

# ALDA-GS News

Spring 2008



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lynn Osborne

Dear ALDA friends,

If anyone had told me a year ago that I would be installed as the new President of ALDA-GS, I would have laughed at them. Not because I don't believe in my ability, but because I didn't know ALDA existed until last April. Fast forward, April 12, 2008, I am sitting in an ALDA-GS board meeting being installed as the new President.

That was the culmination of a rocky year. From losing a good portion of my hearing to going for months without hearing aids and then getting hearing aids to going back to school and then getting rear-ended by a tractor trailer and the injuries that came along with it. I managed to survive it all and to encourage a few people I met along the way who have varying degrees of hearing loss, and to find resources to help them. That is what ALDA, Inc. and ALDA-GS are all about.

Helping spread the word about our chapter was the focus of the board meeting. I am fortunate to have a board with so much experience and enthusiasm to work with. The board has some wonderful ideas and we need the help of each of you to make the plans come to fruition.

We have formally named our scholarship the Barnhart Memorial Scholarship and plan to host an annual Spring Picnic as its fundraiser. We are asking for committee volunteers to plan the picnic.

We will continue selling Great Adventure tickets. If you haven't contacted Tony Yuppa, please do so to purchase or sell tickets. [yupyup4@juno.com](mailto:yupyup4@juno.com) Contact your friends, family and associates and inform them of our efforts.

We are reviving the members-at-large board positions, one for the north and one for the south. As both of these positions are currently vacant, I will be appointing the members for this term. Thereafter, they will be subject to nomination and election as is the entire board. Tony Yuppa has accepted one of the positions of member-at-large, south with the board's confirmation. We are now seeking names of a second member to fill the other member-at-large, north position. The members-at-large will help with our outreach and membership efforts.

I attended an interesting meeting in March. It was called Emergency Responders and The Deaf and Hard of Hearing: First Steps To Disaster Preparedness hosted by NJDDHH.

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

**President: Lynn Osborne**  
732-252-5067 V losborne65@aol.com

**Past President: Sheila Shuford**  
scshuford@optonline.net

**Vice President: Debbie Erickson**  
deberick@aol.com

**Treasurer: Diana Fanuel**  
aldafann@hotmail.com

**Secretary: MaryAnne Kowalczyk**  
mkowalc585@aol.com

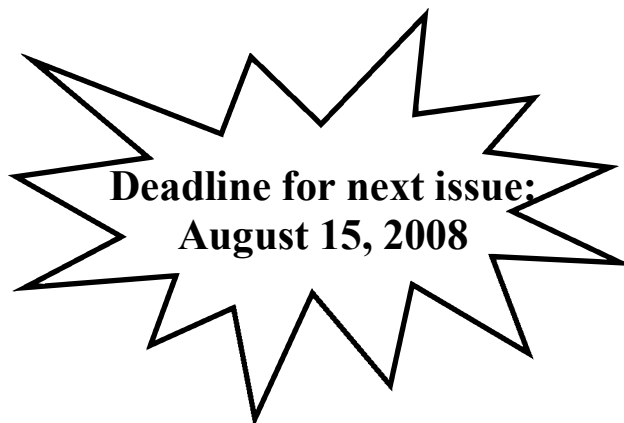
**Editor:**  
**Elinore Bullock**  
elinorebullock7@embarqmail.com  
908-832-5083 CapTel

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

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



**Listserv Address:**  
**Come and see what all the buzz is about!**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ALDA-GS>

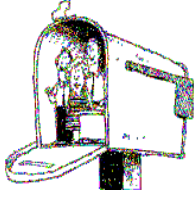
**Visit our Website:**  
<http://www.alda-gs.org>

**MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING  
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF  
ALAD-GS**

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Cynthia Amerman     | Lynne Osborne          |
| Paul Arabas         | Barbara Riggs          |
| Darshan Arora       | John Riley             |
| Jenny Beilis        | Karen Shockley         |
| Elinore Bullock     | Sheila Shuford         |
| Rev. Cathy Deats    | Holly Sparano          |
| Doreen Dougherty    | Beverly, Elliot Sudler |
| Kathleen Dylewski   | Peter Yerkes           |
| Deborah Erickson    | Tony Yuppa             |
| Diana Fanuel        |                        |
| K. Franklin         |                        |
| Judy Ginsberg       |                        |
| Eileen Hollywood    |                        |
| MaryAnne Kowalczyk  |                        |
| Diane Limey         |                        |
| Susan, Ralph Marana |                        |
| James Mayfield      |                        |
| Molly Meyers        |                        |
| Betty and Ed Morand |                        |
| Music in Motion     |                        |
| Oscar Nilsson       |                        |
| Richard O'Neill     |                        |

*If your name is not here, it isn't too late to renew your dues and to be included in the new membership directory. Work on that will begin shortly.*





## LETTERS

*A friend from ALDA-NJ writes:*

Hi all: here is some noteworthy info I am passing along:

There is a new non-profit program helping people afford hearing aids: Audient Alliance. Its phone number is 1-877-AUDIANT. A request for info can be made via email to: [info@audientalliance.org](mailto:info@audientalliance.org).

The address is :

Audient Alliance for Accessible Hearing Care

Northwest Lions Foundation

for Sight and Hearing

901 Boren Avenue, Suite 810

Seattle, WA 98104-3534

Fax: 206-838-7195

website: [www.audientalliance.org](http://www.audientalliance.org).

It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Anne Moore

Friends,

I am thrilled that the National Park Service has just announced that:

1- All audio-visual media must be open captioned and not closed captioning

2- This in no way negates [their] responsibility to provide assistive listening devices for program participants who are hard of hearing.

This is wonderful news. I hope other museums will follow the lead of our government's national parks

*Ed. Note: I checked the websites of the Nat'l parks in NJ, and found no information about access, but that doesn't mean it's not provided. It just means they need a better webmaster!*

*National Parks in NJ: Delaware Water Gap, Edison Nat'l Historic Site, Gateway Nat'l Recreation, Morristown Historical Site, Pine-lands. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)*

## PRES. MSG. CONT.

It was a call to action for us, as citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing, to get involved with our town and county Office of Emergency Management. Some towns and counties are formulating a 'special needs' registry. It is important to make sure you are on it so in case of emergency you will not be overlooked. The purpose is to list all of those with needs above and beyond the other citizens in a database so we are sure to be informed when an emergency arises.

It is vitally important that when programs are announced that involve hearing loss and/or deafness that we all do our best to participate. We want to make the public and the professionals that serve us aware that ALDA-GS members are the experts in the experience of late-deafness. Who better to speak for what we need than those who live it everyday?

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today. If you have questions or comments and you are not comfortable posting them on the listserv you can contact me directly at [losborne65@aol.com](mailto:losborne65@aol.com).

Our Fall 2008 workshop will be on the topic of Court Access. This is in direct response to questions and comments from the listserv.

The board is here to serve you and we can only do that when you communicate your needs to us. If you have ideas that you feel will help us serve you better or will increase our outreach, please let me know.

Blessings,

*Lynn*



**Save the Date!**  
**July 20th 2 PM**  
**ALDA-NJ Pool party**  
**at the**  
**Bullock home in Califon.**  
**Fliers to follow later**



### **Meet the New Board**

Bottom, L-R: Sheila Shuford, Past President  
Lynn Osborne, President  
Top, L-R: Diana Fanuel, Treasurer  
MaryAnne Kowalczyk, Secretary  
Debbie Erickson, Vice President

## **MINUTES-ALDA-GS MEETING, APRIL 12, 2008**

### **A summation**

Attending: Sheila Shuford, Deb Erickson, Diana Fanuel, Lynn Osborne, Elinore Bullock, MaryAnne Kowalczyk plus two interpreters.

#### **Barnhart Memorial Scholarship:**

The first order of business concerned the naming and creation of our scholarship to honor Jerry Barnhart's memory. The Board voted to name it the Barnhart Memorial Scholarship. Discussion about funding the scholarship followed. Some suggestions were: 1. promote membership at socials, 2. emphasize in our newsletter that donations are tax-deductible and receipts would be sent to donors, 3. provide a donation basket at our socials, 4. hold an annual fund-raising picnic. 4. Advertise that individuals who make donations would be acknowledged in our newsletter according to the category of donations, ie: \$1.00-\$200, \$201-\$400, etc. 5. Ask for seed money from ALDA, Inc. The board voted that a short bio of Jerry be made a part of the application form. The current rate of \$2000 scholarships shall continue. It was approved that an announcement of the creation of the Barnhart Memorial Scholarship be sent to the Monthly Communicator and published in our own newsletter. In the event an annual picnic is created, the Board stipulated that past scholarship winners be invited.

#### **Request for donation:**

A request for \$50 to attend a Youth Leadership Training Camp had been received from an individual. It was feared that an outright donation to an individual simply because he had requested it would set a precedent. The board voted to send the donation directly to the camp, and to return it to us if this person did not attend.

#### **HLAA's Walk4Hearing October 18 event:**

Lynn suggested that ALDA-GS should be present as a way to raise awareness of our organization. Vote is pending while the board awaits further information about the cost of renting a table.

#### **Fall Workshop**

Suggestions for the Fall Workshop included CapTel, CapTel Web, Speak n Read device, UbiDuo, (similar, but less expensive than Speak n Read)

#### **Taste of Technology**

Sprint Relay CapTel is presenting a Taste of Technology on Oct. 2nd at the Sheraton in Trenton. One of the workshops will be about the FCC. MaryAnne felt it was important that we

attend because it is the FCC rulings that determine the federal rules and regulations will permit and how they will work with national groups to be sure the deaf and hard of hearing have access to whatever they should be in the way of services.

#### Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

The DVR will be opening three new offices. Sheila felt that they should hire a late-deafened person for a part-time position at one or more of these new offices. She feels that the crises late-deafened people face are not understood at these offices. The secretary was asked to write to the DVR to request hiring a part-time late-deafened person when the three new offices are set up.

#### Relationship with other hearing loss groups

Sheila would like us to work more closely with other hearing loss groups, such as HLA, NJAD, DDHH with the intent of providing coordinated workshops. Tinnitus was suggested as one topic that would interest all groups, so would be a good project to work together on.

#### Format for Board responsibilities

- The ALDA-GS bylaws will be reviewed
- Based on the review, a Board of Trustees may be formed of all past presidents
- Past presidents will vote only to break a tie

#### Emergency information meeting

Lynn attended the CEPN training in Sayreville. She showed a large spiral notebook of information she received. This information must now be taken back to the counties and towns for implementation. MaryAnne spoke about the reverse 9-1-1 emergency call system now in place in Manahawkin.

#### New Jersey CapTel meeting

Elinore reported that Sprint CapTel had hired eight part-time people to demonstrate CapTel throughout the state. Some of those people are hearing, some hard of hearing, some use ASL, one is fluent in Spanish-English.

#### Deaf senior housing project

Sheila stressed that the needs of the Deaf will be met as well as those of the hard of hearing. The group is awaiting additional funding to proceed.

#### Scholarship Applicants

Diana reported receiving applications from twelve people, but only six of these applications were complete enough for consideration. (*editor's note: since the meeting, a winner has been determined. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details*)

#### Cynthia Amerman's letter

Sheila read Cynthia's letter of good wishes to the new board

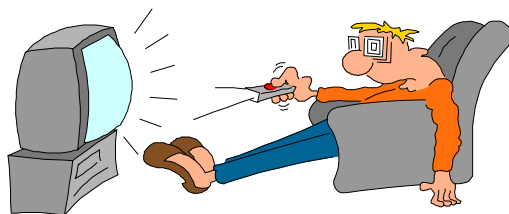
#### New Jersey Relay Advisory Board

MaryAnne attended this meeting on April 2nd. She reports that ALDA-GS is not a voting member of this board. ALDAns may attend, but not vote. MaryAnne urged us to push for Membership status so that our specific needs will be known.

#### Announcements

Elinore announced the May 4th party given by ALDA-NJ in Totowa, and revealed plans for ALDA-NJ's holiday party to be held at Willie's Taverne in Bedminster.

Respectfully submitted,  
MaryAnne Kowalczyk



*Many of you are concerned about the quality and/or availability of closed captioning when the new Digital TV becomes mandatory in February 2009. I have gathered some information from the FCC to help you:*

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is concerned that consumers may experience difficulty in receiving and/or viewing closed captioning on some digital television (DTV) programming, including high definition television (HDTV), provided by a programming distributor such as a cable company or a satellite television provider. These difficulties generally could arise from two causes: 1) the consumer's set-top box and/or DTV are not properly set to allow closed captions to be displayed; or 2) there are technical problems with the cable or satellite provider's system that prevent closed captions from being received and decoded by the set-top box and/or DTV.

If you have difficulties viewing closed captions on DTV programming, including HDTV, received from your cable company or satellite television provider, you should:

1. consult any consumer information and manuals/guides on closed captions for DTV programming provided by your cable or satellite provider;
2. ensure that the captioning function on your set-top box, if applicable, is turned on;
3. ensure that the captioning function on your DTV is turned on.

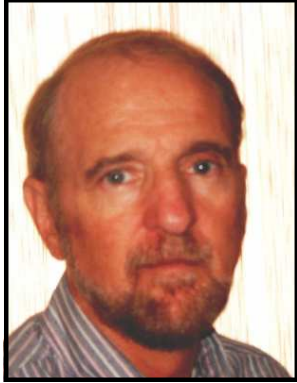
If you are still unable to view closed captions on DTV programming, you should contact your cable company or satellite television provider for assistance. If your provider is unable to help, you can contact the FCC's Consumer Center at the number listed below. You can also file an informal complaint alleging a violation of the Television Decoder Circuitry Act and the FCC's implementing rules. You can file your complaint using our on-line complaint Form 475 found at [http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints\\_general.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints_general.html); e-mailing [fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov); calling our Consumer Center at 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice, 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY; faxing 1-866-418-0232; or writing to: Federal Communications Commission  
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554.

For more information about the digital television transition and HDTV, visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) and see our fact sheet at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/digitaltv.html>.



### **THIS JUST IN...**

Go to [http://www.sprintrelay.com/doc/sprint\\_web\\_captel.pdf](http://www.sprintrelay.com/doc/sprint_web_captel.pdf) for news about WebCaptel!  
(The woman at left hasn't quite gotten the hang of it, but she will soon figure out that she could see the screen better from the other side.)



## THE BARNHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

By Elinore Bullock

One of ALDA-GS's founders and its first president, Jerry Barnhart, passed away in February. All our members and those members of ALDA, Inc who knew him, wanted to send flowers or donations to the Barnhart's favorite charity. No one was sure quite what would have pleased him most.

We all knew, however, about his strong desire that all with hearing loss be able to get any education they wanted. The right thing to do jumped out at us and the Barnhart Memorial Scholarship was born.

We had already been granting scholarships, but now we have given this program a new name and are seeking new ways to fund it. We all know that Jerry would want this program to continue, and we will do our best to see that it does.

When the ALDA-GS Board met on April 12, it discussed the creation and naming of the scholarship. Chris Barnhart, Jerry's widow, had previously notified us that she felt the scholarship creation would be a wonderful way to honor Jerry, so we were clear to go. Lynn, our new president, suggested we hold annual picnics as a fund raiser, and I suggested that we seek donations from ALDA, Inc, as well as from our own members, either in the form of donations or as seed money.

The board now seeks volunteers to plan the first fund-raising picnic. Your help would be a most significant way to honor Jerry and to show your support for those with hearing loss who wish to further their education.

This scholarship, right now in the amount of \$2000, is available to all hearing-impaired graduating high schools students and to deaf or hard of hearing adults who wish to further their education or learn a new trade. It was Jerry, himself, who stressed that our scholarship include the latter. It was he who helped me create the necessary forms and went over them with me.

Neither of us knew at the time that it would one day be named for him.

Those who wondered about flowers or donations need wonder no more.

You may send your donations to help launch this fund to our treasurer:

Diana Fanuel, 413 Valley View, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

These donations are tax-deductible. Diana will send a receipt.

When the picnic plans have been finalized, we will notify you. We hope you will come. It would make Jerry so happy to have his friends gathered to have a good time and to further the cause so dear to his heart. *Thanks to Nancy Kingsley for the use of the picture of Jerry.*

### AND THE WINNER IS...

This year's ALDA-GS scholarship award of \$2000 goes to Jon Gabry, of Kearny. Jon had to work extra hard at Mt. Lakes High School for his good grades and many achievements as a deaf-blind student. Jon has proven that he can do anything except see and hear. Other students seek him out for help with science and math. Among the things he enjoys are golf and rock climbing! He has several awards for his art work. Jon hopes to one day teach math at the Helen Keller Institute.



## **ALDAcon 2008**

**Oct. 29 – Nov. 2 2008**

**City Centre Hotel (Doubletree)**

**Chicago, IL**

Keep your eyes peeled on [www.alda.org](http://www.alda.org) for more exciting news about ALDAcon, registration and hotel reservation information. The website has been totally revamped and it's a wowser now, complete with a video featuring our own Lori Messing!! Along with information about registration and hotel for the conference, you'll find links to: About ALDA, Hearing Loss, technology, and support.

### **ALDAcon 2008 features:**

**Outstanding Keynote Speakers**  
**Exciting and Stimulating Programs**  
**Newcomer and Partner Events**  
**ALDA's Famous Karaoke Party**  
**Exhibit Hall**  
**Entertainment and Tours**  
**Complete Communication Accessibility**

The ALDAcon is more than just a convention; it is communication heaven. No one needs to worry about being "alone in a crowd" because every conceivable way to communicate is put to work to make every participant feel welcome.

ALDAcon features outstanding keynote speakers, workshops of interest to people of every age and background and vendor displays with the latest technology and resources available.

ALDAcon is most famous for the Saturday Night Karaoke Party, where everybody cuts loose with singing and dancing. You will not find this kind of fun anywhere else.



## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS\** **By Lynn Osborne**

There is a great need for deaf and hard of hearing individuals to make sure they are not forgotten when disaster plans are made. We want to be sure reverse 911 calls do not exclude us. They also strongly urge us to make sure we notify authorities of our status (hard of hearing/deaf) so that if they are participating in forming a special needs registry we are included. Get involved. Your life could depend on it.

Here is the link to the Emergency Preparedness site:

<http://www.cepintdi.org/default.aspx?pageid=135> Go now and learn all you can.

Maybe you can help.

## **DEAF CHAT COFFEE**

The new Edgewater Deaf Chat Coffee meeting will be held on May 16th from 7 to 11 pm at the Starbucks in Edgewater Commons. To learn more about this event and other Deaf Chat Coffee shops in New Jersey, go to: [www.deafcoffee.com](http://www.deafcoffee.com) and click on New Jersey.

These coffee chats are a good way to meet others in the area with hearing loss. Those who feel the need for someone to practice signing with will find it here. These meetings are open to all with hearing loss, so don't let the availability of signing discourage you.

Give one of these Coffee Deaf Chat shops are try! Make a new friend in your area.



## **U.S. Department of Transportation Announces New Air Carrier Access Act Rule**

The new rule will provide greater accommodations for passengers with hearing impairments. It will require airlines to include easy-to-read captions for the hearing-impaired in its safety and informational videos. Airlines also must promptly provide the same information to hearing- and vision-impaired passengers that it provides to other passengers in airport terminals or on the aircraft – such as information on boarding, flight delays, schedule changes, weather conditions at the flight's destination, connecting gate assignments, checking and claiming of baggage, and emergencies. The rule does not specify how carriers should make this information available to passengers who are deaf or hard of hearing. The new rule will be effective in one year to give carriers enough time to begin implementing its provisions. The text of the final rule is available on the Internet at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), docket number DOT-OST-2004-19482.

*Thanks to Lynn Osborne and Arlene Romoff for sending this info to the listserv.*