

HOUSTON DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

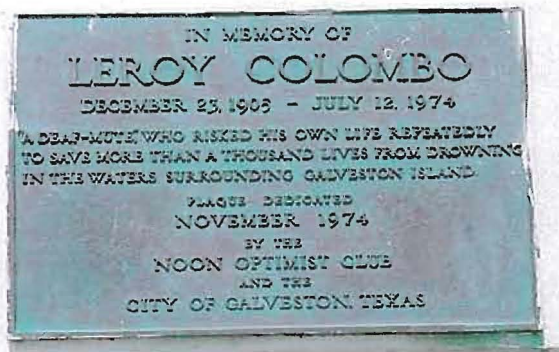
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Volume 10

July 2009

Issue 07

LEROY COLUMBO, GALVESTON'S BEST KNOWN LIFEGUARD



The Rosenberg Library exhibited a championship trophy (middle picture above) won by LeRoy Colombo in 1927.

A timeline history of LeRoy Colombo:

- At the age of 7, LeRoy Colombo suffered an attack of spinal meningitis which cost him his hearing and the use of both legs. He tried swimming (& his 3 brothers worked with him) and within a year he was able to walk again.
- He eventually became the first deaf lifeguard as well as earning the title "the World's Greatest Lifeguard." He saved 907 lives in a 40 year career, a record noted in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- In 1923 he became the first deaf person to join Galveston's elite "Surf Toboggan Club." He qualified by swimming continuously for three hours with no stops or floating. And in 1923 he became a lifeguard for the city of Galveston.
- He was among the first to ride surfboards at Galveston beaches.
- In 1927, Colombo completed a 15-mile swim in the Gulf of Mexico in just 11-and-a-half hours.
- In 1928 he rescued two crewmen after a tugboat exploded in flames (this required swimming beneath burning oil).
- LeRoy made his first rescue (of a drowning boy) at the age of 12.
- LeRoy almost drowned 16 times during rescues.
- He became a competitive swimmer at Texas School for the Deaf, setting multiple records for speed and distance.
- He retired at 62 and continued to swim in the ocean daily until he died on July 12, 1974. Flags in Texas were flown at half staff upon his death and a plaque erected on the Galveston beach he patrolled for forty years.
- The Noon Optimist Club & city of Galveston erected a plaque in Colombo's honor not long after his death in 1974.
- In 2005, legendary Galveston lifeguard was the subject of a display in a surf museum to open in Corpus Christi.
- The beach patrol's annual fund-raiser, a 5K run, bears Colombo's name.
- In 2006, the Texas School for the Deaf unveiled a new swimming center, which was named for Colombo.
- In May 2008, the Rosenberg Library has exhibited a championship trophy won by LeRoy Colombo in 1927.
- The street will be referred to as Leroy Colombo's View and 57th Street on signs



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4, 2009 (Saturday)



Celebrate the 4th of July in style with your families, friends, etc. around. Be sure to use sunscreen and drink lots of water. If you are barbecuing outside, please use caution. Make sure that fireworks are legal in your area before buying them. The 4th of July is the Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America.

July 4, 2009 (Saturday)



ASL Social and Deaf Houston Latino will meet at Joe's Crab Shack Restaurant, 215 Kipp Ave., Kemah, TX 77565 at 8:00 AM till closed. Come and see the fireworks. Check out the website at www.kemahboardwalk.com. Let's meet and enjoy chatting with your old & new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at ejohnson127@comcast.net or LaLacake25@yahoo.com or VP: 832-413-4947 for more information.

July 7, 2009 (Tuesday)



Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will present their topic about 211 Texas Services. We will be updated on how this service is your link to health and community services. The meeting is held at Woodhaven Baptist Church for the Deaf, 9920 Long Point, Houston, TX at 7:30 PM. Door prizes! Interpreter and captioning are provided. Officer James Sobota is responsible to set these meetings up to benefit us. Anyone can contact him at james.sobota@cityofhouston.net.

July 8, 2009 (Wednesday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have their business meeting at West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 at 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Please come and share your ideas with us as the meeting begins at 10:00 AM. You have to be present to vote on the motions. Please bring your friends

July 10, 2009 (Friday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will take a trip to see Museum of Texas History in Downtown (\$4) and Chase Tower (Free). Everyone needs to be at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd., Houston, TX by 9:00 AM as the Bus will leave at 9:30 AM. We will stop for lunch on I-10 before arriving back to Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church. Please contact Gertie Sessions by VP 281-447-7575 or Julie Spaulding by VP 281-249-5276 for more information.

July 10, 2009 (Friday)



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

July 14, 2009 (Tuesday)



Chief's Citywide "Positive Interaction Program" will be meeting at 1600 State St. 4th Floor, Houston, TX. It will begin at 7:00 PM with Interpreter and captioning provided. Contact Officer James Sobota at (V) 713-308-9079, Fax 713-308-9073, or TDD 713-308-9071. You can also email him at james.sobota@cityofhouston.net.

July 16, 2009 (Thursday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a fellowship and potluck at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church at 9920 Long Point Rd. from 9 am till 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 17, 2009 (Friday)



ASL Social will be at 59 Diner Restaurant, 10407 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024 from 4:00 till 9:00 PM. Check out the website at www.59diner.com. Let's meet and enjoy chatting with your old & new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at ejohnson127@comcast.net.

July 18, 2009 (Saturday)



North Texas Deaf Senior Citizens will have their 1st Anniversary Celebration at Dallas Association of the Deaf, 4215 Maple Ave., Dallas, TX 75219. It will begin at 1:00 till 5:00 PM. Admission is \$10 per person. Hors d'oeuvre will be served. Door prizes are included. This is sponsored by The Ztm. Deadline to order tickets will be July 13, 2009. Send to Bert Hill, 7110 Long Canyon Trail, Dallas, TX 75249.

July 22, 2009 (Wednesday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens have invited a Speaker to speak to us. Everyone can arrive at 9 AM since we have the room from 9 AM till 1 PM. The Speaker will begin at 10 AM for about an hour. Any questions will be followed after the Speaker is done talking. Don Hahn is our Education Coordinator. I wasn't able to get the information on who was coming to speak to us.

July 27, 2009 (Monday)



Joe's Banquet Center, 1300 East Hwy. 6, Alvin, TX 77511 will provide free meal for Seniors from 6 AM till 9 PM. It is free on the last Monday of each month.

DONATIONS & NEWSLETTER DUES

Donations to Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

Dameria Autry and Betty J. Telfer, thank you for your donations to Love Fund.

Betty J Telfer, thank you for your general donation to HDSC Newsletter.

Anyone who wishes to donate money to **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens-Love Fund, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation)** should please make check or money order payable to **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens**. In the memo part of your check, please write down what the amount applies to. Please mail to:

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens
c/o Audrey Leger
P. O. Box 664
Missouri City, TX 77459

REOPENING SUBSCRIBER:

Welcome back: Antonia C. Pitre.

RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS:

Thank you for your renewal: Carter Bearden, Shirley J Bulgherini, Emma R Cross, Rosie Hoffman, Early & Marilyn Johnson, Jake M Ledbetter Jr, Joyce Mansell, Virginia A Mead, Tony & Sue Ramirez, Anna Reese, Robert Smith, and Lanita Ugarte.

NEWS

SEVERAL BRIEF NEWS

by Audrey Leger

Hello Everyone! I'm doing OK except I'm so slow when walking. Ha....Love, Jake Ledbetter Jr

In May, Anna Reese was in the hospital for 2 1/2 weeks after had surgery on her back and came home on May 26th. She's doing ok, but takes easy. She's learning to walk again...

I got notified to terminate newsletter subscription for Hazel E. Reed....One of her family or someone sent a note (without signature) quoted "Sorry - I should have informed you Hazel Reed is deceased. Please stop future mailings. Thank you." (I'm sorry we don't have more details or when she passed away. If any one of you know or have a clipping of obituary, would you please send us for our next newsletter; mail to Nancy Morris, Editor, 15335 Falmouth Ave, Houston, TX 77084-1412. Thank you, Audrey)

FIELD TRIP ON JUNE 5th

Written by Julie Spaulding

We had a field trip to Tomball, Texas and Montgomery, Texas. We enjoyed looking around Community Museum Center in Tomball. The complex consists of 12 historical structures, including a Victorian house, farmhouse, church, doctor's office, farm building, schoolhouse, and corncrib. It was built in late 1800's. Then, we went to Montgomery to see MT Hart Davis Pioneer Museum. Davis Cottage built with logs cut in 1831. An example of a pioneer home. Now used as the Chamber of Commerce office and Museum. A copy of Dr. Stewart's Texas Flag design is on display. And also it was built for law office. There were 29 deaf Senior Citizen including an interpreter.



TRAVEL NEWS

By Lennie Morton

My daughter and son-in-law took me to Ft. Worth on June 14th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my brother and his wife. Their family had a beautiful reception for them with lots of good food. Met lots of their friends and some knew sign language and communicated with me. I enjoyed it very much.

The next day my daughter took me to Westchester Plaza. I had a short visit with Dorthea Altom and Hazel Richard. It was good to see both of them.

WASP SPRAY

Email received from Marjorie Hall

I have a friend who is a receptionist in a church in a high risk area who was concerned about someone coming into the office on Monday to rob them when they were counting the collection. She asked the local police department about using pepper spray and they recommended to her that she get a can of wasp spray instead. The wasp spray, they told her, can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate, while with the pepper spray, they have to get too close to you and could overpower you. The wasp spray temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote. She keeps a can on her desk in the office and it doesn't attract attention from people like a can of pepper spray would. She also keeps one nearby at home for home protection. Thought this was interesting and might be of use...

NO BARRIERS WITH JOEL BARISH

From DeafNation eNews dated 05/31/09

Joel Barish is on a trip to France, sponsored by Viable, from May 27, 2009 to June 5, 2009, to do video reports. There will be a daily blog and the videos will be posted after the trip. DeafNation will have a LIVE

(Continue to page 5)

VIDEO STREAMING report from the Viable France office on June 4, 2009. More exciting stories to follow!

Joel also had a daily blog in a recent trip to Panama, check them out. Panama videos are coming soon!

~ If you know any interesting stories, please contact Joel Barish at joel@deafnation.com ~

Seniors Bus Tour

Submitted by Bubba Lorenz

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up.



After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times. When she is about to hand him another batch againhe asks the little old lady, 'Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?'

'We can't chew them because we've no teeth', she replied.

The puzzled driver asks, 'Why do you buy them then?'

The old lady replied, 'We just love the chocolate around them.'

It pays to be careful around old people!!!



Microwaving Water! The Possible Dangers

Submitted by Lavern Fair

A 26-year old man decided to have a cup of coffee. He took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up (Something that he had done numerous times before). I am not sure how long he set the timer for, but he wanted to bring the water to a boil. When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup, he noted that the water was not boiling, but suddenly the water in the cup "blew up" into his face. The cup remained intact until he threw it out of his hand, but all the water had flown out into his face due to the build up of energy. His whole face is blistered and he has 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face which may leave scarring. He also may have lost partial sight in his left eye.

General Electric's Response: Micro waved water and other liquids do not always bubble when they reach the boiling point. They can actually get superheated and not bubble at all. The superheated liquid will bubble up out of the cup when it is moved or when something like a spoon or tea bag is put into it. To prevent this from happening and causing injury, do not heat any liquid for more than 2 minutes per cup. After heating, let the cup stand in the microwave for 30 seconds before moving it or adding anything into it. If you pass this on, you could very well save someone from a lot of pain and suffering.

Joke submitted by Gertie Sessions

Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat. He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it.

She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have tought about that before he joined my Church."

REST IN PEACE

OBITUARY

Fredrick Walter Sweetland, Sr. (69) passed away on May 20, 2009 in Shreveport, LA. He was born October 14, 1939 in Jasper County, MO. He graduated from Riverside Deaf School in Orange County, CA. His body was cremated. He is survived by daughter Alta Sweetland; sons - Fredrick W. Sweetland Jr., Benny Sweetland, and Benny Sweetland. He is preceded in death by Father, Eugene Sweetland; Mother, Erma Bennett Sweetland. Previously, he lived in Dallas, TX and Tampa, FL.

Fern Mears passed away on May 21, 2009. She was born August 12, 1919 in Frisco, TX. Service was held on Tuesday at 11:00 AM at Blessing Funeral Home, 401 Elm St., Mansfield, TX. Visitation was held on Monday from 5 to 7 PM at Lucas Funeral Home, 700 W. Wall St., Grapevine. Burial was at Mansfield Cemetery. Survivors are son, Barry Mears & wife Renee; daughter, Vickie Lay; daughter-in-law Linda Mears; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Clifton, son Jack and son-in-law Thomas Lay.



Former Fairfax County resident **Bill Ennis** passed away peacefully on June 2, 2009 at 10:30 pm. His wife is Glenda Snyder Ennis. Bill's sister, Sharon Snyder passed away two years ago. Bill was a talented man who was loved by all who knew him. The 1999 ASL/Deaf Culture Lecture Series promotion by UVA had this to say about Bill: "From serious to fun, that's Bill Ennis! Ennis is a master ASL storyteller and humorist who will share his love of ASL stories and humor on Thursday, April 15th. Texan-born Ennis, who received his BA



from Gallaudet University, teaches American Sign Language courses at Northern Virginia Community College. Ennis also serves as a Sign Master for Shakespeare's Folger Theatre, Arena Stage, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His one-man show, "Bill Ennis Live!", will feature stories, sign mime, Deaf culture and Deaf humor. Ennis's performances have been greeted enthusiastically by audiences across the nation. In his other life, Ennis currently serves as vice-president of the Virginia Association of the Deaf. He also is a Systems Analyst for the Department of Treasury."

To send condolences to Glenda, here are addresses of her two homes: 5 Turmeric Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 and 9 Plantation Court, Ocean View, DE. 19970. Funeral Arrangements with viewing was held on Friday, June 5th from 2:00-4:00 PM and 5:30-9:00 PM at Evans Funeral Home, Bowie, MD and service was held Saturday, June 6th at 11:00 AM at Riverdale Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, MD. Since October 2008, the Ennis family kept a blog to inform friends of Bill's battle with cancer. Check it out at: <http://www.anewtradition.blogspot.com/>

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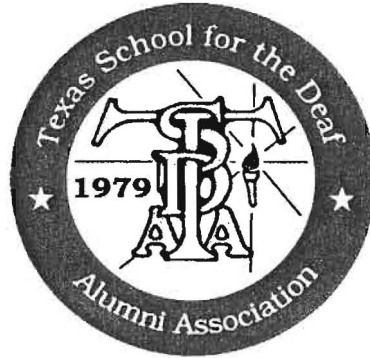
### Joke from Reader's Digest (April's)

Three guys are fishing on a lake when an angel appears in the boat with them. The first guy gets over his shock and humbly says to the angel, "I've suffered from back pain for years. Is it too much to ask that you help me?" The angel touches the man's back and he feels instant relief.

The second guy points to his Coke-bottle glasses and asks if the angel could cure his poor eyesight. The angel tosses the man's glasses into the lake. When they hit the water, the man's vision clear and he can see everything distinctly.

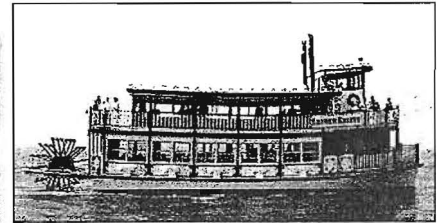
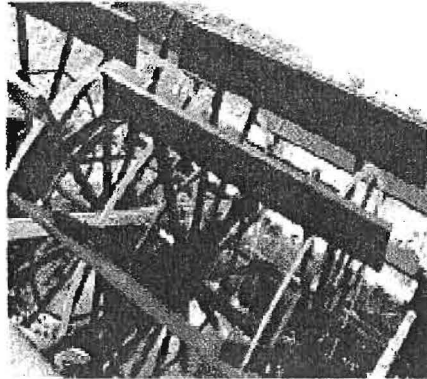
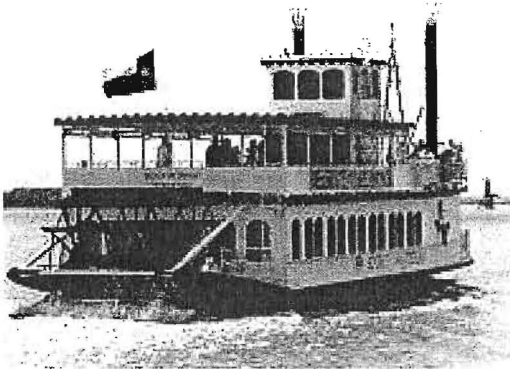
The angel now turns to the third guy, who throws up his hands in fear. "Don't touch me!" he cries. "I'm on disability!"

# TSDAA REUNION PARTY



September  
18,  
2009

Texas School for the Deaf Alumni Association proudly presents:



Reunion Day Party at Lake Austin on September 18, 2009.

Two big wheel-paddle boats - up to 400 people!!!

**\$50 per person:** Three-hour boat ride, beef/chicken fajita, spanish rice, bean, iced tea, water, soda, unlimited beer, unlimited margarita and a free ticket for door prize. **400 people limit!**

Meet at Hula Hut Restaurant at 4:30PM - Board boat at 5:00PM - Boat ride starts at 5:30PM. Boat ride ends at 8:30PM - **Free admission** to Austin Deaf Club after 7. Door prizes at Austin Deaf Club at 10:00PM.

**Address is 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. (Near Lions Municipal Golf Course)**



**SPONSORED by:** [www.zvrs.com](http://www.zvrs.com)

\$50.00 per person per person (**21 years old and up ONLY!**) **No refund after Sept 4.**

Please make a money order or a check payable to **TSDAA, Inc.** and mail to:

**Ronny Taylor, 5104 Weidemar Lane # C, Austin, Texas 78745**

I would like to order (  ) ticket(s) x \$50.00 each person = \$  total

Name:

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City:  State:  Zip Code:

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**(Deadline for ordering Reunion Party ticket(s) is September 4, 2009).**

For more information, contact Chairman Ronny Taylor, VP 866-912-1705 or email at [RonnyRTaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:RonnyRTaylor@yahoo.com). Websites: [www.tsdaa.org](http://www.tsdaa.org) & [www.austinriverboats.com](http://www.austinriverboats.com)

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

At the last business meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, several people wanted to know who Frank Nye, Jr. was that was in the June's Newsletter on the Obituary page. I did research and Roger Spivey had sent it. An email was sent to him for explanation since no one knew who Nye was. I haven't heard from him. When I get emails from deaf people, I don't do research on these articles. Therefore, I apologized that some of you thought that I ( research and for the length of it (I should have counted the number of words). Please ask Roger who the person is. Thanks!

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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please keep articles to less than 300 words, due to limited space on the newsletter. My E-mail address is [nmorris726@gmail.com](mailto:nmorris726@gmail.com) 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. When sending pictures to me, please make sure you use a larger envelope. When the pictures are fold, it is very difficult to scan them without showing those folded lines. Audrey does the scanning for me so she will appreciate it, too.

Thanks!

*Nancy Morris, Editor*

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