



Veditz Chapter of
American Sign Language
Teachers Association
(VASLTA)

January 2007 Issue

Greetings,

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! We know your calendars will fill up fast so we wanted to make you aware of some of our events for 2007. Also, we have some great articles that summarize our busy 2006.

2007 Events and Board Meetings

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 1, 2007 | VASLTA Board Meeting
6:30pm and NVRC |
| February 3, 2007 | ASL High School Teacher's meeting
9:00am to 12:00pm
(National ASL Honor Students can provide childcare if requested. Contact Cheri Martinez at cmartine@loudoun.gov) |
| May 12, 2007 | Celebrate Communication at GWU |
| May 21, 2007 | VASLTA's Annual General Meeting and
Election of Officers
7:00pm at NVRC |
| October 2007 | FLAVA Conference |
| October 25-27, 2007 | ASLTA National Conference
in Tampa, Florida |

Stay tuned for workshops and other events in 2007

“2006 CELEBRATE COMMUNICATION”

*By
Cheri Martinez*

Communication 2006 was a resounding success! It introduced service providers to the Deaf and hearing communities. It was a great opportunity for old friends to reconnect and provided wonderful activities for kiddies of all ages.

VASLTA's booth provided people information about us. We had great attendance and lots of interest in our organization. We were able to share our mission in professionalizing the role of A.S.L. teachers, upcoming workshops, and a network for our members, as well as, prospective members. The raffle we held was quite a success. We had many people sign up to win the tote bag. The winner was Charlene Augustine, wife of Neil Augustine who is the new Deaf pastor at First Baptist Church in Alexandria.



Many thanks go to Pat Beech for the design and setup/take down of our booth: it was very attractive and eye catching.

Cheri Martinez and one of her A.S.L. students, Nicole Chin, manned the booth until mid afternoon when Mary Bagby took over until the end of the exhibition.



Our gratitude goes to NVRC for organizing this awesome event; we cannot wait until next year!

2006 Annual General Meeting

*Presenters: E. Lynn Jacobowitz, Ph.D., ASLTA and
Adonia K. Smith, Ed.D., ASLTA*

“Rhyming With Eyes and Hands: Using ASL Phonology as Language Learning Tool and Activities”

This was a mind-stimulating and hands-on presentation about using ASL phonology to assist with language learning. Whether it is teaching, seeing, or listening to rhythms adults and children alike have to be attuned to the minor nuances of any language. Then you take one language’s rhythms and try to express it in another language well, you can already see the challenge. Dr. Lynn Jacobowitz and Dr. Adonia Smith lead us through a breakdown of phonology and how to compare ASL handshape rhythms and English rhythms. The research based information was thorough and organized.

Jacobowitz and Adonia also challenged us with the question of “Can ASL Rhymes be Taught in the Classroom?” Their answer was an emphatic “YES.” By explaining language acquisition they outlined the steps for teaching children about rhymes.

But best of all Jacobowitz and Adonia have brand new dual language DVDs and books to aide teachers in the classroom. If interested in learning more you can contact their company *ASL Rose* at www.aslrose.com.

Objectives of this Presentation

1. Define ASL handshape rhyme
2. Compare ASL handshape rhymes and English rhymes
3. Discuss how rhyme is expressed in ASL handshape stories
4. Discuss how Deaf culture is included in ASL handshape stories
5. Discuss how ASL teachers (L1 and L2) can use the linguistics of handshape rhyme and Deaf culture by using ASL handshape stories in the classroom
6. Discuss learning and teaching strategies (L1 and L2) by using ASL handshape stories in the classroom
7. Show variety of activities using these products in both L1 and L2 classrooms

ASL Rose
{COMING SOON}

E. Lynn Jacobowitz and Adonia K. Smith
proudly announce ASL Rose's release of
brand-new dual language DVDs/books!

Waving Hands!
The ABCs of American Deaf
Role Models

Deaf Cinderella

Deaf Coach Now

Have You Ever Seen...?
An ASL Handshape
DVD/Book

Have You Ever Seen...?
An ASL Handshape
Riddle DVD/Book

My OWN Have You
Ever Seen...?
An ASL Handshape
Coloring Book

**Order
your copy
TODAY!**

NOW AVAILABLE!

www.aslrose.com

“ One Of Our Own”

We are proud to announce...

Pat Beech is now ASLTA’s Chapter Liaison

Chapter Liaison

Patricia Beech, MA



Originally from NC, Patricia Beech resides in Springfield, VA. She graduated from North Carolina School for the Deaf in Morganton. She has a B.A. in Mathematics from Gallaudet University, and a M.A. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University.

She is a long-time member of the Veditz Chapter of ASLTA (Northern Virginia). She was president during 1995-1999, Professional Development Chair during 2001-2005, Newsletter Editor during 1995-1999 and 2000-2005, and Webmaster during 1995-present. She taught ASL since 1980, and was a part-time instructor at NVCC-Annandale during 1995-2003. She holds an ASLTA Professional Certificate.

We are sad to see Pat leave VASLTA but are truly excited for her in this next journey. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Sandy Wise too. Therefore, as a small token of our appreciation we gave Pat Beech and Sandy Wise a gift certificate for a 2 night stay at the Hollerstown Hill Bed and Breakfast in Frederick, MD plus \$75.00 dinner.

FLAVA Conference

October 13 and 14, 2006

Adele Polk and Cheri Martinez attended this conference to represent VASLTA. They were the only ASL booth there. Next year they are considering presenting about teaching ASL at the high school level. Stay tuned for more!



NVRC GALA

SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

- BY JULIE MOFFITT-BAGSHAW -

I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AT MY FIRST NVRC GALA. IT WAS AN HONOR TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF VASLTA. I PROBABLY ONLY KNEW A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE BUT EVERYONE WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING.

ONE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING WAS THE MAGICIAN WHO COULD TRULY DO SOME VERY MAGICAL TRICKS. BRAIN CURRY, THE MAGICIAN, MINGLED WELL DURING COCKTAILS AND THEN PERFORMED SOME IMPRESSIVE MANEUVERS WHILE WE ATE DINNER.

ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING WAS WATCHING PEOPLE RECEIVE AWARDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION TO THE DEAF COMMUNITY.

THE WINNER OF THE 2006 RECOGNITION AWARD WAS THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (NVAD). THERE WERE SEVERAL NVAD BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, RACHEL BAVISTER, PRESIDENT OF VAD, WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND SO STEVE WILLIAMS READ A LETTER FROM HER.

IT WAS TRULY A MAGICAL EVENING. THIS OPPORTUNITY ALLOWED ME TO SEE THE HARD WORK DEAF AND HEARING INDIVIDUALS DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY. I WAS VERY PROUD TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL EVENING.

NVRC GALA 2006



NVAD OFFICERS



VASLTA MEMBERS

NEWS!

2007 Elections: The VASLTA board will be looking for new board members. During our Annual General meeting in May we will be electing new officers. We have five officer positions and 3 members-at-large positions available. Nominations form is attached. If you are interested please contact Adele Polk or Cheri Martinez for more information.

Donations since April 2006

- Patricia Beech
- Cheri Martinez
- Adele Polk
- Nancy Shugart
- Gary Viall

On behalf of VASLTA,
Thank you for your donations!

VASLTA Membership 2007 - 2008

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Home () _____ TTY V _____

Work () _____ TTY V _____ Fax () _____

Do you have a TTY answering machine? Yes No

E-Mail _____

Please check if you are: (for directory purposes)

Sign Language Teacher

Deaf Culture Specialist

Interpreter or Interpreter Trainer

Educator of the Deaf

Other (please specify) _____

Are you certified by ASLTA? If so, what level?

What is the highest degree you have?

Specify level of class, if you teach ASL (currently or previously).

How many years of teaching ASL? Are you currently teaching ASL? Where?

Do you want your name, address, and phone number printed in our directory? Yes No

Join VASLTA for \$15 \$ _____ (effective Sep. 1, 2003)

Donation to VASLTA \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make the check payable to: VASLTA, and mail the check with this detached form to:
Nancy Shugart, c/o Membership, P.O. 3822, Oakton, VA 22124-3822

Do you want to receive future issues of the VASLTA newsletter via: regular mail or e-mail

Directions for NVRC

3951 Pender Drive Suite 130 Fairfax, VA 22030

FROM I-66: Take exit 57A (US 50-E) toward Fairfax. Merge onto Rt. 50 East, also known as Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Turn LEFT onto Waples Mill Road. Turn RIGHT at the light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive Park. Turn RIGHT at third entrance (left corner of Building 3949, a 3-story building). Drive toward back of complex and turn RIGHT between the 3-story building and the 1-story building, which is 3951 Pender. Parking is in the courtyard. NVRC faces the courtyard, Suite 130. There are two entrances; one side door directly into the office (sign on door) and one facing the courtyard leading into the meeting rooms, (sign on building). Handicap accessible parking spaces with ramp are near the entrance to the meeting rooms.

FROM ANNANDALE/BURKE/SPRINGFIELD AREA: Take Braddock Road west to Shirley Gate Road (you will cross Rt. 123). Shirley Gate will cross Lee Highway and become Waples Mill Road. After crossing Route 50, turn RIGHT at the light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive Park. Turn RIGHT at third entrance (left corner of Building 3949, a 3-story building). Drive toward back of complex and turn RIGHT between the 3-story building and the 1-story building, which is 3951 Pender. Parking is in the courtyard. NVRC faces the courtyard, Suite 130. There are two entrances; one side door directly into the office (sign on door) and one facing the courtyard leading into the meeting rooms, (sign on building). Handicap accessible parking spaces with ramp are near the entrance to the meeting rooms.

FROM I-495: Take I-66 west, Exit 49 toward Manassas/Front Royal. Take 66 west to US-50 East also known as Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Turn LEFT onto Waples Mill Road. Turn RIGHT at light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive Park. Turn RIGHT at third entrance (left corner of Building 3949, a 3-story building). Drive toward back of complex and turn RIGHT between the 3-story building and the 1-story building, which is 3951 Pender. Parking is in the courtyard. NVRC faces the courtyard, Suite 130. There are two entrances; one side door directly into the office (sign on door) and one facing the courtyard leading into the meeting rooms, (sign on building). Handicap accessible parking spaces with ramp are near the entrance to the meeting rooms.