HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS OF TEXAS NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 **July 2008** **Issue 07**

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Hi, everyone!

Please let me know if there are any Speakers that you would like for me to schedule for 2009. The 4th Wednesday of each month except for November and December are used to have these Speakers come to educate us more on any topic they choose. Thanks for helping me out in this area.

If you have any information, jokes, recipes, event, pictures, sports, or news that you want me to publish, please send them to me by the 15th of each month. Please keep articles to less than 300 words, due to limited space on the newsletter. My E-mail address is **nmorris726@comcast.net**. Or you can mail to me at 15335 Falmouth Ave., Houston, TX 77084-1412.

Please note that Editor may, at her discretion, edit articles or news items for brevity and to correct errors.

Have a Safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Nancy Morris

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"DOCTOR WELCOMES CLIENTS WITH DISABILITIES"

Dr. Dominic M. Joseph, M.D., Board Certified in General Psychiatry welcomes clients with disabilities. "My practice is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and will provide interpreter services for my patients with hearing disabilities when requested to do so. To ensure effective communication, when a patient requires a sign language interpreter, this medical practice will provide a qualified sign language interpreter. The patient shall not be charged for the cost of this service. The interpreter will be qualified to interpret medical terms."

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CHRISTMAS IN GRAPEVINE, TX

Please reserve November 19th for a trip to Grapevine, TX to see Gaylord Texas Lone Star Christmas Ice. Need to wear very warm clothes with gloves and hat or scarf. The Event will provide heavy jackets for us to wear as we view these ice sculptures. Then, we will be staying at Super 8 Motel, 250 E. State Hwy 114, Grapevine, TX. Call 817-329-7222 for your reservations as we are staying one night there. Other plans are in the works right now for other sightseeing. However, you can contact Gertie Sessions (VP 281-447-7575), Julie Spaulding (VP 281-445-1072), or Rochelle Simpson (VP 281-463-3645). Please call them after you have made your reservations as they need to know how many are going.
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 1, 2008 (Tuesday)

Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will have an official HPD Narcotics Detective update with some of the latest Narcotics information. This will be a very informative presentation. Please come and learn more about this. The meeting is held at Woodhaven Church for the Deaf, 9920 Long Point, Houston, TX at 7:30 PM. Door prizes! Interpreter and captioning provided.

July 4, 2008 (Friday)

ASL Social will be at Kemah Boardwalk, 601 Second St, Kemah, TX 77565 from 10 AM to closing time. Meet at Joe's Crab Shack to enjoy a meal there. Let's come to meet and enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at ejohnson127@comcast.net

July 8, 2008 (Tuesday)

Chief's City wide PIP will be a citywide meeting at 1600 State St., 4th Floor, Houston, TX 77007 at 7:00 PM. Interpreter and captioning will be provided. Contact Officer James Sobota at 713-308-9071 (TDD), 713-308-9079 (Voice), or email him at james.sobota@cityofhouston.net.

July 9, 2008 (Wednesday)

Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas will have a regular business meeting at West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 at 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Please attend to give us your ideas for this organization. You need to be present to vote on the motions handled during the meeting. We are in the process of nominating new Officers for 2009.

July 11, 2008 (Friday)

Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas will have their field trip in Houston, TX. Everyone needs to be at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd. at 9:00 AM as Bus will be leaving by 9:30 AM. We will visit Art Car Museum and Orange Museum. If you sign up and can not make it on the trip at last minute, please call Gertie or Julie to cancel. Please contact Gertie Sessions by VP 281-447-7575 or Julie Spaulding by VP 281-445-1072 if you have questions.

July 11, 2008 (Friday)

Houston Hand Talk Social will be at the Food Court in First Colony Mall, 16535 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX 77479 from 5 PM till 9 PM. Let's come to meet and enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Roger Spivey at spivey39@yahoo.com.

July 17, 2008 (Thursday)

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a fellowship and potluck at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church at 9920 Long Point Rd. from 9 AM to 1 PM. If you wish to bring a covered dish, contact Evelyn Autry at 713-984-8186 TTY or Jenice Wells 281-442-8015 TTY or 281-442-8016 VP and let them know what you plan to bring.

July 18, 2008 (Friday)

Old Folks Fellowship will be held at Golden Corral Restaurant, 13145 Northwest Freeway (290), Houston, TX. We will meet at 11 AM till 1 PM. Please get off at Tidwell Exit to arrive safely there as it's on the other side of 290.

Continue on next page

July 18, 2008 (Friday)

ASL Social will be in the Food Court at Willowbrook Mall, 2000 Willowbrook Mall, Houston, TX 77070 from 3 PM till 9 PM. Let's come to meet and enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at ejohnson127@comcast.net.

July 23, 2008 (Wednesday)

Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas will have a regular social meeting at West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 at 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Ron Dalton will be explaining the Kelsey Care Advantage plan that is covered under Medicare. Ron is the Kelsey Care Advantage Health Plan Specialist. This plan is new for 2009 so Ron will be able to explain more about it.

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LOVE FUND

Zelma Curbello wants to thank Beatrice and J. C. Smith and Bobby Joe Griggs for their donations in memory of Claudia D. Southwell and Travis Sessions.

Anyone who wishes to donate money to HDSC Love Fund, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation) or HDST Newsletter should please make check or money order payable to either **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens - Love Fund** or **HDST Newsletter Fund.** And mail to:

HDSC Love Fund, Inc.
c/o Mrs. Zelma Curbello
9623 Tiltree
Houston, TX 77075-4042

OR

HDST Newsletter
c/o Audrey Leger
P. O. Box 664
Missouri City, TX 77459

Card received from Gertie Sessions: "With Thanks to All of You! Because you're all so wonderful, so kind, and thoughtful, too----It wouldn't do to miss this chance to send warm thanks to you. For bringing food and sending cards. Love in Christ, Gertrude Sessions"

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:

Welcome to Joseph P Donellan, Thomas & Alice M Jarma, and Alfonso Lopez.

RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS:

Thank you for your renewal: M/M Eugene Alaniz, Shirley Bulgherini, Frank Finley Clark, Shirley Dye, Max & Dorothy Floyd, Dorothy Krystyniak, Dudley & Joyce Mansell, Esther L Morris, Elisa Neve, Anna Reese, Michael & Margie Scribner, Glenn E Simpson, Mary Madeline Watkins, and Bob J & Jane Wood.

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Are you at risk for falling?

The Possibility of a fall worries many older adults and their families. Falls are the most common cause of nonfatal injury for seniors, often causing hospitalization and interfering with an independent life style. Use this simple survey to assess risk of falling for you or on behalf of a loved one. Answer YES or NO in blanks:

Have you fallen in the last 12 months? _____
Do you often have difficulty seeing clearly? _____
When seated, do you have difficulty getting back up to a standing position? _____
When you stand up, do you sometimes feel light-headed, dizzy or off-balance? _____
Do you take 4 or more medications each day, including remedies from health food or drug store? _____
Are you depressed or feel "down" or "blue"? _____
Is it sometimes hard to walk because you feel stiff, weak, or your feet hurt? _____
Do you sometimes make frequent or hurried trips to the bathroom? _____
Do you limit your activities because you are afraid you might fall? _____
At home, is it sometimes difficult to move around safely because items you need are hard to reach, or have to be carried down the stairs? _____

(More information to follow in August)

NEWS

Ed Bosson

Written by Nancy Morris, Editor

For those that missed the meeting on May 28th, Ed Bosson, H Ph D, came to speak with us. He has been with PUC for 18 years and he will be retiring in August. He graduated from Arkansas School for the Deaf and went on to Gallaudet University to obtain his degree. His talk was about telecommunication among the deaf people. He stated that "My IP Relay" on the computer is the most popular. There are eight Internet Services and 12 Video Relay Services to serve the deaf community. Other telecommunication devices are VPAD (Viable), VP-200 (Sorenson), Blackberry and other pagers (Sprint and few other IP providers), OJO (Snap VRS), and D Link phone (Several VRS providers). The state pays for local and Intrastate TTY relay calls while the Federal pays for Interstate TTY, Internet-based relay services such as IP Relay and Video Relay Services (VRS). The Federal Communications Commission recently released Rule and Order that by December 2008, all Internet-based relay users will have REAL telephone numbers and that these Internet-based relay service must have access to Emergency services just like the regular telephone landline. Right now, if you call 911 on VP, you need to stay on the line till someone can help you. If you hang up, you may not get the help from emergency dispatcher so for now, it's better to keep the TTY/TDD for this type of call. In December of 2008, the deaf community will be able to use their pager or vp to call 911 for emergencies. VRS providers and IP providers will be giving phone numbers to each deaf person. It will make it possible for IP and VRS users to call 911 and get emergency help. If you have any questions, you can call him by VP at 512-936-7147.

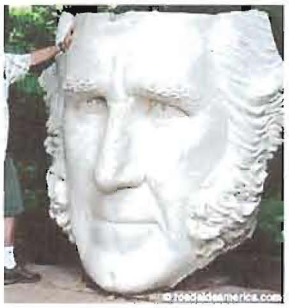
News from Zelma Curbello

On April 17, 2008, Gus and I went to San Marcos to honor Allison Lewter at a Surprise 80th Birthday party. He was very stunned and surprised. The party was given by his sister, Betty Thrasher and the committees. There were over 50 people and we had a great time.

Trip to Madisonville and Huntsville

Written by Nancy Morris, Editor

We had a great tour of Madison County Museum. It was very interesting. Then, we walked to Woodbine Hotel & Restaurant which was just down the street. There we had a home cooked lunch which was delicious. The Owner took us on a tour and showed us one of the rooms. It was beautiful. She explained that many Weddings are performed in the back. Next, we stopped in Huntsville to visit Sam Houston's Cemetery and drove over to view Sam Houston's statue. The statue is the World's tallest at 67 feet tall with 10 feet base which states "A Tribute to Courage". This statue faces I-45 so everyone can see it. It was a wonderful trip.



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Letter received from Z. X. Curry

Hello to All of You:

My name is Z. X. Curry. I can hardly believe that it was 10 years ago that we set up our society. I want to tell you how it was started. On August 1, 1981, I retired from my employment and had nothing to do. My wife, Dot, and I got restless and decided to visit the Dallas Action Center. When we came back home, we decided to do something for setting up our society. My biggest question was how to get the funds or a grant. I think I talked to Earl Day and Jack Clifton about this. They suggested that I go to Austin to see the Texas Commission of the Deaf staff. We went there and met a very friendly lady names Sandi LaRue. She promised to help us. About two weeks later, Lucy Chimelak called Stella Rudolph. Then, Stella called telling me about it. She wanted to see us in her office on S. Fannin. When we saw her the first time, she was very quiet and friendly. We decided to have a talk in Stella's apartment about how to set up the Senior Citizen society. When we took our seats at the table, she asked us what we would want for the Senior Citizen's programs. We did not know how to answer. She rolled up her sleeves and wrote out some suggestions. We agreed with them.

On May 26, 1983, Sandi LaRue came to Houston and talked about setting up in September because of the budget. That is how we got started. At first, the crowd was small. I'll list the names of the members -- Stella Rudolph, Lorena Blomdahl, Ruby Lavender, the Currys, Clyde and Marie Hays, the Bourques, Nellie Bishop, Przyborski, Emory Watson, Selma Watson, the Gunns, the Isaacks, Dixie Miller, Doris Myatt, and Jeanetta Middaugh. Menefee Holdren was our first Interpreter and still attends our meetings. Lucy was our first Director and asked me to write the newsletter. I must admit that I am not a great writer. So, that lasted a few months and Evelyn Autry, who joined our Senior Citizen society, took my job. We had about 35 - 30 subscribers. Now, Evelyn tells me that there are a little over 300 subscribers.

We had meetings twice monthly at St. Dominic's. We were very happy to fix cold sandwiches, unfold and fold tables and chairs, and mop the floor.

I want to say "Thanks" to Earl Day, jack Clifton, Lucy, Stella, Lorenz, Ruby, Dot, and the above list of names of the officers of the Senior Citizen's group and members -- also Paul Fincher, Hazel Richard, Chairlady and Jan Zufall, B/P Nurse.

Sincerely, Z. X. Curry

MET Deaf Ministry Social

Submitted by Linda Smith from DeafNetwork.com

Please RSVP via email to Ashleigh Smith at ashleiellen@hotmail.com if you want to attend this Social. It is held the Second Saturday of every month from 4:00 PM till 9:00 PM. The dates are July 12th and August 9th. Metropolitan Baptist Church, Truth Building is located at 12903 Jones Road, Houston, TX 77070. Games and activities are available for all ages. Kids are welcome. Everyone can play Ping Pong, Billiards, Video games, Volleyball, or just have a plain ol' fellowship. Food and drinks are provided as well as childcare and security.

Ex-state school worker gets 5 years in burn case

Submitted by Linda Smith from DeafLink

ABILENE, Texas — A former Abilene State School worker who burned a severely disabled woman's face with a hair dryer was sentenced to five years in prison. Benjamin Kershaw, 33, of Abilene was sentenced Monday after being convicted in April of recklessly causing serious bodily injury to a disabled person, a second-degree felony that carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. "The interesting thing about this case was that the judge found that the hair dryer was a deadly weapon," said Taylor County prosecutor Lynn Peach. The 35-year-old blind, deaf quadriplegic cannot speak but managed to scream in pain, Peach said. She has scars after suffering second-degree burns to her face, and she continues living in the facility for the mentally and developmentally disabled because she has no family, Peach said. Kershaw, who was fired shortly after the 2006 incident, testified that the burning was an accident, the prosecutor said. He said he was trying to get her to turn her head so he could dry the other side of her hair. Kershaw's attorney Sam Mehaffey, who had sought probation for his client, did not immediately return calls to The Associated Press seeking comment

REST IN PEACE

OBITUARY

Funeral services for **Dwayne Edward Ray**, 52, of Ledbetter (Post Oak Community) was scheduled for Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Baptist Church. Rev. Fred D. Jones officiated with burial in the Antioch Cemetery in Ledbetter. Visitation was held Friday, May 30, from 2-6 p.m. at Lang Memorial Funeral Home in Giddings. Mr. Ray died May 24, 2008 at Ledbetter. Dwayne was born Dec. 22, 1955 in Taylor, the son of Onnie Ray Jr. and Verlee Colvin. He was preceded in death by his father and grandparents. Survivors include his mother, Verlee Ray of Ledbetter; sister, Sheryl & Floyd Mathis; brothers, Winford & Sandra Ray and Gerald & Wanda Ray, all of Ledbetter; nieces, Sheree and Kimberly Mathis and Stephanie Ray; nephews, Cedric and Brandon Ray.

ALAN LOVE passed away on Sunday, June 8, 2008. Alan was born August 28, 1947 to Pauline Gross Love and Roy Love. He attended Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, Missouri, and graduated from Bellaire High School and West Texas State University. He formerly served on the Board of the Houston School for the Deaf, which is now the Center for Hearing and Speech. He has also served on the National Board of the Alexander Graham Bell Foundation. He is survived by his aunt, Florence Gross, and by cousins, Jack Helfman, Bill Helfman, Larry Gross, Steven Gross, and Carol Wilk, as well as his dearest friends, C.E. Cantrell, Helen Salmon, and Michael Montand. The funeral will take place at the Beth Yeshurun Cemetery on Allen Parkway, Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Alan's memory to Central Institute for the Deaf, 828 South Taylor Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63110 or to the Center for Hearing and Speech, 3636 West Dallas, Houston, Texas, 77019.

Michael Lynn Clark, born November 12, 1967 in Dallas, Texas has entered into Heaven on June 14, 2008, after a lengthy stay in a Dallas Hospital. He leaves behind to rejoice in his memory , a daughter, Taylor (12); son , Thomas (7); grandmother Henri Fay Clark; brothers Joey Clark and Jeffrey Whitener; sister Amy; Aunt Karen Clark, Aunt Linda & Uncle Randie Rankin, and Uncle Ronnie Clark and many other loving family members and friends. He is preceded in death by father, Michael Earl Clark and grandfather Michael Earnest Clark. He was a loving father, grandson, nephew, and cousin. He loved eating, sitting, and talking with his family and friends and sharing his favorite TV shows. He especially loved playing jump rope, riding the go cart, and spending weekends and family outings to church with his former wife, Candi Meeks, 2 children and 1 step child. He was loved by so many and forever held a cherished memory in our hearts. Services were held in his honor at Family Cathedral of Praise at 790 Windbell Circle, Mesquite, TX on Saturday, June 21, 2008 with Pastor Rod Brewer officiating with the help of Pastor for the Deaf, Connie Miller. Submitted by Candi Meeks who's Email: Dmeeks@tmail.com.

Veloye A. Spivey, 89, of Raymondville and former longtime resident of Hargill, TX., entered into rest June 15, 2008 in Harlingen. She was born January 5, 1919 to Terry and Lula Merle (Hames) Pendergrast in Arkansas. She was preceded in death by her husband Jimmy Spivey in 1995. Mrs. Spivey is survived by her daughter, Angel M. (Joe Lee) Smith of Maryland and her son, Roger J. Spivey of Pasadena, TX; grandsons, Joe Lee Smith II of Maryland and Tim Smith of Minnesota; granddaughters, Charm Smith of Maryland and Cary Morgan of Spicewood, TX and her great grandchildren. Graveside funeral services was held 10:00 am Thursday at Raymondville Memorial Park Cemetery with Pastor Jim Lonney officiating. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Duddlesten Funeral Home. Please sign the guestbook at www.valleystar.com.

2008 Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas

Hosts An

25th Anniversary Banquet
Wednesday, September 24, 2008
Buffet Dinner

Location: West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center
1475 West Gray
Houston, Texas 77019
Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Admission:
$10.00 per adult with buffet
$5.00 per adult without buffet

Awards...Entertainment...Guest Speaker...Door Prizes.....

Please fill out of this registration form and return with payment by September 8,2008. Please make check or money order payable to HDST Fund and mail to Audrey Leger, P.O. Box 664, Missouri City, Texas 77459.

Order Form
Enclosed $_____ for _____ Non-refundable ticket(s).

Name_____

Address_____ city_____ State_____

*Dress casual required. No one under 18 admitted. Limit first 150 registrants.

For more information, please contact:
Patsy Walker, Chairperson
Email: waynellus@yahoo.com
281-446-2056 VP

25th Anniversary Party and Event

Patsy Walker is in the process of planning our 25th Anniversary Party. The date has been set for Wednesday, September 24th. Please make plans to attend it to hel, celebrate our Anniversary. Invite your friends to come.

Billy Buza is assisting Patsy with this party. The other people helping are Audrey Leger, Register; Lavern Fair, Decorations; James Fair, Trophies; William Lambert, Transportation; Earl Day, Historian; Jenice & Tommy Wells, Volunteer Committee; and Nancy Morris, Ticket representative.

Please see flyer inside of this Newsletter for more information about the party and to fill out the bottom form to register. Deadline to order these tickets is September 8, 2008. Thank you!

HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS of TEXAS

James Fair, President **Email: jamesfair29@yahoo.com** **Roger Spivey, Vice President** **Email: spivey39@yahoo.com** **Nancy Krone, Secretary**	**For News & Other Information:** **Nancy Morris, Editor** **15335 Falmouth Ave** **Houston, TX 77084** **TTY/VP: 281-656-2576** **Email:** **hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com** **nmorris726@comcast.net**	**For Address/Renewal Due:** **HDST Newsletter** **C/o Audrey Leger** **P O Box 664** **Missouri City, TX 77459** **TTY/VP: 281-437-6224** **Email:** **hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com**

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