



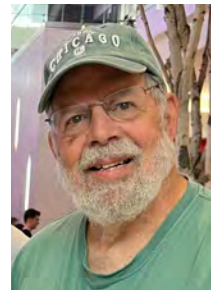
SENIORS' CHAT

Don's Column

Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

For the September events, we will have:

- * September 2 — Monthly Meeting at NVRC
- * September 9 — Social Chat at Fairfax Wegmans
- * September 16 — Fine Tuners Meeting
- * September 23 — HH 50th Celebration at Backyard Grill (we will not meet at NVRC)
- * September 26 — NVRC's Celebrate Communication at Springfield Town Center



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



September

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

...to the folks with birthdays
in **September**

Sharon Svenningsen [3rd]
Pam Gannon [4th]
Geneva Riffe [7th]
Thelma Schroeder [9th]
Mark Avino [10th]
Yvonne Dickens [21st]
Kerry Mike [28th]

Happy Hands Monthly Meeting

September 2 at 10:00 AM at NVRC



We will have our monthly meeting on September 2 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BAGS AND BEVERAGES.

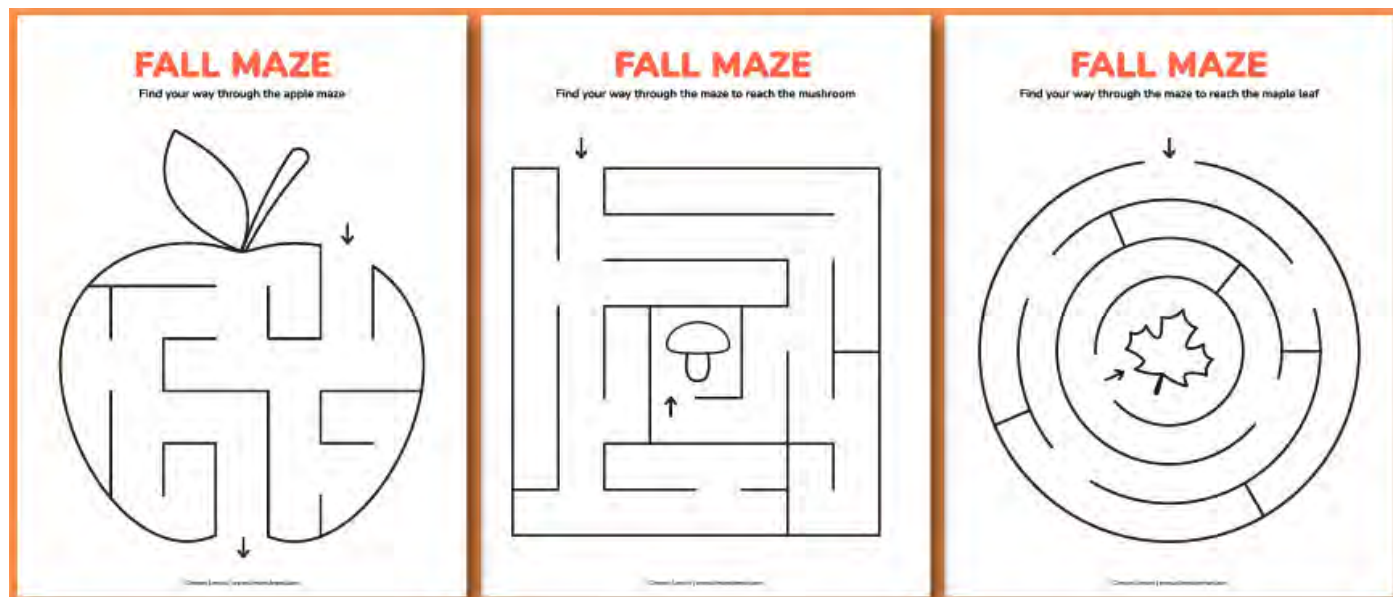
After the lunch, Mariana Shank will give a presentation about **ServiceSource**. Mariana is originally from Minnesota. She moved to Northern Virginia almost four years ago. As a CODA, she grew up in the Deaf community and is fluent in ASL, which has greatly influenced her passion for communication, accessibility, and inclusion. She has been with ServiceSource for three years and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Community Integration Services, supporting programs that help individuals build meaningful connections and participate fully in their communities.



ServiceSource is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities achieve meaningful employment, greater independence, and stronger community connections. Its vision is to create communities where everyone is welcomed, valued, and empowered to live, work, and thrive. Through employment programs, community-based supports, and partnerships with public and private organizations, ServiceSource helps individuals improve their well-being, achieve economic stability, and fully participate in their communities. Operating across more than a dozen states and the District of Columbia, ServiceSource combines direct support services with operational expertise to expand opportunities and improve outcomes for the people it serves.

Tentative schedule:

- 10:00-11:00 People arrive and chat
- 11:00-11:20 Meeting
- 11:20-11:45 Cyril Potosky on:
 - Magnet Fabric Security Tag
 - Apollo 11
- 11:45-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-2:00 Mariana Shank on:
 - Service Source





Celebrating 50 Years at Backyard Grill 1976-2026



September 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: 13999 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151



Because we need to know how many people are coming and what to order, please RSVP by September 2. Please email your entree choice to Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com. Payments must be received by September 2. There will be NO at-door registrations.

In person, you can give the \$\$ (cash or check) to Pat Beech. Make check payable to NVRC/ Happy Hands. You can mail the check to: NVRC/Happy Hands, 10467 White Granite Drive, Suite 312, Oakton, VA 22124.

HH Members: \$50.00 for 50th Celebration

[includes lunch, cake, and souvenir]

Non-Members: \$65

(\$50 for celebration and \$15 for membership)



To use Zelle, PayPal, Venmo, or Cash App, send the payment to accounting@nvrc.org. In the memo, say "Happy Hands 50th Celebration."

Name: _____ PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 2

Please put X beside the dish you want

Chicken Marsala

Chicken breast sautéed with mushrooms in a marsala wine sauce tossed with penne pasta



Backyard 8oz Sirloin

with brown demi-glaze
Mashed potatoes and vegetables



Fresh Grilled Salmon

with Dijon cream sauce
Mashed Potatoes and vegetables



Vegan Meal

House Salad
and Vegetarian Burger



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Upcoming Events

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

October 7

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

What: "WWII Trip in 2025 via Deaf Vacations" by Bev Young



October 14

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

What: "Ireland" by Tim Beatty



October 28

Location: Leesburg Animal Park

Time: TBD

What: Pumpkin Festival

Additional Info:

- * Low-Impact and short-walking options
- * Senior Ticket is \$12.00
- * Experience includes low-risk maze



November 4

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: "Furoshiki" by Barbara Eger-Klatt



November 11

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: "What You Should Do Before Using AI-Generated Information" by Cyril Potosky

December 2

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: "Deaflympics" by Barry Deuel



DEAFLYMPICS

January 6

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: "Got It" by Eileen Goran

February 3

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: TBD

March 3

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: "First U.S. Gold Rush" by Lois Herberger

April 7

Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

After lunch: "What's Special About the Stars" by Eileen Goran

May 5

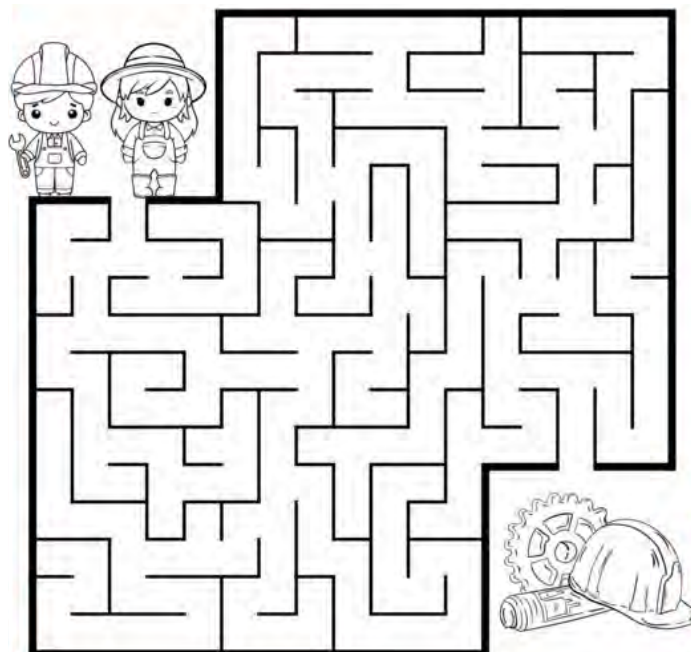
Location: NVRC

Time: 10AM-2PM

Before lunch: Election of Fine Tuners for 2027-2028

After lunch: "What To Do If Your Phone Is Hacked" by Cyril Potosky

Labor Day Maze



Sunflower Festival at Burnside Farms on 07-29-2026

Sixteen members of Happy Hands Deaf Seniors met at Burnside Farms in Nokesville, VA on July 29, 2026 to see sunflowers. Three sunflowers were included with each admission ticket.

Burnside Farms is a family-owned flower farm, specializing in pick-your-own festivals since 2012. The farm hosts two major annual events: Festival of Spring (late March to April) and Summer of Sunflowers (mid-July to August). For more information, see: <https://www.burnsidefarms.com/>.



Mark Avino, Mary & Tim Beatty, Steve Williams, Jill Moebus, Melanie Williams, Eleni Triantafell, Vicki Shank, Lois Herberger, Laurie Avino, Bob Hickey, Bill & Rita Hickey, and Rick & Cathy Thompson
[Not pictured: Stan Smith] [Photo Credit: Mark Avino]



Photo Credit: Lois Herberger



Photo Credit: Mark Avino



Photo Credit: Vicki Shank



Photo Credit: Cathy Thompson



Photo Credit: Mark Avino



Photo Credit: Vicki Shank



Photo Credit: Mark Avino

Sunflower Festival

(continued from page 5)

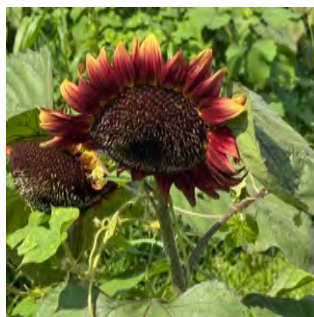


Photo Credit: Melanie Williams

Photo Credit: Bob Hickey



Photo Credit: Cathy Thompson

Photo Credit: Melanie Williams



Photo Credit: Vicki Shank



Photo Credit: Melanie Williams



Photo Credit: Lois Herberger

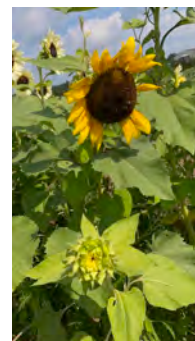


Photo Credit:
Jill Moebus

HH Social Chat at Wegmans on August 5



Sitting: William Athy, Bill Morris, Lois Herberger, Richard Cohen, and George & Barbie Sidawy
Standing: Jonathan Kiell, Stan Smith, Cyril Potosky, Don Ames, Eileen Goran,
Cathleen Potosky, Pat Beech, and Deanna Dunham

MDSC Celebrates 50 Years on November 3

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens (MDSC) is celebrating 50 Years [1976–2026]. The 50th Anniversary Luncheon will be held at Blackwall Barn & Lodge on November 3, 2026 during 11:00AM-4:00PM. The Guest Emcee & Presenter will be Melissa Elimira Yingst.

Registration

MDSC Members: \$50

Guests/Non-Members: \$100

Registration details coming soon.

Questions?

Lisa Skaggs, Secretary; secretary@mddeafseniors.org




 RECAP

HH Monthly Meeting on August 12


 RECAP

Sixteen attendees came to the August 12 meeting. Highlights of the meeting were: August Birthday Song and Bingo. Here is the link for the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/EB72RnmEMvs>.



Eileen Goran, Bob Hickey,
Jean Buffardi, and
Deanna Dunham



Cathleen & Cyril Potosky,
Lanny Quarles, Don Ames,
and Barry Harlan



Lois Herberger, Vicki Shank,
Pat Beech, and
Jonathan Kiell



Eileen Goran
and Stan Smith



Summer Treat!!



Jill Moebus and
Lydia Olugbodi



Bingo!!



In July, Eddie Drawdy fractured his left kneecap while ice skating. The surgery went well, as the fracture was a clean break. It was easily fixed with screws.

Eddie is slowly recovering with PT sessions.

HH Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 8)



Any One Line Winner
Pat Beech



X or Plus Winner
Vicki Shank



Any Two Lines Winner
Barry Harlan



Inside Frame, Outside Frame Winner
Jill Moebus



Letter Z Winner
Don Ames



News of Interest



On July 4, Lynn Keefe's grandchildren [Lydia, Liam, and Lachlan] and their mother [Felicia] posed with Patrick Henry's fifth great grandson, Patrick Henry Jolly.

Patrick works at Patrick Henry's Red Hill located in Brookneal, VA. He has been sharing the history of Patrick Henry for over 30 years. The activities that he does at Red Hill are:

- * Performs the famous "Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!"
- * Plays the historical Henry family fiddle
- * Leads special lantern tours

URL about Red Hill:

<https://www.redhill.org/>

URL about the great grandson:

<https://www.redhill.org/staff/patrick-jolly/>

FYI, Patrick Henry had 17 children.



On June 24, the Staunton City Council appointed Daphne Cox to serve on the City of Staunton Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission. Her three-year term began on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2029.

Daphne is the first Deaf representative appointed to the DEI Commission since its establishment. Congratulations to Daphne!!

Source: <https://www.vad.org/>

For more information about the DEI Commission, see:

<https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/government/city-council/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-commission>



More News of Interest



NVRC was at Rock the Block in Old Town Fairfax on July 24. Several Happy Hands members were there as volunteers. DeafPlus Advocate had its ASL Social event there.



For story and pictures, see NVRC's FB post: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Jvfy5FgZb/>.



In Loving Memory



Kaylee Hottle died on July 21, 2026. She was involved in a car crash. She was best known for portraying Jia in two movies: "Godzilla vs. Kong," and "Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire." There is a video on Facebook of Kaylee doing a story using the letters in "CRAWFISH".

Source:

* <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/kaylee-hottle-obituary?id=62075372>



Godzilla vs. Kong



Godzilla x Kong:
The New Empire



Randall Shank of Frederick, MD died on July 6, 2026. He taught at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf for over 30 years, and most recently, as a history teacher at the Maryland School for the Deaf. He is survived by Trudy Suggs, his partner of more than 30 years, and four children: Eavan, Keene, Blane, and Maise.

Source:

* <https://www.staufferfuneralhome.com/obituaries/randall-shank>



PicklesBURGH in Pittsburgh



Karen Engelhardt-Norton went to Pittsburgh during July 16-19, 2026 to attend PicklesBURGH with her daughter, Claire. This festival began in 2015 and is organized by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. It celebrates the city's connection to pickles and Heinz. Pittsburgh is the birthplace of the H.J. Heinz Company.



Heinz's first product was grated horseradish, created in 1869. The next major product was in 1876 — tomato ketchup (originally spelled "catsup"). For Heinz's story, see: <https://www.heinz.com/our-story> and <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/blog/collection-spotlight-heinz-first-products-innovative-factory/>.

Highlights of PicklesBURGH included:

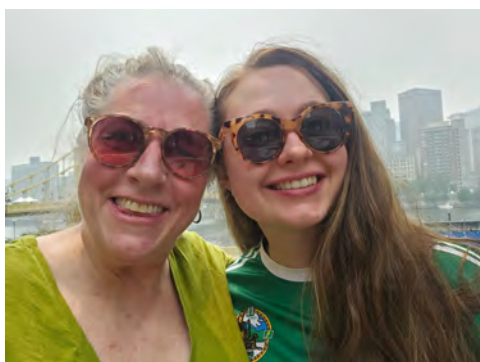
- * Venues across the Roberto Clemente Bridge, the Andy Warhol Bridge, Market Square, and Arts Landing
- * Food and drink including Pickle Beer, Pickle Ice Cream, Chocolate-Covered Pickles, and pickled creations from local chefs
- * Activities such as the famous pickle juice drinking contest, the "Dill-cathlon," and pickleball tournaments at Arts Landing

For more information about PicklesBURGH, see:

- * URL: <https://www.picklesburgh.com/> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picklesburgh>
- * History: <https://youtu.be/HXEhwEHx0FQ>
- * YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Q-IQi6OD7Po>



This gives you an idea of HOW creative the vendors were. Some had Pickle Fudge.



PICKLES WORDSEARCH

See if you can find all the words in this puzzle

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

DILL
HALVES
SPICY
SLICED

SWEET
CRISP
SPEARS
GREEN

KOSHER
GHERKIN
GARLIC
SOUR



Trip to Chico, CA



- by Jean Buffardi -

Jean Buffardi and her husband, Lou, returned on August 4 from Chico, California, where they visited their son, Kevin. Each morning while it was still cool, Jean walked in the nearby Bidwell Park. Bidwell Park was established on July 20, 1905, through the donation by Annie Bidwell of approximately 2,500 acres of land to the City of Chico. In 1922, the city purchased more land so that the total park size is now 3,670 acres, nearly 11 miles in length. It is divided into "Lower Park," where Jean walked because it is flat with a canopy of trees to provide shade. The Middle and Upper Park are in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where there is steep terrain and interesting rock formations.



Kevin, Lou, and Jean made "Buffardi Spaghetti" for his friends. It included braciole, Italian sausage, and pepperoni, simmered for several hours with Italian tomatoes, which Lou put through the food mill. Kevin's dog, Bella, shared her space with three Boston terriers and a cocker spaniel as friends enjoyed the meal. Lou and Jean enjoyed meeting some of Kevin's friends.



The picture on the left showed the "Buffardi Spaghetti" meal. Braciole is in the middle. Next to it is Italian sausage and pepperoni.

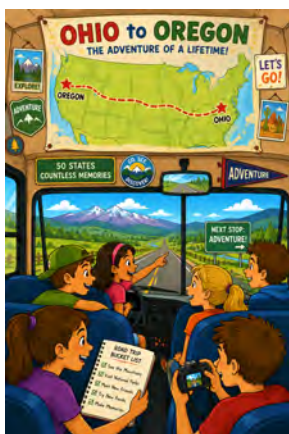
Kevin also treated Lou and Jean to the "Blessings of the Grapes" at the New Clairvaux Vineyard at the Abbey of New Clairvaux [<https://www.newclairvauxvineyard.com/>]. After the clergy led the participants in a blessing ceremony, we walked throughout the vineyard to 5 different tastings of some of the wines they produce. They produce award winning wines.



We were grateful for the time our youngest son spent with us before he resumes his teaching Computer Science courses at Chico State University. He told us about his travels in Italy with our daughter, who lives and works in London. When we returned, we hosted a joint birthday dinner for our other son and his wife to celebrate with their children as our grandson turned 15 years old and our granddaughter 13 years old. We are grateful for our family!

Memories of a 4th grader on a Cross-Country Trip to Oregon

- by Jane Light -



The summer between my fourth- and fifth-grade years, my fourth-grade teacher and her brother took a busload of kids, ages 10 to 14, cross-country from Cincinnati, Ohio, to a ranch they owned in Oregon. The bus was a school bus modified to include a bathroom in the back. It was anything but comfortable, but as kids, we hardly noticed.

On our way to the ranch, we spent our days sightseeing and our nights driving and staying at KOA campgrounds. Along the way, we visited the Corn Palace, the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, the Black Hills, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons. For a group of kids, it was an incredible introduction to the country, and every day seemed to bring something new.



Some of my favorite memories, though, came from the people and experiences along the way. We stayed at my teacher's cousin Delmer's ranch, where we learned how to lasso, make pudding in a blender, and, most importantly, the importance of getting up at dawn for ranch chores—unless you wanted to be awakened with shaving cream in your ears. To say the least, Delmer was a character!



We also took in a rodeo and visited the Buffalo Bill Museum. Once we reached the ranch in Oregon, we had daily chores, but we also had plenty of freedom to roam and ride horses. We played, hiked, helped shear sheep and brand cattle, kept an eye out for rattlesnakes, and generally had the time of our lives.

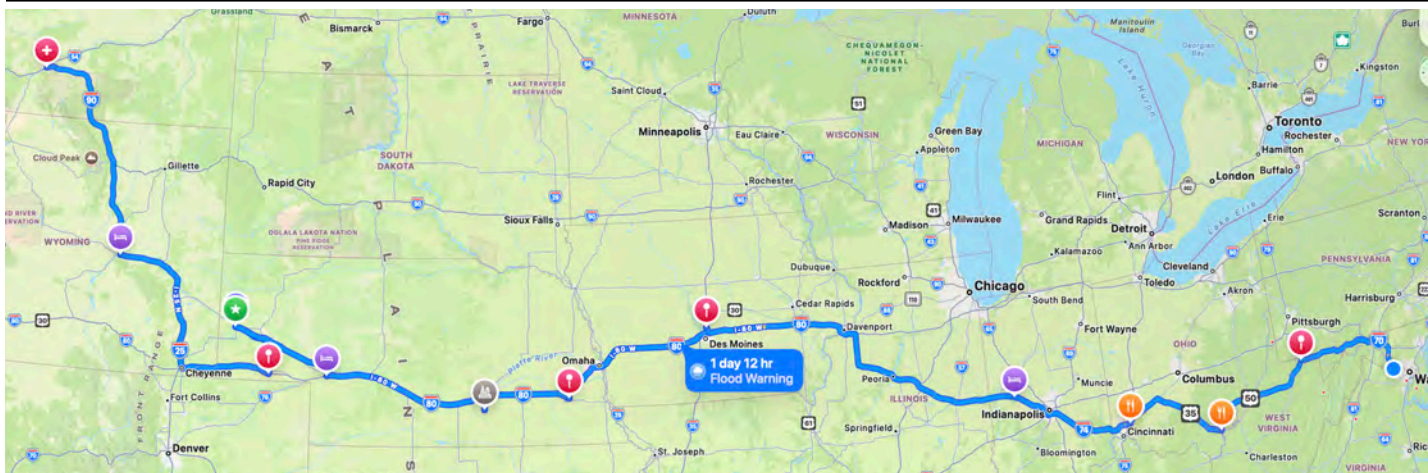
I'm sure there are countless details I've forgotten over the years, but the memories that remain are still vivid. It was an extraordinary adventure for a group of kids—a true once-in-a-lifetime trip. I didn't realize it at the time, but that journey gave me memories of people, places, and experiences that I would carry with me for the rest of my life.

It is a trip I will never forget.



Maryland West Virginia Iowa Indiana

Trip out West during July 19-31, 2026

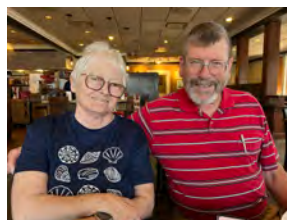


Pat Beech traveled out west from July 19-31, 2026. The westbound itinerary included stops in:

- * Morgantown, West Virginia to see Becky Sadler and her family
- * Gallipolis, Ohio to see Lisa & Paul Koch [Lisa and Pat were in graduate school at Gallaudet]
- * Mason, Ohio to see Mary Galeano and her daughter Vanessa [Mary is related to Pat's husband Jim]
- * Ankeny, Iowa to see Virginia Bettel [Jim and Pat met her and her husband Bob at Disneyana conventions]
- * Hastings, Nebraska to see the birthplace of Kool-Aid and the exhibit at Hastings Museum
- * Lincoln, Nebraska to see Jennifer Prokop and her family [her mother is Julie Greenfield]
- * Omaha, Nebraska to see Jason Prokop's office at the Capitol [he is senator for District 27 in Nebraska]
- * Ogallala, Nebraska to see Lake McConaughy [it is Nebraska's largest lake]
- * Gering, Nebraska to see Scotts Bluff National Monument [a landmark for Native Americans and emigrants on the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails; URL: <https://www.nps.gov/scbl/index.htm>]
- * Bayard, Nebraska to see Chimney Rock State Historic Site [estimated to be 325 feet from tip to base; URL: <https://history.nebraska.gov/rock/>]
- * Billings, Montana to see Amy Withrow from Cody, Wyoming [she used to live in Northern Virginia]



Becky Sadler & family in West Virginia
[Spencer, Becky, Brianna, Eric, and Alicia]



Lisa & Paul Koch
in Ohio



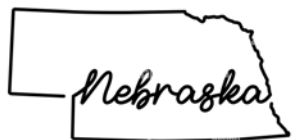
Virginia Bettel
in Iowa



Vanessa & Mary
Galeano in Ohio



Kool-Aid at Hastings
Museum in Nebraska



Trip to West

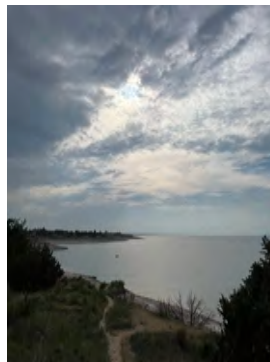
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Jennifer Prokop & family
in Nebraska



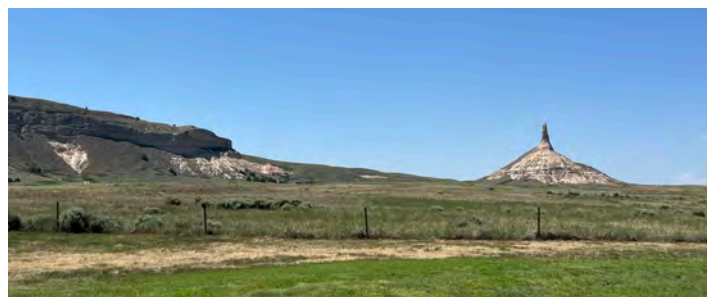
Jason Prokop
is Senator for
District 27
in Nebraska



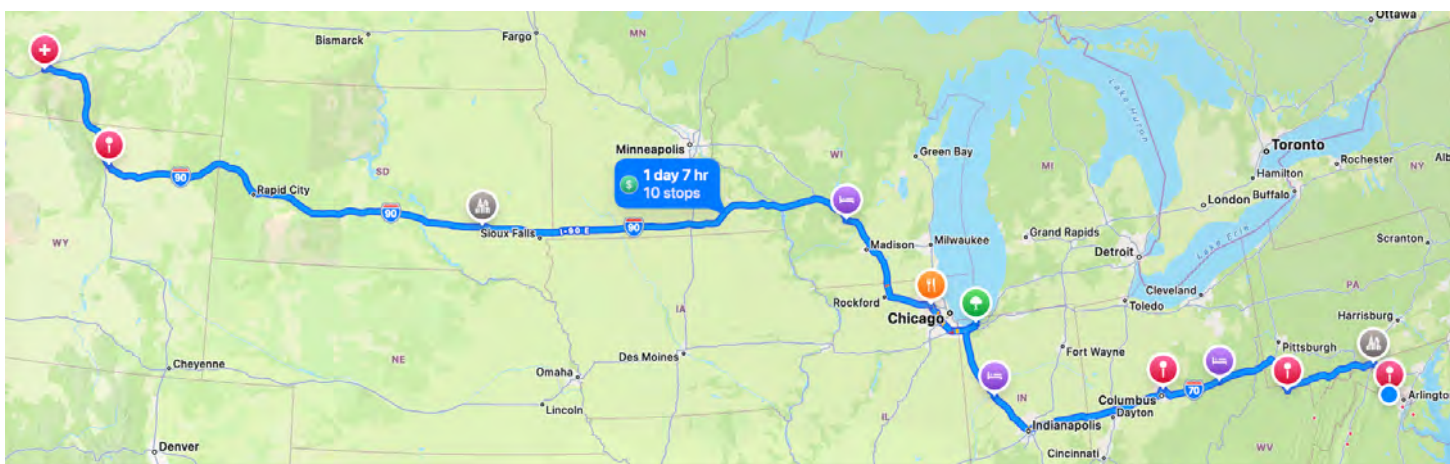
Lake McConaughy
in Nebraska



Scotts Bluff
National Monument
in Nebraska



Chimney Rock in Nebraska

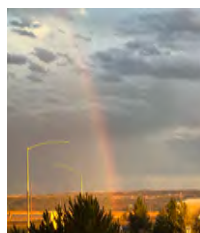


Pat Beech traveled out west from July 19-31, 2026. The eastbound itinerary included stops in:

- * Mitchell, South Dakota to see the Corn Palace [URL: <https://cornpalace.com/>]
- * Schaumburg, Illinois at Egg Harbor Cafe for breakfast with Nancy & Eric Kilby [Nancy is related to Jim]
- * Porter, Indiana to see Indiana Dunes National Park [became a national park in 2019; URL: <https://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm>; YouTube: <https://youtu.be/b3pVXhVu3F8>]
- * Lafayette, Indiana to see Karen Gaither [Pat's sister-in-law]
- * Columbus, Ohio to see Bambi Viall and her family [they used to live in Northern Virginia]
- * Hagerstown, Maryland to see Teresa Downs [Jim's co-worker at EPA]



Corn Palace in South Dakota

Amy Withrow
from Cody, WYAfter Storm
Billings, MTNancy & Eric Kilby
in IllinoisAmy Withrow is interpreting at NVRC's
Ribbon's Cutting Ceremony in 1988

FYI: Gary Viall is on the left;
I. King Jordan is third from left;
and Hilda Altizer is next to Jordan

Bambi Viall and
family in Ohio
[Jacob, Bambi, Gary,
Robin, and Craig]Indiana Dunes National
Park in Indiana
[Pat's 46th park out of 63]Karen Gaither
in IndianaTeresa Downs
in MarylandMcDonald's
in Columbus, OhioThe main attraction of Indiana Dunes
National Park is its miles of sandy
Lake Michigan shoreline, featuring
sand dunes, swimming beaches, and
over 50 miles of hiking trails.

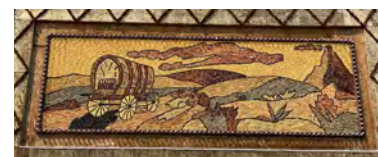
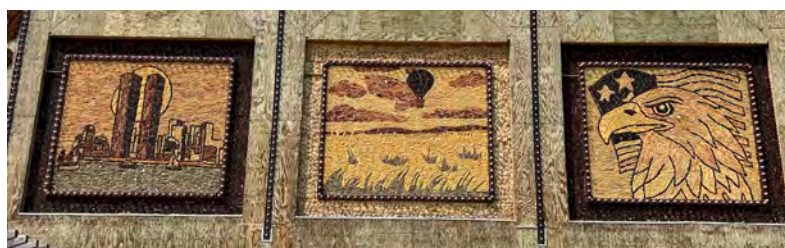
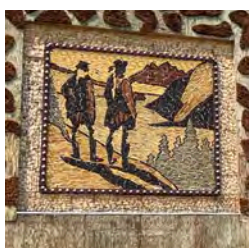


Corn Palace in Mitchell, SD



In 1892, the World's Only Corn Palace was established on the city's Main Street. The Palace is redecorated each year with naturally colored corn and other grains and native grasses to make it "the agricultural show place of the world." They use 12 different colors or shades of corn to decorate the Corn Palace: red, brown, black, blue, white, orange, calico, yellow, and green. Over 275,000 ears of corn are used for decorating the Corn Palace.

Themes Over The Years: <https://cornpalace.com/150/Corn-Palace-Murals>



<https://cornpalace.com/DocumentCenter/View/1013/descriptions>



Indiana Dunes National Park



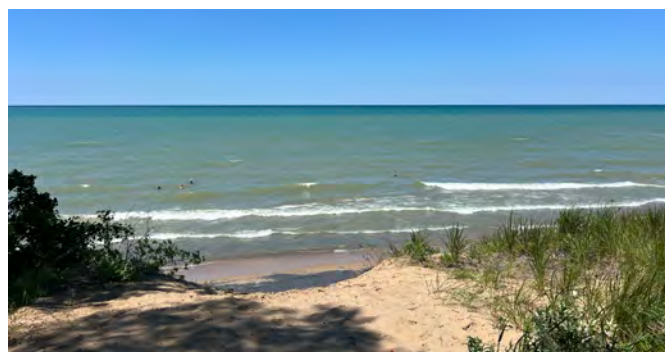
Indiana Dunes National Park is located in northwestern Indiana along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. It was authorized by Congress in 1966 as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. It was redesignated as the nation's 61st national park on February 15, 2019. Indiana Dunes is known for its towering sand dunes and beautiful beaches.

NPS: <https://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm>

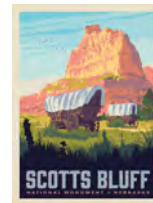
FAQ: <https://www.nps.gov/indu/faqs.htm>

History: <https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/803tqHgWxOg> and <https://youtu.be/VIno2kF2Eik>



Scotts Bluff National Monument



Scotts Bluff National Monument is located west of Gering, Nebraska. This site protects over 3,000 acres along the North Platte River. Scotts Bluff towers 800 feet above the North Platte River.

NPS: <https://www.nps.gov/scbl/index.htm>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/XrpVA3JPFcs>



Kool-Aid Birthplace and Museum in Hastings, Nebraska



The picture on the left shows the “birthplace” of Kool-Aid, which was originally invented, packaged and shipped across the nation from this location. The factory is permanently closed. All history, exhibits and memorabilia are now at the Hastings Museum.



Edwin Perkins, the inventor of KoolAid, was known as “The Kitchen Chemist” because he experimented with homemade concoctions in his mother’s kitchen. He established Perkins Products Company to market his products.



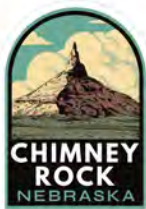
YouTube:

- * <https://youtu.be/hAghXEmPNvw>
- * <https://youtu.be/0nVm70IEoa4>

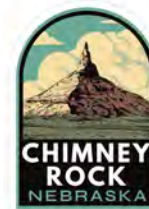
More Info:

- * <https://hastingsmuseum.org/kool-aid-history/>
- * <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/hastings-museum-koolaid-exhibit>





Chimney Rock in Bayard, Nebraska



Chimney Rock was a significant landmark for emigrants' progress going west. It is a natural rock spire rising roughly 300 feet above the North Platte River Valley. It was designated as a National Historic Site in 1956. Chimney Rock consists primarily of Brule clay, interlayer with volcanic ash and Arikaree sandstone. Chimney Rock is located 20 miles southeast of Scotts Bluff National Monument (see page 16).



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/sfrzHTbtCRM>

NPS: <https://www.nps.gov/places/000/chimney-rock-national-historic-site.htm>

Museum: <https://history.nebraska.gov/rock/>

Wiki: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimney_Rock_National_Historic_Site



Lake McConaughy in Ogallala, Nebraska



Lake McConaughy is a reservoir on the North Platte River. The lake is formed by Kingsley Dam, and is a man-made body of water. It is 22 miles wide at its largest point, and 142 feet deep near the dam (at full capacity). It was built between 1936 and 1941. Lake McConaughy is a popular place for fishing, boating, water sports, camping and hunting.

YouTube:

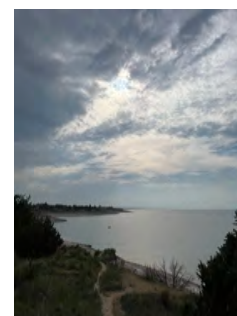
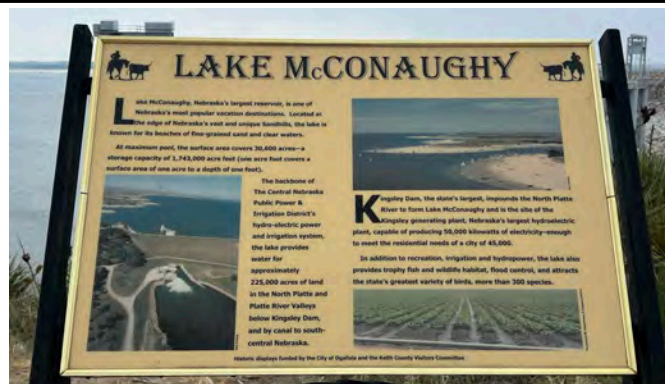
* <https://youtu.be/LbLTRjwR5yU>

* <https://youtu.be/DGos2ef9na8>

Info:

* <https://outdoornebraska.gov/location/lake-mcconaughey/>

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_McConaughy





Cruising Alaska via Ovation of the Seas



- by Laurie Lett -



Want to be somewhere in cool weather in the hot summer? Go to Alaska! Want to observe mountains, wildlife, and snow all at the same time? Visit Alaska! Want someone to take care of your meals with your food allergies in mind and have someone else do the driving for you? Get on a celiac friendly and gluten free cruise destined for Alaska! Need interpreters? Ovation of the Seas, one of the Royal Caribbean ships, got you covered!



This year my husband and I decided to go there in June. We chose a nonstop flight to Anchorage to reduce the hassle of layovers. I managed to watch 3 movies on the entire flight! When our flight took us over the Alaskan mountains, my eyes immediately were drawn to the peaks' beauty! Even though we arrived in the evening hours, the summer sky played tricks on my mind to make me think the day was still young! I was ready to explore the city, but my husband had to remind me that the Alaskan people were asleep!



The next day we got on a tour bus that took us to the cruise port in Seward. Throughout the drive, the mountains' allure followed us mile after mile! Once we got to the port, our check in was speedy, and we checked out our floating home for the week. Our room attendant made sure I had the door flashing alert set up since room attendants were responsible for daily cleaning and wanted to make sure I was not startled by their entry. Each evening upon our return to our room, we found cute towel art of different animals each night!



Next on our agenda was to find the interpreters the cruise had assigned to me. Once we all had met and discussed my jam-packed excursion schedule including the evening cruise activities, they were excited that they got the “fun” client! That meant they got to go on the excursions, too, at the cruise’s expense!

- continued on page 23 -



Trip to Alaska

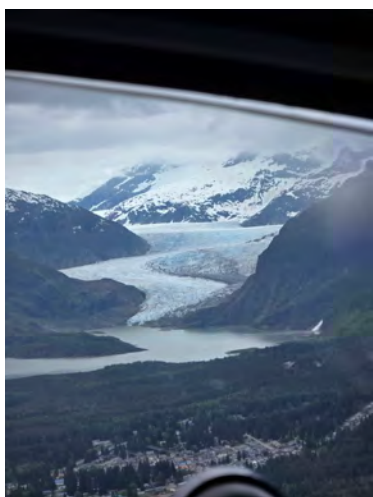
(continued from page 22)



Hubbard Glacier cruising on a smaller boat led us closer to the icebergs, and the interpreters' ability to hear came in handy! Before the icebergs splashed into water, they made a crackling sound, and the interpreters pointed to whereabouts the sound came from in time for me to see it fall into water!



Our next adventure was to ride a helicopter to head out to Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau and straight from the landing pad, we hopped onto a dog sled! That was where the dogs had summer training yearly. The ride on the glacier was exhilarating! We got to meet the puppies whose parents were the Iditarod Trail Sled champions!



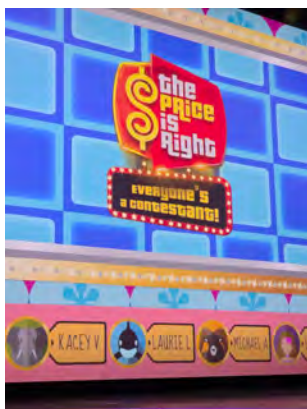
Scenic ride of White Pass and Yukon route railway in Skagway was filled with both history of gold rush and the magnificent view of nature. The gold rush happened merely 130 years ago! There were plenty of beautiful photo spots along the railway that took my breath away.





Trip to Alaska

(continued from page 23)

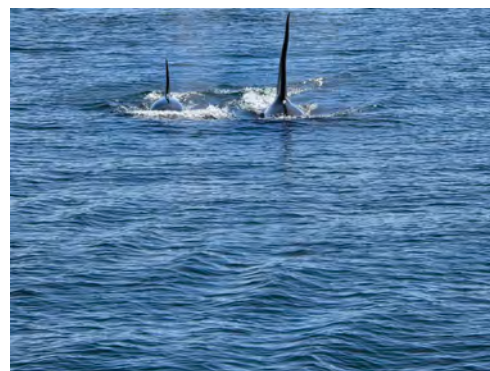


In between excursions, we spent our nights at plays, comedy shows, musicals, and game shows. One of the comedians had a surprise for me! He got my attention and began to introduce himself in ASL on the stage! Then he told my interpreters that it was their time to interpret once he jumped back into his act!

Whale watching in Icy Strait Point revealed families of orcas and humpbacks! The boat captain said we hit a jackpot that day because

it was rare to see that many mammals on the same day! Did you know that right before winter season begins, mama humpbacks travel from Alaska to Hawaii to give birth?! Then they return to Alaska in summer season. They are excellent navigators!

Even on the sea day, we got to check out the ins and outs of the ship that most people do not see nor have access to. The ship used every nook for laundry, kitchen, trash and recycling center, medical clinic, security, and many more. During the tour, I asked what happens if a crew member gets fired, and they explained that they will kick the person off the ship at the next port stop!



All the fun activities left us craving delicious food! Thanks to the kitchen team who oversaw my severe food allergies, I was able to feast on a variety of scrumptious meals and desserts!

Our cruise ended in Vancouver, Canada, and I did not want it to end right there! As soon we got home, I felt the "cruise blues" and asked my sister who is a frequent cruiser what to do about it. She said the cure for it is to plan the next trip!!! Off I go to plan the next adventure!



At the Happy Hands Monthly Meeting on July 8, Bill Morris gave a brief presentation about “Sign for Hoy.” This campaign is dedicated to inducting the legendary deaf Major League Baseball player, William “Dummy” Hoy, into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The campaign highlights his impact on the sport, including his pioneering role in creating the umpire hand signals used in baseball today. You can support the campaign or read more about Dummy on the official website: <https://signforhoy.com/index.html>. Bill’s presentation can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/QjgETtP25no>. The goal is to get 1,000,000 signatures. The Hall of Fame committee will vote in December 2027.

For more information about Dummy, see:

- * https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dummy_Hoy
- * https://youtu.be/F5frDr_EIlw
- * https://www.tsdrangers.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=412065&type=d&pREC_ID=904039
- * <https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2026/05/22/former-deaf-reds-player-helped-create-signs-for-baseball->

 A screenshot of the 'Sign for Hoy' petition website. The page has a dark background with gold and white text. At the top, it says 'Sign for Hoy' and 'WILLIAM ELLSWORTH CLASS OF '28 Dummy Hoy FOR THE HALL'. Below this, it says 'SIGNATURES & COUNT' and '4,257'. To the right, there is a form to 'ADD YOUR NAME TO THE RECORD.' with fields for 'FIRST NAME', 'LAST NAME', and 'EMAIL ADDRESS'. Below the form is a yellow button that says 'SIGN THE PETITION'. At the bottom, there are three numbered sections: '01 THE VOTE IS REAL', '02 THE CASE IS STRONG', and '03 HISTORY CAN'T WAIT'. The footer includes the 'Sign for Hoy' logo and social media links.



Virginia Association of the Deaf

2026 VAD MINI CONFERENCE

AWARDS & GATHERING



Sat., Sept. 19, 2026

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM



VADB Chapel



Staunton,
Virginia

"Putting the pieces back together."

HIGHLIGHTS

- 🤝 Community Gathering
- 🗨️ Keynote Speaker
- 👥 VAD Membership Meeting
- 🏆 Awards Recognition Ceremony
- 📄 Presentation

REGISTER NOW

Including refreshments, lunch, & presentation.

- Member \$25
- Non Member \$35

Join Member?

Click Here!

Mail check to:
Tom Dowling
VAD Treasurer
PO Box 94
Fairfax, VA 22038



vad.org/2026miniconference/



treasurer@vad.org

Please RSVP by Sept. 17



<http://paypal.me/vad125>

Reasonable Accommodation/Dietary Needs or Any Questions:
Contact Chair Alissa Conover at



cyandragonfly@gmail.com



VP 540-412-3196

We look forward to seeing you there!





**Celebrate
Communication**

Celebrate Connection. Celebrate Communication.



**Saturday, Sept. 26th, 2026
10 AM to 3 PM**

Springfield Town Center

6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA 22150

Main entrance, between the Yard House and
Maggiano's restaurant.

(Lower level, next to the Lego store.)

**A free community event bringing
together Deaf, Hard of Hearing,
DeafBlind, hearing, families,
professionals, & community partners.**



Free Admission for All!



Exhibits, Networking & Family Fun



Face Painting 11 AM - 2 PM

Thank you to our sponsors!



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

www.nvrc.org | info@nvrc.org | 703-352-9055

NVRC PRESENTS

DEAF ARTISAN *Fair*

Join us for the NVRC Deaf Artisan Fair featuring unique art, crafts, and handmade creations by Deaf and Hard of Hearing artisans. Shop local, support our community, and find something special for the holidays!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

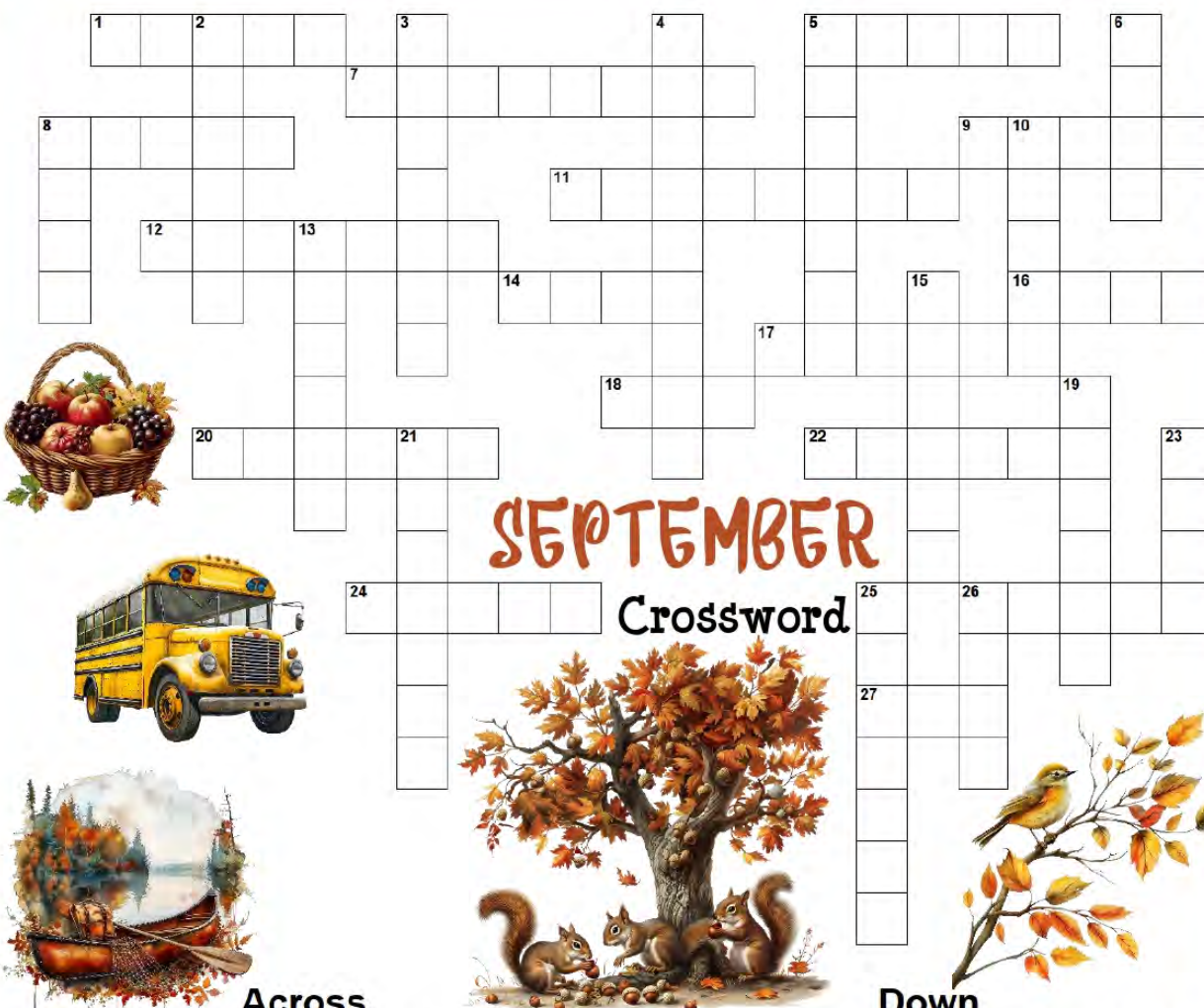
SATURDAY, NOV 14, 2026

10AM-2PM

**NVRC COMMUNITY ROOM 3RD FLOOR**SERVICE SOURCE BUILDING
10467 WHITE GRANITE DRIVE,
SUITE 312, OAKTON, VA 22124**Northern Virginia Resource Center
for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons***Improving Communication, Changing Lives*

Name: _____

Date: _____



SEPTEMBER

Crossword

Across

1. Holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September
5. Item of clothing kids wear as the weather cools
7. What kids use to carry their school supplies
8. Type of meal that often features fall vegetables
9. Vehicle often used for harvesting or playing
11. Sport that starts up in September
12. Someone who helps students learn
14. Another name for autumn, starting in September
16. What changes color in September
17. Gentle wind that is common in September

18. Material used in harvest & for feeding animals
20. Where you might find late summer vegetables & flowers
22. Fun outdoor activity often enjoyed in September
24. Drink made from apples, popular in September
26. September skies can be filled with these
27. Type of flower that blooms in September

Down

2. Used to gather fruits & vegetables during harvest
3. Time of year when crops are collected
4. Another term for a backpack
5. Warm clothing item for cooler September days
6. Something you read for school or pleasure
8. September weather often brings this
10. Fruit that's often picked in September
13. What leaves change into during September
15. Tool used for writing at school

19. Place where kids go to learn
21. Event marking the start of fall in September
23. September often brings this to cool the air
25. Fruit often associated with September
26. Activity some kids enjoy before school starts

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WORD BANK: Apple, Backpack, Basket, Book, Breeze, Camp, Cider, Cloud, Colors, Equinox, Fall, Football, Garden, Harvest, Hay, Labor, Leaf, Mum, Pencil, Picnic, Pumpkin, Rain, Roast, School, School Bag, Socks, Sweater, Teacher, Wagon, and Wind.

Happy Hands 2026 Members

(as of August 18, 2026)

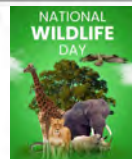
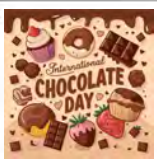
As of 08-18-2026, Happy Hands has 104 members for 2026:

Don Ames	Jimmie Dickens	Irene Hunter	Randy Renchard
William Athy	Yvonne Dickens	Vicki Hurwitz	Geneva Riffe
Laurie Avino	Laurie Dowling	Song Jo	Cheryl Rockburn
Mark Avino	Tom Dowling	David Jones	Rocky Rockburn
Mary Beatty	Eddie Drawdy	Kathy Jones	Becky Sadler
Tim Beatty	Nate Drown	Lynn Keefe	Liz Sale
Pat Beech	Deanna Dunham	Mary Kay Kelley	Nancy Sanders
Deborah Bingham	Phuong Duong	Marshal Kesler	Margott Sbrobisz
Claudia Brawley	William Ely	Jonathan Kiell	Thelma Schroeder
Peter Brawley	Serry Fahmy	Barbara Eger-Klatt	Vicki Shank
Dot Brenner	Kathy Ferris	Walter Klatt	Prudence Shaw
Jean Buffardi	Neil Ferris	Jill Kotchen	Barbie Sidawy
Cindy Burton	June Freeman	Jeanne Lavelle	George Sidawy
Steven Burton	Pam Gannon	Tim Lavelle	Cathy Thompson
Lloyd Carrera	Laura Garrett	Kea Manfredonio	Rick Thompson
Lew Carr	Cheryl Gault	Eileen McCartin	Susie Tighe
Felix Chevere	Robert Gault	Jill Moebus	Wendy Ting
Patty Christenson	Ross Gilson	Bill Morris	Mike Toms
Eve Christian	Selina Gilson	Lydia Olugbodi	Alfred Taurig
Carol Duffy Clay	Eileen Goran	Rose Otterman	Eleni Triantafell
Richard Cohen	Julie Greenfield	Cindy Pettie	Lisa Viall
Joan Corley	Barry Harlan	Cathleen Potosky	Terry Viall
Daphne Cox	Tony Heller	Cyril Potosky	Laurie Warren
Paul Daniels	Lois Herberger	Denise Proulx	Melanie Williams
Peggy Daniels	Bob Hickey	Lanny Quarles	Steve Williams
Rocco J. DeVito, Jr.	Margaret Huang	Lila Renchard	Sam Yates

Membership Form for 2026 can be found at:
https://www.nvrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026Membership_Fillable.pdf



SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 	2 HH Monthly Meeting at NVRC 10:00-2:00 (p. 2)	3 	4 	5 
6 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 32)	7 	8 	9 HH Social Chat at Fairfax Wegmans 10:30-1:00 (p. 32)	10 	11 	12 
13 	14 	15 	16 HH Fine Tuners Meeting 10:00-12:00	17 	18 	19 VAD Mini Conference (p. 26)
20 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 32)	21 	22 	23 HH 50th Celebration at Backyard Grill (p. 3)	24 	25 	26 NVRC Celebrate Communication (p. 27)
27 	28 	29 	30 			

© BlankCalendarPages.com

Thanks to:

- * Sunflower Festival on July 29
 - Bob Hickey for coordinating this event
 - Everyone who went and submitted pictures
- * Bingo Activity on August 13
 - Everyone who assisted with the Bingo game
 - Everyone who participated
- * Pat Beech for doing the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- * Melanie Williams, Jonathan Kiell, and Jean Buffardi 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 2026-2027

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

Thanks for donating to Happy Hands:

- * Paula Olejarz for HH
 50th celebration



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 September 6 and 20. 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 September 9 at 10:30-1:00.

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

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

DSSCP Chats

Dates: Tuesdays
 (through December 15)
 Time: 7:00PM-8:00PM



ASL Interpreting students or lifelong ASL students to practice ASL and communicate with Deaf seniors virtually. Example of topics are ASL slang, short stories, and many fun games.

Zoom registration is required.

If you have questions, please contact [Barbara Eger-Klatt](#).