



# Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association (VASLTA)

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August 2004 Issue

## President's Corner

## Calendar of Events

Greetings!

I hope everyone has had a terrific summer, with lots of opportunities for fun and relaxation. Rest up now, because VASLTA has an exciting year ahead for you!

This issue of our newsletter describes what VASLTA has been doing for the past few months. As you can see, we have been busy with workshops and attending expositions. We've had a lot of fun and met many interesting people, as well as spread the news about our organization.

Plans are being made for three workshops this year (see calendar for dates and times) and we are also already gearing up for our annual Silent Blitz, to be held at Woodbridge High School on April 2, 2005. I strongly urge all VASLTA members to become involved in this exciting event.

Be sure to renew your membership, because you won't want to miss any of our exciting, upcoming year's events!

Adele M. Polk  
President



### Friday, August 27, 2004

Blitz Committee Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC  
Contact: Adele Polk at [ampolk@staffnet.com](mailto:ampolk@staffnet.com)

### Wednesday, September 01, 2004

High School ASL Teachers Meeting at 7:00PM  
Location: NVRC  
Contact: Adele Polk at [polkam@pwcs.edu](mailto:polkam@pwcs.edu)

### Friday, September 10, 2004

Board Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC  
Contact: Adele Polk at [ampolk@staffnet.com](mailto:ampolk@staffnet.com)

### Saturday, October 30, 2004

Workshop: "Using Space Effectively in ASL"  
Presenter: John Lewis  
Location: NVRC  
Flyer enclosed

### Friday, November 19, 2004

Board Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC  
Contact: Adele Polk at [ampolk@staffnet.com](mailto:ampolk@staffnet.com)

### Saturday, February 05, 2005

Workshop: "Fingerspelling Word Recognition"  
Presenter: Carol J. Patrie  
Location: NVRC  
Flyer enclosed

### Saturday, April 02, 2005

VASLTA Blitz at Woodbridge Senior High School  
Contact: Adele Polk at [ampolk@staffnet.com](mailto:ampolk@staffnet.com)

### Saturday, April 30, 2005

Workshop: "ASL/Deaf Literature"  
Presenter: Meg Chojnacki  
Location: NVRC  
Flyer enclosed

## VASLTA Board for 2003-2005

The 2003-2005 officers of VASLTA are:

President	Adele Polk
Vice-President	Deanna D'Arcy
Secretary	Jill Moebus
Treasurer	Sandy Wise
PDC	Patricia Beech
Members-at-large	Kris daCosta-Warshauer Nina Moore
Ex-Officio	Barbara Stansbury
Blitz V	Patti Raswant
Newsletter	Adele Polk
Web	Patricia Beech

## High School ASL Teachers

The next meeting will be at NVRC on Wednesday evening, September 1st, at 7:00 p.m. unless you hear otherwise. This is the Wednesday before school starts.



Let me know if you would like to see anything specific on the agenda.

If you would like to be taken off the distribution list, or know of someone who should be added, please let me know. I will be accessing my work e-mail throughout the summer.

Have a fabulous, restful summer and we'll see you in the fall!

Adele Polk  
ASL Instructor  
Woodbridge Senior High School



The newsletter was created using a Macintosh PowerBook. The desktop publishing software used is "Ready,Set,Go!"

To place an advertisement in future issues, please send your advertisement in electronic format. JPEG format is preferred, but we will consider other formats.

1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$60.00
Full page	\$100.00

Send articles or advertisements to Patricia Beech at [pgbeech@aol.com](mailto:pgbeech@aol.com).



MSM Productions, Ltd. is coordinating the ASL 4 Us: Midwestern Conference, slated for June 4-6, 2005, and hosting it in conjunction with the Willard Chapter of ASLTA. The conference theme is "Teach All Kids ASL." A portion of the conference proceeds will benefit WASLTA and Indiana Deaf Heritage. The conference venue is the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

You can earn up to 25 hours (2.5 RID credits) towards your ASLTA and RID certification with RID CEUs, enhance your early-education teaching skills, exchange ideas, network with other teachers and mentors . . . and meet new friends!

See: <http://www.ASL4US.com/> for more details.

# Annual General Meeting

- by Patricia Beech -

The annual General Meeting started with a presentation by Kris daCosta-Warshauer on "Signomics." She teaches ASL in George Mason High School in Falls Church City.

Kris talked about using comics in ASL classes to work on pronominal classifiers, locational relationships, pluralizing classifiers, placement orientation, adding action, adding movement to pronoun classifiers, and storytelling/act out. She gave samples, and then had the participants work on comics, which proved to be a challenge. The meeting ended with refreshments and socializing.



Sandy Wise & Gary Viall



Presenter Kris daCosta-Warshauer with Adele Polk & Patricia Beech



Adele Polk presenting a farewell gift to Nina Moore



Cheri Martinez & Dawn Hitchens



Carl & Nina Moore with Jill Moebus

# NVRC's "Celebrate Communication 2004"

- by Patricia Beech -

Partnering with the Helen A Kellar Institute for Human disabilities, NVRC hosted "Celebrate Communication 2004" at The Center for the Arts on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus. The exhibitors, demonstrations, information booths and raffles were on the first and second floors. There were a total of 19 sponsor. VASLTA was a Firecracker Sponsor (250+).

Patricia Beech, Nina Moore, and Adele Polk manned the VASLTA booth. We offered a raffle set of a VASLTA tote bag and pen. The raffle winner was Melanie Williams.

Presentations were held on the third floor. The topics were: "Funding options" by Virginia Assistive Technology System North (VATS), "Dating and Hearing Loss" by David Crocker, "Hearing Aids and Assistive Technology" by Leslie Lesner, and "Hearing Dogs" by Fidos for Freedom and Canine Companions for Independence. Children's activities were on the first and second floor on the east wing. The activities were: Face Painting, Games, Craft Table, Coloring Table, Captioned Movies, Baby Sign Classes, and Story Times.

The event had 7 raffle prizes: Family Fun #1, Family Fun #2, Just Relax!, Joy of Scrapbooking, Home and Garden, Around the World, and NVRC Gala Basket.



Adele Polk & Patricia Beech at the VASLTA booth while one of Adele's ASL students watches



Adele Polk presenting the VASLTA tote bag and pen to the Raffle Winner, Melanie Williams



Adele Polk & Nina Moore at the VASLTA booth

## Deaf Humor 2004

- by Patricia Beech -

Deaf Humor 2004 (11th in series) was held at Kings Park Library on April 17. Patti Pratuch took over the “torch” from Elaine Shaffer. Patti was also the Emcee. Highlights of the program were: Denise Drake - “Giving Tree,” “Napping House,” “Rabbits,” and “No The;” Michael Pratuch - “No David” and “Bark George” (a play with Shannon Baker and Carol Ann Bulger); Juanita Schwartz - “Go Bear Hunting;” Patti Pratuch - zoos, “Too Bad,” homework (carry, marry, turkey, and sorry), and husband’s old neighborhood; Jamie Berke - “I’ll Miss You;” and Patricia Beech - “Ghost with Bloody Finger.”

This event was co-sponsored by Fairfax County Public Library Access Services, Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, and Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association. Interpreters were: Gordon Vernon and Jan Nishimura.



Audience members at Deaf Humor 2004



**Front Row:** Edward Berke and Michael Pratuch

**Back Row:** Patricia Beech (VASLTA), Denise Drake, Patti Pratuch, Juanita Schwartz, Carole McElvain (Fairfax County Public Library Access Services), and Jeannette Studley (Fairfax County Public Library Access Services).

## “Birthplaces of Berthier & Clerc” & “Deaf Movement”

- by Gary Viall -

On Saturday, February 7, 2004, Patti Raswant gave an all-day informative presentation “Birthplaces of Berthier and Clerc” and “Deaf Movement” to the VASLTA members at NVRC. She made a trip to France last July to give her lecture “The Mutes of Istanbul’s Topapi Palace” at the Deaf History Conference in Paris and seized an opportunity to make a side trip to the birthplaces of Ferdinand Berthier in Louhans and Laurent Clerc in La Grottes Des Balmes. Louhans and La Grottes Des Balmes are about 200 miles north-west of Monaco and Nice in southern France.

She showed the slide pictures of her visit to both birthplaces and mentioned that there was a play presented by deaf French players who portrayed Clerc and his family members in La Grottes Des Balmes before the deaf visitors of different countries that attended the Paris Conference. The LaGrottes Des Balmes mayor welcomed the international deaf visitors for the rededication of Clerc’s childhood house. La Grottes Des Balmes visitor’s center has a full display on Clerc’s life in its second floor.

According to Van Cleve’s Deaf History Unveiled, “Deaf Banquet and the birth of Deaf Movement” written by Mottez illustrated that Berthier’s early attempt to prevent the spread of oral teaching methods to schools for the deaf in France was by inviting educated deaf men and hearing politicians, well-known figures, and journalists to the annual Deaf Banquet in the hope the hearing guests would become their allies. Although Victor Hugo was invited, he could not come due to family illness, he wrote a supportive letter. Mottez listed the deaf

Americans who attended the Deaf Banquet were John Carlin, H. H. Moore, Douglas Tilden and Grenville Redmond. The Deaf Banquets succeeded in exposing the signing deaf leaders from various parts of the world and their talents for 70 years (1830s-1900s) until they were defeated by the Milan Conference’s Manifesto against signing education for the deaf children.

Patti explained that Berthier was considered as the Father of all deaf associations which led the way to the establishment of deaf associations around the world.

Berthier also worked hard to improve legal rights for deaf French and he was the first deaf of birth ever to receive a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1849 from Napoleon III. The emperor intended membership in the Legion of Honor to be a distinction of such illustriousness that would fire people’s imagination, valor and be held in high esteem.

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet asked Clerc to emigrate to America to establish the first school for the deaf in Hartford, Connecticut in 1817. Patti believes that through the introductions from Clerc, the deaf Americans created connections with deaf French which enabled them to improve education for deaf children as well as the formation of deaf associations in America.

At the end of the educational presentation, many good questions were asked. Some of the attendees shared their experiences in traveling in France.

Thanks to Patti for furnishing some facts.



### ICED 2005

Source: <http://www.iced-2day.org/>

The 20th International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) in 2005 is scheduled from July 17 to July 20, 2005 and is hosted by the Dutch city of Maastricht. ICED is being organized only each five years, the last Congress being hosted by Sydney 2000. Maastricht is well known because of the Maastricht-Treaty signed in 1991. For more information, e-mail: [info@conferenceagency.com](mailto:info@conferenceagency.com). Topics will be: Newborns and infants; Sign Language and Deaf Culture; Inclusion; Literacy writing and reading; Technology; and Ethical issues in education.



THE DEAF WEST THEATRE  
PRODUCTION OF  
**BIG RIVER**  
THE ADVENTURES OF Huckleberry Finn



**Convention 2004**  
Still Shining After 25 Years

Source:  
<http://www.deafwest.org/productions/touring.html>

Source:  
<http://www.cit-asl.org/events.html>

Atlanta's Theater of the Stars, in association with Dallas Summer Musicals, Houston's Theater Under the Stars, and Boston's Wang Center for the Performing Arts, is delighted to announce the touring production of **BIG RIVER**, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, music and lyrics by Grammy-award winner Roger Miller, Book by William Haughtman, adapted from the novel by Mark Twain. Deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing actors perform each role in a synchronized ballet of speaking and signing. Spoken English and American Sign Language (ASL) are interwoven with music, dance, and storytelling techniques from both hearing and deaf cultures into a "third language" creating a unique theatrical event -- the adventure of a lifetime! The thrilling score is a mix of Cajun, gospel, folk, country and blues songs. The winner of six L.A. Ovation Awards and five L.A. Drama Critics' Circle Awards, including Best Musical from both, is a slice of pure Americana that has left critics struggling for superlatives and audiences scrambling for tickets!

The tour dates are:

Philadelphia, PA  
215-893-1999  
<http://kimmelcenter.org>  
November 23, 2004 to November 28, 2004

Washington, DC  
703-218-6500  
<http://fordstheatre.org>  
March 15, 2005 to March 20, 2005  
March 22, 2005 to March 27, 2005  
March 29, 2005 to April 3, 2005  
April 5, 2005 to April 10, 2005  
April 12, 2005 to April 17, 2005  
April 19, 2005 to April 24, 2005  
April 24, 2005 to May 1, 2005  
May 3, 2005 to May 8, 2005  
May 10, 2005 to May 15, 2005  
May 17, 2005 to May 22, 2005  
May 24, 2005 to May 29, 2005

CIT's 15th National Convention will be held September 29 - October 3, 2004. Region I and Washington, D.C. are the hosts, and this will be held at Gallaudet's Kellogg Center. The national ASLTA is collaborating with CIT to present the Educators Teaching ASL track.

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, September 29  
6:30PM Welcome  
7:00PM – 8:00PM Keynote Address  
8:00PM – 9:30PM Opening Reception

Thursday, September 30  
8:00AM – 5:00PM Workshop Sessions  
5:00 PM– 7:00PM Dinner on your own  
7:00PM – 9:00PM Meetings/Workshops

Friday, October 01  
8:00AM – 5:00PM Workshop Sessions  
5:00PM – 7:00PM Dinner on your own  
7:00PM – 9:00PM Meetings/Workshops

Saturday, October 02  
8:00AM – 11:30AM Workshop Sessions  
11:30AM – 1:00PM Lunch on your own  
1:00PM – 5:00PM Business Meeting  
6:30PM Closing Banquet

For more information, contact Brenda Schertz at:  
[bschertz@usm.maine.edu](mailto:bschertz@usm.maine.edu) or 207-780-4069 TTY.

**List of Donors**

Below is a list of donors from September '03 to present. Thanks so much!!!!

- Sharon Bailey
- Kris daCosta-Warshauer
- Deanna D'Arcy
- Cheri Martinez
- Juanita Schwartz
- Nancy Shugart

# Wanted: American Sign Language Teachers

Fairfax County Public Schools is looking for qualified American Sign Language teachers. Submit a resume at CareerQuest:

[www.fcps.edu/DHR/careerquest](http://www.fcps.edu/DHR/careerquest)

or copy and paste an existing resume. You can visit FCPS Career Quest to update your resume and view available positions. Resumes must be updated every 6 months.

The Department of Human Resources will review each applicant's qualifications and refer qualified candidates to program managers for consideration. For information:

Human Resources Employee Service Center  
(703) 750-8540  
1-800-831-4331  
[HRISQt@fcps.edu](mailto:HRISQt@fcps.edu)



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## American Sign Language Teacher High School

<b>Job Number</b>	04 AMERICAN SIGN
<b>Location</b>	To be Determined
<b>Job Type</b>	Teacher
<b>Contract Length</b>	194-Day Contract
<b>Full or Part-time</b>	Full-time
<b>Grade</b>	Teacher
<b>Closing Date</b>	

### Description and Qualifications:

Use your talents to make a difference in our schools!

The Instructional Services Department is seeking qualified individuals to teach American Sign Language.

The candidate must have graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in American Sign Language, completed a major in American Sign Language, or completed 24 semester hours above the intermediate level in American Sign Language. The program shall include courses in advanced grammar and syntax, conversation, culture, and a minimum of three semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels.

Native users or candidates who have learned

American Sign Language without formal academic credit in a college or university must complete the following requirements:

- (1) Competency in American Sign Language demonstrated by written documentation of one of the following:
  - (a) Hold a current, valid qualified or professional certification by the American Sign Language Teachers Association;
  - (b) Hold a current, valid Virginia Quality Assurance Screening Level III Interpreting or higher issued by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
  - (c) Hold a current, valid Registry of Interpreters for Deaf certification in at least one of the following: Certificate of Interpretation (CI), Certificate of Deaf Interpretation (CDI), Reverse Skills Certification (RSC), or Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC);
  - (d) Hold a current, valid National Association for the Deaf Level IV or higher certification.
- (2) Earned a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from an accredited college or university in the United States.

# "FACE-PAINTING" with Non-Manual Signals in ASL

Non-manual signals (NMS) in American Sign Language enrich and clarify the meaning of manual signs. Come and learn that art of painting your face with a full spectrum of NMS colors and designs.

Non-Manual Signals include: 1) Non-Manual Adverbs 2) Lexical Non-Manual Behaviors 3) Non-Manual Grammatical Markers 4) Emotional States / Evaluative judgments 5) Prosodic Structure 6) Discourse Structure 7) Turn Taking 8) Backchannel Feedback 9) Grammatical "Sound" Markers, and 10) Mouth Movements.

This workshop will focus on developing accurate non-manual signals and markers as used in ASL. Demonstrations of each category of facial behaviors and head movements will be shown in context. Practice exercises will be offered. By the end of this workshop, you'll be an artist!

October 9, 2004  
Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm  
At GTI Federal  
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 450  
Fairfax, VA 22030



**BIO of Presenter:** Patricia (Trix) Bruce, from Seattle, Washington, is known nationwide as both a workshop presenter and an ASL performer. Trix's work has been warmly received everywhere, from local community centers, to state, regional and national RID conferences, Deaf Way II, interpreter conventions and more. Wildly popular as a teacher of ASL storytelling and ASL interpretation, Trix impresses audiences at all levels of ASL skill, from novices to fluent experts. She holds a Professional ASLTA Certification and a Professional Development Certificate in Teaching ASL/Interpreting from the University of Colorado.



Trix's main area of study has been ASL Linguistics with a focus on ASL Performance. She is an approved sponsor for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certificate Maintenance Program, and has developed two popular websites, [www.aslworkshop.com](http://www.aslworkshop.com) and [www.trixbruce.com](http://www.trixbruce.com). Whether writing, creating, improvising or starring in her many productions, Trix's passion for the dramatic arts shines through.

## REGISTRATION FEE:

\$45 per participant, pre-registration & post by October 1, 2004  
\$55 per participant, after October 1, 2004  
\$55 at the door

## RSVP/CONTACT:

by October 8, 2004, [Register@ASLworkshop.com](mailto:Register@ASLworkshop.com)

## RID CUES:

.7 credit or 7 clock hours, Professional Studies, Introductory Level

## NOTES:

Handouts will be provided. After registration, you will get a confirmation email along with directions. The workshop will be presented in ASL only and no voice interpreters will be provided.

## SEND \$ TO:

Trix Bruce, Trix's ASL Workshop, 1429 D Ave PMB 362, Snohomish, WA 98290.

## Directions for NVRC

3951 Pender  
Drive  
Suite 130  
Fairfax, VA  
22030

### FROM I-66:

Take exit 57A (US 50-E) toward Fairfax. Merge onto Route 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.

### 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 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:

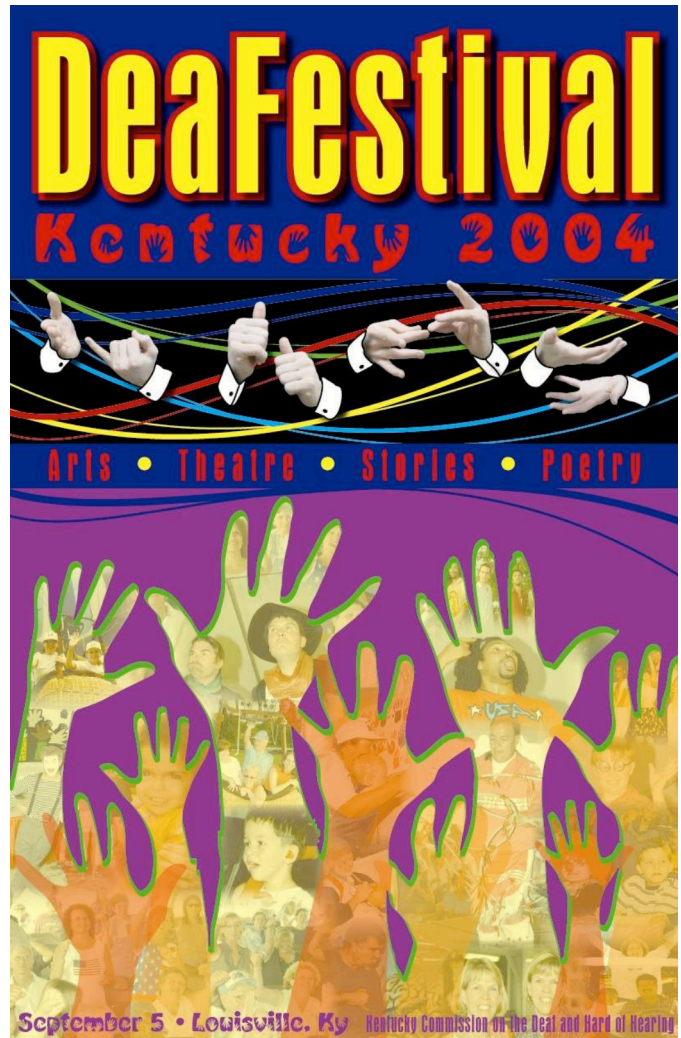
Take I-66 west, Exit 49 toward Manassas/Front Royal. Take 66 west to US -50 East also known as Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Turn **LEFT** onto Waples Mill Road. Turn **RIGHT** at light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive Park. Turn **RIGHT** at third entrance (left corner of Building 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.



Professional Development Conference 2005  
November 6, 7, and 8, 2005  
Las Vegas, Nevada

More Information COMING SOON!

<http://www.aslta.org/>



<http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/deafestival/index.html>