hearing Loss Association of America. His email address is jet@ij.net.

Enjoyment Despite Hearing Loss (continued)...

Continued from page 7

In regard to enjoying general socializing as a person with hearing loss, I’ve found that the challenge has more to do with attitude adjustment than anything else. I am constantly working on myself to convey to people what they need to do in order for me to talk with them, such as to face me, not talk to me from another room, and avoid looking annoyed when something has to be repeated a few times. Eventually, improvements in the technology of speech-to-text might be the answer.

I’ve learned that, through the aid of technology and fine-tuning of my attitude, I can significantly reduce the effect of my hearing loss on my enjoyment.

Bob is a retired university professor of philosophy and lives in California. He enjoys reading and writing and can be contacted at saywhatbob@gmail.com.

One of Us (continued)...

Continued from page 8

alone, as long as I have my computer and computer games

What I can’t stand is: mumblers— even though I can now hear in quiet environments and small social gatherings, mumblers are still a problem

Favorite memory: How I met my wife is a memory that will always bring a smile to my face. I was a substitute scuba diving Instructor, and Mary was a student in the class. During the pool session, I made her do the exercises twice for everyone else’s one time (I made her my partner for all the demonstrations). After the class while everyone was rinsing their equipment, Mary accidently dumped cold water on one of the shy young students. He didn’t do anything in response, so I splashed her for him. I then left the pool area to check in the students’ equipment. Afterwards, I went into the pool to clean my equipment and discovered it was gone—the tank with buoyancy compensator, fins, mask, and snorkel were all at the bottom of the pool. This woman had spunk.

Favorite saying: “It’s not the destination … it’s the journey!”

The bottom line is: I love who I am, I love my life, and my hearing loss was just a bump in the road. I’ve meet some wonderful people along the way and only a few jerks.

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Chapter Happenings and GA to SK

By Ann Smith, Curator

Francine Stieglitz sent a report of ALDA-Boston’s activities. On Sunday, April 28, chapter members were treated to an excellent aural rehabilitation workshop given by Geoff Plant of the Hearing Rehabilitation Foundation. The next ALDA-Boston event will be a Fourth of July picnic/barbecue at the home of Linda and Lou Sakin on Saturday, July 6. ALDA-Boston will provide the main courses and members will bring appetizers, desserts, and side dishes.

ALDA-Peach members presented book reviews at the March meeting. In April, the chapter benefited from a discussion of the frustrations of living with hearing loss. This was a good opportunity for some healthy venting and for sharing some solutions. In May, members went to a local Regal Cinema to try out the new closed-captioning glasses. After a few minutes of frustration (the management forgot to turn on the captions), they enjoyed seeing The Great Gatsby. Yael Shaner and Sara Hartman have new CIs. Both love the devices and are adapting very well.

On April 21, ALDA-Carolina Flight hosted a historic picnic, bringing in old-timers, newcomers, and a slew of guests from the Carolinas, southern Virginia, and North Georgia. Around 50 people attended the event, which ran from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Salisbury’s Dan Nicholas Park, a large county park with playgrounds, an aquarium, barnyards, a gem mine, a nature center, a splash plaza, miniature golf, and even a carousel. The food was served at about 12:30, and from then on the eating, signing (Crappy Sign and ASL), writing, smiling, hugging, laughing, and even singing, didn’t stop. Rachael Morris brought her white board and markers along from High Point, NC; Angie (Fugo) Fuoco flew hers in from Atlanta in her extra “ADA bag” after she convinced the gate agent that they really are “hearing aids” for late-deafened adults!

Martha (Marty) Mattox reports that members of the ALDA-Midwest group participated in the annual HLAA Walk4Hearing in May. Marty was one of several ALDAns at the SayWhatClub convention in Williamsburg, Virginia in May. She attended a presentation by former ALDA President Cynthia Amerman and did some sightseeing with Cynthia and Brenda Estes. Paul Wummer was also there.

Send your chapter and personal news to Ann Smith at fabsmith@att.net. Deadline for the next issue is August 24.
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

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SKSK

Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and celebrate the journey.

- Fitzhugh Mullan
This is the 25th anniversary of ALDA, and what better time is there for me to serve as your president? I feel very honored to be here. The past months have flown by so fast, and soon it will be time for our first-ever JOINT conference with TDI, which will be celebrating their 45th anniversary.

We have a fine Board in place, and the teamwork has been great. I was warned that there would be a lot of emails, but I had no idea just how many. Answering them sure keeps me busy!

I was recently asked to give a speech about ALDA at a retirement community. ALDA is my favorite topic, so it gave me much pleasure to reach out to others and answer their questions.

When you go to the ALDA website, there may be a construction sign in some areas. Don’t worry—all is well, and the upgrades will be finished very soon. There will be new features that everyone will enjoy using.

If there is anything you would like to know about ALDA’s doings, feel free to contact me at president@alda.org,

Regional Director Coordinator Report

It has been a difficult few months. An effort was made to set up an online meeting, but it was not possible to get everyone together at the same time. Things were further complicated by a lengthy discussion about the merits and implications of a state-by-state data collection. Information was shared with the RDs from Gallaudet University as a guide to collecting information, but at this time there is no formal state-by-state list that RDs can use as a resource when needed.

Chapter Coordinator Report

I discussed with chapters and groups some ideas that could help them raise money. The chapters that responded did not think this would have a tangible impact and were not sure how the process would play out.

I sent out emails asking for feedback about the chapter renewal form. Respondents stated that they would like less work to be involved and suggested making things simpler by having a box to check that states “no changes.” They also asked to be able to see the previous year’s renewal form. I explained to chapters that the reason the information was requested was not just for ALDA to have but also for IRS reporting purposes. Unfortunately, renewal forms were sent to the chapters without any of the feedback being implemented. At this time, four chapters have submitted their yearly chapter renewals.

I’ve continued to update the Board Manual regularly, keep the minutes of Board-related business emails, and track motions and tally votes. The Board approved the final budget report for 2012 and the new 2013 budget. We also approved the list of committees for 2013, established a new veterans committee, and approved the appointment of Kathy Evans as Program Chair for ALDAcon 2014. We agreed to purchase the upgrade of Quick Books to keep our treasury reports up-to-date, and we held a remote CART Board meeting from the Marriott in Norfolk in February.
Treasurer’s Report  By Matt Ferrara

This year is like a vacation for me because TDI is doing all the financial work for the upcoming TDI-ALDA Joint Conference. There is not much change since my last report.

As of May 27, 2013, cash in the ALDA bank accounts totaled $53,884. The balance sheet for accounts is:

- ALDA operating expenses: $23,131
- ALDA-Carolina Flight chapter: $4,362*
- Scholarship funds: $26,391

The Federal IRS 990 forms for 2012 have been filed. I thank Gloria Popp (Finance Committee member) for her help with this. The Illinois Secretary of State Corporate Registration form has also been filed. All outstanding bills have been paid. We are on or near budget with our expenses.

*ALDA Carolina Flight has asked the ALDA treasurer to hold their share of the ALDAcon 2012 profits until they get a bank account established.

Region 1 Report  By Dave Litman

I have received several emails from people in Region 1. Some people from New York and one person from Philadelphia contacted us about groups available in their location, and they have been referred to the New Jersey groups.

Some emails that have come through the info@alda address do not have an email address that permits us to respond. This problem has been shared with the Board, and hopefully we will be able to retroactively receive the information. Recently a person contacted us about support groups in Southern Virginia, but I am not sure where the person is located or how to reach out to them. I also learned about a lack of following through in providing requested chapter startup information. I will try to see how we can move forward, but I am not sure at this time where that group was located.

Region 2 Report  By Marsha Kopp

I responded to the following:
- Inquiries about ALDAcon and its agenda
- Inquiries regarding membership online
- Inquiries for financial assistance for hearing aids in Iowa and Michigan

I am involved in an ongoing process for starting chapters in Minnesota and Iowa, and I received promotions from Illinois for future conferences.

Region 3 Report  By Rachael Morris

I received a couple of emails from eager folks inquiring about starting a chapter in their home states. I am waiting for further discussion on the Board about simplifying the “chapter/group startup kit” before responding further.

In the meantime, I pulled South Carolina and Texas email addresses from our membership database, and all the members said that they are interested in this. My number one goal this year is to start ALDA chapters in South Carolina and Texas.

I have been in contact with a young woman in Mexico. Like me, she has NF2 and is quickly losing her hearing. She joined ALDA and I mailed her a “Welcome to ALDA” goodie box. She loved it!

Responses were sent to folks in North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. All were seeking funding support for hearing aids and seemed to be having issues with maintaining employment after developing a hearing loss. I referred them all to their states’ department of health services to see what programs were available closest to their home. I researched this and mentioned what I found. I also recommended they look into national programs through the Foundation for Sight and Sound and the Starkey Hearing Foundation. For emotional support, I recommended their state chapter and contact if available and highly encouraged them to become a member. I ended every email offering to mail an ALDA brochure and recent ALDA News.

I have received general “ALDA interest” inquiries from folks in Florida, Atlanta, South Carolina, and two in North Carolina. I put them in touch with ALDA-Suncoast, ALDA-Peach, and ALDA-Carolina Flight. I was excited to see new people at ALDA-Carolina Flight’s April picnic in Salisbury, NC, including some I had responded to via email. We had 32 folks at the picnic from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

I often get emails from individuals looking for doctors and/or specialists for a specific disorder. This is not ALDA’s domain and I’m not qualified in making referrals and diagnosis. In these situations, I have sought advice from ALDA folks who may have been better able to assist. Connections were made regarding NF2, Meniere’s disease, and cochlear implants.

In other basic RD3 emails, I answered inquiries from ALDA members regarding, membership, the ALDA-TDI conference, and the ALDA website.

Ok, I think that about sums it up! Y’all be good!
Region 4 Report By Margreta von Pein

Daniel Feldman, Vice President of SCLO Grange #503, contacted Kathy Evans in November about looping a room at the Grange. I wrote to him and cc’d the member who was interested. In February, I sent emails to lapsed ALDA members in New Mexico. I also wrote to Linda Drattell, CA; Cynthia Amerman, AZ; Rod Walker, OR; Paula Titus, WA; Lucy Miller, HI; Kathy Evans, UT; and Rebecca Herr, CO about putting together a state and public resources list. In March, I responded to two letters requesting information and I publicized a DCARA job opening notice.

In April, I forwarded to Region 4 membership a Social Security Administration notice that SSA information is on video and in ASL. I sent a California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) captioning flyer to Region 4 leaders and responded to a request for information about ALDAcon scholarships. I matched Gallaudet’s state resources list against mine and answered three queries about hearing aid help. In May, I answered five queries sent by Dave Litman.

Advertising Director Report By Matt Ferrara

ALDA News ads (each issue):
- Harris Communications — ¼ page paid ad
- TDI — ½ page barter ad

Rotating banner website ads from ALDAcon sponsorship:
- CaptionCall
- Innocaption
- ACS
- CapTel

I received an inquiry from Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) regarding website advertising and sent them the brochure.

Database Manager Report By Gloria Popp

We have 286 current members. During 2013, we had 13 memberships expire without being renewed and 22 new members joining, so we are up 9 members. In addition, 115 members have updated their information.

Finance Committee Report By Matt Ferrara

Since this is a joint convention and we may not be getting individual donations, the Finance Committee sent out a Members Campaign donation letter. So far, the response has been disappointing, but it is not too late (it is never too late) to donate to ALDA.

And, as a reminder, ALDA, Inc. is a non-profit corporation and donations may be tax-deductible. Also, some employers have matching donation plans. If you have any questions regarding donations, please contact me at treasurer@alda.org.

International Committee of ALDA (IC) Report By Victor Odandi

This committee’s pioneer chairperson was the late Geoff Brown of the United Kingdom, followed by Dr. Lauren Storck of the USA, Liisa Sammalpenger of Finland, Muhammad Akram of Pakistan, and currently Victor Odandi of Kenya (Africa). It is gratifying to note that this committee has been led by people from diverse nationalities who each led it from two to five years. The committee is ALDA’s main link on the international stage. It has created a partnership with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing (IFHOH), of which ALDA is a voting member. During the June 2012 IFHOH convention in Bergen, Norway, the committee, through Cynthia Amerman, strongly represented ALDA’s request to the IFHOH board to feature deafened issues prominently in IFHOH affairs. IFHOH was asked to amend its title to include the word “deafened,” but unfortunately this was shot down. However, this is not a lost cause, and ALDA’s concerns were noted for future consideration.

We still have a lot of tasks to accomplish and some matters to discuss with the ALDA Board just before the joint ALDA/TDI convention in New Mexico. For example, the committee is currently comprised of 12 members from different countries, with more yearning to join. We have had a lot of discussion about this matter and came to the consensus that the committee should be composed of a small number of members. But questions have arisen as to what to do about people who would like to join the committee as well as about the membership fee for international members.

A possible goal is to have ALDA organize mini-conferences/conventions in other countries apart from the main one in the US. For a start, I am happy to report that there will be an ALDA convention in the Netherlands in May 2014. We can have more such conventions in Africa, Asia, etc. In 2016, IFHOH will hold its world convention in the US. ALDA should
help make this convention a success by playing a pivotal role in organizing it or offering any assistance that IFHOH may require.

One of the committee’s goals is to start a scholarship fund to enable international members who cannot afford an air ticket to attend ALDAcons. The scholarship can be known as the Geoff Brown Scholarship Fund in memory of Geoff Brown, who traveled all the way from the United Kingdom every year to attend ALDAcon.

The committee gleans a lot of useful information from all over the world, and in the future, this information will be relayed to the whole ALDA community.

This committee is doing a splendid job representing ALDA in the world stage.

**Membership Report**

By Karen Krull

I initiated a Membership Drive at the end of 2012 that offered a discounted rate if renewing for two years ($10 off across the board for all membership types). It ran from November 1 to December 31 and yielded six new members who used the discount and seven new members who paid for only one year. In addition, we had 20 membership renewals that took advantage of the two-year discount. I plan to repeat the offering this year and hope to get even better results. The login section of the new website should be up and running soon. In the meantime, please be sure to check the address labels on your newsletter and keep your membership current. If you receive an electronic copy of the ALDA News, your renewal date is usually listed in the email. ALDA Inc. depends on your support.

**Outreach Committee Report**

By Valerie Stafford-Mallis, Chair

The scope of work for the Outreach Committee revolves around two major areas. Below is a report on what the Outreach Committee has been working on this past quarter.

1. Marketing and public relations
   - Assist in the development of content regarding ALDA activities and events, to be sent to those in ALDA’s volunteer and member database.

2. Internal outreach within ALDA
   - Submit a report of activities to the ALDA president prior to each meeting of the committee chairs. This report is to include a summary of Outreach Committee efforts to publicize ALDA’s work and needs as well as any concerns deemed important to bring to the attention of the other committee chairs.
   - Attend committee chair meetings.
   - Coordinate with the following committee(s) and officer(s):
     - Volunteer Relations (to publicize volunteer needs)
     - Resource Development (regarding publicity for fundraising events and media presence at said events and needs for cash and in-kind contributions)

**Nominations Committee Report**

By Brenda Estes

I am currently seeking members, including a chapter president, to join the nominations committee. If you’re interested in serving on this committee, contact me at pastpresident@alda.org. I will be talking with a couple of organizations to determine the best way to conduct the ballot counting, and I plan to ask the League of Women Voters to oversee the ballot count.
**Proceedings Committee Report**
*By Margaret von Pein*

This year, the Proceedings Committee has an all-new editorial board under a new chief editor. Everyone has editing knowledge and good skills. We four editors-in-training just need more practice in this kind of editing for the online *Proceedings*. We expect to post six rewrites of the 2012 ALDAcon workshops by August 1. If we seem behind schedule, that is due to being in training, having too few editors, and not receiving the CART transcripts until late April. All these limitations will be addressed before next year’s work. ALDA members can help now by volunteering to be an editor. The first year can be difficult, but once you edit a few transcripts, it becomes formulaic and easy. To volunteer, contact me at mvpein@yahoo.com.

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**Scholarship Report**
*By Carolyn Piper*

The scholarship committee has enabled many ALDAns to attend ALDAcon in the past. Last year, scholarships made it possible for eight newcomers to attend. The committee has three members and this year it consists of Carolyn Piper, chair, co-chair Brenda Estes, and Karen Krull, who has been Carolyn’s invaluable and irreplaceable right-hand person for several years.

The committee is now hard at work to continue the scholarship effort for the coming joint TDI-ALDAcon in October. Applicants must be members of ALDA, Inc., and be in actual need of financial assistance. Priority in awarding scholarships is given to first-time attendees. Inquiries regarding scholarship applications may be sent to me at wicwas@wcvt.com. While email is preferred, you may also write to me at 82 Piper Place, Huntington, Vermont 05462.

The deadline for the receipt of scholarship applications is September 1, 2013.

The ongoing ability of ALDA to provide scholarship assistance depends on donations. All donations to the scholarship fund are tax-deductible and very much needed and appreciated. For information on making a donation, contact me at the address above.

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**Veterans Committee Report**
*By Allen M. Ford*

Last fall, I was asked to head up a committee for veterans. After considering this opportunity in terms of my ability to manage my work responsibilities, I realized I did not have the time to spare or the energy to develop a viable plan of action. Thus I delayed my response to the Board as long as possible. During this time, I came to realize that I do have some insight and that ALDA is such a strong organization because of its membership. And then I reflected on what a success ALDAcon 2012 was. How could I not say yes? So I did three months ago—just before the federal sequester hit the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), where I work.

With over $5 million cut from our annual budget, a lot of hard decisions have been made by the NTID administration. Staff, counselors, and faculty were offered a one-time incentive to retire, and many did. Still, we expect layoffs this fall. That Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) itself (which includes the NTID) is switching from a quarter-system to semesters this fall simply adds to the uncertainty of our near future. Faculty members like me have been given even more responsibilities. Thus, I am just now making the time to address my commitment to establish a veterans committee for ALDA.

*The Challenge: Finding Veterans with Hearing Loss*
Reach out to veterans with hearing loss in higher
education is something I have been doing since 2009. Since 2011, I have been working with NTID faculty researchers to develop grant proposals to fund my travel and outreach efforts. Early in January we met with San Diego State University officials to discuss veterans with disabilities in higher education. SDSU has a large population of veterans representing all branches of service. After learning more about their support services, my colleagues concluded that we do not have viable data about veterans with hearing loss and that relevant government data are not easily accessed.

**The Solution: Approach Organizations That Support Veterans**

By shifting the focus away from higher education to social support agencies, we in ALDA may be able to help veterans with hearing loss adjust to a richer civilian lifestyle. This is a short list to start with:

- American Legion
- Disabled Veterans of America
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Wounded Warriors.org

**The Plan of Action: Call for ALDA Veterans, ALDAns Who Work with Veterans, and Others with Relevant Expertise to Serve on the ALDA Veterans Committee**

1. Contact ALDA regional directors to ask ALDA chapter leaders to solicit possible representatives for the veterans committee
   a. Create invitational letter and desirable traits
   b. Review applications with regional directors
   c. Confirm committee appointments
2. Establish communication protocols
3. Convene first meeting
4. Set goals
5. Establish timeline

**Website Content Report**

By Karen Krull

The website revamp is still not completely finished, but we are off to a good start. One item that was requested at the general membership meeting at ALDAcon 2012 was listing news of what the Board is doing. I plan to implement that when the site design is completed. Joint conference material is already posted, and we are working hard to bring the website up to snuff.

**Nominations for ALDA Board Positions**

Each year ALDA, Inc. holds an election to fill open positions on the Board of Directors. The Nominations Committee is now soliciting nominations for the following positions effective January 1, 2014:

- **Vice President** – During the changeover to President/Vice President in 2014 that was passed in 2011, this year the office is for a one-year term. The Vice President assists the President, and, in the event of the President’s extended absence or disability, performs the duties of that office. The Vice President may be elected for a second two-year term.

- **Treasurer** – The Treasurer serves a two-year term, has custody of ALDA funds and securities, keeps accounts of all receipts and disbursements, and chairs the Finance Committee.

- **Regional Directors 1 and 2** – Regional Directors serve two-year terms, represent one of four regions, MUST live in that region, and are elected by members residing in the region. Regional Directors respond to communications requesting information about local resources; provide support to groups, chapters, individuals, families, and professionals within the region; and represent regional interests at Board meetings.

  - Region 1 – Connecticut, Washington DC, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Virginia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, United Kingdom, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, Europe, Middle East.

  - Region 2 – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, Manitoba, Ontario.

Nominees must be members of ALDA, Inc. in good standing, be willing to attend the annual general business meeting and Board meetings, and accept committee assignments. If you would like a form to nominate yourself or another member, contact Brenda Estes at pastpresident@alda.org. Deadline for nominations is November 15, 2013.
**I. King Jordan Award for Distinguished Achievement Nomination Form**

This award will be presented at the discretion of the ALDA Board of Directors, but never will there be more than one recipient in a given year. The award will be presented to a late-deafened person who has (a) had a successful and distinguished career in his or her chosen field of endeavor, (b) made significant contributions to their community, profession, and/or nation, (c) served as an outstanding role model for late-deafened adults everywhere, and (d) clearly demonstrated to the hearing community that a person’s competence, integrity, and human worth are not necessarily diminished by the fact that he or she is deaf. Recipients will be chosen by the ALDA Board of Directors. Nominations for the 2013 award should be submitted by August 1, 2013, to:

Mary Lou Mistretta  
I King Jordan Award  
C/O ALDA Inc  
8038 Macintosh Lane, Suite #2  
Rockford, IL 61107  
Email: president@alda.org

Name of nominee ________________________________________________________________  
Address_________________________________________________________________________  
City/State/Zip: __________________________________________________________________  
Phone___________________________________ Voice __   TTY __   Captioned phone __   VCO __  
Age of onset of deafness ______Title /occupation _______________________________________

Is the person you are nominating aware of the nomination? Yes___   No___  
Has the person consented to having his/her name place in nomination? Yes ___   No___  
Name of person making this nomination: _______________________________________________  
Phone: ________________________ Voice __    TTY __    Captioned phone __    VCO __  
Email: __________________________________________  

Please provide the following information in a narrative attached to this form:

1. What are the nominee’s significant accomplishments in his/her field of endeavor?  
2. What significant contributions has the nominee made to her/his profession, community, and/or nation?  
3. In what ways has the nominee been a role model for late-deafened adults?  
4. How has the nominee demonstrated to the hearing community that a person’s competence, integrity, and human worth are not necessarily diminished by the fact that he/she is deaf?
TDI-ALDA 2013 Joint Conference
"Working Together For Access"
October 16-20, 2013 • Albuquerque, New Mexico

Reach Your Target Audience at the
TDI-ALDA 2013 Joint Conference

TDI and ALDA continue to “Work Together” to ensure that full access to telecommunications, media, and information technologies is being provided across America to citizens who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind. We invite industry and government supporters to become sponsors of this historic “First of its Kind” joint conference.

We expect around 500 participants at this year’s conference!

TDI-ALDA Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

TDI-ALDA offers a variety of conference sponsorship packages in which companies, organizations, and other interested parties can participate. We are open to discussing changes to these packages as requested.

White Sands
$20,000 and above
Includes:
- Two booths
- Three combo tickets
- One full-page advertisement in the program book
- Large corporate banner hung in a visible place at the conference
- Corporate name and logo in the program book

Carlsbad
$15,000-$19,999
Includes:
- One booth
- Two combo tickets
- One full-page advertisement in the program book
- Large corporate banner hung in a visible place at the conference
- Corporate name and logo in the program book

Santa Fe
$10,000-$14,999
Includes:
- One booth
- One combo ticket
- One full-page advertisement in the program book
- Corporate name and logo in the program book

Sandia Peak
$5,000-$9,999
Includes:
- One half-page advertisement in the program book
- Medium corporate banner hung in a visible place at the conference
- Corporate name and logo in the program book

Taos Pueblo
$1,000-$4,999
Includes:
- One quarter-page advertisement in the program book
- Small corporate banner hung in a visible place at the conference
- Corporate name and logo in the program book

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Claude Stout, Executive Director, TDI
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 121 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3803
E-mail: Executive.Director@TDIforAccess.org • Phone: (301) 583-9112
We Want Your Creativity!

2013 ALDA Reader
Call for Submissions

You have a story to tell and we want to hear it! Whether it’s an adventure you began when your hearing loss hit (and haven’t we all been on an adventure?) or the journey of your loved ones’ acceptance of that hearing loss, it’s your story to tell.

Won’t you share it with us? We want to hear…uh, “read,” what you have to say. So please, send it on in!

The ALDA Reader is the official journal of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults’ annual convention. Conference attendees always look forward to receiving the Reader in their tote bags.

This year’s edition will be extra special as ALDA and TDI (formally known as Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.) will be co-hosting a historic “first of its kind” joint conference in Albuquerque. We’re excited to share the Reader experience with others!

Although the crux of the Reader is its articles, we are also looking for and excited to see your hearing loss-related artwork, cartoons, jokes, captioning bloopers, photography and poetry!

If you have something creative that will add spark, educational knowledge or personal experience to this year’s edition,

please send it to us right away!

Send your creative work to Belinda Miller at BelindaMiller@windstream.net or by snail mail to 2888 Highway 332, Hoschton, GA 30548

Before August 31, 2013.

Either way you send it, she’ll be sure to let you know it was received.

If you’re unable to attend this year’s joint conference, don’t worry. As a contributor, you’ll still receive a complimentary copy of the 2013 ALDA Reader!

Please share this “Call for Submissions” with others who have a hearing loss or an experience with someone who does, because we want to hear from them as well!

Happy Creating and Thank You!
# TDI-ALDA 2013 Joint Conference

"Working Together For Access"

October 16-20, 2013 • Albuquerque, New Mexico

## MAIL/EMAIL REGISTRATION FORM

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**ORGANIZATION STATUS**

- Check here if you are a member of TDI, but not ALDA, Inc.
- Check here if you are a member of ALDA, Inc., but not TDI
- Check here if you are a member of both TDI and ALDA, Inc.
- Check here if you are NOT a member of either TDI or ALDA, Inc.

---

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Your Name: ________________________________
- Company or Government Agency: ________________________________ *
- Street Address: _____________________________________________
- City, State, Zip & Country: ________________________________
- Phone: ________________________________
  - Voice ☐ TTY ☐ Captioned ☐ VP
- Fax: ________________________________ Email: ________________________________
- Emergency Contact Name: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________

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**REGISTRATION FEES**

*In order to qualify for the following “Consumer” rates, you must pay registration fees with personal funds rather than a company, agency, or organization check, credit card, or purchase order.*

**Membership in ALDA, Inc. is NOT the same as membership in an ALDA chapter or group. You must be a member of ALDA, Inc. to use the ALDA member rate for the Joint Conference.**

***If you are currently not a member of either TDI or ALDA, Inc., and want to save a few dollars, you can become a member of either organization and be eligible for the discounted “Member” rates. Simply go to either [www.TDIforAccess.org](http://www.TDIforAccess.org) or [www.ALDA.org](http://www.ALDA.org); complete the membership application, submit the membership application with the appropriate fee, and then later complete this Registration Form as a “Member.”***

**Full Registration Combo Ticket** (Provides admittance to the Wednesday Evening Presidents Reception, Thursday Boards & Presidents Luncheon, Friday Sponsors & Exhibitors Luncheon, Friday Evening Banquet & Entertainment, Saturday Awards Luncheon, Saturday Evening Karaoke Party, Sunday Farewell Brunch, all Plenary Sessions, all Workshops, and the Exhibit Hall)

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<th>FULL REGISTRATION COMBO TICKET</th>
<th>Early Bird Ends 5/31/13</th>
<th>Regular 6/1/13–9/1/13</th>
<th>Last Minute After 9/1/13</th>
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<td>$225</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$275</td>
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**Three-Day Registration** (Provides admittance to all Plenary Sessions, Workshops, and the Exhibit Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

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<td>Corporate or Government Representative</td>
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**One-Day Registration** (Provides admittance to all Plenary Sessions, Workshops, and the Exhibit Hall on selected day)

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<tr>
<td>Veteran (Regardless of TDI or ALDA membership status)</td>
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For One-Day registrants, please indicate which day you will be attending: ○ Thursday  ○ Friday  ○ Saturday

**Exhibits Only Registration** (FREE every day for everyone, but you must register to enter the Exhibit Hall)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I only want to visit the exhibits</td>
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**A La Carte Special Events** (For anyone, paid at any time, but may be unavailable if requested on-site)

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<thead>
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<td>Wednesday (10/16/13) Presidents Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday (10/17/13) Boards &amp; Presidents Luncheon</td>
<td>($50)</td>
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<td>Friday (10/18/13) Sponsors &amp; Exhibitors Luncheon</td>
<td>($50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday (10/18/13) Evening Banquet &amp; Entertainment</td>
<td>($70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday (10/19/13) Awards Luncheon</td>
<td>($50)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday (10/19/13) Evening Karaoke Party</td>
<td>($30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday (10/20/13) Farewell Brunch</td>
<td>($30)</td>
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</table>

Total Special Events = $_____

**GRAND TOTAL DUE:** (Add Registration or Partial Registration and/or A La Carte Special Events) = $_____

For questions concerning registration, send an email to executive.director@TDIforAccess.org.

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

Check One: ○ MasterCard  ○ Visa  ○ American Express

○ Check  ○ Money order (Payable to "TDI-ALDA Conference")

Card Holder’s Name: ________________________________________________

Card Number: ______________________________________________________

Expiration Date (Month and Year): _________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________________

○ I wish to use the Conference EZPay Plan to pay my Full Registration Combo Ticket fee. I enclose an initial payment of $100, and I will make monthly payments of the remaining balance. The final payment is due by October 1, 2013.
SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION

- I have the following special dietary needs: ○ Vegan ○ Vegetarian ○ Gluten Free ○ Kosher ○ Diabetic
- I have the following food allergies:
- I need an ADA in-room accommodations kit (TTY and visual/vibrating door knocker, alarm clock, and fire alarm)
- I need the following interpreter for the blind: ○ Tactile ○ Close Up
- I do NOT have a T-switch (T-coil, telecoil, telephone switch) on my hearing aid and will need to borrow a receiver with headphones in order to benefit from the hearing loop (Audio Induction Loop) systems that will be installed in the conference meeting rooms.

*** NOTE *** For more information about telecoils on hearing aids and cochlear implants, go to http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/HLAA_Telecoil_Brochure.pdf, or consult with your hearing instrument specialist. For more information about hearing loops, go to www.hearingloop.org.

*** NOTE *** Sign language/Voice interpreters, CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation), and assistive listening systems will be provided for all conference plenary sessions, workshops, and meal functions.

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

- Check here if you are a “newcomer” who has never before attended either a TDI or ALDA conference.
- Check here if you wish to be assigned a ‘buddy’ who has been to one or more previous conferences in order to help you enjoy the TDI-ALDA 2013 Joint Conference. The amount and kind of interaction that you have with your “buddy” is completely up to you.
- Check here if you wish to be contacted by the Roommates Coordinator about a possible “roommate” with whom to share hotel expenses during the Joint Conference. Determining whether to room together and share hotel expenses, as well as making room reservations, are responsibilities of the persons considering becoming roommates.

NAME BADGE POLICY

Everyone that attends this conference must complete a Registration Form and obtain a name badge, even if all you plan to do is attend the free exhibits. You will not be admitted to any conference activity without a name badge. A separate Registration Form must be completed for each person attending the conference.

REGISTRATION REFUND POLICY

Refunds and registration transfers will be given only for unique circumstances, such as illness, hospitalization, or a death in the family. Requests for a refund (minus a $25.00 processing fee) will be honored until October 1, 2013. Contact the chair of the TDI-ALDA 2013 Joint Conference Planning Committee, Claude Stout, at executive.director@TDIforAccess.org to request a refund or arrange a registration transfer.

COMPLETED FORM

Mail To: TDI-ALDA 2013 Conference Registration
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 121
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3803
(or)
Email To: conference@TDIforAccess.org
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, 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).
JOIN THE FAMILY.....JOIN ALDA!

Your membership in the Association of Late-Deafened Adults connections you with ALDAns throughout the world. Don’t miss our informative quarterly newsletter, ALDA News. Check our chapter directory at www.alda.org to find a chapter near you. Our fully accessible annual convention is a must for newcomers and old-timers alike.

To join or renew using credit cards on our secure site, go to www.alda.org. To mail your membership, please complete this form and send with check payable to:

ALDA, Inc., 8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2, Rockford, IL 61107-5336

I'd like to: □ Join ALDA  □ Give a Gift Membership to:

Name ____________________________________________________________

Organization: _____________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State: ___________ Postal Code: ___________ Country: ___________

Home Phone: _____________ TTY □ Voice □ Cap Tel □ VP □

Work Phone: ________________ TTY □ Voice □ Cap Tel □ VP □

Fax ____________________________________________________________

E-mail ___________________________________________________________

URL/Website Address: _____________________________________________

ALDA Chapter (Name/None): _______________________________________

Gender: Male □ Female □

Hearing Loss:
Late-Deafened □  Hard of Hearing □  Deaf □  Hearing □

Newsletter preferred format (select one):
□ Electronic (Email) □ Paper (U.S. Mail)

□ General Member, Age 61 or under......$30.00
□ Senior Member, Age 62 or over.........$25.00
□ Veterans Membership $25.00..............$25.00
□ Business Membership......................$50.00
□ Tax-Deductible Donation..............$ _______
□ New □ Renewal

If paying by check or money order, payment must be in U.S. funds and drawn on a U.S. bank. If paying by credit card, complete the section below or Renew online by going to:


For Credit Card Payment by Mail:
□ MasterCard  □ Visa

Amount _________________________________

Account # _______________________________

Expiration Date _________________________

Signature ______________________________
(For Credit Authorization)

If paying by check, please mail this form to:

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

ALDA’s Mission Statement:
To Support the Empowerment of Deafened People.

Education  Advocacy  Role Models  Support

ALDA provides networking opportunities through local chapters and groups as well as at the annual ALDA conference (ALDAcon).
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 for your home or office.
- **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**

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](mailto:treasurer@alda.org) or visit [www.alda.org](http://www.alda.org)