



# The Deaf Reader

## Table of Contents

President’s Message..... Page 2

Support A bill H. Resolution 244..... Page 3

First Deaf Mute Merry O-Round in US Built by Deaf-Mute in Hessville, Ohio.....Page 4-5

Deaf Twins students at the Upper Arlington High School.....Page 6

Book: Raising Teresa: My extraordinary Journey with my deaf daughter.....Page 7

A special guest Deaf Author Kevin J Nolan.....Page 7

Past Ohio Library Conference.....Page 8

Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures Booth.....Page 9

National Friends of Library and Ohio Friends of Library Deaf Action.....Page 10

Friends of Library.....Page 11

Deaf Awareness Month 50th Annivesary .....Page 12

Ohio Deaf History Month 4th Anniversary.....Page 13

Second Annual Children’s Drawing.....Page 14

OCDC Cover letter for School Teachers, Parents in Ohio.....Page 15

Annual Children’s Drawing Art Contest .....Page 16

ASL Book Club.....Page 17

Uber Sued by US Justice Department.....Page 18-19

US Supreme Court Case: June Cunnings.....Page 19

Update on William Hoy.....Page 20-21

Jersey Mikes’ Sub.....Page 22

ASL Coffee Podcast on FB: OCDC.....Page 22

Ohio Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.....Page 23

Heritage Interpreting Working with DeafBlind workshop: .....Page 24-25

Deaf Mentor Program at the Ohio School for the Deaf.....Page 26

Ronald Patterson & His Trains.....Page 27

Help to Clean up Colonel I Smith Cemetery.....Page 28

I am So Amazing documentary film DeafBlind.....Page 29

Ron’s Library of Books.....Page 30

Christine’s Stone Arts.....Page 31

Annual Deaf/Events.....Page 32

Upcoming Events.....Page 33

Contact Information.....Page 34

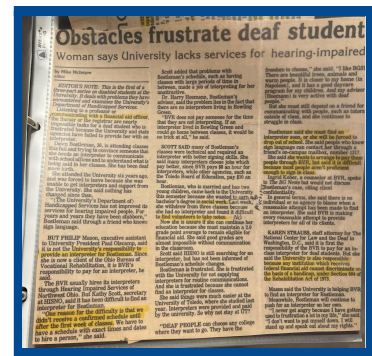
# President's Message

Translated by: Megan Anderson-Christian

Hello and happy new year to everyone! This past fall, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) invited me to come give a presentation. During this presentation, I explained what OCDC does and my background as a former BGSU student. I attended BGSU During the early 1980's. I felt so inspired. They have made big changes. They provided me with interpreters, a screen behind me, and a camera in front of me with another screen. You can see it in the picture to the left. The students could watch the screen behind me and I could see myself on screen with the two interpreters. It was wonderful! They have really improved accessibility since my time, 34 years ago. I had transferred to Gallaudet in 1988, in time for the protests that led to improvements such as the Americans with Disabilities act. Americans were required to follow the new law.



We will be hosting the second annual children's art contest. Last year children were really excited to learn some Deaf history, to help inspire their drawings. I have a card with the winner's picture right here that I love. Many folks out there are still not aware of this contest. So hopefully you will help spread the word.



Over the past year we have met with many organizations across Ohio forming the Ohio Alliance organization. This upcoming year will be sending out a special invite to Skip Burquigust. Skip was formally involved in the state of Ohio's Rehabilitation Services, now referred to as Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). We will be hosting a meeting Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm. You are welcome to join. Contact me via email and I will send you the zoom link.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has sent me so much positive feedback. I appreciate hearing how much you enjoy reading the deaf reader. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Happy New Year and keep working together. Smile.

Click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W969zmhiXD8&t=32s>

Working together,

Dawn Watts



# Support a bill, H.Resolution 244 for the National Deaf History Month by Andrew Knox

*Written by* Andrew Knox

Please send in your support for bill 244 R. Resolution, National Deaf History Month. Here is an example letter for you to copy. To find the name of your Congressperson, in your area. you can click this website: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/OH#representatives>

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honorable (YOUR US REPRESENTATIVE) Your representative office address:

CC: Nicholas A Semanko

Legislative Director and counsel Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-3) 2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H. Resolution National Deaf History Month

Dear Honorable Congresswoman/Congressman: (YOUR US REPRESENTATIVE)

My name is (your first and last name) and I am (deaf or hearing, a family member /service provider/advocate/community member) who resides in the state of (your state.)

I strongly support the resolution in favor of the National Deaf History Month to be held from March 13-April 15 annually. This would recognize the rich Deaf history and culture of the signing community, including: DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing and many other community members. This resolution was introduced and supported by the American Library Association, the Library of Congress, the National Association of the Deaf, Gallaudet University and the entire signing community. This resolution's goal is to spread awareness of signing and Deaf culture, as well as to educate and celebrate its rich history.

A National Deaf History Month would bring a lot of awareness to Deaf history and culture. I am asking you to co-sponsor this long awaited resolution and to make a formal proclamation supporting National Deaf History Month.

I truly appreciate your time and support.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

SIGN YOUR NAME Street address

City, State, Zip code

Here is the YouTube linked to the ASLized video about the resolution bill: <https://youtu.be/ZUguRZ0IOIO>



Photo Credit: Andrew Knox

# First Merry-Go-Round in US Built by Deaf-Mute in Hessville, OH

Written by: Brent Borden

I am Brent Borden and I was born Deaf. I went to Clarke School for the Deaf at age 5 and left at age 14. I transitioned to a mainstreamed public elementary school near my home in Fremont, Ohio. After graduating from High School, I attended Bowling Green university in Ohio. I graduated in 1981. I was not able to attend college in Kentucky because a terrible tornado had recently struck.

I have been teaching ASL for 33 years at three different colleges in and around my hometown- BGSU, Terra Community College in Fremont and Owens Community College in Perrysburg. The only way to drive to Perrysburg is Route 20, where I usually drive to go shopping or to the college. The route goes through one small town by the name of Hessville, where an old sturdy barn stands close to Rt. 20 with a historical marker sign about 100 feet west from it. Everytime I drove by it, I kept seeing that sign. I've always loved reading any signs about anything related to history or what had happened on that spot. I kept ignoring that one sign, but something inside me kept itching and it never left my mind, wondering what that sign had to say. At times, I thought it was too much of a bother to pull over and get out of my car and read the sign and thinking it might be a waste of my time, but one day, I was in a good enough mood to be bothered with it, so I thought, " Why not? What the hell? You never know!" As I walked to the sign, I looked around to see if any residents were yelling at me to move my car and being careful not to get hit by another vehicle. Finally I came to a stop, to read the sign in a very small town.

I saw two words that in a split second, made my eyes widened, my heart skipping a beat, my head jolting back a bit. My jaw dropped at the sight of the two words welded on the copper sign '**deaf-mute**'. I went on to read and wondered if the old barn was kept there with a purpose. Maybe it was connected to the sign. Down below is a picture of the sign which I want you to read as well. His name is Franz Wiesenhofer and he was Deaf.

From what the sign reads, I concluded that Franz came to America during the 1840's to make wagons under the employment of J. Kechele. I do not think they were wagons for little kids, but a huge flat board to haul heavy loads such as hay, farm crops or maybe machinery. I also wonder if the covered wagons were ever produced there since there were many wanderers and nomads around that time.

The interesting thing is that the sign says Franz spent his evenings making life-like figures of horses, deer and lions and with these carved animals, he constructed the first Merry-Go-Round in the Kechele yard. It is the site of the first Merry-Go-Round in the United States- right there in the very small town of Hessville, Ohio! At first as the sign says, Franz's merry-go-round was operated by hand. I wonder how that was done- by pushing the carved animals with a child on each, on top of a huge round wooden disk, on a metal pole. I did not get enough details about that, nor did i see a picture, to my disappointment. Then again, the sign says that Franz had his merry-go-round operated by horse power, not horsepower which I presume means that the merry-go-round was

pushed by one horse to move the rest of the carved figures around. All I got was a picture of the barn where Franz had worked and started the first Merry-Go-Round in this country.

I also came to thinking that J.Kechele was generous enough to let Franz haul his merry-go round on Kechele's business constructed wagon from town to town.Then one day, in the small town of Harbor Creek, Pennsylvania, one employee from a firm in New York spotted it and purchased it from Franz. He expanded the merry-go-round. The purchasing firm is still active in the Merry-Go-Round business today. Learning this prompted me to look up any carousel companies in New York. I found a couple of them, so I do not know which one was the purchaser of Franz's' carousel. I need to do some more digging.

After reading the sign for the first time, I went straight to the Merry-Go-Round museum in Sandusky, Ohio. I told the manager about the Deaf Merry-Go-Round maker, being the first one to make one in America. He did not seem to care too much nor take any interest to investigate. We got into a little, but friendly argument before I left. I had even posted about this on Facebook about two years ago.

So after all, whenever you go to any festival or county fair or amusement park and see any Merry-Go-Round with your kids or grandkids, be sure to think of the first inventor of the Merry-Go-Round- Franz Wiesenhoffer, the Deaf man and we should all be so proud of. Also be sure to thank him in spirit for making your kids smile, because their smiles cannot and never will be replaced!!

Finally, after all that took place, I came to think it was very much worth my while to stop and be “bothered” and check the sign in the very small town. Smile - nope, not a bother at all!!

#### HESSVILLE

On this site, in the 1840's was built the first Merry - Go - Round in the United States. Franz Wiesenhoffer, a deaf-mute German immigrant was employed here by J. Kechele, a wagon maker. Wiesenhoffer spent his evenings carving life-like figures of horses, deer, and lions which he used in constructing the Merry - Go- Round which was first erected in the Kechele yard. First operated by hand, later by horse power, it was hauled from town to town on a specially constructed wagon. After some months of being hauled about it was taken to Harbor Creek, Pennsylvania, where it was sold to a New York firm which is still active in the Merry - Go - Round business.

Picture: Brent Borden, BGSU ASL instructor and Ann Bodette, OCDC Northwest Rep.



Photo Credit: Brent Borden

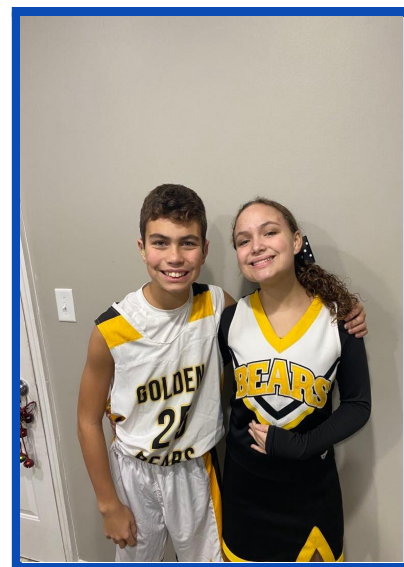


# DEAF TWINS students at the Upper Arlington High School

Written by: Christi Reyes

Luis III played football and baseball last year as a 7th grade student. This year, he played football and is currently playing basketball. There are a total 11 players on his basketball team. He will try out again for baseball in the spring. He normally doesn't need an interpreter for the sports he plays at Hastings Middle School. He is hard of hearing and depends on his hearing aids for communication. He loves all sports and is an all around athlete. He will try out for football, basketball and baseball next year as a freshman at Upper Arlington High School.

Leigha has been a cheerleader for Hastings Middle School for 2 years now. She was a cheerleader for football last year as a 7th grader. Currently, she is a cheerleader for the 8th grade girls and boys basketball teams. There are 5 cheerleaders that she practices with including cheerleader coaches. She depends on interpreters for all practices and games due to her profound deafness. She loves dancing which is the reason she decided to try out for cheerleading. She will try out for cheerleading for either football or basketball next year as a freshman at Upper Arlington High School.



Both of the twins' face challenges when involved in sports/cheerleading. One of those challenges is homework and studying. We encourage them to do their homework once they get home from their practices and get it done before dinner time. That way, they can relax and enjoy the rest of the evening. During game times, it is difficult since they get home late, eat dinner, then do their homework. Sometimes they go to bed late even if it is past their bedtime.

At last, both of them are Honor roll students for Hasting Middle School. So proud of them! Go Bears!

Photos Credit: Christi Reyes

Upper Arlington Hastings Middle School

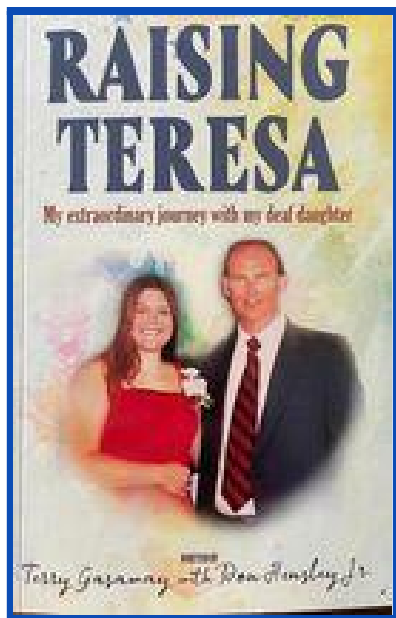
Luis E. Reyes III - 8th grade

Leigha P. Reyes - 8th grade

# Book: *Raising Teresa: My extraordinary journey with my deaf daughter*

Written by: Terry Gasaway with Don Hensley

Teresa was like every other baby. She was bubbly, chunky and she stole the hearts of everyone she came in contact with – simply put, she was perfect. However, at 17 months, she contracted pneumococcal meningitis. While the doctors were able to save her, it came with a heavy price. The illness left her profoundly deaf in both ears, and the amount of medicine used to keep her alive caused Type 1 diabetes. The year was 1985, well before the internet, so access to information was limited. But Terry Gasaway made a commitment to his daughter that day that he would become her biggest advocate.



*Raising Teresa: My Extraordinary Journey with My Deaf Daughter* takes the reader on an emotional roller coaster as a dad tells the story of raising his deaf daughter in a hearing world. From learning to communicate with her to teaching her to drive, he is there for every peak and every valley. Now, 37 years later, Terry shares his story with the world, hoping that others, who may find themselves on a similar path with only questions and fears to keep them company, may take comfort in knowing they are not alone.

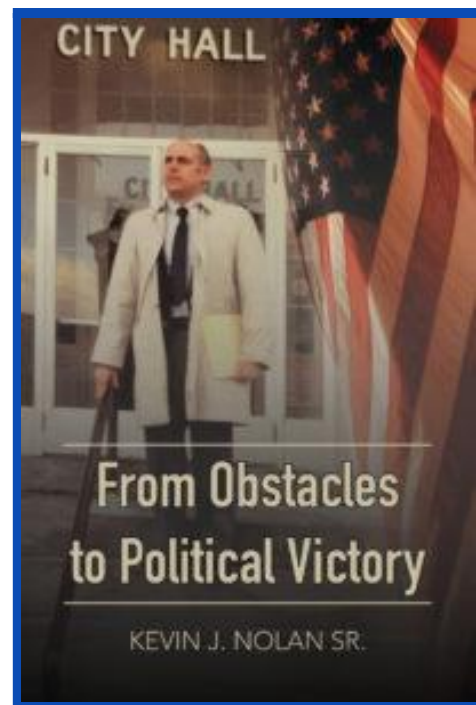
## A Special Guest Deaf Author: Kevin J Nolan, Sr. in Columbus!

Reserve this special date! Deaf author, Kevin J. Nolan, Sr., will be a special guest in Columbus, Ohio from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup>. He is the author of the book, *From Obstacles to Political Victory*. More information about his book may be found at this website:

<https://www.savorywords.com/product/from-obstacles-to-political-victory/>

Stay posted on this upcoming event on OCDC's FB page!

Photos Credit: Google Images



# Past Ohio Library Conference in Columbus

Written by: Ben Gulyas

At the request of the Ohio Library Council's (OLC) committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, on October 13 at OLC's annual state conference in Columbus, Ben Gulyas, librarian at the Coventry Branch of the Heights Libraries, Marsha Moore, adjunct professor and ASL Instructor for Columbus State Community College, Arlan Nash, ASL instructor for Springfield City Schools and Dawn Watts, founder and president of OCDC offered a panel discussion program, "Understanding Deaf Language, Culture and Community."

Dawn and Marsha offered an informative, engaging PowerPoint presentation that covered the roots, use and teaching of Sign Language, Deaf culture, Deaf history and the Deaf community. Other topics were covered as well such as the debate over cochlear implants and hearing aids, speech versus sign, legislation, adaptive technology, the importance of ASL interpreters and Deaf customs and trends.



Arlan Nash spoke in regards to his own inspiring life story and personal history in connection to athletics and becoming an educator. He highlighted the great importance of ASL instruction to both Deaf and

hearing communities.

Ben Gulyas offered his perspective on creating and maintaining a Deaf-friendly library through support of Deaf awareness, Deaf culture and embracing the Deaf community. He provided a hand-out that offered suggestions on building a deaf materials collection, examples of deaf programing and the importance of offering assistive technology such as a Video Relay Phone and the positive impact this has on the local Deaf community.



Everyone involved engaged the audience with lively questions and discussion and emphasized the struggles and triumphs of the Deaf community, the ongoing need for advocacy and strength of the bond that is formed when people like those on the panel and those in the audience are united in support of each other.

Photos Credit: Dawn Watts



# Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures Booth

Written by: Brad Race and Debbie Brown

On November 13, 2021, The Deafopia's Expo was hosted at Columbus Colony Housing (CCH) in Columbus, Ohio from 10 am to 5 pm. We set up a booth for Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) focusing on Ohio Deaf History Month (ODHM). Tim McNutt, Brad Race, Debbie Brown and Gail Teltser volunteered to work the booth for the day. We encourage people to sign a petition to support HR 224, for National Deaf History Month from March 13 to April 15. There were a lot of Deaf people there that day.

Additionally, On October 13, 14 and 15, 2021, the Ohio Library Council Convention and Expo took place in Columbus, Ohio at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Ann Bodette, Brad Race, Debbie Brown and Gail Teltser help out to set up a booth for Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) to have a display about the organization related to Ohio Deaf History Month (ODHM). Paul Wernsing volunteered at the booth. There, we also encouraged people to sign the petition to

support HR 224 for National Deaf History Month to be held from March 13 to April 15.



It was our first experience to volunteer to work at the booth at the Convention and Expo. We meet a lot of different people who work at libraries across the state. It was interesting. The next 2022 Convention and Expo for the Ohio Library Council will be held in Toledo, Ohio on September 28, 29 and 30.

Join our Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures Facebook Page! 😊



# National Friends of Library & Ohio Friends of Library Deaf Action

Written by: Megan Anderson-Christian

Access to knowledge is the first step to empowerment. “The Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA) was founded in 1986 by Alice L. Hagemeyer with her volunteers at the D.C. Public Library. The FOLDA mission is to promote library access and quality Deaf cultural resources for the Deaf community, and for all, nationally and globally” (*About Library for Deaf Action*, n.d., para. 2). FOLDA’s founder Alice Hagemeyer has pioneered deaf action within the library system. As Patricia

Glass Schuman eloquently states that she is an advocate of “ensuring the right to know” (*About Library for Deaf Action*, n.d., para. 3).



From a young age Alice had a love for reading. However, it wasn’t until she attended Gallaudet that she had her first real exposure to a public library. At Gallaudet she fell in love with the library system and began paving her way to becoming a professional Librarian. From there she attended the University of Maryland, earning a master’s degree in Library Sciences. Alice began raising awareness in both the deaf community and public libraries, helping to merge the two. She helped the deaf community understand what public libraries had to offer the deaf community and educated the libraries on how to serve the Deaf community better. She authored *The Red Notebook*, a handbook providing guidance to Washington D.C. Public Libraries on how to assist the deaf community. That book was replicated and used in libraries beyond the Washington D.C.

region. She would later establish Libraries for Deaf Action, providing resources to those who support the library, as well as those serving the deaf community. She even advocated for deaf access and library resources at the White house, serving as a delegate-at-large during the White House conference on Library and Information Services (*Alice Lougee Hagemeyer*, n.d.; *Deaf Person of the Month*, n.d.)



Today you can utilize the FOLDA website <http://www.foldadeaf.net>, there you will find resources ranging from information on deaf history to programming and planning strategies and much more. The website is there to assist friends of libraries to establish foundations and build networks to enhance access to library resources and to support our library system. Library’s hold knowledge, it is up to each of us to choose to access that knowledge and disperse it (*About Library for Deaf Action*, n.d.).

## References

*About Library for Deaf Action*. (n.d.). Deaf Cultural Resource Center. Retrieved January 4, 2022 from <http://www.foldadeaf.net/about.html>

*Alice Lougee Hagemeyer*. (n.d.). Gallaudet University. Retrieved January 4, 2022 from <https://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/alice-hagemeyer/>

*Deaf Person of the Month*. (n.d.). DeafPeople.com. Retrieved January 4, 2022 from [https://www.deafpeople.com/dp\\_of\\_month/hagemeyer.html](https://www.deafpeople.com/dp_of_month/hagemeyer.html)

Photos Credit: Google Images

# Friends of Library

Written by: Megan Anderson-Christian

Across the Nation people form organizations supporting our libraries. Friends of the Library (FOL) are nonprofit and charitable groups. They are external groups championing the cause of the library. Each FOL is custom designed to support its unique community needs as well as the needs of that local library. These groups may raise funding, awareness or address; social, political or cultural needs. Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures has served as an FOL here in Ohio (Wikimedia Foundation, 2021).

OCDC has partnered with Worthington Libraries spreading Library awareness throughout the deaf community at the same time spreading information about the Deaf community to the libraries. OCDC and Worthington Libraries partnered on the ASL story time project. We are now able to enjoy a handful of children's stories in both ASL and English on the Worthington libraries YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/worthingtonlibraries> (Kline, 2021).

By partnering with our local libraries, we can support their mission of spreading knowledge as well as providing valuable resources to the deaf community. By supporting our libraries, we are able to give back to an institution that has so much to offer. It also presents an opportunity to establish the deaf community as a contributing member of that institution (Become a Library Friend, n.d.).

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*Become a Library Friend*. (n.d.) I Love Libraries. Retrieved January 4, 2022, from <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/get-involved/become-library-friend>

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Wikimedia Foundation. (2021, September 29). *Friends of Libraries*. Wikipedia. Retrieved January 4, 2022, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends\\_of\\_Libraries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends_of_Libraries)



Photo Credit: Google Images



# Deaf Awareness Month 50th Anniversary

Written by: Alice L. Hagemeyer

This year, 2022 is the 50th anniversary of the National Deaf History Month. Alice L. Hagemeyer, Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA)'s founding president has shared the following information on the Deaf annual inclusive events.

***National Deaf History Month will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. You or your organization may be part of this history.***

*It was then called Deaf Awareness Week (DAW), the first annual deaf event ever held in American history that was proclaimed by a state governor. David. A. Anthony and Jerome R. Moers, Gallaudet alumni, and members of the Colorado Association of the Deaf were the movers and shakers. John A. Love, the Colorado governor officially marked **November 12-18,1972** as Deaf Awareness Week. Jerome's wife, Betty Moers appeared in a 30-second spot announcement on television throughout the week, announcing the event. Now widow, Betty recently celebrated her 90th birthday with four deaf adult children who remembered such a sensational event.*

## **Who decided on the name Deaf Awareness Week?**

Miss Jan McMichael, a hearing friend of the deaf community first suggested that a "deaf awareness week" be instituted. It was immediately taken up by then the Colorado Advisory Council Serving the Deaf. Eventually, it was agreed that it had to be managed by deaf people themselves.

## **What happened after this Colorado deaf historical event?**

In Dec 1974, two years later, the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library (MLKML) of the DC Public Library system in Washington, DC launched Clerc-Gallaudet Week (CGW) then called Deaf Awareness Week, and was proclaimed by the Government of the D.C. Executive Office of the Mayor. The DC Deaf community and the NAD were also honored to be involved.

Library employees Ida Mapes and Alice L. Hagemeyer, volunteer ASL teachers with their students took the responsibility for the program agenda during the week, December 1-7, 1974. The rest is history.

## **Additional Deaf Annual Event and Clerc-Gallaudet Week**

In 1989, the NAD board approved the FOLDA-USA Section with an additional annual event, National Deaf History Month, March 13 - April 15, and renamed the first week of December be Clerc -Gallaudet Week.

October 20, 2021

Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA)

[www.foldadeaf.net](http://www.foldadeaf.net).

By Alice L. Hagemeyer, founding president

# Ohio Deaf History Month Fourth Anniversary

*Written by:* Debbie Brown

As mentioned in the previous edition of the newsletter, March 13 to April 15 of 2022, will be the Fourth Anniversary that Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) is sponsoring the Ohio Deaf History Month (ODHM). It will be a big celebration and we are looking forward to it.

Our goal is to educate the hearing public regarding the Deaf Community, which includes Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and KODA (Kids of Deaf Adult). We would like to inform them about Deaf History, Deaf Culture, and American Sign Language (ASL).

Our primary source of education for the hearing public is through display and workshops in libraries throughout Ohio. We are asking all of you to encourage your local area library to support the ODHM. You can help by contacting your local library's Regional Representatives and assist them in setting up a display regarding Deaf Culture, Deaf History, and ASL.

If you need assistance with that, please contact your local area library Regional Representatives.

Region Reps # 1 - (Northwest) Lori Luk at [klklori@gmail.com](mailto:klklori@gmail.com) and Ann Bodette at [eug25marie@icloud.com](mailto:eug25marie@icloud.com)

Region Reps # 2 - (Northeast) Chuck Williams at [cvwilliams788@gmail.com](mailto:cvwilliams788@gmail.com) and Angie Potosky at [potosky2rep@gmail.com](mailto:potosky2rep@gmail.com)

Region Reps # 3 - (Southwest) Paul Wernsing at [bpwernsing@twc.com](mailto:bpwernsing@twc.com)

Region Reps # 4 - (Central) Tim McNutt at [tmcnutt@outlook.com](mailto:tmcnutt@outlook.com)

Regional Reps # 5 - (Southeast) Christopher Cooley at [chriscooley40@gmail.com](mailto:chriscooley40@gmail.com)

Please grab these opportunities to improve your education and gain more knowledge about Deaf Culture, Deaf History and ASL during the ODHM. It is very interesting and is worth your time. You could benefit from it for yourself.

Any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at [dboho1960@yahoo.com](mailto:dboho1960@yahoo.com).

Thank you,

Debbie Brown

Ohio Deaf History Month

Photo Credit: Google Images





# Second Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest

*Written by:* Debbie Brown

I am the Chairperson for the 2nd Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest for the year 2022 for Ohio's Deaf History Month (ODHM.) This contest is hosted by our organization Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC). We have five people who are involved in the committees: Annie Bennett, Bonnie Sandy, Brenda Shrader, Tom Schlupe, and Willis Cook. These individuals will help me make a cover letter and flier to promote the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest for the year 2022. The flier will be sent to school teachers and parents of Ohio to involve



their children in this art contest. They also will be the judges for the art contest and are a wonderful team that works great together.

We had our 1st Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest this past year in 2021 and it was a success. We want to continue to keep doing it every year. We would like to see more students and children involved in the Art Contest in 2022, to make another successful year. We believe they can do it, by doing it for themselves. It is also a fun way to spend their free time. We want to see them go for it!

(Photo Credit: Google Images)

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [dbohio1960@yahoo.com](mailto:dbohio1960@yahoo.com).

I am looking forward to this contest!

Debbie Brown

Ohio Deaf History Month



## Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures

Ohio Friends of Library Deaf Action

September 17, 2021

Dear School Teachers and/or Parents of Ohio,

Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures will be sponsoring the Fourth Anniversary of Ohio's Deaf History Month celebration from March 13 to April 15. The purpose is to focus on educating and advocating for Deaf Culture, Deaf History, and American Sign Language (ASL) in the State of Ohio. The Ohio Board for the State Library encourages all the libraries to participate in Deaf awareness activities so the children and adults can learn and understand the Deaf Community and Deaf people better.

Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures is excited to have the second Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest where we are inviting school students, K-12, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, KODA (Kids of Deaf Adults), and hearing individuals, to participate. We ask you to persuade your students or child/ren (no skill needed) to try it out! Attached is a flyer with all the information you need to know.

Feel free to make copies of the flyer to share with your students or child/ren. We encourage you to talk with them about Deaf people, Deaf Culture, Deaf History, and ASL. Allow them to express their understanding or awareness, and then to draw.

They can start their artwork anytime between now and March 7th. Submit artwork with the child's full name, age, grade, and the name of the school they attend. The deadline is Tuesday, March 8, 2022, no later please. Between March 9th to 12th, our five judges will view all artwork, grouped by grade, and then vote on which was the best submission for each grade! Four winners will be announced on March 13th on Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures FaceBook page or YouTube. Their artwork will be recognized during Ohio's Deaf History Month.

If you have any concerns or questions, I will be more than happy to help. My contact information is [dbohi01960@yahoo.com](mailto:dbohi01960@yahoo.com) or VP#: [614-362-2037](tel:614-362-2037). You can also see us on YouTube at the *2nd Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest 2022/Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures*, a video produced in ASL.

Looking forward to seeing your students' or child/ren's artwork! Thank you.

Best regards,



Debbie Brown

Chairperson of Ohio Deaf History Month



Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures

Ohio Friends of Library Deaf Action

# Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest 2022

Grade Groups: K to 2nd, 3rd to 5th, 6th to 8th, and 9th to 12th

For Ohio Deaf History Month - March 13th to April 15th



2021 Winners: Toby Muhloland - 5th grade and Kipton Bostelman - 3rd grade

### Artwork must be:

Size - 8 ½" x 11", any paper kind or canvas

Art with Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, Watercolors, Acrylics,  
Computer-drawing, Paper-cut/pasted, or any kind

Ideas - Deaf History, Deaf Community, Deaf Pride, ASL, Deaf thing Deaf Family/Friends, Deaf School, Deaf event or any other ideas **DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, no later please.**

Artwork with your name, age, grade and school name.

Mailing address and email address, too.

Photograph or Scan and Email to Debbie Brown

[dbohio1960@yahoo.com](mailto:dbohio1960@yahoo.com)

Question or Concern? Contact Debbie Brown, VP: 614-362-2037

### 2022 Winners will be announced Sunday, March 13th.

Winners will be awarded a Certificate and a free set of 10 Note Cards with their artwork printed on it.

Fundraising of the Note Card Sales proceeds go to Ohio Citizen for Deaf Cultures.

YouTube link at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0HtMqhdvuy>

# ASL Book Club

Written By: Angie Potosky

Greetings from the ASL Book Club Chairperson:

We had a wonderful ASL Book club with a Deaf author, Avril Hertneky on October 26th. The book is called “From Rejection to Love: The True Story of a Deaf Woman Who Overcame Abuse and Neglect.” She told her story of all the obstacles she went through during her childhood. She was the only Deaf member of her family. The book is on Amazon.

ASL Book Events:

## January 13, 2022

Paris in America: A Deaf Nanticoke Shoemaker and His Daughter by Clara Jean Mosley Hall (Native Indian and African American Hearing CODA) with Gayle Williamson (Hearing)

## February 17, 2022

Black and Deaf in America--Are We that Different, by Ernest Hairston (Black and Deaf) and Linwood Smith (Black and Deaf)

## March 10, 2022

Finding Zoe: A Deaf Woman's Story of Identity, Love, and Adoption by Brandi Rarus (Deaf) and Gail Harris (Hearing)

All events are at 7:00 PM at the zoom meeting. If you're interested in attending those events, please email at [potosky2rep@gmail.com](mailto:potosky2rep@gmail.com).

Happy Reading!

Angie Potosky

# Uber Sued by US Justice Department for Overcharging People with Disabilities



*Written by:* Juanita Hall

Photo Credit: Google Images

On Wednesday, November 10, 2021, the Northern District of California's U.S. District Court filed a lawsuit against Uber Technologies, Inc. (Uber) for not following the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Uber discriminated against passengers with disabilities by charging "wait time" fees since they require more time to board the Uber vehicle. Uber has charged many of its passengers, if the driver has to wait beyond a two minutes for the passenger to board. This includes individuals they knew had a disability that needed more than two minutes to get into the Uber vehicle. This discrimination has caused hardships among individuals such as the blind, DeafBlind, persons who use a wheelchair and people with other disabilities who need extra time to walk and/or load their special equipment into the Uber vehicle (Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, 2021; Durbin, 2021).

The ADA clearly states that "The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else" (*What is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?*, n.d., para. 1). Therefore, special provisions need to be provided for any individuals with a disability. This may include extra wait time to board an Uber vehicle without charge since it is beyond these persons ability to arrive in under two minutes.

Uber is a company that uses an app for people to request taxi services in over 10,000 cities worldwide. Back in April 2016, Uber started charging riders fees for wait times beyond two minutes before the start of the trip. This became standard nationwide. Unfortunately, as Durbin explains in an ABC News article, Uber is shocked that they are being sued and feels that their policies do not go against the ADA law because their extra fees "were never intended for riders who are ready at their designated pickup location but need more time to get into the car" (Durbin, 2021, para. 6). In other words, Uber never intended for persons with disabilities, who needed extra time to get into the vehicle to be affected. However, they do have a policy that "any rider who certifies they are disabled will have the fees automatically waived," the company is doing this "by giving them a refund" (Durbin, 2021, para. 7).

Accordingly, the US Justice Department's the "lawsuit seeks relief from the court, including ordering Uber to stop discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the department asks the court to order Uber to modify its wait time fee policy to comply with the ADA; train its staff and drivers on the ADA; pay money damages to people subjected



to the illegal wait time fees; and pay a civil penalty to vindicate the public's interest in eliminating disability discrimination” (Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, 202, para. 4).

The United States Department of Justice has posted on its website the following information, “If you believe you have been a victim of disability discrimination by Uber because you, or someone you were traveling with, were charged wait time fees, please contact 833-591-0425 (toll-free), 202-305-6786, or send an email to [Uber.Fee@usdoj.gov](mailto:Uber.Fee@usdoj.gov). For more information on the ADA, please call the department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (TDD 800-514-0383) or visit [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov). For more information on the Civil Rights Division, please visit [www.justice.gov/crt](http://www.justice.gov/crt) (Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, 2021, para, 7).

#### References

Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs. (2021, November 10). *Justice Department Sues Uber for Overcharging People with Disabilities*. The United States Department of Justice. Retrieved on January 7, 2022 from <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-uber-overcharging-people-disabilities>

Durbin, D. (2021, November 10). *US sues Uber, saying wait fees discriminate against disabled*. ABC News. Retrieved on January 7, 2022 from <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/us-sues-uber-wait-fees-discriminate-disabled-81092789>

Tillman, M. (2021, June 2). *What is Uber and how does it work?* Pocket-lint. Retrieved on January 7, 2022 from <https://www.pocket-lint.com/apps/news/uber/139559-what-is-uber-and-how-does-it-work>

*What is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?* (n.d.). ADA National Network. Retrieved on January 7, 2022 from <https://adata.org/learn-about-ada>

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## US Supreme Court Case Jane Cummings vs Premier Rehab Keller, P.L.L.C.

More information on the US Supreme Court Case Jane Cummings vs Premier Rehab Keller, P.L.L.C., is listed here:

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2021/20-219>

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts/2021/20-219\\_h3cj.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2RIGeZxNz8MKU3thOyH\\_aJVUv6SwZjmSxQz5vwhnSce\\_JtmIW46KSOLo](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/2021/20-219_h3cj.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2RIGeZxNz8MKU3thOyH_aJVUv6SwZjmSxQz5vwhnSce_JtmIW46KSOLo)

Two months ago, Dawn Watts tried to watch her case online “Live Oral Meeting” but it was not closed captioned. She was told that they are now aware of this issue and will make improvements in the near future.

# Update on William Hoy and the National Baseball Hall of Fame

*Written By:* Nancy Churnin *Permission Granted By:* Steve Sandy

Steve Sandy, the William Hoy historian who has labored for decades to get William Hoy into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. If Hoy was accepted, he would be the first Deaf player to be honored there. Sandy was devastated when he learned that his Hoy, the Houcktown, Ohio native was once again passed over for the ballot that was announced in November 2021.

Thousands of children from all over the country had written letters to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, asking for Hoy to be inducted. They were disappointed as well.

The competition was fierce. In a long overdue acknowledgement of the contribution of Black players to baseball, Black players were considered and put on the ballot. But Deaf players, particularly the most accomplished, William Hoy, were once again overlooked.

What makes the situation especially challenging is that Hoy, who played mostly in the 19th century, is considered part of a group called the Early Baseball Era -- candidates whose contributions were made before 1950. These players are only given ballot consideration every 10 years. That means Hoy won't get another opportunity to be on the ballot until 2032.

Sandy has worked tirelessly to raise awareness for William Hoy to be put on the ballot by the Hall Committee. He has written articles, attended speaking engagements and provided presentations to raise awareness about William Hoy. Steve Sandy and committee member David D. Risotto co-wrote and co-produced "The Silent Natural," a film about Hoy's life. Allen Meyer is the co-author, along with Michael Nowak of "The Signal Season of Dummy Hoy," a popular play about Hoy. Nancy Churnin is the author of *The William Hoy Story, How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game*. It is a picture book illustrated by Jez Tuya and published by Albert Whitman & Company. The book has been on many states' reading lists, leading to a new generation of fans writing letters on Hoy's behalf.

Hoy graduated from the Ohio School for the Deaf in Columbus and played 14 seasons in the Major Leagues with an average of .288. That includes 2,048 hits, 1,429 runs, 40 homers, 725 runs batted in and 596 steals. He was a legendary centerfielder and one of the most sought-after players of his time. Hoy was famed for bringing attention to hand signals that are still used today and for his impeccable character, honored for his honesty, generosity and humor.

Hoy became a trailblazer for the Deaf community, breaking down walls between the Deaf and the hearing. He lived independently and well, raising three hearing children and a hearing nephew, with his wife, Anna Hoy, who was also Deaf.

He sent all of his children and his nephew to college. His two daughters became teachers, his son a judge and his nephew a successful businessman.

“It would be an honor to see him in the Hall of Fame just to honor those with disabilities playing major league baseball,” said Sandy, who is also deaf, to reporter Kevin Landers at WBNS Channel 10 News.

Hoy was inducted in the Louisville Colones Hall of Fame in 1941, the American Athletic Association of the Deaf Hall of Fame in 1951, the Hancock Sports Hall of Fame in 1989, the Ohio State School for the Deaf Hall of Fame in 1990, the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992, the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Baseball Reliquary Shrine of the Eternals in 2004.

But Sandy, the Hoy for the Hall Committee and Hoy's young fans won't rest until they get recognition for Hoy in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, where more than a quarter of a million people visit annually.

While getting Hoy on the ballot and in the Hall is still the goal, Sandy, the Hoy for the Hall Committee and the children would also be happy to see an exhibit at the Hall for players with physical disabilities. They hope you will join them in writing to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and asking for an exhibit and another chance on the ballot, too. Write to: Historical Overview Committee/National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum/25 Main Street/Cooperstown, NY 13326.

Also, consider reaching out to Sandy and the Hoy for the Hall Committee for a presentation of the film, play or book about Hoy to help spread awareness of this great Deaf baseball player who deserves honor and recognition. With your help, we will someday get it.



Photo Credit: Nancy Churnin

# Jersey Mike's Subs

*Written By:* Dawn Watts

Shirley Rybarski, a DeafBlind woman, wanted to order lunch from Jersey Mike's Subs, an establishment in Westerville, Ohio. She told me where to go, Sunbury Plaza on Route 3.



We entered Jersey Mike's and I used tactile sign language to tell Shirley what kind of menu they have. The worker asked me, using American Sign Language, "What do you want?" Shocked, Shirley asked "They know how to use sign language?" He said "Yes, I am deaf!" His name is Brandon Coleman. He introduced his wife, Kelly Coleman, who has been Jersey Mike's CEO for more than 20 years. They have four children, Bayleight 8 years old, Paxton 7 years old, Maddox 6 years old, and Ethan 2 years old. Brandon Coleman works at the Post Office full time, and part time at Jersey Mikes. They hired 4 to 5 deaf workers. Shirley signed to Brandon what she wanted to order. She loves Jersey Mike's Subs.

If you are interested in checking out their subs, here is the Jersey Mike's Subs website: <https://www.jerseymikes.com/menu>

Photos Credits:

Image of Jersey Mike's Subs from Google Images  
Image of Brandon and Kelly Coleman from Dawn Watts

## ASL Coffee Podcast

Welcome to this morning's ASL Coffee Podcast.  
If you like this podcast, come and support what we do. Please feel free to join us, volunteer your time and embrace the ASL Coffee Podcast. Thank you all so much. Contact us [aslcp2021@gmail.com](mailto:aslcp2021@gmail.com)



# Ohio Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities: Casey King, First Deaf Student in Nursing

*Written By:* Juanita Hall

A hard-working Deaf woman, Casey King is an amazing person with determination and drive who has achieved her goal of being the first Deaf student in her college's nursing program. At eighteen months old, she "was diagnosed with bilateral sensorineural hearing," which means she is Deaf from nerve damage (OOD Works, 2022, para. 1). She communicates with total communication but primarily uses sign language, lip-reading, and speaking (OOD Works, 2022). Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the "State of Ohio agency that empowers Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations, and independence" (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, n.d., para. 1). Through OOD, Casey was provided interpreting services, "a digital stethoscope that connects via Bluetooth to her cochlear implant and an iPad with preloaded PowerPoint presentations" for her courses at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio (OOD Works, 2022, para. 4). To read more Casey's amazing journey as a trailblazer in the nursing field, click on this link:

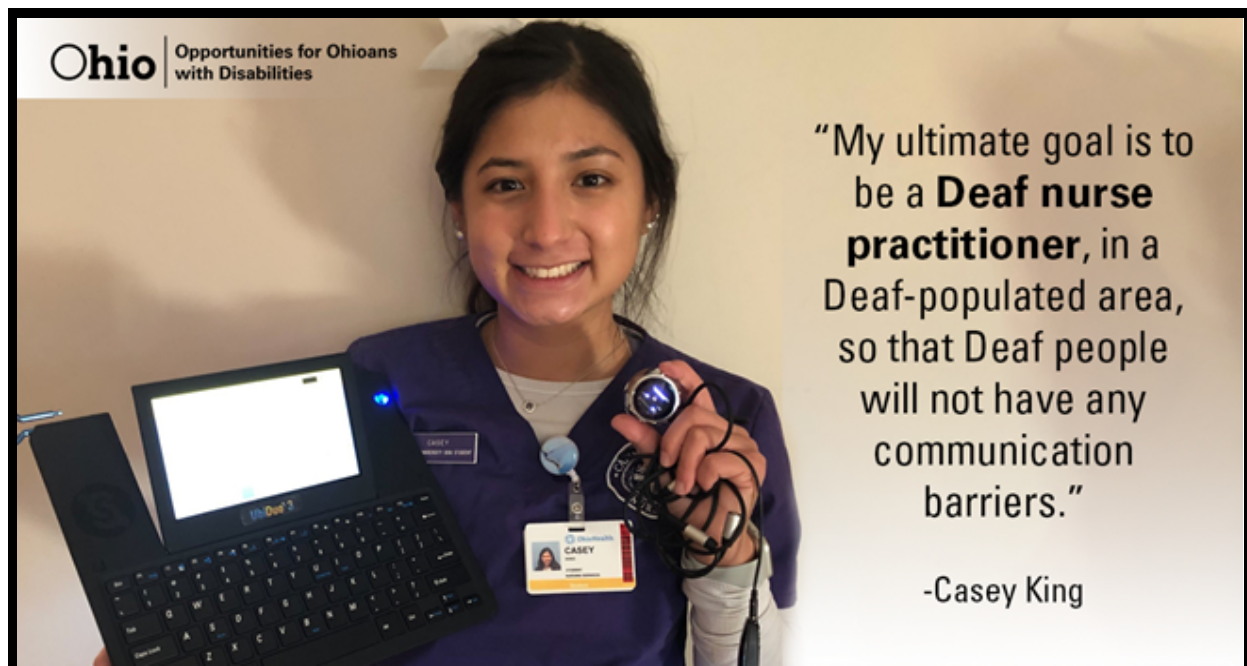
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHOOD/bulletins/3045419>

## References

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. (n.d.). About Us. Retrieved on January 9, 2022 from <https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/about-us>.

OOD Works. (2022, January 1). Casey Blazes a Trail for Other Deaf Students. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Retrieved on January 8, 2022 from <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHOOD/bulletins/3045419>

OOD Works [Online Image]. (2022, January 1). Casey Blazes a Trail for Other Deaf Students. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Retrieved on January 8, 2022 from <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHOOD/bulletins/3045419>



(OOD Works [Online Image], 2022)



# Heritage Interpreting

## Working with



## DeafBlind:



## What and Why?

When: February 12, 2022

1pm-3pm EST

**.2 CEUS Offered**

(Pending RID Approval)

## Presented in ASL by: Art Roehrig

Are you interested in improving the services you provide to consumers with DeafBlindness? Art Roehrig offers a perspective from the intersection of his lived experience as a DeafBlind individual and his various leadership roles in the Deaf and DeafBlind communities. The workshop will cover techniques on building rapport with the consumer prior to beginning your interpreting services to better accommodate their needs and provide the best possible access to all information during the interpreted interaction.

Participants will walk through prompts designed to empower the Deaf Blind individual and elicit needed information for a successful interpretation. Possible variations due to differing backgrounds, experiences, and language preferences will be shared with guided practice in working with the consumer to pinpoint how you can best support their preferences.



# Heritage

INTERPRETING



## Meet Our Presenter:



Arthur "Art" Roehrig is a native Wisconsinan where he attended St. John's School for the Deaf in St. Francis and later attended the sister school, St. Rita's in Cincinnati, Ohio. Art earned his undergraduate degree in Mathematics in 1968 at Gallaudet University, and then taught Math for several years at the Maryland School for the Deaf. He returned to Gallaudet to obtain his masters in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1972 and worked for the University in several different capacities such as in the College for Continuing Education, and Office for Students with Disabilities Services until 2012. During these years, Mr. Roehrig completed all coursework towards a doctorate except his dissertation in Special Education Administration through Gallaudet University. Art has played an instrumental role throughout his career in advocating for those with DeafBlindness through his dedication to the activities of the American Association of the DeafBlind (AADB) and Metro Washington Association of the DeafBlind (MWADB). Two of the major roles Art has held with AADB was as Vice President from 1996 until 2005 and then as President from 2005 until 2009. He has been one of the representatives of AADB with Deaf Hard of Hearing Consumers Advocacy Network for more than 10 years. Art has presented numerous workshops on DeafBlindness, mental health issues and communication access modalities such as "Protactile" to a huge variety of audiences throughout his career. He is currently writing his biography. The Green Bay Packers are his favorite football team.

Workshop will be held virtually via Zoom. After ticket purchase await email for Zoom registration. Tickets can be purchased for \$30 at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-with-deafblind-what-and-why-tickets-240486209727>

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*OCRID is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for continuing education activities. This PS program is offered for .2 CEUs at the Little/None Content Knowledge Level. OCRID shall not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, hearing status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. There will be no cancellations or refunds. Presented in ASL - no interpretation will be provided.*

*For reasonable accommodations please contact Will Estes at [will@heritageinterpreting.com](mailto:will@heritageinterpreting.com) or (800) 921-0457 ext. 703.*

# Deaf Mentor Program by Ohio School for the Deaf

*Written by:* Julie Stewart

The Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) and the team leading this program are excited to offer the Deaf Mentor program for the state of Ohio partnering with Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) and Ohio Hands and Voices (OHV). This is possible with grant funding from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to serve families and their infants and young children up to age 3 who are deaf or hard of hearing. The services through this program are offered statewide and occur in the child's natural learning environments – home and community. At the current time zoom meetings will be implemented.

## **Deaf Mentors**

Deaf Mentors are trained through SKIHI and are experienced in working with families and their young deaf or hard of hearing children. Providers live in, or close to the communities they serve and are connected to a variety of communication backgrounds. This relationship will allow your family and the Deaf Mentor to collaborate to promote communication and language to build language development in your young deaf or hard of hearing child. Together you will plan and develop a language-rich environment for your child in your home and in your community based on family preference.

The Deaf Mentor Program is available to families involved in Early Intervention. We are excited to make connections with families across Ohio!

## **What do Deaf Mentors do when they meet a family?**

- Demonstrate and teach natural communication strategies
- Teach sign language
- Share their experiences growing up as a deaf or hard of hearing person
- Focus on five areas during meetings:
  - Language/Communication
  - Making the Child's World Accessible
  - Deaf Culture
  - Literacy
  - Building Community
- Support families in making connections within the deaf and hard of hearing community in order to foster positive self-identity for their child

## **Program Leadership**

Dr. Al LaBarre-Executive Director of Statewide Services & Outreach

Julie Stewart- ASL Specialist

Gretchen Douglas- Early Childhood Specialist

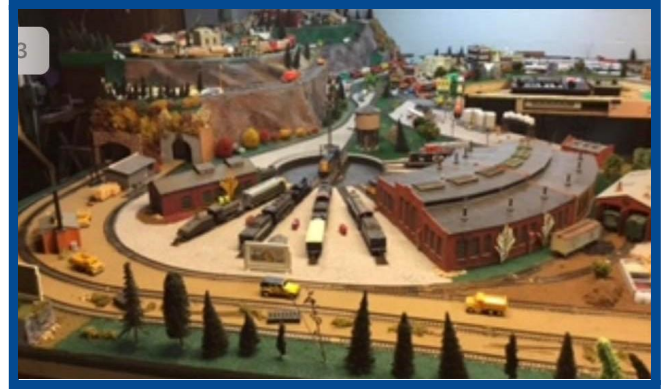
Patti Miller- Administrative Specialist

Contact information: Please email [deafmentors@osdb.oh.gov](mailto:deafmentors@osdb.oh.gov)

# Ronald Patterson and His Trains

*Written by:* Ronald Patterson

Some of my friends who have visited my train layout have encouraged me to write about it. So I decided to share with you readers. I want to thank my parents, Donald and Betty Patterson who gave me my first train. It was a Lionel Lines 2026. My parents gave it to me when I was 4 years old. Then they gave me another train set when I was 8 years old, a HO scale Northern Pacific passenger which I loved the most.



Every Christmas I came home, I set my train on my grandmother's huge dining table and ran it for two weeks, before I headed back to Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD). My poor grandmother gave up her table for me, bless her heart. Also, every Christmas I put the train under a tree as every family does.



When I got a job in Pittsburgh, I started to buy some trains and its buildings and continued to collect, until I retired from Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 2006. My family and I moved to Warren, PA. I built the first train tree on our Christmas tree with different scales: N Scale, HO Scale, O Scale, and G scale trains. Having a total of 6 trains running around our tree was awesome.

In 2008, I started to build my train layout above the garage which measured 10ft x 16ft. It took me 5 years to build it, which was never completed because we sold the house and moved to Ohio. I was heartbroken to see it go. We purchased our house in Cortland, Ohio in 2015. I immediately started to build another train layout that winter. Its measurements were 9ft x 12ft. It was finally completed in the spring of 2020. There are 5 trains running, with all the lights in each building functioning. I collected 41 engines/locomotives and countless cars.

The buildings have the logos of: Sorenson and Purple/Zvrs, OSDAA News office, Ohio Deaf Car Show, golf course, just to name a few. There is also a replica of the house I built in Warren, PA. Enjoy the photos that I included. I hope you readers can share your love for trains and enjoy reading this article. Wishing you the best for the New Year 2022!





# Help to Clean Up Colonel I. Smith's Cemetery During Ohio Deaf History Month

*Written by* Catherine Vickery

Hello! My name is Catherine Vickery. I am a Deaf ASL adjunct instructor at Kent State University. As a part of Ohio Deaf History month, which will occur from March 13 to April 15th of 2022, it was encouraged that we do something different this year by having Deaf community and its members involved in cherishing our Deaf history.

As I continue to teach at Kent State University, I was fortunate to meet with a Dr. Robertta Thoryk, who showed an interest in learning about our area Deaf locals and how they contributed to our state. Through her research, we discovered this individual, Colonel Smith and how he contributed to the education for the Deaf in the nearby town of Kent, in Tallmadge, Ohio. He acquired some of his education through American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb (currently named American School for the Deaf) and while he was living in Ohio, he came across a group of private citizens expressing concern for the education of local Deaf children. He went ahead and started a small school for the Deaf in Tallmadge, Ohio in 1827 using funds from private donors for two years and was the only teacher there. Once Ohio Institution for the Deaf and Dumb (currently named Ohio School for the Deaf) in Columbus opened, most of the students transferred there.

Thoryk was persistent in her research, and gathered a few of us who were teachers and students at Kent State at that time and discovered the actual grave site of the yet forgotten local person who contributed to the history of the Deaf. It is promised at the grave site that we shall not forget about his impact on our Deaf history and on the people in the state of Ohio. We had the opportunity to clean his tombstone marker. It is encouraged this should become an annual event honoring the accomplishment of Colonel Smith by maintaining his tombstone marker. This will take place at East Akron Cemetery near Goodyear in the east end of downtown Akron, another notable place of our Deaf history.

There is another notable Deaf individual we want to honor this year, by the name of Robert McGregor. He is another local yet unknown notable teacher for the Deaf. He was born in a small village near Cincinnati, and into his early childhood he became Deaf then attended Ohio School for the Deaf. He went into a vocational trade yet decided that he had a different calling in life so he went to Gallaudet College (now known as Gallaudet University). After he graduated from Gallaudet, he taught at a nearby school for the Deaf in Frederick, Maryland for a few years before he relocated back to his home state, and set up a local day school for the Deaf, Cincinnati Day School for the Deaf. He was its principal for several years as well as being a principal for other state schools for the Deaf including Colorado, St. Louis Day School for the Deaf, and he kept returning to his roots in Ohio serving as a teacher at Ohio School for the Deaf until his retirement. He continued in his services to the community in a different capacity: he assisted with the founding of the Ohio Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf (now known as Columbus Colony) with several other founders. As it shows that he was never selfish with his time until his untimely death, he constantly involved himself in the Deaf community in different aspects including being a first president of an organization now known as National Association of the Deaf, contributor of several articles, editor, lay reader for Episcopal Church, and many others.

It is encouraged that for the locals in Columbus or anyone who wishes to do so that we should maintain his tombstone marker at Greenlawn Cemetery to honor his memory and his service to the Deaf community during the Ohio Deaf history month. Hope to see you there and bring whatever you can to make it shining to commensurate with the love they have shown us over the years or influenced our community.



# “I’m So Amazing” Premiere DeafBlind Film

*Written by:* Leah Subak



**Photo caption:** Angie C. Orlando, on the right in a white cable sweater, seated in a mall food court, talking to Jason Judy on the left in an orange Nike t-shirt. Food containers on the table in front of them. They are communicating in tactile ASL.

Title – I’m So Amazing

Projected Premiere – Spring 2022

Directed and edited by David Smeltzer

Written by: Angie C. Orlando, Kenneth Subak, Leah Subak

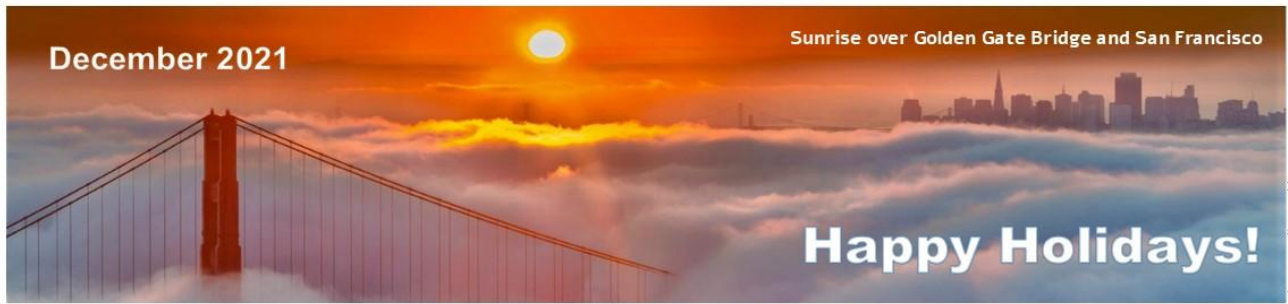
NEOACCESS, LLC and faculty emeriti from Kent State University announce a feature documentary film based on the experiences of Angie C. Orlando, a creative writer and author who is DeafBlind.

The film, which runs 93 minutes, centers around the life and experiences of Orlando, her poetry, creative writing, social life, and experiences that occurred during the making of this film.

Aims of the film, will be to feature:

- Orlando’s writing combined with parts of her story, illustrating some life experiences of persons with disabilities
- Interviews with experts in the field and voices from various communities
- To show the state of some current services for persons with disabilities
- To leave the viewer with the thought, something needs to change

For more information, email [amazingfilm2020@gmail.com](mailto:amazingfilm2020@gmail.com)



## Ron's Library of Books

My foster mother, Delight Rice, was a hearing daughter of deaf parents, who graduated from Ohio School for the Deaf. Her father was a member of Class of 1889 at Gallaudet College.

Delight taught deaf-blind pupils at Wisconsin and Ohio Schools for the Deaf. In 1907, she founded a first permanent deaf school in the Philippines.

*Books are available at [www.savorywords.com](http://www.savorywords.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).*

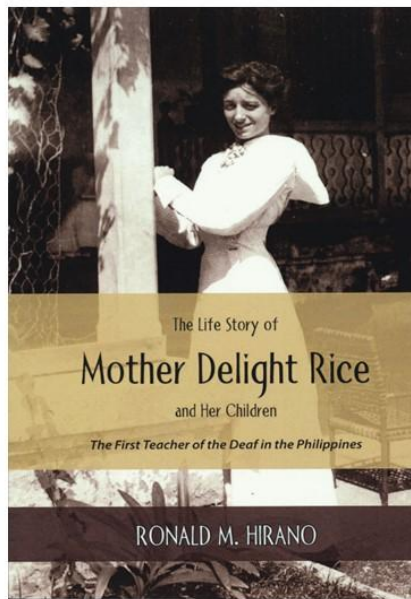
At Gallaudet University, class reunions traditionally publish their 50th anniversary class books.

I authored, designed and published the unprecedented 60th anniversary class books, 216 pages long, exclusively for the Class of 1957. In October 2017, the copies were distributed to 38 surviving classmates out of the original class of 96.

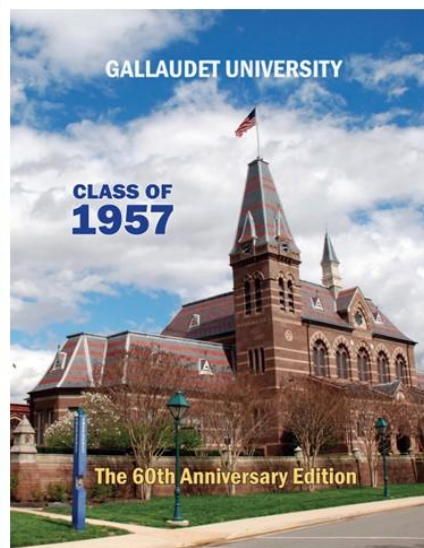
During the World War 2, my entire family was incarcerated along with 120,000 Nikkei from the Pacific Coast states to ten internment camps in the inland Western states.

In 1942, Delight Rice adopted me to continue my education at California School for the Deaf in Berkeley. In 1952, I enrolled at Gallaudet College.

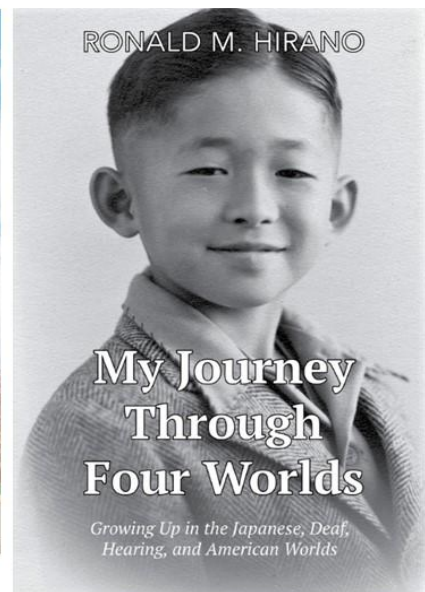
*Books are available at [www.savorywords.com](http://www.savorywords.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).*



**Ron's First Book**  
Biography of Delight Rice  
Published in 2014



**Ron's Second Book**  
Class of 1957 Book  
Exclusive for Surviving Classmates  
Published in 2017



**Ron's Third Book**  
Autobiography of Ronald Hirano  
Published in 2021





## Christine's Stone Arts

Christine Stepien

[ebuckeyes392@gmail.com](mailto:ebuckeyes392@gmail.com)

cash.com at hristineStepien3

venmo at Christine-Stepien

# Annual Deaf and Library Events

- Deaf Dingo by Columbus Deaf Club at CCH 2 in the Muilt-purpose room-third week of every month, at 5:00 pm
- Kevin Nolan Sr. Comes to Columbus, Ohio- March 22 to March 26, 2022.
- Ohio Deaf History Month- March 13 to April 15
- ASL Book club event with Deaf Author. Check Facebook: Ohio Friends of the Library Deaf Action and ASL Book Club
- ASL Social at the Harry's Buffalo on Sunbury Road in Westerville- The first friday of every month.



Photo Credit: [www.google.com/images](http://www.google.com/images)



## Upcoming Events

Next *The Deaf Reader*  
Newsletter Vol. 2  
April, 2021



OCDC Board officers meeting on  
March 10, 2022

**Happy New Year!**

Photo Credit: [www.google.com/images](http://www.google.com/images)



# Contact Information

## *The Deaf Reader*

Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures  
(OCDC) website:

<https://www.ocdclibrary.org/>

OCDC email:

[thedeafreader@gmail.com](mailto:thedeafreader@gmail.com)

OCDC mailing address:

P.O. Box 917  
Worthington, Ohio 43085 0917

## Standing Committees

**Ohio Deaf History Month (March 13 to April 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Debbie Brown (Chairperson)

**Ohio Deaf Culture Digital Library Task Force**

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Andrew Knox

WE STRIVE FOR ALL  
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ACCESSIBLE TO ALL THE  
DEAF COMMUNITIES IN  
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*The Deaf Reader* newsletter editors reserve the right to review and make any necessary edits in the enclosed articles.