



Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association (VASLTA)

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January 2003 Issue

VASLTA Events	VASLTA Member in News
<p>Saturday, February 01, 2003 Workshop by Carolyn McCaskill-Henry Topic: Black Deaf History Location: Fairfax County Government Center Time: 09:00AM - 12:00PM</p> <p>April, 2003 10th Anniversary Celebration Details: TBA</p> <p>Monday, May 12, 2003 General Meeting & Election Location: NVRC Time: 07:00 PM Guest Speaker: TBA</p>	<p>Congratulations to Margaret “Meg” Chojnacki, American Sign Language teacher at West Springfield High School and a member of VASLTA!</p> <p>Meg was selected by USA TODAY as one of its 18 individuals named as Outstanding Teachers for the USA TODAY fifth annual All-USA Teacher Team. Her recognition was announced in the October 17, 2002 edition of USA TODAY. Meg, who has been teaching for 19 years, grew up with ASL as her first language. The daughter of two deaf parents, she has taught English, is fluent in French, and has a basic knowledge of Japanese.</p> <p>http://www.usatoday.com/news/2002-10-16-allstar-first-team.htm</p> <p>Meg took the lead in getting Fairfax County, state, colleges, and universities to accept ASL as a foreign language. She co-wrote county curriculum for ASL I, II and III used as a model for other districts. She started teaching ASL I at West Springfield in 1994 with 65 students. Now two teachers offer three levels for 200 to 250 students. She founded a sign language club and the USA’s first ASL Honor Society.</p> <p>Meg helps integrate ASL in the community: cheerleaders sign national anthem, choral groups sign some performances, and juniors fingerspell names at graduation for deaf parents. “It was my first exposure to any other culture. She made me realize my way of living was only my way of living,” says former student Meghan Shannon, 22, one of the first students in Gallaudet’s hearing undergraduate program.</p>
<h3>NVRC’s New Location</h3> <p>After 10 years NVRC is leaving its home on Democracy Lane in Fairfax on January 31, 2003. The demolition and renovation of the new place at 3951 Pender Drive in Fairfax has not yet started. Despite NVRC’s best efforts it may be 30 days or more before the staff can move in. The current landlord will not permit NVRC to extend its lease. As a result, they will have to put most of their office equipment and materials in storage.</p> <p>If you have been thinking of visiting NVRC to talk to one of the staff, pick up TAP equipment, get equipment demonstrations, or for any other reason, they strongly encourage you to do it NOW. They’ll keep you posted on their plans as they progress.</p> <p>Cheryl Heppner, NVRC Executive Director</p>	

VASLTA Board for 2001-2003

The 2001-2003 officers of VASLTA are:

President	Patti Raswant
Vice-President	Adele Polk
Secretary	Sharon Bailey
Treasurer	Sandy Wise
Members-at-large	Cynthia Burgett Deanna D'Arcy Jill Moebus
PDC	Patricia Beech
Ex-Officio	Carrie Tamashiro-Bush
Directory	Patricia Beech
Newsletter	Patricia Beech
Web	Patricia Beech



The newsletter was created using a Macintosh PowerBook G3 Wallstreet. The desktop publishing software used is "Ready,Set,Go!"

Information can be sent to me at 703-866-0797 TTY/Fax or pgbeech@aol.com.

Patricia Beech

Com Access, LLC - Job Vacancy

Job Title: Professional ASL Instructor, on a contractual basis
Schedule: Flexible
Location: At workplaces in the Washington, DC and Baltimore metro areas

Duties/Responsibilities besides teaching:

- Class preparation (curriculum, class materials, video needs, etc.)
- Curriculum design and development, whenever necessary
- On-site language and vocabulary assessment prior to first class, if necessary
- Assistance in record-keeping (i.e., attendance record, etc.)
- Class evaluation (before, during, and after)
- Ongoing communication with the office

Qualifications/Requirements:

- Fluent in ASL (preferably native)
- At least three years experience in ASL teaching
- A college degree—preferably in ASL Studies or related.
- ASLTA certification: not required but helpful
- Familiarity with Signing Naturally and Learning ASL curricula.
- Effective classroom management skills
- Punctuality and reliability
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Goal in becoming ASLTA certified (if not yet certified)

PAY: Between \$20.00 and \$30.00 per hour, depending on certification status, academic, and/or professional background with proven credentials.

CONTACT: Mike O'Donnell via e-mail: InterpCART@aol.com, (301) 941-1929 Voice, (301) 570-8000 TTY, or (301) 570-9400 FAX.

Com Access, LLC is a private, highly motivated Deaf-owned firm that provides nationwide sign language interpreting and real-time captioning services. Com Access is an equal opportunity employer and a sponsor of a number of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and interpreter groups.

Gallaudet Alumnae on Survivor

Christy Smith, who graduated from Gallaudet in 2000, will be one of the 16 people (eight men and eight women) on the CBS blockbuster program, Survivor. Christy will be on "Survivor: The Amazon," which is scheduled to begin on Thursday, February 13.

This is the sixth installment of Survivor and, for the first time, it will have a team of men versus a team of women stranded for 40-days in a remote section of the Amazon River. According to the CBS website, the 16 Americans are forced to band together and carve out a new existence, form a cooperative society, build shelter, and gather and catch food. Who will outwit, outplay, and outlast all others in the Amazon and win the \$1 million?

Christy, who has some residual hearing, received her bachelor of arts degree in sociology/criminology. She recently worked as a children's adventure guide for the Aspen Camp School for the Deaf in Colorado. Christy is from Basalt, Colorado.

www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor6



<http://www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor6/survivors/prof/christy.shtml>

Deaf Humor X

Deaf Humor X held at Kings Park Library on October 26 featured “Expressions in Signs.” Elaine Shaffer was the Emcee with Patricia Beech assisting. Highlights of the program were: Cheerleaders from West Springfield High School - “Star-Spangled Banner” [Kelly Beyer, Erica Evans, Courtney Uram, Alaina Genrazio, and Krista Roper]; Lianna Carrera - “Buttercup Baby” song, and story about her deaf mom and principal; Michael Pratuch - “Snowman” and “Knock-Knock” stories.

We had vacation stories: Tom Dowling - experience with hurricane during trip to Caribbean Island in 1979; Billie Kidwell - experience with riding a camel during a trip to Egypt; Jill Moebus - experience in Ukraine; Gary Viall - vacation in Europe, going on boat from England to Holland; Elaine Shaffer - reunion with her sisters in Cajun country in southwest Louisiana; Wendy Sale - trying to get home after vacation in Dominican Republic; Meg Chojnacki - car trouble while in Korea; and Pat Richey - trip to “Butchart Gardens” in Canada (Victoria, British Columbia), and Washington afterwards.

Songs were signed by: Eve Christian - “How Great Thou Art” and Elaine Shaffer - “America The Beautiful” and “God Bless America.” Finally, Patricia Beech and Pat Richey signed Halloween stories.

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.



Starting from Far Left: Susan Leitson (interpreter), Carole McElvain (Fairfax County Public Library Access Services), Meg Chojnacki, Jill Moebus, Lianna Carrera, Tom Dowling, Pat Richey, Wendy Sale, Billie Kidwell, Gary Viall, Patricia Beech, Elaine Shaffer (sitting), Eve Christian (sitting), Jeannette Studley (Fairfax County Public Library Access Services), Jan Nishimura (interpreter), and Michael Pratuch (10-yr-old student at Mantua Elementary School).

National Theatre of the Deaf

March 29 2003 at 11:00 am
Little Theatre of the Deaf
"The Giving Tree and Other Stories"
Montgomery College
in Rockville, MD
The Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Web: http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/reppac/pages/children_main.html

The Little Theatre of the Deaf, the Children's Theatre Wing of the Tony-award winning National Theatre of the Deaf, celebrates their 35th anniversary this season with their much anticipated production of The Giving Tree and Other Stories. The Little Theatre of the Deaf's unique and creative presentation of this classic story of unconditional love begins with an insightful introduction to sign language, continues with a few captivating short stories, and crescendos to The Giving Tree, a story about a boy who falls in love with a tree. Designed for short attention spans, these performances are 50 to 60 minutes in length and are general admission seating.

Recommended for ages 6 to adult

Tickets are: \$6 Regular
\$5 Seniors, Students & Children

For more information, call at 301-279-5301, fax at 301-251-7542, or email at boffice@mc.cc.md.us.

March 29 2003 at 8:00 pm
National Theatre of the Deaf
"Oh, Figaro!"
Montgomery College
in Rockville, MD
The Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Web: http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/reppac/pages/guest_main.html

The Tony-Award winning National Theatre of the Deaf proudly presents the rollicking romantic comedy Oh, Figaro!, based on the classic French farces, The Barber of Seville and The Marriage of Figaro. Celebrated through the ages, these tales were further immortalized in the operas by Rossini and Mozart. And now Figaro enters the 21st century in this newly commissioned work adapted by veteran stage writers John Augustine and Willy Conley. Get ready to laugh at the hilarious antics of Figaro as we follow him in this timeless battle of the sexes.

This performance is signed and spoken.

Tickets are: \$22 Regular
\$20 Seniors & Students

For more information, call at 301-279-5301, fax at 301-251-7542, or email at boffice@mc.cc.md.us.

Spring Production at Gallaudet

Location: Elstad Auditorium
Date: April 04, 2003 at 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm
April 05, 2003 at 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm
April 06, 2003 at 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
April 11, 2003 at 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm
April 12, 2003 at 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Description: Playwright Eugene Ionesco is acknowledged as the father of the "theatre of the absurd."

"The Chairs" is a funny but tragic farce that finds an elderly couple amusing themselves and trying to justify their lives by creating fictional stories. The line between fantasy and

hallucination is blurred as the couple's game becomes their reality, leading to a shocking and ironic climax.

Additional Information: Tickets: \$8 for students with ID, \$10 for everyone else.

Web Site: depts.gallaudet.edu/theatre/Events/events.html

Contact Information:
Juanita Cebe
(202) 651-5501 TTY/V
(202) 651-5968 FAX
theatre.tickets@gallaudet.edu

ASL Blitz III

BLITZ School about the Deaf (BSD)

Article by Sandy Wise
Photos by Patricia Beech

On November 2, 2002 approximately 59 students attended the 3rd Annual BLITZ hosted by VASLTA. The students' signing skills ranged from just a few weeks of classes to interpreting. The BSD was held at Community of Faith United Methodist Church on Franklin Farm Road. The BSD was well run with a wonderful staff of 23 (check out the photos on pages 4-5 to see who they were).

Lunch was catered by Corner Bakery Catering at Fair Oaks Mall - delicious sandwiches. There were snacks and refreshments provided by VASLTA. For the first time, Door Prizes were raffled off. Special thanks to Sign Media for two Gift Certificates, NVSLC for two 2-year memberships, VASLTA for two Tote Bags and two T-shirts. A photo of the Door Prize winners is included.

It's never too late to plan for 4th Annual BSD. If you're interested in volunteering to be on the staff, please contact Sandy Wise at ASLBlitz@comcast.net.

Once again A BIG THANK YOU for all the folks in making it a successful BSD!!!



Registration
Sharon Bailey & Cindy Burgett



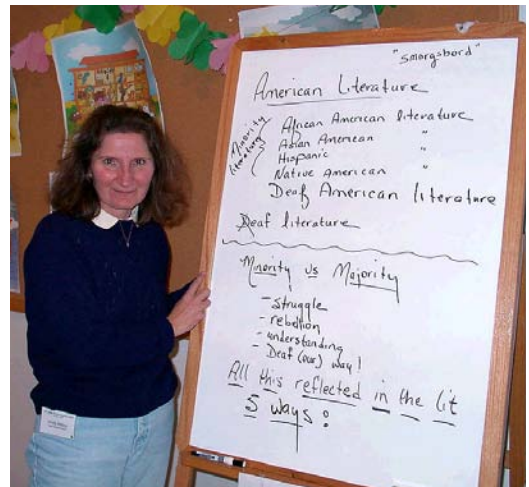
Rover - Job at NPS
Jeanne Lavelle



Rover - ABC Stories, etc.
Dan Mathis



Cafeteria
Sandy Wise, Jill Moebus, & Liz Sale



Rover - Deaf Literature
Cindy Peters

ASL Blitz III - continued



Beginner I
Instructors - Adele Polk & Julie Greenfield



Rovers - Sports
Bill Ennis & Dick Leon



Rover - Deaf History
Patti Raswant



Beginner II
Instructors - Deanna D'Arcy, Bob Lenderman, & Jane Harmon



Intermediate I
Krista Da Costa & Bert Lensbower



Rovers - Fingerspelling
Kenny Hynes & Susan Letison

ASL Blitz III - continued



Intermediate II
Instructor - Mary Bagby



Rovers - Signs for cities, states, and countries
Gary Viall & Tom Dowling



VAD Store
Tom Dowling, Gary Viall, Liz Sale, & Jill Moebus



Advanced
Instructor - Patricia Beech



Shopping at VAD Store



Shopping at VAD Store

ASL Blitz III - continued



Door Prize Winners

Jennifer Alberstein (Sign Media Gift Certificate), Heather Ursano (VASLTA Tote Bag), Terry Coles (Sign Media Gift Certificate), Kay McFarland (VAD T-Shirt), Alison Pasternak (VASLTA Tote Bag), Danielle Gerhart (NVSLC membership), Carie Joter Louw (VAD T-Shirt), and Dayna Moore (NVSLC membership)

“In The Now” Performance by Terrylene



Location: Ely Auditorium at Gallaudet

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2003 at 7:00 pm

Terrylene is from a fourth generation deaf family. She has garnered numerous awards for her acting, creative writing, and advocacy.

IN THE NOW is an autobiographical piece of Terrylene’s life that portrays a little girl within a woman who discovers her womanhood. The performance begins with Terrylene reflecting on the traumatic events of her childhood, and society's buried attitude towards the subject of sexual abuse. How could she be surrounded by so many loved ones and still be hurt? Terrylene explores the confusion of her “secret” and suspicion of people who tried to help her. “It's nobody's business”...or is it?

For more information, visit:
www.terrylene.com

This event is co-sponsored by the Gallaudet University Mental Health Center.

Admission is FREE

Licensure for High School ASL Teachers

- by Adele Polk -

I'm sure that we all agree that it is important that we have quality ASL teachers in the public high schools here in Northern Virginia. In many ways, the high school ASL teacher is the first contact that many people have with Deaf people and culture, and it is this first impression that usually makes the most impact. Students and faculty both need to see ASL as a valuable and important subject of study, equal to French or Spanish, and one of the best ways to ensure this is to have well-qualified, licensed, professional ASL teachers.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has already recognized this fact, and has taken steps to make sure that its ASL teachers are qualified. The Department of Education (DOE), in its Amendment to the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel, effective January 31, 2001, has created a list of competencies and endorsement requirements for ASL teachers. **These requirements must be met by July 1, 2003.** A copy of the Amendment can be found on the DOE website at:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/newvdoe/webasl.pdf>

You will need to have Adobe Acrobat on your computer in order to read this document.

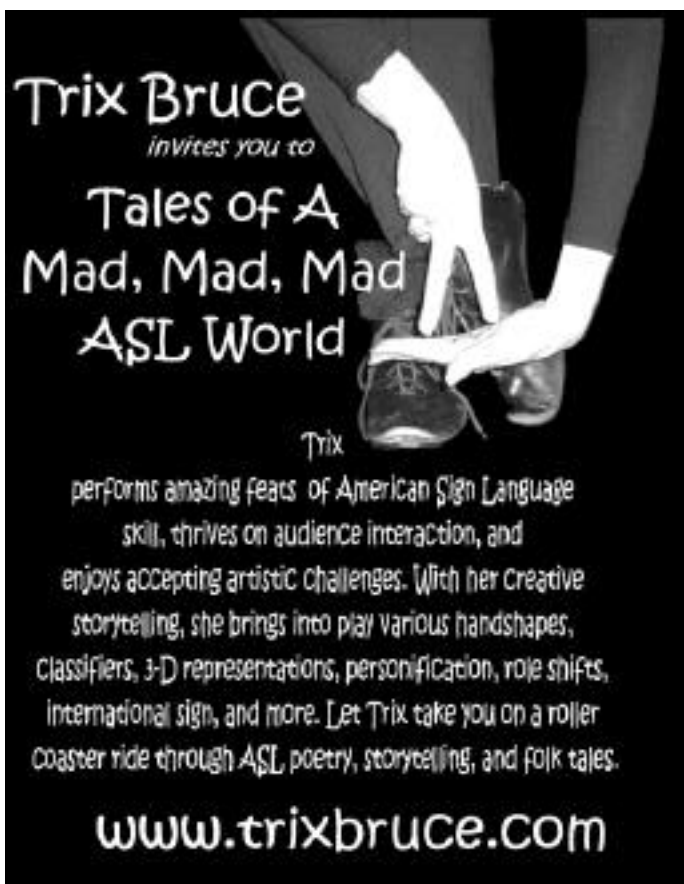
The DOE list of competencies is pretty straightforward – requiring ASL teachers to be fluent enough in ASL to understand a native user at normal tempo, have a knowledge of the history, social structure and artistic and literary contributions of Deaf culture, have a thorough understanding of the basic concepts of linguistics as applied to ASL and a knowledge of national standards for foreign language learning. Any ASL program at a college or university should also ensure that these requirements are met by its students.

For licensure as a new or incoming ASL teacher, DOE has basically two options. The ASL licensure candidate must have either 1) "...graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in a foreign language – American Sign Language"; or 2) "...completed a major in American Sign Language or 24 semester hours above the intermediate level...and a minimum of three semester hours of methods of teaching foreign

languages at the elementary and secondary levels." These requirements are consistent with those in other foreign languages.

However, for most of us who are already teaching, there are different requirements. These requirements apply to teachers who are native users of ASL or who have learned ASL without formal academic credit in a college or university.

(continued on page 9)



Trix Bruce
invites you to
**Tales of A
Mad, Mad, Mad
ASL World**

Trix
performs amazing feats of American Sign Language skill, thrives on audience interaction, and enjoys accepting artistic challenges. With her creative storytelling, she brings into play various handshapes, classifiers, 3-D representations, personification, role shifts, international sign, and more. Let Trix take you on a roller coaster ride through ASL poetry, storytelling, and folk tales.

www.trixbruce.com

March 14, 2003
10:00 am

at

Virginia School for the Deaf & Blind
East Beverley Street
Staunton, VA 24401

<http://www.trixbruce.com/performance/march14.htm>

For more info:
contact TRIX@cs.net.

Licensure for High School ASL Teachers (continued)

(continued from page 8)

There are two requirements, and these are the ones that must be met by July 1st of this year. First, the candidate must 1) demonstrate competency in ASL by showing written documentation of one of the following:

- (a) current Qualified or Professional certification from the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA);
- (b) current, valid Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQUAS) Level III Interpreting certification or higher. This is issued by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH);
- (c) current, valid Registry of Interpreters for Deaf (RID) 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) current, valid National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Level IV Interpreting certification or higher.

In addition, the licensure candidate must 2) earn a minimum of three semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from an accredited college or university in the United States. In a nutshell, an individual seeking licensure as an ASL teacher needs to have some kind of certificate of ASL competency issued by either ASLTA, VDDHH, RID or NAD and have taken one college course in methods of teaching foreign languages.

Anyone who is currently teaching ASL in a Virginia public school should already have some kind of valid Virginia teaching license, even if it is not in ASL. The current push for qualified teachers in our public schools means that schools are looking for and hiring individuals who are certified in their actual area of teaching. It will no longer be sufficient to be licensed as a Deaf Education teacher to be allowed to teach ASL.

School administrations are now becoming more and more strict about their licensure requirements, and if a teacher does not produce written licensing documentation of his ability to teach ASL, he may not be allowed to do so. Each school district is different, and some may be more flexible about the deadline for licensure.

Current high school ASL teachers should check with the head of Foreign Languages for their school district to find out if they will be required to meet the July 1st deadline. All ASL teachers, however, should strongly consider getting their ASL teaching license as soon as possible. We want to be treated as professionals, so let's be professional!

Signing Gospel

Location: Ely Auditorium at Gallaudet University

Date: Friday, April 11, 2003 at 7:00 pm

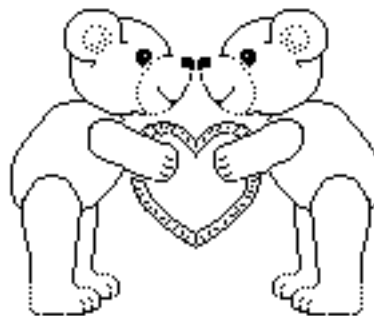
Gallaudet students, staff and faculty join DC-area churches with deaf ministries and choirs to present a concert of signed songs and praise.

Be sure to arrive early as seating is limited.

Co-sponsored by the Black Deaf Student Union and the Office of Campus Ministries.

The event is open to the general public and all are welcome!

Contact Information:
KP Perkins
(202) 651.5366 TTY/V
msp.office@gallaudet.edu



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

*from
VASLTA*

Treasurer's Report

N. Va. Sign Language Club

- by Sandy Wise -

<http://www.nvslc.com>

VASLTA 7,638.69
SVASLTA 1,627.58

Beginning Balance 9,266.27

Revenue:

Membership:
Oct 02 to Sept 03 130.00

Advanced Memberships 70.00

Other Revenue:

Donations 140.00
Tote Bags 60.00
VCCS (SVASLTA portion) 813.79

Workshops:

Profit/(Loss)
Mexican Deaf Culture (40.78)
Blitz 2002 16.50

Other Expenses:

DASLTA (SVASLTA share) (813.79)
VASLTA (SVASLTA share) (813.79)
NVRC Donation (50.00)
VSDB Donation (50.00)
Post Office Box (50.00)
Postage (11.20)
Office supplies Misc (326.53)

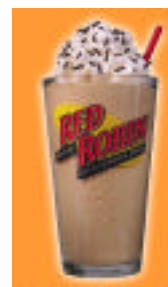
Ending balance 8,340.47

12/31/02

VASLTA 8,340.47
SVASLTA 0.00

February 8: SILENT SKATING
Washington DC
Skating in the Sculpture Garden on the MALL!
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
700 Constitution Avenue NW
[Smithsonian Metro Stop]

February 22: SILENT DINNER
5:00 pm -?
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
14090 Worth Ave
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Phone: (703) 492-6900
<http://www.redrobin.com/>



March 8: SILENT DINNER
Pizzeria UNO's Union Station D.C.
Saturday, 5:00 pm - ?
Union Station
Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC
[Union Station Metro Stop on the Red Line]
<http://www.pizzeriauno.com/>



May 9-11, 2003
SILENT WEEKEND
Camp Glenkirk
Gainesville, Va
<http://www.campglenkirk.org/>
Registration:
<http://www.nvslc.com/2003 SW Reg Form.doc>



**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day**