

WHAT IS ALDA-GARDEN STATE?

Our first official meeting took place in March 1995 in Mountain Lakes, N.J., after several years of founding members' conversations about starting a chapter of the national **Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA)** in New Jersey. There was already a social group that we enjoyed very much, but we wanted something more.

We established a board and bylaws, and applied to become a bona fide chapter of **ALDA**, an international organization that has members in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Norway and other countries around the world. In October 1995, we received our Chapter Charter at the **ALDA** National Convention in Rockford, Ill.

We also filed for incorporation and received non-profit status in New Jersey.

ALDA-Garden State's goals are to serve people with hearing loss through:

- **ADVOCACY** – supporting access for all people with hearing loss.
- **EDUCATION** – bringing information to members, their families and friends.
- **SUPPORTIVE OUTREACH** – reaching out to as many adults with hearing loss as possible and publishing a quarterly newsletter.

WHOM DO WE SERVE?

Late-deafened adults are those who started out hearing or hard of hearing and became deaf at any point after acquiring spoken language.

Late-deafness can occur suddenly or over a period of time. It can occur for different reasons, including trauma, disease or genetics

Most important, late-deafened adults share the experience of becoming deaf after using English or other spoken language.

Members communicate through speech using visual clues, writing, sign language or a combination of all three. *Whatever works!*

ALDA-Garden State welcomes late-deafened individuals and all others with hearing loss.

We seek to include people who are hard of hearing, born deaf, culturally Deaf, oral deaf, and any of their friends and family members who may be interested in attending our meetings and events. We also welcome sign language students and interning interpreters.

MORE ABOUT ALDA-GARDEN STATE

▪ SELF-HELP SUPPORT

Meetings provide members with opportunities to talk about their feelings, frustrations, experiences and coping strategies with others who share the same hearing-loss challenges. Meetings often end with informal social gatherings that are an opportunity to spend time with friends and get to know other members.

▪ OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

ALDA-Garden State provides speakers with information on new technology and topics of interest. We invite members and others to our public forums. Members advocate for relevant legislation, rehabilitation programs, and other services on behalf of those with hearing loss.

▪ EMAIL GROUP

If you have a computer, you're invited to participate in the free ALDA-GS email group for members. To join or for more information, email ALDA-GS-owner@yahoogroups.com.

▪ NEWSLETTER

ALDA-Garden State publishes a newsletter that combines information and experience sharing with humor and sensitivity. We encourage members and others to contribute ideas, stories, poetry and articles. Send them to our editor, Lori Messing, lorimessing@comcast.net.

Designed and donated by Diane Smith - Gale of Diane Smith Graphic Studio

ALDA-GARDEN STATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Voice TTY CapTel

Please check one:

- Individual membership \$15. a year
 Family membership \$20. a year
 Additional gift to support ALDA-GS \$ _____

Please make checks payable to;
ALDA-Garden State, c/o Diana Fanuel,
413 Valley View, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

If you have any questions, please contact:

ALDA.GardenState@gmail.com

Phone:

Elinore Bullock (via CapTel):

877-243-2823,

then ask operator to dial 908-832-5083

Joanne Sammer

732-292-3171

Also, check out our website at:

www.alda-gs.org

**Thank you for your interest
and support!**

ALDA'S MISSION

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) is committed to support, educate, and advocate on behalf of people who became deaf after acquiring spoken language and grew up in the hearing world.

ALDA members can no longer understand speech without visual clues nor can they rely on their hearing as a means of receptive communication. Instead, ALDA members must depend on assistive devices and alternate modes of communication, such as speechreading, sign language, and text reading/captioning.

Together, ALDA members pledge;

- to provide a support network and a sense of belonging to all late-deafened adults,
- to share our unique experiences, coping strategies, and personal challenges,
- to find psychological relief and practical solutions to our problems,
- to provide an atmosphere where late - deafened adults are not judged as flawed, inadequate, or imperfect, and
- to work with other organizations and service providers for our common good.

ALDA is a "home" where we feel welcome and no longer alone, and where we can learn to accept ourselves as we accept each other.

ALDA-Garden State is committed to this mission statement. We provide access at meetings through captioning or other printed access and interpreting for Deaf and deaf-blind members.

**We welcome you
to join us
in furthering
ALDA's mission!**

3 Tamarack Farm Lane
Califon, NJ 07830

ALDA
GARDEN STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
LATE-DEAFENED
ADULTS

stamp



GROW WITH...

ALDA

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