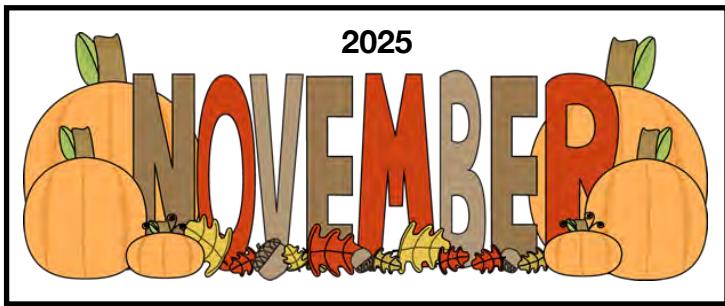




SENIORS' CHAT

Don's Column



Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

Happy Hands will meet on November 19.
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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...to the folks with birthdays in November

Neil Ferris [2nd]
Jean Buffardi [3rd]
Mary Kay Kelley [3rd]
Rocco DeVito [4th]
Prudence Shaw [4th]

Mario Ascencio [10th]
Josephine Bergner [10th]
Janice Barker [12th]
Barbara Eger-Klatt [14th]

Happy Hands In-Person Meeting

November 19 at 10:00 AM

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH



BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES

We will have our monthly meeting on November 19, 2025 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

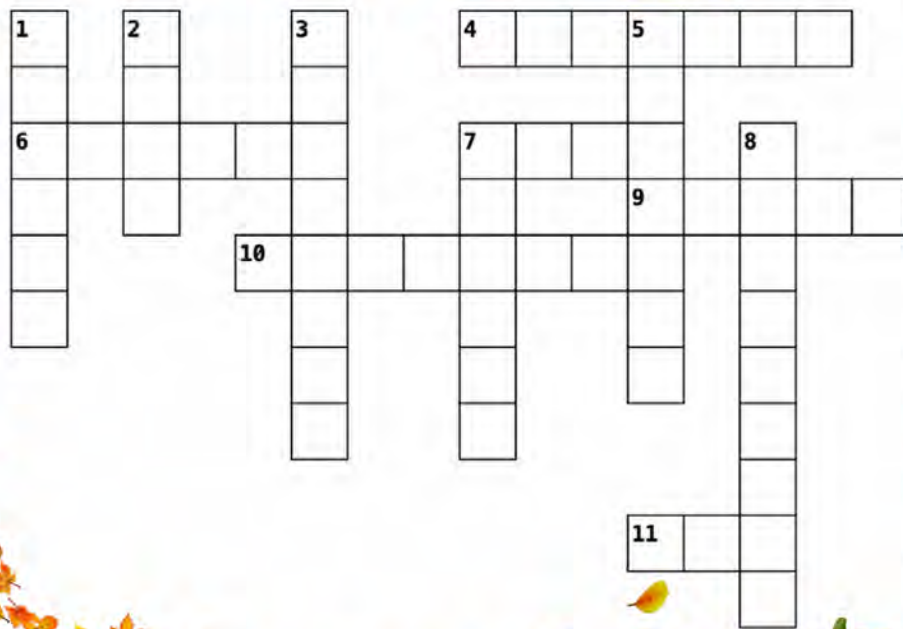
BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BAGS AND BEVERAGES.

A Taste of Japan!

After lunch, Eileen McCartin will share highlights from her recent trip to Japan. To go with her talk, we'll enjoy some fun Japanese treats—Kit-Kat candy bars and Mochi balls. Come learn about Eileen's adventures and sample a bit of Japanese culture!



THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Down

- 1 A vegetable that can be mashed or baked.
- 2 A yellow plant with edible grain. Another name for it is maize.
- 3 The place where the pilgrims landed.
- 5 A person who goes on a religious journey.
- 7 People you are related too.
- 8 The ship that brought the pilgrims to North America.

Across

- 4 A large orange squash with edible flesh and lots of seeds.
- 6 A bird that is eaten on Thanksgiving.
- 7 The season that includes November.
- 9 A sauce made from the juices of meat used for some Thanksgiving meals.
- 10 The 11th month of the year.
- 11 A baked dish made with dough. Filled with ingredients like apples.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING
EVENTS

December 3

Menu: Holiday Appetizers

Before lunch: "Fugio Coin"
by Lois Herberger

After lunch:
"Life in the Netherlands"
by Thelma Schroeder



March 4

Menu: TBD

After lunch: "Just How
Smart Are You?"
by Eileen Goran



March 25

TBD



January 7

Menu: Brown Bag

Activity: "Scams and Fraud"
by Cyril Potosky



April 1

Menu: TBD

After lunch: "Traveling
Light" by Vicki Shank



April 22

TBD



January 28

Menu: TBD

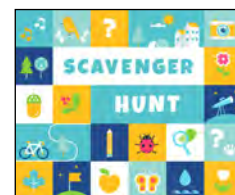
After lunch: Guessing Game
by Lois Herberger



May 6

Menu: TBD

Before lunch: Election of
Fine Tuners for 2025-2026
After lunch: Judging of
Scavenger Hunt collections
(more details coming)



February 4

Menu: TBD

After lunch:
"Life in Nigeria"
by Lydia Olugbodi



May 27

Menu: TBD

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



February 25

TBD



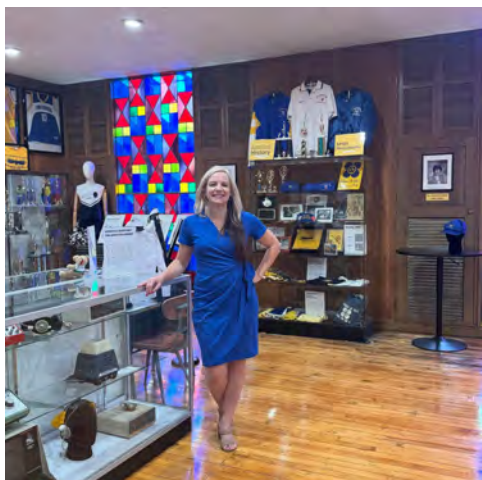
June 3

Picnic





News of Interest



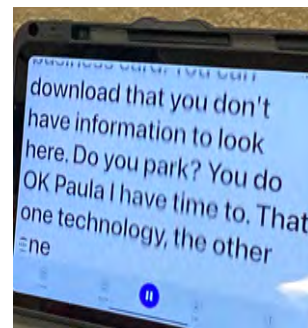
On 09-12-2025, the St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf (SFDS) celebrated its 65th Anniversary with the grand opening of Brooklyn's first Deaf & DeafBlind Museum & Research Center. The museum was curated by Dr. Julia Silvestri, and is housed within the SFDS campus. The exhibits cover a range of topics, including SFDS's history, NYC Deaf/DeafBlind history, and features artwork created by talented Deaf and DeafBlind artists. To schedule a visit, see: <https://sfdesales.org/deaf-deafblind-museum-research-center/>.

Source: https://ablenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Final-AbleNews_OCT25_16pages_Single-pages_Revised_all1y.pdf



On 10-03-2025 at Ashby Ponds. Joe Duarte gave a presentation on the latest technology for people with hearing loss. He also gave a live demonstration of InnoCaption (free captioning app for phone calls). Paula Olejarz is the contact person for the Hearing Loss Awareness Group.

[Note: Thanks to Joe Duarte and Jill Moebus for the pictures.]





Recap of Social Chat on September 24, 2025



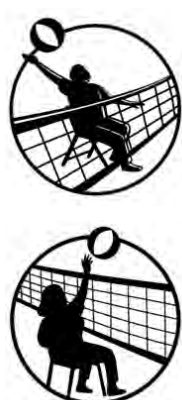
Eight attendees came to the September 24 Social Chat meeting. Here is YouTube link for the meeting: https://youtu.be/Z_jvf3Ftcos.



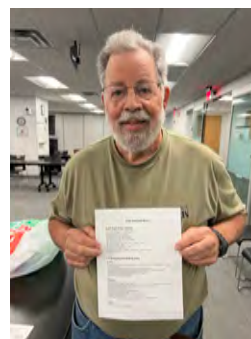
Tim Lavelle, Lois Herberger, Jill Moebus,
Laurie Avino, Don Ames, Jonathan Kiell,
Cathleen Potosky, and Pat Beech



Team 2 versus Team 1
with Don Ames as referee



Team 1 won both rounds



Referee




RECAP

Recap of Monthly Meeting on October 1, 2025


RECAP

30 attendees came to the October 1 meeting. Subs were ordered from Santini's Deli in Oakton. Eddie Drawdy picked up the subs. Peggy Daniels brought a box of Hughes' Chocolates from Oshkosh, WI. Lois Herberger provided cookies.

Santini's
NEW YORK STYLE DELI

Highlights of the meeting were:

- * October Birthday Song
- * Balance Research [<https://youtu.be/65n3eHMRUII>]
- * Melanie Williams' presentation on VAD [<https://youtu.be/HKmFF7VPRtw>]
- * Bill Morris' presentation on "National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum" [https://youtu.be/QAafyLIit_g8]



Here is YouTube link for the entire meeting:

https://youtu.be/cX_8ntBkOCM.



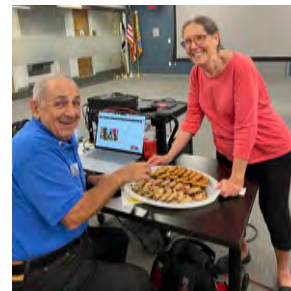
Subs from Santini's



Buffet Line



Hughes' Chocolates



Cookies



Standing: Cathleen Potosky and Serry Fahmy
Sitting: Randy & Lila Renchard



Standing: Don Ames and Cathy Thompson
Sitting: Mark & Laurie Avino



Steve Williams, Cyril Potosky, Bob Hickey, and Rick Thompson



Eileen Goran and Cathy Thompson


RECAP

Recap of Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 6)


RECAP


Pat Beech and
Jonathan Kiell



Jill Moebus, Melanie Williams,
and Lois Herberger



Deanna Dunham
and Cathleen
Potosky



Denise Drake,
Bill Morris, and
Jeanne Lavelle



Mark Avino and
Tim Lavelle



Tom Drake and Randy Renchard



Prudence Shaw



Paul Daniels and
Robert Gault



Lydia Olugbodi



Peggy & Paul
Daniels

Ashby Ponds News



Residents Eve Christian, and Linda & Robert Whitworth had visitors on October 26. The visitors were Rosy Donnewirth (daughter of the Whitworths), Bev Young, Sang Mclauchlin, and Karen Schleifer.

Deaf Way Film Festival

October 16-19, 2025

Written by Daphne Cox

Here is a recap of the Deaf Way Film Festival weekend activities:

- * 400 people attended the Deaf Way Film Festival
- * 28 Film showings
- * Opening Ceremonies with Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore film (and an interview with the film producer, Shoshannah Stern)
- * Closing Ceremonies with award presentation and different deaf artistic performances
- * Additional Events:
 - D.C. Deaf Culture Festival Reunion (DCF Committee shared stories and video showing of the successful festival in 1995)
 - ASL Abstract Motion (Jon Savage)
 - Intuitive Reading (Joseph Hill)
 - Chalk Mural (Washburn Art Center, Elstad Auditorium)
 - We, Native Deaf People, Are Still Here (National Deaf Life Museum in Chapel Hall)
 - Beyond the Waves: Deaf Art (Washburn Art Center Exhibition)
 - Student Murals (Washburn Art Center, Elstad Auditorium, Hanson Plaza)

Looking ahead to Deaf Way 2027: The next festival theme is Sign Language Literature — celebrating storytelling, Visual Vernacular, stage performances, poetry, and more!

2025 Film Award Winners:

- * Audience Award for Best Narrative Short - Idle Hands (USA, 22 minutes)
- * Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature - The Way We Talk (Hong Kong, Adam Wong, 2 hours 10 minutes)
- * Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature - Siren: The Voices of Shelley Beattie (USA, Irene Taylor, 1 hour 40 minutes)



Photo credit: Daphne Cox



Photo credit: Julia Silvestri

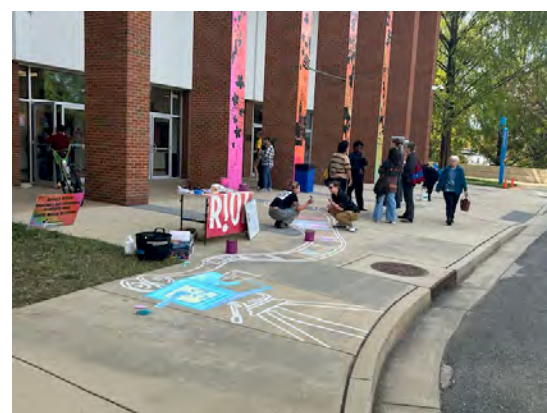


Photo credit: Daphne Cox

Deaf Way Film Festival

(continued from page 8)

- * Audience Award for Best Documentary Short - A Love Letter to the Light (USA, MJ Kiego, 9 minutes)
- * Screening Committee Award for Best Overall Short - Idle Hands (USA, Douglas Ridloff, 22 minutes)
- * Screening Committee Award for Best Overall Feature - Siren: The Voices of Shelley Beattie (USA, Irene Taylor, 1 hour 40 minutes)

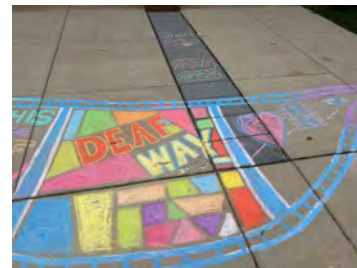


Photo credit:
Daphne Cox

Find the detailed information about all 28 film showings from the Deaf Way Film Festival website [<https://gallaudet.edu/deaf-way-film-festival/>]. Some of them have been released to the public on streaming platforms.



Photo credit: Daphne Cox

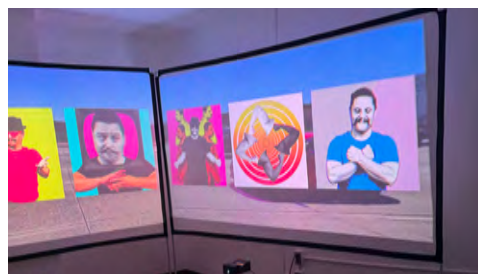


Photo credit: Julia Silvestri



Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



Photo credit:
Julia Silvestri



Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



Photo credit:
Daphne Cox

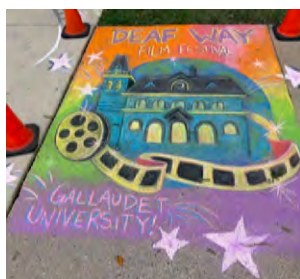


Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



Photo credit: Daphne Cox

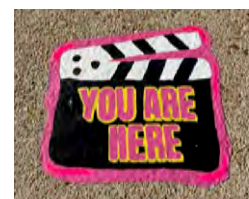
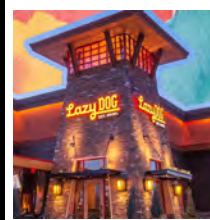


Photo credit:
Daphne Cox



NVRC Fundraiser on 10-20-2025



David Jones; and Cheryl
& Robert Gault



Waiter
Michael



Tim & Mary Beatty; Mark & Laurie
Avino; Eddie Drawdy; Jill Moebus;
Robert Gault; and David Jones



Anne Potter; Pat Beech; Gina DiNicola;
Margaret Huang; Bob Hickey; Jonathan Kiell;
Lois Herberger; and Eileen Goran



Eileen Goran
and Lois
Herberger



Paul & Peggy Daniels



Debbie Jones
and Anne
Potter



Melanie Williams;
Gina DiNicola; and
Margaret Huang



The Birthday Group
David Jones, Cheryl Gault, and Robert Gault



Happy Hands Social Chat

October 22 at 10:00 AM



After lunch, the group worked on Holiday crafts. Lynn Keefe was in charge of this Crafts event. [Thanks to Lynn Keefe, Jill Moebus, and Melanie Williams for the pictures.]



Lynn's Craft Table

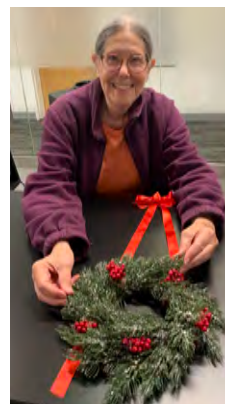


The Crafters

Melanie Williams, Jean Buffardi,
Lois Herberger, Deanna Dunham,
Jill Moebus, Lynn Keefe, and
Prudence Shaw



Jean
Buffardi



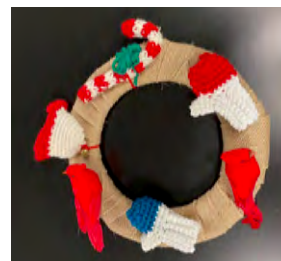
Lois
Herberger



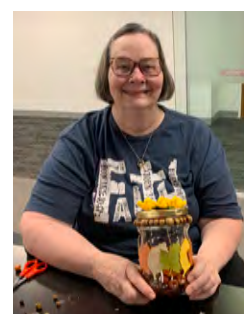
Melanie
Williams'
collection
for her project



Deanna
Dunham



Jill
Moebus



Melanie's
finished
product

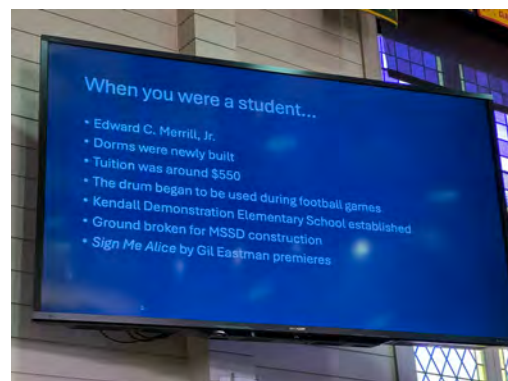
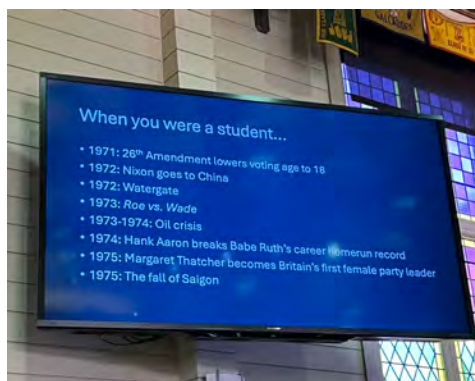


Gallaudet Homecoming Week

October 22-25, 2025



Kickoff Night for Class of 1975's 50th Anniversary



Presentation on Archives /
Schuchman Deaf
Documentary Center at
Ole Jim with Jim McCarthy

Gallaudet Homecoming Week

(continued from page 12)



50th Anniversary Alumni Emeriti Club Medallions were awarded to Class of 1975 members. The medallion's face shows a replica of the historic Tower Clock, flanked by the words "Alumni Emeriti Club."

The reverse side shows the Gallaudet seal, created in 1864. Both sides have 13 stars representing the nation's original states.



Celebrating 50th Anniversary
Pat Beech, Jeanne Lavelle, Leona Birley,
Kea Manfredonio, and Mary Kay Kelley



55th Anniversary for Class of 1970
Look for Happy Hands member:
Barry Harlan

Gallaudet Homecoming Week

(continued from page 13)



50th Anniversary for Class of 1975

Look for Happy Hands members: Pat Beech, Mary Kay Kelley, Jeanne Lavelle, and Kea Manfredonio



Sharon Sandoval and Thelma Schroeder volunteered driving Alumni around in Golf carts on Gallaudet campus



Donation from Class of 1975 to Gallaudet University



Pat Beech and Anne Potter with Gallaudet President Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano



Donation from Class of 1975 to Center for Democracy in Deaf America



Barry Harlan in Class Parade with Class of 1970



Don Ames volunteered during Gallaudet Homecoming



Vick Shank & Barry Harlan

Gallaudet Homecoming Week

(continued from page 14)



25th Anniversary for Class of 2000
Look for Happy Hands member:
Joan Corley



Al & Kea
Manfredonio



Mary Kay &
Chuck Kelley



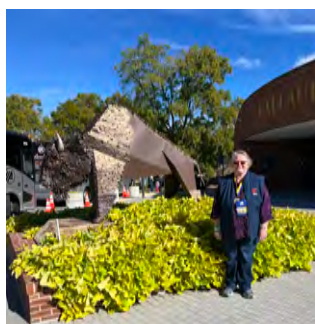
Joan Corley with
classmate,
Kelly Green



Alfred Traurig and
Eddy Laird
[Class of 1975 president]



Class of 1975
in Class Parade



Pat Beech in front of
the Mighty Bison
statue at Gallaudet



Tom & Laurie Dowling
congratulated members of
Class of 1975



Becky Sadler's grandson
Dylan is on the Gallaudet
football team. Pictured with
him are his parents,
Cindy & Dane Officer,
and aunt Alicia Ebeling



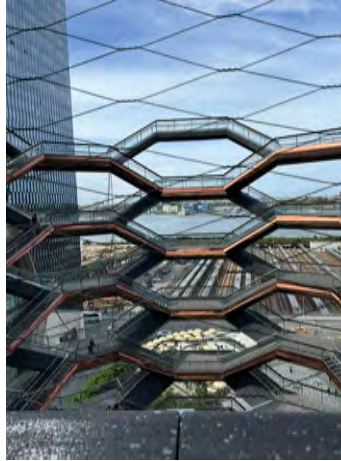
Pat Beech and
Robert Davila
[9th president of
Gallaudet]



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.



Lanny with her sister and husband (Melanie and Imam Bey) visited the Vessel in NYC. They climbed the stairs to the top, and back down. According to Google, there are around 2,500 individual steps. There are 80 viewing landings.
[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vessel_\(structure\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vessel_(structure))]



Lanny, Melanie, and Imam went to Los Tacos No.1. They had to wait in line before getting in.

[<https://www.lostacos1.com/>]



Lanny dined with friends at Johnson's Restaurant in Garden City Park, NY
[<https://jonathansrestaurant.net/>]



Lanny used a rollator walker at a DeafBlind festival. She felt comfortable getting around without assistance from staff members
[<https://youtu.be/3fiSYnmF5AA>].



Training at HKNC

(continued from page 16)



Lanny practices communicating with closed eyes
[<https://youtu.be/NSAC-q0Q10A>].



Sam Yates' daughter Noreen was at HKNC during October 23-26 to interpret for a client, Rho, during the weekend.



ASL Social on November 1



DeafPlus Advocate is hosting a very special ASL Social in November. We are excited to be collaborating with Northern Virginia Resources Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons and Veditz and Company Brewing, a Deaf-owned business. Veditz will donate 10% of every order to NVRC to serve the DMV Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities.

Join us as we celebrate the end of Daylight Saving Time!

If you are Deaf or hearing and interested in socializing or looking for practice with your American Sign Language (ASL), join us! All ASL levels are welcome! Come enjoy great Brews, food, and ASL conversations, and support NVRC!

Join us on Saturday, November 1st, at the Veditz and Company Brewing from 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM.

The address is: 7G River Ln, Sperryville, VA 22740.

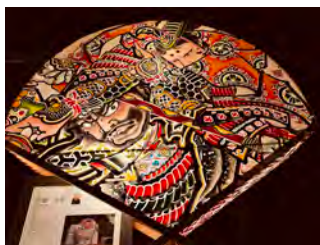
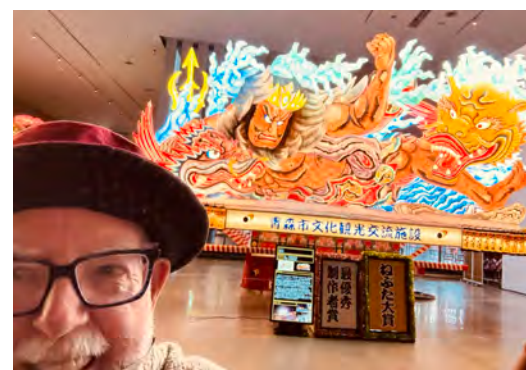
The event page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/17AFEdP9Wz/>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the DeafPlus Advocate team
[deafplusadvocate@gmail.com].

Stan Smith visits Japan during Oct 9-30



Memorial of
Commodore
Perry's Visit





NVRC Celebrate Communication 2025



Site for the Celebrate Communication event



Beth Klein
and Jeremy Smith



Deborah Bingham
and Ben Belisle



Yellow Dog
with a volunteer



Jean Buffardi
with a volunteer



Jonathan Kiell



Darren Marquardt
and David Jara



Interpreters for the
Celebrate Communication
event



Bonnie O'Leary
and Barbara Silber



Brad Staton and
Cheryl Gault



NVRC Celebrate Communication 2025



Peter Brawley and
Mario Ascencio



Kristine Fisk, and Cheryl
& Rocky Rockburn



Andrew
Magill



Dee Vinchey Entertainment
<https://deevinchey.com/>



Jean Buffardi, Laurie Lett,
and Cheryl & Robert Gault



Kea & Al Manfredonio,
and Don Ames



American Tinnitus
Association



Hearing Loss Association
of America



16 Around Fairfax



Ready Fairfax



Disability Rights
and Resources



Office of Human
Rights & Equity



VDDHH and
VA Relay



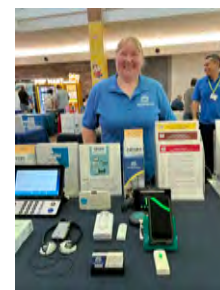
Virginia School
for the Deaf and
the Blind



Service Source



Otolaryngology
Association



**NVRC
Technology**
Debbie Jones



Clear Captions



NVRC Celebrate Communication 2025



Happy Hands Deaf Seniors
Eddie Drawdy and Pat Beech



Blossom Hearing Center



Mason Neck Lions Club



Deaf Tax



Innovention Products



Cochlear Americas



WMATA



Sorenson



Sofia Bags



Freeman Captioning



Metro South Asian Deaf Association



Va. Association of the Deaf



Happy Hands Deaf Seniors
Melanie Williams and Jean Buffardi



N. Va. Association of the Deaf
Tim Lavelle, Steve Williams,
and Robert Gault



Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

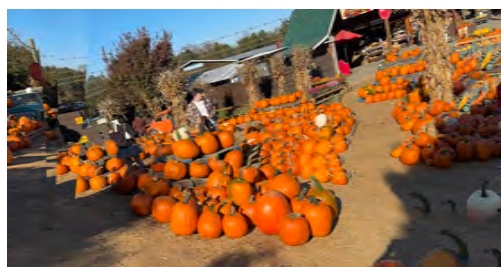


Northern Virginia Cued Speech Association

Melanie and Iryna visit Cox Farms for Fall Festival on October 23

Iryna Ravliuk and Melanie Williams went to Cox Farms on October 23 to see all the pumpkins at the fall festival. Iryna had been wanting to visit a real farmer's market instead of a roadside stand. She was thrilled to finally have this experience. It was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for the trip.

[YouTube: <https://youtube.com/shorts/ZD4ttDAwnEM>]



2025 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 ASL Social at Veditz Brewing (p. 17)
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends ----- Social Night at Wegmans (p. 24)	3 	4 	5 Fine Tuners Meeting 10AM-12PM	6	7	8
9	10 	11 	12 HH Social Chat Wegmans (p. 24)	13	14	15
16 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 24)	17	18 	19 HH Monthly Meeting (p. 2)	20	21 	22 
23 	24 	25 Shopping Reminder Day 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 						

© BlankCalendarPages.com

Thanks to:

- Everyone who participated in Chair Volleyball on September 24
- Don Ames for refereeing the Chair Volleyball game on September 24
- For the October 1st meeting:
 - Everyone who helped with set-up before the meeting; and clean-up afterwards
 - Melanie Williams for presenting "Virginia Association of the Deaf"
 - Bill Morris for presenting "National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum"
 - Eddie Drawdy for ordering and picking up subs from Santini's Deli
 - Bob Hickey for bringing potato chips
 - Peggy Daniels for a surprise treat — Hughes' Chocolates [<https://hugheschocolates.com/>]
 - Lois Herberger for getting cookies
- Pat Beech for coordinating the NVRC Fundraiser at Lazy Dog Restaurant on October 20
- Everyone who were at the NVRC Fundraiser on October 20
- Everyone who participated in the Crafts event on October 22
- Lynn Keefe for coordinating the Crafts event on October 22
- Pat Beech for pictures for HH Social Chat (page 5), HH Monthly Meeting (pages 6-7), NVRC Fundraiser at Lazy Dog (pages 10-11), Gallaudet Homecoming Week (pages 12-15), and Celebrate Communication (pages 19-21)
- 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)

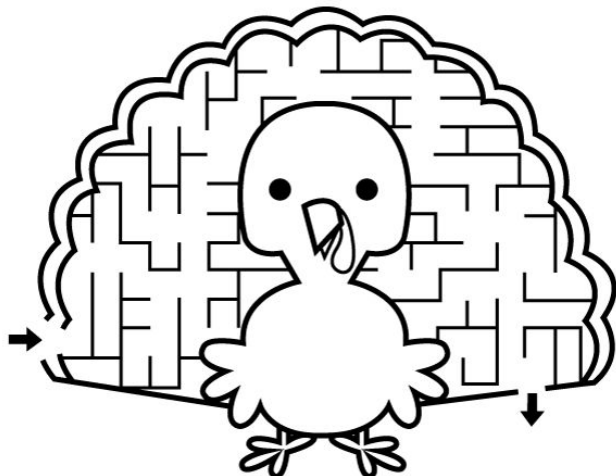
URL: <https://www.nvrc.org/happy-hands/>



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 November 2 and 16. 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 November 12.

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

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

