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President's Message

Written by: Dawn Watts

President's report Jan 2023

As we step into the new year, Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL) looks forward to collaborating with our new Board members, which include two Library advisories Alison Ratcliff of London Public Library and Nancy Levin of Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to volunteering their time to work with our mission and vision for the next two years.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our "Brother" Charles "Chuck" Williams who has been committed to our non-profit organization, ODFL from the beginning until 2023. He, 92 years old, decided to step down from the Board, but he will continue to attend our monthly board meetings. Additionally, I am forever grateful for all of our board members who have donated their time to work with us from 2020 to 2023. With joy, I have seen each one of them expand their knowledge and experience as they attended and participated in our bylaws meetings while updating our bylaws procedures. They will always be in my heart and mind. I will never forget their service.

On December 28th, the new ODFL board members and I had an opportunity to meet and discuss our new ideas for this year and 2025. For example, we want to continue to support a bill, a US House of Representative resolution by US Congresswoman, Joyce Beatty for the National Deaf History Month, April 1 to 30. At the same time, here in Ohio, we will continue to celebrate Ohio Deaf History Month from March 13 to April 15.

Also, Hands/Voices, a non-profit organization, and ODFL will sign a collaboration agreement for our 4th Annual Students' Art Drawing Contest, which will be at the Columbus Art Museum. This is a huge historical event for us! We want the children to have a good time socially during this event as they learn the rich art history. They will also demonstrate their drawings after a brief lecture on Deaf culture and history. This will take place on Sunday, March 3rd from 10 am to 5 pm.

Dawn K Walls

Dawn K Watts
ODFL President

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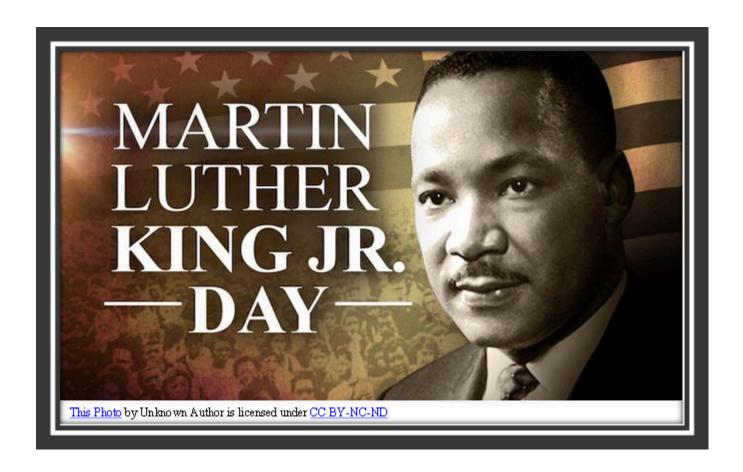


Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

I have decided to stick with love.

Hate is too great a burden to bear.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



ODFL Volunteer Appreciation

Writen by: Dawn Watts Edited by: Juanita Hall

ODFL Volunteer Appreciation certificates were mailed out to our board members. I wanted to thank each ODFL volunteer who tirelessly committed their time and energy as a volunteer for the past three years from 2020 to 2023. Each one of you is appreciated for your hard work.



Many thanks to the following:

- Lillian Arsea-Pokorny
- Debbie Brown
- Rick Burke
- Bev Cain
- Megan Anderson Christian
- Chris Cooley
- Bob Donaldson-Pirc
- Regis Gilchrist
- Juanita Hall
- William Kerek
- Andrew Knox
- Lori Luk
- Tim McNutt
- Marsha Moore
- Deborah Ozanich
- Judy Patterson
- Angie Potosky
- Brad Race
- Allison Ratcliff
- Kimberly Savage
- Malia Schneck
- Christine Stepien
- Gail Teltser
- Martin Teltser
- Paul Wearing
- Chuck Williams
- Donna Williams



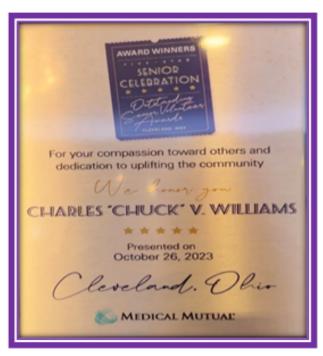
^{*} Please accept my apologies for any misspellings on the certificates.

Medical Mutual Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards - Chuck Williams

Written by: Dawn Watts & Juanita Hall

We have exciting news that our ODFL board member, Charles "Chuck" Williams received the Medical Mutual Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards on October 26, 2023! For more than 30 years, Medical Mutual yearly gives this award to "spotlight on some of the most impactful yet unsung heroes across Ohio" to "celebrate adults 60 years of age and older who selflessly give of their time and talent to help the people and communities around them" (2023 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards, 2024). Chuck was recognized for his selfless hard work in fighting for the Deaf's civil rights, such as implementing ASL interpreters in Cleveland Hospital. He also helped the Deaf Black people fight for their rights in the courthouse.





Congratulations Chuck!

Reference

2023 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards. (2024). Medical Mutual. Retrieved from https://www.medmutual.com/About-Medical-Mutual/Outstanding-Senior-Volunteer-Awards.aspx

Job Postings

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center

SSP/CN Part-time job positions in the Statewide of Ohio

https://columbusspeech.org/what-is-the-ssp-statewide-pilot-program/

There are still more SSP job positions in the statewide of Ohio for 10 DeafBlind people. It will be 16 hours per month for a DeafBlind person.

Dawn Watts will give training on how to work with DeafBlind people.

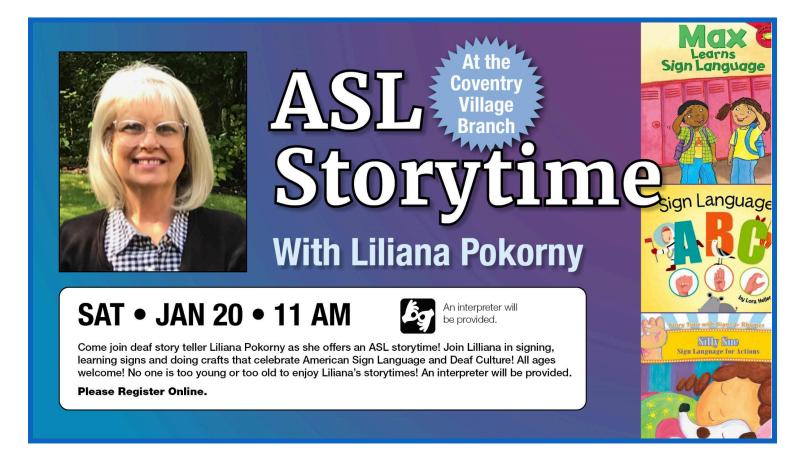
Please contact Dawn K Watts, Ohio Statewide SSP Coordinator at dwatts@columbusspeech.org or Julie Felts, Program Manager at 614-261-5429

More news from the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/in%3Atrash+columbus+spee/FMfcgzGwJckHGRfHpGsDpGlWWCXvjdnC



Please register online if you can. Here is a link to the registration:



https://events.heightslibrary.org/event/11757253



January 2024

Dear Head Librarian and Friends of the Library:

Happy New Year!

Ohio Senate Bill 27 was passed by the State legislature in October 2017 to proclaim March 13 to April 15 is Ohio Deaf History Month (ODHM). It became law in December 6, 2017, with Ohio Governor John Kasich's signature.

The Ohio Deaf Community (Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and Children of Deaf Adult-CODA) now have a way to recognize the significant contributions made by deaf and hearing pioneers in Deaf Education and other related fields such as American Sign Language (ASL), communication, Deaf Sports, and technology.

The formal education of deaf children began in the United States in 1817 with the founding of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut. Other states followed by establishing schools for the deaf in their state. Ohio established its first school for the deaf in Columbus in 1829. Also on April 8, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill into law for the first deaf college which is known as Gallaudet University. On March 13, 1988, Dr. I King Jordan was appointed as the first deaf President of Gallaudet University in Washington D. C. Since its inception, education for the deaf and related services have evolved throughout Ohio and the United States during the past two hundred years.

One of the goals of Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL) is to establish a Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) in our state to bring public awareness on issues and the success of the Deaf Community. The DCDL will also benefit parents of deaf children, ASL education, and interpreters.

Many libraries have limited books and resources relating to Deaf Culture and History. We would like to encourage library patrons to learn about and utilize the local digital library system to increase their knowledge of the Deaf Community.

ODFL encourages and invites all libraries to participate and celebrate this big event by the following: Present a children's story time in ASL; and display materials to highlight the monumental significance of contributions of the Deaf Community. Any information and suggestions you would like to add to help the Deaf and hearing Cultures understand each other would be appreciated.

A list of resources about Deafness, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, CODA, and ASL should be available for library patrons to borrow.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding books and other materials relevant to deaf culture and history, please contact our ODFL Library Advisor, Allison Ratcliff@mylondonlibrary.com

We thank you for your support and effort in joining with us to increase public awareness of our heritage and contributions to society.

Any other questions, please feel free to contact your local ODCL Representatives by email.

> North: Lilian Pokomy: larsena 222@aol.com Jenny Jaske: jjakse 64@yahoo.com Regis Gilchrist: regisgilchrist@gmail.com

> Dayton area: Danny Lucero: djlucero777@gmail.com

Columbus area: Brad Race: wesbrit2@verizon.net

Cincinnati: Juanita Hall: juanitahallrep5@gmail.com

Scott Van Nice: svannice31@gmail.com Melissa Kelly: kelly4mm@ucmail.uc.edu

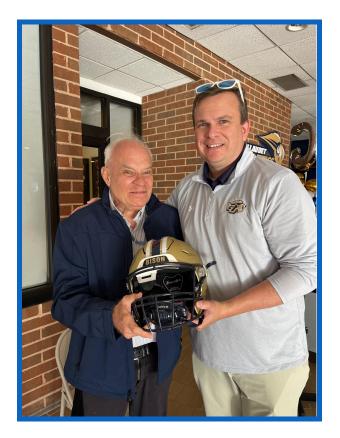
Portsmouth: Christopher Cooley: Chriscooley40@gmail.com

Respectfully yours,

Dawn K Watts ODFL President Website: ocdclibrary.org

Gallaudet University Football Helmet

Written by: Dawn Watts



https://caplinnews.fiu.edu/gallaudet-university-deaf-foot-players-helmet/

After Gallaudet Homecoming weekend, Art Roehrig met Harry Knight during his Southwest flight to Columbus, Ohio from Washington, DC. Harry is a former pro football quarterback for the Oakland Raiders. Harry Knight met a Deaf lady at the same flight where he learned about Art. Deaf lady explained to him that he used to play football for Gallaudet University. She also told him about Gallaudet's helmet for their Deaf quarterback that allows real-time communication through the helmet. This helmet is the first prototype developed by AT&T. Landed on Columbus, he met Art. Harry and Art were thrilled to meet each other and have been communicating with each other by email since their meeting. Art told Harry that he loves Green Bay!



The Sinclair Community College Interpreter Education Program invites you to attend:

Spring 2024 Deaf Culture Book



Club

Lilah is stuck in the middle. At least, that's what having a hearing loss seems like sometimes—when you don't feel "deaf enough" to identify as Deaf or hearing enough to meet the world's expectations. But this summer, Lilah is ready for a change.

When Lilah becomes a counselor at a summer camp for the deaf and blind, her plan is to brush up on her ASL.

Once there, she also finds a community. There are cute British lifeguards who break hearts but not rules, a YouTuber who's just a bit desperate for clout, the campers Lilah's responsible for (and overwhelmed by)—and then there's Isaac, the dreamy Deaf counselor who volunteers to help Lilah with her signing.

Romance was never on the agenda, and Lilah's not positive Isaac likes her that way. But all signs seem to point to love.

Unless she's reading them wrong? One thing's for sure: Lilah wanted change, and things here.

. they're certainly different than what she's used to.

Join Dana Compton & Esperance Wakilongo, Sign Language Mentors in the American Sign Language & Interpreter Education Lab, for discussions about Give Me A

Sign, Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community. Join us in the

ASLIE Lab, 5341 from 1:00—2:00 PM January 31st, February 14th & 28th March 13th & 27th, April 10th *interpreters provided*

Sign Up: https://forms.office.com/r/5p55Gz5zHZ

Columbus Art Museum

"Community Day for 2024" on Sunday, January 14th from 10 am to 5 pm. Hands/Voice sponsors will provide ASL interpreters.





On March 3rd, Hands/Voices and Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library will have a special event, 4th Annual Students' Art Drawing Contest at the Columbus Art Museum.

More announcements will be posted on Facebook: Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library.



Ohio Deaf History Month's 6th Anniversary: March 13 to April 15, 2024

There will be an exhibit for the Ohio Deaf History Month near next to the Governor's office at the Ohio Statehouse. We will have an exhibit to educate the people and the visitors to learn more about Deaf Culture and History.

Any questions, please let us know at <u>dabohio1960@gmail.com</u>.

Co-Chairpersons Debbie Brown and Danny Lucero



Image Source: Google Images



National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE)

Ohio Ambassador needed!

Colleen Ticherich of NAIE State Ambassador Ohio She is looking for a working educational interpreter living/working in Ohio who is interested in becoming the next State ambassador for NAIE! If you are interested, please reply to her at ohio@naiedu.org, and she can chat with you and will connect you to the application process!



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Center for Black Deaf Studies

Please join us in giving to the Charles V. Williams Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support for tuition scholarships for Black deaf or Hard of Hearing students seeking a degree from Gallaudet University. The first preference for awarding of the scholarship shall be given to Black Deaf Students from Ohio.



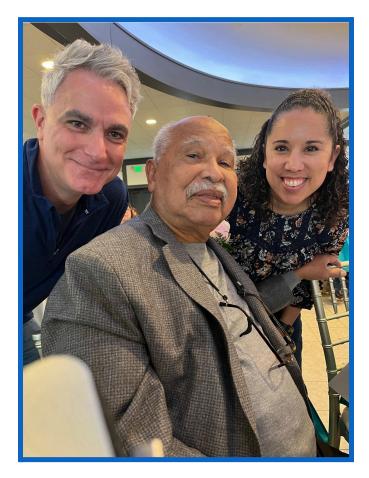


Photo: Chuck V. Williams with his daughter and son-in-law

Albuquerque, New Mexico: New Apartment for Deaf Community

<u>https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/new-apartment-complex-designed-for-deaf-community-now-open-in-albuquerque/</u>

A new apartment complex opened its doors for the first time this week with a mission to help those who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing find a home that meets their needs. It's a new affordable housing option located off of Central Ave., called the PAH! Hiland Plaza and was built to offer low-cost, income-based housing.

https://www.pahhiland.com/

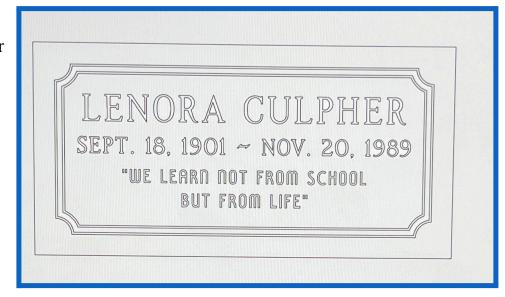
Lenora Culpher

Written by: Dawn Watts and Juanita Hall

ODFL expressed their gratitude for the recent \$1,300 donation for Lenora Culpher's gravestone.

Lenora was the first Black

DeafBlind/Native American who graduated from the Ohio School for the Deaf in 1919.





Lenora Culpher was Brent Bostelman's godmother. Last summer, 2023, he donated the photos and other personal memorabilia from Lenora to Gallaudet's Archives.

William "Dummy" Hoy

Written by: Dawn Watts

Steve Sandy will go to Coopertown, New York to the Hall of Fame. He is still hoping for William "Dummy" Hoy's name to be listed in the Hall of Fame Player in the near future. Baseball Hall of Fame players must be named on 75% of the ballots to earn a spot in sports' most famous museum, and those who reach the threshold will join manager Jim Leyland for July's induction ceremony in Cooperstown, New York. The 2024 ballot features 14 holdovers and 12 first-timers, who all last played in 2018.

Hopefully, William "Dummy" Hoy will be on the list of Baseball Hall of Fame Player, again. The vote will be on Dec 3, 2024. Then final selecting will be on July 27, 2025. Good Luck, Steve Sandy.



At Richter & Phillips Jewelers, we believe that everyone deserves an exceptional shopping experience.

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Keivonn Montreal Woodard | Primetime Emmy Award Nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor!

Keivon Montreal Woodard Gallaudet University

Here is some exciting news from Gallaudet Universty (Weinstock, 2024) as written by Robert Weinstock,

Last summer, Kendall Demonstration Elementary School student Keivonn Montreal Woodard was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his performance as Sam in the HBO drama series *The Last of Us*. The Emmy Awards will be held on Monday, January 15, but some of the awards have already been announced. Keivonn did not win, but his castmate, Nick Offerman, who played the role of Bill, did. Keivonn is also a very good ice hockey player, and recently had the opportunity to meet Washington Capitals players, including Alex Ovechkin, at the Capitals' training facility in Arlington, Virginia. Congratulations to Keivonn!



Reference

Weinstock, R. (2024, January 11). *Keivonn Woodard: Film star, Emmy nominee, aspiring hockey player*. Gallaudet University.https://gallaudet.edu/university-communications/keivonn-woodard-film-star-emmy-nominee-aspiring-hockey-player/?utm_campaign=Hi5&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=289777341&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_f7SxAyZvlNkslG8My72UNOUubaYxe-8K8VOZBrC0vlI2kNX6JXUt99YltZ88OABfg2YDjEkrTzQfyluehoxF52mNq1Q&utm_content=289777341&utm_source

=hs email



ODFL Board meeting on the April 18, 2024,

by Zoom link meeting, find it in the website

Minutes meeting on the website: www.OCDC.library.org

Next *The Deaf Reader*Newsletter Vol. 1 April 2024

If you have any issues regarding this newsletter, please contact the Director, Editor, or Co-Editor at Thedeafreader@gmail.com

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WE STRIVE FOR ALL LIBRARIES TO BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL THE DEAF COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE OF OHIO

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