



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

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May 2003 Issue

## Incoming President's Corner

Hello Everyone!

First of all, let me thank all of you who came to the Annual Meeting on May 12th and participated in the elections. The results of the election are posted on page 3 of this newsletter. I hope you will support all of the new officers as they take on their new responsibilities. We also had a great presentation by Dr. E. Lynn Jacobowitz and Ms. Pat Richey on the old ASL signs used before the new Signed English systems came into existence and started to influence the way we sign. I learned a lot from their lecture. Finally, VASLTA members celebrated our 10th Anniversary with cake and special gifts to members who have been important in making VASLTA the strong organization it is today. A big "Thank You!" goes to Deanna D'Arcy, who coordinated the Anniversary celebration and to Pat Beech, who put together the 10th Anniversary Newsletter with the color photos from all 10 years. Both of you did a fabulous job!!

After I was elected President, I started thinking about some of the things that I would like to see VASLTA accomplish over the next two years. My first thought was to increase the number of active members in our organization. For 10 years now, we have relied on many of the same people to do most of the work, and while they have done a fantastic job, it is time to get new people involved in the day-to-day activities of VASLTA. More people need to volunteer to help with the workshops, planning activities and on our various standing committees. So...don't be surprised if you hear from me soon to ask you to help out.

Secondly, I'd like to see the number of ASLTA certified members increase. Currently we have

three VASLTA members with Professional Certificates, one with Qualified certificate, and one with Provisional Certificate. As more and more ASL teaching jobs require certification and licensing, it becomes increasingly important for us as members of VASLTA to set a professional standard. To be licensed in Virginia as an ASL teacher in the public schools, a teacher is required to have either an interpreting certificate or ASLTA Qualified Certification. In the near future, NVCC and other colleges will require ASLTA certification. We all need to work on getting our certification as quickly as possible. VASLTA will be offering workshops in the future to help our members achieve this goal.

I look forward to working with all of you during the next few years to improve and increase VASLTA's membership!

Adele Polk  
President-Elect, 2003-2005

## Calendar of Events

### Thursday, June 19

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

### Friday-Sunday, July 18-20

VASLTA Workshops during VAD Conference  
See Page 2 for more info.

### Saturday, November 01

Annual Blitz all-day event  
Location: TBA  
Contact: Sandy Wise at [aslblitz@comcast.net](mailto:aslblitz@comcast.net)

## 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 | Sharon Bailey          |
|                  | Kris daCosta-Warshauer |
|                  | Barbara Stansbury      |
| Ex-Officio       | Patti Raswant          |
| Directory        | Patricia Beech         |
| Newsletter       | Patricia Beech         |
| Web              | Patricia Beech         |



The newsletter was created using a Macintosh PowerBook. 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

## VAD Conference



VASLTA workshops at VAD Conference in Fair Lakes Hyatt during July 18-20, 2003

<http://www.vad.org/vadconference2003.html>

Note: VASLTA members can register at the VAD member rate.

Friday at 9AM-12PM  
"Teaching ASL as a 2nd Language"  
Presenters: Brenda Mitchiner and Leitica Arellano

Friday at 2PM-5PM  
"Assessment of ASL Students"  
Presenter: Jean Gordon

Saturday at 9AM-10:30AM  
"Survival Tips for High School ASL Teachers"  
Presenter: Adele Polk

Saturday at 10:45AM-12:15PM  
"Classroom Dynamics"  
Presenter: Jason Zinza

Saturday at 3PM-5PM  
"Deaf Japanese in Interment Camps"  
Presenter: Newby Ely

Sunday at 9AM-11AM  
VASLTA Continental Breakfast

## Black Deaf History



Carolyn McCaskill-Henry presented a workshop on "Black Deaf History" on February 01. She covered: historical overview, segregated Schools for the Color Deaf and Blind, the Black Deaf Community, Black Deaf Culture, Identities issue, Ebonics, Black Sign Language, and notable Black/African Deaf Americans.

She said that the National Center for Health Statistics produced a 1994 report giving an estimate of 240,000 deaf Black people who were about 5 percent of deaf Americans.

## Updates to VASLTA Directory

**Maggie Bales**  
E-Mail: balesjm@comcast.net

**Cheri Martinez**  
E-Mail: skyclad2@msn.com

**Christina Smith**  
E-Mail: cbsmith@hs.spotsylvania.k12.va.us

**Natalie E. Williams**  
E-Mail: nataliewms@yahoo.com

**Jenice M. Wolgemuth**  
E-Mail: emmaus\_road@msn.com

# General Meeting

- by Patricia Beech -

VASLTA had its annual General Meeting on May 12, 2003. The guest speakers were Dr. E. Lynn Jacobowitz and Patricia L. Richey, M.A. The topic was "Come Along Veditz's Way: Bringing Back Original American Signs." We had 24 attendees.

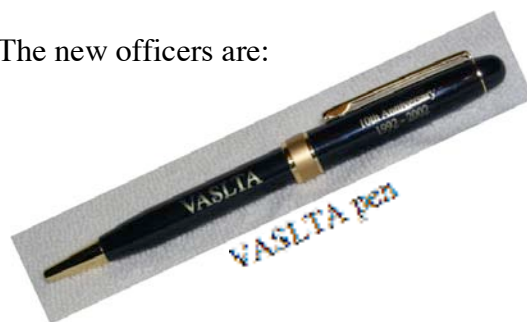
Dr. Jacobowitz, an Associate Professor at Gallaudet University, is nationally known for ASL teacher preparation consultations and gives workshops related to ASL teaching. She was president of ASLTA during 1995-1998. She also performs ASL storytelling, poetry and jokes for more than a quarter of a century nationally and internationally.

Ms. Richey, M.A. (Linguistics-ASL), is a retired Gallaudet English/ASL professor as well as a freelancer in Deaf/Blind interpreting at Gallaudet and local/national/international conferences. She is also a storyteller in ASL.



After the lecture, we had an election of officers for 2003-2005. The new officers are:

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| President         | Adele Polk              |
| Vice-President    | Deanna D'Arcy           |
| Secretary         | Jill Moebus             |
| Treasurer         | Sandy Wise              |
| PDC               | Patricia Beech          |
| Members-At-Large: | Sharon Bailey           |
|                   | Kris daCosta Warshaurer |
|                   | Barbara Stansbury       |



Next we celebrated VASLTA's 10th anniversary by giving out pens and Anniversary books to former board members and our guest speakers. We had two Anniversary cakes and refreshments. We also had door prizes and a slideshow showing pictures taken during the ten years. The door prize winners are:

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Jim Beech        | Free Workshop          |
| Bunny Garrett    | Free Workshop          |
| LeeAnn Carrera   | 1-year Free Membership |
| Julie Greenfield | VASLTA Tote Bag        |
| Adele Polk       | 1-year Free Membership |
| Patti Raswant    | VASLTA Tote Bag        |



Pat Beech and Meg Chojnacki



Lynn Jacobowitz with VASLTA gifts

## General Meeting (continued)



Adele Polk



Mala Kleinfeld



Jill Moebus and Paula Yanke



Meg Chojnacki and Sandy Wise



Mary Bagby



Pat Richey and LeeAnn Carrera



Jim Beech, Julie Greenfield,  
and Karen Norton



Sharon Joyner



Bunny Garrett



Earl Hollinsherd III

## General Meeting (continued)



**Officers for 2001-2003**

From Left to Right: Patti Raswant (president), Adele Polk (vice-president), Sandy Wise (treasurer), Patricia Beech (PDC), Jill Moebus (member-at-large), Deanna D'Arcy (member-at-large), and Cindy Burgett (member-at-large). [Not pictured: Sharon Bailey, secretary]



Our guest speakers  
with one of the Anniversary cakes



Patti Raswant  
cutting into a 2nd Anniversary cake  
while Jill Moebus watches.



**Officers for 2003-2005**

From Left to Right: Adele Polk (president), Deanna D'Arcy (vice-president), Jill Moebus (secretary), Sandy Wise (treasurer), Patricia Beech (PDC), Kris daCosta-Warshauer (member-at-large), and Barbara Stansbury (member-at-large). [Not pictured: Sharon Bailey, member-at-large]



Kris daCosta-Warshauer and  
Barbara Stansbury going over  
the Anniversary book

# ASLTA Conference in Indianapolis

- by Patricia Beech -

The conference started on Friday morning for Adele Polk and me, because we flew in the night before. We attended the keynote address. The keynote speaker, Tom Holcomb, talked about "Speeding to a New Definition for Deaf Culture." He said that the traditional definition of Deaf Culture included core values such as Gallaudet, Deaf schools, ASL, Deaf clubs, and Deaf parents. He felt that the new definition of Deaf Culture should include core values such as Deaf Pride/Full Acceptance, Sign Language/ASL, Self Determination/Independence, and Proper Perspective on: speech, Deaf schools, and ASL.

The plenary session on "A Report from the National ASLTA-CIT Task Force" explained about how Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) and ASLTA had a lot in common and could benefit from working together. The goals were to: identify ways of Deaf ASLTA members' involvement in the field, explore ways of raising standards, and make recommendations about financial and organizational management.

Several workshops I attended were:

Arkady Belozovsky's workshop was on "Learning Foreign, Linguistically-Related Sign Languages: What are the Benefits to ASL/Deaf Studies Instructors?" He shared his experiences in learning Japanese Sign Language and how it gave him the idea to present Russian Sign Language.

Eileen Forstal gave a workshop on "Implications of Teaching Prosody in ASL." Her definition of prosody was -- "combination of features in any language that produces rhythm, accent, and 'feel' of the language." She gave ideas of how to foster it from day one in the classroom.

Jason Zinza gave two workshops. One was on "High School ASL: Fun and Games or a Real Language." By using the term "activity" we indicate that ASL is a serious language. The other was on "Moving Beyond 'It Looks Right': Tests & Evaluating ASL." He shared his review of assessment models and showed how to design and use rubrics. Jason has a book called "Master ASL" coming out in January 2004.

Nina Coyer and MJ Herrema Olson presented a workshop on "Coordinating Sign Language Lab Activities with ASL Classes." They used technology to develop materials and activities.

Adele Polk's workshop was on "Practical Survival Tips for ASL Teachers." She gave emphasis on networking, relationships with peers, working with high school students, and dealing with Bureaucracy.

Alysse Rasmussen provided a workshop on "Games and Activities for the ASL Classroom." She used them to lower stress, provide more practice, teach ASL grammar, and foster teamwork.

Matthew Moore moderated a group session for ASL teachers on "To Teach or Not to Teach? Is ASL teaching a charitable activity or a means of survival?" Participants were given the opportunity to bring up issues related to teaching ASL.

Elizabeth Lucey presented a workshop on "OPPRESS-ME-FINISH: Combating Audism in ASL Classrooms." She provided strategies on how to combat audism in ASL courses.



Adele Polk with Greg Camp and Bruce Sofinski from Richmond



Patricia Beech with Terry Crump from UNC-Greensboro

## Profiles of Officers for 2003-2005



**President  
Adele Polk**

Adele was born in Pittsburgh, PA but raised outside of Buffalo, N.Y. She became hard of hearing at age 10 months, due to measles.

She went to public schools and graduated in 1972 from Frontier Central High School in Hamburg, N.Y. She received B.A. in English/Education from Western Maryland College (now called McDaniel College) in 1976, and M.A. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University in 1978.

Adele's first job was at Boston School for the Deaf in Massachusetts, teaching Reading and sign language to students, faculty and staff since the school was in the process of changing from Oralism to Total Communication.

She worked at Perkins School for the Blind in the Deaf/Blind Department for 2 1/2 years before switching over to work at Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center (RAF). She worked at RAF for 8 years and left to come down to Virginia in 1991. During that time, she taught sign language for local adult education classes.

Adele worked at NVRC for two years, and then went to Gallaudet University to teach in the English Department for 3 years. She also began teaching ASL at NVCC in 1993.

She set up a business with a friend and worked as a consultant and ASL teacher for local, state and Federal government agencies. She started working as an ASL teacher at Woodbridge Senior High School in the Fall of 1999 and is now finishing her 4th year there.

Adele is currently waiting to hear on her Provisional Certification from ASLTA. She is married with one child. She enjoys reading, watching captioned movies and playing with her daughter, Fiona.

One of her goals with VASLTA is to set up a strong group of high school ASL teachers who can meet and share ideas with each other on a regular basis.



**Vice-President  
Deanna D'Arcy**

Deanna began learning ASL 13 years ago at the University of Rochester where she received her B.A. in Linguistics.

After completing a M.A. degree in Linguistics at Gallaudet in 1997, Deanna began teaching ASL and ESL at NVCC-Annandale. In addition to teaching, she continually works to enhance the ASL and Interpreter Education programs.

She also enjoys tutoring ASL and English to various groups.

Although she currently lives in Arlington, VA, she frequently travels back to her hometown of Albany, NY where she operates a sub shop with her father.



**Secretary  
Jill Moebus**

Born in East Liverpool, OH. Grew up in Trenton, NJ. Lives with her cat, Maggie, in Sterling, VA.

Education: Graduated from Marie H. Katzenbach School for Deaf in Trenton, NJ in 1967. Received B.A. degree in History of Art from Gallaudet University in 1972.

Current occupations: Visual Information Specialist for 30 years at U. S. Geological Survey. Looking forward to retire in 5 years or whenever she decides. Also teaches sign language in Loudoun County.

The recent Memorial Weekend was The Rolling Thunder Weekend. She served meals for the SOG Motorcycle Clubs in the Arlington Assembly of God and it was a great experience! Next year she will be doing it again.

FYI: She sells T-shirts, Sweatshirts, and mugs for the VAD fundraising project. The latest item is a magnet with the "Top 10 Reasons for Learning Sign Language" imprint.

## Profiles of Officers for 2003-2005 (continued)

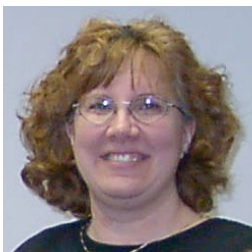


**Treasurer  
Sandy Wise**

Sandy is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. She now resides in Triangle, VA. She graduated from RIT/NTID in 1990.

Current occupation: Accounts Receivable Accountant with Veridian Information Systems

Hobbies: Crafts - cross-stitch, crocheting, wood work painting, and whatever else strikes her crafty fantasy. Reading novels, romances, mysteries, suspense.



**Member-At-Large  
Sharon Bailey**

Education: B.S. in PE and Health from West Virginia Wesleyan College. M.S. in Special Education LD from West Virginia University. Speciality in Mathematics

from University of Charleston.

She is an ASL Teacher at West Springfield High School. Her favorite hobbies are swimming, reading, writing, and signing music.



**Member-At-Large  
Kris daCosta-Warshauer**

Kris was born in Rumford, RI. She received B.A. from Bloomsburg University in PA and M.A. from Gallaudet University.

She is a third-year ASL Instructor at George Mason High School in Falls Church, VA. She is also a Family Tutor for Shared Reading Project at Clerc Center in Gallaudet College.

Her favorite hobbies are reading, cooking, sewing, buying and returning items. She can't live without... eating fruits, must start her day with breakfast! She loves to collect pottery and earrings (almost 100 pairs!)



**Member-At-Large  
Barbara Stansbury**

Born to an all-hearing family and raised in Knoxville, TN. Went to Maryville College in TN, where she learned ASL. She has B.A. in ASL/English

Interpreting, and M.A. in Sociology from UNC-Charlotte.

Moved to NC in 1984, got a job at Gardner-Webb University as an interpreter. Became director of 2-year interpreting program in 1988 at GWU. She was very involved with NCRID and the local Deaf community. Developed curriculum for four-year ASL program (with minor in interpreting) in 1994 and assumed directorship of that program in 1995. Became very involved with NCASLTA. Remained director of ASL program at Gardner-Webb until spring of 2000 (worked with Keith Cagle). Moved to the DC area in the summer of 2000 to take current job as Staff Interpreter with Headquarters, Army. Has ASLTA Professional Certification; RID - CT.

Hobbies: renovating their old condo, running and exercising. Has two cats and a dog. Husband is very allergic to one of their kitties. Any cat lovers out there needing a very sweet, lovable snow white five-year-old kitty?



**Professional Development  
Coordinator  
Patricia Beech**

Originally from Statesville, NC, she lives in Springfield, VA. Graduated from North Carolina School for the Deaf in Morganton. B.A. in Mathematics from Gallaudet University. M.A. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University.

Current occupations: Computer Scientist for 25 years at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division. Taught ASL since 1980; currently part-time at NVCC- Annandale.

Hobbies: Traveling, photography, attending cultural events and craft shows, and many more.

# Directions for NVRC's new site

## DIRECTIONS

to 3951 Pender  
Drive  
Suite 130  
Fairfax, VA  
22030

### From 1-66

Take Exit 57A (US 50-E)  
towards FAIRFAX

Merge onto US 50 East  
(Lee Jackson Memorial  
Highway)

Turn LEFT onto Waples  
Mill Road

Turn RIGHT at first light  
onto PENDER DRIVE

Proceed as indicated \*\*

### From Annandale / Burke / Springfield Area

Take Braddock Road  
WEST

Cross Rte 123

Turn RIGHT onto Shirley  
Gate Road

Shirley Gate will cross  
Less Highway and be-  
come Waples Mill Road

After Crossing Rte 50,  
make a RIGHT at the first  
light onto PENDER DR

Proceed as indicated \*\*

### From the Capital Beltway, Route 495

Take the I-66 WEST Exit  
49, towards Manassas /  
Front Royal

Take 66 WEST to US-50  
East (Lee Jackson Memo-  
rial Highway)

Proceed as from I-66  
and \*\*

\*\* Make a RIGHT at the 3rd sign for the "Chef's Café" (5th driveway), drive straight ahead past the 3-story building on the right. Make a RIGHT at the one-story building ahead, which is 3951 Pender. NVRC occupies the right half of that building. There are two entrances: one directly into the office and one (handicap accessible with handicap parking and ramp) directly into the meeting rooms.

