



Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures
Ohio Friends of Library Deaf Action

The Deaf Reader

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Message from the President

As an organization, Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) is growing with new ideas despite the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID19) pandemic. This crisis has brought awareness to many people the needs of the Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing of the Deaf. For example, people like the idea of transparent masks. Many people come up and ask me if I am Deaf and where I got it. This is educating people our needs in the community. Just recently, the White House has been ordered by the federal district to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for the COVID-19 briefings. More information on this exciting historic progress for the Deaf is found on www.nad.org. This is a time of education and progress as it has happened in the past with close captioning. Now many people see the benefits of reading close captioning. Additionally, OCDC has been working even closer with our regional libraries, and Friends of the Library. For instance, Bev Cain and her committees Tabby Belhorn and Chris Kuhns are working on grant writing to develop ASL signing stories for libraries. Furthermore, Marsha Moore chairperson of a Deaf Mentor Program will provide training to Deaf mentee who will work with Deaf students. Additionally, I am also on the committee of the Columbus Metropolitan Friends of the Library. I am working with them to provide accessibility for Deaf children to have visual accommodations instead of the traditional chat line. This would encourage Deaf children to contact the library to find out what visual services they offer so they may gain more knowledge.

Looking back at all the things that have occurred during my first year as OCDC’s president, I can see that OCDC is beginning to grow. It is so wonderful to work with diverse people of the hearing, Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing of the Deaf within our communities and organization. I want to emphasize that we need to continue to educate our communities’ needs. We cannot give up. We need to press forward with patience and endurance. Sometimes we may fail but we learn from our mistakes and become better for the Deaf, DeafBlind, hearing, and hearing of the Deaf in our communities. Look at what happens when we do not give up on our need for ASL interpreters to be provided at the White House briefings as accomplished through NAD. We endured for many years in not having ASL interpreters until it was accomplished. Teamwork is precious because it is all about us working together.

Sincerely,

Dawn Watts

Black Deaf Advocates Hosted Black Deaf Artist & Activist: Fred Michael Beam and Antines Davis

Written by: Juanita Hall

Black Deaf Advocates (BDA) hosted two Black Deaf individuals, Fred Michael Beam, a renowned Black Deaf artist and Antines Davis, a Black Deaf activist on July 18, 2020. This fascinating event was hosted by BDA's president Kimberly Savage through the Zoom platform. There was a total of eight attendees including the two guest artists.

Black Deaf artist Fred Michael Beam demonstrated four of his amazing paintings that streamlines with the "Black Lives Passion" theme. Each painting has its own unique symbolism that show the struggles both the Black Deaf has endured for hundreds of years. One of the demonstrated ostracism painting is titled, "My Truth." Fred explains that this painting illustrates the Black Deaf's questions of identity, "Who am I?" In this painting, you see three faces. The left face is brown in color and the right face is golden. Whereas the face in the middle has closed eyes with both colors on the face along with four hands, two are brown and two are golden.

In addition to the hands and faces, only four colors were used in this acrylic and ink painting. The four colors are brown, gold, black, and white and each carries its own special imagery to enhance the artist's feelings. Brown shows the brown skin color of their people. Gold illustrates the beautiful golden soul and gem inside of them. Black emphasizes the harsh struggle they endured for many years with no identity. White illuminates their shining light and hope for their future. More information on his paintings, other artwork, and dance programs may be found on his website, www.invisiblehands.com.

Black Deaf activist Antines Davis "Nunu" was in awe with Fred's paintings that are rich with Black Deaf symbolisms. She stated that his paintings were powerful and that all the Black Deaf need to see this. She exclaimed, "It is time for Black Deaf's history to be made known to all!" Her last word to all the Zoom attendees was that most hearing artists uses seven colors in their paintings. Whereas, Fred uses four colors to portray his perspective because the Black Deaf has endured ostracism from the whites for many years. She and Fred ended the meeting by saying that the "Black Deaf need to keep their energy strong! Together they can make it happen!"



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Fred Beam's Live Black Deaf Painting Session:

The Margaret Agler House

Written by: Dawn Watts



© Photo used with permission by
Fred Michael Beam



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by Dawn Watts

On August 30th there was a live Black Deaf painting by Deaf artist Fred Beam. This took place at an underground railroad house The Margaret Agler House. More information on this underground railroad house may be found on Facebook under The Alger Freedom House page. Anne Bennett, the owner of the house hosted this special live painting.

Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) supports Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates (BBDA)'s Black Deaf live painting. This painting session was held via Zoom with Fred Beam instructing the painting. Stacy Woods volunteered to shadow interpret this special event. Shadow interpreting was used because the Deaf painters could not see the computer screen where Fred was instructing them through Zoom. Therefore, Stacy who is looking at the Zoom computer interprets Fred's teaching, which lasted about 30 minutes.

This painting event lasted for three hours from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Everyone painted their piece and enjoyed it. Present were 14 women and one teenage boy, who is from Africa and is a Senior at Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD). It was his first experience with Black Deaf adult.

During Fred's live instruction, he demonstrated how to draw and paint a personal interpretation of his Black Deaf piece. Mr. Beam explained that in this painting, the signs Black and Deaf are signed synchronically, neither one is signed first, showing the beauty of equality.

Before the event, Dawn Watts donated 15 canvas, acrylic paint (black, brown, white, gold, and yellow). Bonnie Sandy provided the brushes and other supplies for this painting session. During Fred's instruction he emphasized 4 different colors, each having its own symbolism based on his Black Deaf experiences:

- Black: harsh struggle they endured for many years with no identity
- Brown: brown skin color of their people
- White: shining light and hope for their future
- Golden/yellow: golden soul and gem inside of them

Only these colors were used by the painters to create their own interpretation of the Black Deaf painting.

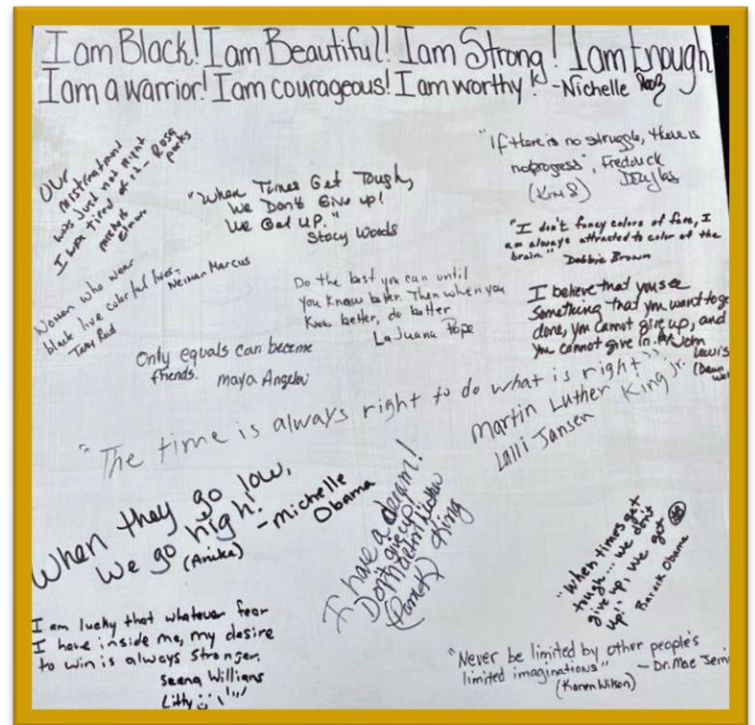
Using these colors in mind, the painters traced on a blank canvas a copy of Mr. Bean's Black Deaf painting with carbon paper. Each person decided on the usage of the four colors and backgrounds of their choice. Due to limited time, most of the painters were unable to paint the background. Instead the focus was on the drawing itself. Each person decided how to paint the colors which created beautiful paintings based on each personal interpretation.

After the paintings, Annie Bennett explained the historic story about Black history and their struggles with escape. Additionally, over 400 underground railroad houses were found in the state of Ohio. Most of these houses were damaged due to remodeling and adjustments made to these underground houses. With Annie's house, the previous owner refused to sell the house to a company who wanted to demolish her house for housing development. Mrs. Bennett and her husband bought the house and felt the spirit of the past very strongly in this house, which became The Margaret Agler House.

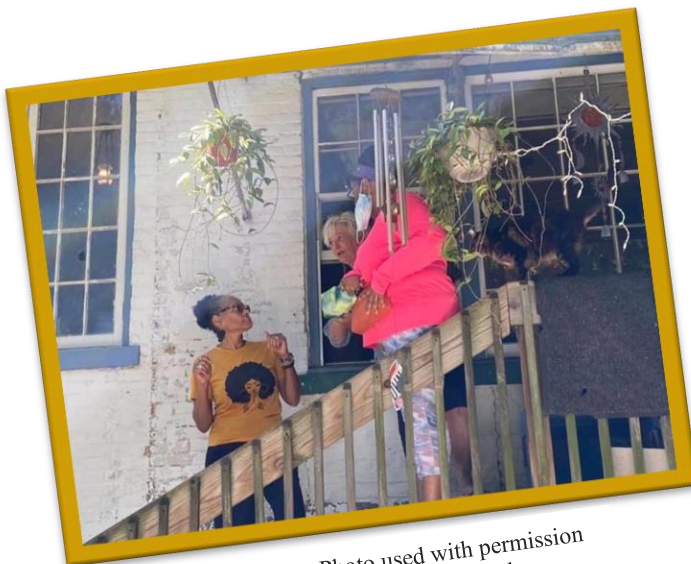
After Annie's inspiring lecture on the history of the house, the painters picked rocks from around the house's yard. Then they wrote quotes they liked on a big white plywood with the rocks stacked in front of it. Annie has been wanting special paintings in her backyard. Black Deaf Advocates is the first group to have one of their paintings in her yard. This is a great honor for OCDC and BBDA to be the first groups to represent Black paintings. Mrs. Bennett plans to have future paintings in her backyards from other organizations.



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© Photo used with permission by Bonnie Sandy

Forced Hysterotomies Still Happening in America

Written by: Juanita Hall

How you would feel if you were a Deaf or/and black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) person lying on a cold medical bed being forced to have your reproductive organs removed against your wishes? Unfortunately, the horrifying truth is that Deaf women in American and other countries have been sterilized without their consent because they were Deaf (Hanna's Story, 2016). There has been recent reports in the media of forced hysterectomies being performed in an immigration detention center here in America! Sadly, this has been happening in our nation for many years (Chapin, 2020).

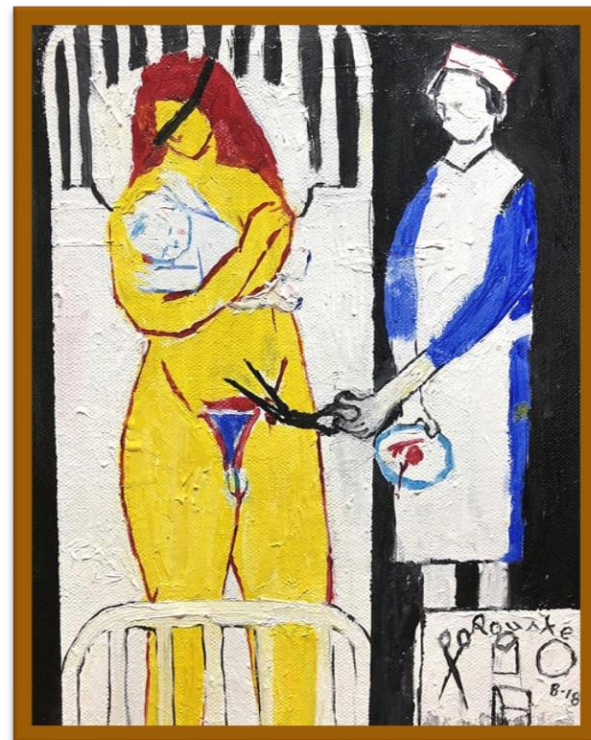
In the early 20th century, the U.S. Supreme court ruled in favor by the majority of voters to give states the right to forcibly sterilize women who were deemed "unfit," such as being an immigrant, of a different color, blind, deaf, mental retardation, or other disabilities to "'breed out" traits that were considered undesirable" (Fresh Air, 2016, para. 2). Due to these eugenicists' actions, approximately 70,000 individuals were sterilized (Fresh Air, 2016).

Just a few years earlier, another eugenicist, Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone was "given the honorary president at the Second International Congress of Eugenics" for his encouragement in "human breeding efforts to weed out diseases and disabilities" such as deafness (History.com Editors, 2019).

It is hard to conceive the idea that this eugenicist movement towards the immigrants, BIPOC, deaf, blind, and other individuals is still happening here in America with forced sterilization. What can we do about this? What are your thoughts about this? As a free person in this nation, we have human rights to stand up for what is right.

References

- Chapin, A. (2020). Reports of ICE's Forced Hysterectomies Are Nothing New In America. *The Cut*. Retrieved on September 19, 2020, from <https://www.thecut.com/article/ices-forced-sterilizations-are-nothing-new-in-america.html>
- Fresh Air. (2016). The Supreme Court Ruling That Led To 70,000 Forced Sterilizations. *NPR WOUB*. Retrieved on September 19, 2020, from <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/03/07/469478098/the-supreme-court-ruling-that-led-to-70-000-forced-sterilizations>
- Hann's Story. (2016). *World Federation of the Deaf* [Video]. Retrieved on September 26, 2020 from <https://wfdeaf.org/fightingfund/hannas-story/>
- History.com Editors. (2019). Alexander Graham Bell. *History*. Retrieved on September 19, 2020, from <https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/alexander-graham-bell>



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Ohio School for the Deaf Teacher Named 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year: Anthony Coy-Gonzalez

Written by: Juanita Hall

Ohio Department of Education has released on September 3, 2020 the announcement of next year’s Teacher of the Year. They chose Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) instructor, Anthony Coy-Gonzalez! He is the upper elementary teacher for OSD, based in Columbus, Ohio. Even more exciting is the fact that he is the first teacher from OSD to be named an Ohio Teacher of the Year (Teacher at Ohio School for the Deaf Named 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year | Ohio Department of Education, 2020).

Not only does Mr. Coy-Gonzalez demonstrates “persistence, hard work, positive attitude and civic mindedness,” he also developed wonderful programs for OSD (Teacher at Ohio School for the Deaf Named 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year | Ohio Department of Education, para. 2, 2020).



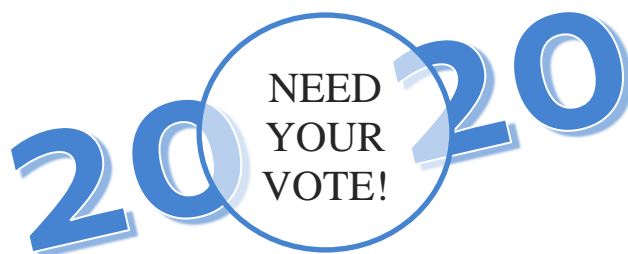
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One of them is the Kindness Campaign where Anthony encouraged the whole school to show kindness to one another. Additionally, he helped the students learn journalism with creating a school newspaper. He truly takes his job seriously and cares about OSD’s students. More information on this amazing teacher may be found at Ohio Department of Education website (Teacher at Ohio School for the Deaf Named 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year | Ohio Department of Education, 2020).

Reference

Teacher at Ohio School for the Deaf Named 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year | Ohio Department of Education. (2020). Ohio.Gov.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Media-Releases/Teacher-at-Ohio-School-for-the-Deaf-Named-2021-Oh#.X1Qc34t7nIU>



Presidential Election Voting!
Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Your Vote Counts!

Need voting registration?
Sign up online at:
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/>
If you are unable to vote in person?
Sign up for **absentee ballot** to be mailed to your home at:
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>

**ASL VOTER
HOTLINE**
301-818-VOTE
(301-818-8683)
www.nad.org

Balance Disorders: Vertigo

Written by: Aileen Reusche Edited by: Juanita Hall

In the spirit of International Week of the Deaf, which occurs during the last week of December, a topic that many people are not aware of is the health issue of imbalance disorder experienced by some Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. One of the most common symptoms is vertigo (International Week of the Deaf 2020, n.d.; Balance Disorders, 2019).

Vertigo is a type of disorder that can cause dizziness, imbalance, and hearing loss. It is found that women report more issues with vertigo than men do. In our bodies, we have our vestibular system that controls our balance, posture, and the body sense of orientation in space. This system includes structures of the inner ear, vestibular nerve, brain stem, and the cerebellum (part of the brain) (Vertigo, n.d.).

Vertigo can be caused by one of several reasons such as benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), Meniere's Disease (most common with Deaf and hard of hearing), viral and bacterial labyrinthitis, brain tumor, migraine headaches, strokes, transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), multiple sclerosis, diabetes, heart arrhythmias, hyperventilation, orthostatic hypotension, panic attacks, anxiety, and medications (Vertigo, n.d.).

How can you tell if you have vertigo? Most symptoms are often explained as a type of spinning or a feeling of moving in your head often vertically or horizontally. It can vary from a few seconds to a couple minutes to several hours or even days. It may affect your appetite. It can also cause hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in your ears), affect your speech, make you feel weak or numb to sensations in your body (Vertigo Signs and Symptoms, n.d.).

How can you find out if you have vertigo? The doctors will conduct an assessment. The assessment includes a videonystagmography (VNG) or electronystagmography (ENG) test.

References

- Balance Disorders. (2020). *Hearing Loss Association of America*. Retrieved September 18, 2020, from <https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/hearing-loss-basics/balance-disorders/>
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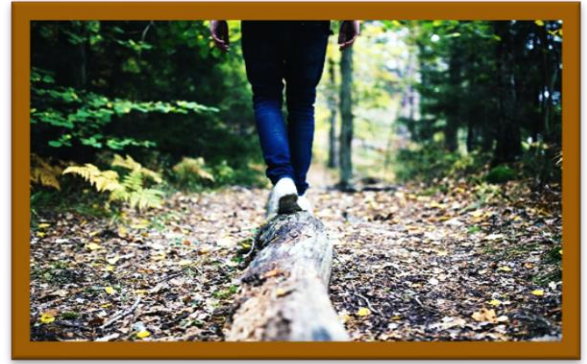


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The VNG or ENG evaluation is separated into three subtests as listed:

- Oculomotor: This assesses the oculomotor system, the visual system for balance where voluntary eye movements are measured.
- Positional or Positioning: This part of the test focuses on the vestibular system, which is the balance structure of the inner ear. Your body movements will be measured.
- Calorics: This measurement determines how well the vestibular system responds by applying warm and cool air into each ear canal separately (Vertigo Diagnosis, n.d.).

After the assessment, the doctors will then discuss you with several options for treatment for your vertigo. It could include medications, surgery, vestibular rehabilitation training, balance training, and/or canal repositioning maneuvers (Vertigo Treatments, n.d.).

If you feel you are experiencing vertigo symptoms, please seek more information to learn more in specific about what could be causing vertigo. The doctors can choose the best matching option for your health. Vertigo is not an easy disorder to deal with. It can have a significant impact on your life even your mental health status. Take the steps to treat vertigo and enjoy a positive outlook on life pain free and symptom free from this imbalance disorder.

Kids Connect is Back! Program Starts in October!

Written by: Marsha Moore

After a successful 8-week pilot Summer Kids Connect Program, Kids Connect Fall Program will be offered for the fall to kids residing in Ohio within ages 7-18. We give special thanks to Advocates for Kids, Ingram-White Castle Foundation, the Dorothy E. Ann Fund (D.E.A.F.) of the Columbus Foundation, and Deaf Services Center for collaborating in making this happen. The program will commence on Monday, October 5, 2020, and continue until March 26, 2021.

Three age groups will be offered for this fall program: Ages 7-9, 10-13, and 14-18. The mentors will meet with their groups twice a month for up to an hour each session. Kids Connect will also host a monthly event where a guest speaker will come in and discuss his or her occupation and their experiences. All programming will be provided virtually, and accommodations will be offered as needed.

Register your child today at Kids Connect website:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9iRPIIHZF8Tnu_HFQsL_e5N77vphx_9D8S8VloaxS1LXIw/viewform

DSC
Where Communication Happens

KIDS CONNECT PROGRAM

Program Information

- Participants can make a new friend, have FUN, communicate, socialize, reduce isolation, connect with kids like themselves, enjoy a new pen-pal, and stay connected with existing friends!
 - This program is FREE with limited space available!
- Participants must be a resident of Ohio, Deaf or hard of hearing, and between the ages of 7-18
 - Each child's preferred mode of communication is valued and accommodated!
 - Interpreting and captions will be provided, as needed
 - Kids will connect with peers and friends up to 2x a month
- Guest speaker will join us one time per month, on a Saturday, for one hour of fun and interactive sessions.
 - Participant age groups are 7-9, 10-13 and 14-18
- Small groups of kids are matched with a Deaf/HH Mentor
- Mentors are 21+ years old, have experience working with kids, have successfully completed the pre-program training, and have a clean FBI/BCI background check on file

- Safety and FUN are the TOP priorities!!
- Duration of each virtual connection varies by age group – attention span, and maturity level are considered (Each connection will be 25-60 minutes)
- Device with camera and WIFI are required to participate in the virtual connections
- Virtual connections are scheduled Monday – Friday, between the hours of 4pm-8pm
- Virtual connections are all about FUN activities!
- We follow the 'rule of 3' so your child will never participate in a 1-on-1 with a Mentor
- Parent/Guardian are welcome to view all virtual connections and/or assist your kiddo/child, as needed, with their device

DATES: OCTOBER 5, 2020 - MARCH 26, 2021
For more info please contact Program Coordinator Marsha Moore at marsha@dsc.org.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/hZRnNSnzPq8i5zHN6>

Make new friends

deaf
dorothy e. ann fund
/strengthening the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing

Virtual Activities

Advocates for Kids

INGRAM White Castle FOUNDATION

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New Released Deaf Books!

Agatha Tiegel Hanson: Our Places in the Sun

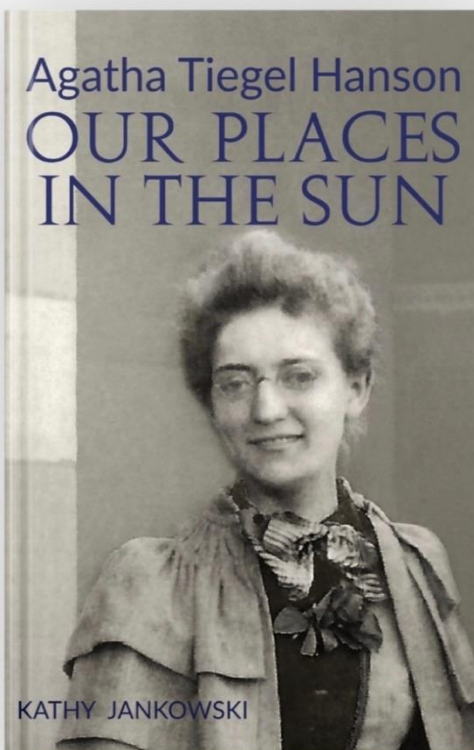
Written by: Juanita Hall

We have exciting news to share with you regarding a newly released Deaf cultural book. This book, *Our Places in the Sun*, is written by Kathy Jankowski. It is an amazing piece of work on a Deaf woman who attended Gallaudet College (renamed to Gallaudet University), Agatha Tiegel Hanson. Due to being a woman, she endured hardships during her academic pursuits but she excelled academically despite the difficulties. She became the first woman to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gallaudet and became a powerful Deaf promoter for women's rights (Jankowski, 2020). She encouraged and believed every woman has a right "to their places under the sun" (Jankowski, 2020, back cover). She lived a life of struggles and strived through them with her many successes and contributions for the Deaf community.

Reference

Jankowski, K. (2020). *Agatha Tiegel Hanson Our Places in the Sun*. KLGoss.

BOOK RELEASE



Barely fifteen years old in 1888, Agatha Tiegel entered the nation's only college for deaf students, the present-day Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., after the college tentatively opened its doors to women. Amid male student and faculty hostility and skepticism, Agatha achieved exemplary academic success and became the first female to earn a BA degree from the college. Upon facing the most stringent campus restrictions and exclusion from male only organizations and activities at the college, Agatha cofounded a society for women students. Her prerequisite graduation presentation, the "Intellect of Woman" was a powerful oratory, urging women's right to their "places in the sun." After graduation from Gallaudet, she became a teacher at the school for the deaf in Faribault, Minnesota where she later married noted deaf architect Olof Hanson. In Faribault and later Seattle, Washington, Agatha and Olof sought to improve the quality of life for deaf people nationally. Through hardships and successes, they raised a family and their large home was a hub for deaf socials and events. In her writings, presentations and community involvement, Agatha modeled a strong belief that everyone was on earth to make a difference in the world. Agatha's journey marked by struggles and achievements highlight the life of an extraordinary deaf woman in the early years of history.

ISBN:
Hardcover: 978-17349536-26
Paperback: 978-17349536-33
Ebook: 978-17349536-19

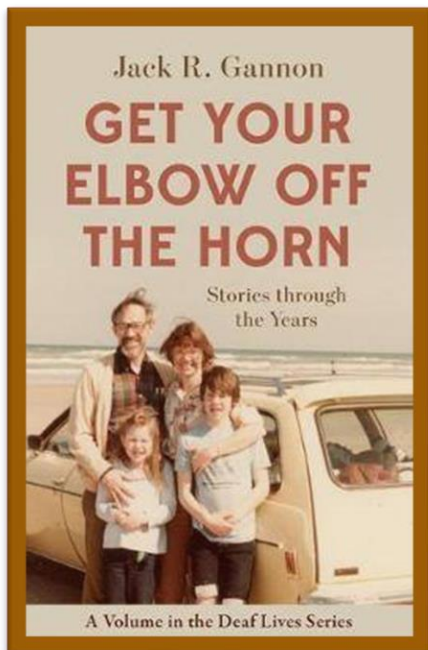
**Available
 Now**

Kathy Jankowski



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 by Alice Hagemeyer

Jack R. Gannon: Get Your Elbows Off the Horn



©Public Domain Photo

Written by: Juanita Hall

As part of the Deaf Lives series, author Jack Gannon chronicles his life experiences with the Deaf culture and as a Deaf American with humor and advocacy for American Sign Language. He expounds on these ideals with his various life-time roles from being a student, parent, instructor, coach, husband, community leader, and more. These personal anecdotes reveals his feelings on being Deaf and ultimately as a human being. Gannon's book may be found in various stores such as Gallaudet University Press (www.gupress.gallaudet.edu), Walmart (www.walmart.com), or Bookshop (www.bookshop.org) etc.

Reference

Gannon, J. R. (2020). *Get Your Elbow Off the Horn Stories through the Years*. Gallaudet University Press: Washington, DC.

Kevin J. Nolan Sr.:

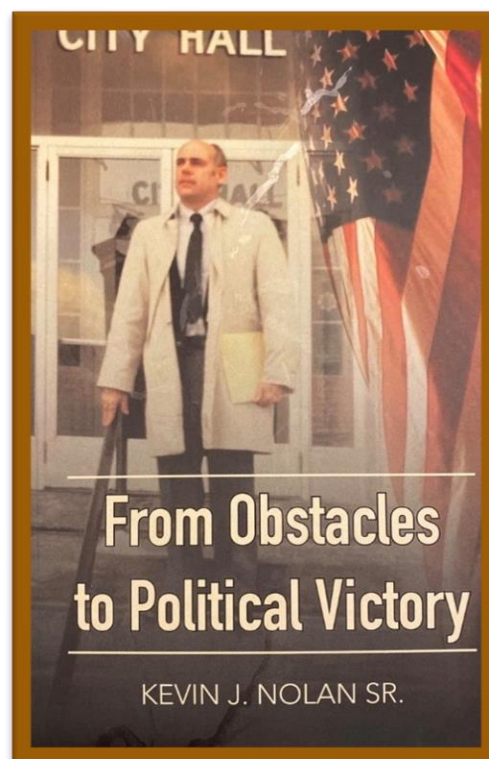
From Obstacles to Political Victory

Written by: Juanita Hall

This is a must-read autobiography of Keven J. Nolan Sr., who was born Deaf and became America's first Deaf city counselor and was one of the first Deaf to serve on a jury. More so, this is a story about the obstacles he overcame in his life to reach political victory. He struggled growing up with his family's denial of him being Deaf, and his desire to be with his Deaf friends at school where he could communicate freely in American Sign language. He went from shunning sign language to embracing the language of the Deaf. From all the hardships in his life, he became a trailblazer for other Deaf in what one can become in life by overcoming the obstacles to achieve victory (Nolan, 2019). This book may be purchased from sites such as a Deaf-centric publisher, Savory Words Publishing (www.savorywords.com), Amazon (www.amazon.com), All bookstores (www.allbookstores.com).

Reference

Nolan, K. J. (2019). *From Obstacles to Political Victory*. Savory Words Publishing.



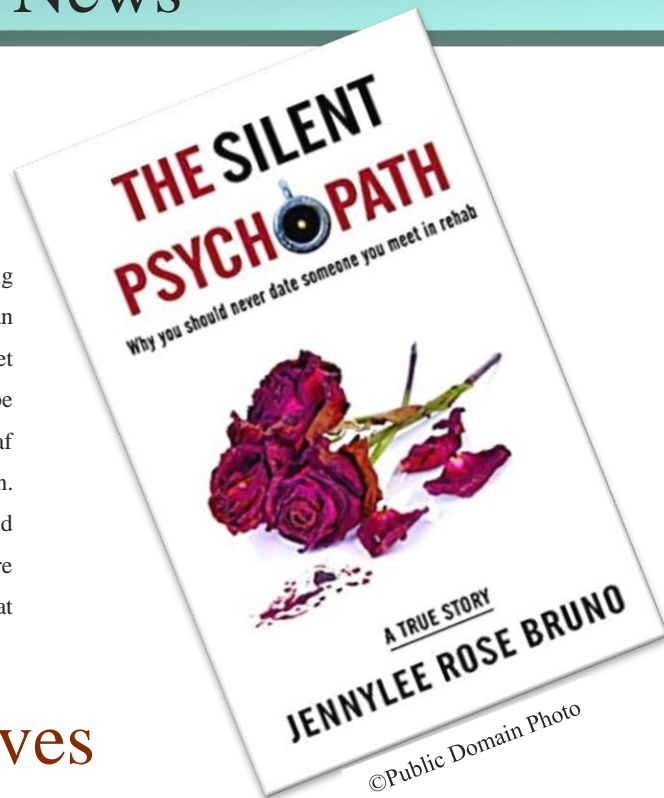
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Community News

Deaf Book Club!

Written by: Angie Potosky

Hello everyone and Happy Fall! Did you know that we will have a fun-filled upcoming Deaf Book Club Zoom event? We will select one book to read. The first book we plan to start with is *The Silent Psychopath* written by Jennylee Rose Bruno. We will meet once a month in the evening with discussions and questions. Our group would be approximately 6 to 8 people. The purpose of this Deaf Book Club is to bring the Deaf community together with Ohio Citizen of Deaf Cultures (OCDC) organization. Additionally, we will learn about Deaf or Child of Deaf Adult (CODA) topics and expand our knowledge on various authors. American Sign Language (ASL) users are welcomed. If you are interested, please email Angie Potosky at potosky2rep@gmail.com. I hope to see you at the Deaf Book Club!



Deaf Services Center Receives Grant for Mental Health Training

Written by: John Moore



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Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is pleased to announce that the Deaf Services Center (DSC) has been awarded a \$120,000 training grant to provide [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community](#) (2020 Funding Opportunities, 2019). DSC and the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center's Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, with support and collaboration from the Community Centers for the Deaf throughout the state are creating a unique, innovative, and fundamental training for mental health agencies. The purpose of this project will allow frontline employees as well as clinical staff to more effectively interact and serve clients who are deaf or hard of hearing. The training will provide information to ensure that clinicians are culturally competent to serve those with diverse communication needs, particularly those whose preferred mode of communication is American Sign Language (ASL).

In addition to increasing awareness of the unique needs of this population, the goal of the project is to ensure that deaf individuals have equal access to mental health services and treatment programs. This will ensure that service providers have the necessary information to deliver effective and proficient care. Project goals include basic ASL instruction to as well as live and video trainings. If you are a clinician or work in the mental health field and would like to take the ASL classes, please contact John Moore at johnmoore@dsc.org.

Reference

2020 Funding Opportunities. (2019). SFY 2020 RFP Training Grant for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community (MHA-FY20-DHOH-MEDDIR-10). *Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*.

<https://mha.ohio.gov/Schools-and-Communities/Funding-Opportunities#40411079-sfy-2020-rfp-training-grant-for-culturally-and-linguistically-appropriate-services-for-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-community-mha-fy20-dhoh-meddir-10>

Library Resources

Become a Friend of Columbus Metropolitan Library

Written by: Nikki Scarpitti

Friends of the Library members are passionate library advocates who help ensure Columbus Metropolitan Library remains open to all and continues to be a vital partner and resource in our community.

As a Friends of the Library member, you help raise awareness and increase financial resources in support of Columbus Metropolitan Library. Your membership dues help fund vital programs such as Homework Help, Volunteer Power Lunches, and Ready for Kindergarten programming. Members also enjoy benefits such as early access to Big Book Sales, discounts at the Library Store and cafes, and more.

Join us in supporting Columbus Metropolitan Library by becoming a Friends member today! Visit our website at <https://friendsofcml.com/membership/> to register online.



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Columbus Metropolitan Library Services During COVID-19

Written by: Nikki Scarpitti

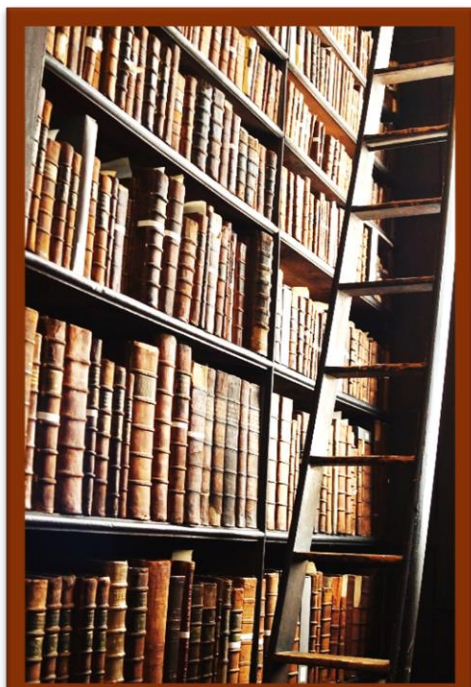


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Columbus Metropolitan Library continues to innovate and adapt in order to ensure that library customers can access critical services during this time. Below are resources currently available through the library website or in person at our library locations. More information on all these services can be found at www.columbuslibrary.org.

- eBooks and Audiobooks
- Curbside Pickup at all 23 locations
- Online Storytimes
- Virtual Kindergarten Success Camp
- Virtual Author Talks
- One-on-one service with a librarian through the Reserve an Expert program
- Online Job Help resources
- A dedicated School Help web page (<https://www.columbuslibrary.org/school-help>)
- Computer and printing services inside the library

Newly Appointed OCDC Members

Grant Writing Program Chairperson: **Bev Cain**



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by Christopher Kuhns

Grant Writing Committee: **Christopher Kuhns**

Christopher Kuhns is a highly energized Deaf teacher in the field of ASL and Deaf studies where he obtains this position as a teacher at the Ohio School for the Deaf since 2017. He is also a proud alumnus of the Ohio School for the Deaf '97. Christopher graduated at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, in 2006 where he obtained a BA degree in History and a secondary degree in Exercise and Sports Science. Christopher became a Special Needs educator at Texas School for the Deaf after completing an alternative certification program in Special Education. Since 2006, Christopher has been pursuing his teaching careers in many levels of educational field which included Transition, Special Education, and ASL & Deaf Studies. Christopher is also employed at Deaf Services Center where he is currently supervising Summer Youth Work Experiences for the last 5 years. Christopher resides with a beautiful wife, Lois Kuhns, and 5 children in Columbus, Ohio.

Grant Writing Committee: **Tabitha Belhorn**

Tabitha Belhorn, MS, is the mother of three children, of whom the oldest is Deaf. She has worked with families for over 15 years, providing resources, guidance, support to families of children who are Deaf or hard of hearing. She has experience supporting families of children who are Deaf, hard of hearing, Deafblind, and Deaf plus additional disabilities. She is the Executive Director and ASTra Coordinator of Ohio Hands & Voices (ASTra); and ASTra Trainer and Region V. Additionally, she is the Parent Mentor at the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD). Tabitha has presented at the National Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Meeting, the nation's autism and disabilities conference (OCALICON), and many other additional state and local workshops for families of children with disabilities.



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by Tabitha Belhorn

OCDC Secretary: Judy Patterson

Judy Patterson has been elected as OCDC Secretary. She lives in Northeastern Ohio. Judy was born Deaf and raised in Canada. She attended and graduated from a hearing school in Canada. After graduation, she attended George Brown College in Toronto, Ontario where she learned sign language and fell in love with the language and Deaf community. She has been heavily involved with the Deaf community ever since. She lived in Canada until she married her husband in 1997 where they lived in Pennsylvania until they moved to Ohio five years ago.

Mrs. Patterson has put a lot of her time and energy into the Deaf community. She was secretary and treasurer for different organizations over the years. She also contributed her time and resources to the North American Snowmobilers of the Deaf. She is on the Tennessee Committee for Deaf Quilting Retreats where she creates and teaches quilting projects. Additionally, she participates in the Silent Campout in the Fall for both Deaf and hearing (Interpreter students) that is run by the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD). She enjoys Deaf interpreting and volunteer work to build shelters and feed the people. Lastly, but not least, she volunteers her time with the Ohio School of the Deaf Alumni Association (OSDAA). In her spare time, she delves into her interests with quilting, gardening, and traveling back roads along wine routes. She is looking forward to meeting everyone in the OCDC organization.



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by Chris Cooley

Southeast #5 Regional Representative: Chris Cooley

Chris Cooley of Portsmouth, Ohio has been appointed as Southeast #5 regional representative. Chris is DeafBlind and is 43 years old. He was born hard of hearing and at the age of 17 became legally blind. He attended Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths & Adults (HKNC) in the early 2000s. He uses voice and ASL when he communicates with people. He is also a leader of Ohio service dog awareness week group, which occurs in Ohio during the last week of July. Chris is a strong supporter for disability folks' rights. He loves helping people by educating them on accessibility and DeafBlind's rights. He is passionate in reaching out to many businesses, groups, and schools in teaching them about accessibility and DeafBlind's rights. He has been an active member of Ohio DeafBlind group for over 9 years.

Recognitions



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by Juanita Hall

Ohio House of Representatives Proclamation: **Juanita Hall**

An Ohio House of Representatives Proclamation was given to Juanita Hall on the behalf of the members of the House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of Ohio on February 3, 2020. Juanita was congratulated on her well-deserved master's degree in teaching American Sign Language from University of Northern Colorado. This recognition was signed by Jay Edwards, Representative House District 94 and Larry Householder, Speaker Ohio House of Representatives.



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by Juanita Hall

Annual Deaf and Library Events

International Week of the Deaf:

- Observe on September 24 – September 30, 2020
- Celebrated annually during the last week of September
- Established since 1958
- Founded by the World Federation of the Deaf
- Used to be called “Deaf Awareness”
- Visit www.wfdeaf.org

Thomas Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc’s Birthday:

- Observed the first week of December
- Thomas Gallaudet was born on December 10, 1787
- Laurent Clerc was born on December 26, 1785

Upcoming Events

Deaf Author Jennylee Rose Bruno:

- October 17, 2020 at 2:00 pm
- *The Silent Psychopathy*
- Location: Zoom
- Sponsors: DWAVE, OCDC, DWO, and CSCC

Presidential Election Voting:

- November 3, 2020
- Online registration: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/>
- Absentee ballot: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>

OCDC Board Meeting – Month of December

Smile Amazon Donations for OCDC:

- **OCDC is listed as a Charity on Smile.Amazon.com**
- **Please spread the word to your colleagues, friends, and families! Every cent helps!**

Next The Deaf Reader

Newsletter Vol. 5

January 1, 2021

Next OCDC Meeting

December

(Date yet to be determined)

Contact Information

The Deaf Reader

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

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thedeafreader@gmail.com

OCDC mailing address:

P.O. Box 917
Worthington, Ohio 43085 0917

Standing Committees

Ohio Deaf History Month (March 13 to April 15th)

Debbie Brown (Chairperson)

Ohio Deaf Culture Digital Library Task Force

Ohio Alliance Organizations (Professional)

5-years Strategic Planning

Beverly Cain (Chairperson)

Deaf Mentor Program

Marsha Moore (Chairperson)

Specialist DeafBlind

Donna Schultz

Bylaws

Rick Burke (Chairperson)

The Deaf Reader Newsletter

Juanita Hall and Aileen Reusche

HR Resolution 224 National Deaf History Month Chairperson

Andrew Knox

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

Northwest 1 Representative Lori Luk

Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Eric, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wyandot, Wood

Northeast 2 Representatives Chuck Williams, and Angie Potosky

Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Wayne

Southwest 3 Representatives Phyllis Adams and Paul Wernsing

Adams, Brown, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, Union, Warren

Central 4 Representatives Tim McNutt and Kimberly Savage

Coshocton, Delaware, Licking, Fayette, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Marion, Madison, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Union

Southeast 5 Representative Juanita L Hall and Chris Cooley

Athens, Belmont, Gallia, Guernsey, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Washington

Editor: Juanita Hall Co-Editor: Aileen Reusche

The Deaf Reader newsletter editors reserve the right to review and make any necessary edits in the enclosed articles.