

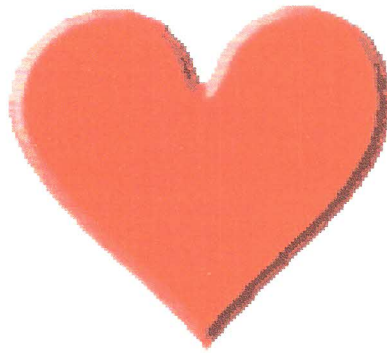
Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

Volume 4

February, 2003

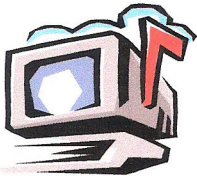
Issue 2

Happy Valentine



*For God so loVed
The world thAt he gave
His onLy
BEgotten
SoN,
ThaTwhosoever
BelEveth on him
Should Not perish
But have Everlasting life*

Author Unknown



From the Editor:

Houston
Deaf
Senior
Citizen
Newsletter

Editor

Frank Shaw

The Staff

Karen Clifton

Zelma
Curbello

Pedro Solis

Roger Spivey

Mary Jo
Stevens

Audrey
Leger-Wright

The other day I read an interesting article about the history of valentine and thought you might like to read this, too. Here is an article from the February 2003 edition of *Better Homes and Gardens* written by Becky Mollenkamp:

“The very first valentine card, according to myth, was sent in the year 270 A.D. by a Roman priest named Valentine on the eve of his execution. His note of thanks, signed “from your Valentine,” went to his jailer’s blind daughter, who had brought him food. The oldest known greeting card of any type still in existence is a valentine from 1400, and it is displayed at the British Museum in London.

Back then, people crafted elaborate cards made of ribbon and lace. By the time Valentine’s Day cards became popular in the Americans in the 1800s, machine-made cards had replaced handmade ones. Today, more Valentine’s Day cards are purchased than any other type of greeting card, except Christmas cards.”

Wish you a Happy Valentine.

Karen Clifton



**Flash News for next field trip
Beaumont, February 14, 2003**

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray at 7:30 AM. The bus will depart no later than 8:00AM. The group will visit Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum, McFaddin-Ward House Museum, and John J. French Museum.

Fee is \$2.00 per person at the Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum
\$3.00 per person at McFaddin-Ward House Museum
\$2.00 per person at John J. French Museum plus lunch.

If you are interested in going on the field trip, please contact Audrey Leger-Wright at 281-437-6224 before the 12th. Come and let’s have fun together. See you on 14th.

NEWS

News from Mary Augustyn for Robin Southwell and Claudia Adkins:

Claudia went to Florida to visit her daughter, Robin in the early October. Claudia has past several bouts of health woes, but she looked better when she came visiting. After Claudia departed and became sick again, Robin was involved in a serious car accident. Her car flipped over and over. She was thrown out of her truck and broke her neck. She was very fortunate that she was not paralyzed, although she has some limitations in her arms and hands due to spinal cord injury. On Nov. 1st, she had a surgery to repair her broken bones (C-6 and C-7) by placing a plate on the front and a rod in the back of her neck. As of Dec. 9th, Robin is wearing her neck brace for three months and she is involved in physical therapy three times a week for two months to build strength and regain the use of her arms and hands. Per doctor's order, she is not able to work for three months. Her extended family, Southwell, Deaton, Nomeland, Fair, and Augustyn came together to pray and help her out in many different ways. Robin's co-workers and friends came to help us with dogs and phone calls. Some family members, co-workers and friends came to visit and some came to stay to help her on a daily basis. Pray for Robin and Claudia's speedy recovery. Thanks, Mary Augustyn

PS Give everyone my love and write me please. I do miss my friends a lot.

My address is:

**2234 West Gilbert Lane
Knoxville, TN 37920-3648**

Love to all, Claudia Adkins

From the newsroom of the Catholic News Service, Thursday, January 2, 2003:

Received e-mail from Miriam Thumann

(USA-L News) 'Deaf priest, seminarians add new dimension to San Francisco church'

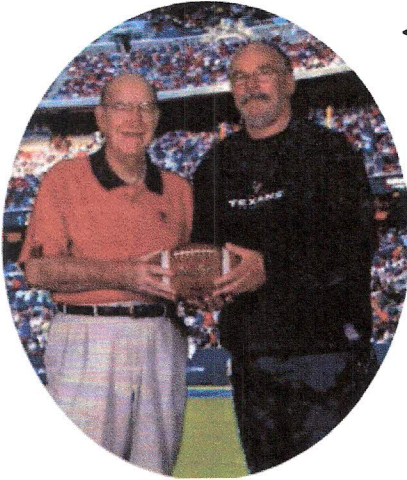
San Francisco (CNS) – In a historic development for the Catholic Church in San Francisco, a deaf priest is now pastor of a deaf congregation in San Francisco and three deaf seminarians are studying at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park. "It felt like a miracle," said Father Thomas Coughlin about Archbishop William J. Levada's decision to welcome the three seminarians to San Francisco this fall and appoint Father Coughlin pastor of San Francisco's St. Benedict Parish at St. Francis Xavier Church, known for its deaf congregation. As the first born-deaf man to be ordained a Catholic priest in North America, Father Coughlin defied many doubters and silenced a long list of critics. The priest hopes "to shield" seminarians Gislain Cheret Bazikila, Matthew Hysell and Paul Zirimenya from the intolerance he says he suffered before and after his ordination in 1977. Father Coughlin had been searching for an U.S. seminary to receive deaf students since the New York Archdiocese ended its program for deaf seminarians in 2000. "People labeled us as a problem. We are not the problem, we are the solution," he said.

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Mary (Sowell) Cunningham: email from Herb & Joan Picou, submitting by Frank Shaw

It is sad to hear that Mary (Sowell) Cunningham, 87, passed away January 8th at 7 PM, due to a lengthy illness. She resided in Dallas for many years. She was a sister of Don Sowell who was living with her until her death.

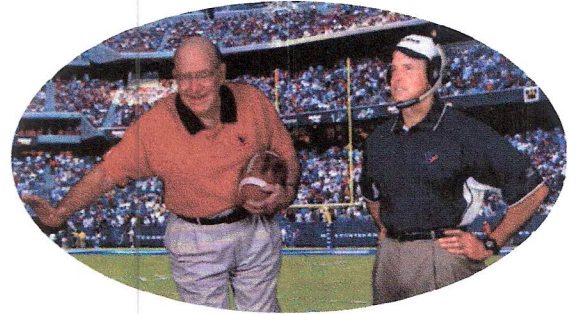
Mrs. Cunningham was a graduate of Texas School for the Deaf at Austin in 1940. She was a life-long member of Dallas Community Center for the Deaf & Dallas Association of the Deaf. She also was a member of Tejas Deaf Seniors Club of Dallas. Some of us who knew her well will miss her.



This is Eugene Piercy and son, Harry, taken at the Texans/Titans game the day after Eugene's 80th birthday. Their children took them plus Opal and they all had a grand time, but were sad the Titans won. Eugene made it clear – no party so a bunch of relatives got together and they all went to Galveston to eat.



Believe it or not... Eugene tried out for the Texans team, but Coach Dom Capers was not happy and says Eugene is – "Too Young"



AWARD-WINNING DEAF ACTORS DEANNA BRAY AND TROY KOTSUR TO APPEAR AT DCARA 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Stars of "Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye" Series and Deaf West Theatre to be Honored at Gala For National's Agency "Of, By, and For" Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

San Leandro, CA; December 27, 2002; Deanna Bray, star of television's new "Sue Thomas F.B. Eye" series, about a deaf undercover agent for the FBI, and Troy Kotsur, Bray's husband and an acclaimed actor with Deaf West Theatre and National Theater for the Deaf, will entertain the Bay Area's deaf and hard of hearing community on March 1st in San Francisco at the 40th anniversary gala for Deaf Counseling Advocacy & Referral Agency (DCARA). The two will also be honored for their groundbreaking work on behalf of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

DEAFDIGEST GOLD - DECEMBER 29, 2002, GOLD edition Barry Strassler, Editor

Christy Smith attended high school and college in Washington, D.C., where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology/criminology from Gallaudet University. She most recently worked as a children's adventure guide for the Aspen Camp School for the Deaf. Previous to that, she worked as a facilitator at Hemlock Overlook in Virginia.

Smith is deaf (she can hear minimal sounds but relies on lip-reading skills). Her primary motives for being on SURVIVOR are to promote awareness for the deaf...and win \$1 million. Her favorite hobbies are socializing, doing anything outdoors and writing letters. She has traveled to Costa Rica and spent 50 days on a wilderness adventure trip in Alaska with Outward Bound. She describes herself as succulent, independent and goal-oriented. She is most proud of the time she has spent working with juvenile delinquents where she taught them how to work in groups to develop growth and self esteem.

Smith is currently single and resides in Basalt, Colo. Her birth date is September 13, 1978.

Stranded in a remote section of the Amazon River, 16 strangers are forced to band together and carve out a new existence, form a cooperative society, build shelter, gather and catch food. Who will outwit, outplay, and outlast all others in the Amazon?

90-MINUTE SEASON PREMIERE:

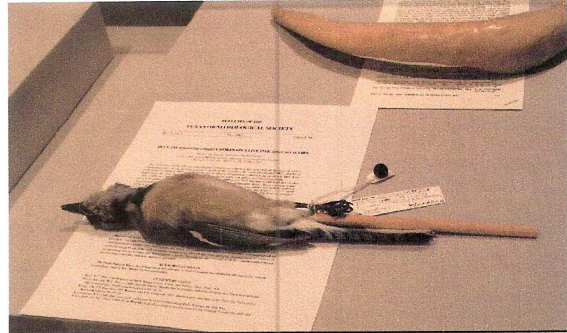
Thursday, February 13 at 8 pm ET/PT on CBS

Field Trip

On January 10, 2003 Houston Deaf Senior Citizens group really enjoyed their day visiting three different museums in Houston metro. First visit was to the Houston Museum of Natural Science to see 'Century of Change: Texas Natural History', The Gems, Ancient Egypt and Dinosaurs. Second stop was the Holocaust Museum: very informative and sad. The last visit was The Artcar Museum. It was fun to see exhibition of unique arts on cars.



Badgers, members of the Mustelid Family, which includes weasels, otters, & skunks. You can see by their front long claws that badgers live underground – the claws are used for digging.



On the photo Bluejay bird choked to death. An autopsy found a black acorn inside of the bird. You can see the black acorn next to the bird on the photo.



↑ Holocaust Museum has an exhibition with hundreds of photos of the origination of Judaism and life before World War II, to the rise of the Nazi Party and the Holocaust, through the aftermath of the Final Solution.



↑ What an artistic and unique car! The man standing by the car did decorate this car with a buffalo head on the front.



← An artist created the decorative art of a damaged car that could happen by a wacky driver.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 4, 2003 (Tuesday)



Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will be held on Tuesday, February 4th at Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church at 9920 Long Point at 7 PM. Refreshments will be served. Interpreter & captioning will be provided. Come and join to celebrate

February 7, 2003 (Friday)



FRAT will have a meeting and luncheon Friday, February 7th from 11 AM to 2 PM at Golden Corral Restaurant (get off Hollister exit from North 290, and make a U-turn. Restaurant is on your right. Come, and you can find out how you can become a FRAT, and have many more savings, as well as a discount toward your birthday or wedding anniversary. Besides getting all you want from the buffet, you can also find out who is getting the discount!

February 7, 2003 (Friday)



ASL Social at First Colony Mall at Food Court, 16535 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX 77479 from 5 PM to 9 PM. Come and join us to celebrate 3rd Anniversary of ASL Social, and meet old & new friends! Please e-mail to contact Roger Spivey at spivey39@ev1.net before 1st of February.

February 12, 2003 (Wednesday)



Houston Senior Citizens will have a general meeting at **Metropolitan Multi-Service Center** at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Closed Captioning will be provided. Come and enjoy chatting with friends!

February 14, 2003 (Friday)

~~~~~ Happy Valentine's Day ~~~~~



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a field trip to Beaumont, TX and visit three different historic museums. Please be at **Metropolitan Multi-Service Center** at 1475 West Gray, Houston at 7:30 a.m. Let's join us and enjoy ourselves. (See editor page 2, for more information).

February 20, 2003 (Thursday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at **Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church** at 9920 Long Point from 9 AM to 1 PM. There will be potluck lunch. If you wish to bring a covered dish, please contact **Evelyn Autry** at (713) 984-8186 TTY or **Gertrude Sessions** at (281) 447-7575 TTY and let them know what you will bring.

February 26, 2003 (Wednesday)



Houston Senior Citizens will have a meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers are welcome to help with folding Senior Citizens newsletters. Your help is greatly appreciated.

February 2003

SUN

MON




















TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

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2	3	4 PIP Meeting 	5 12 S.C.M.M.S.C.  Abraham Lincoln's Birthday 	6 13 Agnes Foster 	7 3rd Anniversary ASL Social First Colony Mall 	8
9	10	11	12 S.C.M.M.S.C.  Abraham Lincoln's Birthday 	13 Agnes Foster 	14 Valentine's Day Beaumont Field Trip  Billy & Pauline Corum-2001  	15 George Washington's Birthday 
16	17	18	19 20 S.C. Social Woodhaven  Helen Padgett 	20 S.C. Social Woodhaven  Helen Padgett 	21	22 George Washington's Birthday 
23	24	25	26 S.C.M.M.S.C.  Jack & Hazel Richard-1942 	27	28	

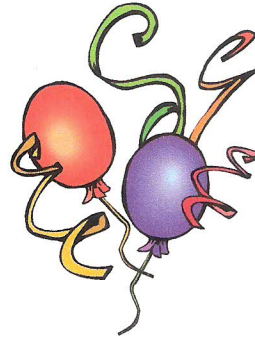


January Birthday Group

30th Anniversary Celebration



Happy birthday to: Dorothy Curry, Elnora Morgan, Sue Williamson and Jenice Wells



On January 29th, 2003, Carla Holmes from St. Dominic's Deaf Center will celebrate her 30th year of ministry with the Deaf for the diocese of Galveston/Houston. She states, "Thinking back on 30 wonderful grace-filled years, I recall times of joy and of sorrow." Members of St. Dominic's Deaf Center surprised her by giving her a beautiful marble stand with two gold pens for her dedication to the deaf community.



Steve Radack, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 3

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens received a Thank You letter from Monty Valka at Harris County Precinct Three. (See the letter at the right.) The group really appreciates Harris County transportation service with no charge for field trips, and donated money to Harris County Precinct Three.

January 6, 2003

The transportation staff would like to thank you and the Houston Deaf Seniors for the \$50.00 donation to Precinct Three.

Thank you again, we appreciate your kindness. Please do not hesitate to contact the Transportation Department, if we can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Department
Harris County Precinct Three

MV/pb

Deaf History

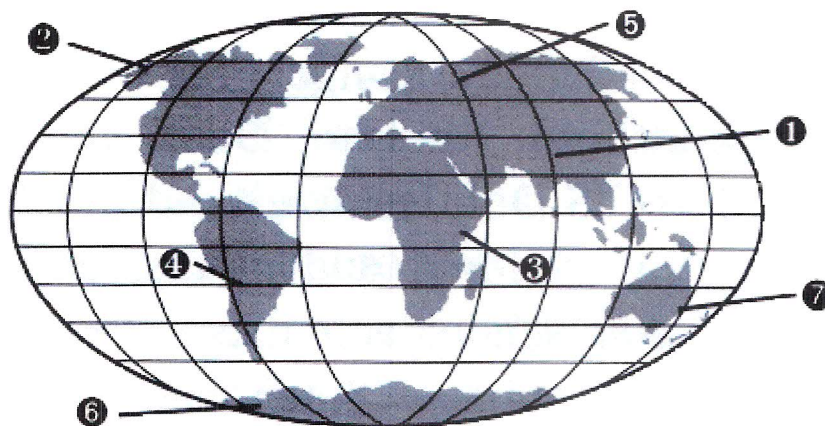


Heidi Zimmer: The Mountaineer

Part I

Have you ever wanted to climb to the top of a mountain? Imagine wanting to climb the highest mountain peaks on all seven continents of the world. That's Heidi Zimmer's goal: to be the first deaf person to climb the "Seven Summits."

These are the "Seven Summits" of the world:



MOUNTAIN	CONTINENT	FEET ABOVE SEAL LEVEL
1. Mt. Everest	Asia	29,028
2. Mt. McKinley	North America	20,320
3. Kilimanjaro	Africa	19,321
4. Aconcagua	South America	19,304
5. Mt. Elbrus	Europe	18,510
6. Mt. Vinson	Antarctica	16,067
7. Carstensz Pyramid	Australia	16,023

Heidi Zimmer was born deaf in Southern California. When she was two years old, she showed off her athletic skills by climbing on the roof of a house. Her parents couldn't believe their eyes when they saw little Heidi on the rooftop! Heidi's dad stood frozen. He was afraid of heights. Luckily, a college student walked by and he rescued Heidi from the roof. That was the beginning of Heidi Zimmer's climbing adventures.

Heidi and her youngest sister, who was also born deaf, were the only deaf people in her family. Growing up, communication was a problem. Until she was 13 years old, Heidi attended oral day

schools that did not allow sign language. She tried to communicate with her family by speaking and lip reading, but it was very frustrating. Her parents realized that Heidi needed a change. They sent her to California School for the Deaf at Riverside (C.S.D.R.). At C.S.D.R. Heidi learned sign language, met other deaf children and adults, and enjoyed sports and other school activities. She spent only weekends and vacations with her family, but communication improved. Her family learned to sign for the first time in her life.

Heidi's father was a minister at a church. He always encouraged Heidi to join the church youth group for teenagers. She felt awkward trying to communicate with other kids who did not use signs, but she knew that her father cared about her. She says, "My parents always encouraged me to be the person I wanted to be. They never let my deafness stand in the way of my dreams."

When Heidi was a teenager, one experience changed her life forever. Her father asked her to join his church youth group for a weekend backpacking trip. Heidi decided to go. After this experience, she fell in love with hiking and being outdoors. She learned to love the trails of California state parks and the beautiful scenery.

In 1971, Heidi graduated from C.S.D.R. and wanted to attend college. She went to Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California. She took a health class and one day watched a film about Colorado Outward Bound School (C.O.B.S.). C.O.B.S. teaches people about living and surviving in the wilderness using skills such as hiking, kayaking, skiing, snow boarding and other outdoor activities. This outdoor school helps people build confidence, leadership, teamwork and fitness. After seeing the film, Heidi couldn't stop thinking about Outward Bound. She explains, "I kept dreaming about it. I really wanted to go!"

Ready for a new challenge, Heidi moved to Washington, DC and attended Gallaudet University. She settled down to study and majored in business administration. A year later, she sent a letter to Colorado Outward Bound School wanting to attend. She was accepted and awarded a scholarship. She flew to Colorado and spent a 23 day course in the Rocky Mountain wilderness. She rock climbed, backpacked and hiked. "I fell in love with it," she says of Outward Bound. "It helped me build trust. And that was really important to me because all of my life I have had deep fears. Outward Bound helped me self-esteem and gave me inner strength."

Heidi Zimmer got her college degree from Gallaudet University in 1978. She moved back to California and got a job as a computer programmer at McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Systems. She liked her job, but was ready for more outdoor adventures. She became very active in the Sierra Club. This famous club wants to protect and save our environment. Water, forests, grasslands and wildlife are some examples of our environment. The club also offers activities such as hiking, rock climbing and mountain climbing. Heidi took a basic class in mountain training and ice climbing. She became certified in a Basic Mountaineering Training Course (B.M.T.C.) in 1988.

Part 2 of Heidi Zimmer will be issued next month. Toole, Darlene Living Legends III, pg. 13-20



REST IN PEACE

OBITUARIES



Richard Flowers, 66, of Humboldt, TN, passed away December 20, 2002 at his residence due to a lengthy illness. He buried at Humboldt. He attended at TSD (Texas School for the Deaf) and left in 1955. He retired from Brake Mechanic. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Burnett Flowers, four daughters, one son, one deaf sister, Mary Flowers Graves of Ohio, three brothers, nine grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Submitting by Carole Allen of Rowlett, TX

Audrey Gloria Gearhart, age 72, of Georgetown passed away Saturday, December 21, 2002. She was born on July 15, 1930, in Flatonia, Texas, to parents David and Rose Ellis. Audrey married her late husband Robert of fifty years on August 4, 1951.

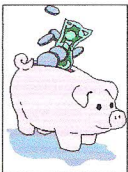
Her husband, Robert Gearhart, preceded her in death. Audrey leaves behind to cherish her memory, a son, Terry Gearhart and wife Mitzi of Georgetown; grandson, Matthew Gearhart of Georgetown; granddaughter, Sarah Gearhart of Georgetown; brothers, Kermit Ellis of Houston and James Ellis of Round Rock; and sisters, Janette Wroble of LaMarque, Texas, and Ruth Hocutt of Austin.

The family received guests for visitation from 5 PM until 7 PM, Thursday, December 26, 2002, at Cook-Walden Davis Funeral Home in Georgetown. Funeral services were held at 10 AM, Friday, December 27, 2002, at the Crestview Baptist Church in Georgetown, with Reverend Jack Earwood officiating. Interment services were followed in the Cook-Walden Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville.

You may honor Audrey with your thoughts, prayers, and memories by visiting on line at www.mem.com.

Mary (Sowell) Cunningham was born on January 13, 1915 in Amarillo, TX, passed away January 8, 2003 in Dallas, TX. Mary was 87 years old and a member of FRAT Auxillary, Senior Citizen of Dallas Action Center4. She was retired from T.I. (Texas Instruments) after 15 yrs. of service. She is survived by her daughter, Kathy Mathis and husband, H. L. Mathis, brother, Don J Sowell, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The Rosary was held at Restland Memorial Service at 8 PM Friday, Jan 10th. The service was held at 9 AM Saturday, Jan 11th at Restland Abbey Chapel. Family requests that donation to be made to Deaf Action Center (charity) in memory of Mary.

Submitting by Carole Allen of Rowlett, TX



From Zelma Curbello of LOVE FUND:

We wish to thank you for your generous donations to LOVE FUND:

Arlene Benham, William Hebert, Elnora Morgan, Floyd & I.D. Wicker, and Daril & Sue Williamson.

Anyone who wishes to donate \$\$\$ to LOVE FUND should please make a check or money order payable to Houston Deaf Senior Citizens-Love Fund. Please mail to:

**Mrs. Zelma Curbello
9623 Tiltree
Houston, TX 77075-4042**

RENEWALS:

Thank you for your renewal: Patsy Bunch, M/M Tom Crenshaw, Edie G Feliciano, M/M Gordon Gibbons, Palmer Gissler, Mack E Malone, Robert E Miller, Nancy Morris, Elisa B Neve, Tom Sellers, and Burba Thornton.

Reader Digest:

WHOSE HUE?

The British Royal Automobile Club came up with a list of what a car's color says about its owner. Here is what your vehicle is telling people about you:

- Black:** You're ambitious and status seeking.
- Green:** You're very traditional and an elitist.
- Blue:** You're a team player and very sociable.
- White:** You're aloof, dutiful and methodical.
- Gray:** You're understated and cautious.
- Silver:** You have a sense of style, but you can be pompous.
- Red:** You're outgoing, impulsive and easily bored.

__ Chicago Sun-Times



**5802 Holly
Houston, TX 77074**

**Mary Redman
(713) 981-1543 Voice/TTY**

You may call them by RELAY TEXAS #711 OR #1-800-735-2989

Funded in part by (TCDHH) Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Houston Deaf Senior Citizens**

**Mail to: Frank Shaw
9954 Kirkshire Dr.
Houston, TX 77089-2207**

(Print, Please)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

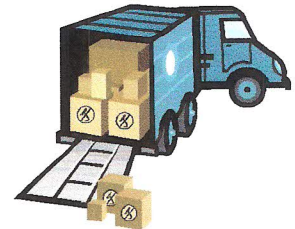
STATE _____

ZIP _____

TTY or FAX #: _____
(Please Circle one)

EMAIL: _____

MOVING?



**Please make sure your
NEWSLETTER
moves with you!**

(Print, Please)

OLD ADDRESS:

NAME _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

NEW ADDRESS:

ADDRESS _____

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