



Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association (VASLTA)

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September 2003 Issue

President's Corner

Greetings!

For many of us, it is back-to-school time. Whether you teach college or high school, I hope all of you have a great school year. The last couple of weeks have been pretty crazy for me, but I think I am starting to get myself organized.

We have a great newsletter for you, with lots of information about past and upcoming events. Please take a few minutes to look at what we have been doing over the summer (besides working on our tans...) with the VAD conference and outgoing President Patti Raswant's trip to Paris for the International Deaf History Conference. It is so exciting to see things happening all year round, not just during the school year.

We also have some great workshops lined up for you, so be sure and check out our upcoming workshops schedule. And, of course, the Silent Blitz is happening soon, and I hope many of you will volunteer to help out in order to make it a great learning experience for our local (and not so local) ASL students.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of our By-laws, to give you an idea of what we're all about. Once you've read this, I hope you will immediately want to join VASLTA, so fill out the Membership Form (also enclosed) and send it in with your membership dues. You won't want to miss out on all the exciting plans we have for this year!

Happy Teaching!
Adele Polk

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 26

Blitz Committee Meeting at 6:30PM in NVRC
Board Meeting afterwards
Contact: Adele Polk at ampolk@staffnet.com

Wednesday, October 01

High School Teachers' Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC
Contact: Adele Polk at polkam@pwcs.ed
See page 2.

Saturday, October 18

Workshop: "Historical Linguistics of Sign Languages" by Patricia Raswant
Location: NVRC
Contact: Sandy Wise at lilyva716@comcast.net
See enclosed flyer.

Friday, October 24

Blitz Committee Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC
Contact: Sandy Wise at ASLBLITZIV@comcast.net

Saturday, November 01

Annual Blitz all-day event
Location: Woodbridge Senior High School
Contact: Sandy Wise at ASLBLITZIV@comcast.net
See enclosed flyer.

Friday, December 05 (if needed)

Board Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC
Contact: Adele Polk at ampolk@staffnet.com

Friday, January 09, 2004

Board Meeting at 7:00PM in NVRC
Contact: Adele Polk at ampolk@staffnet.com

Saturday, February 07, 2004

Workshop: "Birthplaces of Berthier and Clerc" and "Deaf Movement" by Patricia Raswant
Location: NVRC

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
Blitz IV	Sandy Wise
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

Board Meeting on June 19

Staff Needs for Blitz IV



Sitting: Sandy Wise and Barbara Stansbury
Standing: Sharon Bailey, Adele Polk,
Cindy Burgett (outgoing Member-at-large),
Patricia Beech, Jill Moebus, and Patti Raswant

VASLTA needs volunteers for "Blitz School for the Deaf." Blitz IV is an all-day event, and will be held at Woodbridge Senior High School. See enclosed flyer.

Below are the positions:

- * Homeroom Teachers (4 positions): Intermediate I, Intermediate II, Advanced I, and Advanced II
- * Rovers (positions): Speech Therapist, etc.

Benefits: Free lunch catered by Tackett Mill's Catering, fun filled day with lots of laughter, Recap dinner provided by VASLTA, and a very special thank you gift.

For more information, contact Principal Sandy Wise at ASLBLITZIV@comcast.net or Assistant Principal Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com if you are interested in helping us out.

High School ASL Teachers

Mark your calendars for October 1st and make sure you come to the first High School ASL Teachers' Meeting at NVRC, starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing a number of issues, including certification, classroom management and curriculum.

We hope that this will become a regular forum for high school ASL teachers to discuss problems and issues specific to the high school teaching field. If you cannot make it that evening, but would like to be involved and have your name on our current e-mail distribution list, please contact Adele Polk at polkam@pwcs.edu. See you on October 1st!



Deaf History International 2003 Conference

- by Patricia Raswant -



During the first week of July my husband and I attended the Deaf History International Conference in Paris, France. The sole purpose of this conference was for the historical scholars to get together and share their researches or findings on Deaf History. There were more or less 300 registered participants. La Maison de la Mutualite, located in the fame Saint Germain quarter, was the conference center where the lecturers shared their historical presentations covering from the education including mathematics to politics of the Deaf communities all over the world. It was also the place where the participants mingled and discussed their exciting innovative researches or findings. You can check <http://www.dhi2003.org> for the details on their lectures. The registration and wrap-up

days were held at school for the deaf (Institut National des Jeunes Sourds de Paris), not too far from the La Maison de la Mutualite; I was surprised to notice a metro station and a street is named in honor of Abbe De l'Epee.

The wrap-up lectures and historical tours on Friday were educational and worthwhile; on the evening of the Fourth of July we had a five-star gala cruise on Seine River in which the dinner was elegantly served, and the waiters constantly pouring wine and champagne. The performance was great. We all had a wonderful time dancing, chatting, exchanging countless business cards, and hugging au revoir.

On Saturday morning at 7:00, those who registered a special weekend journey to the birthplaces of Ferdinand Berthier and Laurent Clerc met at a grand train station in Paris, boarded a train for a 3-hour ride to Lyons; and then we transferred to a connection heading Louhans, the birthplace of Ferdinand Berthier, a deaf scholar and political leader who received the highest prestige honor award from Napoleon. Berthier was also the father of the French Deaf Associations . . . possibly of all Deaf associations in Europe, America and elsewhere.

Upon arrival we boarded a charter bus and finally approached Louhans, a welcoming banner hung across the town square and the folks were waving at us as the bus passed through. Some regional French Deaf people attended this event, we visited the estate and church of Ferdinand Berthier Family—believe it or not, the street was named in honor of him; a statue of him erected and a permanent exhibition right in the



Town Square of Louhans



An actor who plays and dresses as Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet is guiding a tour at the churchyard where Laurent Clerc as a boy used to attend with his family.

Deaf History International 2003 Conference (continued)

heart of town. (In his youth, Ferdinand looked forward to be a pupil of Laurent Clerc and was downright heartbroken when he learned that Clerc accepted Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet's offer and left Paris for Hartford, Connecticut.) Louhans is a beautiful country town, a pleasant scenic change from the hustle and bustle of Paris. We stayed overnight in Louhans and on Sunday morning after our early breakfast we boarded a charter bus for an hour ride heading La Balme-les-Grottes, the birthplace of Laurent Clerc.

At the birthplace of Laurent Clerc, many regional French deaf people came and we enjoyed a memorable performance, a biography of Laurent Clerc, and witnessed an opening ceremony of a permanent Clerc exhibition at the Visitors Center. La Balme-les-Grottes is a breathtaking town resting on the foot of the mountain. The Mayor, Harvey Corson, John Yeh, Albert Hlibok, Mike Friess, some French individuals (I apologize for not catching all their names) and Laurent Clerc Holt—a 7th generation descendant from Laurent Clerc's second daughter, Victoria—gave their impressive speeches. Then we had a 4-star banquet. Afterwards the actors and actresses, still in their performance costumes, gave each group of the participants a tour of the town especially the house where the family of Laurent Clerc—his father was a mayor—used to reside and the ancient church that they attended.

The Ferdinand Berthier Association and Laurent Clerc Association, among the board members is Fanny Corderoy du Tiers with her long time friendship connection with Alice L. Hagemeyer, coordinated and organized this fabulous weekend trip in honor of Berthier and Clerc. Gilbert Eastman was one of the earliest individuals who pushed for the recognition of Laurent Clerc's birthplace. For the upcoming workshop on February 7, 2004, I will share more information along with the pictures on the birthplaces of Laurent Clerc and Ferdinand Berthier and the transatlantic Deaf Movement.

Association Laurent Clerc
Marc Pregniard, President
28, rue Edouard Idoux
69700 GIVORS
Email: alc38labalme@aol.com
(no web address)

Culture et Language des Signes Fernindad Berthier
Armand Pelletier, President
Ateliers Municipaux
293 rue des ecoles
BP 30
71502 Louhans/ Chateaurenaud cedex
Email: clsferthier-louhans@wanadoo.fr
<http://www.yanous.com/tribus/sourds/sourds03061.html>



Landscape of school for the deaf in Paris and statue of Abbe De l'Eppe
Institut National des Jeunes
Sourds de Paris



Abbe De l'Eppe is showing
a manual letter "D"
to a little boy



Speeches at the opening ceremony of
Laurent Clerc exhibition in the La
Balme-les-Grottes Visitors Center

VASLTA Workshops during VAD Conference 2003

- by Patricia Beech -

For the first time in VASLTA's history, VASLTA held workshops during a VAD Conference. The 2003 Conference was held at Hyatt Fair Lakes in Fairfax, VA during July 17-20, 2003.

On Friday July 18, Brenda Mitchiner and Leticia Arellano presented a workshop on "Teaching ASL as a Second Language." They talked about: Methods of Teaching, ASL Glosses, Learning Activities, and Learning another Sign Language. Leticia used Mexican Sign Language during this workshop.



Presenters Brenda Mitchiner, Jean Gordon, & Leticia Arellano

Next was Jean Gordon who gave a workshop on "Assessment of ASL Students." She covered: 1) Comprehension and expression, 2) Characteristics to consider, 3) What to consider in development, 4) Comprehension tests, Expressive tests, 5) Why give tests/quizzes?, and 6) Grading system.

On Saturday July 19, Adele Polk presented a workshop on "Survival Tips for High School ASL Teachers." She gave tips such as: 1) Find a mentor who knows the school procedures; 2) Make friends with colleagues; 3) Get involved with students and their lives; 4) Volunteer; 5) Develop good relations with secretarial staff, custodial staff, and security staff; 6) Make ASL and Deaf Culture visible in school; 7) Set up classroom rules from the beginning and repeat them often; and 8) Be willing to compromise...put students' needs first.

Jason Zinza was the next presenter on "Class Dynamics." He talked about differential learning, learning-centered, scaffolding, schema theory, student-centered, teacher-centered, and Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development.

Newby Ely was the last presenter for the day, and he gave a workshop on "Deaf Japanese in Internment Camps."



Presenter Newby Ely with wife Patty



Presenters Jason Zinza and Adele Polk

Directions for NVRC

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.

