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# President's Message

*Written by:* Dawn Watts [ASL President's message October 2024](#)

Last summer, the ODFL Board members and I had our retreat meeting. We talked extensively about Deaf Mentoring. The research from the Ballard Brief article indicates that only 22 % of hearing parents of deaf children learn to sign. Due to the lack of exposure to sign language, deaf children are in danger of experiencing linguistic neglect,



meaning they do not receive sufficient language input. This language deprivation, can result in deaf children experiencing decreased mental health, stunted cognitive development, and poor academic performance. It is ODFL's goal to help address and prevent linguistic neglect by spreading deaf awareness, educating school professionals on linguistic neglect and increasing the use of deaf advocacy groups and support organizations.

If you have any concerns for your deaf child or deaf friends, please feel to reach me at [ohiocdc2016@gmail.com](mailto:ohiocdc2016@gmail.com)

Hope you, all will have a happy holiday, Thanksgiving Day with your family and friends as well. Thanks.

Warmly,

*Dawn K Watts*

# ASL storytime for Deaf Native American Heritage Month

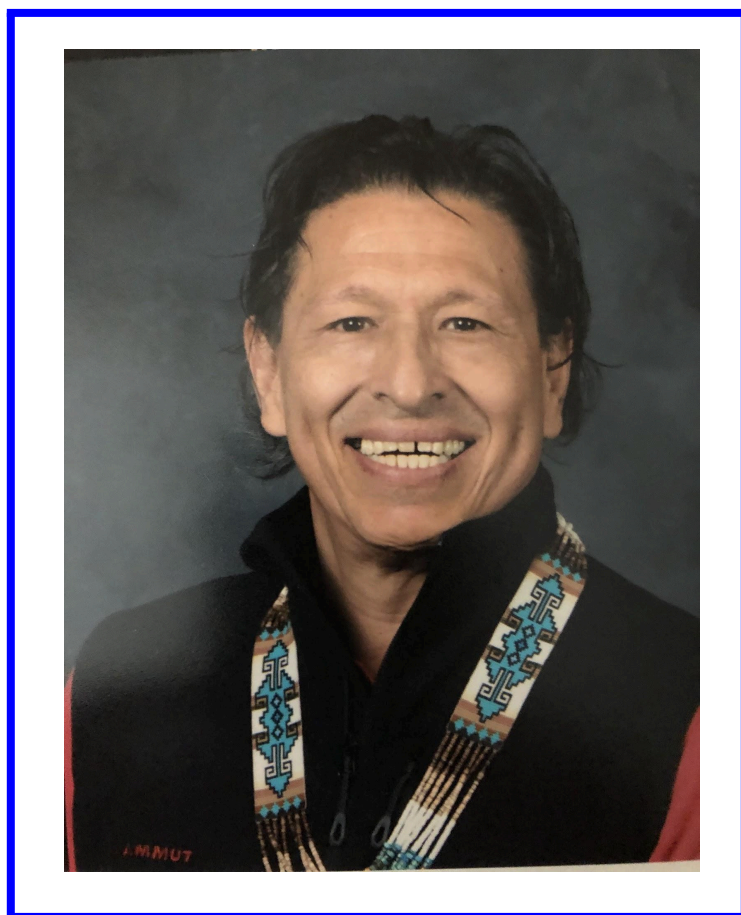
Program: ASL storytime for Native American Heritage Month

Date: November 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

Time: 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Who: Danny Lucero

Location: Miamisburg Public Library, 2718 Lyons Rd. Miamisburg, OH.



# Nancy Rourke, Native American

Nancy Rourke's name sign is N3 for the three primary colors she uses in her artworks. Art has been her primary language. She attended Rochester Institute of Technology and graduated with a master's degree in computer graphic design and painting. Nancy launched her De'VIA (Deaf View / Image Art) expressionism works in 2010 and has not stopped since. Her artworks are permanently displayed in the Silesian Museum in Katowice, Poland. Nancy is an enrolled member of the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians in the Kumeyaay Nation in California. She lives in Colorado.



<https://gallaudet.edu/museum/exhibits/indigenous-deaf-peoples-exhibition/>

The *We, Native Deaf People, Are Still Here!* Exhibition will take over Chapel Hall at Gallaudet University for two years, from 2024 to 2026. The portraits and busts, which have sat in the building for decades, will be relocated elsewhere, along with the *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* exhibition, allowing Indigenous Deaf peoples to lead the space with stories, artworks, and more. The exhibition will focus on decolonizing and indigenizing Chapel Hall. Indigenous Deaf people will tell their own stories and explore what it means to reclaim and to heal through art, language, and history. Planned elements of the exhibition include:

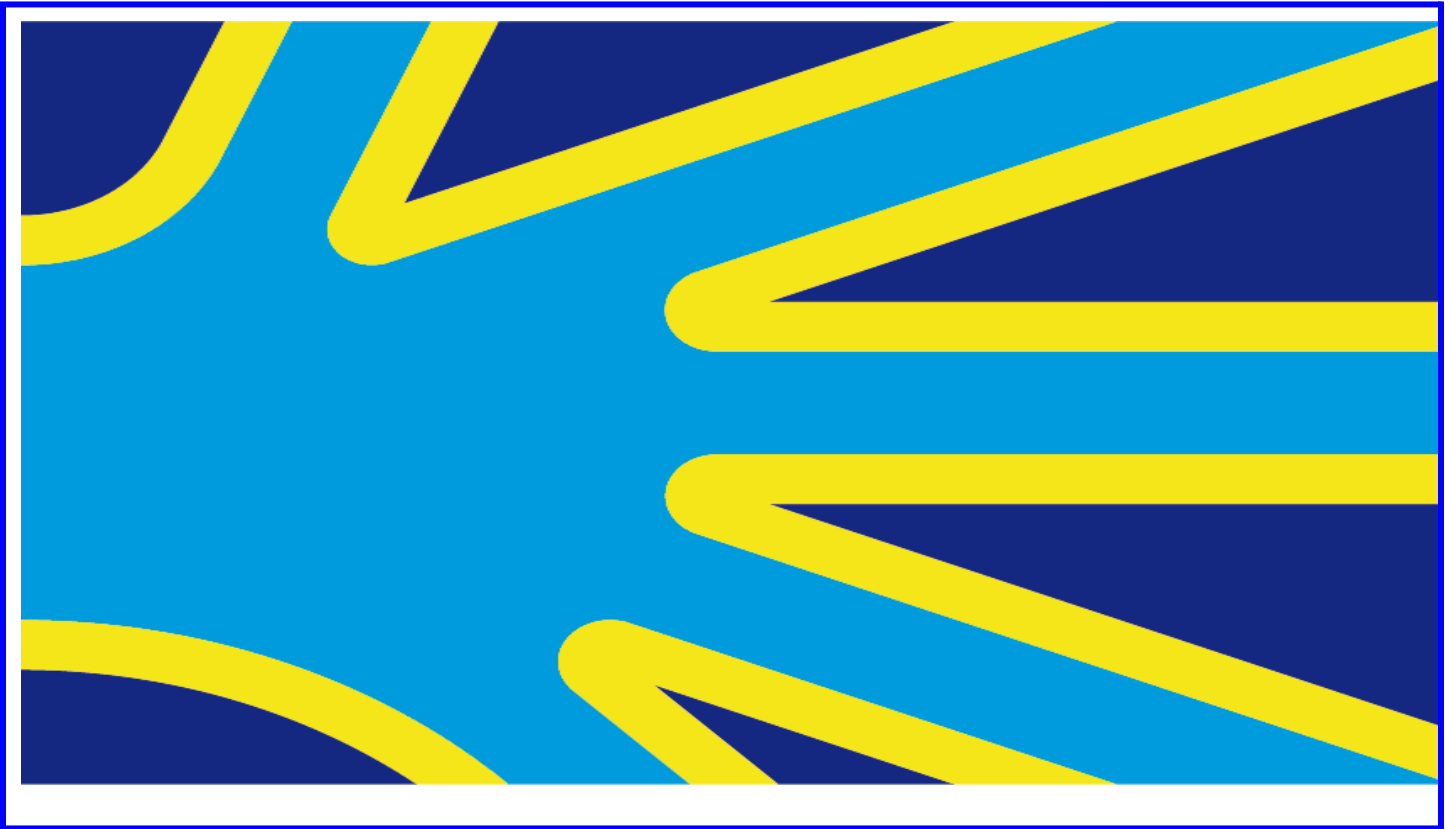
- Land acknowledgment mural by Nancy Rourke

- Educational lounge featuring books by Indigenous writers and activities for families

- Sign language and tactile features

The exhibition will open on Thursday, October 17, 2024, the same day as Gallaudet University's healing ceremony for Building 103.

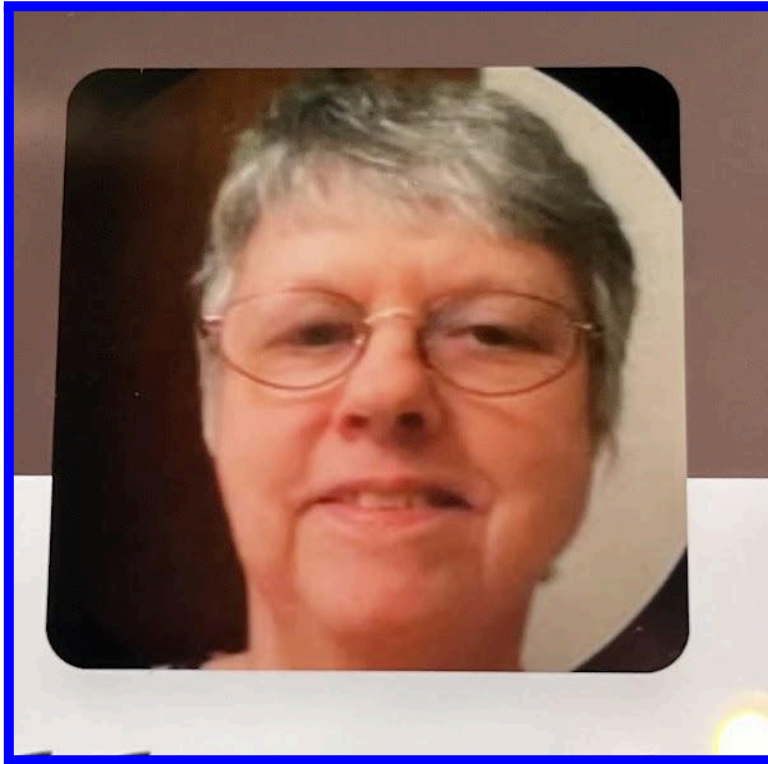
## Deaf Flag for the World Federation of the Deaf on Sept. 22 to 28



This flag was designed by Arnaud Balard, a French DeafBlind artist.

The WFD is pleased to announce that its 20th General Assembly has approved the deaf flag. The Deaf flag is a powerful symbol for deaf communities around the world. The deaf flag consists of several colors. Turquoise Blue represents the deaf community, sign language, pride, and unity. Yellow represents the color of light, an enlightened spirit, life, and "thriving in unison." Dark Blue means the earth, humanity, and living following the planet. It is also the color of the WFD, our logo is blue, we wear blue ribbons in support of deaf people, and deaf cultures worldwide recognize blue as representing deaf people. On the International Day of Sign Languages, we even celebrate by shining a blue light! Blue is deeply connected to the roots of the deaf community. All these colors together represent an awareness of humanity as inherently diverse, a diversity of peoples and languages on Earth. This flag shows that we are here, belong to this world, and are a part of humanity. Deaf people are a part of a rich diversity that makes humanity better. Spread awareness with the flag. Fly this flag with pride and passion, hoping for a world where deaf people everywhere can sign anywhere.

## Obituary: Kathleen A. Otis, Deaf Librarian in Ohio



Kathleen, 79, of Canal Winchester, passed away on May 13, 2024. Kathy was born on November 24, 1944, in Chicago, Illinois.

Kathy graduated from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Science in Library Science and got her Master of Library information from Kent University in Kent, Ohio. She was a former Senior Searcher at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and then worked as a Serials Cataloger at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus, Ohio. She retired after thirty years.

Kathy is preceded in death by her husband, William D Otis, and parents, Joseph Parlman and Bernice (Riley) Parlman. She rests at Keene, New York.

# ODFL: Deaf Mentor Program

*Written by Danny Lucero*

On August 3, 2024, the ODFL Retreat brought together key stakeholders to discuss the future of Deaf children's literacy and community support. Among the notable attendees were representatives from Advocate for Kids, Hands & Voices, and members of the ODFL community. A central feature of the event was a powerful presentation by Danny Lucero, a leader in authentic ASL storytelling, whose work has positively impacted countless families through the Deaf Mentors Program.

Lucero, known for his engaging ASL storytelling, stressed the importance of connecting Deaf mentors with families of Deaf children. He highlighted how this program fosters communication through storytelling told in ASL, providing a bridge for families to access vital resources and guidance from Deaf individuals who have lived experience. His emphasis on storytelling as a culturally significant tool resonated with the audience, showing its relevance not only for Deaf children but also for hearing families seeking to better understand Deaf culture and language.

Lucero's presentation pointed to the growing success of integrating Deaf mentors and role models into Early Intervention Programs. These initiatives, widely adopted across the globe, use ASL storytelling as a crucial element to foster language development and cultural identity.

By partnering with libraries, families, and Deaf role models, these programs strengthen ties between Deaf and hearing communities, promoting inclusivity and cultural awareness from an early age.

The retreat also featured a heartwarming moment when Margot Repas, CEO of Advocate for Kids, and Michael Repas, President and Advocate, made a surprise announcement. The organization presented a \$5,000 donation to ODFL, marking one of the largest contributions ever made by a non-profit to support Deaf children's literacy initiatives. This generous gift will help expand the Storytelling/Deaf Mentors Program, allowing more families to benefit from the storytelling sessions and personalized mentorship provided by Deaf role models.

The ODFL community expressed profound gratitude for the donation, recognizing it as a transformative contribution toward launching and sustaining the literacy and Deaf Mentors Program. Lucero and the ODFL leadership hailed this donation as a pivotal moment, significantly advancing their efforts to enhance the resources available for Deaf children and their families.

This retreat, with its focus on empowering Deaf youth, laid the foundation for future growth and collaboration between organizations committed to advancing Storytelling, ASL literacy and Deaf cultural understanding. The support from Advocate for Kids reaffirms the importance of storytelling, mentorship, and community-based programs that uplift Deaf children, ensuring a lasting impact on their lives.

## Bills of the Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities with ASL

[ASL Bills of the Rights for People with DD](#) (Click this blue link for ASL) 2022

## Crisis Lifeline Resources: 988

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers vital support for deaf and hard-of-hearing people through over 200 state and local call centers. You can reach out for help via videophone, text, or online chat.

Crisis counselors are available 24/7, providing confidential, nonjudgmental support. You don't have to share personal details unless you choose to, and the counselors will assist you regardless of what you disclose.

The number 988 is easy to remember and can significantly affect your life. For more information, visit 988 Lifeline - Help for Deaf and Hard of Hearing: <https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/>

## Ohio Association of the DeafBlind Retreat

The OADB Retreat will be held from Thursday, August 14, to Sunday, August 17, 2025, in Marengo, Ohio, which is North of Delaware.

For more information, contact Bryan Grubb at [bgrms415@gmail.com](mailto:bgrms415@gmail.com)



# Franklin County Board of Elections

Celebrate Disability Voting Rights Week on September 9 to 13, 2024.



Thank you for hosting a Disability Voting Rights Week Event this year! Alexia Kemerling, REV UP Coalitions Coordinator of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). We're thrilled to be able to provide swag boxes to 95 events this year across 29 states and D.C.

For the first time in history, the Franklin Board of Election invited all disabled people, including Deaf and DeafBlind people. Josiah Lanning, MPA, ADA Coordinator for Franklin Board of Election.

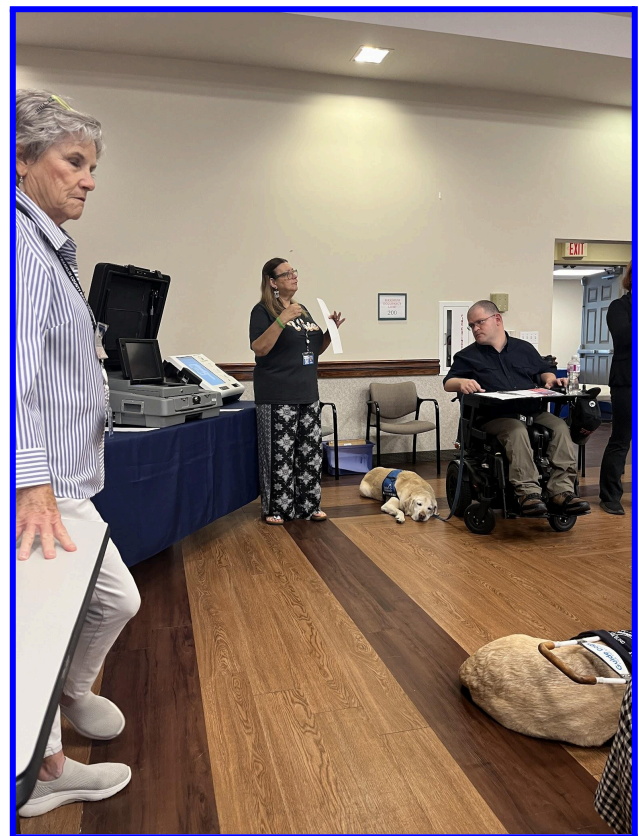
Ohio Early Voting in your County on October 8 to November 3.

The presidential election will be on Tuesday, November 5th at 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.

# Columbus Colony Housing II: Voting Rights

Josiah Lanning, ADA Coordinator from Franklin County Board of Elections, provided two ASL interpreters for Columbus Colony Residents who wanted to learn about Disability Voting Rights Week on Thursday, September 12th, from 10 a.m. to noon. Another schedule will be Wednesday, October 2, at 5:30 p.m. The deadline is October 1st for RVSP. Please email [dwatts@columbusspeech.org](mailto:dwatts@columbusspeech.org)

Everybody is very welcome.





# EMPOWER DISABILITY VOTERS

**OCTOBER 2, 2024**

The Franklin County Board of Elections is committed to providing information and the necessary accommodations that enable disabled voters to equally engage in the election process.

*Voting is for everyone!*

Join us for an open house at Columbus Colony House on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024 from 5:30-7:00PM**. Board staff will be on hand to answer questions about the upcoming election, assist with voter registrations, and provide interactive voting demonstrations. Pizza will be provided to attendees.

**JOSIAH LANNING | ADA COORDINATOR**

Franklin County Board of Elections  
1700 Morse Road | Columbus, OH 43229

**Jeffrey.Lanning@vote.franklincountyohio.gov**

**P: 614.525.4092 C: 614.967.6848**



2024 Presidential Election  
November 5, 2024



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

# wine & cheese party

HOSTED BY  
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE  
INSTRUCTORS NETWORK  
(ASLIN)

Date: Saturday, October 5  
Time: 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM  
Location:  
House Wine  
644 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085

JOIN US FOR A  
DELIGHTFUL  
EVENING OF  
WINE, CHEESE,  
AND COMMUNITY!



## OPEN HOUSE: Deaf Service Center in Columbus

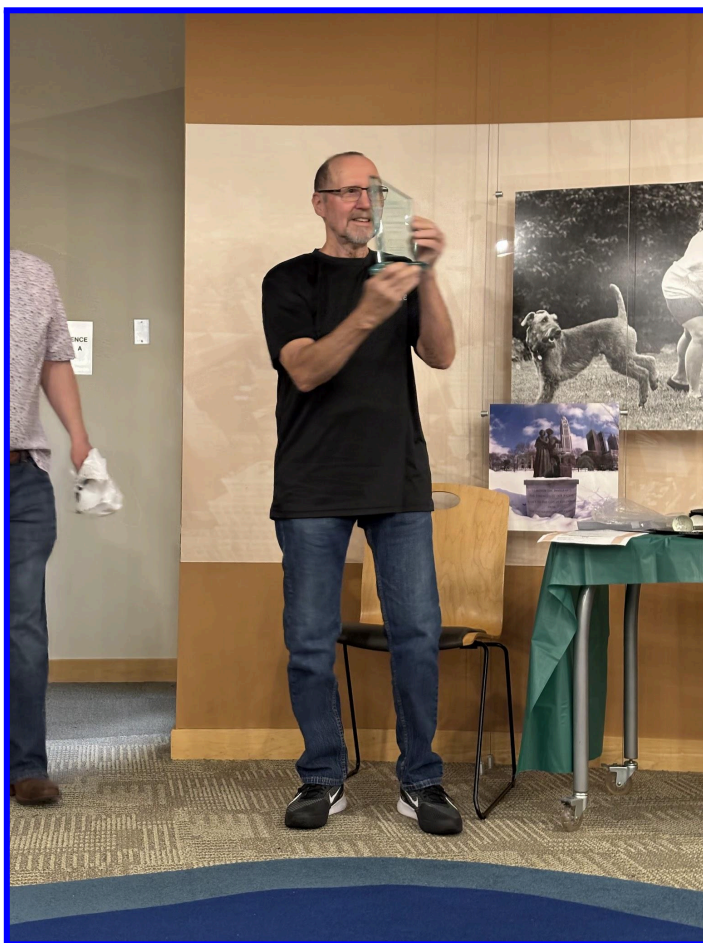
*Written by Jonathan Davis* <https://www.dsc.org/board/>

Deaf Services Center Honors Founding Executive Director, Michael Repas

On September 28th, 2024, Deaf Services Center proudly presented a recognition award to its founding Executive Director, Michael Repas, in honor of his unwavering commitment and devotion to the Deaf community in Ohio. Current Executive Director Jonathan Davis presented the award on behalf of Board Chairperson Cheryl Prusinski.

Michael Repas, who served as the organization's first Executive Director for many years since 1991, was instrumental in shaping the foundation of the Deaf Services Center and fostering vital connections within the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. His visionary leadership and dedication continue to inspire the organization's mission today.

Deaf Services Center extends our deepest gratitude to Michael for his contributions and enduring legacy.



## Dr. Jasmine Simmons, DeafBlind, Consultant, Author, Speaker

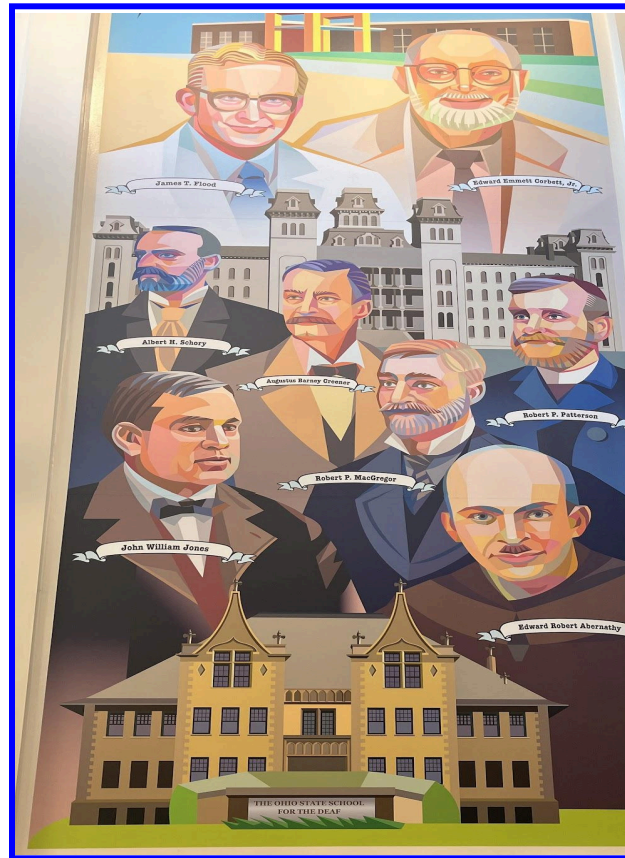
Dr. Jasmine Simmons, Usher Syndrome of Jacksonville, Florida, and her brother, Justin Simmons, Usher Syndrome of Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Simmons wrote an excellent book for children. It is all about her cochlear implant when she was young in school. She used to live in Columbus. Her brother, Justin is also DeafBlind living in Columbus. You can order her book online on Amazon

“Extraordinary Jordyn and her Bionic Ears” with the sticker “Readers Favorite with FIVE STARS”.



James Flood, Dr. Ed Corbett, Albert Schory, Augustus Barney Creener, Robert P Patterson, Robert MacGregory, John William Jones, and Edward Robert Abernathy at the Usher Syndrome Coalition Conference at Rochester, New York on July 19, 2024.



Top row: James Flood, Dr. Ed Corbett, Second row: Albert Schory, Augustus Barney Creener, Robert P Patterson, Last Row: Robert MacGregory, John William Jones, Edward Robert Abernathy.

## A new wall to honor 8 people in the Columbus Colony Housing I

**EDWARD EMMETT CORBETT, JR. (1942-2012)** 15th Superintendent (1990-2011)

Dr. Edward E. Corbett, Jr. was the first deaf Superintendent for the Ohio School for the Deaf. He attended the Louisiana School for the Deaf in Baton Rouge from 1947 to 1958. He received his B.A. degree in Psychology from Gallaudet University in 1963. He also received an M.A. in Education. From 1980 to 1990, he worked at Gallaudet University as a Conference Manager, Executive Director of the University enrollment activities, and Director of The National Academy Administration and Supervision from California State University in Northridge in 1971. Dr. Corbett received his Ph.D. in Special Education Administration from Gallaudet University in 1979.

**JAMES T. FLOOD (1905-1990)** James Flood advocated for Deaf Rights from 1929-1989. He attended public school until he was twelve years old when he became Deaf from spinal meningitis. He enrolled at OSD in 1920, graduating as the class valedictorian three years later. After graduating from Gallaudet College in 1928, he began teaching at OSD in 1930. He received a second bachelor's degree in education in 1932 and a master's degree in special education in 1940, both from the State University. In 1964, during Gallaudet's centennial commencement, Flood received an honorary James Flood doctorate (Doctor of Law). He taught at OSD for 45 years, then retired and devoted his time to establishing the Columbus Colony. He served in many roles, including as its executive director and OSDAA's (Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association) Executive Secretary. Flood founded the National Association of Homes for the Aged Deaf.

**ALBERT H. SCHORY (1858-1918)**

He became deaf in early infancy, and at the age of ten years, Schory enrolled at the Ohio School for the Deaf and graduated in June 1876. He went to Gallaudet College and graduated with honors in June 1881. In October 1881, Superintendent Perry offered him a position a junior high school teacher at OSD. He stayed in this position for 37 years. Schory was a dignified, kind gentleman who was always ready with hands and heart to help any good cause. He was buried in the family lot at Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.

**AUGUSTUS BARNEY GREENER (1849-1940)**

In 1865, an attack of spotted fever left him deaf. Greener became an orphan early and was indentured to a citizen of Greencastle. He had received scarcely any schooling, being able to read without knowledge of handwriting. Greener was nearly nineteen years old before his education began. Greener applied himself earnestly to compensate for lost time and graduated in 1872. He then attended the National Deaf-Mute College in Washington, D.C., for three years but left because of weak eyes. After leaving college in 1875, Greener decided to use the bookbinding trade he had learned at OSD (Ohio School for the Deaf) and accepted a position in Columbus's bindery. Greener considered his being deaf as a blessing rather than a misfortune since it changed his life and led to his becoming an educated man, teaching for four decades under several superintendents.

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**ROBERT PATTERSON (1848-1942)**

At age six, Robert became sick with scarlet fever. Although Patterson recovered, he had become deaf, and his left leg was several inches shorter. Governor Rutherford B. Hayes was very interested in the education of deaf people. He presented the diplomas at the first graduation ceremony in 1869. Patterson and Robert P. MacGregor were classmates at the Ohio School for the Deaf, although neither stayed to receive their diplomas. In 1865, Patterson applied for admission to the preparatory class of the National Deaf-Mute College (now Gallaudet University). Patterson worked at the Ohio School for 15 years, 20 as a teacher and 31 as principal, serving under four superintendents. Yet, another leading role Patterson took on was the first president of the Ohio Home of Aged and Infirm Deaf (OHAD) Board of Managers.

**ROBERT P. MACGREGOR (1849-1926)**

Robert P. MacGregor was a well-known deaf educator in the United States. He was described as a forceful writer who wrote many heartfelt articles about deaf people, leaving people feeling that his pen was quite golden. A skilled orator and master of sign language with a keen sense of humor, he was one of the OHAD founders. In 1880, MacGregor was chairman of the National Association of the Deaf's (NAD) first convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. At this convention, he was elected as the NAD's first president. He decided to attend Gallaudet College and received a bachelor's degree in 1872 and a master's degree in 1892. MacGregor immediately began his teaching career and worked at several schools.

**JOHN WILLIAM JONES (1860-1930) 11th Superintendent (1895-1930)**

He attended the country schools during the winter terms until eighteen years of age, when he began teaching. He taught at five county schools during the winter and attended school during the summers, and was Principal of the school at Rome, Adams County, from Ohio during the winter of 1883-1884. He was Superintendent of the public schools at Manchester in Adams County from 1885 until 1895. During the summer, he conducted a preparatory school for teachers and lectured at Teachers' Institutes. He took a post-graduate course at the Ohio University and graduated in 1893, receiving the B.A. degree. He was selected as the Superintendent of the Ohio Institution in 1895. He received an honorary M.A. degree from Gallaudet College in 1902 as President of the Department of Special Education in the National Education Association in 1903.

**EDWARD ROBERT ABERNATHY (1902-1975) 12th Superintendent (1930-1968)**

Edward R. Abernathy was born in Columbus on May 13, 1902. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from The Ohio State University. He was an administrator in various Ohio public schools before accepting his appointment as academic principal at OSD in 1925. Upon the death of Mr. Jones, he became the youngest Superintendent of OSD. He served from 1930 to 1968, for a total of 38 years. He was also elected President of the American Instructors for the Deaf in the early 1960s.

## Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Alumni Association

The Buckeye Chapter of GUAA had a picnic at Bledon Woods Metro Park, “The Dogwood Shelter,” on Saturday, September 21 by Julie Levine, Event Coordinator.

Martin Teltser resigned as President due to his health. Steve Sandy is taking his place as President. Members approved accepting Steve Sandy, President, and Jessica Fry, Vice President.

The Scholarship Committee: Skip B, Irene T, and Charisse Heine will work closer with the Financial Office at Gallaudet University; they will give the students an application form. The effective will be in July 2025. For more information, contact Dawn Watts, Secretary/Treasurer, at [buckeyechapterofguaa@gmail.com](mailto:buckeyechapterofguaa@gmail.com).

Website Coordinator: Gerald Eicher <https://buckeyechapterofgu.wixsite.com/buckeye>

Facebook: Buckeye Chapter of GUAA



Front Row: Arthur Roehrig, Bob Donaldson-Pirc, Charisse Heine, Gerald Eicher, Dawn Watts Middle Row: Marcela Matovcikona, Danny Luceno, Steve Sandy, Jessica Fry. Back Row: Skip Bergquist, Susan Bungard, Julie Levine, Ron Buterbaugh, Jonathan Davis

# Ohio Deaf Association Officers on Sept 28, 2024



President: Dr. Marsha Moore

Vice President: Mania Drosak

Secretary: Linda Adams and Richard Bretz

Treasurer: Jennifer Salven

Financial Advisor: Jim Beaton

Rose Larson: Member at Large

Charisse Heine: Member at Large

Irene Tunanidas: Member at Large

Stephen Rute: Member at Large

Jim Beaton: Member at Large and Financial Advisor

Oaths were administered by Linsey Darnell, Jr. to all the new board officers. The video will be posted in the comment section.

Congratulations to all!

Also, a special thank you to Linsay Darnell, Jr. for a fantastic job in giving ODA the tools necessary for the success and direction of the organization. We could only have done it with his expertise!

And, a special thank you to all the Deaf community members for attending and supporting ODA. We truly appreciate your continued support.

Onward, the ODA Board looks forward to working with the Deaf community with its 4 new goals for the next two years: Youth, Membership, Outreach, and Conference planning. A vlog with more details will be sent out later this week.

Meanwhile, you can email to [TheOhioDA@gmail.com](mailto:TheOhioDA@gmail.com) anytime!

In Unity,

The ODA Board

# DeafBlind Advisory Committee

*Written by Julia Felts, Program Manager, Columbus Speech & Hearing Center*

In July of 2024 in Ohio, an exciting program started for the DeafBlind Community. The program is called The Statewide SSP Pilot Program.

So, SSP, what does that mean? SSP stands for Support Service Provider (SSP), which is also known as Co-Navigator (CN). SSPs/CNs provide visual information and communication facilitation for Deaf-Blind individuals. For example, an SSP/CN may take a Deaf-Blind individual to a grocery store, to get a haircut, or to a social outing with other Deaf-Blind individuals.

One of the first tasks accomplished with the pilot program was the official recognition of the SSP Advisory Committee. This Committee is a diverse group of individuals with working knowledge of DeafBlind needs and services. The group includes representation from the spectrum of combined vision and hearing loss, representation around the state of Ohio, and representation from those who serve the DeafBlind community (such as Helen Keller National Center).

The advisory committee's purpose is to offer guidance regarding the best interests of the Deaf and Blind. Columbus Speech and Hearing receives information, opinions, and suggestions for developing and growing the Statewide SSP Pilot Program, funded through June 2025.

Essential for the success of any program is learning directly from the community being served and involvement with and of those community members. This SSP Advisory Committee continues to apply this success strategy in the planning for current and future services. For example, the Committee is selecting DeafBlind individuals to testify with the Ohio Legislators regarding the need for continued and increased funding to serve the DeafBlind people across the state of Ohio.

This hardworking committee has dedicated its time and efforts to creating, developing, and strengthening this pilot program. The committee's wide range of knowledge and experience is creating a strong and well-rounded foundation for the program's future.

Dawn Watts, Donna Schultz, Jason Judy, Julia Felts, John Filek, Leah Subak, Lynn Jansen, and Skip Bergquist are current members of the SSP Advisory Committee.

For more information about the SSP Pilot Program, visit [Columbus Speech and Hearing](#).

To sign up for DeafBlind SSP services or to become an SSP/CN, please contact Dawn Watts at [dwatts@columbusspeech.org](mailto:dwatts@columbusspeech.org).



# COLUMBUS SPEECH & HEARING

EST. 1923

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<u>Position Title:</u>	Support Service Provider (SSP) or Co-Navigator (CN)
<u>Department:</u>	ASL/SSP
<u>Source of Supervision:</u>	Program Manager
<u>Classification:</u>	Temporary Resource Pool (TRP), Part-Time as needed
<u>Function:</u>	The primary function of the SSP is to provide assistance to DeafBlind (DB) individuals who are residents of Ohio in their everyday activities so they may lead more independent lives.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

1. Provide services to the DB individual including, but not limited to, the following areas:
  - a. Sighted guiding within the community.
  - b. Reading the mail, newspaper, books, etc.
  - c. Visiting with the DB person or accompanying DB person to social activity.
  - d. Co-navigation during errands or appointments within the community (which often includes transportation to and/or from).
2. Communicate effectively with the Program Manager.
3. Maintain a working relationship with other staff members, the community and Columbus Speech & Hearing.
4. Be flexible in working with DB individual(s) with varying needs and willing to work with all consumers obtaining services.
5. Be responsible to notify the DB individual(s) and the Program Manager when unable to complete an assignment or meet an obligation to the DB individuals(s).
6. Attend SSP training provided as mandated by Program Manager.
7. Attend scheduled meetings for the SSP staff, as established by Program Manager.
8. Submit weekly timesheets for hours worked.

## EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES

1. Proficiency in sign language skills (American Sign Language and Tactile Signing) – ability to communicate and relate well to all levels of individuals with Deaf-Blindness.
2. Good communications skills.
3. Flexibility is a must.
4. Possess a valid Driver's License and maintain a good driving record.

*The above information on this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees assigned to this position.*

H:\Employment\Job Descriptions current\CPD\SSP Provider\_Job Description.doc

01/2024

OCTOBER  
16

4:00-View movie in  
library (optional)

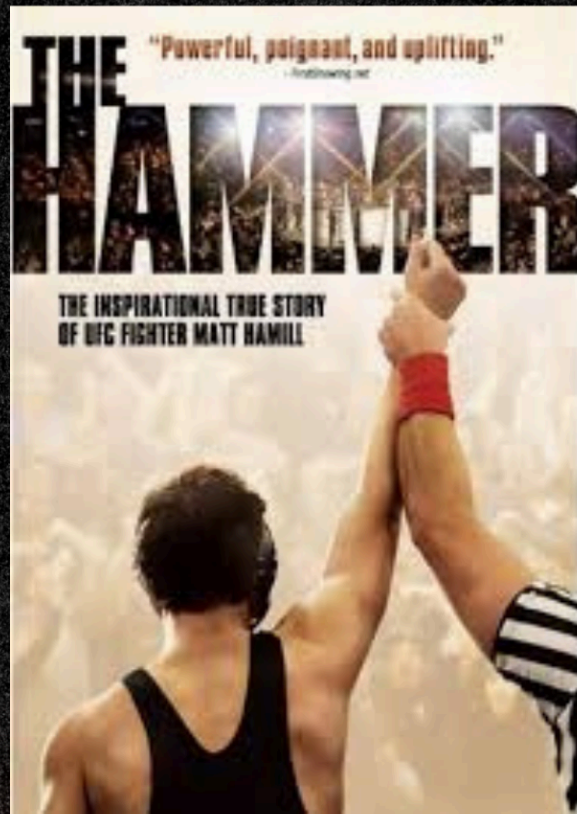
6:30- Speaking event in  
Auditorium



Register for free ticket

+++++

Followed by  
pictures and  
autograph  
opportunities



*Matt  
Hamill*

+++++

SPONSORED BY WESTERVILLE  
CITY SCHOOLS ASL CLASSES

Westerville South HS

303 South Otterbein Ave

# Play Day at Kiddie Jungle

*Friday, October 18, 5-7pm*

**Kiddie Jungle**  
**5456 Mayfield Rd, Lyndhurst, OH 44124**

- Children less than 70 lbs or age 7 and under!
- Over 1000 square feet of slides, tunnels, swings, trapezes, ball pits and much more!
- Explore and learn using toys in the Jungle: kitchen sets, train tables, LEGO tables, puppet theaters, books and more!  
There is also a play area for babies.

**Free Admission for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Kids & KODAs**

Older kids are welcome, but must take on a supervisory role and are not allowed on equipment.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SOCKS ARE REQUIRED FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN!**

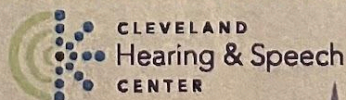
**Learn some ASL • Drinks and snacks will be provided**

**Please RSVP by Monday, October 14, 2024**

to Rachel Leffel at [rleffel@chsc.org](mailto:rleffel@chsc.org) or Sandra Hatibovic at [shatibovic@chsc.org](mailto:shatibovic@chsc.org)



**Community Center for the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing**



DEAF WOMEN OF OHIO  
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO  
**20th Anniversary**

*Winter  
Wonderland  
Luncheon*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024  
12 PM - 4PM**

**PRESTON WOODS CLUBHOUSE**  
5353 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LANE, WESTERVILLE, OH 43081

**\$30 PER PERSON**

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 25, 2024  
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE (UP TO 40)**

**THREE OPTIONS TO RSVP AND PAY:**

**VENMO:** DEAF WOMEN OF OHIO AT @DWO2022

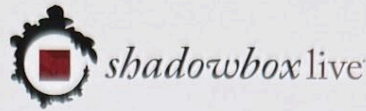
**ZELLE:** DEAF WOMEN OF OHIO

**CHECK OR MONEY ORDER:** PAYABLE TO **DWO**

**MAIL CHECK TO:** 9206 PREAKNESS PLACE NW,  
PICKERINGTON, OH 43147

**QUESTIONS:** EMAIL [DWOEVENTCOORDINATOR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DWOEVENTCOORDINATOR@GMAIL.COM)





shadowbox live

PRESENTS



# HOLIDAY HOOPLA

Please join Shadowbox Live and Columbus State Community College's students for an ASL Interpreted production of Holiday Hoopla, our most popular sketch comedy & music show celebrating the hustle, bustle, and fun of the season with an evening of unforgettable live entertainment that has become a Columbus holiday tradition.

**Wednesday, December 11, and  
Thursday, December 12, 7:30p**

We hope you'll join us for this very special collaboration with CSCC Interpreter Education Program.

Reservations required.  
25% off Your Table.

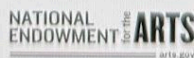
**Community Code: ASL25  
Interpreted Code: ASL**

Capacity is limited. To make your reservations, go to [shadowboxlive.org](http://shadowboxlive.org) online and enter the promo code.

*\*If access to the interpreters is required, please select central tables in Tier A and B and use the "Interpreted Code" above.*



**SPONSORED BY:**



**SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:**



Coming to Ohio for Ohio Deaf History Month on March 13 to April 15, 2025

Happy National Deaf Dogs Rock Day! Deaf dogs can do anything hearing dogs can do. Her name is Rhettford. More information on FB: Rhett\_the\_heeler and [www.rhetttheheller.com](http://www.rhetttheheller.com)



# ViaQuest Psychiatric & Behavioral Solutions

For most of us, it's a normal part of life to struggle with our mental health at times. Unfortunately for the Deaf/DeafBlind/Deaf+ communities, access to mental health services is very limited. ViaQuest is a community mental health agency that provides services, including individual psychotherapy (counseling), family therapy, therapeutic behavioral support (TBS), and psychiatric medication management. Our therapists and TBS specialists are fluent in ASL, and our psychiatric NP utilizes ASL interpreters, including Deaf interpreters, to provide access to effective communication. Check out the included brochure to read more about our services. You can also contact the Deaf Services team lead, Alexander Palmer, to see if ViaQuest services fit your needs. Alexander's contact info can be found below: Alex's VP: [380-203-5946](tel:380-203-5946) Alex's Text: [614-401-2638](tel:614-401-2638)  
 Intake Department Voice Phone: [\(614\) 339-0887](tel:614-339-0887)

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

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

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

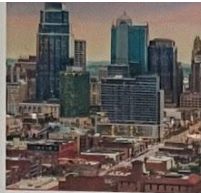
[www.ViaQuestInc.com/core-services/deaf-services](http://www.ViaQuestInc.com/core-services/deaf-services)

Videophone: 614.356.8012  
 Referral Phone: 855.289.1722  
 Referral Fax: 800.503.2953  
 Email: [PBSIntake@ViaQuestInc.com](mailto:PBSIntake@ViaQuestInc.com)

PBS360 • 01.28.2019

Enabling you to live your best life possible.

**ViaQuest**  
 Psychiatric &  
 Behavioral Solutions



# 18th Biennial DSA Conference

August 1–7, 2025 | Kansas City, Missouri

*Empowering Our Future*

• Note: New Conference Dates Above •

## COMBO REGISTRATION FORM

One Form Per Person – Please Print Clearly

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Read the information below carefully before you sign this registration form.

### CONFIRMATION

Once payment is received, you will receive a confirmation letter with assigned ID number via email (or postal mail). Please use this ID number when you contact the registration coordinator. When you arrive for registration at the conference, be prepared to present your driver's license or personal identification card with photo (required).

### RETURNED (BOUNCED) CHECKS

A service fee of \$50 will be applied to all checks returned by the bank due to non-sufficient funds. Registrations will not be processed until after payment has been satisfied.

### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

A fee of \$130 will be charged for each canceled registration prior to June 30, 2025. Registration fees are non-refundable on and after July 1, 2025. Phone cancellations are not accepted. Documentation is required after July 1, 2025 for refunds due to hospitalization (medical records) or death (obituary notice or death certificate). DSA membership dues are not refundable, except for death.

### NON-TRANSFERABLE

Completed registrations are not transferable to other persons. DSA will not honor those that are sold or exchanged by unauthorized parties before or during the conference.

### LOST BADGES

A processing fee of \$50 will be applied lost registration badges. This fee is not refundable if the lost badge is found later.

### MAILING & CONTACT INFO

Please notify the registration chair ASAP if there are changes to your mailing address or contact information.

### ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs, please contact [dsa2025access@deafseniors.us](mailto:dsa2025access@deafseniors.us) for more information.

### REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

Ann Cooper, Registration Chair  
[dsa2025reg@deafseniors.us](mailto:dsa2025reg@deafseniors.us)

Form updated June 29, 2024

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
VIDEOPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL/TEXT: \_\_\_\_\_

I give DSA permission to list my name on its website: YES:  NO:

I have accessibility and/or dietary needs; contact me: YES:  NO:

### COMBO REGISTRATION

**Extended Deadline for Early Bird Combo Savings!**

July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 .....	\$400.00
October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.....	\$450.00
January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025 .....	\$475.00
July 1, 2025 – Conference (August 1–7, 2025).....	\$500.00

#### Includes:

- >> DSA 2025-2027 membership dues (\$30 non-refundable).
- >> DSA 2025 conference registration fee, program book, exhibits, workshops, meetings, entertainment, opening/welcome reception, and farewell/gala luncheon.

### PAYMENT METHODS & REGISTRATION SUBMISSION - Please Print Clearly

- >> CashApp, payable to: *\$DSA2025FUND*
- >> Zelle, payable to: *treasurer@deafseniors.us*
- >> Credit card (Visa or MasterCard): add \$15.00 to cover processing fees

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

16-digit card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV (3 digit): \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Complete and *email* registration form to Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer, [treasurer@deafseniors.us](mailto:treasurer@deafseniors.us) (or send via *mail* to the postal address below)

- >> Check/money order, payable to: *DSA 2025 Kansas City Conference*

**Note:** Complete and *mail* registration form with check/money order to:

Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer  
9314 Forest Hill Blvd. #506  
Wellington, FL 33411

### AGREEMENT

I agree to abide by conference rules/regulations. I understand DSA is not responsible for damage to or loss of my personal property. I have read and understand the terms and conditions outlined on this registration form.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit [www.deafseniors.us](http://www.deafseniors.us) for up-to-date Conference information**

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Events

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

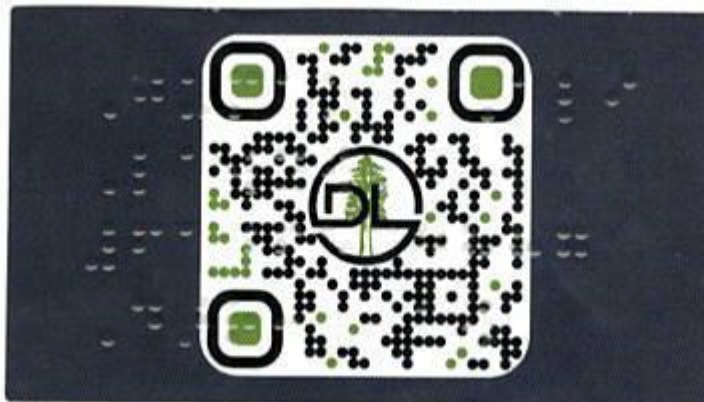
Darr Law: Jumana M. Ali

Attorney

JMA@Darr.law

[www.Darr.law](http://www.Darr.law)

614-653-7887



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

The Next Deaf Reader Newsletter **January 2025**

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ASLmasterTutor@gmail.com)

## Contact Information

### *The Deaf Reader*

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library  
(ODFL) website:

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

ODFL email:

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

ODFL mailing address:

P.O. Box 917  
Worthington, Ohio 43085-0917

### Standing Committees

Library Advisor

Nancy Levin

Librarian for Deaf

Ben Gulyas

Coventry Village – Heights Public Library

Ben Gulyas

Deaf Mentor Program

Danny Lucero

Specialist DeafBlind

Bryan Grubb

Webmaster

Mike Hornko

Bylaws

Angie Potosky

Bylaws Parliamentarian

Bob Donaldson-Pirc

President

Dawn Watts

Vice President

Angie Potosky

Secretary

Christine Stepien

Treasurer

Debbie Brown

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, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wyandot, Wood

#### Northeast 2 Representatives Liliana Arsen-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.