



## SENIORS' CHAT



## Don's Column



Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

Happy Hands will meet on January 7 (page 2). We will celebrate the new year on January 14 (page 2).

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 **January**

Cyril Potosky [4th]  
Patty Christenson [5th]  
Laurie Warren [13th]  
Cindy Burton [15th]

William Athy [22nd]  
Nate Drown [25th]  
Becky Sadler [28th]  
Irene Hunter [29th]

# Happy Hands Meeting

## January 7 at 10:00 AM



We will have our monthly meeting on January 7, 2026 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BAGS AND BEVERAGES.**

Before lunch, Lois Herberger will talk about "Fugio Coin."  
After lunch, Cyril Potosky will present "Scams and Fraud."



## Celebrating 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.



# Happy Hands Social Event

## January 28 at 10:00 AM

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**



**BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES**

We will have our monthly social event on January 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BAGS AND BEVERAGES.**

After lunch, Margaret Huang will teach us how to play Mahjong.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Upcoming Events

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### February 4

**Menu:** TBA

**After lunch:**

“Whereabouts of Anne Frank”  
by Stan Smith



### February 25

**Menu:** TBA

**After lunch:** Guessing Game  
by Lois Herberger



### March 4

**Menu:** TBA

**After lunch:**

“Just How Smart Are You?”  
by Eileen Goran



### March 18 (not 25)

**Menu:** TBA

**After lunch:** “Traveling Light” by Vicki Shank



### April 1

**Menu:** TBA

**After lunch:**

Guest Speaker: DSA Executive Director,  
Sherri Collins

### April 22

**Menu:** TBA

**Location:** TBA

**After lunch:**

Painting Class (TBA)



### May 6

**Menu:** TBA

**Before lunch:** Election of  
Fine Tuners for 2025-2026

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



### May 27

**Menu:** TBA

**After lunch:** ”White Sands  
Missile Range” by Vilas  
Johnson



### June 3

Picnic





# Recap of Monthly Meeting on December 3, 2025

Fifty-five attendees came to the December 3rd meeting.

Highlights of the meeting were:

- \* December Birthday Song
- \* Life in The Netherlands by Thelma Schroeder

YouTube links:

- \* Entire meeting: <https://youtu.be/bxowCWxECWQ>
- \* Life in The Netherlands: <https://youtu.be/mbBxOW7Pvcc>
- \* Thelma explains items on her Netherlands table: [https://youtu.be/H0sLV\\_58WYE](https://youtu.be/H0sLV_58WYE)



Bob Hickey and Eddie Drawdy proudly showing their beautifully arranged charcuterie trays



Jonathan Kiell poses with bottles of sparkling cider and wine glasses generously donated by Cathy & Rick Thompson



A colorful spread of appetizers



Enjoying a warm and festive holiday meal together



More holiday flavors to delight everyone





# Recap of Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 5)



Netherlands Table

[YouTube: [https://youtu.be/H0sLV\\_58WYE](https://youtu.be/H0sLV_58WYE)]



Pat Beech, Lanny  
Quarles, and Thelma  
Schroeder



Jane Light,  
Joan Corley,  
and Jill Moebus



Robert Gault and  
Barbie Sidawy



Thelma Schroeder,  
Rick Thompson,  
and Rocky Rockburn



Sitting: Mary Ann Beatty  
and Paul Daniels  
Standing: Tim Beatty,  
Cyril Potosky, Barry Harlan,  
and Vicki Shank



Lois Herberger  
and Eddie Drawdy



Margaret Huang, Jean Buffardi, Jonathan Kiell,  
Peggy Daniels, and Maria Dollhopf



George Sidawy  
and Stan Smith



Alfred Traurig  
and Sam Yates





# Recap of Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 6)



Randy &amp; Lila Renchard



Laurie Avino and Eileen Goran



Cathy Thompson



Mark Avino



Cindy Pettie, Prudence Shaw, Vicki Shank, and Margaret Huang



Prudence Shaw and Jonathan Kiell



Sam Yates and Don Ames



Eleni Triantafell, Cheryl Rockburn, and Barbie Sidawy



Cheri Hunter and Eve Christian



Laurie &amp; Tom Dowling



Whose shoes are these??



Cheryl &amp; Robert Gault



Julie Greenfield



Eileen McCartin



Laurie Warren



Jeanne Lavelle and Marshal Kesler



Jeanne &amp; Tim Lavelle



Denise Drake



Deanna Dunham



Bill Morris



Orange Twins





# NVRC Annual Meeting

## 12-06-2025



NVRC had its annual meeting on December 6, 2025. Thanks to Tim Beatty for taking pictures during the meeting.



# 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.



## Thanksgiving Worship at a Christian Church

YouTube: [https://youtu.be/lvk\\_XCH4dVQ](https://youtu.be/lvk_XCH4dVQ)

[Thanksgiving Song signed in ASL, Korean, and Japanese]



## Farewell Party for Lanny

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/UoDzZ-Oiuog>



Lanny learns  
how to use  
stitching  
machine



# Training at HKNC

(continued from page 9)



Technology Teacher teaches Lanny how to use iPad with Smart TV



Celebrating Thanksgiving

YouTube:

[https://youtu.be/sb2b-TF\\_PKk](https://youtu.be/sb2b-TF_PKk)



Celebrating Lanny's last day  
with Carvel Ice Cream



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





# Visiting Pigeon Forge



Jill Moebus visited Pigeon Forge, TN with Sharon Sandoval during November 25-29. For information about Pigeon Forge, see: <https://www.mypigeonforge.com/>.



**Taffy Wrapping machine**  
 YouTube:  
[https://youtu.be/sb2b-TF\\_PKk](https://youtu.be/sb2b-TF_PKk)

# Visiting Williamsburg

Jill Moebus and Joan Corley went on a Ladies' Retreat for a "Christmas in Williamsburg" during December 3-7, 2025. This 4-night stay was at a campground located on the James River in Williamsburg. The retreat included workshops, classes, games, and group events. Optional tours were available for purchase. This retreat was arranged by Passages Deaf Travel [<https://www.passagesdeaftravel.com/2025ladiesretreat>].



Jamestown's 4H Campground

Colonial Williamsburg during the day



Train Ride at Busch Gardens



# Chocolate-Covered Chickpeas



A delicious snack you can feel good about enjoying!

Prep Time  
10 mins

Cook Time  
20 mins

Total Time  
30 mins

Servings: 6 servings

Ingredients:

- \* 3 cups chickpeas
- \* 0.75 cup dark chocolate chips

Instructions:

1. Prep your beans. If dry, cook them. If canned, drain and rinse them. Then place the beans in an air fryer without any oil.
2. Cook at 390 F. for 20 minutes, stirring every 2-3 minutes after the first 10 minutes of cooking.
3. Toward the end of the cooking time for the beans, melt your chocolate in the microwave, in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave for 1 minute, then stir, and microwave for an additional 30 seconds. Repeat until the chocolate is melted if needed.
4. When the chocolate is melted and the beans are done air frying, transfer the beans to a bowl and cool them until you can touch them without burning yourself. This happens pretty quickly.
5. Then place some of the beans in the bowl of chocolate and coat them well.
6. Using a fork, remove each bean and place it on a piece of parchment paper to cool. You can make these as individual beans, or you can make clusters. The choice is yours.
7. Once cool, transfer to a bowl or container and store in the fridge for up to 4 weeks.



Note: Eddie Drawdy used this recipe for the HH Monthly Meeting on December 3, 2025.

# Deanna Dunham's Teddy Bear "Rose" in Seasonal Outfits





## In Memory of Lura Janet Blakely

1951-2025

Janet Blakely died on December 4, 2025 from cancer. She is survived by husband, George Martin Blakely; and daughter Ashley Edwards. Janet was a long-time member of Happy Hands Deaf Seniors. Donations can be made to Capital Caring Health Adler Center for Caring on the Van Metre Campus, 24419 Millstream Drive, Aldie, VA 20150 [<https://www.capitalcaring.org/get-help/our-locations/adler-center/>].





## Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf

### NVAD General Meeting and Bingo Game

Saturday, January 10, 2026

9:30AM to 3:00PM

Social: 9:30AM to 10:00AM

Meeting: 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Lunch: 12:00PM to 1:00PM

Bingo Game: 1:00PM to 3:00PM



*NVAD will have a Bingo Game.  
\$5 ENTRY. Pay once at the door.*

**Please bring your own lunch and drink**

Northern Virginia Resource Center  
Service Source Building  
10467 White Granite Drive, Suite 312  
Oakton, VA 22124



Any questions: please contact  
NVAD Vice-President Joan Corley  
at [nvadvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:nvadvicepresident@gmail.com)

# Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf



proudly hosts



## SUPER BOWL LX PARTY



Please RSVP to Joan Corley  
Deadline:  
Saturday, February 7, 2026



**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

**4:00 PM**

**Dinner: 5:00 PM**

**Kickoff: 6:30 PM**

**Northern Virginia Resource Center  
Service Source Building  
10467 White Granite Drive, Suite 312  
Oakton, VA 22124**



**Please bring a dish or 2 to share according to your last name:**

**A-F: Desserts**

**G-L: Hot Dishes**

**M-S: Cold Salads**

**T-Z: Appetizers**

**Bring your own sodas & non-alcoholic drinks. NVAD will provide ham and water bottles.**

**Please let NVAD Vice President Joan Corley know at  
[nvadvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:nvadvicepresident@gmail.com) what dish you will bring to avoid duplicates.**

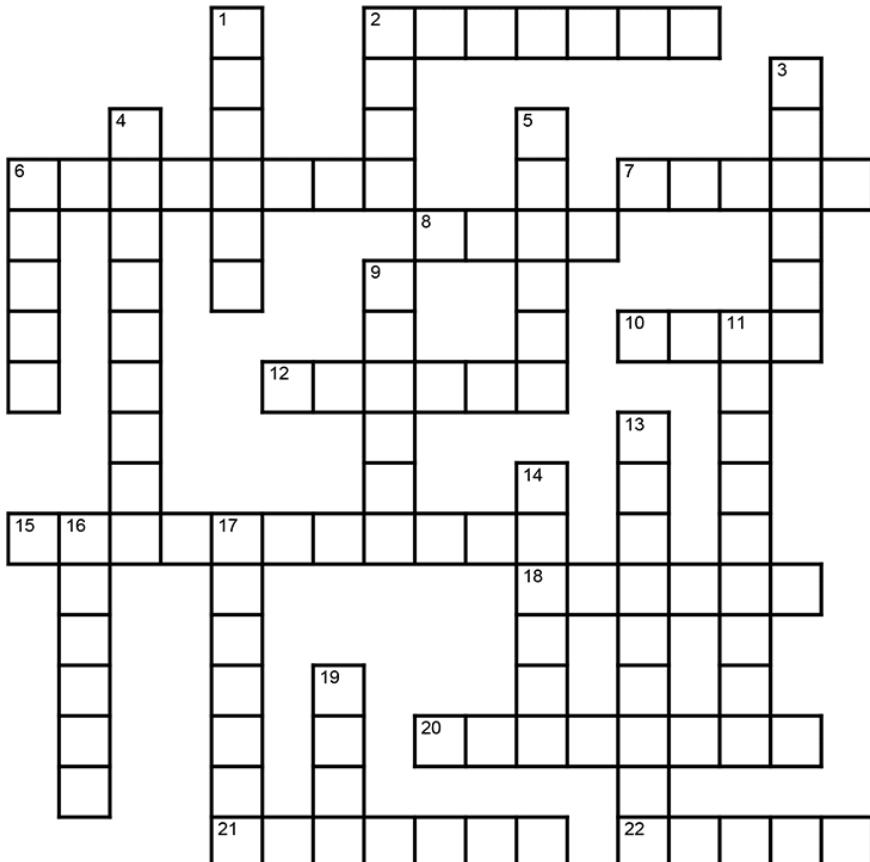
***In case of inclement weather in our area, the party will be cancelled.  
Watch for flash news via email and Facebook.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Winter Crossword

Across

2. Knitted top.
6. Snowstorm with winds.
7. Month that winter ends in.
8. When the air moves.
10. A sudden blast of wind.
12. Shake from the cold.
15. Tells you how cold it is outside.
18. Rather cold.
20. Month that winter starts in.
21. He might have a carrot for a nose.
22. Keeps you neck warm.



Down

1. Turned into ice.
2. It goes downhill fast.
3. A short coat.
4. What bears do in the winter.
5. Opposite of summer.
6. Shoes for snowy days.
9. Frozen trickle of water.
11. Ice crystal.
13. December 25th.
14. Area around the North Pole.
16. Used to warm a room.
17. Winter hand warmers.
19. Temperature (in Celsius) at which water freezes.



Arctic, Blizzard, Boots, Chilly, Christmas, December, Frozen, Gust, Heater, Hibernate, Icicle, Jacket, March, Mittens, Scarf, Shiver, Sled, Snowflake, Snowman, Sweater, Thermometer, Wind, Winter, Zero

# 2026 JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2 	3 
4 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 15)	5 	6 	7 HH Monthly Meeting (p. 2)	8 	9 	10 NVAD Meeting and Bingo (p. 16)
11 	12 	13 	14 HH New Year Celebration (p. 2)	15 	16 	17 
18 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 15)	19 	20 	21 Fine Tuners Meeting 10AM-12PM	22 	23 	24 
25 	26 	27 	28 HH Social Chat (p. 3)	29 	30 	31 

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## Thanks to:

- For the December 3rd meeting:
  - Everyone who helped with set-up before the meeting; and clean-up afterwards
  - Thelma Schroeder for explaining her “Life in The Netherlands”
  - Everyone who brought appetizers, Sparkling cider, and desserts
  - Eddie Drawdy and Bob Hickey for decorating the Charcuterie Christmas trays
- Pat Beech for pictures at HH Monthly Meeting (pages 5-7)
- Tim Beatty for pictures at NVRC Annual Meeting (page 8)
- 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](mailto:info@nvrc.org)  
 URL: [www.nvrc.org](http://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)

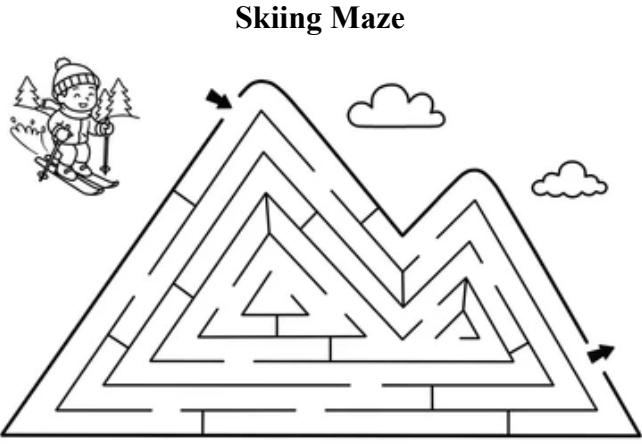
URL: <https://www.nvrc.org/happy-hands/>



### 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 January 4 and 18. 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!

There will be no HH Lunchtime Social Chat at Wegmans on January 14 (see page 2).

For more info, contact Jonathan Kiell at [jona3ki@msn.com](mailto:jona3ki@msn.com).

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

