The leaves are changing colors and falling. Enjoy our Fall 2023 issue of ALDA News.
"President's Corner"
by Laura Sinclair

Hold your hats! It’s hurricane season! What a wild, wet, hot ride it’s been for most of the country this summer. I hope no tumbleweeds stopped you from making plans to join us or the annual ALDAcon in Austin, TX! With the program schedule released mid-September, you will see plenty to join in at any point of the week, Oct. 30 – Nov. 3, 2023. Come for a few days or come for all of it. From Planning, to Programming, to Scholarship, Sponsorship, Site Evaluation, Advocacy, and Finance our volunteers making up the committees and board have been putting in countless hours to bring you world-class information and entertainment. Full communication access is only one facet that makes this experience unlike any other. Our

John Waldo (1946-2023)

John Waldo, disability rights attorney, passed away in his sleep on Sunday, September 17, 2023. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor this past summer.

John was proud to identify as late-deafened. He used his experience with hearing loss to advocate and champion the enforcement of federal and state disability laws for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. As a result of John’s advocacy work, many venues in our nation became more accessible, including movie theaters, live theaters, sports venues, ferries, hospitals and online education. John led early efforts to make
shared hearing loss journeys mingle with what makes each of us unique. ALDAns embrace that uniqueness and use “whatever works” to communicate. Perhaps you’re a pro at ASL…use it! Someone else will end up picking more words up. You lipread? Great! I am terrible at it. I may ask you to re-phrase something, step a few feet away from some background noise, or write something down so I get it right. There is no bluffing or embarrassment due to that which you have no control over. You can’t hear…so what!? We will find what tool works best for you and may even twist your arm to try something new. Or you may show us something new! I always come away from a Zoom, a presentation, a convention with a variety of “ah, ha!” moments that I treasure. Tell us what your needs are and sit back to have your ears talked off!

Read the whole article.

movie theaters more accessible, trailblazing the way and creating legal precedent on offering captioning, and movie theaters in other states would follow the guidance established by this body of advocacy. His love for the cultural arts fueled his passion to ensure that live theater performances were also accessible.

Read the whole obituary

From Shelter to CEO and #1 International Bestselling Author with
October is All About "Advancing Access and Equity in the Workplace"
by Shanna Grove

Observed each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions of America’s workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees. This year’s theme is “Advancing Access and Equity: Then, Now and Next”. This year’s NDEAM is also notable because it is the 50th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which became the standard for future disability inclusion laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Hi! I am Kristy Whilden Hard of Hearing Late deafened adult, mother of 6, Founder and CEO of Hands Up Silent Theatre, teacher and author! My passions right now include American Sign Language theater, Deaf Culture and Deaf History, re-learning the piano, adult coloring books, reading and writing.

I was a music educator for 10 years and owned a music academy. My biggest claim to fame was that five of my students were invited to play at the great Carnegie Hall in NYC. I was on top of the world, or so I thought. In 2014 I learned that I was losing my hearing from progressive sensorineural hearing loss. I slipped into a massive depression. I went back to school and got a degree in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. My amazing teacher allowed my then 13 year old daughter to join me in my classes to learn alongside me so I would never lose communication with my children. After I graduated I looked at my daughter and said, “Now what?” She said, “Mom, you can’t lose your love of the
There is much work to be done to close the unemployment gap between individuals with disabilities and those without disabilities. Read the whole article.

---

**Treasurer's Report**
Here is a summary of ALDA's finances for Fall 2023 from our Treasurer, Joe Linder.

---

**A Note from the Vice President**
The countdown to ALDAcon is on! This year will be a lot of "firsts" for me. I'm attending as a Board member, it's my first trip to Texas, and it will be my husband's first time at an ALDAcon. I'm looking forward to the workshops and the line dancing, as well as the amazing speakers. See you all soon!

---

**Region II Report from Sarah Wegley**
On August 20, several Region II members met up with me and Tina Childress on Zoom to discuss recent communication challenges and the upcoming ALDAcon. We were excited to learn that two members who will be newcomers at the con (one from Canada and one from Nebraska) had joined us on the call! It was a great
ALDAcon 2023 Speakers and Schedule

This year, we have an exciting line up of speakers and workshops. For our Keynote speaker, this year we have Dr. Jaime A.B. Wilson. He will be speaking at our Opening Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 31st. Dr. Jaime A.B. Wilson offers a rare and unique perspective into the world of opportunity to connect with them and answer their questions.

One of Us - Jan Jenkins

This Fall issue of the ALDA News brings an interview with Jan Jenkins, a fairly new member with a zest for life. Jan will be a newcomer to this year’s ALDAcon, so let's give her a warm welcome. Read on to get the nitty gritty about Jan, and her sweet Southern charm.

KK: Where were you born and/or grew up?

JJ: Born in Laurel, Mississippi but moved to Odessa, Texas when I was 10 years old and lived there until graduation from high school. My family moved back to Laurel when I started college at Mississippi State University and then graduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi.

KK: Where do you currently live?
On Wednesday at the I. King Jordan Banquet, we will feature comedian D. J. Demers. D.J. has been seen on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, America’s Got Talent, Conan (three times) and his one-hour specials [Indistinct Chatter], Interpreted, and Born In ‘86, D.J. Demers is a steady provider of laughs. His clever stand-up is both personal and universal and has earned him multiple appearances at various comedy clubs around the world.

On Thursday’s Plenary Luncheon, we will be featuring Justin Osmond of the world-famous, JJ: I’ve lived in Perkinston, Mississippi for the past 10 years on 30 beautiful wooded acres with a pond adjacent to the Desoto National Forest and about 30 minutes from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Have always been a “city girl” until moving to the country after my divorce and have loved the peace and quiet, the beauty of nature and the wildlife. I enjoy going to the beach, hiking, and swimming in the creeks near where I live.

KK: At what age and how did you become deafened? (Was it progressive or did it occur quickly?)

JJ: Not sure exactly when I lost my hearing. In the 7th grade, they did a routine screening for hearing loss. I remember my teacher calling me out into the hall and I was so embarrassed because I couldn’t imagine that I was in trouble. Just remember feeling that something was wrong with me. They called in my parents for a conference and nothing really happened. At this point it was considered a “mild” hearing loss. I had compensated for it by reading lips (though I had no idea that I had taught myself to do this) and always sitting right in front of the teacher. I always made straight A’s, so no one expected that I couldn’t hear well. At this time in my life, I didn’t
Osmond family. Being born with a severe to profound hearing loss is hard for anyone, but being the son of Merrill Osmond, the lead singer of the world-renowned Osmond Family, made deafness an even bigger challenge for him. Despite a 90% hearing loss, over 12 years of intense speech/listening therapy and being told by teachers and professionals that he would never succeed in life, he went on to play the violin, viola, piano, drums and can now speak with passion. For more information on our speakers and the (tentative) ALDAcon schedule, please click HERE.

Read the whole article

Whatever Works!
What a gift to see the old and new members alike working together to support the late-deafened and their hearing family and friends. You make the
Beckett

I am so looking forward to ALDacon! – Last year was my first year. It was also the first time I ventured alone traveling without either family coming with me or meeting me. Definitely, outside of my comfort zone. I was so nervous; I had no clue what to expect. Meeting new people has always been nerve racking for me. Will my ears fail? Will I be accepted? Will I sound wrong? I tend to stick with my family. However, they are growing up and starting their own lives – which I want! What happened to me is something I never expected – I had the most amazing time! I met super fun and funny people who really enjoyed life! I learned new things and I was accepted just for me. There were no expectations from me except to come as I am. This was such a new experience to have people talk to me, come up out of the blue, sit down and chat. Also, I was inspired by others. People that I met were doing things across the world. It led me to think how I can help in my home state of Nevada. ALDacon gave me the confidence to speak out and be a voice of others. I have become more difference! This is a special invite to all our members to share your hearing loss stories and adventures. Things about family, job, travel, hearing loss journey, advocacy, workshops, coping skills, special celebrations like birthdays or anniversaries. Whatever works! How? Simply email us at membership@alda.org and we will coordinate with our outstanding ALDA Board and Communications Committee. We look forward to hearing from you!

Share Ideas – Ask Questions - Stay engaged

Membership Committee Chair,
Cynthia Moynihan

Are you interested in running for
active in the community where I live.

What about you? If you are going to ALDAcon and it is not your first time what new and exciting things are you most eager to learn or people are you excited to see again? If it is your first time seek me out and say hello, I would love to meet you!

Robert R. Davila ALDA Angel 2022, award winner Matt Ferrara

At ALDacon 2022 in San Diego, this award was announced and the winner was Matt Ferrara. Unfortunately, Matt was unable to attend last year but we wanted to make sure our membership was aware of Matt winning this award. The award was shipped to Matt and he thanked the ALDA 2022 Board for this award. Thank you.

ALDA is seeking volunteers. If you are interesting in volunteering in one of these areas, please complete the form [at this link](https://mailchi.mp/alda/alda-news-summer-9583034?e=0018afec41). The areas are:

- Writing articles/stories for the ALDA News
Cheryl Heppner, ALDA Advocacy award 2022, award winner Sheryl Butler

At ALDAcon 2022 in San Diego, this award was announced and the winner was Sheryl Butler for her work in installing Induction Loop systems in several places across the country. Unfortunately, Sheryl was unable to attend last year but we wanted to make sure our membership was aware of Sheryl winning this award. The award will be shipped to Sheryl. Thank you.

- Editing articles for the ALDA News
- Running a local group or chapter - no hearing loss support group in your area? Start one - we have lots of resources to show you how!
- Working on Social Media Platforms - email outreach, posting on Facebook and Twitter, creating multimedia content, etc.
- Writing articles for the website or newsletter
- Newsletter editing and distribution
- Setting up and organizing virtual meetings - do you have experience with Zoom? Google Meet?
- Presenting at meetings (virtual and face to face) - anyone with experience and knowledge related to hearing loss is welcome to share their knowledge.
- Running large events including conventions and silent auctions
- Fundraising and bookkeeping
- Membership outreach and growth
- Marketing - especially new ways to market to and connect with those we serve.

If you are interested in volunteering in an area not listed, please use the form to type in what skills you are offering. Thank you so much!
ALDA Inc.

Presents the
Cheryl Heppner Advocacy Award
to
Sheryl Butler
In recognition of dedicated support to ALDA

ALDAcon 2022
San Diego, CA
ALDA 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Laura Sinclair
Past President: Ken Arcia
Vice President: Ellen Perkins
Secretary: Tina Childress
Treasurer: Joe Linder
Region 1: Debra Bare-Rogers
Region 2: Sarah Wegley
Region 3: Catherine Broadhead
Region 4: Susan Beckett

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALDA
Confidence Over the Phone

Enjoy phone conversations again, confident you’ll catch every word. Trust CapTel Captioned Telephones to show you captions of everything your caller says. It's like captions on TV — for your phone!

• Built-in answering machine shows captions of your messages
• Extra large display screen with variable font sizes and colors
• 40dB amplification – hear what you can, read what you need to!
• Several models to choose from

CapTel 2400i includes Bluetooth connectivity & Speakerphone

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS ANYONE BUT REGISTERED USERS WITH HEARING LOSS FROM USING INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) CAPTIONED TELEPHONES WITH THE CAPTIONS TURNED OFF. Captive Telephones may use a two speaker, 'earpiece' configuration to deliver the captioned output if the user requests it. The captions are then sent to your phone. There is a cost for each minute of captions generated, paid from a federally administered fund. The cost is passed on to the CapTel user for using the service. CapTel captioning service is intended exclusively for individuals with hearing loss. CapTel® is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc. The Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. (c)1999-1995 Bluetooth SIG, Inc. All rights reserved.
ALDA CHAPTER NEWS

ALDA Seacoast NH

ALDA Seacoast NH Group, by Laura Sinclair

We've been a social group this summer! Celebrating with fellow ALDAn, Joan Marcoux on her retirement from working for the NH Dept. of Health Equity as the state’s hearing loss and vision loss specialist, we had a nice reunion of friends and co-workers from over the course of her career. This was preceded by many years at NH Vocational Rehabilitation, too. People came from near and far for the summer picnic on beautiful Lake Winnisquam with after-party (read: getting dry after multiple thunderstorms).

A few of us were also able to enjoy meeting up to welcome Hearing assist dog, Pepper, with one of our members who recently made the move from MA to NH, thus entering the realm of being affiliated with not just one but two local ALDA opportunities such as we enjoy with smaller states up here. Pepper didn’t come in the pool with us but guarded hearing aids and cochlear implants poolside.

A few of us made it to a mainstream comedy act (Justin McKinney!) and a play, too, at the looped auditorium we have close by. At $30 admission ($10 for the play), it is a bargain that can’t be beat. We caught every joke!

Some of us have been giving feedback to the sound engineers to improve placement of mics for the stage.

I missed some opportunities to showcase the ALDA group but I did attend
the Age of Champions at UNH, Durham, where I was able to continue fostering awareness of issues those with hearing loss face as it was hosted by the Dept. of Communications/Sign Language Interpreting and Dept. of Assistive Technology. There were also some folks who just wanted to know more about the “thing on my ear” (cochlear implant).

I did make it to the Walk for Hearing in Boston this past weekend, meeting up with a few ALDAns and others from all sorts of organizations and initiatives. One of these I spoke with were representatives from AKOUOS, a Boston research company partnering with the D/HOH community in the study of genetics pharmacology therapies. They are hoped to present to the ALDA Group this Fall.

Pretty soon we'll be planning the holiday party and a snow event! SHHH!! Too soon!! Happy Fall first!

ALDA Chicago

Since our last newsletter, ALDA Chicago has been busy with two socials and one educational workshop.
President Marsha Swetin hosted a BBQ at her home on August 26.

An afternoon of games was hosted at a public library on September 23.
At a "Chat with Rachel" on September 9, Rachel Arfa (seated front right) covered all of the services that Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) provide and how to contact MOPD.

ALDA Suncoast

ALDA Suncoast attended a few open-captioned movies this summer. We saw Indy Jones in July. One Sunday was National Movie Day, where tickets were only $4. We saw Never Give Up, which was a true story about a deaf man who won a tennis championship.
In August we saw Barbie. Most of us wore pink. We ate at Olive Garden afterward.
We appreciate the accessibility the theatre gives us. We prefer the open captions over the cup holder device. Sometimes I feel like we have to jump through so many hoops just to see a movie we want to see and ask way in advance. I would love to see a movie, anytime, anyplace with no hoops for once.

September was our annual Sunset night. It was at the Sheraton Sand Key Park this year. It’s always a great time! We invite those who live in Central West Florida to join us!
Deaf and hard-of-hearing students bring a variety of life experiences and communication preferences to RIT, but all have one thing in common—RIT is the right fit for them.

Find YOUR FIT

NTIDadmissions@rit.edu
www.rit.edu/ntid/fit

585-475-6700 (voice)
585-743-1300 (videophone)
866-644-6843 (toll free U.S. & Canada)

Susana Flores ‘16
B.S. Museum Studies, and Immersion in Deaf Studies
Chapter/Group Outreach!

Thanks to our ALDA Chapter and Groups, we are reaching more individuals experiencing hearing loss and late-deafening. Looking for support near you? Get involved with your local Chapter or Group - or start your own today!

Per the new submission guidelines provided, ALDA chapter and groups can now submit their reports directly to ALDA News Submissions.

Please advise if your chapter/group are using other outlets to share your news and events.

Thank You!

Editor: vacant
Layout Editors: Sarah Wegley & Ken Arcia

Advertising Inquiries:
Joe Linder (treasurer@alda.org)
V/TTY: 815-332-1515

Advertising Information
Full page (7.5 x 9.5) ........ $200.00
Half page (7.5 x 4.5) ........ $150.00
Quarter page (3.5 x 4.5) ...... $75.00
Eighth page (3.5 x 2.25) ...... $45.00
Ads can be submitted electronically via pdf file with size as noted above. Payment is due in full for all approved ads. Please note, additional charges may apply for failure to meet size conformity. ALDA, Inc. does not endorse any product or service advertised herein. Advertisers assume full liability for the content of ads.

The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or official policies of ALDA, Inc.

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