



The Deaf Reader

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President's Message

Video/Translated by: Dawn Watts https://youtu.be/SsJveGRhv_4 (ASL message)

Happy New Year!

A huge congratulation to Liliana Aresena-Pokorny for the 2024 Volunteer of the Year! For the past year, she did an outstanding job as ASL Storyteller at the Coventry Village Public Library, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Her fluent ASL storytelling has been a delight for both children and their parents.

We, the ODFL Board members, and I are planning to have a special 8th Annual, "Ohio Deaf History Month" at the Ohio Statehouse Display. If you are interested in having your local library have a display for Ohio Deaf History Month, you can contact our regional representatives for help. Please look up on the last page of the newsletter their contact information. Additionally, if you would like to join the Ohio Deaf History Month Committee, please let me know if you are interested in being on the Ohio Deaf History Month Committee.

We are also pleased to announce our 5th Annual Deaf-Themed Art Contest, which will be held at the Columbus Museum of Art on Sunday, March 9th, in collaboration with Hands & Voices and Advocates for the Kids. You can read more about this event on page 24 of the newsletter.

We, the ODFL Board members will meet on Thursday, January 16th, April 17th, and November 13th at 6 pm. You can find the Zoom link for these meetings on the ODFL website. Additionally, the Ohio Deaf History Month Committee will meet on February 13th at 6 pm.

As 2025 will be my final year as ODFL President, in accordance with our ByLaws, I encourage you to consider becoming more involved with the ODFL Board as an officer. This role offers significant opportunities for personal and professional growth. I would like to share a quote I found on Facebook: "Leadership is about guiding, not controlling; inspiring, not dictating; and succeeding together." Another inspiring quote by Maya Angelou is, "True leaders bring people together to achieve what no one could accomplish alone. Love is your journey! Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Happy Black Deaf History Month in February!

Dawn K Watts

Dawn K Watts
ODFL President

www.ocdclibrary.org

Love Belongs in Leadership

"The ways we can show up in love, as a leader, are endless. It simply means we infuse real, raw emotion into the relationship, and we see each person as an individual, unique and worthy of our time and love. When leaders get this right, they get leadership right."

--- Leyah Valgardson

2024 Volunteer of the Year | Liliana Pokorny

Written by: Angie Potosky

Happy New Year!

On behalf of Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library Board Members, I am thrilled to Congratulate our member, Liliana Pokorny as a recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award.

Lil has been an ASL storyteller at the Coventry Public Library, Cleveland Heights, for the past two years. Her dedication, commitment, and loyalty have made her a beloved figure in our community. Many have always enjoyed her captivating stories in ASL!

Congratulations, Liliana!

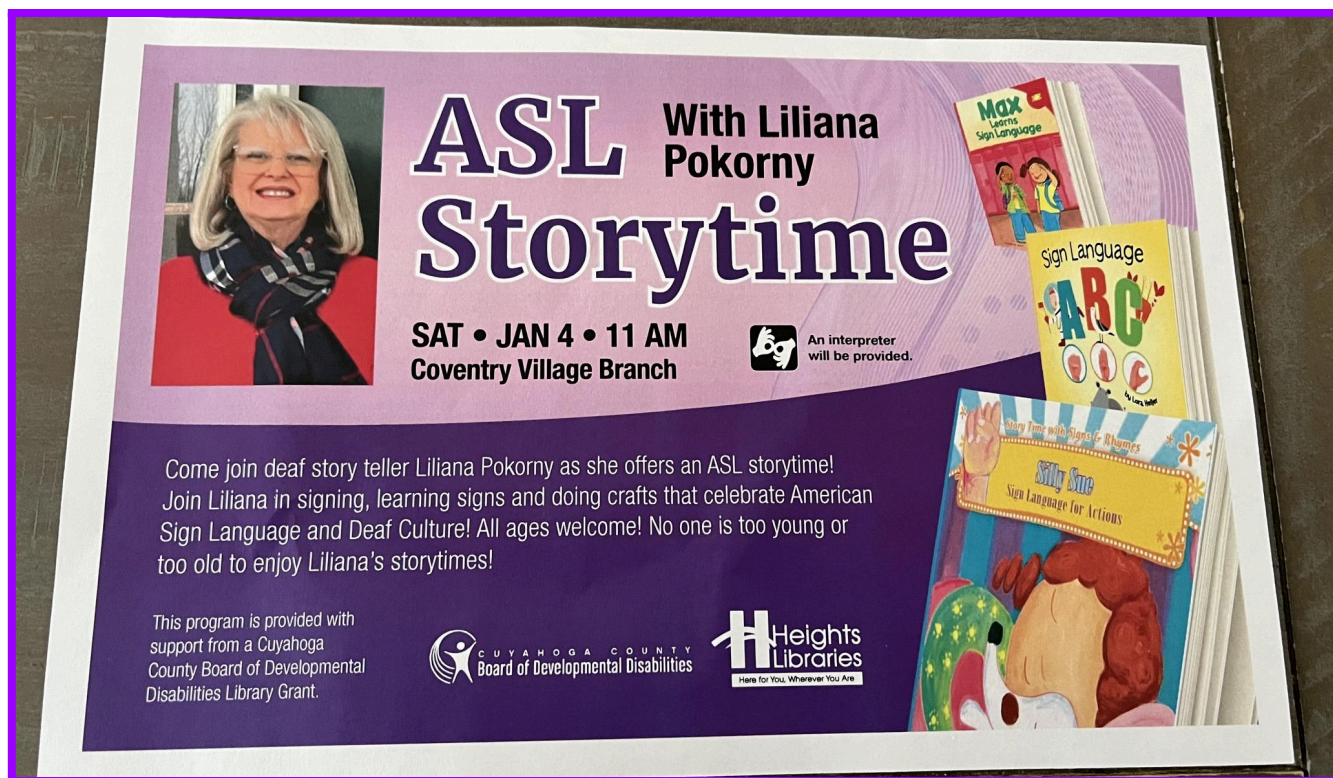


Photo Credit: Heights Libraries

Academic Library Association of Ohio Conference Presentation | Juanita Hall with University of Cincinnati Libraries

Written by: Juanita Hall

Last year, the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) and Langsam libraries at University of Cincinnati (UC) partnered with the American Sign Language & Deaf Studies (ASLDS) department to showcase exhibits in their libraries during April and May for National Deaf History Month. During this collaboration, we secured a \$500 CECH and IT Diversity Grant on January 12, 2024, to purchase new library books for these libraries' exhibits.

Using these funds, we put up two exhibits, one in Walter C. Langsam Library with the Deaf in Media: A Legacy of Impact exhibits and timeline that chronicles the representation and achievements of people who are Deaf in film, television, social media, and theater. This timeline and book selection were curated by the professors in our ASLDS team.

The second exhibit at CECH Library showcases *Deaf Community Pride* that highlights Deaf characters and stories in children's literature. The framework for the book selections was put together by one of UC's senior Deaf professor's students. They did a beautiful job selecting children's books with Deaf representation. Then the UC ASL Club worked with CECH Library to put these books on display. They were beautiful exhibits! I was honored to be asked to make a video on Deaf Literature as shown here: [Children's Literature Deaf Representation.mp4](#).

Then on April, 23rd, the CECH Associate Senior Librarian, Kate Foran-Mulcahy and I did Storytime with the preschool children at Arlitt Pre-School on UC campus. Kate read the book, *We Are Going on A Bear Hunt* while I signed the book in American Sign Language (ASL). We also signed in ASL various children's songs. Then the children surprised us by singing and signing in ASL a children's song to us. It was a highlight of the year for us!

As part of the CECH & IT Diversity grant requirements, on November 8, 2024, Ms. Foran-Mulcahy, Rachel Hooople (the CECH Library Manger Unit Operations), and I gave a presentation at the Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Our presentation, "Many hands: Leveraging strategies of engagement to celebrate d/Deaf identities in the library" was a great success except for one issue.

Prior to the conference, Mrs. Foran-Mulcahy kindly requested that the ALAO conference provide ASL interpreters for me for the entire day and for our presentation. Initially, they responded that they could only budget interpreters for our presentation, not for the whole day. Mrs. Foran-Mulcahy was not satisfied with this response and had a lengthy discussion with them, urging them to reconsider. When they still refused, I emailed them, stating that per ADA law, they are required to provide interpreters. I was polite but firm. They quickly complied and provided an interpreter for the entire day, and everything went smoothly during the conference.

Ohio Deaf History Month | March 13th - April 15th

Ohio Deaf History Month
March 13 to April 15

You can ask your local library for a display of Ohio Deaf History Month. If you have any questions, please let one of the ODFL Board members know how to do it.

Ohio Deaf History Month at Ohio Statehouse

<https://www.laurentclerc.org/copy-of-annual-report>



[Societe Laurent Clerc](#)
[Laurent Clerc Who?](#)
[Petition For Laurent Clerc Stamp](#)

“Deaf President Now!” Documentary on Apple!

Written by: Juanita Hall

There is exciting news that Apple Films will be producing a documentary, [Deaf President Now!](#) with “Deaf actor, filmmaker, and advocate Nyle DiMarco and Oscar-winning documentarian Davis Guggenheim” (Galuppo, 2024, para. 1). This film has the goal of portraying it in the “Deaf Point Of View” by implementing impressionistic visual photography and other modes for the film watchers to have the Deaf experience. Additionally, Nyle is working with the film to make sure that the American Sign Language (ASL) is displayed with accurate interpretation. One of their goals is for American history to finally recognize this important Deaf civil rights movement to be finally included in American history (Galuppo, 2024).

It is tentatively planned for the documentary to be available on Apple TV+ in 2025 (Google AI, 2024). Be sure to read the [article](#) for more information.

Deaf President Now movie by Nyle DiMarco

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/apple-deaf-president-now-nyle-dimarco-davis-guggenheim-1236082198/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHeUZpleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHY2azX6sb7JxGlkG8YhbOTbzLqSVrVXEpiDLnpR64R-nZ0fFtmBtn6kvA_aem_m-qZ2Bwb2McU2cjNOKjGuQ

References

Galuppo, M. (2024, December 10, 10:00 AM).

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/apple-deaf-president-now-nyle-dimarco-davis-guggenheim-1236082198/>

Apple TV. (2024, December 11, 12:10 pm). Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=976091947897374&id=100064897323398&set=a.637568258416413>

Image Credit: Google Images from www.hollywoodreporter.com



St. Rita School for the Deaf Reunion

St. Rita School for the Deaf Reunion will celebrate on June 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2025 at Cincinnati, Ohio. Embassy Suites Hotel at Blue Ash, Ohio.

If you are interested to attend, please contact Michelle Anthony at srsdpresident2@gmail.com

18th Annual Deaf Senior Conference at Kansas City, MO

If you want to attend the conference on August 1 to 7, 2025, you can click this website for more information, such as registration, workshops, field trips, schedules, and hotel. <https://www.deafseniors.us/2025-conference>

One of the field trips is to the Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture, which is a well-known place to visit.

Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture (source: www.museumofdeaf.org) —

The Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture (MDHAC) was established in 1988 by a group of Kansans who saw the need for a public space to share resources about Deaf people and their history. In 2001, the MDHAC opened in Olathe, Kansas, near the Kansas School for the Deaf, becoming the first independent nonprofit museum dedicated to Deaf people, unaffiliated with any educational or government institution. The mission of MDHAC is to promote and preserve knowledge about Deaf individuals, their languages, cultures, and experiences both in the U.S. and globally.

Ohio Board of Pharmacy accessible services search

The Board of Pharmacy has launched a website to assist patients with low vision, those who are hard of hearing, and individuals needing language translation services in finding pharmacies that can accommodate their needs. Here is the website:

<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Licensing/Accessibility/FindServices>

Ohio House Bill 152 PASSED | Health Insurance Required to Cover Hearing Aids for the Youth

Written by: Juanita Hall

Hearing aids are very expensive, ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000 per hearing aid depending on its technological features and the fitting and adjustment fees charged by professional services (Google, 2025). Many parents with children who wear hearing aids are often shocked to find out that hearing aids are not covered under health insurance; whereas cochlear implants are.

The good news is that after more than five years of effort by various groups such as Let Ohio Hear, the Ohio House Bill 152 was finally passed on December 26th, 2024. This HB 152, also known as Madeline's Law, requires health insurers to cover up to \$2,500 per individual hearing aid for every four years for Ohioan youths under the age of 22 (Balmert, 2024 & Republican Newsroom, 2023).

Madeline's Law is named after Madeline Rohlin, a girl from Shaker Heights, whose need for health insurance coverage for her hearing aids inspired Allison Russ, a Democrat from Upper Arlington, to introduce the legislation in 2019. Now, our state has joined 25 other states that also require health insurance providers to cover hearing aid costs for youth (Balmert, 2024; Republican Newsroom, 2023).

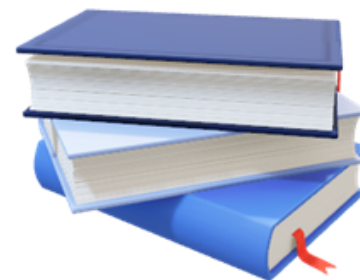
References

Balmert, J. (2024, December 27). *Ohio takes on hearing aids for youth*. The Columbus Dispatch. https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-columbus-dispatch/20241227/281560886411708?srsItd=AfmBOopP5F08JxhgvimCT5QRGnYgJxvE5MYW8Sgg0nz_C9WBmH0VI0cM

Google. (2025). Google AI Overview. Google. Retrieved on January 6, 2025. <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=average+cost+for+hearing+aids+for+the+youth>

Republican Newsroom. (2023, June 7). *House Committee Passes Madeline's Law*. The Ohio House of Representatives 136th General Assembly. <https://ohiohouse.gov/news/republican/house-committee-passes-madelines-law-115153>

Deaf Literature



Do You Have a Voice: Memoirs of My Journey with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Written by: Jane Biehl, PhD

The first grader, Jane Biehl, was startled and embarrassed as her teacher slapped her hands for not listening. Professionals later diagnosed significant hearing loss. She was mainstreamed throughout her school years with no services available and struggled mightily.

She discovered the Deaf Community and sign language in her early twenties. This title chronicles fifty years of observing the many changes in the Deaf community. Research into ASL proved it to be an actual language, and Deaf people realized they were a beautiful culture. Jane had a front-row seat to this history as she describes a semester of counseling at NTID, her experiences counseling deaf and hard-of-hearing people, her activities with the Hearing Loss Association of America, and her work with the blind population. While teaching Deaf Culture, her students inspired her to write this book about the many changes she observed.

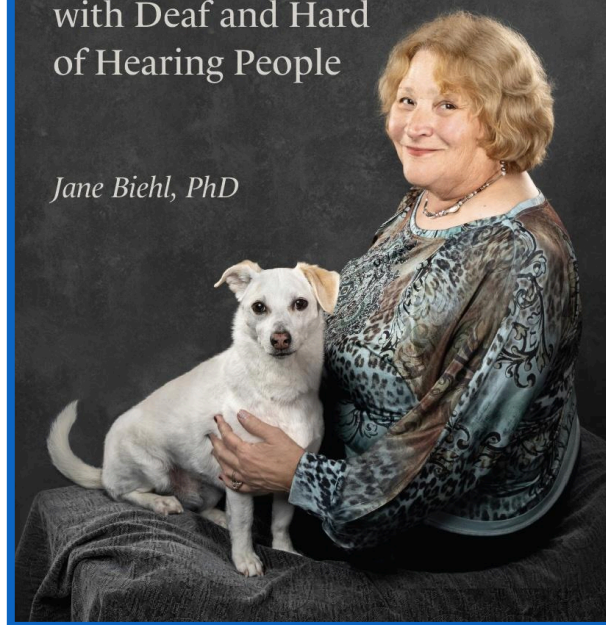
Jane later lost more hearing from chemo for cancer and became reliant on technology. An extensive bibliography and footnotes range from information on oralism to CODAS to interpreters and services. This book will assist anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing, a parent of a child diagnosed, or a professional who works with children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing: the resilience and the uniqueness of this population shine throughout the book.

Image Source: www.google.com

Do You Have a Voice:

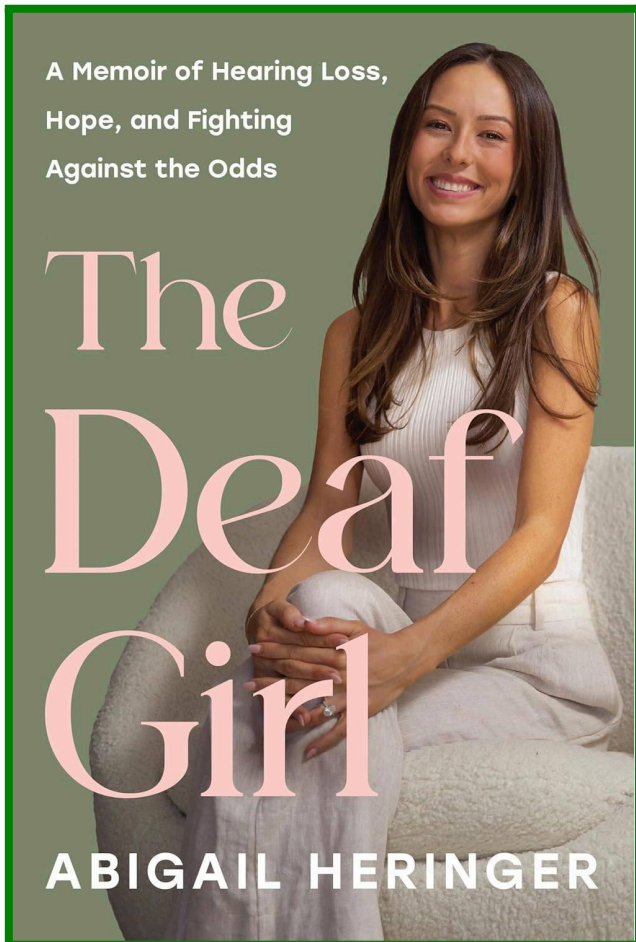
Memoirs of My Journey with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Jane Biehl, PhD



A Memoir of Hearing Loss, Hope, and Fighting Against the Odds The Deaf Girl | Abigail Heringer

Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Deaf-Girl-Hearing-Fighting-Against/dp/1728277388>



An inspiring story of hearing loss and hope from The Bachelor's first deaf contestant. Abigail Heringer made her television debut as an instant fan-favorite on season 25 of The Bachelor. Stepping out of the limousine, she approached her bachelor with a playful declaration: she would be staring at his lips all night for two compelling reasons—her profound deafness since birth and because he had some nice lips!

But Abigail's journey wasn't always marked by such confidence. Growing up deaf and introverted, she dreaded being the center of attention, fearing her disability would burden those around her. Among her hearing peers, she felt like an outsider, simply labeled as "the deaf girl." And after receiving a cochlear implant at the age of two, she subsequently struggled to find her place in the Deaf community too. Caught in between two worlds and grappling to define her identity as a deaf woman, Abigail felt like she belonged in neither.

Supported by her family, particularly her deaf older sister Rachel, Abigail has come to understand that while being deaf is

part of her identity, it doesn't define her. Throughout her journey, marked by challenges and adversity, Abigail has grown into her own strongest advocate, discovering a new voice that is confident, fearless, and empowered—a voice that enables her to proudly reclaim the title of "the deaf girl" she once resisted and rewrite it as a testament to her resilience and strength.

Hopeful, vulnerable, and uplifting, *The Deaf Girl* shares Abigail's journey of navigating life with a profound hearing loss and her transformation from merely accepting her disability to embracing it wholeheartedly. This memoir serves as an inspiring reminder for anyone who has ever felt like an outsider or struggled to embrace their differences, showcasing that every voice is worthy of being heard.

Listen How Evelyn Glennie, A Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion

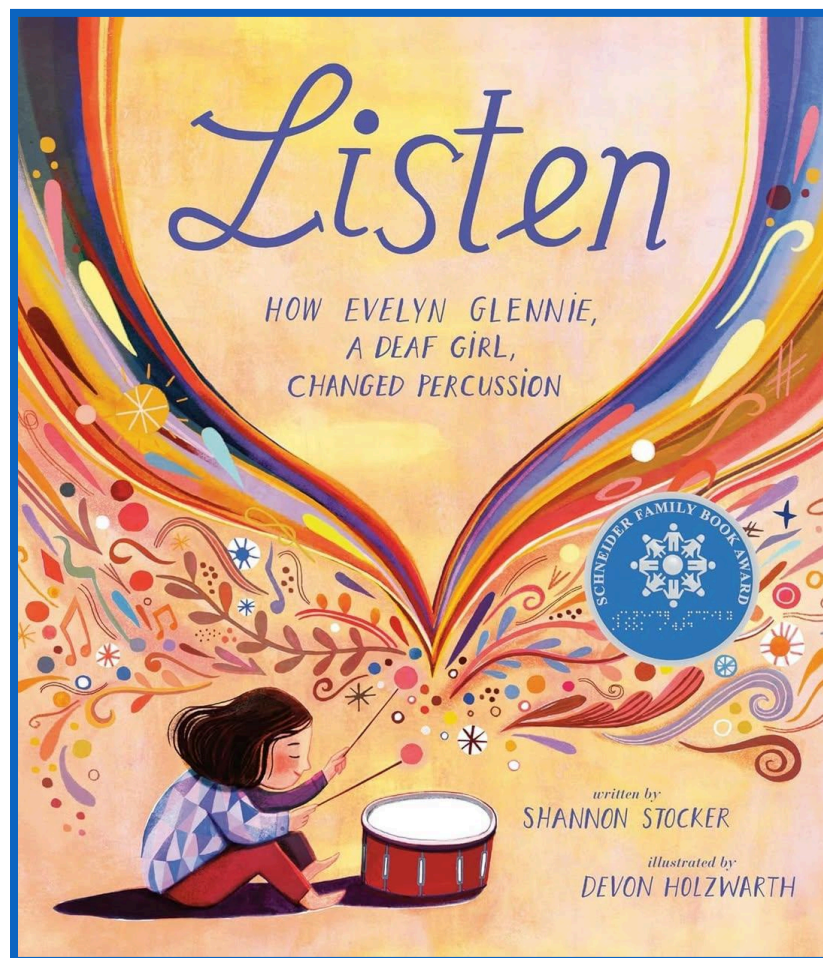
Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Listen-Evelyn-Glennie-Changed-Percussion/dp/0593109694>

A gorgeous and empowering picture book biography about Evelyn Glennie, a deaf woman, who became the first full-time solo percussionist in the world.

"No. You can't," people said.

But Evelyn knew she could. She had found her own way to listen.

From the moment Evelyn Glennie heard her first note, music held her heart. She played the piano by ear at age eight, and the clarinet by age ten. But soon, the nerves in her ears began to deteriorate, and Evelyn was told that, as a deaf girl, she could never be a musician. What sounds Evelyn couldn't hear with her ears, though, she could feel resonate through her body as if she, herself, were a drum. And the music she created was extraordinary. Evelyn Glennie had learned how to listen in a new way. And soon, the world was listening too.



Karlie Waldrip and Rhett Will Visit Ohio School for the Deaf!

Written By: Dawn Watts

The ODFL Board Members have arranged for Karlie Waldrip and her deaf dog, Rhett, to visit the Ohio School for the Deaf on Thursday, March 20, 2025, by virtually for an ASL storytelling session with the students.

For more information about Karlie and her deaf dog, check out Karlie's website: <https://www.rhetttheheeler.com/>



Photo Credit: Karlie Waldrip

First Nation, Indigenous, and Native American Deaf

Written and Photos by: Danny Lucero

Hand Voices Unseen: A Special Event at Gallaudet University Celebrating Native American Deaf Experiences

On November 12, 2024, I had the honor of serving as the moderator for a special event titled "*Hand Voices Unseen*" at Gallaudet University, where I am an alumni. Hosted by the Heritage Sign Language Center, this was the first event of its kind, focusing on the First Nations indigenous and Native American Deaf experience in language and culture. It was a truly humbling and enriching experience to be part of such an important and groundbreaking occasion.

The event provided a platform for Native Deaf individuals to share their stories, their struggles with cultural and language deprivation, and their journeys toward reclaiming their identities. As a moderator, I was deeply moved listening to their accounts of overcoming colonization, healing, and learning to de-colonize. In many ways, we shared a common journey — walking the red road, reconnecting with our roots, and ensuring that our cultural traditions and languages endure despite the historic challenges we have faced.

It was a moment of collective healing, knowledge-sharing, and mutual respect. The event attracted over 800 online registrations, with 600 live viewers streaming the event, and a large in-person audience on campus. This was a testament to the powerful resonance of our stories and the importance of visibility for Native Deaf individuals in both the hearing and Deaf communities.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this gathering was the opportunity to showcase our traditions, including the sacred Circle of Smudging. This act of purification and connection with the Creator was shared with the broader community, and I was especially touched to see the president of the University participate and learn from our ways. The act of inclusion and learning across cultural lines made this event even more significant.

The panels presented diverse voices from different tribes, cultures, and languages, reflecting the vast richness of Native Deaf experiences. These stories opened a window into the challenges and triumphs of growing up as a Deaf Native person. It was both eye-opening and heartwarming for the audience, who gained a deeper understanding of our unique struggles and strengths.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to connect with so many remarkable individuals and to bring their voices and experiences to a wider audience. The event was a true success in its ability to bridge cultural divides, create dialogue, and celebrate our shared history while looking toward the future. It has inspired me to continue to build and maintain connections with different tribes, learning from one another and working toward a more inclusive and de-colonized future.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this humbling experience. It was truly a powerful step in raising awareness and fostering understanding across communities.

Danny Lucero, Presenter



Left to right: Dr. Cordano, Gallaudet University President, Sarah Young Bear-Brown, Tribe: Meskwaki, Cindi Martin, Tribe: Anishinaabe Red Lake, Danny Lucero, Tribe: Navajo/Apache, Mike Byrd, Tribe: Rappahannock Nation, and Judy Stout, Tribe: Lumbee.

Ohio Legislators for the SSP/CN Pilot Service Committee

Written by: Jason Judy and Lynn Janse

Welcome to the group! DBOCAN will keep you updated as the time goes on. The purpose of this new committee, DeafBlind Ohioans Community Action Network (DBOCAN) is to be sure our new Statewide SSP Pilot Program becomes permanent. We are also working on bringing back Ohio DeafBlind Outreach Program (ODBOP) that is vitally important to help out with advocacy, employment and training

We have a new legislative committee called DeafBlind Ohioans Community Action Network (DBOCAN). The purpose of this committee is to be sure our new Statewide SSP Pilot Program becomes permanent. We are also working on bringing back Ohio DeafBlind Outreach Program (ODBOP) that is vitally important to help out with advocacy, employment and training This new committee consists of Terry Blosser, as the chair, Skip Bergquist, Julia Felts, Lynn Jansen, Jason Judy, Brittanie Maddox and Dawn Watts.

On this FB group, we will keep you posted on our committee and ongoing tasks.

If you would like to join this group, please feel free to do so. Go to Facebook and search group “DBOCAN” or click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1093793719056250>.

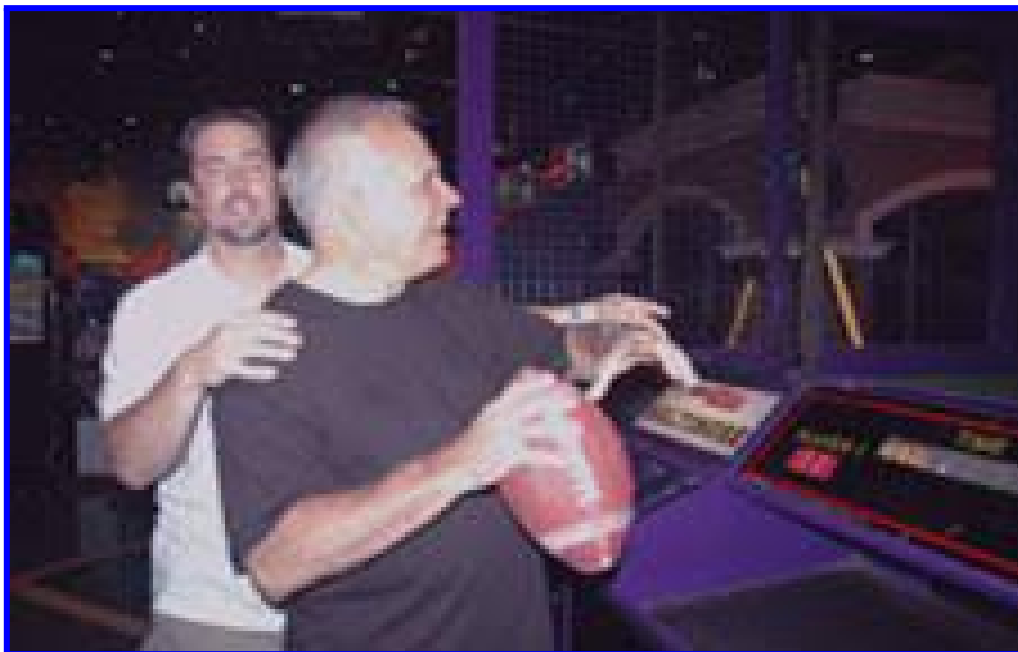


Photo Credit: Dawn K Watts

National Federation of the Blind Jacobus Broek Disability Law Symposium

Join us for the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Jacobus Broek Disability Law Symposium from March 20-21, 2025, in Baltimore, Maryland.

The conference includes interactive workshops and in-depth plenary sessions on intersectional representation in the disability rights community. The 2025 theme is Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law: Protecting Our Right to Live in the World. The annual conference will be at our national headquarters, the NFB Jernigan Institute (200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230). Our hotel block is now open for reservations. Registration opening soon.

BOOK HOTEL

We reserved a hotel block at the Courtyard Baltimore Downtown McHenry Row, 1803 Porter Street, Baltimore, MD, from Wednesday night, March 19, through Sunday morning, March 23, 2025. The room rate is \$179 plus taxes and fees per night. You can call the hotel at [443-853-9918](tel:443-853-9918) and use the code **JTLS2025** or make your reservation on the Marriott website.

The hotel block deadline is Wednesday, FEBRUARY 19, 2025. We will provide shuttles to and from the NFB Jernigan Institute during the the conference.

SCHEDULE

The law symposium includes interactive workshops and in-depth plenary sessions on intersectional representation in the disability rights community. Below is a general outline of the symposium by day:

- * Wednesday, March 19: Deaf Law Day
- * Thursday, March 20: Symposium Presentations, Workshops, and Networking Reception
- * Friday, March 21: More Symposium Sessions and Disability Rights Bar Association Meeting

The agenda, shuttle schedule, and registration are coming soon. If you have any questions, please contact legal@nfb.org.

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium is the leading disability law conference in the United States that brings nationally renowned disability rights advocates together. The symposium depends on including all viewpoints and persuasions from the broadest spectrum of individuals and organizations in the disability rights community. Continuing Dr. tenBroek's lifelong pursuit of dignity, equality, and full participation in society by the disabled requires the thoughts and ideas of people from diverse worlds and world views.

National Federation of the Blind | 200 E Wells Street | Baltimore, MD
21230 | [410-659-9314](tel:410-659-9314)

A FREE, Virtual Event for Parents of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children

ASL Family Events Presents:

What You Need to Know:

Transitioning from EI to Preschool, Pre-K to Kindergarten, or to a new district



Saturday, January 18



9-10:30 AM via Zoom

Join Jackie West, mom of two Deaf children, as she shares her story and tips for working with districts to meet the needs of her Deaf children. Q&A session to follow.



REGISTER NOW

bit.ly/3WcnCEz

My Life My Story By DeafBlind | Columbus Museum Art

Written By: Julia Felts

Columbus Speech & Hearing (CSH) is a non-profit with 101-year-old historical roots in Central Ohio. We offer audiology services, speech therapy, ASL classes, and services for DeafBlind Ohioans. In July of 2023, CSH was awarded funding for a statewide pilot program for DeafBlind Ohioans. This Support Service Provider or Co-Navigator (SSP/CN) program is currently funded through June of 2025. We are hoping the state will continue to financially back this much needed program for DeafBlind Ohioans.

Columbus Speech & Hearing is working with the DD Counsel to host a My Life My Story Workshop for five DeafBlind individuals. The individuals selected represent the wide spectrum of deafblindness in Ohio. During the workshop they will learn how to tell a story about a memory from their life.

On Sunday, February 2nd the Columbus Museum of Art and Art Possible are excited to host the telling of these stories. Sundays are free days at the Columbus Museum of Art, so everyone is welcome to the DeafBlind storytelling. The stories will be interpreted in English/ASL. There is no registration for the event at the museum—seating in the auditorium is first-come-first-served.

We hope that these stories will touch all Ohioans, improving deafblindness awareness and advocacy. At the foundation, the Columbus Museum of Art is about story telling. This collaboration connects the art of sign language to the human experience in a beautiful setting.



Photo Credit: Google Images

SAVE THE DATE

"CONNECTING THROUGH ASL TEACHING"



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



**CONFERENCE
2025**

FEBURARY 28TH - MARCH 1ST
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLUMBUS, OHIO

More information coming soon



**FOLLOW:
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS
NETWORK (ASLIN)**

2025

Columbus Senior Citizens of the Deaf

Jan.9 & 23
Feb. 6 & 20
Mar 6 & 20
April 3 & 17
May 8 & 22
June 5 & 19

July 10 & 24
Aug. 7 & 21
Sept. 4 & 18
Oct. 9 & 23
Nov. 6 & 20
Dec. 4 & 18

Board Members

President - Willis Cook
Vice Pres. - Jerry Huebner
Secretary - Sharon Brooker
Treasurer - Kathy Kline
Assistant - Treasurer- Linda Davis

Mary Huebner
Kenny Stephens
Jean O'Rourke
Larry Waisner
Karon Felter
Tony Latella
Susan Buza
Delila Dusenbury

Member = \$7.00
Non-Member - \$10.00
Only Board Members At 10 am
Members Open At 11 am

CCH 2 at Multi Purpose Room
1105 Colony Dr. , Westerville , Oh 43081
wllsck@icloud.com



Deaf Services team is located in central Ohio (Franklin County) but can provide all services throughout the state through Videophone.

CARF Accredited (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities):

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of human and health service organizations. Its mission is to promote quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of persons served.



ViaQuest
Psychiatric &
Behavioral Solutions

525 Metro Place North, Suite 100
Dublin, Ohio 43017
614.339.1649

www.ViaQuestInc.com/core-services/deaf-services

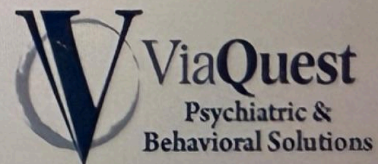
Videophone: 614.356.8012
Referral Phone: 855.289.1722
Referral Fax: 800.503.2953
Email: PBSIntake@ViaQuestInc.com

PBS360 • 01.28.2019

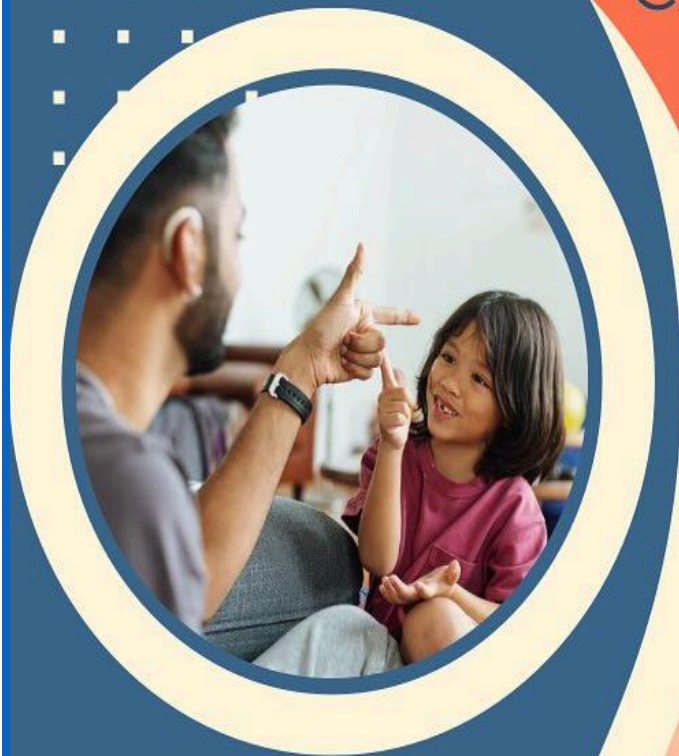
Mental and Behavioral Health Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf Low Vision, DeafBlind & CODAs



Enabling you to live your best life possible.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS
NOW OPEN



2025 DEAF EDUCATION CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 11, 2025
CLEVELAND, OHIO

This is an in-person event.

SUBMISSION FORM

[BIT.LY/DEAFEDCONFOHIO](https://bit.ly/deafedconfOhio)

Proposals accepted through February 1



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
OhioDeafEdConference@gmail.com

DeafBlind Cruise: Princess Caribbean 12 Nights

A cruise through the Panama Canal from January 4 to January 16, 2026 is a unique experience that allows travelers to see a modern engineering marvel, explore ports, and experience the surrounding wildlife and scenery.

Ports:

- Day 1 Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Day 2 At Sea
- Day 3 At Sea
- Day 4 Oranjestad, Aruba
- Day 5 Curacao
Netherlands Antilles
- Day 6 At Sea
- Day 7 Cartagena, Colombia
- Day 8 Cruising the Panama
And Colon, Panama
- Day 9 Puerto Limon, Costa Rica
- Day 10 At Sea
- Day 11 Georgetown, Cayman Island
- Day 12 At Sea
- Day 13 Fort Lauderdale

Staterooms Pricing:

- Inside (IB) \$1563.00 per person
- Oceanview (OC) \$1877.00 per person
- Balcony (BB) \$2631.00 per person
- Mini Suite (MD) \$2768.00 per person

Double Occupancy Rates are per person.
Deposit: \$200 per cabin minimum to lock in this rate.

Princess Caribbean will provide ASL, Tactile ASL and ProTactile interpreters.

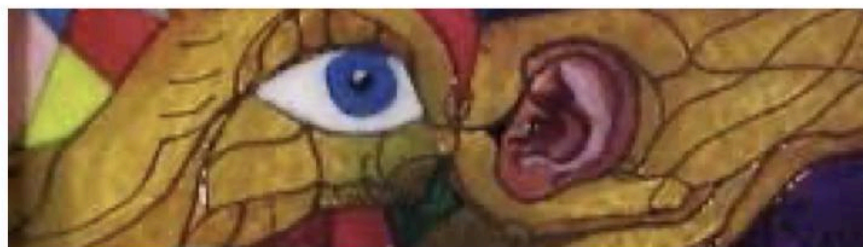
Co-Navigator (CN) and Support Service Providers (SSP) Bring your OWN CN/SSP. We are not responsible provide CN/SSP. I encourage DeafBlind to give CN/SSP break at times.

During Sea Days, we will have plenty of quality time to hang out together. We can create fun tactile activities to bring tactile games, ProTactile stories and games, especially dining, social hot tub/pool, etc. Plus cruise daily onboard activities.

DBEC 5 link: <https://styarbrough.dreamvacationsgroups.com/group-registration/#/groups/27301> (Stacie is working on update website)

Question contact Travel Advisor Stacie Yarbrough: st.yarbrough@dreamvacations.com

Kelly: kellyptasl@gmail.com Brenda: danishcat5@gmail.com



The Columbus Art Museum is on Sunday, March 9, 2025,
from 10:30 am to 1 pm.

5th Annual Deaf-Themed Art Contest

**Join Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library, Ohio Hands & Voices,
and Advocates for Kids for this fun family event at the
Columbus Art Museum in the Makers Space. The Cleveland
Art Museum (possible, will announce)**

**Projects will be broken into four grade groups, with three
winners per group!**

Can't you join us in person? You can submit an entry via email! Use an 8.5" x 11" piece
of paper to draw your entry. Submit a photo of your picture to ohiocdc2016@gmail.com.

If you have any questions concerning this contest, please reply to the above email.

Due by March 2, 2025

Four pictures of the 1st place winners will be displayed at the Ohio Statehouse March 13th to April
15th during Ohio Deaf History Month.

Grade Groups are: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th

1st place winner: \$50.00

2nd place winner: \$25.00

3rd place winner: \$10.00

Winners will be announced at 1 pm.

Special Guest Speaker

Laurent Clerc, Deaf French Teacher's 4th Great grandson, Laurent Holt, will join us via Zoom,
where he will explain to us how Laurent Clerc has been presented to the world in many forms from
11 am to 11:30 am



Deaf Initiatives (Keepsake T-Shirt Quilts) in Columbus, Ohio

Source: Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library Facebook

After 26 incredible years, Deaf Initiatives will close its doors on January 31, 2025. This journey has been filled with amazing achievements, including being honored as the 2022 Social Enterprise of the Year and most importantly, supporting Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals with invaluable employment skills. We appreciate all of the support you have given us over the years, and hope you continue to support the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community in whatever ways make sense to you.



Photo Credit: Keepsake T-Shirt Quilts Facebook

Ohio Deaf Association

Written By: Marsha Moore, ODA President

The ODA board met at the Dublin Library on Saturday, January 11, 2025. Over 25 people attended in person and via Zoom. Remember that the meetings are always open to the public. We value your feedback on every initiative we will undertake on behalf of ODA and the Deaf community in 2025 and beyond.

The membership form, unveiling the new ODA website, Deaf Youth Camp (dates to be announced soon), and the Pickleball Tournament fundraiser, among many other topics, were discussed at the meeting. Details will be forthcoming soon, so follow us on the ODA website, FB, and Instagram at Ohio Deaf Association.

And we have exciting news to share! During the meeting, the members also selected a new logo for ODA. We will show you the new logo soon, along with the QR code to become a member of ODA!

Please mark ODA's upcoming 2025 events on your calendars; they are all open to the public.

Saturday, April 12, 2025 - ODA Board Meeting - TBA

Saturday, September 6, 2025 - ODA General Meeting - TBA

(The OSDAA Fall Festival is on September 7th).

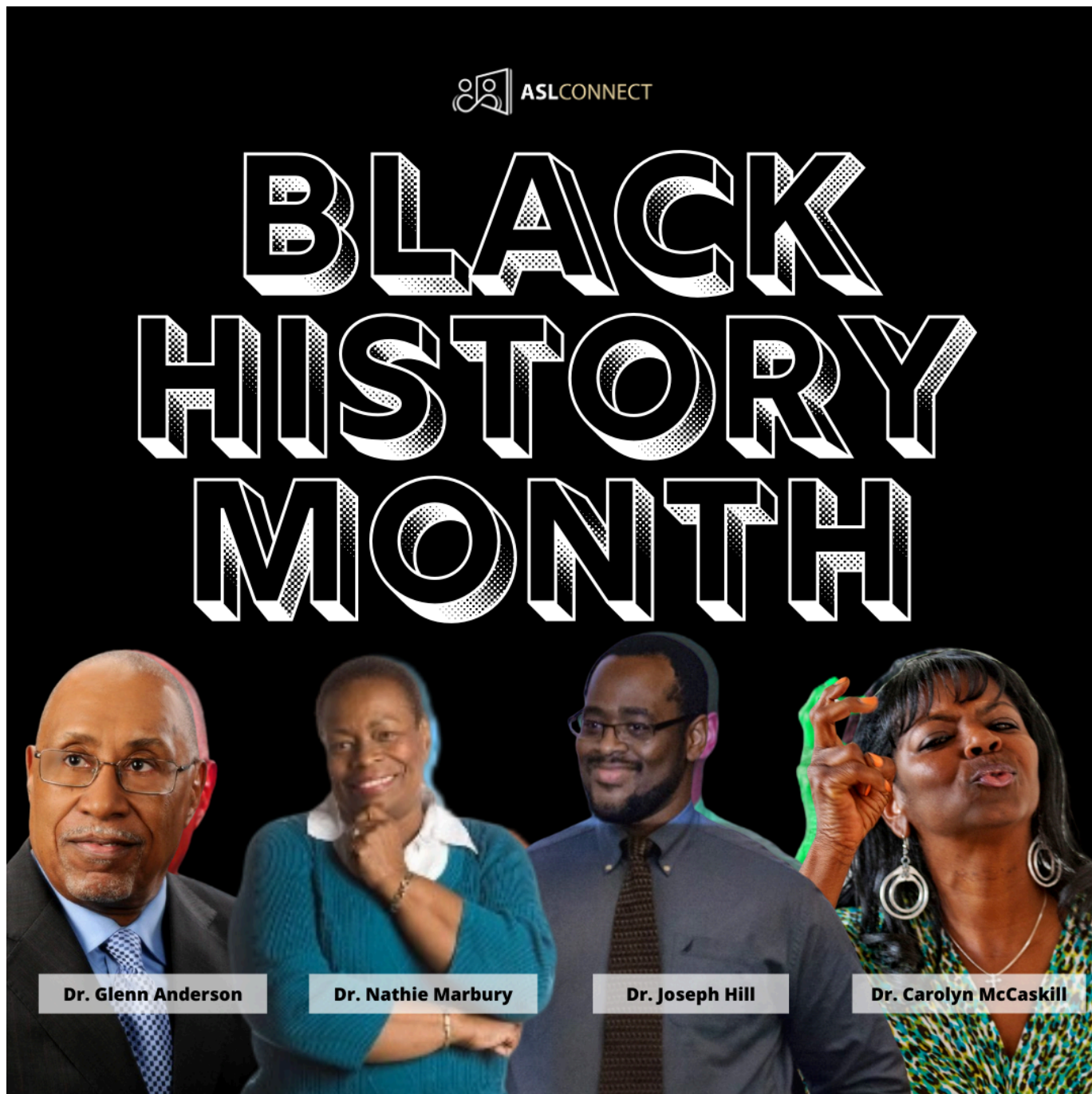
Saturday, September 13, 2025 - ODA/ASLIN/DWAVE Pickleball Tournament at Paddle Taps, Worthington, OH - 9 am to 6 pm

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - ODA at Deaf Nation Expo - Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH

On behalf of the ODA Board, much gratitude to everyone who attended Saturday's meeting. We appreciate your support, ideas, and enthusiasm!

Look for updates soon, including the new ODA membership drive and Website launch!

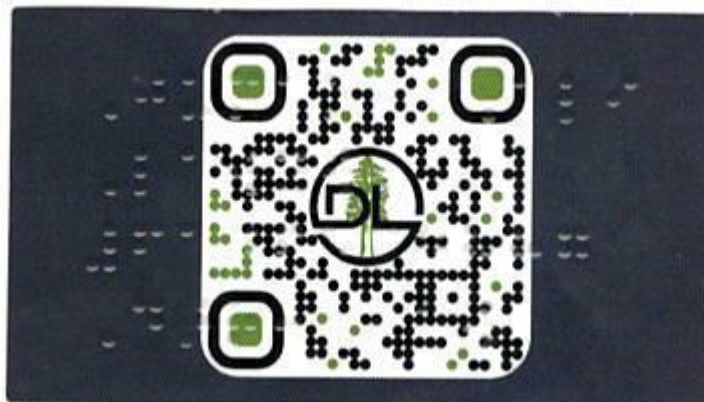
Deaf Black History Month: February 2025



Upcoming Events

If you need an attorney for an American Sign Language Access lawsuit, use this QR code below.

Darr Law: Jumana M. Ali
Attorney
JMA@Darr.law
www.Darr.law
614-653-7887



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

The Next Deaf Reader Newsletter | **April 2025**

COMPUTER

If you need someone to fix your PC or Apple computer, Justin Watters, a Deaf Computer technician, can help and support you. You can contact him at jwwwatters3@gmail.com. He will charge you for the service.

ASL MASTER TUTOR/ENGLISH TUTOR

ASL Master Tutor for both hearing and Deaf students needing to improve American Sign Language signing skills - all levels and for ITP students. Also provide English tutoring for Deaf elementary, middle school, high school and Deaf foreign students needing help with reading, writing, spelling skills. Email for more information at ASLmasterTutor@gmail.com

Contact Information

The Deaf Reader

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thedeafreader@gmail.com

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Worthington, Ohio 43085-0917

Standing Committees

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Librarian for Deaf

Ben Gulyas

Coventry Village – Heights Public Library

Ben Gulyas

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

Northwest 1 Representatives None

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 Liliana Arson-Pokorny, Regis Gilchrist, Jenny Jaske and Chuck Williams

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

Southwest 3 Representative Juanita Hall, Scott Van Nice, and Melissa Kelly

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

Central 4 Representatives Brad Race and Danny Lucero

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

Southeast 5 Representative Chris Cooley

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

Director: Dawn K. Watts Co-Editor: Brad Race, Vicky Emerson, and Juanita Hall

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