



SENIORS' CHAT

Don's Column



Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

Happy Hands will meet on December 3.
See page 2 for information.

All of our recent events are reported with pictures in this newsletter for your reading pleasure.

As usual, Stay Happy Safely with Our Awesome Hands!

~ Don



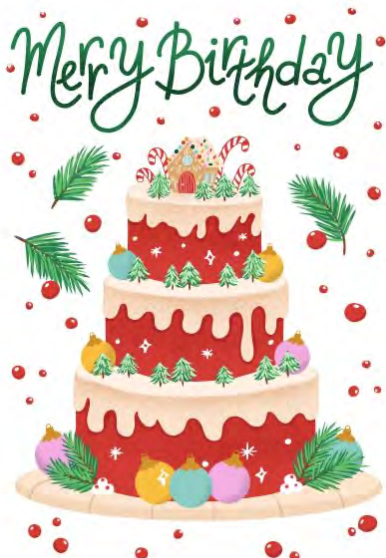
Northern Virginia Resource Center
for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons
Improving Communication, Changing Lives

SAVE THE DATE!

NVRC's Annual Meeting and Breakfast
(see page 10)

12	06	25
Month	Day	Year

NVRC.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...to the folks with birthdays in **December**

Deanna Dunham [3rd]
Bob Hickey [3rd]
Nancy Sanders [3rd]
Carol Duffy Clay [5th]
Mary Ann Beatty [8th]
Lila Renchard [8th]

Dorothy Brenner [9th]
Jill Kotchen [10th]
Cathy Thompson [12th]
Serry Fahmy [25th]
Eddie Drawdy [26th]



Happy Hands Meeting

December 3 at 10:00 AM



We will have our monthly meeting on December 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Please RSVP to Pat Beech (pgbeech@aol.com) by **November 28** if you will be at the meeting on December 3, and let her know what you can bring (see menu below). If you do not bring food, please bring \$10 cash.

HOLIDAY APPETIZERS (each dish for 12-18 people):

- * Chicken Salad with Hawaiian rolls: Denise & Tom Drake
- * Cheese Balls with Crackers: Laurie Avino, Rocky & Cheryl Rockburn
- * Celery Stalks with Peanut Butter: Don Ames, Cathleen Potosky
- * Caprese Kabobs: Jean Buffardi, Deanna Dunham
- * Mini Brie Trees: Lois Herberger, _____
- * Pinwheel Wraps: _____, _____
- * Cocktail Meatballs: Jill Moebus
- * Cocktail Sausages: Tim & Mary Beatty
- * Christmas Deviled Eggs: Eileen Goran, Cheri Hunter & Eve Christian
- * Stuffed Mushrooms: Cyril Potosky
- * Spinach-Artichoke Dip: Vicki & Barry Harlan, Mark Avino
- * Veggies and Dip: Lila & Randy Renchard
- * Sweet Gherkins: Margaret Huang

DESSERTS:

- * Chocolate Covered Chick Peas: Eddie Drawdy
- * Mini Cupcakes: Tim & Mary Beatty, Paula Olejarz
- * White Choc & Choc Barks: Peggy Daniels
- * Butter Cookies: Jane Light

PAPER PRODUCTS:

- * Dinner Plates: Joan Corley
- * Dessert Plates & Napkins: Pat Beech

SPECIAL TREAT:

- * Sparking Cider and Wine Glasses: Cathy & Rick Thompson

CHARCUTERIE CHRISTMAS TRAY (Bob Hickey and Eddie Drawdy in charge):

- * Salami: Julie Greenfield, Serry Fahmy
- * Pepperoni: Alfred Taurig
- * Cheese Cubes: Vicki & Barry Harlan, Steve & Melanie Williams, Bill Morris, Don Ames
- * Crackers Squares: Vicki & Barry Harlan, Steve & Melanie Williams, Julie Greenfield
- * Tray with Salami, Pepperoni, Cheese, and Crackers: Barbie & George Sidawy
- * Grape Tomatoes: Vicki & Barry Harlan, Marshal Kesler
- * Black Olives: Vicki & Barry Harlan, Julie Greenfield
- * Green Olives and Green Olives with Pimento: Thelma Schroeder
- * Cucumber Slices: Bob Hickey, Cathleen Potosky, Jill Kotchen
- * Grapes/Blueberries/Strawberries: Cheryl & Robert Gault, Jeanne & Tim Lavelle, Laurie & Tom Dowling
- * Grapes: Prudence Shaw
- * Mixed Nuts: Jonathan Kiell, Cindy Pettie
- * Dried Cranberries: Pat Beech

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES.

Before lunch — Fugio Coin: America's First Coin:

Discover the story behind the Fugio Coin, designed by Benjamin Franklin in 1787. Lois Herberger will explain how this small copper coin reflected Franklin's ideas about time, money, and unity in the new American nation.

After lunch — Life in The Netherlands:

Thelma Schroeder will take you on a virtual trip abroad as she shares photos, stories, and experiences from living with her family in The Netherlands. Learn about Dutch traditions, everyday life, and beautiful sights.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Upcoming Events

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

January 7

Menu: Brown Bag

Activity: "Scams and Fraud"
by Cyril Potosky



March 25

Menu: TBA

After lunch: "Traveling
Light" by Vicki Shank



January 14

New Year 2026

Celebration Lunch

Location: Backyard Grill
in Chantilly, VA
(see page 10)



April 1

Menu: TBA

After lunch:
Guest Speaker: DSA
Executive Director,
Sherri Collins



January 28

Menu: TBA

After lunch:

How to play Mahjong
by Margaret Huang

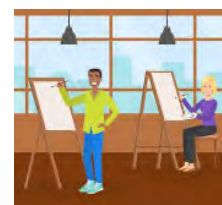


April 22

Menu: TBA

Location: TBA

After lunch:
Painting Class (TBA)



February 4

Menu: TBA

After lunch:

"Whereabouts of Anne Frank"
by Stan Smith

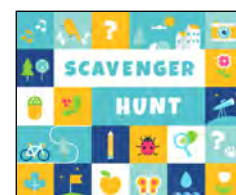


May 6

Menu: TBA

Before lunch: Election of
Fine Tuners for 2025-2026

After lunch: Judging of
Scavenger Hunt collections
(more details coming)



February 25

Menu: TBA

After lunch: Guessing Game
by Lois Herberger



May 27

Menu: TBA

After lunch: "White Sands
Missile Range" by Vilas
Johnson



March 4

Menu: TBA

After lunch:

"Just How Smart Are You?"
by Eileen Goran



June 3

Picnic





News of Interest



Dulles Expo Center will close at end of 2025, and IKEA will take its place. Here is link to see events for remainder of the year [<https://dullesmoms.com/dullesexpo/>]:

- * Capital Art and Craft Festival during December 12-14
- * The International Gem & Jewelry Show during December 19-21
- * Greenberg's Train & Toy Show during December 20-21

Source: <https://www.ikea.com/us/en/newsroom/corporate-news/ikea-u-s-announces-plans-to-open-a-new-store-in-chantilly-va-pub51629140/>

New location: <https://patch.com/virginia/ashburn/expo-center-open-dulles-town-center-amid-dulles-expo-centers-planned-conversion>



N. Va. Christmas Market
11-07-2025

[<https://www.emgshows.com/anvcm>]



Joan Cassidy was at Ashby Ponds for the Holiday Bazaar on 11-08-2025. She was selling her knitted dolls. Pictured with her is her daughter, Michele.

Joan will have a booth at Our Lady of Hope Church on December 6 at 9AM-3PM. It is located at 46639 Algonkian Parkway in Potomac Falls, VA.

For more information, contact Joan at joancassidy@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____
9. _____ to the world!

Social Chat at Wegmans on November 12, 2025

Eighteen people came to Wegmans for the monthly social chat on November 12, 2025.



Eileen Goran, Tim Lavelle,
Cathleen Potosky, and Tim Beatty



Tom Dowling, Mary Beatty,
and Laurie & Mark Avino



Joanthan Kiell,
Cyril Potosky, and Stan Smith



Deanna Dunham,
Jean Buffardi, and Pat Beech



Pat Beech and
Nate Drown



Lois Herberger, Eddie Drawdy,
and Bill Morris




RECAP

Recap of Monthly Meeting on November 19, 2025


RECAP

Thirty-three attendees came to the November 19 meeting.

Highlights of the meeting were:

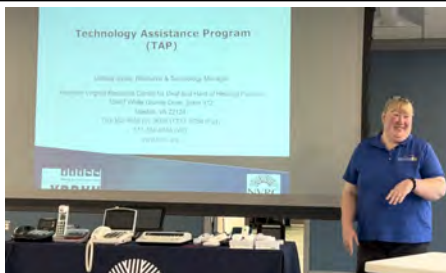
- * November Birthday Song
- * TAP Program by Debbie Jones
- * Trip to Japan by Eileen McCartin

YouTube links:

Entire meeting: <https://youtu.be/jXkJ8rwsGoE>

TAP program: <https://youtu.be/yHqHGUN3MTQ>

Trip to Japan: <https://youtu.be/q7LjxiO-QQ8>



Debbie Jones gives a presentation
about VDDHH's TAP Program at NVRC



Bob Hickey, Rick &
Cathy Thompson, and
Cathleen Potosky



Eileen McCartin, Jonathan
Kiell, and Eileen Goran



After presentation
on TAP Program



Barry Harland and
Lydia Olugbodi



Sitting: Randy & Lila
Renchard
Standing: Laurie Dowling
and Cyril Potosky



Japan Treats

Pocky, Mochi balls, and KitKat (Cookies
& Cream) provided by Eileen McCartin

KitKat (Chocolate) provided by Lois
Herberger


RECAP

Recap of Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 6)


RECAP


Sitting: Eddie Drawdy
and Lois Herberger
Standing: Don Ames and
Pat Beech



Laurie Warren
and Cindy Pettie



Jonathan Kiell and
Darren Marquardt



Robert Gault, and
Barry Harlan & Vicki
Shank



Sitting: Jean Buffardi
and Jill Moebus
Standing: Melanie Williams



Eve Christian, Tom
Dowling, Paula Olejarz,
and Cheryl Gault



Deanna Dunham,
and Steve & Melanie Williams



Eve Christian
and Cheri Hunter



Jonathan Kiell
with his failed
Origami project





Training at HKNC



Lanny Quarles has been at Helen Keller National Center in NY since January 20 — for training on Independent Living, Orientation & Mobility, and Adaptive Technology. Her last day was November 29.



Pumpkin Carving
and Halloween Party
[[https://youtube.com/shorts/
dwMgK60UfcE](https://youtube.com/shorts/dwMgK60UfcE)]



Lanny visited Tenement Museum [[https://
www.tenement.org/](https://www.tenement.org/)] with friend Melissa.

This was Lanny's last day for a trip. After the museum visit, they dined at a Spanish restaurant.



Lanny had to go by herself via cab to Jersey Mike's Subs for work, with no assistance from staff or teacher.



Lanny and friends dined at a Japanese restaurant to celebrate the end of her training at HKNC.



to Lanny for sharing her experiences at HKNC during the year of training



Training at HKNC

(continued from page 16)



Transition Meeting with Lanny's 12 teachers



Farewell Lunch

Lanny cooked four different Indonesia dishes for her 12 teachers, thanking them for the year-long training experience.

[<https://youtu.be/79nTzEJ61zM>]



D	A	G	I	F	T	O	R	K	S	H	R	P
A	J	L	F	L	U	J	D	O	E	C	E	N
C	O	L	D	C	T	C	A	R	D	Y	U	U
W	Y	N	D	H	C	E	L	N	E	G	N	T
R	C	F	R	O	R	T	Y	A	T	R	I	C
A	R	U	I	L	A	F	A	M	I	L	Y	R
P	P	O	I	L	C	E	D	E	J	A	N	A
E	U	W	E	Y	K	N	V	N	E	O	D	C
I	D	R	C	T	E	N	E	T	L	I	W	K
N	D	C	A	N	D	Y	N	D	R	C	I	E
D	I	P	W	R	E	A	T	H	O	E	L	R
E	N	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	D
R	G	E	C	L	I	S	T	S	C	A	R	F

Joy
Cold
Holly
Candy
Family
Advent
Ornament
Nutcracker
Wreath
Wrap
Card
Gift
List

NVRC Annual Meeting on 12-06-2025

Doors Open: 9:15 AM

Breakfast Buffet: 9:30 AM

Meeting: 10:00 - 12:00 PM

This year's meeting will cover important organizational updates, including the introduction of the Board of Directors, a review of our accomplishments over the past year, and a discussion of future NVRC plans. This is also an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow members and share your feedback about NVRC programs.

Please note this is a good time to pay the annual NVRC Membership dues for 2026. NVRC relies on membership dues to support our operations, and your support makes a big difference. To keep up with ever increasing costs, the Board of Directors has announced the annual dues will increase, effective February 1, 2026 to \$40 per person. If you pay your membership dues before February 1, 2026, the fee will still be \$25, but if you can provide additional support, that is always appreciated.

Please register by Wednesday, December 3.

2026
Happy New Year

**Celebrating
New Year**

2026
Happy New Year

Happy Hands will celebrate the new year, 2026, on January 14, 2026 at 11:30AM at Backyard Grill in Chantilly, VA (near Route 28).

Address:

13999 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

URL: <https://www.backyardgrillrestaurant.com/>

Menu: <https://www.backyardgrillrestaurant.com/menus/>

Please let Pat Beech [pgbeech@aol.com] know by January 7, 2026, if you plan to come. We need a head count. More details will be provided, as time nears.



TAP Program at NVRC, a service of VDDHH

VDDHH's Technology Assistance Program (TAP) has new items:

- * Bellman & Symfon Vibio Bluetooth Bed Shaker
- * SquareGlow Smart WiFi HomeKit
- * Midland Weather Alert Radio with Silent Call Flasher and Bedshaker

For more information, contact Debbie Jones at NVRC [djones@nvrc.org].



Bellman & Symfon Vibio Bluetooth Bed Shaker

★★★★★ 3 reviews

Vibio is a bed shaker wirelessly connected to your iOS or Android phone via Bluetooth and a free, user-friendly app. Once paired and an alarm set, the Vibio wakes you with strong vibrations and sound.



SquareGlow Smart WiFi Home Kit

Contains everything you need to be alerted to the doorbell & phone/VP in 2 rooms, in addition to receiving alerts directly through your smartphone.



Midland Weather Alert Radio with Silent Call Light and Bed Shaker

★★★★★ 5 reviews

This weather alert system includes the Silent Call strobe light and bed shaker with the Public Alert certified Midland weather radio. Audible, vibration and strobe flashing (using included light and bed shaker) alert you ...



Virginia Department for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

TAP Technology Assistance Program



*Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf
Holiday Party
and
80th Year Anniversary Celebration*

Saturday, December 6, 2025

3:00PM to 7:00PM

Columbus Grill
8349 Centreville Rd
Manassas, Virginia 20111

Buffet Style: \$80.00 per person
Come & have a merry time

RSVP & Pay Deadline: Sunday, November 30, 2025
RSVP is required so we can confirm food and seating numbers

Payment Options

Paypal: <https://paypal.me/nvad1945>

Venmo: <https://venmo.com/NVAD1945>

Zelle: nvadtreasurer1945@gmail.com

Check: Contact Robert Goodwin at nvadtresurer1945@gmail.com

Need a payment plan? Please contact the Treasurer

If you have any questions, reach out to Tim Lavelle at twl50@cox.net

Please note: No refunds after payment

CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS: Nvadtreasurer1945@gmail.com



*Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf
Holiday Party
and
80th Year Anniversary Celebration*

Columbus Grill Menu

~Appetizers~

Chicken Crostini * Portuguese Cod Fish Cakes * Bruschetta *
Grilled Chorizo

~Main Dishes~

Salmon Beurre Blanc * Portuguese Pork w/Clams *
Roasted Chicken * Pasta Primavera * Beef Stroganoff

~Sides~

Rice * Potatoes * Mixed Vegetables * Salad

~Desserts & Drinks~

Assorted Desserts * Coffee & Tea * Water & Soft Drinks
(Cash Bar for Wine & Beer)

Surprise Cakes by Rosemary's Fabulous Cakes



2025 DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  EAT A RED APPLE DAY	2 	3 HH Monthly Meeting (p. 2)	4 	5 	6 NVRC Annual Meeting (p.10) ----- NVAD Holiday Event (p. 12-13)
7 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 15)	8 	9 	10 HH Social Chat Wegmans (p. 15)	11 	12 Poinsettia Day 	13 NATIONAL COCOA DAY 
14  Dec 14-22	15  Cupcake NATIONAL DAY DECEMBER 15	16  HAPPY Chocolate Covered ANYTHING DAY	17 Fine Tuners Meeting 10AM-12PM	18 NATIONAL BAKE COOKIES DAY 	19 National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day 	20 
21 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 15)	22 22 DECEMBER 2022 NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY 	23 	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 	25 Merry Christmas 	26  Dec 26-Jan 1	27 NATIONAL FRUITCAKE DAY 
28 National CHOCOLATE CANDY DAY 	29 	30 NATIONAL RESOLUTION PLANNING DAY 	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 			

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Thanks to:

- For the November 19th meeting:
 - Everyone who helped with set-up before the meeting; and clean-up afterwards
 - Debbie Jones for explaining the TAP program at NVRC
 - Eileen McCartin for talking about her trip to Japan
 - Lois Herberger for getting Kit-Kat (chocolate)
 - Eileen McCartin for bringing Pocky, Mochi balls, and Kit-Kat (cookies & cream)
- Pat Beech for pictures for HH Social Chat (page 5) and HH Monthly Meeting (pages 6-7)
- Pat Beech for doing the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- Melanie Williams and Jonathan Kiell for proofreading the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- Debbie Jones and Pat Beech for preparing the monthly HH Newsletter hard copies for mail





E-mail: info@nvrc.org
 URL: www.nvrc.org
 VP 571-350-8656
 10467 White Granite Drive
 Suite 312
 Oakton, VA 22124

URL: <https://nvrc.org/about/directions/>



Don Ames, Chair
[\[dames@cox.net\]](mailto:dames@cox.net)

URL: <https://www.nvrc.org/happy-hands/>



Fine Tuners for 2025-2026

Sitting: Don Ames (Chair),
 Eddie Drawdy (Vice Chair),
 Melanie Williams (Secretary),
 and Tim Beatty (Treasurer)

Standing (Members-At-Large):
 Jill Moebus, Cathleen Potosky,
 Lois Herberger, and Bob Hickey

Silent Social at Wegmans

This occurs on the first and third Sundays of each month at 7:00PM in Fairfax Wegmans at the corner of Route 29 and Monument Drive (Upper Level, near the stairs). Registration is suggested. The dates for the Silent Social Chat are December 7 and 21. FYI, some people arrive early (6:00PM) and grab some of Wegmans prepared food for dinner.



Please come join the very informal chat; the group often includes students and interpreters looking to learn and practice ASL. You can also get your groceries while you are there!

Also, HH Lunchtime Social Chat at Wegmans will be on December 10.

For more info, contact Jonathan Kiell at jona3ki@msn.com.

For the Sunday Chats see: <https://www.meetup.com/aslbridge/events/304987317>.

WINTER WORD SEARCH

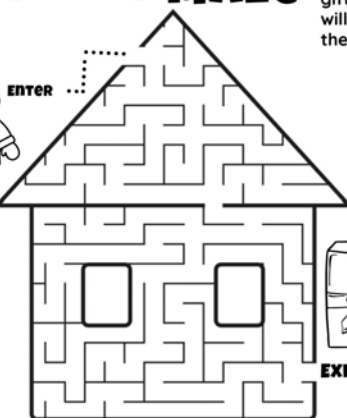


BOOTS
 COAT
 COCOA
 COLD
 FROZEN
 HAT
 ICE
 SCARF
 SLED
 SNOW



CHRISTMAS MAZE

Help Santa get to the gifts. Draw a line that will guide his way to the exit.



ezpzlearn.com

