

ALDA

NEWS

It was Really I Belonged to You

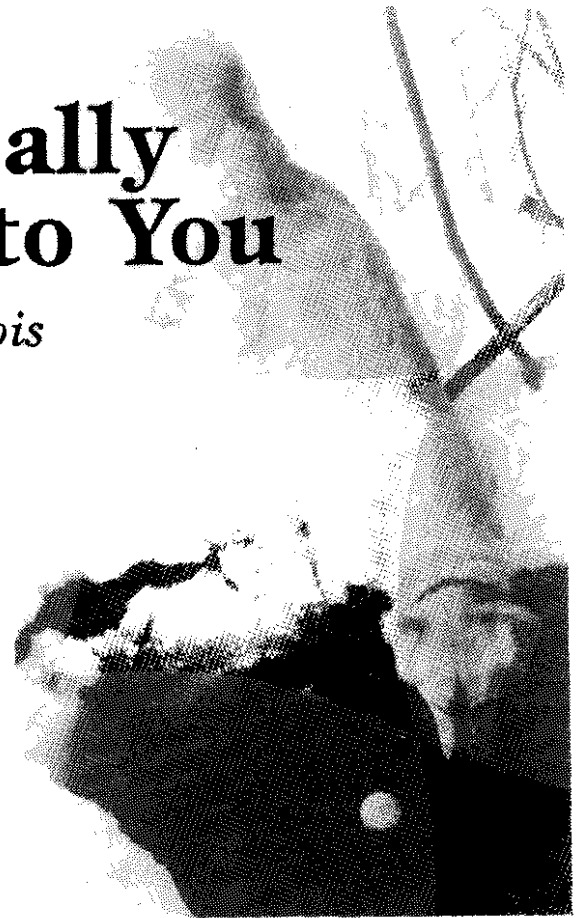
by Mary Morois

Scattered throughout my apartment are framed pictures of a dog now frozen in time. I see him retrieving a ball from a creek and sleeping with a stuffed toy comfortably tucked under his chin, playing happily in the snow in Massachusetts and digging in the sand at Lake Michigan, showing off his orange vest with me in front of the house where we once lived, and, near the end, camping out on the patio during the most golden fall of his life. These pictures serve as loving reminders of my hearing dog, Beau, whose life was cut short prematurely by a fiercely fought six week battle with leukemia last fall.

I miss you, Beau. You came into my life through a series of coincidences. I was a graduate student at Smith College School for Social Work in 1989 and placed in Boston for the first of two eight month internships. I volunteered at a local Humane Society until a volunteer position opened for me at the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center. I spent eight glorious months walking, feeding, bathing and brushing the various dogs in training.

During this time, the staff began asking themselves, "When is Mary going to apply for a dog of her own?" I had very little faith in my ability to take care of a dog as I had given one up to attend graduate school. Classes in the summer, living in the dorm, interning in Boston — it seemed unfair and I wanted my dog

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Association of Late-Deafened Adults**

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ALDA

NEWS

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Candis Here



Thank you Megan Howlett Baker, for your fine work in gathering stories on hearing dogs. Mary Morois' story left me with damp eyes and Cheryl Heppner's "Dana Does Disney" continued my education in the incredible bond hearing dog owners and their dogs have.

We also have wonderful sharings by our favorite ALDAn, Edna Shipley-Connor. Thank you, Edna, for your willingness to open up and share with us in "One of Us." We are all ready to travel to East Bay to find out exactly what this MF game is all about!

Shawn Lovley contributes much-needed tips for making a hospital stay more ALDAn friendly. Not that we are urging you to check into the hospital, but when it happens, Shawn's article can make your stay much easier.

And for the growing number of ALDAn with cochlear implants, we have something for you too. Wendy Cheng and Anita Haravon have much to share on using assistive listening devices with implants.

Thank you all for your help in making this Spring issue of **ALDA News** a reality.

Caption! Caption!

Digital television is on its way here, and with digital television come captioning choices . . . What size caption do you want? What color? More information will be transmitted. It is important that ALDAn continue to advocate for full captioning. We deserve it.

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I Belonged to You

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to have all the care and attention it deserved. But giving my Golden Retriever Cinnamon to a Green Bay nursing home wrenched my heart. I did much soul searching about this supposedly "wise" decision that was causing me great pain. I finally decided never to do that again and I applied in January 1991 to Red Acre for a hearing dog. The staff's reaction? "What took you so long!"

Red Acre dogs ranged from small to large, but the dog the staff located for me was extra special and extra large. I had been busy with school and dropped in for a visit to Red Acre to surprise the staff and ended up causing some consternation! How were they going to hide an 80 lb. Golden Retriever from me since the first thing I would want to do was visit the dogs? It was early in your training, Beau, so they hadn't told me they had a possible match. I was escorted into the kennels where the staff let the dogs in from outside one by one. Imagine my surprise when into one kennel comes a lovely Golden Retriever who subsequently is let out to romp energetically around the room. It didn't occur to me that this dog was to be mine. But when asked if you were ok, if you were too big, if you were . . . "Nope, he's just fine!"

And you were. I went back to visit one more time with friends that summer and as I kneeled down beside you, Beau, you put your paw on my knee as if to say, "I'll take you!" I spent time getting to know you at Red Acre and taking you for many walks. There I learned of your attachment to tennis balls. You would retrieve them over and over until you collapsed, exhausted, on the ground. And then you'd be back up asking for a walk.

Beau, you made it clear from the start that you knew you were mine. You transferred your alarm clock alert from your trainer to me in less than two days. The training/bonding period went smoothly. You were able to come home in December of 1991 and we spent the next four and one-half months training, working towards the goal of becoming certified. I lost fifteen pounds running up and down three flights of stairs and around the apartment, and you and I became inseparable. We officially became a team on April 15, 1992.

Once you had your skills down, there was never a question of abilities, nor adaptability. When we moved to that large house in Woburn, Massachusetts, we had two rooms and shared the bathroom and kitchen. The phone and the kitchen were two floors apart. On the way to and from the

kitchen there were other phones in the house that belonged to my landlord and which I'm sure rang often, but you disregarded them. You knew your job was to respond to my phone only. And then your favorite jobs: the doorbell and the alarm clock. You were such a social fellow. Not to mention liking to jump on the bed to waken me in the morning and maybe getting to take a brief nap with me if it was hard for me to get up.

After Woburn we moved to Indianapolis to take a new job; even though I knew no one and had a hard time finding people to help us adapt to a new and bigger apartment, you managed to adjust back to your previous level of skill. It helped that I put my bed in the same position as at Woburn and used the same phone. Twice the security alarm in our new apartment malfunctioned and you repeatedly alerted me, going back and forth with me from the sound source to various locations as we searched to find the actual device, which was not where the sound was. You acted just as puzzled as me until we finally located the security alarm and disengaged it.

Want to know my favorite memory? You and I would play in a fenced playground behind the office and sometimes our coworker Karen and her hearing dog Abby would join us. One of the other coworkers would try to sneak up and scare me but for all the times he tried, he never succeeded. You unfailingly heard him and even if you were fetching your tennis ball, you always looked at Ed and gave Ed's surprise attack away.

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Hail the Mail

I just received my Winter 1998 **ALDA News**, and it was great as usual. My husband told me it came and I forgot about all the things I was in the middle of doing, and enjoyed reading the whole issue right then! I have a progressive sensorineural hearing loss that is now at the profound stage, and I belong to both wonderful groups, ALDA and SHHH. I enjoyed the story by Jane Sokol Shulman. I can relate to how Jane felt dealing with people impossible to understand. I am also guilty of bluffing in the past, but try to avoid it now after learning so many coping skills from ALDA and SHHH!!

Thank you again for the fine job you do with your publication.

— Trudy Green, Chagrin Falls, Ohio



Dana Does Disney

by Cheryl Heppner

In June 1997, I spent four jam-packed days at Disney World with the Fabulous Fred and Dana the Wonder Dog. Going to a theme park with Dana was a new experience both for me and, I suspect, for most of the staff at Disney World.

Some things I learned that may be useful for others considering the trip with a hearing dog:

General Access

Except for being chased by a security guard at Epcot Center on the first day, I had no trouble taking Dana anywhere in any of the theme parks. Either Disney's communication system is magical and that one guard alerted everyone else, or they are savvy about public access rights of assistance dogs.

Unfortunately, while the staff at Disney was terrific, the other guests were a continuing problem. Many of the guests were either ignorant or seemed to think we were a Disney act! Wherever I walked parents would rush up with their kids, wanting to pet Dana. I kinda felt like we should perform!

I was especially delighted when the young man leading us on the "Jungle Cruise" came up briefed me before the start of the cruise. He told me that the trip included a part where he pulls a gun and shoots blanks at a crocodile, but he would leave the shooting part out because he knew it would upset Dana.

There is another Disney staffer who probably still has nightmares about my sweet, gentle dog. In the "China" attraction, which has one of those screens that wrap themselves 360 degrees around the ceiling, I asked a staffer for the plexiglas panel to use their new Rear Window captioning system. He said one would be brought to me when we moved from the waiting area into the viewing room. But after I got into the viewing room, no one brought the panel. I saw a woman climb a small podium, make some remarks, and then to my surprise the room



started to dim. As I left my viewing area and started to walk to the front of the room to ask the woman for a panel, the place suddenly went pitch dark. I could vaguely make out the shape of the woman walking toward me in the dark and then suddenly I realized she couldn't see me or Dana and was going to walk right into us. I threw out my hand to stop her. She recoiled in shock from my touch, looked down, saw Dana, and started screaming bloody hell. I don't know if she was screaming because she's afraid of dogs or thought she was being attacked by one. Fred, who

watched all this in fascination from his viewing area, couldn't much tell because she wasn't speaking English. The staffer stood paralyzed in fear, still screaming, as I tried fruitlessly to explain what I needed and calm her down. She had to be escorted from the room by another staffer who later brought my panel.

Food and Water

Feeding Dana wasn't a problem, since I worked my trips to the parks around her morning and evening feeding schedule. To provide her with a constant supply of fresh water, I carried several wide-mouth plastic bags with me. I filled them at fountains or rest room faucets and then shook them out to store again.

At many of the Disney eateries, staff would bring me a cup of water for Dana without being asked. Unfortunately they would bring me ice water, which is not tolerated as well in dogs as it is in humans. Dana loves it, but I don't let her have it. She likes to scarf it down, and then it makes her cough. And cough. And cough.

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Dana Does Disney

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Heat

Florida can be hot. It can be oppressively hot in June. I tried to keep Dana on the cooler concrete and off the hot asphalt to protect her pads, even if it meant moving more slowly. Disney theme parks are often very crowded and I am fortunate that Dana is so tolerant and laid back when she's hemmed in by people. The frequent water stops helped her beat the heat but led to . . .

Searching for a patch of grass

It wasn't always easy to find a place to bathroom Dana. In MGM Studios, there are patches of grass but they have fences around them. A lot of the other areas have beautiful floral landscapes that would get trampled. On the outskirts of the parks there are grassy areas by the walls and gates. It was often a long trek to get to them and then I had to find a friendly staffer to get access to them. These areas also weren't as spotless as within the park, which was a concern. Dana is one of those dogs who will eat anything remotely resembling food that cannot move out of her path. The bags I carried for water also doubled as handy "poop bags" when needed, and we were never very far from a trash can to toss them in.

Rain

Apparently rain is pretty common at Disney, but usually of short duration. You can't have your dog carry an umbrella or wear a slicker, and I didn't carry a towel for Dana. She's a water dog who finds splashing through puddles a delight, but nobody likes to be near a wet dog. There is that certain "eau de wet pooch" to contend with, and let's face it, dogs are not so cute when they look like they've been dunked headfirst in a vat of Vaseline. During the deluges, my only choices were to head back to the hotel or huddle under a shelter hoping the downpour would be of short duration.

Rain could sometimes be my friend. Dana, Fred and I were at MGM Studios when suddenly the early evening turned dark and very stormy. Most of the guests fled while we huddled inside a shop. After an hour, the rain hadn't let up, and darkness had set in. But Fred could hear people screaming in terror and delight. As the park emptied, the hour-long line to get into the "Tower of Terror" had evaporated. We raced through the downpour, and found the Tower was still open. I was happy to have Dana as an excuse to wait in the

lobby while Fred finally got to take the plunge from the tower in the most perfect, gloomy setting imaginable.

Unpleasant Surprises

One thing I hadn't anticipated was how many of the attractions would upset Dana. My bold, confident dog who was rarely afraid of anything before the Disney trip became a shivering, shaking mass of fur at the fireworks and laser show the first night. In one attraction, we were riding along pleasantly in the dark when suddenly animatronic dinosaur heads poked up and gazed at us overhead. Poor Dana almost had a heart attack. At "Honey I Shrunk the Kids" she tried to leap into my lap when the floor started to shake.

I regret that my learning curve wasn't faster — it took me two days to get things right. Part of the reason is that most of the Disney staff really didn't understand what is dog-appropriate. I trusted them and thought stuff like the "Little Mermaid" and "Lion King" would be cute and enjoyable. Wrong. Even those were frightening for Dana with their sudden thunder and lightning and strange noises and malevolent shapes — and we were seated in the front rows! I learned that instead of asking the staff at each attraction if it would be okay for a dog, I needed to be specific and ask about loud or sudden noises, if a ride that would suddenly speed up, slow down, or have sharp movements, etc. But the staff would often downplay things.

Eventually, I learned to go up to the staff at each attraction and ask if I could send Fred through first to see if the ride would be appropriate. Fred didn't complain because Disney staff would almost always put him at the front of the line and he could go through right away. Nearly every time he reported that in spite of their assurances, the ride or attraction was inappropriate.

This meant that Fred saw a lot more of Disney than I did, but it also meant that I didn't spend a lot of time in line waiting to see things that were dangerous or scary for Dana. Sometimes staff would offer to watch Dana while I saw an attraction, which surprised me. I believe they were simply ignorant of the liability issues and unaware that dogs with such a strong bond with a human partner cannot be safely left with strangers, especially in such a chaotic environment.

The seating at most attractions also is pretty tight. Dana has always folded up nicely into small spaces for short periods of time so we had few prob-

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Dana Does Disney *(continued from page 5)*

lems. But at the "Diamond Horseshoe Revue" a guitar-playing guy almost stepped on Dana when he started roving through the audience. He never looked down and I had to throw out my hands to protect her. I give the guy high marks for a fast recovery.

Kennels

After my second day at Disney, I looked for ways to avoid the extra work involved in taking Dana with me. I also thought I'd like a brief respite to see some things with Fred that I knew would be hard on her. I went to visit the kennel outside MGM Studios. I asked if they had any accommodations for assistance dogs. After a long discussion by the staff on duty, I was told I could leave Dana in one of the kennels at a reduced cost. I asked to see the kennel where she would be kept, and it was clean and fairly large. The other dogs in the kennel looked peaceful. But the staff had no experience or training with assistance dogs so I declined their offer. My understanding is that each of the three theme parks has its own kennel near the entrance gate.

I suspect that Dana is the first and only dog to be able to say she went swimming at Blizzard Bay

and Typhoon Lagoon! To my surprise, these two water parks had no kennels at all. I had to wait almost 40 minutes at Blizzard Bay guest services while the staff debated what could be done. But it was our lucky day. One of the managers had a deaf brother, knew some signs, and really wanted to accommodate us. I was permitted to take Dana in the water with me in a more remote part of Blizzard Bay, and then the staff called ahead to Typhoon Lagoon to tell them we were coming. It wasn't much fun, though, because several people in the water had body language that made it clear they weren't happy to see a dog there. I also felt we put the staff in a very awkward position as they didn't have any clear policy to point to.

In retrospect, I would not take Dana to Disney again unless I can make some use of the kennels and the operators have more training and policies for care of assistance dogs. Without that, it's too complicated to give Dana the care she deserves and there are too many stressful things to avoid. We had a wonderful time anyway, and want to go again when Disney finally starts paying more attention to the needs of late-deafened people. American Sign Language interpreters just did not cut it, and the Disney staff was still struggling with the Rear Window systems.

I Belonged to You *(continued from page 3)*

You were never sick. I would get frightened when you would get worn out from playing and seemed unable to catch your breath, but then I learned that was normal for you. Two hours later you rebounded, full of energy. You would slow down during spring and summer and perk up again in the fall, but again, that was normal for a dog your size.

And your wash and wear coat! Golden retrievers love water, and you treated a muddy puddle as if it were a lake, despite my entreaties to the contrary. But after you dried, you looked like you had just gotten back from the groomer. I just had to sweep up the dust.

You had an uncanny ability to find tennis balls. I remember one time in Belmont, you abruptly stuck your head in the bushes and triumphantly held up a tennis ball in your mouth. It happened again in Indianapolis, though this time, it being an evergreen bush, you had to work a little hard to add another ball to your collection. And, true, you lost a few. I wouldn't let you chase the balls on to the thin ice at Woburn Pond and they would get lost in the snow.

But spring would arrive and soon new additions would go into your collection.

You did have one major fault. Unlike most hearing dogs and Golden Retrievers too, you became quite possessive when some other dogs were around. I had to learn how to curb any jealousy attacks and we were successful. Your love of people remained until the day you died, despite the numerous needle jabs you put up with during your illness.

Sometimes members of the Deaf community can reject service dogs and their owners. The tactile work of a hearing dog alerting its owner to auditory sounds may violate the value of visual alerting devices and the sense of independence these devices give Deaf people. As a late-deafened adult I choose to respect individual accessibility preferences. I have a hearing dog because it works best for me. Owning a service dog is an enormous responsibility. The training is intense and it is up to the owner to make sure the dog stays in top form for both alerting and obedience skills, yet, ultimately, a hearing dog is a dog and needs down time just like the rest of us.

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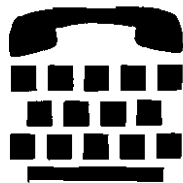
I Belonged to You *(continued from page 6)*

Beau, as I look back over our time together, I am struck by how blessed we were, from the first contacts with Red Acre to the acceptance we encountered almost everywhere we went. When I learned you were going to die, I was allowed to take time off from work to be with you, to help you get stronger even if temporarily, to do the things we enjoyed together and in the process, create some last cherished memories. You showed tremendous capacity to face and conquer just about every secondary illness leukemia threw at you, keeping your love of walks, your love of tennis balls, and love of wading. It truly is hard to keep a good dog down. My friends and family were caring and supportive, as was our veterinarian and his staff. Along with you, Beau, they changed my life immeasurably by teaching me the meaning of quality of life.

Though you were mine by right of gold,
I long have known, as others knew
The truth — that it was really I
Belonged to you.

Elegy to My Dog
by Cosmas J. Doros

**Relay
Humor**



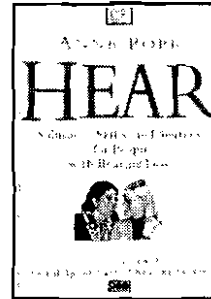
When the Clausen Computer Solutions Co. was called recently using the CA relay, the greeting from the receptionist that the CA passed to me was "CLOSET CONFUSION."

I think more than the closet was confused.

—Submitted by Tom Davinroy

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Are Hearing Dogs For Everyone?

— quotes from our ALDA owners


The Benefits

 "The best thing about having a hearing dog is feeling whole again: being able to be aware of and appreciate environmental sounds around me as well as having accessibility wherever I go. There is no need to ask at hotels or other places for door, phone and smoke alarm signal lights."


— Mary Morois

 "Independence — Allowing my kids to be kids, not parenting children; allowing my husband to be a husband and not a guardian/interpreter of sounds; allowing family and friends to be companions and support systems instead of caretaker; being able to work (the kids love her at school!), travel, eat out in a restaurant in the outside world with peace of mind knowing my "ears" can come with me and alert me if a sound is happening (i.e. name call, telephone, fire alarms); undying loyalty — true of many dogs, but a particularly strong bond is formed between the guide dog and its owner!"

— Andrea Cahill


 "When I first took on the position as an investment advisor for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, I was sent to New York City to train for three months at the World Trade Center Headquarters. This meant living in a strange hotel in an unfamiliar neighborhood. I was very fortunate to have Sargent with me. Not only did he inform me of unexpected visitors (ie. housekeeping, messengers) and allow me to sleep easier, his black German Shepherd/Lab appearance kept unwanted people at a distance while walking down the streets."

— Meg Howlett Baker

 "I helped set up a group for hearing dog owners in the Washington, D.C. area, and we all agree that the overall feeling of security is the best thing about having a hearing dog. Our dogs are great

at alerting us to babies crying, telephones ringing, doorbells buzzing, etc. It's not any one of these things I love so much as the overall relief from having another pair of ears. My bond with Dana is so deep that we can almost read each other's thoughts. My walks with Dana are a pleasure — her body language alerts me of things going on, so I don't miss a fox in the distance, a herd of deer passing by, or a very clever mockingbird in a tree. She's also got the most terrific personality — she loves people, works with joy, delights me with her keen intelligence, is gentle with pups and babies, and has taught me much about how to play with total abandon."

The Disadvantages

 "I have almost always had a pet dog, so I didn't expect to have many adjustments when I got Dana. I was wrong. Three things were tough:

1. *The Loss of Anonymity.* I was used to moving freely about my business without people knowing about my hearing loss. With Dana by my side, I attract a lot of attention. People know right away that something is different about me and they stare and whisper to each other.

2. *Confrontations.* Many public places still don't know much about assistance dogs or public access laws. I have many horror stories. I was stopped at one convention center by different security guards at least 12 times in two hours. I have been refused admittance to restaurants and told I could not check into a hotel. Recently, at the ALDA Board meeting in Chicago, three cab drivers in a row refused to take me to my hotel.

3. *Being "On Duty" Constantly.* My lifestyle includes a lot of travel and meetings and not much of a routine. Dana needs a routine to thrive — feeding and bathrooming at the same time every day,

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Are Hearing Dogs for Everyone?


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and some play time. This means I must do a great deal of careful planning. Many days I must get up early to pack her food and water. I must take breaks from meetings to bathroom her, even if it's pouring rain outside. When I fly, I must try to fit the flight times to her schedule, and request a stopover of at least 30 minutes if the flight is more than 4 hours. And no matter how tired I am at night, or what city I'm in, the last thing I must do before I go to sleep is to walk her.


Also — and this is by far the hardest adjustment — I miss being able to do things the way I used to. I can't just walk about a museum enjoying the artwork, zip into a grocery store to pick up a few things, or window shop at a mall. Everywhere I go there are people who are curious and want to know more about Dana or tell me about their own dogs. When I'm tired or just want to be left alone, it is hard to find the patience and energy to respond. Hearing dogs are still new, and I feel the weight of having to be a good role model.

But the good news is that because of Dana I am more comfortable with life in the fishbowl. It no longer bothers me when people stare or interrupt what I'm doing to talk to me, though it can be very disconcerting for friends who are with me. As Dana and I learned to communicate and trust each other, I find that confrontations are increasingly rare. I think our confidence in each other has a lot to do with it, but I've also learned some terrific skills for avoiding those confrontations."

— Cheryl Heppner


 "It's important to realize it is also an enormous responsibility, one not to be taken lightly. And if there are children around, forget about going any place in a hurry! It's impossible to leave as soon as you'd like because of all the questions "Can I pet him?" "What's his name?" "How old is he?" from children who have formed a circle and cut off all escape routes. I was always glad they knew to ask first; often adults will assume it's okay and distract the dog without asking first for permission to pet, which is something I discourage."

— Mary Morois

 "I've only had a few bad experiences with merchants, etc. not wanting Amber to come into their store or place of establishment. One was Dunkin' Donuts on Cape Cod, another at Marshalls,

and finally a video arcade while picking up my son. Generally once a store owner understands the law, etc. there is no problem. In the few isolated cases I mentioned, the owner/manager/worker was rude and loud (a definite con because it draws so much attention!). Since I feel I am fortunate enough to have verbal skills and one foot in both the hearing and deaf worlds, I feel my obligation is to speak up and "force" the situation by not skulking out of the store. I feel perhaps some other deaf people may not be willing or able to speak up and that I should. People in public that behave as if they have never seen a dog before and stare, point, etc. This is especially embarrassing to my two adolescent children! One of the most distressing cons is the attitude of some born deaf people towards hearing dogs. I have been confronted on several occasions as to why I feel it is necessary for me to have a dog, which makes me dependent (as mentioned above, I feel Amber makes me independent, not dependent!) First of all, I don't feel it's their business, secondly I consider it rude and judgmental, and third, I feel anything that helps is great — I don't ask if they use flashing lights or a bed vibrator — would that make them dependent? Finally, and the saddest for me is becoming this attached to a guide dog, to now experience her autumn years. Amber is slowing down a bit (only a shade!), having worked for 10 years, and it's hard for me to even think of life without her. BUT, I wouldn't have changed a thing."

— Andrea Cahill

 "Last year, I was eagerly looking for an apartment in South Boston. I had always wanted to live in that part of the city. I informed the realtor of my hearing dog and immediately provided her with the appropriate paperwork explaining the laws as well as a copy of my identification card. After a bit of hesitation, she finally understood and proceeded to show me a number of available apartments over a three week period. There were several apartments I fell in love with. For each, an application had to be filled out and reviewed by the landlord. To my disbelief, each landlord that did not allow animals (which left me nothing to choose from but one tiny apartment) simply refused to consider my application and disregarded the law entirely. Time was not on my side to fight this battle the way I would have liked. I had only one week left before my current lease was to expire. There was no choice but to quickly look elsewhere. Fortunately, I ended up with a terrific place but it was far from easy."

— Meg Howlett Baker

Cochlear Implants and Assistive Listening Devices

By Anita B. Haravon

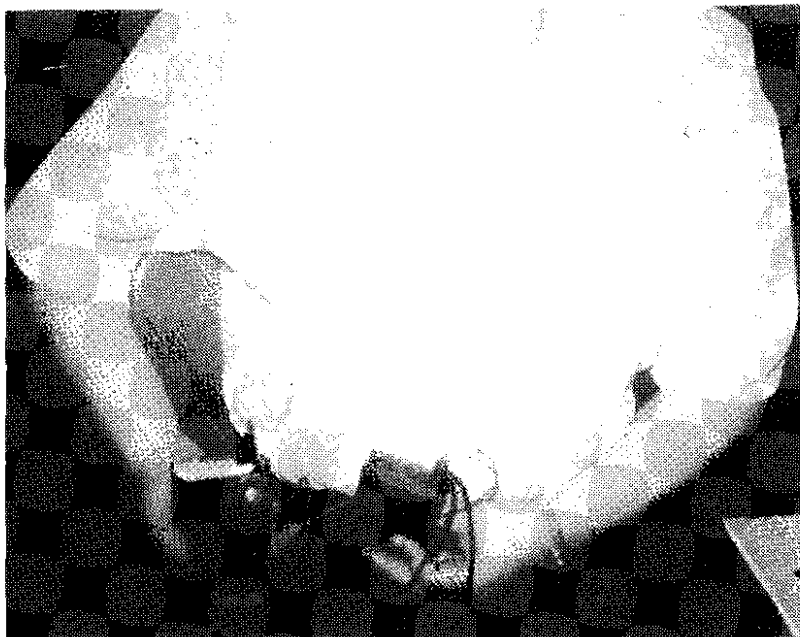
Dissemination Coordinator, RERC on Hearing Enhancement and Assistive Devices, Lexington School for the Deaf/ Center for the Deaf
with ALDAn Wendy Cheng

Special thanks to Pat Chute, Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital; Josh Gendel, League for the Hard of Hearing; ALDAn Bill Reese, Mike Steele, Lexington RERC and Tom Walsh, Advanced Bionics for their assistance with this article. Thanks, also, to members of the email list-serv, Cochlear Implant Forum, for sharing their experiences about using ALD's and CI's.

Can cochlear implant users benefit from assistive listening devices (ALD's)? ALD's can enhance a listener's experience when used with a cochlear implant in the same way as when used with a hearing aid: by reducing background noise and making the 'signal' (the sound you want to hear) louder and clearer. This article provides an overview of auxiliary devices and how to use them with a cochlear implant. What works for one person may not work well for another, so be prepared to spend time experimenting with various setups to see what works best for you.

For **ALDA News** readers who do not have an implant, a short explanation of the various components of the bodyworn speech processor may help. The bodyworn speech processor has a volume control knob and sensitivity knob to adjust for background noise. There is a plug for the cord connecting the headpiece to the speech processor. A second plug, or audio input jack, connects the speech processor to various devices for better listening conditions. (As of today, the behind-the-ear model of the Nucleus 24 device cannot yet be hooked up to assistive listening devices).

Telephone communication: Many implant users report that they do not need extra devices to com-



Here's Wendy using the Williams Sound FM System (at church) with her Clarion 1.2 speech processor.

municate on the telephone. However some users find an adapter useful to reduce the effects of background noise. They allow the listener to only hear sounds from the telephone. All CI models come with a telephone adapter.

The stationary telephone adapter is a small box which plugs into the telephone and then directly into the speech processor. It provides a direct electric connection between the telephone and the speech processor so it will work with most telephones even if they are not hearing aid compatible (HAC). They are available from cochlear implant manufacturers and electronics stores like Radio Shack. Another type of adapter is the portable phone adapter which consists of a suction cup that attaches to the phone receiver and plugs into the speech processor. It can only be used with tele-

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phones that are HAC. It is similar to the telecoil setting on a hearing aid. Sound is transmitted electromagnetically from the telephone to the suction cup wire. Standard home telephones generally are hearing aid compatible, but many cordless and cellular telephones are not. It is important to check before you buy. Note that some assistive listening device companies like Audex sell hearing aid compatible cordless telephones. Audex also happens to make patch cords for cellular telephones and cochlear implants.

Wendy reports that the quality of sound is highly subjective, depending on the particular user and the particular adapter. She had problems hearing with the suction cup telephone adapter that came with her Clarion 1.2 speech processor. She talked with other cochlear implant users and finally ordered a stationary telephone adaptor. Another telephone adapter which is a favorite with CI users is the Williams Sound Telelink (TEL 031). Some stationary adaptors do not require the user to turn down the sensitivity control on the speech processor when using the device, so shop carefully.

Comments about telephone adapters from CI users: "I have used a phone adapter that came with my implant (Clarion) because it lets me hold the phone to my left (unimplanted) ear and makes writing while on the phone much easier but I've recently given it up because I get static from it. I think the adapter is just not made to last (supplied by Advanced Bionics). It is awkward to plug in but I left one on my phone at home and at work so it wasn't too bad." "I did try the phone adapter that came with my Clarion but I found that it didn't help me hear better. My AT&T phone with a built-in amplifier is the best phone for me to use with it. I just put the phone up to my head mic and I can hear fine. I don't have trouble conversing with anyone. Some long distance calls are a little difficult, but local are all fine."

"I also use the Audex cordless phone with their patch cord. It is fantastic. I can use the other phones with the Cochlear Cord TLP 102, but prefer the Audex Cordless phone."

Auxiliary Microphone: Another device that comes with a cochlear implant is an auxiliary microphone. An auxiliary microphone is simply a wire with a microphone on one end that can be plugged into the input jack of the CI's speech

processor. When the auxiliary microphone is plugged in, the ear level microphone on most CIs shuts off. (On some Nucleus models, the ear level microphone remains on.)

If you are having dinner in a noisy restaurant, you can place the auxiliary microphone close to the person you want to chat with and the offending restaurant noise will be reduced. Wendy has used the auxiliary microphone many times to hear in noisy environments. There is a limit on how far the speaker can move away since the microphone has a wire attached to the implant.

Large Area Listening Systems: CIs can also be used with large area listening systems such as Infrared (IR), FM and telecoil loop systems. The receivers for any of these devices must be plugged into the speech processor of the CI. The trick is to find the right patch cord for each receiving device. At this time there is no standard for ALD jacks, plugs, and cables. Most devices use a standard 1/8 jack, but not all, so you may need a separate patch cord for each ALD. The cord should be an attenuating cable. This means that it reduces the signal level that travels from the receiver to the CI speech processor. Cochlear Corporation and Advanced Bionics both sell patch cords for many of these devices. ALD companies such as Audex, Phonic Ear, and DiVilbiss Development Co. also make cables for CIs. Josh Gendel, director of Technical Services at the League for the Hard of Hearing, notes that Radio Shack sells an inexpensive dubbing cord (an attenuating cord with a 1/8" monaural plug at each end) that also work well with CIs and ALDs.

Wendy enjoyed using the infrared receivers Audex provided at ALDAcon last year. Again, the kind of listening experience one gets with ALDs varies from person to person and device to device. Wendy likes the Williams Sound FM system available in her church, but found the receiving unit of the Chorus FM System did not provide sufficient amplification and sound quality for her. Others feel differently.

Some CI users like plugging into a receiver for a large area induction loop, or audio loop system. The loop creates an electromagnetic field that can be picked up by hearing aids with telecoil switches but can also be accessed via a receiver that looks similar to an FM or IR receiver. The CI user plugs the patch cord into the receiver. Wendy has used the suction cup telephone adapter which came with her Clarion in such a situation. She stuck the suc-

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tion cup on the arm rest of the chair and heard well enough to interpret 80% of the meeting proceedings into sign language for another attendee.

Wendy also plugs her cochlear implant into the headphone jack of a walkman. She warns against plugging directly into electrical equipment. Tom Walsh, a cochlear implant user and product manager at Advanced Bionics, cautions, "Be careful when connecting your speech processor to devices that are plugged into a wall outlet — computers, stereos, etc. To minimize the risk of electrical shock, connect your speech processor to a device that has an earphone jack that is electrically isolated. The manufacturer of the device can provide confirmation that the earphone jack is indeed isolated."

ALDA Member Bill Reese further explains: "Patch cords (cables) are used to hook up receivers directly to cochlear implants (CIs). Notice that you can do this since the receivers are battery powered. You never want to hook up a CI directly to a plugged in device such as a TV, radio, computer, etc. The patch cords have to be made for the CIs jack size. Except for the Clarion 1.0 and 1.2, jack sizes are 1/8". The Clarion 1.0 and 1.2 take a 3/32" jack. The other side of the patch cord is the standard 1/8". The Clarion S series, the newest Clarion processor is now 1/8". Audex makes excellent patch cords and can sell them individually."

Comments from users about patch cords: "To me, the patch cord is probably the most important piece of equipment. I do not have any interference problems (when using the correct patch cord) other than what people have with hearing aids. Sometimes fluorescent lighting can be a problem. If I use patch cords other than the ones I named (Cochlear and Comtek) then I do get interference."

"I wish that theatres would supply receivers with a port for a patch cord. I know some theatres use FM and I am not going to buy an FM receiver too."

Comments on using ALDs:

"I don't use ALDs with my CI. I don't feel that I need them."

Infrared/FM comments:

"I've used IR at conferences (Audex) and it was amazing. Rather than turning my volume way up and risking distortion with the IR receiver I could hear perfectly clearly."

"I use both Infrared and FM and find they work equally well. For a patch cord I use either the one provided by Cochlear Corp or one made by Comtek. Before I upgraded my processor I used the Comtek cord all the time. But now that I have the type of processor that keeps the head mike open, I prefer the Cochlear Cord. The Comtek still works but cuts out the environmental sounds. I find that FM equipment brings the sounds right to me and eliminates the microphone echo that I get in so many places with poor acoustics. We have Williams Sound Fm and it is great."

"I have been able to use successfully my own personal FM system. So far I have only used it at two different churches with the Nucleus 24 cord and it works perfectly with no interference."

"I've used my IR receiver at a Broadway musical and it was wonderful."

LOOP:

"I've never used a loop but from what I've heard the phone adapter which has a telecoil picks up the signal well." "Using the CI with a loop, I get the clearest sound I ever hear with the CI (I have no experience with FM or IR systems.) I use a room loop to listen to TV every day. I only need to use captions for some types of programs, e.g. voices difficult to understand because of accents, or as is often the case in movies, voices fluctuating widely in volume. I have had equal success using loops in small group situations, cinemas, and halls."

"I've also tried the suction cup adapter as a "loop" and it really does work. You just have to move it until you get good reception."

Another option is the FM Sound Field Amplifier from Audio Enhancement. It is a regular FM System, except the receiver is a cordless speaker (like a stereo speaker) that the user can place wherever is most comfortable. This means there are no patch cords, nothing to plug into your speech processor (or hearing aid).

The Future

As you are probably aware, speech processors are getting smaller and smaller. Cochlear Corp's new Nucleus 24 features a speech processor that completely fits into a behind the ear unit. Mark Ross, senior research associate for the Lexington RERC wonders if it might be possible for the FM, InfraRed and Telecoil receivers to someday be built right in to the speech processor. No more cables!

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In closing, both Wendy and Anita encourage readers to continue educating themselves and investigating their options. Contact manufacturers, ask questions, and try before you buy!

Organizations and companies mentioned in this article:

COCHLEAR IMPLANT MANUFACTURERS:**Advanced Bionics, Corp.**

12740 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, Ca 91342

V: 800.678.2575; TTY: 800.678.3575;

Fax: 818.362.5069

<http://www.cochlearimplant.com>

Thomas P. Walsh, Product Manager

Email: tomw@advancedbionics.com

Cochlear Corporation

61 Inverness Drove East, Suite 200

Englewood, CO 80112

V/TTY: 800.523.5798

Fax: 303.792.9025

<http://www.cochlear.com>

Med-EL

P.O. Box 14183

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-4183

V/TTY: 888.633.3524 ; Fax: 919.484.9229

<http://www.medel.com/intro.html>

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE COMPANIES**Audex**

710 Standard Street, Longview, TX 75604

V/TTY: 800.237.0716; Fax: 800.Aud.ex74

Email: gordond@iamerica.net

Audio Enhancement

12613 South Redwood Road

Riverton, UT 84065

V: 800.383.9362; Fax: 801.254.3802

<http://www.audioenhancement.com>

Audiological Engineering Corp.

35 Medford Street, Somerville, MA 02143

Contact: Brian Kraus, Marketing

V: 800.283.4601; TTY: 800.955.7204;

Fax: 617.666.5228; E-mail: bkraus@erols.com

(manufacturer of Chorus)

Phonic Ear, Inc

3880 Cyprus Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954

V: 800.227.0735 X2786; Fax: 707.769.9624

<http://www.phonicear.com>

Radio Shack

V: 800.843.7422

Williams Sound

10399 West 70th St.

Eden Prairie, MN 55344-3459

V: 800.323.6190 ext. 229; Fax: 614.943.2174

ADDITIONAL MANUFACTURERS OF PATCH CORDS AND TELEPHONE ADAPTERS:**DeVilbiss Development Co., Ltd.**

3056 Hazelton Street, Falls Church, VA 22044

TTY 703.534.1681 (Voice via relay)

FAX 703.534.5568

Email: geodv@erols.com

George DeVilbiss

Robert Mendoza

4404 Hollingsworth Court

Rohnert Park, CA 94928

John McManamey

P.O. Box 4737

Long Beach, CA 90804)0737

V/TTY/FAX 562.498.2214

Email: jmcman@gte.net

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**Cochlear Implant Forum**

listserv: CI@YORKU.CA

To subscribe: send the command SUBSCRIBE CI to LISTSERV@YORKU.CA

League for the Hard of Hearing

71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010V

V: 212.741.7650; TTY: 212.255.1932;

Fax: 212.255.4413

Web Site: www.lhh.org

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RERC on Hearing Enhancement and Assistive Devices

Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf

30th Avenue & 75th Street

Jackson Heights, NY 11370

V/TTY: 718.899.8800 ext. 212; FaxL 718.899.3433

E-mail: research@lexnyc.org

Web Site: <http://idt.net/~reslex>

The ALDA "Academy Awards"

Marlee Matlin glows in an April 1998 McCall's issue as she prepares to attend the Academy Awards. Matlin won an Oscar for the 1986 movie Children of a Lesser God, participating in this year's ceremony as a past winner. Jack Jason was her sign language interpreter, accompanying her throughout the entire process that makes up the Awards ceremony.

ALDA has its own "Academy Awards," and not only do we provide sign language interpreters, but also we have real-time text translation (CART), assistive listening devices, paper and pen, and hugs and smiles galore.

ALDA members, be thinking about who you wish to nominate for the I. King Jordan Award to be presented at this year's ALDAcon. The late-deafened person who wins this award will have had a distinguished career, made significant contributions to the community, profession and/or nation, and been an outstanding role model.

Left to right: Mark Dessert (Bob Hawley Fearless Leader Award), Kathy Schlueter (President's Award), Shawn Lovley (Special Recognition Award).



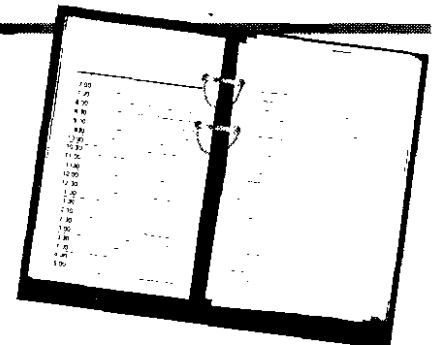
Tom Davinroy, ALDA Angel Award.



Carol Menton and Jane Sokol Shulman (President's Award).

Mark Your Calendar!
Be sure to attend
ALDAcon '98

"Back to the Future"
Chicago, Illinois, September 2-6, 1998



Left to right: Minna Green, Edna Shipley-Connor (standing, ALDA Brainstorm Award), Sandra Vidgoff.



Thank You Remarks

By Roy E. Miller
1997 Recipient of the
ALDA I. King Jordan Award



Roy Miller, I. King
Jordan Award.

First, I want to express my deep appreciation to Kathie Hering for that most eloquent introduction. Rarely have so many nice things been said about me in such a short period of time. And knowing that the comments come from one who was so important to the birth of ALDA makes me doubly proud. Thank you very much, Kathie.

Wow! Needless to say, I am totally thrilled, greatly honored, deeply appreciative, and extremely humbled to have been selected the recipient of the 1997 I. King Jordan Award. To figuratively stand along-

side the previous recipients of this award is indeed a once in a lifetime experience. To be placed in the same company as I. King Jordan, John Gavin, Bill Graham, Holly Elliott, Marylyn Howe, and Kathie Hering indeed gives one a wonderful feeling. It is, to say the least, a rather awesome group of late-deafened adults. As a total group those individuals have had a tremendous positive impact on the lives of so many persons with adult hearing loss. Over the years to come, I can only hope to emulate to some small degree their many contributions.

Last night I had the opportunity to reminisce about the first ALDA Leadership Training Conference which was held at Mercy Hospital in Chicago in October of 1989. Walking back along that somewhat crooked trail of the historical development of ALDA was quite enjoyable, and I hope mildly instructive for the new ALDAs who were at the reception. Now, if I might, I would like to take a minute and look back at the some of the questions surrounding the establishment of the I. King Jordan Award.

I was the president of ALDA at that time, and I vividly remember that many issues had to be settled when the award was created. Once the idea was presented, I recall that the Board rather quickly agreed on giving such an award, but that left many unanswered questions. What should the award be named? For what should the award be given? To be eligible to receive the award did a person have to be a late-deafened adult? Did a person have to be a member of ALDA to receive the award? What form should the award take, a plaque, money, certificate, or gift? How often should the award be presented, every year or only occasion-

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Mark Dessert . . . it was a hard night . . . (Actually, this was at the '96 'con, but we couldn't resist!)

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ally? And, of course, who should be the individual to receive the award the first time? After some discussion, all of these questions were answered, and the first recipient of the award was quite appropriately I. King Jordan himself. As the first deaf president of Gallaudet University, I. King Jordan has certainly left his mark on deaf history, and as one who became deafened at age twenty-one, he has certainly provided a magnificent role model for late-deafened adults.

I recall that I actually had the plaque for the first I. King Jordan Award made and engraved in the small town of Carbondale, Illinois, where I live and teach at Southern Illinois University. Later I took it with me in the car and drove the length of the state to Chicago where it was presented at ALDAcon III. Little did I know then that someday someone would be bringing that award to an ALDAcon to present to me.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to several people who tolerated me and my idiosyncracies in the early years of ALDA, for those people enabled me to make a contribution to the growth of our beloved organization.

First and foremost is the man who introduced me to ALDA. I heard about a guy in Chicago who was trying to start an organization for late-deafened adults, so I called him and made arrangements to have dinner with he and his wife at Uno's Pizza while I was on a business trip to the Windy City in the spring of 1989. The pizza was fantastic; the ambience was upbeat; and the discussion was long (perhaps two hours). The gentleman's wife was hearing and signed for me during much of the evening, but I knew absolutely no sign language at that time. The man exuded confidence, spoke slowly and directly to me, and signed as he was doing so. They did everything right to maximize the chances of effective communications occurring. But as I look back on the event, I don't think I understood one damn thing that either of them said all evening (a classic case of bluffing!). But I liked his big smile and the comfortable feeling that I had in his presence, so I later came back

for more. That man, of course, was Bill Graham, and I shall be forever in his debt for introducing me to ALDA. I'm only sorry that he could not be here tonight to share this moment.

During my time on the ALDA Board, I had the opportunity to work with several other dedicated people with very big hearts, including Mary Clark, Sister Maureen Conway, Bob Elkins, Marilyn Howe, Steve Larew, and Steven Wilhelm. I want to thank each and every one of them for all of the time, energy, and dedication that they have given to ALDA over the years, as well as for the patience and understanding that

they gave to me in those early years. We were all doing a little "stumbling in the dark" in trying our best to build a viable organization of late-deafened adults that would persist over time.

We laughed a little, drank a lot, got on each other's nerves once in awhile, had many fun filled moments, and suffered through the occasional "family" fight. We had little idea of exactly where we were heading, and knew even less about how to get there. But as I look out on this distinguished group in front of me tonight, I can only conclude that us early pioneers did a pretty good job of organizational navigation.

Lastly, I need to say thanks to my family for the support which they have given over the years for my ALDA activities. My wife Bonnie, like

others, knows well the meaning of the term "ALDA widow," and my children know what it means to have an "absentee father." Indeed, it can fairly be said that everyone in my family owns a piece of this award - not just me.

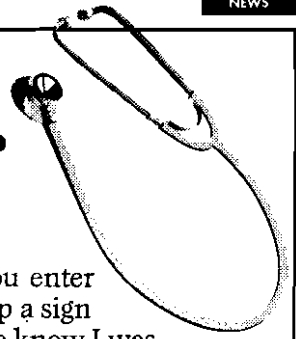
My relationship with ALDA in those early years was a very symbiotic one. I gave to ALDA my time, knowledge, experience, and skills, and in return ALDA gave much to me at a very critical time in my life. I had become completely deaf only two years before due to the surgical removal of bilateral acoustic neuromas, and ALDA helped me develop a new identity, that of a late-deafened adult. ALDA helped me break my social isolation. It gave my life new meaning,

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. . . I actually had the plaque for the first I. King Jordan Award made and engraved. . . . Later I took it with me in the car and drove the length of the state to Chicago where it was presented at ALDAcon III. Little did I know then that someday someone would be bringing that award to an ALDAcon to present to me.

Oh, That's Sick . . .

by Shawn Lovley



I have to admit it. I'm terrified of going to the hospital. Not because I'm afraid of needles, nurses, doctors, or even those ridiculous hospital gowns. What really scares me is that I can't hear anymore. Hospital staff might as well speak Swahili because I can't understand a word they're saying.

In April of 1997, my concern about late-deafened people communicating with hospital personnel went from theory to reality: for the first time since I went deaf seven years ago I had to go to Georgetown University Hospital for surgery to replace some tubing that had been inserted in my brain in December of 1990.

And I was scared. Not so much because of the surgery, which was performed by a doctor who is considered one of the best neurosurgeons in the country, but because I didn't know how I'd communicate with hospital staff now that I can't hear.

Good news. The surgery and the communication thing both went well. Figuring I should share what I'd learned from my hospital "fun" with other late-deafened people, I led a workshop about communicating with medical people at ALDAcon '97. I had the good fortune to be joined for the workshop by three wonderful people: my wife Mary, my good friend Larry Littleton, who lost his hearing at a young age and graduated from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester University, and ALDA's marvelous 1996 president, Robin Titterington, who's had more than her share of medical "adventures" since becoming deaf. I obviously can't talk about everything that happened at the workshop in a single article without making it go on and on, but here are some tips.

For starters, remember that the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it a lot easier than it used to be to get an interpreter or necessary accommodations in a medical situation. But invoke the ADA as a last result after you've tried everything else. Start by asking for what you need in medical situations. You'll be surprised at how often you get what's necessary.

Remember, as the old saying tells us, and I say all too often, you catch a lot more flies with honey than vinegar. Start by asking politely for reasonable accommodation, and if the answer is still "no" after repeated attempts, then remember that the law is on your side, and don't be afraid to use it.

Regardless of the ADA though, it's a good idea to do whatever you can to make your stay as painless

(sorry for the bad pun) before you enter the hospital. I started by making up a sign for my hospital room letting people know I was deaf but not dumb by a long shot. I can't count how many smiles that got. In fact, my doctor liked it so much he made a copy of it and put it in my medical file.

I also made up a slew of cards I put in a pocket on the sign explaining how people should communicate with me. The main point the cards made, and one that I imagine applies to most late-deafened people, was that I NEEDED THINGS WRITTEN DOWN. Apparently, that worked: one of the nurses in my ward said I should "talk" as much as I wanted and they'd make sure I always had plenty of paper to give to doctors, nurses, and hospital staff to write down their answers.

Another thing you might consider: about a week before I was admitted to the hospital, I talked by relay with the director of patient relations. More and more hospitals have those now, and it's a good idea to talk to the one at your hospital before you're admitted. I told mine exactly what I would need, both before and after the surgery, and she not only made sure I had everything I needed, but turned into a great advocate for me as well.

The other people on the workshop panel were a big help too. My wife Mary, a certified interpreter for the deaf, talked about being the spouse of a late-deafened person going in the hospital. Besides being a great advocate and a super interpreter, she's also a human being with feelings and emotions. She had a lot of other things on her mind besides interpreting for me when I was a patient, so we asked the hospital to provide me an interpreter for before the operation. That way she wouldn't have to sign for me at such an emotional time. And the hospital came through, with no problem!

Larry provided us with a totally different perspective. Like me, he's in a marriage with a hearing woman, but he talked about the flip side of the coin: what role should the late-deafened person play when a hearing spouse or loved one has to deal with the medical world?

He spoke from first-hand experience. A few years ago, Larry's hearing wife Susan went into the hospital for outpatient surgery that was supposed to last two hours. During the surgery, though, the doc-

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One of Us

Tell us your full name, including any strange nicknames you have been given over the years. My full name is Edna Annis Shipley-Connor. I have never had a nickname, but I hyphenated my last name before it became common to do. When my ex-husband and I divorced, I wanted to use my maiden name again. My children wanted my name connected to them. I had been writing under the name "Shipley Connor" without the hyphen. My oldest daughter suggested that I hyphenate the two names. That satisfied my wish for a new identity and gave them the name connection they wanted. Plus, it gave me a literary sounding name which added to my new identity.

Where were you born? Believe it or not, I'm an Okie. I was born and raised on a farm in Seminole, Oklahoma.

Where do you call home now? I have lived in Hayward, California for the past 30 years, so it is my home. But I often say that my heart's home is in northern New Mexico where I lived the ten years before moving to Hayward.

What was the cause of your deafness and at what age did you become deaf? The probably cause of my deafness was three major illnesses involving high temperatures before age twenty and later ototoxic medicines. I had a minor hearing loss in high school and that became slowly worse. Then when I was 35, the loss accelerated. By age 42, I had great difficulty understanding on the phone. After that, I continued to slowly lose what little hearing I had left.

For you, what is the worst thing about being deaf? The same as most people — loss of music. I miss it for myself, but it was what my daughter grieved over for years. She is a musician and we used to go to concerts together. It was a big part of what we shared. I miss that common interest and I just miss music, period. Sometimes I will think of a song I want to hear or a certain piece of music and put it on the stereo. But it sounds terrible and I turn it off for another year or so. Sometimes, my daughter will sing to me close by and I can read her lips and remember how she sounds.



And the best? The best thing about becoming deaf is the way it has expanded my awareness, my sense of community, my circle of friends, given me a new family (ALDA) and a more rewarding job than I ever dreamed of having.

If you could hear again, what would you do? Buy a CD player and a bunch of CDs; go to my daughter's performances, sit and listen to my daughter, her brother, and father sing folk, country and silly songs; buy tickets to the Monterey Jazz Festival, the San Francisco Symphony and the

Opera; attend the San Francisco Folk Music Club, camp out at Captiola Park on Memorial Day and probably feel guilty that I could hear and that my best long time friends couldn't.

Who makes your family? I have two families. My siblings, my children and grandchildren are one family. My other family is my ALDA family. I felt pulled between them a couple of years ago and started to integrate them by asking my children (grown) to come with me to parties and events and to bring my grandchildren to events when they visit. No one had more fun at the Karaoke at the ALDAcon '96 in San Francisco than my two children who live nearby. The famous game that ALDA-East Bay plays (called MF) is a game played by my kids, their friends and me for years. I got ALDA-EB hooked on it, too. I feel more satisfied now that the two families share some good times together.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A grandma. When I am with my younger grandchildren, I become young again. I play hide and seek and silly word games. I color in coloring books with them and make squiggles. I look for pussy willow branches, wild iris, owls, frogs, caterpillars, or whatever catches our fancy. Being a grandma, I can be both child and adult.

Do you have a favorite food that you probably shouldn't eat but can't help yourself? Yes, good San Francisco style sour dough bread, warm with butter and a nice glass of white wine.

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One of Us (continued from page 18)

If you did not have responsibilities, what would you be doing now? Not much different than what I do now. I would work fewer hours, but I would still want to be doing my deafened adult program and looking for funding for DCARA (Deafness, Counseling and Rehabilitation Association).

But since this is reality, what hobbies have you taken on in your spare time? My hobbies are reading, writing, gardening and collecting. Reading to me is a need, like breathing. Writing is a hunger. Gardening keeps me connected to the earth, my past (my mother's flower gardens and my father's vegetables) and my future (the growth of trees and shrubs which I hope will be there for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to enjoy). Collecting is a newer hobby and one I share with a beloved sister.

What qualities do people like most in you? In the book, *Diary of Mad Housewife*, a friend is defined as one who values the things in you that you value in yourself. So I would approach the question from the point of view of what I value in myself. The things that I feel are a part of me and that I value include being empathetic, understanding, intelligent, creative, pragmatic, warm, friendly, cooperative, competitive, a survivor, a problem solver and having a good strong sense of my strengths and weaknesses.

Tell us your pet peeves. People who don't talk directly about the real topic of conversation. If they talk of going to the corner store, they go to Boston and then by boat. They waste my time and my energy.

Who has influenced you greatly? Besides my family, two teachers and a deaf mentor. The first was my English teacher who helped me, as an Okie kid, clean up the slang and colloquialisms from my language. The second was a college instructor who taught me to be my own expert, to analyze what I read, and to think and write coherently. The third was Mabs Holcomb, my deaf mentor. She convinced my boss to allow me to go to Gallaudet with her in 1983. While I was there, she introduced me to all the deafened people she knew who worked there, including I. King Jordon, then a psychology professor. She also introduced me to others she felt would help me in my work as deafened adult coordinator at DCARA. Later that year, she recommended me for an intensive internship at Gallaudet in Continuing and Community Education which helped me develop a network of people at Gallaudet and across the country.

Do you have a favorite movie, book, game, etc. that you feel your fellow ALDAns can't miss out on? Yes, from the sublime to the ridiculous. I have some favorite authors, like the poets Maya Angelou, Gary Snyder and Marge Piercy. There is a Piercy poem that is a favorite: "To Be of Use." These authors are the sublime. I love any good mystery from Tony Hillerman, Mary Higgins Clark, J.A. Jance and John Grisham. Then, the ridiculous — there is the game MF (don't ask the real name in front of children and modest adults, just call it a Mighty Fine game). Maybe this year at the ALDAcon, ALDA-East Bay will teach it at a workshop. We taught some people in the bar in Florida last year. But, if you like card games, I warn you this one is addictive.

As you leave us, please share a favorite quote of yours: "Seek not the impossible, oh my immortal soul, but pursue today the possible," by Pindar, a Greek poet. But, I have a Gandhi story that is similar that I like even better:

"A woman had a grandson who loved sugar. Anytime that people were not watching him, he would steal sugar from the sugar bowl or from the cabinet where it was stored. The grandmother was concerned for his health, so she decided to take him to see Gandhi. She thought if the great teacher told him not to eat sugar, he would obey. She and her grandson set out at dusk to walk to see Gandhi in the cool of the night. They rested during the heat of the day. For three days, they traveled to where Gandhi was. When they arrived, they had to wait three days more for their turn to see Gandhi. Finally, they were able to see him. The grandmother explained the situation and asked Gandhi to tell her grandson to not eat sugar. Gandhi told the woman he could not do that. He told her to go home and return in a month.

After a month had passed, the woman and her grandson again set out to see Gandhi walking nights and resting during the day. Again they waited another three days for their turn to see Gandhi. When she met Gandhi again, he told the grandson, "Don't eat sugar."

Gandhi's assistant looked startled. After the grandmother and her grandson left, the assistant asked Gandhi, "Why didn't you tell the grandson not to eat sugar when they were here the first time so they would not have had the second long walk in the heat?" Gandhi replied softly, "First, I had to be sure that I could do without sugar."

Oh, That's Sick *(continued from page 17)*

tor came out and said, "We're having problems; she has to stay." Larry asked "Where is the interpreter?" to which the doctor replied "You can read my lips." Larry asked the doctor "Would you like me to do surgery on you?" "No," came the reply. "Then get me an interpreter," Larry said. And he got one, reminding us all that sometimes it's essential to be assertive to get the accommodation we need.

That doesn't always mean asking for an interpreter, even if you're comfortable with one: hospitals have computers and lots of staff members who can type. The law entitles you to reasonable accommodation, and the important thing is getting what you need.

Before we asked for comments and questions from the floor, Robin, who has been having more than her share of medical challenges lately, men-

tioned that the medical situation for late-deafened people has improved considerably in the last ten years. Then, to prove it, she talked about her experience a decade back when she asked for an interpreter for her evaluation for dialysis, and how much different things have been for her in recent medical situations.

We also "heard" lots of comments and questions from audience members. And they all came down to the same thing: being late-deafened doesn't mean you have to settle for being a second-class citizen. Communication access is your right. And you don't have to work your tail off in an effort to understand an interpreter if you're not comfortable with one, either. Get what you need.

After all, you have a right to it. And as former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark once said: "A right is not what someone gives you; it's what no one can take from you."

Training Program Announcement

The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals and the Educational Psychology Program of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, MN continues to provide the "Certificate in Chemical Dependency Rehabilitation for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clients." The primary goal is to train rehabilitation counseling personnel or aspiring students/professionals in related disciplines, in the rehabilitation of persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and chemically dependent.

For more information, please contact:

Holley Hybsa
Training Coordinator
The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program
for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals
2450 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454

612.672.4402
612.672.4516 Fax

Thank You Speech

(continued from page 16)

focus, and purpose. It gave me new friends and provided the stimulus for developing new communication skills (sign language). Working with ALDA helped renew my self-esteem, and facilitated my personal acceptance of deafness. And for all of those things, I shall be forever grateful.

I remember saying at ALDAcon II, when I was elected president of ALDA, that the first year I had come to observe and learn, the second year I had come to help, and the third year I was ready to lead. I want to encourage all of you to think that way about your developing role with ALDA or your local ALDA Chapter. Spend the needed time watching how the organization functions and learning about its needs. Then take an active part in helping do the necessary work of the organization. And finally, when the time is right, don't be afraid to accept the challenge and make the commitment necessary to provide the organizational leadership that is needed. For only through the willingness of all of us to step forward when needed can an all-volunteer nonprofit organization like ALDA continue to exist, and pursue its invaluable mission of providing education, advocacy, role models, and support for late-deafened adults.

Again, I thank you so very, very much for this wonderful honor. The I. King Jordan Award will always have a special place on my mantel, and ALDA will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you.

ALDAnonymous

Jerry Barnhart, Curator

Fellow ALDAnS, Below are some interesting ideas. Maybe there is someone out there who will be able to invent some such devices.

“If you could have a technical device or equipment that would make your life better, what would it be? (This could be a current device, an improved version of one, or something new).”



- ◆ I want a little portable hand-held translator with a wrist strap. One with perfect speech recognition and I can point it like a Star Trek phaser to get an immediate text translation from a speaker! That or something that will instantly make me invisible when I reach my speechreading limits (so I can sneak out of the room).
- ◆ I've got a buddy who wants something that will alert us when we leave the water running or there is water dripping in a sink or toilet.
- ◆ On a completely whimsical note, I would love to see a device similar to those hand-held palm-top organizer/computers (or whatever technical or brand name they're known as), that has high-speed voice recognition software! This device would offer instantaneous communication almost anywhere (dentist's offices, restaurants, etc.). Obviously the size of such a device and the ergonomics involved would preclude easy use for more complex communication situations — classroom lectures, staff meetings and such — so, we'd still need our beloved CART reporters and interpreters.
- ◆ A personal assistant. If movie stars have them, then I want one. But I guess that doesn't qualify as a technical device or piece of equipment. What if I had this person carry a tty and computer with speech recognition and a video phone around in a backpack? Would that qualify? If so, please send me one asap. Without attachments but with the equipment. (*editor's note: I would be all for that if I could have Pamela Anderson as my personal assistant!*).
- ◆ If I could have a technical device that would make my life better, it would be a device that produced instantaneous speech-to-text translation. It would be speaker independent and have a humongous dictionary which included all the jargon in my life. It would be capable of translating speech at speeds up to 300 words per minute, light-weight, portable and seamless. In effect, it would be real-time captioning without the human interface (CART reporters are fabulous people—God bless 'em—but I can hardly lug one around everywhere I go!) Do I foresee my dream machine happening in the next millenium? No, but when you ask a brilliant question, you get a dreamy answer.



The next question for your pondering is:

“What have you done to make the general public more aware of people with late deafness? What would you want to do?”

Send your responses by June 1st to:

Jerry Barnhart
120 Lawrence Ave.; Ocean Grove, New Jersey 07756
908.988.1929 TTY; 908.774.5704 Fax
JSB92@aol.com

Wired for Sound A Journey into Hearing

By Beverly Biderman

Trifolium Books, Inc., 1998

Pre-publication Offer

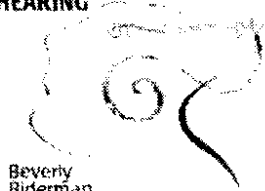
Beverly Biderman's new book on cochlear implants, *Wired for Sound: A Journey into Hearing* will be published in September 1998. Bev uses her own experiences in growing up deaf and obtaining a cochlear implant as an adult as the backbone for a comprehensive treatment of the topic of cochlear implants.

Advance reviews have been good. Oliver Sacks M.D., author of *Seeing Voices*, calls it "rare in its combining of the technical and the personal ... an important contribution to this complex and vexed area."

Dr. Noel Cohen, a prominent cochlear implant surgeon at New York University Medical Center who has published widely on the subject of cochlear implants, describes *Wired for Sound* as follows:

"This is a delightful book, which is basically the story of one woman's deafness, her decision to have a cochlear implant, and her determination to make the best possible use of her implant despite having been deaf for most of her life. But the book is much more than merely one woman's story. It is also an excellent review of much of the history of

A JOURNEY
INTO
HEARING



Beverly
Biderman

WIRED
FOR SOUND

Trifolium Books, Inc.

the Deaf culture, the controversy that surrounds cochlear implantation in children, and the advantages and shortcomings of current cochlear implant technology.

Even if it stopped right there, the book would be excellent; however the author also includes extensive references for each chapter illustrating a tremendous amount of work in reviewing the literature on cochlear implants. Finally, she includes an appendix which has the names of many organizations to

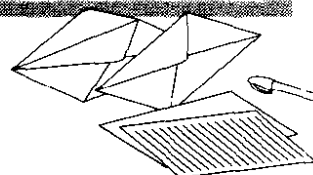
serve as source material for the potential implant candidate or parent of a deaf child.

"This book is a 'must read' for everyone involved with cochlear implants, be they deaf, parent of a deaf child, manufacturer, or cochlear implant professional."

Trifolium Books has announced that *Wired for Sound* is being offered now at a pre-publication discount of \$15.95 U.S. or \$18.95 CAN. if ordered before July 30th 1998. Prices go up by \$6.00 after that date. ALDANews readers interested in ordering a copy may call 1.800.805.1083 in the U.S., 1.800.387.0141 in Ontario and Quebec, Canada (excepting NW Ontario), and 1.800.387.0172 for the rest of Canada. Overseas readers may call 1-416-925-0765.

Pen Pal Brigade

by Keith Keller, Brigadier



Each issue of **ALDA News** publishes names and addresses of ALDAn who want to be in contact with others. If you are looking for a new friend who will understand what hearing loss means, look no further; personal sharing and caring is what ALDA is all about. Want to be included in future issues? Drop me a line with a brief description of your interests. Here are the new members of the Brigade:

Lucille J. Keyton

19234 Abhenry Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Lucille started losing her hearing 30 years ago and now has a serious to profound loss. She would like to exchange ideas on how to cope with problems in our everyday lives. "I love to joke about some of the things that happen to me because of my hearing loss, and have learned lipreading, though I am not very good at it." Interests include: walking on the beach, animals, good conversation, movies and enjoying life as much as possible. "I would like pen pals from all walks of life."

Michael Simoneau

118510- PO Box 500, Mitchells, Virginia 22729

"I am a fun loving man from the Washington, DC area. I am presently 95% deaf due to a job related accident in 1997. The experience has caused me to make major adjustments in my life. Sometimes it is lonely and frustrating, but I ultimately see it as a challenge to overcome obstacles and press on towards living a happy healthy life in spite of deafness. I would like to correspond with others who also deal with deafness every day."

Michael, you might be interested in knowing that there is an ALDA chapter in your area. For information on this contact ALDA-Potomac, c/o Gretchen Butkus, 2817 Atlanta Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

Patrick Fenton

343 West Ferry Street.

"Pat" would like to correspond with anyone of any age and is anxious to make new friends.

Loss for Words*By Lou Ann Walker*

Harper and Row 1986

Available in paperback for \$12.00

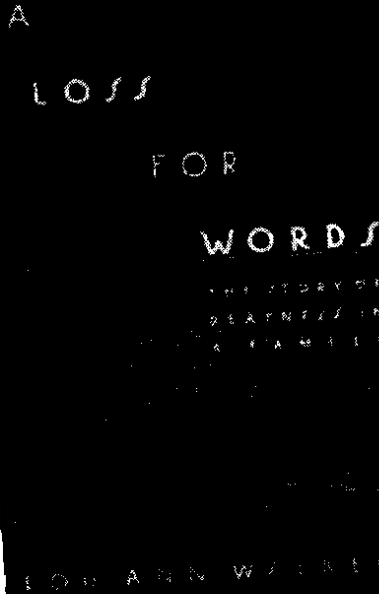
Reviewed by Carolyn Piper

Deafness is a word that for most of us is fraught with emotion; hard to be quite rationale about, easy to be quite overly emotional about. Affecting as it does communication and the ties that bind us to each other, it is certainly one of the most complex of disabilities. Perhaps because of this, most of us who have a hearing loss soon become convinced that it is impossible for any hearing folks, no matter how much good will they may have, to ever really understand what it like to live in a world of partial or total silence.

Tired of threading my way deaf through a hearing world inhabited by people who loved me dearly yet seemed unable to understand the implications of living in a world where communication was an intellectual exercise, I too had come to that conclusion. Then I read "A Loss For Words" by Lou Ann Walker and realized once more that every rule has an exception. Ms Walker, a writer of rare talent, wrote her beautifully written and deeply felt book, "A Loss for Words; the story of deafness in a family" in 1986, and in doing so has come as close to walking in our shoes as it is possible for a hearing individual to do. She has also created an invaluable resource for those of us who are bringing up hearing children despite living in a silent, or near silent, world ourselves.

The hearing daughter of Deaf parents, the author has seen deafness up close, and, more importantly perhaps, FELT deafness up close. Her book, obviously the result of much personal pain and thought, almost perfectly captures the world that deafness creates- both for those who are deaf or severely hard of hearing themselves, and for those who, although hearing, live with the consequences of deafness on intimate terms.

This last is an aspect of the book that may make it particularly valuable for deaf or hard of

**BOOK
REVIEW**

hearing parents; for in it the author paints a wonderful picture of her own childhood. While Mr Walker's parents were culturally deaf, having been deafened very early in life, the issues that they, and their children, had to deal with are just as relevant to the culturally hearing population who happen to be deaf or hard of hearing and are raising normally hearing children.

How do our children cope with our loss? How do they go about telling people that mommy or daddy is deaf and explain what that means. How indeed, do our children themselves come to understand what it means? Ms Walker tells, for example, of a poignant, yet wonderfully funny period in her childhood during which she became convinced that her

parents could indeed hear, but were feigning deafness to cover their real vocation in life- as spies. In adulthood she found that both her sisters had also harbored this same fantasy.

The issues raised here may well be more relevant than simply the mode of communication (sign versus speech) that deafened parents may use with their children. They are universal and relevant to all of us who want to understand deafness and its effects on those around us. With this author we are in the hands of a master craftsman, as well as a sensitive and loving person; and when we are done we realize that Ms Walker has struck an almost perfect balance between revealing the pain that hearing loss creates, and appreciating the gifts and beauties that it can also bestow.

This is a book that will tear at your heart in one sentence, while leaving it singing in the next. It speaks to the pain and joy of not only deafness but of life itself and should not be missed.

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Hearing Dog Resources

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

P.O. Box 1326
Sterling Heights, MI 48311

This organization has a newsletter, edited by Joan Froling, for people who have assistance dogs. The newsletter is a wonderful resource. Membership is \$10 per year.

ASSISTANCE DOGS INTERNATIONAL (ADI)

<http://www.assistance-dogs-intl.org/conference.html>

U.S. Members and Contacts:

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.

Leonard "Dino" Brownson III
Executive Office
109 Lighthouse Drive
Jupiter Inlet Colony, FL 33469
561.747-3721
800.841.2254
DBrownson@aol.com
350 mi. radius of Toledo, OH

Assistance Dogs of the West

Jill Felice
440 Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505.986.9748
Felice440@aol.com

Blue Ridge Assistance Dogs

Lydia Wade
11215 Dumfries Rd.
Manassas, VA 20112
703.309.5878
BLRDGAD@aol.com

Canine Companions For Independence

Corey Hudson
P.O. Box 446
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446 USA
707.577.1700 V;
577.1756 TTY
707.577.1711
info@caninecompanions.org

Canine Partners For Life

Darlene B. Sullivan
334 Faggs Manor Rd.
Cochranville, PA 19330
610.869.4902
610.869.9785
k94life@chesco.com
250 mi. radius

Canine Support Teams Inc.

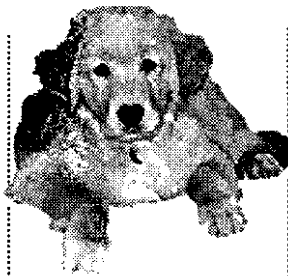
Carol Roquemore
P.O. Box 1329
Perris, CA 92572-1329
909.943.3972 V;
943.2694 TTY
909.943.7653
RoqC@aol.com
California

Canine Working Companions, Inc

Christine R. Rupert
7453 Morgan Rd.
Liverpool, NY 13090
315.457.2938 V/TTY
315.457.2938
Emmett@aol.com
New York 120 mi. radius

Caring Canine Companions, Inc

Sylvia Fisher
P.O. Box 353Verona, VA 24482
703.248.6655
Virginia



Dogs For The Deaf, Inc.

Robin Dickson
10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, OR 97502 USA
541.826.9220 V/TTY
541.826.6696
info@dogstothedeaf.org

Dogsworks of Virginia Beach

Kirkland Kelley
P.O. Box 3037
Norfolk, VA 23514

East Coast Assistance Dogs

Lu Picard
P.O. Box 284West Grandby, CT 06090
860.653.6781ECAD@aol.com
New England

Fidos For Freedom, Inc.

Debbie Gavalek
P.O. Box 5508
Laurel, MD 20726
410.880.4178
301.776.7749
Fidos@erols.com
75 mi. radius of Laurel

Florida Dog Guides For The Deaf, Inc.

Arlene Dickinson
P. O. Box 20662
Bradenton, FL 34203
941.748-8245 V/TTY
941.747.0969
adogs@gte.net
Florida

Freedom Service Dogs, Inc.

Michael P. Roche
P.O. Box 150217
Lakewood, CO 80215-0217
303.234.9512
303.237.3878
mroche@assistance-dogs-intl.org
Colorado

Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation

Mike D. Goehring
P.O. Box 513
Jud, ND 58454-0513
701.685.2242
701.685.2290

Hearing & Service Dogs of Minnesota

Alan Peters
2223 E. 35 St.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612.729.5986V
729.5914 TTY
612.729.5914
hsdm@bitstream.net
Minnesota

International Hearing Dogs, Inc.

Martha Foss
5901 East 89th Ave.
Henderson, CO 80640-8315
303.287.3277 V/TTY

Kansas Specialty Dog Service

Bill Acree
P.O. Box 216
Washington, KS 66968
913.325.2256
913.325.2258

Lonestar Assistance Dog Service

Jeanie Brock
6830 Briar Rd.
Azle, TX 76020
817.444.3103
LADS@76020@aol.com
USA

Loving Paws Assistance Dogs

Linda Jennings
P.O. Box 12005
Santa Rosa, CA 95406
707.586.0798
707.586.0799

N.E.A D.S.

Sheila O'Brien
P.O. Box 213
West Boylston, MA 01583 USA
978.422.9064 V/TTY
978.422.3255
NEADSDogs@aol.com
U.S.A.

Horizons Service Dogs

Janet Severt
212 S. Aberdeen Cir.
Sanford, FL 32773
407.328.9447
407.328.6754
Florida

New Life Assistance Dogs

Sabina Hower
1901 Olde Homestead Lane
Lancaster, PA 17605-0485
800.995.9581
717.293.1595
ucplan@redrose.net
Pennsylvania

Okada, Ltd

Pat Putnam
PO Box 650
Fontana, WI 53125-0650
414.275.5226 V/TTY

Paws With A Cause

Michael D. Sapp, Sr.
4646 South Division
Wayland, MI 49348
616.877.7297
800.253.7297
616.877.0248
paws@x2.alliance.net
U.S.A.

(continued on page 25)

Resources (continued from page 24)**Prison Pet Partnership Program**

Jeanne T. Hamp
P.O. Box 17
Gig Harbor, WA
98335-0017
253.858.4240
253.858.4208
WA. OR. ID.

San Francisco SPCA Hearing Dog Program

Ralph Dennard
2500 16th Street
San Francisco, CA
94103
415.554.3020 V.
554.3022 TTY
415.552.7041
hearingdog@sfsPCA.org
California and Nevada only

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs

Sheri Henderson
4803 Rutherglen Dr.
Austin, TX 78749-3744
512.891.9090
512.891.9090
SheriTHSD@aol.com
Texas

The Bonnie Bergin Assistance Dog Institute

Bonita M. Bergin
P.O. Box 2334
Rohnert Park, CA
94927-2334
707.537.6391 V/TTY
707.537.6391
Assistdog@aol.com

*International Members and Contacts***Assistance Dogs For Independence**

Andrew & Bob Biggs
P.O. Box 455
Engadine, 2233
Australia
612.9548.3355
612.9548.1949
bbigs@fast.net.au
Australia

Canine Partners for Independence

Nina Bondarenko
Homewell House
22 HomewellHavant
Hants,
P09 1EE England
173.089.4830
173.089.4586

Dogs For The Disabled

Linda Hams
The Old Vicarage,
London Road
Ryton-on-Dunsmore,
Coventry
CV8 3ER England
120.330.2057
120.330.2041
United Kingdom

Hearing Dogs For Deaf People

Anthony G. Blunt
London Road (A40),
Lewknor, Oxon
OX9 5R Y England
184.435.3898
184.435.3099
info@hearing-
dog.co.uk
United Kingdom

West Coast Assistance Teams

Ryan Hill & Sharon
Steele
11378 82nd Ave.
North Delta, British
Columbia Canada
604.591.8013

**MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TRAINING HEARING DOGS**

Hearing dog programs affiliated with ADI are expected to meet the following guidelines:

1. A minimum of three (3) months/sixty (60) hours of training must take place under the supervision of a program's trainer. During this time, at least twenty (20) hours of regularly scheduled training must be devoted to city work, obedience, and socialization training during the dog's entire training time.
2. Basic obedience skills the dog must master with voice and/or hand signals are: sit, stay come, down, heel and off leash recall.
3. The dog must show social behavior skills of no aggression, no inappropriate barking, no biting, no snapping/growling, no inappropriate jumping on strangers, no begging and no sniffing of people.
4. Sound awareness skills-Upon hearing a sound, the dog must make physical contact with the recipient and then specifically indicate or lead the person to the source of the sound. All dogs must be trained to at least three (3) sounds.
5. The placement of the Hearing Dog must last at least four (4) days/32 hours. By the end of the placement, the recipient will be able to correctly praise and discipline the dog, care for the dog, practice sound work with the dog, control the dog and enforce obedience skills. During the placement, the trainer will go with the recipient and the dog to do city training and go to stores and a restaurant. Also, during the placement, the trainer, recipient and dog will practice sound work and obedience every day.
6. The training facility must require the recipient to complete a follow-up progress report once a month for the first six months following the placement. Personal contact will be done by qualified staff or program volunteer within twelve to eighteen (12-18) months of graduation and annually thereafter.
7. Identification of the Hearing Dog and recipient will be accomplished with a laminated ID card with a photo of the dog and partner and names of both recipient and dog. The dog must wear a blaze orange collar and leash, approved by ADI, with Hearing Dog printed/stitched on it and a cape with the program's logo whenever in public.
8. The staff of the training center must demonstrate knowledge of deafness, deaf culture and hearing impairment. A staff member or agent must know basic sign language. Organization shall make available educational material on different disabilities.
9. The recipient must agree to abide the Minimum Standards for Assistance Dog Partners.
10. At the onset of training, every dog will be spayed or neutered and will have a thorough medical evaluation to determine that the dog does not have any physical problems that would cause difficulty for a working dog.

Above information printed with permission of Assistance Dogs International. Some contacts listed may not train hearing dogs. A written resource of interest is the book "Assistance Dog Providers in the United States" by Carla Stiverson and Norm Pritchett. It is available from N.C. Service Dogs, 3598 W. Delphi Pike, Marion, IN 46952 (317) 384-5530 V for \$27.00

GA-SK



ALDA's Judy Viera, director of sales for Wynd Communications, was recently appointed to the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Advisory Council, administered by the National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA). Nominated by the Consumer Action Network (CAN), Ms. Viera will serve as the only deaf member appointed to the board, an appointment that was made official in late February.

Under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the council's primary responsibility is to advise the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), which is the administrator of the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service fund since its inception in 1993. All interstate telecommunication companies contribute to the fund, currently at \$45 million a year. NECA distributes the fund to relay service providers, so that TRS users pay only the cost of the long-distance call

— Wynd Communications



Mary Skyer was honored to receive an award in recognition of her ongoing efforts to train police and fire department and other emergency personnel how to respond to deaf/deafened and hard of hearing people using TTY's in emergency situations. As we all know, it's about much more than just using a TTY! The San Francisco Police Department thinks so too and recently expressed gratitude for Mary's services.



ALDA's Tom Davinroy recently moved within the San Francisco Bay Area from Oakland to Alameda. He is farther from the Hayward fault now but closer to the Oakland airport, a tradeoff that he prefers.

When actively employed, he planned and designed airports and also spent over twenty years working with transport noise (WHAT??). So, while others complain about the noise of low-flying jets, he enjoys being able to get an up-close view of them (SMILE!!)



The National Training Conference for deaf and hard of hearing federal employees was held at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland from April 14 - 16. Cheryl Heppner and Wendy Cheng will facilitate a

rap session geared to a discussion of the problems (and successes) of hard of hearing and late-deafened adults in the federal workplace. The second workshop is a CART panel which will discuss CART (and access to CART) from a CART users perspective and a CART provider's perspective and also, how the government can provide for more CART services in the same way that sign interpreters are so easy to obtain.



ALDA-Connecticut bids long time board member Pamela Phillips a fond farewell. Pam is leaving (with daughter Rebecca) to join husband Jim who found his dream job in the state of Washington! Pam, we're going to miss you! ALDA best to you and your family!



Our sincere condolences to Woody Waga over the death of his mother. She was 83 years old. Woody Waga heads up our fantastic CART reporters at ALDAcons. Hang in there, Woody.

SKSK

ALDA News is an all volunteer operation and many, many hours of time are willingly donated by the ALDA News staff to bring this newsletter to you.

ALDA News is growing and we need your help to stay on top of the many exciting changes happening and new information available for late-deafened adults. ALDA News needs your help as we continue to gather and share your powerful, personal stories.

We have openings for a managing editor and advertising director. We need copy editors and contributing editors and help keying material in.

Do you have an area of expertise you can share? Let us know. What about writing up news blurbs or telling us the latest with various ALDA Chapters and members? Send them to Candis directly at ffccs@aurora.alaska.edu, 907.479.6030 TTY, 907.479.3114 Fax or P.O. Box 81453, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708. We're waiting to hear from you.....

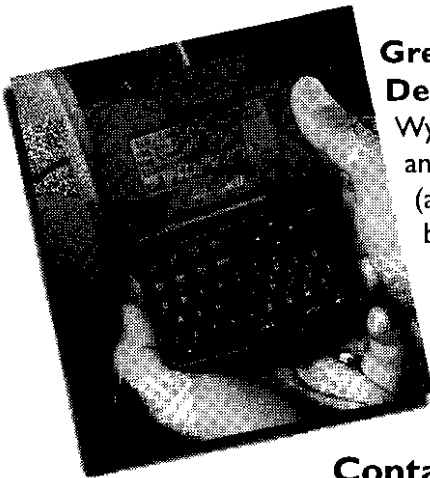
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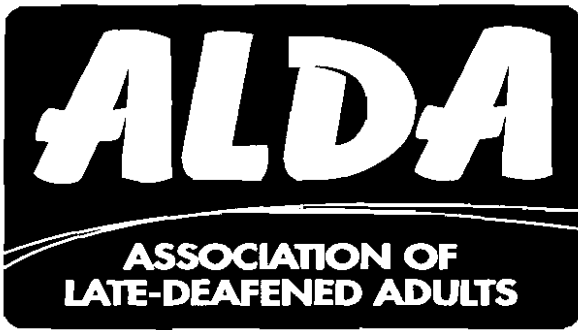
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The Association of Late-Deafened Adults
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Please check one statement below:

- I consider myself late-deafened or becoming late-deafened.
- I have a business or professional interest in late-deafened adults.
- I provide outreach, information, or counseling services to late-deafened adults.
- I am not late-deafened, but I have a personal interest in late-deafened adults.
- I represent a media organization.

Annual dues (U.S. funds only):

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- Business \$35.00
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