

ALDA-GS News

Summer 2008



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lynn Osborne

Dear ALDA friends,

Oh my! Where is time going?! I can't believe the summer is in full swing and it is time to plan for our Fall Workshop. We will focus on two topics: Court Access and Technology. The workshop will be open for consumers and members to share court experiences. If you have an interesting experience to share regarding the topic of Court accessibility please let me

know. We will need your help to make the workshop a success and to ease the job for all.

This has been a busy Spring and Summer for me and I would like to share some of the highlights with you. Thanks to the information and support I received from the ALDA-GS listserv, I completed my Associate's Degree in Social Science at Brookdale Community College in May. This was a huge accomplishment in self-advocacy. I will begin studying at Georgian Court University in August. I learned about the various types of assistance access in education I was entitled to through the ALDA-GS Listserv and used that knowledge to ask for and receive CART services. I also gained more confidence in pursuing the tools I needed to be able to succeed in my classes.

At this point I would like to mention my daughter, Jordan, a recent high school graduate. I am especially proud of her for stepping in for me to work at Deaf Awareness Day at Six Flags with Tony Yuppa. I had planned to work with him, but was unable to because of my ongoing back pain. When the day was upon us, I asked Jordan to step in for me to help sell tickets, and she said "yes," without hesitation.

Tony offered to pick her up on his "bike", and I said "Sure!" I thought he meant bike, as in Schwin, and I thought he was joking. He wasn't. I had to laugh when he showed up on his motorcycle. Jordan had never been on a motorcycle and was a bit unsure of it initially, but they managed. She loved the ride! When she came home, hot and tired, she announced that it had been a good day. Jordan's hearing is normal, so her sole motive to work this day was to help ALDA-GS with its fund raising efforts.

Jordan knows just a little sign language that she learned practicing with me, so when people were signing away to her, all she could do was sign "Again" and "fingerspell". We are definitely going to practice, because we both want to become more proficient with signing..

After Jordan and Tony returned from Great Adventure, my husband called home to check in. I thought I would have some fun at his expense.

(cont. pg. 4)

CALENDAR

ALDA-GS

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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

ALDA-NJ FALL PARTY

October 5, 2008

To be held at the home of

Jeff Coppola,

Saddle Brook, NJ

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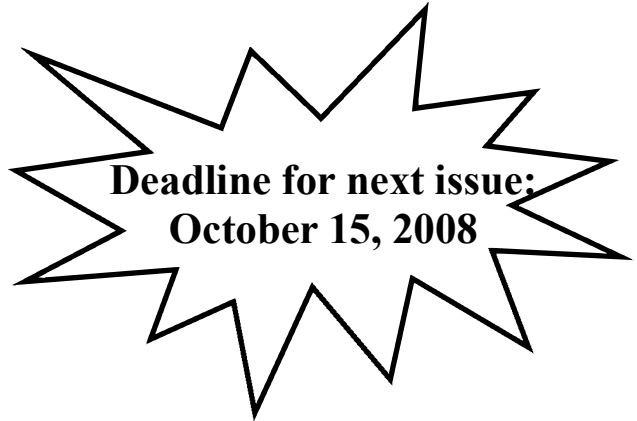
HAAA WALK4HEARING

Mercer County Park

October 18, 2008

Contact: Lois Walker

walk4hearing@hearingloss-nj.org



Website: <http://www.Alda-gs.org>

Listserv: alda-gs@yahoogroups.com

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



ALDAcon 2008

Oct. 29 – Nov. 2 2008

City Centre Hotel (Doubletree)

Chicago, IL

Keep your eyes peeled on 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.

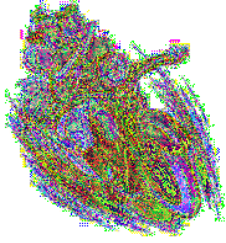
ALDAcon 2008 features:

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.



Pres. Corner, cont.

I said, “Jordan, left on a motorcycle with some man.”

On the other end of the phone there was silence and then stuttering. I could picture him picking his chin up off the floor.

“Lynn what’s going on?”

“I don’t know; she told me she’d be back and left.” I’m sure I heard his heart stop beating through the telephone. It was time to come clean and confess that I was joking.

“Well, she did leave on a motorcycle with a man...but it was Tony and he took her to Six Flags!” Whew!!! His heart began beating again, although a bit rapidly.

Jordan and I laughed until tears came. We had so much fun we decided to play the same trick on her older brother. I know we are very bad but it was definitely a good laugh!

Jordan’s version of sign language was called into action again this summer. While stopped at a gas station in Toms River with a friend, she witnessed a robbery. A gentleman was pulling his wallet out to pay the attendant when someone snatched it and ran. Jordan somehow realized that the victim was deaf and went over to assist him. With her limited knowledge of signing, she introduced herself. He asked her if she would explain to the police that he is deaf. She stayed and helped him through the questioning process and told me about it the next day.

The one thing that kept going through her mind was that ‘this could be my mom.’ The Bible says to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. I am honored to say I am the mother of such a wonderfully compassionate young woman. When I lost my hearing, Jordan became my ears and readily stepped up to do whatever she could to make this new situation more bearable.

Several weeks ago, Nancy Yarosh, State Coordinator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, (DVRS), asked me to represent ALDA-GS on a panel that would be reviewing the Regional Grant Proposals to request funding for the regional DVRS centers. Participation on the panel required that each member read through eleven proposals, take notes and be prepared to discuss the merits of each during a panel meeting held in Trenton in July.

It was an honor to be on a panel with such knowledgeable individuals. Each of us was committed to the task, and spent many hours reviewing the fine points of each proposal. Our role was to help DVRS narrow down the proposal choices to those that would best serve the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened Adult and Cochlear Implant populations. With that input, the Agency will make the final decisions.

Whenever it was my turn to speak, my sole intention was to clearly state the challenges faced by the members of ALDA-GS when seeking to find gainful employment or retain a position after experiencing hearing loss.

I am beginning to realize that my hearing loss has affected those around me as much as it has affected me. Most times we tend to focus on the negative aspects of not being able to communicate as we did before. However, I see that there are tangible cases where it has positive effects. One such case for me was seeing Jordan take the initiative to communicate in a language that she is unfamiliar with, and she did it because it is important to me. That really brought tears to my eyes. Another realization was that my voice speaks for many.

There is an African proverb: “We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors.” I am standing on the shoulders of all those who have come before me.

Blessings, *Lynn*

GREAT ADVENTURE FUNDRAISING REPORT

By Tony Yuppa



June 14, 2008, Deaf Awareness Day at Great Adventure Theme Park, was gloriously beautiful. Jordan Osborne and I had high hopes of raking it in for ALDA-GS. Although we hadn't achieved the minimum ticket sales quota to qualify for booth sales, Lauren graciously permitted us to participate. She did this for many organizations who hadn't made the quota, understanding the special difficulties all faced this year. So here we were now and determined to make the most of it.

Jordan, the daughter of our president, Lynn Osborne, was a last minute God-sent booth volunteer. If not for her, we would not have been there at all, as the regulations require two workers. One worker's job is to sell tickets and the other's is to shoo people towards our booth.

Good weather and good intentions can go just so far against tremendous odds, though. The combined forces of high gas prices and competition didn't favor us. To compound the problem, the park had reduced prices and offered half-price coupons. Not only that, but local fast-food restaurants and redeemable Coke cans further cut into the appeal of buying from us. Other organizations for the deaf were out to sell tickets, too. Jordan and I were up against it, but good.

ALDA-GS had only three faithful volunteers selling tickets prior to the Big Day: Diane Limey, Diana Fanuel and Eileen Hollywood. These ladies sold tickets as part of the conditions for our participation. If we'd had more ticket sellers at this point, our profit would have been greater. As it was, we sold a record low number of tickets, just 101, during our Pre-Deaf Awareness Day campaign.

I want to thank several people. Lauren Lercher, the coordinator for the organizations who participated, was so helpful to supply us tickets with last-minute notice. She does a professional job and has been a tremendous help, not only to me, but to ALDA-GS. We are greatly in her debt for allowing us to be part of the day when it looked so iffy for us right up to the 11th hour. Thank you, Lauren. To our three faithful ticket sellers mentioned above, Thank you for doing your darndest for us, Diane, Diana and Eileen. Several people worked beside me in the ticket booth. I apologize for not remembering all their names, but Lauren says to just thank "the purple team" So, thank you, **Purple team**, thank you very much! Kudos to Jordan, who worked cheerfully on that hot day, never complaining. How often does a teen give up her Saturday? Thank you, Jordan. My own family helped sell tickets. My sister, Linda, sister-in-law Kathy, and yeah! Me! Thank you, dear family! We pitched in to sell more than 48 tickets. Think what YOUR family could do!

We need more help from the membership at large. Much more! I suggest that in the future each member be sent four tickets to sell (or to return if they can't sell them). I understand that no one likes to be forced to sell things, but if we are to continue to award scholarships, pay gratuities to the library where we meet, pay speakers at our workshops, print and mail the newsletters to those not online, we have to do SOMETHING!

These tickets make great gifts for graduation, birthdays, special thanks to the lawn mower boy, rewards for good report cards, consolation for bad report cards, a way to say thanks to someone, the list of reasons and possible giftees is endless. Those four tickets could go fast if you put your minds to it.

Selling tickets to Great Adventure is our only fundraiser. It may be time to consider alternate and/or additional ways of raising funds. We will undoubtedly continue to see declining sales and profits from Great Adventure in coming years. It's time to brainstorm new approaches to fundraising. All members are invited to participate in the storm! (Cont. pg. 6)

Great Adventure Report, cont.

Send your ideas and offers of volunteerism to our president, Lynn Osborne. Her contact info can be found on page 2. The time to start this process is NOW.

I have a few suggestions to start you thinking: car washes, silent auctions, tricky trays, walkathons, are some ideas. Now you try it!

I know you're all waiting for the bottom line, but we don't have it yet. There are still some bills connected with this venture that haven't come in.

I can only tell you what I know for sure: the profit we made this year will be an all time low.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE MEDIA



At the suggestion of Arlene Romoff, I explored the website for the National Center for Accessible Media.

<http://ncam.wgbh.org/index.html>

The home page will enable you to enroll in a Rear Window movie mailing list. The Mopix tab will tell you more about Rear Window captioning and how to advocate for more captioned movies. You will learn about improvements to the system that might possibly win you over to this method of movie access. There is also a list of currently accessible movies.

Please visit this website, explore the links, learn, and then GO TO A GOOD MOVIE!

Elinore



LearningSignsOnline, LLC launches first fully-interactive American Sign Language eLearning service.

www.LearningSignsOnline.com

Press Release: May 19, 2008 - Seasoned Deaf American Sign Language university instructors, Lisa P. Hubble and Jennifer Briggs have teamed up to create the first fully-interactive American Sign Language (ASL) on-line courses to teach students from the comfort of their home or office, any time of day or night.

With over 20 lessons and hundreds of videos and photos, students will learn the basics of ASL quickly.

Courses are taught using a combination of Flash technology, video animation and photography via the Internet. LSO-21's innovative Internet video teaching approach provides clarity, rhythm, expression, and language flow that cannot be fully expressed through books and still photography alone. Only the most qualified and experienced Deaf instructors and actors are brought in for the course content.

By using the Internet as the primary medium of instruction, customers experience the benefits of fresh updates and evolving supplements delivered instantly online at any time of the day.

Both Lisa and Jennifer Deaf native ASL users. They have combined their interest for designing and developing curriculum for ASL classes to make learning sign language a positive, rewarding and accessible experience for others.



WALK4 HEARING

What is The Walk4Hearing? It's a nationally coordinated effort sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America. Its purpose is to increase awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss and to raise funds to provide information and support for people with hearing loss. The Hearing Loss Association of America depends on generous volunteers to raise funds and awareness at each of our Walk4Hearing sites.

This year, the NJ chapter of HLAA has invited ALDA-GS to participate in its Walk4Hearing event and to share in the proceeds. It should be a lovely 5 K walk. It's to be held on Saturday, October 18th at Mercer County Park.

Our president, Lynn Osborne, has already established our own team, The ALDAbest team! Lynn, her daughter, Jordan, Fran DeBella and Doreen Dougherty have formed the nucleus of our team. More team members are welcome. It isn't necessary to be an ALDA-GS member to join the team, so family members, friends and co-workers are eligible.

We also need donors to ...well...donate!

To learn more about it, go to www.hearingloss.org and double-click on the picture that I copied above. It is on the far upper right of the home page and you may have to scroll sideways to see it. Then click on Garden State-New Jersey, and from there, click on the Join a Team circle, then enter ALDA-best in the search box that will appear. Consider supporting us in some way, either by walking or donating.

The contact person for this even is Lois Walker (yeah! Her name really is Walker!) walk4hearing@hearingloss-nj.org We hope you'll put your best feet forward and give us a boost, either by walking or donating. After all, this is just "a walk in the park!"



BARNHART SCHOLARSHIP

ALDA-GS has established a memorial scholarship fund in honor of Jerry Barnhart, one of our founders and our first president. Donations may be sent to:

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

Please make checks payable to ALDA-GS and write "Barnhart Fund" on the memo line.

To kick off the Fund, we are planning a picnic to be held next year. We need volunteers to help make it happen. Contact our president, Lynn Osborne, with offers of help and suggestions. 848-459-4361 V (cell) losborne65@aol.com She is waiting to hear from you.

The future awarding of scholarships could well depend on the success of this picnic, so we all need to stand up and be counted. We need people who are not already standing up to pull together to make it happen. (Thanks for the good line, Tony!) The scholarship is one of our most worthy endeavors and we need your help. Thank you.