

ALDA-GS News

Fall 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear good people of ALDA-GS,

Nancy Kingsley, the coordinator of ALDA-NJ (the party group!) will soon be moving to Lancaster, PA, where her son and daughter-in-law already live. Nancy will be joined by her daughter, Wendy, and her two grandchildren. Wendy will be a special education teacher. It is a very happy move for Nancy and her family.

Nancy has a long history with ALDA. In 1991 she started ALDA-NJ as a social ALDA outreach. The group has been very successful. This year's holiday party will be the 98th gathering! Nancy has also been a member of ALDA-GS since it was founded in 1995 and has served as its president. She has been active in many areas of ALDA, Inc. and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of *ALDA News*. She is a past president of the DDHH Advisory Council and chaired its Community Services/Agency Committee. She is an author and advocate par excellence!

Elinore Bullock has graciously agreed to continue ALDA-NJ activities. She and John have hosted many ALDA-NJ parties. Elinore has served two terms as ALDA-GS's president and has also served as secretary and vice president. She has been the editor of the ALDA-GS News for the past eight years. She has served twice as the editor of the ALDA Reader, the annual publication of ALDA, Inc which is distributed at conventions. She served on the Board of The Deaf Contact Center where her husband, John, was a relay volunteer. Currently they both are volunteers for The Seeing Eye, raising puppies and helping the organization in other ways. They are presently awaiting the arrival of their 18th puppy.

Elinore is the webmaster for ALDA-GS and for her church. She serves her church in several capacities.

Nancy has done a tremendous job founding and leading ALDA-NJ. We are truly blessed to have Elinore willing to pick up the reins.

On behalf of all the ALDA-GS members I wish to thank Nancy for all she's done for us and to wish her joy in her move and happiness with her family.

On December 2nd, from 10:30 AM until 3 PM, ALDA-GS will have a terrific workshop at the East Brunswick Library. Judy Ginsberg will present on news in assistive technology. Joey Garth, of Garth Wireless, will bring us up to date on cellular systems including the Blackberry and Sidekick. Carol Granaldi will teach us how to reach out to others with hearing loss through our local libraries. A light lunch will be provided. I urge you to come on time because we have a lot to offer in a short period of time. I look forward to seeing a good turn-out. This is our annual workshop and a good time to not only learn but to enjoy mingling with other members.

Peace, Sheila

ALDA-GS

**Association of Late-Deafened Adults-
Garden State**

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We welcome advertisements, articles, and information.

E-mailed articles preferred, no faxes please.

Other submissions must be clearly written or typed double-spaced and sent to:

Editor, ALDA-GS

3 Tamarack Farm Lane,

Califon, NJ 07830-3415

Calendar

Dec. 2 10:30 AM –2:30 PM

ALDA-GS Fall Workshop

Light lunch included

No attendance fee

Topics:

**1. Today's assistive technology
(including the Blackberry and Sidekick)**

2. Reaching out to those who need us

Contact: Sheila Shuford

scshuford@optonline.net

973.027.5554 CapTel

Dec. 9 6:00 PM

ALDA-NJ HOLIDAY COCKTAIL AND POTLUCK PARTY

At the home of Sandy and Hyman Spekman,
South Orange

Contact: Nancy Kingsley:

201.768.2552 TTY

kingsnan@aol.com

**Deadline for next issue:
Jan. 15, 2007**



Welcome New Member

Kathy and Paul Hopkins
New Brunswick, NJ

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the organization. Each article has been written from an individual member's viewpoint.



**LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR**

Friends,

I want to send a word of warning to those of you who may be considering buying a high-definition TV set. Do be certain that the captions come in and that they come in clearly before you buy it. Insist on seeing captions in the store before you buy. I didn't do that. I tried, but...

I recently bought a 55 inch hi-def TV. I have basic cable service, not premium cable networks, just channels 2 through 13 and a few others.

But...get this...no TV store could show me how the captions work!

One guy said, "We use satellite dish. Maybe you don't get captions with that."

I said, "Bleep! You can go to Bleep! Captions are always there!"

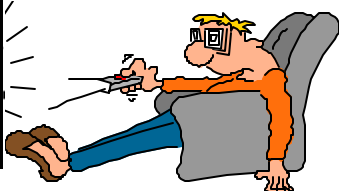
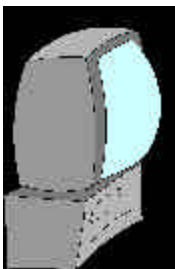
To my own dismay, I bought the TV anyway. I was disappointed when I got it home and installed. The captions lag and it's very hard to figure out who is talking. The captions appear white with a blue background! It seems very slow printing.

People interested in buying a hi-def TV should know about these problems.

If I had known how the captions would come through, I wouldn't have bought it. I just bought it, took it home, and now have to put up with it.

Luckily I can switch back to regular TV and get captions normally.

Regards,
Tony Yuppa



COME TO OUR FREE WORKSHOP

Dec. 2, 10:30 AM—3 PM
East Brunswick Public Library
2 Jean Walling Civic Center
East Brunswick, NJ

Our two topics will be of interest not only to late-deafened adults, but to all with hearing loss.

Morning Session:

TODAY'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:
Judy Ginsberg will present up-to-date information about communication and alerting technology now available. Joe Garth will tell us about the Blackberry and Sidekick.

A light lunch will be provided.

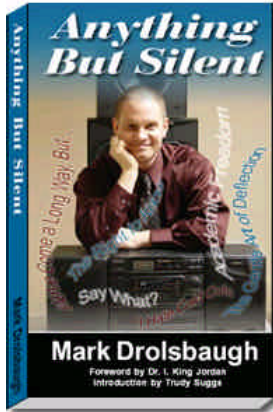


Afternoon Session:

REACHING OUT THROUGH YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Carol Granaldi will show how you can link up with your local library for the purpose of providing an educational program about hearing loss, which will enable you to reach out and touch those hard-to-find people who may need our support. She has done this in New Egypt and will tell us about her experience.

Grateful thanks to the DDHH for providing sign interpreters and captioning (CART) services.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Editor's Note: MaryAnne Kowalczyk told me about this book. It is newly-published and neither of us has read it yet. MaryAnne is familiar with the author's work, however, and feels quite sure it will be a good read. To purchase, go to Mark's website:

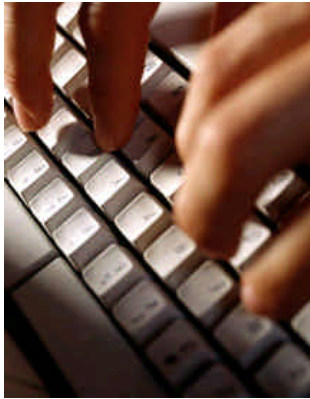
www.handwavepublications.netfirms.com (this is not a link)

You can also find Mark's other works at this website.

Anything But Silent is a compilation of the most thought-provoking articles by renowned deaf writer Mark Drolsbaugh. With a perfect blend of humor and insight, Drolsbaugh tackles some of the most profound topics in deafness: deaf/hearing relationships, the rift between American Sign Language and English, the hidden world of the hard of hearing, oppression in politics and education, idiosyncrasies of the deaf and hearing, embarrassing moments, and much more. *Anything But Silent* offers a deaf perspective rarely seen in print — bringing knowing smiles to those familiar with the deaf community and enlightening those who are new to it. \$19.95

OPEN HOUSE

LEARN HOW TO USE RTT – REAL TIME TRANSCRIPTION



RTT is a remote transcription system designed to provide text captioning to clients in realtime through a phone line and Internet connection. (Ideal to use for school, colleges and meetings)

Come and see what it is all about with a free demonstration on:

DATE: December 17, 2006

Time: 2pm to 4pm

LOCATION: 21 Clyde Rd, Suite 103
Somerset, NJ 08873

Refreshments will be served and prizes to be given away

Free, but must make reservations.

Contact: aslirs@aol.com

COMMENTS FROM A CART OPERATOR

Contributed by MaryAnne Kowalczyk

If steno-captioners do not write prefixes and suffixes differently from one another or from complete words, it can create many word boundary issues. Since captioners write phonetically, you will see these types of errors. As we're reading through captioning errors, if you can quickly read through these, it will aid in understanding.

Here are a few examples of problems with prefixes or suffixes:

1) They were outhouse hunting. (They were out house hunting)



2) The damage was a broke encounter. (The damage was a broken counter)

3) The high turn overcame as a result of low salaries. (The high turnover came as a result of low salaries)

4) They terminated the bake release. (They terminated the bakery lease.)

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DeafDigest Blue - August 13, 2006)

Mary Anne Kowalczyk says, "At a recent DDHH-AC meeting, the topic of having captioning on movie films came up. The presenter said that RWC was a problem for some individuals and that captioning would be better. I came across this list, also from DeafDigest

ADVANTAGES OF OPEN CAPTIONING

Contributed by MaryAnne Kowalczyk

A DeafDigest subscriber who is late-deafened pointed out the advantages of open captions over subtitles

- It will give information on background sound effects.
- It will caption whether a door is opening or closing.
- It will show a symbol of a telephone ringing if one is ringing in the movie.
- It will caption in words if a gun is fired.
- It will caption which actor is speaking.
- It will caption the difference between musical lyrics and script.
- It will caption the type of music playing.

This subscriber, however, would still go to a sub-titled movie if the script is a good one and if no such open captioned movie is available.

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DeafDigest Blue - August 13, 2006)

THE RIGHT EAR IS FROM MARS

By Anahad O'Connor

Reprinted from the New York Times

Belting out a few notes on key might take years of practice, and perfect pitch the right genetics, but when it comes to something as simple as telling noise from symphony, speech from music, all ears are created equal - or so it was once thought.

But in a new study, scientists have found that the left and right ears process sound differently. From birth, the right ear responds more to speech, while the left ear is more attuned to music, according to the study, published in *Science* on Sept. 10, 2004.

The findings could have substantial implications for deaf people who need cochlear hearing devices, which are implanted in only one ear, said Dr. Yvonne Sininger, a visiting professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles and lead author of the study.

While the idea that the left and right ears are not identical is new, scientists have known for decades that the two sides of the brain sort out sound in different ways. Speech is processed primarily in the left hemisphere of the brain, while music is handled largely by the right, hence the tendency to associate creativity with "right-brain" dominance and analytical thinking with "left-brain" supremacy.

But until now, most researchers overlooked the possibility that differences in auditory processing originated in the ear. "I think everyone just assumed that the two ears were essentially interchangeable," Dr. Sininger said.

With help from researchers at the University of Arizona, Dr. Sininger tested hearing ability in thousands of infants using miniature microphones that emitted sounds in the subjects' ears and measured amplification. Tiny cells in the ear respond to sound by expanding and contracting to enhance vibrations, which are then converted to nerve impulses that travel to the brain. But some of those vibrations bounce back in the opposite direction, allowing scientists to analyze the extent of amplification, a measure of how well the ear is responding.

Dr. Sininger found that a series of rapid clicks - resembling the rhythm of speech - produced a greater response in the right ear. The left ear seemed more attuned to tones representing music. In other studies, researchers have found that children with hearing loss in the right ear tend to have more problems in school than children who are deaf in the left ear. The new findings suggest that the right ear is critical for learning situations.

REACHING OUT AND TOUCHING OTHERS ABOUT HEARING LOSS THROUGH YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

by Carol Granaldi

Your local library is always looking for interesting educational programs for local residents. Many of us ALDA-GS members do have county libraries nearby and may even have attended a program or workshop there. Most libraries have space provided for workshops, presentations, and "show and tell" activities for persons of all ages. Your local library can be an important means to reach out and touch others about a variety of topics relating to hearing loss and assistive technology for hearing. Here a few steps to help you start a program in your local library.

TIMELINE - You will need at least 6 months' advance time to set a date, make various contacts, provide local newspaper coverage and gather attendees.

PROGRAM - You will need to decide a specific topic, such as use of hearing equipment, noise awareness, coping strategies when hearing is lost, etc. You need to decide on a target audience such as senior persons, children, young adults or the overall general public. A program should be geared to this demographic, and be interesting to as large a number of persons as possible. When you decide on a topic, you will need to assemble necessary educational handout material, such as printed literature and brochures. You may want to develop a Power Point program which is very popular these days. You can acquire material from various organizations such as the Hearing Loss Association of America, the League for the Hard of Hearing, A.G. Bell, and Association of Late-Deafened Adults. There is much available on topics such as "NOISE DAMAGE TO HEARING," or "HEARING AIDS HELP," or "COPING STRATEGIES WHEN YOU CAN'T HEAR," etc. etc.

WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENTS - You will need to determine a date/time for your workshop starting with the library. Often the agenda for library programs are set at least 6 months or more in advance, so be sure to get a date and one or two alternate dates available. You then can contact your state association's president to request permission to provide an outreach program and be its sponsor. The NJ DDHH will work only with agencies and state agencies to provide funding for communication access in the form of ASL interpreters, CART, and ALDs. The NJ Library f/t Blind & Handicapped will loan ALDs FM/Infrared upon request, but you must give many weeks notice as to the date of your program.

PROGRESSION - You will need to publicize to the general public about your upcoming workshop through your local newspapers, church bulletins, school newsletters, senior centers, at least 3 or 4 months in advance of their printing deadline. Your county library may have its own inter-library agenda printed in a newsletter or booklet in which you may place your information. As you progress, you will then decide what your costs would be for printing any material, flyers, postage, etc. to ensure that your state association will help with expenses. Will you provide food and drinks as refreshments during the workshop break? Do you have another individual to work with you? You should keep a log of "TO DO" and "DONE," items relating to all of the above, and a log of contact names, phone numbers, and email address.

By incorporating your local library in an outreach project of hearing loss topics, you will establish credibility, expand your reach to the public, make new friends, and feel a sense of accomplishment. You will learn some new things, and even have some fun! It's not hard, it can be fun, so "just do it."

Come to the ALDA-GS workshop on December 2, at the East Brunswick Library and we will talk about our "Hearing Awareness in New Egypt" experience. We will have a display of materials, including New Egypt Mayor's Proclamation. In addition, there will proudly be displayed the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly Joint Resolution giving recognition to ALDA-GS association in providing "Hearing Awareness" in New Jersey.



AN OPEN LETTER TO NANCY KINGSLEY,
Founder and coordinator of ALDA-NJ
(among other things)

Dear Nancy,

It was a shock to learn of your decision to move out of New Jersey, but I do understand your reasons and wish you well. I know it was a wise decision on your part and will bring you closer to your children, but nonetheless, I will miss you.

Many people will miss you! You have worked so hard for all of us over the years, advocating for late-deafened people by your many presentations and messages to state and federal legislators, to the public at large, and representing our special needs to the Div. of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council, serving as president of ALDA-GS, and especially for launching and coordinating ALDA-NJ. If I have left some things out, and I'm sure I have, forgive me!

If it hadn't been for ALDA-NJ, I wouldn't have met all the wonderful late-deafened adults that have become dear friends and have so enriched my life. I'm sure that may be said for a great many others, as well. The goodness resulting from these friendships will long endure.

New Jersey will simply not be the same without you! Thank goodness we still have e-mail to keep in touch and I plan to utilize that to the max!

I am flattered that you asked me to continue your work coordinating the ALDA-NJ socials. I will do my best and have already been promised support from some of your loyal party-goers. Even so, it will be hard to fill your shoes.

Warmest thanks to you and every good wish as you enter this new chapter of your life. It will be good to know we "Have a friend in Pennsylvania!"

Love,

Elinore Bullock



Let the parties continue!



Thanks to Diane Limey for reminding us of the perils of needing to speech-read.

FUTURE ON NEW JERSEY HOUSING FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

A report from Sheila Shuford

On November 11th, I attended a Community Forum focused on "Future NJ Housing for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing". The New Jersey Association of the Deaf (NJAD) has signed a contract with Cardinal Capital Management (www.cardinalcapital.us) to explore developing this housing for low-to-moderate income seniors with hearing loss in NJ. Cardinal has helped to put together finances and has built several other deaf senior citizen housing projects and is knowledgeable about the special needs of the group and how to negotiate contracts and the world of government tax credit and creative financing. They have done a hundred projects, twenty-five of them for disabled seniors.

Questionnaires were handed out to gather information on the needs and opinions of our community. All information is kept confidential.

Several areas of NJ are being considered for this project. The apartments are for independent living and will be rental. The apartments built in Wisconsin were immediately rented to all deaf, blind and hard of hearing people. In another state, when the apartments were not immediately rented to this specific group, hearing people jumped in and filled fifty percent of the apartments. They wanted to get in on the good deal!

As late-deafened people who may or may not be fluent in sign language, we may wonder if we would be comfortable in this environment. How does entrance doors with a video relay phone, technical center with computers and other up-to-the minute equipment, social meeting room in the lobby, parking garage with light detectors, emergency lights in the apartments and hallways, phone lights, fan lights and more sound? I must not leave out that they welcome dogs! There is a resident manager's office staffed with people who can communicate on all levels. It is a safe, secure and comfortable arrangement for the needs of this specific group.

As a late-deafened person who has little to no sign language skills you may be wondering if you would fit into this environment. It really is necessary to be aware and accepting of Deaf Culture and language. As in any apartment living, tenants must be respectful of each other's needs. At the United Nations, people of many languages coexist for the good of all. So can we.

NJAD is now recruiting members for committees. They hope to form alliances with other and varied deaf organizations in NJ. To receive a questionnaire and find out how you can share you needs and suggestions, contact Lila Taylor, NJAD Senior Chair: Ltaylor09@aol.com

THE STARKEY FOUNDATION

HEAR NOW, DIVISION

www.sotheworldmayhear.org



Editor's Note: We hope you will all remember to keep the Starkey Foundation in mind when you need to dispose of a used hearing aid or wish to make a donation.

Hear Now is a national non-profit program committed to assisting deaf and hard of hearing persons with limited financial resources who permanently reside within the United States. The work of **Hear Now** is supported through the contributions of many benefactors. We receive no government funding. All donations-money, time, hearing aids-allow the program to survive and give the gift of hearing domestically.

Hear Now collects hearing aids for recycling purposes. Any make or model, regardless of age, can be donated to the hearing aid recycling program. All donations are tax deductible and a letter of acknowledgement will be sent to all identified donors.

If you wish to donate a salvaged hearing aid or other assistive device, please securely package the donation and mail to:

Hear Now
6700 Washington Ave., South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
1.800.648.4327