



Monthly Newsletter

TO OUR JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE DEAF...



President
Elzbieta Kaminski



Vice President
Jerry Glenn



Treasurer
Gregory Lowry



Board Member
Barb Riordan



Board Member
Linda Kuhn



Board Member
Becky Prill



Board Member
Tara Cook

A Message from President Elzbieta Kaminski!

Greetings from Elzbieta,

I want to thank John Brennan and Lisa Dramin for their dedicated service on the JCCD Board. We wish them success in their future endeavors. We are also pleased to welcome Greg Lowry, who will serve as our temporary treasurer until the end of December 2024. We understand his challenges in this role and are committed to supporting him.

I recently read an article in the My Journal Courier about Andy Ezard. He mentioned that his job often feels like that of a volunteer coordinator for the city of Jacksonville. Mayor Andy Ezard consistently seeks volunteers to serve on city boards and commissions, but finding the right fit can be challenging. Ezard said that the timing of meetings poses another challenge.



(Con't..)
A Message from President
Elzbieta Kaminski!

As you see in the message above, each organization has changed over the years, and priorities have changed. Life gets really busy. We, the board, are committed to maintaining our perspective occasionally to ensure we balance our lives outside and inside JCCD.

JCCD is enriching its history and going on to its 40th anniversary on May 17, 2025. Last weekend, I was a registration chair for the 185th reunion. I have met and collaborated with former JCCD members, boards, and executive directors who happened to be ISD alumni. I collaborated with each of them and shared stories about the first 40 years. To my surprise, I admired and hands down to those who served JCCD from the bottom of their hearts. I vow to follow their footsteps for the next 40 years and pass it down to the next generation.

The Board had the retreat on May 31, 2024, which was totally productive. We had a potluck, as seen in the photos on the following pages.

As of July 1, I will be attending the NAD in Chicago as a delegate. NAD has invited me to participate in the Counselor of Representatives (COR training) online class before I attend the convention. It will enrich my experience, and I'll share more about it in the news release coming out in August.

Be mostly whole enjoying a Happy July.

Elzbieta



The Greatest Influencer

An Interview with Mary Haribison



In 1979, my husband Charles and I moved to Jacksonville due to a job offer. I grew up in Akron, Ohio, and Charles is from Wisconsin. Both of us come from Deaf families. Charles attended a School for the Deaf while I was mainstreamed in a public school outside my home school district. I attended college in Washington, D.C., at Gallaudet University, where I met my husband. After a couple of years, we moved to Illinois.

I am involved in the Jacksonville Center for the Deaf (JCCD). When we moved to Jacksonville, JCCD was already starting to buy properties in South Jacksonville near the Farm-Agriculture Fair to build a Community Center for the Deaf.

After raising close to \$90,000, Charles and I and a few others, including Clyde Smith, Jim Strowmatt, Teddy Clements, Albert Moore, and possibly Paula Chance, looked into buying a building in Jacksonville's downtown square. Subsequently, Dr. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Eades, Robert Anderson, and Hutchinson Architecture also got involved in the building process.

Once the JCCD building was established, I was involved in the kitchen and helped install the wooden island. The kitchen has become my favorite place at the center. While I do not consider myself a leader, I have served on the JCCD Board multiple times and am always ready to assist in any tasks required at the center.

(Con't)

An Interview with Mary Haribison

What I appreciate about JCCD is that it is still active. The community has made sure that the building continues to be used. Having the structure in place is essential for keeping the Deaf community alive. It serves as a space for social gatherings, meetings, parties, sewing, and more. I hope the action to maintain the building continues. I miss Tilly and Allen Ravn, Pete and Alloys Wahl, The Mudgett, and especially Grace's famous baked beans. I remember Paula Chance's daughter trying to copy the recipe, but Grace always kept it a secret. I also remember Allen Ravn planting hosta alongside the JCCD building, my favorite plant in the Doris Bolen small garden area. The JCCD building has seen several presidents and upgrades, and I support future upgrades. We appreciate your time, energy, and love for the JCCD building. Please keep it going and growing for future Deaf community members.

May God bless you all,

Marilyn and Charles Harbison



TALES

FROM THE JCCD ARCHIVES

AND AROUND JACKSONVILLE

By: Paul Pyers

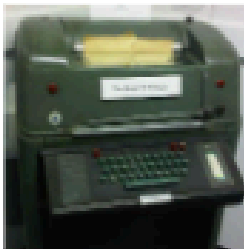
Telephone Devices for the Deaf

An article titled "Telephone devices for the deaf distributed at a local center" (sic), dated January 5, 1989, in the State Journal Registrar (Springfield) describes Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf as one of eight distributional centers under the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC).



Audrey Birchall, mother of Jim Birchall, was the first to receive the TDD, known as Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf. The article also mentioned that Tom Chance received it, too.

Judy Sears was a local program coordinator for JCCD, covering the Jacksonville to Alton area.



While looking past, the Deaf people had a typewriter device known as TTY – which they used an extremely large machine and a coupler or modem to type messages back and forth, using special or abbreviated keys such as "SK, GA, Q, ? etc. The machine was originally invented by a deaf scientist, Robert Weitbrecht, around the 1960s. (The picture of the TTY was displayed at Baxter School for the Deaf in Maine.)

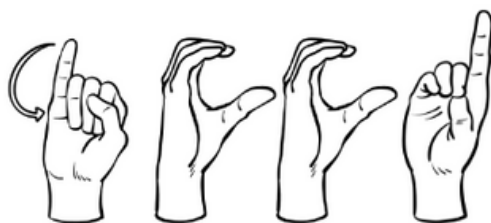
Several local TTY organizations, run by Deaf members, were involved in getting such machines, from Western Union Telegraph Companies, for example. There were huge supplies of such equipment left over from WWII, and not using them. After graduating from Gallaudet College in 1969 (before it became University), I lived in Houston, Texas, with my parents when I received a TTY. When I moved to the Maryland/District of Columbia area, then the Jacksonville-Springfield area, our local TTY organization was active in securing and modifying TTY machines from St Louis, Missouri. It was through Paul Taylor, who lived in the area then. He was the first person to use the machines as a part of the local relay systems for the Deaf. Some of our Deaf old timers fondly remember that Paul Taylor had many unused non-portable machines left, and we, from the Jacksonville-Springfield area, had to go to the Missouri city with hauled wagons and picked up the machines for distribution purposes. (One tidbit: Paul Taylor's mother was my teacher at the Houston School for the Deaf Children for one year.)

The JCCD was formed as our local relay center for the Deaf, but I don't have detailed information yet. I will conclude with additional information about the ITAC and how it became an agency for the State of Illinois.

Former JCCD members collaborative weekend

Ted Huber, Jim Birchall, and Joan Forney (not in the picture—Nancy Harper) collaborated on the history of JCCD. I enjoyed working with them and collecting stories to recount how it all began. I'm looking forward to celebrating our achievements at the 40th anniversary on May 17, 2025.





Board Retreat Pictures

[May 31, 2024]



Barb made pulled pork



Becky served Fruit pizza.

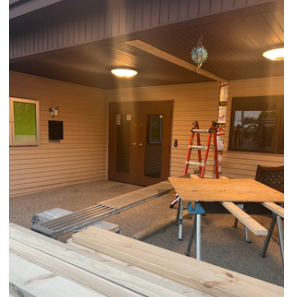


Linda made chicken macaroni.



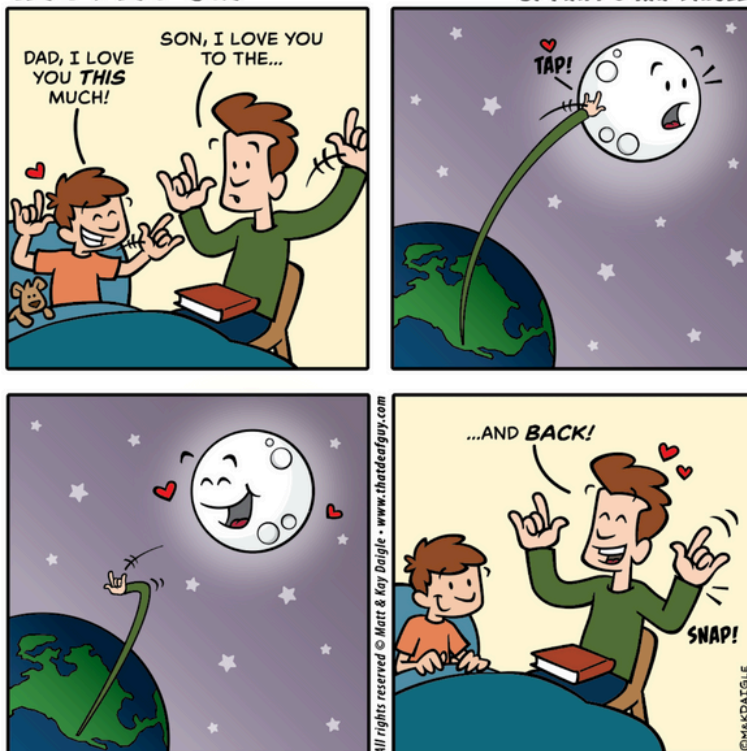
ADA Doors Updates:

ADA DOORS has arrived! Below are photos from before and during the construction. The board would like to recognize the ADA DOORS committee, including John Brennan, Paula Chance, and Dave Cook, for their outstanding efforts in making this possible. We are very excited to see the completion in the Fall.



THAT DEAF GUY

BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE





July

- **Named after Julius Caesar:** July is named after Roman general Julius Caesar, who was born in this month. The Roman Senate honored him by naming the month after him in 44 BC.
- **Warmest month in the Northern Hemisphere:** July is usually the warmest month in the Northern Hemisphere, with long, hot summer days and warm nights.
- **Independence Day:** July 4th is Independence Day in the United States, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.
- **Mid-year milestone:** July marks the midpoint of the year, making it a significant milestone in the calendar.
- **Ice Cream Month:** July is often referred to as Ice Cream Month, as it's a popular time to enjoy cool treats on hot summer days.
- **Picnic Month:** In the UK, July is also known as Picnic Month, making it a great time to enjoy outdoor gatherings and barbecues.
- **Multiple birthdays:** July is a popular birth month, with seven US Presidents having been born in this month, more than any other month.
- **Cultural celebrations:** July is a month of cultural celebrations, including Canada Day (July 1st), Islamic New Year (July 7th), and the start of the hot and sultry Dog Days of Summer (July 3rd).
- **Summer solstice:** In the Southern Hemisphere, July is the seasonal equivalent of January in the Northern Hemisphere, marking the beginning of winter.

Overall, July is a month of celebrations, traditions, and cultural events that make it a special and memorable time of the year.



July marks the Disability Pride Month. And that means - NOTHING WITHOUT US. Period.

The phrase "Nothing About Us Without Us," first used by the South African disability rights movement in the 1990s, became a disability rights call everywhere.

But now, decades later, we ask - is there anything that is not about us? Is there any aspect of life – or work – from which disabled and neurodivergent people can be legitimately excluded?

How about decision-making regarding the return to in-person work, which threatens the small gain in disability employment achieved during the pandemic?

Excluding disabled voices harms #disability inclusion, and it also sets a precedent for ignoring and disempowering others who benefit from flexibility, be they caregivers or working students.

What happens when disabled people are excluded from any aspect of workplace planning or decision-making?

How about any of these:

- 🤔 Hiring process development and writing job descriptions?
- 🤔 Leadership development process and mentorship?
- 🤔 Decisions about building planning and workspace layout?
- 🤔 Training program development?
- 🤔 Sporting events planning?
- 🤔 Holiday party planning?

Is there an aspect of #HumanResources or talent #management that does not concern disabled people?

Is there an aspect of #life that does not concern disabled people?

Is there an aspect of #life that does not concern disabled people?

And is there an aspect of work or life that is not made better for everyone when it is made more accessible?

Disabled people fought for curb-cuts, which now everyone can enjoy.

Deaf and disabled people fought for closed captioning, which now everyone can enjoy.

Disabled and neurodivergent people are fighting for flexibility at work, which benefits all.

Read more about how organizations can do better at disability #inclusion in this article.

<https://lnkd.in/gTgzazyu?>