

**A Letter from the President**

## 35th Annual Convention, March 27-29, 2014

The ILA 2014 conference will convene at the Sheraton Bloomington (formerly the Hotel Sofitel), which is 15 minutes from the Minneapolis, MN airport. The hotel will provide free shuttle to and from the airport. Room rates will be \$119.

Convention fees include lunches and award banquet as well as morning and afternoon beverage breaks in the registration fees. Convention rates are \$300 for members. Fees are higher for non-members. Final/detailed fee schedules and registration links will be available on or before November 15.

The convention will convene on March 27 in the early afternoon and be in session through Saturday night's banquet. All 2014 submissions

must be submitted no later than December 1, 2013. To avoid problems, early submission is strongly encouraged. Please email submissions to [hoelp@uscb.edu](mailto:hoelp@uscb.edu)

Join ILA online: \$115 for one year; \$205 for two years; \$1500 for a lifetime membership (which includes a greater discount on the convention fee). Lifetime memberships can be purchased on a five-year payment plan as well as a single payment plan).

When you are not in session the hotel is minutes away from upscale restaurants, Mall of America, museums and recreational activities. These are just more reasons why you should join us for the March ILA conference in Minneapolis.

*I*t seems that we just went our separate ways after an exciting convention in Montreal. However, within days of its ending, work began on our 2014 convention in Minneapolis. Registration and hotel information was recently posted on the ILA website ([www.listen.org](http://www.listen.org)). I encourage you to register early for the convention and to submit your proposals early as well. Doing so will help our program planner, Pam Hoel, design a convention with useful, quality programs.

Don't forget that you can use the ILA member discussion forum on our website to help you locate others interested in developing panels and presentations for submission. One Board mandate emerging from our 2013 convention addressed online voting for constitutional amendments and for officer elections. A taskforce made up of several ILA Board members, including myself, presented initial wording of the amendment to the Board at its meeting in October. In January, we will be seeking your feedback on the proposed constitutional changes.

In response to findings from our ILA membership survey last Fall, the Board has increased com-

munication with the membership via periodic emails from the President. I hope you find that my "News & Notes" messages help you stay up-to-date and better understand the business of the ILA. Finally, in order to flourish and to stay relevant as an organization, the ILA and its membership must work together. When we do so, we can achieve the goal of becoming the go-to organization for academics, students, and professionals interested in the field of listening.

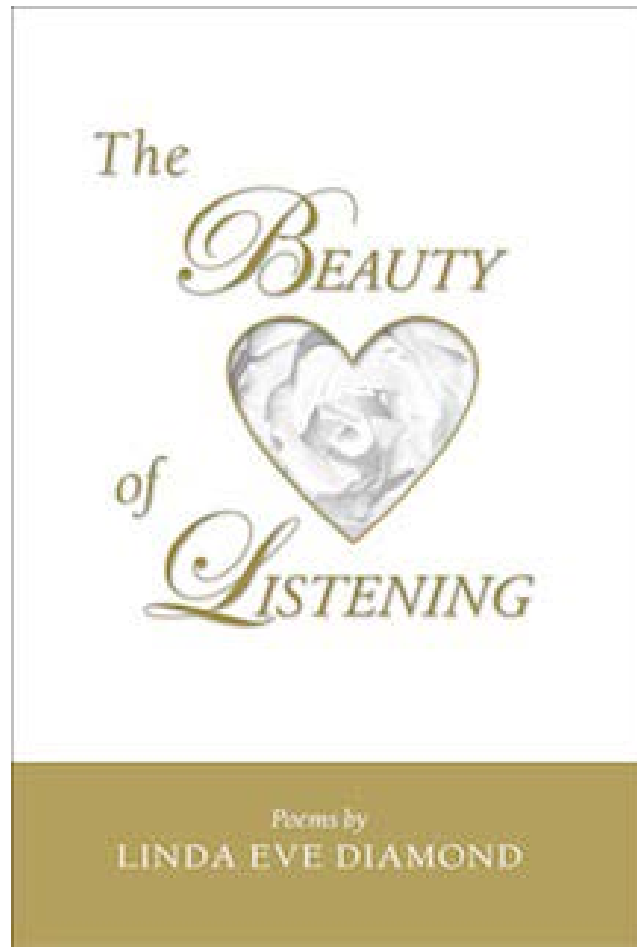
However, to achieve this goal, we need your help. We need active volunteers for the many positions opening beginning in March 2014. Volunteers are investors, investors whose return is a stronger, more relevant, and more vital organization. Please consider nominating yourself for a Board position (or say yes if nominated by someone else), run as chair-elect for an ILA committee, or volunteer to assist with an ILA special project. And, of course, submit great papers, panels, and programs to our 2014 convention. See you at the convention!

*Debra*

Debra Worthington

President, International Listening Association





## The Beauty of Listening

By Linda Eve Diamond

The Beauty of Listening is a new poetry collection that explores and honors the ever-challenging art and skill of listening. While each poem tells its own story, the collection also tells a larger listening story.

From thoughts on

## Listen Like A

## Lawyer

By Jennifer Romig

Jennifer Murphy Romig of Atlanta, Georgia had launched the blog “Listen Like a Lawyer” at [www.listenlikealawyer.com](http://www.listenlikealawyer.com). The blog explores listening theory and practice with a focus on the interests of lawyers, law students, and other legal professionals. Romig has taught legal writing, research, and advocacy at Emory Law School since 2001. She also consults with lawyers and law firms on legal writing. Over the past several years, Romig became interested in the impact of listening on writing as well as on students’ and lawyers’ overall performance in law school and their careers. Encouraged by conversations with other legal educators, Romig launched the blog to generate further interest and

where listening begins to the evolution of words and communication styles, the story leads into the deep need for listening time, both inner and interpersonal. Some of the ILA’s great listeners endorse the book. To learn more, visit <http://LindaEveDiamond.com>



discussion, and to honor existing scholarship in the field in an ongoing, informal fashion. She invites members of the International Listening Association to visit the blog and share comments there, to follow the blog on social media, and/to email her at [jromig@emory.edu](mailto:jromig@emory.edu) with thoughts and suggestions.

## Research Committee Update: New Members

By Andrea Vickery

Welcome to Bill Mickelson, Avi Kluger, Helen Ralston, Joseph Jenkins, and Tiffany Schroeder, the newest members of the research committee. If you have any questions about our committee, or are interested in joining the committee, feel free to contact Andrea Vickery, Research Committee Chair: [avicke4@lsu.edu](mailto:avicke4@lsu.edu).

## LISTENING PROMOTION

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## FULL SWING IN INDIA

I realized how important listening is and how much India needs it when I lost my mother at 68 due to poor listening between my family and doctors. Therefore, I resolved to promote the noble mission of ILA, in the Indian subcontinent.

For the past few years, I have been travelling across various states of India and meeting many important people to stress the benefits of proper listening.

In my travels I have experienced many interesting people who have told me how listening had affected them and others. Wherever I promoted ILA, it was immensely appreciated.

I think one of the unique ways to promote the mission of ILA is through workshops in schools/colleges for mass education on listening, which can result in multiple benefits for students, teachers, ILA and the country. I have met the education ministers of states of Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim and the GTA Education Head & Chairman at Darjeeling and the Consultant (Edu-

cation) of Bhutan in Kolkata. Other eminent people I have met include the following people: Leadership Excellence Editor (India), Mr Vinod Dikshit (Faridabad), ICSE Head (New Delhi), JIS Director Shri Shikshayatan School Principal & General Secretary, Principal Indus Valley School (Kolkata) RV Engineering College Principal (Bangalore), MB Birla School Principal, Himali Boarding and St Anthony School (Darjeeling) Directors, DPS Siliguri (Principal). South City School ADM Head, (Kolkata) Directors of IIT (N.DELHI), Deputy Mayor Kolkata, and Chief Secretary, Education, West Bengal. My travels have allowed to meet many others as well.

It is my earnest desire to take the vision and mission of ILA forward for the benefit of humanity, particularly my countrymen.



Himali Boarding School Kurseong with students. Met Director Mr. R Subba and discussed ILA's mission



St. Joseph's School, North Point Darjeeling. Met the school Principal and discussed about listening and ILA



St. Anthony's School Kurseong with Principal and students for ILA cause

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE GREAT PHOTOS FROM INDIA



Meeting with Mr. Rosan Giri In-Charge-Education Department GTA Dargeeling



With Mr. SP Das Principal DPS School- Siliguri. Discussed how important listening is in life for students.

## Swap Shop for Teaching

by Erica Lamm

Remember Swap Shop? What a great way to exchange teaching and training activities about listening! You can still share and read such great activities in Listening Education, ILA's online journal devoted to listening teaching and training! If you have a great listening

activity, you are strongly encouraged to send it to [LEeditor@listen.org](mailto:LEeditor@listen.org), care of Dr. Erica Lamm. With your help, a new edition of the journal will be published and we will all have more great activities to use in our own teaching and training lives! We also accept teaching and training book reviews!



## Special Issue of the Journal is Coming

by Andrea Vickery and Margarete Imhof,

The International Journal of Listening (IJL) is in the early stages of planning some special issues. The plan is to dedicate approximately one issue per year to a focused interest. Suggested special topics include areas of interest such as: online listening; listening in L2 learning; listening and social support; listening with cochlear implants. If you organize or are part of conference panels, if you are member of coordinator of a research group, you might want to consider composing a special issue in cooperation with the IJL editor. If any of these topics are of interest to you, or you have other suggestions for special topics, please email Margarete Imhof ([imhof@uni-mainz.de](mailto:imhof@uni-mainz.de)), Editor of the International Journal of Listening, or Andrea Vickery ([avicke4@lsu.edu](mailto:avicke4@lsu.edu)), Chair of the ILA Research Committee, directly with your ideas. Also, if you know of researchers who would be interested to join such a publication, please do not hesitate to draw their names to our attention. If you wish to volunteer to (co-) edit a special issue or have specific ideas for a manuscript within these suggested topics, please

contact us as well. We will then be working together to select special issue topics and issue a call for papers for the special issues. We look forward to your ideas, suggestions, and contributions to the special issues.

## Listening is NOT a Spectator Sport

By Richard D. Halley

Listening is hard work. Listening takes time. Listening takes a willingness to put your own beliefs and biases aside so you can understand the other. Listening requires you to have your body prepared. Listening requires you to have your mind prepared.

Listening requires you to let go of competing messages, thoughts, and any other stimuli. This includes not letting the purpose of your listening preventing you from focusing on understanding. Listening requires us to look for alternative meanings to words and gestures. Listening requires that you be willing to change.

This all takes an enormous amount of effort on the part of the listener. The mind uses more energy than any other part of our bodies and when we are listening effectively we use more energy than in any other endeavor.

## An Authentic ILA Experience: Contemplation, Reflection and Expansion

by Rick Bommelje and Carole Grau

On Saturday, June 23rd, several people attending the Montreal International Listening Convention were treated to a special experience. Chairs were formed in a circle. The mellow tones of our presenters established the safe atmosphere sustained throughout this satisfying and productive session. Warmth and caring permeated the exchanges. We were in a session called "Before We Listen: The Art of Tilling the Soil of Our Souls" facilitated by Kay Lindhal and John Backman.

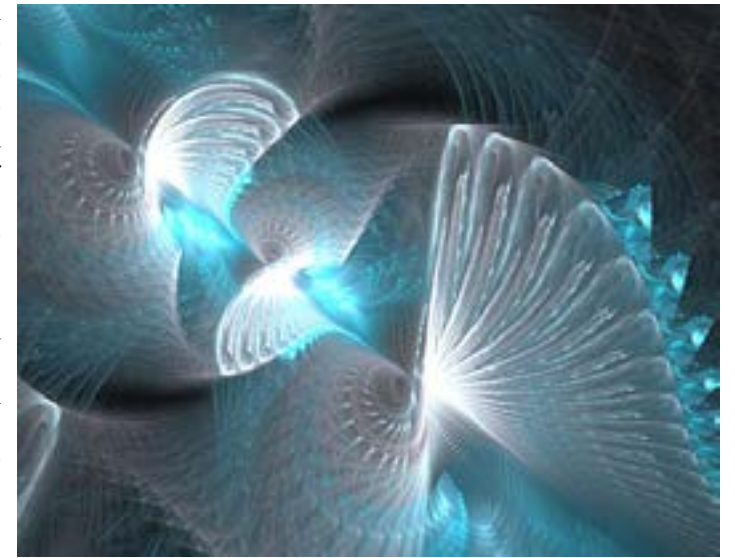
The pace of the session was particularly enjoyable. While no longer than other sessions, time seemed to expand for us to experience, digest and process the exercises. Deep listening flourished as our skilled facilitators guided us through the three 'tilling' dimensions of contemplation, reflection and expansion.

Inightful comments shared by the participants

were enlightening, often bringing smiles to our faces. The interactive exercises provided opportunities for us to feel listened to and to reflect upon our ideas. The session was reminiscent of many early ILA conventions where authentic listening and its impact were experienced with great frequency.

Making this event even more enjoyable were the backgrounds of the participants. There were people from all over the globe: Germany, Scotland, Israel, Lebanon, Canada, China, Singapore, Japan and the United States. This International Listening Association session was TRULY INTERNATIONAL.

Rick and I felt compelled to share some of the emotional impact of our time with these presenters and group. This brief article offers a taste of what transpired in that room. We hope that future conferences will provide similar experiences and that each and every one of you can be there.



Listening is the art of tilling the soil of our souls!

## The Listeners Unite Website

by Linda Eve Diamond

The Listeners Unite Website, a free Website established in 2006 to share listening-related news, quotes and information, has just established a bookstore exclusively for listening-related books, DVDs and more! Great listeners and writers, including many of our own ILA friends, fill the Listeners Unite Bookstore with books.

Bookshop sections include General Listen-

ing, usiness, Kids and Families, Mediation, and more! You'll also find a section of fun stuff, including plush dolls--- from Horton (of Horton hears a Who) to Freud!

For great listening resources, visit <http://www.ListenersUnite.com> and <http://ListenersUnite.com/Bookshop>

Listeners Unite and the Listeners Unite Bookshop were created by Linda Eve Diamond, author of The Beauty of Listening

<http://www.TheBeautyof-Listening.com>

