



# Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Newsletter



Non-Profit Organization

Volume 13

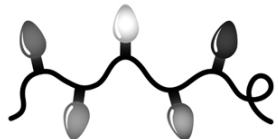
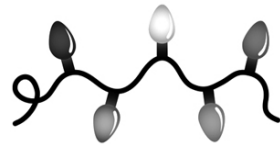
January 2012

Issue 01

## HDSC'S FIELD TRIP



With perfect weather and unforgettable evening on December 2nd, 37 seniors and friends went to College Station and visited Santa's Wonderland. Before the sundown, we dined in Bryan. Then to Santa's Wonderland and experienced millions of dazzling Christmas lights on a winding path stretching over a mile long. Then relaxed and enjoyed the holiday treats, unique shops and live music around a cozy campfire in Santa's Town. Don Hahn treated everyone pieces of home-made, assorted-flavored fudge. Everyone came home wondering what Santa has stored for them on the 25th.



## SANTA GIVEAWAY GIFTS



**\$25.00 winners:** Gus Curbello, Don Hahn, Bubba Lorenz, Judy Lorenz & Patsy Walker

**\$20.00 winners:** Sarah Turner, Sharon Grizzaffi & Mary Tippet

**\$15.00 winners:** Cynthia Stevens, Judy Becker, Homer West, Larry Butler & Ralph Daniels

**\$10.00 winners:** Sandra Manley, Luci Ryan, Floyd Wicker & Lennie Morton

## CHRISTMAS DESSERT CONTEST



**1st prize:** \$30.00 for creative & presentation – Irene Williams

**2nd prize:** \$20.00 for taste – Lennie Morton

**3rd prize:** \$10.00 for taste – Gertie Sessions

**Board of Directors**

Don Hahn  
Nancy Morris  
Audrey Leger

**Executive Director**

Larry Butler

**Activities Director**

Larry Fewell

**Communications Director**

Cathy Simerka

**Budget Director**

Judy Lorenz

**Head Committee Chairs**

**Travel** - Gertrude Sessions

**Refreshment** - Tommy Wells

**Luncheon** - Felix Guerra

**Prizes** - Patsy Walker

**Games/Crafts** - TBA

**Archives** - Julie Spaulding

**Hospitality** - Zelma Curbello

**Seminars** - TBA

**Newsletter Editor** - Judy Becker

**Editorial Assistants** - Rochelle Simpson

**Subscription** - Dana Glasscock

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**JANUARY**

**BIRTHDAY**

- 2 Dinah McKenzie
- 7 Diane Duncan
- 8 Patsy Walker
- 21 Mickey McKenzie  
Dennis Smith
- 28 Bubba Lorenz
- 30 Jenice Wells
- 31 David Garcia

**ANNIVERSARY**

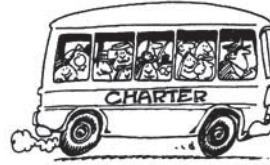
- 13 Felix & Amelia Guerra  
39 years (1973)

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**JANUARY 11, 2011**

- Grilled & BBQ chickens
- Pork beans
- Mashed potatoes & Chicken gravy
- Black-eyed peas
- Tossed salad & Assorted dressings
- Sandwich breads & butter
- Apple sauce
- Cold drinks

**JANUARY SENIORS FIELD TRIP**



**BROOKSHIRE / BELLVILLE**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012**

VISIT

**WALLER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
**AUSTIN COUNTY MUSEUM (FORMERLY BELLVILLE JAIL)**  
**\$6.00**

**ON OWN LUNCH - TONY'S RESTAURANT BUFFET**  
**\$6.99 - \$7.99**

**BUS DEPARTS AT 9 AM**  
**WOODHAVEN BAPTIST DEAF CHURCH**  
**9920 LONG POINT - HOUSTON 77055**

**CONTACT: JULIE SPAULDING**  
**(281) 249-5276**

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**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Friday, January 6:** ASL Social  
Romano's Pizza Cucina Italian Restaurant  
1528 West Gray  
Houston, Texas 77019  
4 pm - 9 pm

**Tuesday, January 10:** Houston Police Department  
Chief's Citywide PIP meeting  
1602 State Street  
Houston, Texas 77007  
7 pm

**Friday, January 13:** Deaf/ASL Social (Ft. Bend)  
Chick-fila-A  
20010 Southwest Freeway  
SugarLand, Texas 77479  
5 pm - 10 pm

**Saturday, January 14:** Houston Deaf Latino  
Chacho's Mexican Restaurant  
5350 North Freeway @ Tidwell  
Houston, Texas 77022  
4 pm - 9 pm

## 6th Annual Texas Deaf Red Hats Christmas Luncheon

On Dec 3rd, most of our Red Hat Fabulous Ladies of Houston went to the banquet room of the Holiday Inn Riverwalk in San Antonio for the 6th Annual Texas Deaf Red Hats Christmas Luncheon. We all had a great time. Also, we met our old friends as well as making new friends. The Mexican food was delicious.



In our group picture, the front row (sitting) are Cathy Simerka, Amelia Guerra and Sheila Kennedy, and the back row (standing) are Molly Prescott, Luci Sachs, Christy Lawson, Judy Lorenz, Michelle Smith, Karen Whitworth, Karon Dugan, Ann Edgley, Debbie Sonnier and Julie Spaulding.

*Submitted by Judy Lorenz*



## TSD Wins \$130K School Makeover Competition



**New York, NY (December 6, 2011) –**

Today Pureology and Global Green USA announced that the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas is the grand prizewinner in the Global Green USA Green School Makeover Competition, presented by Pureology. As part of the grand prize, the Texas School for the Deaf will receive the ultimate Green School Makeover worth \$130,000.

The Texas School for the Deaf was nominated for the competition by Francisco's Salon in Austin, and beat out more than 220 public, private and charter K – 12 schools for the grand prize: \$65,000 for school renovations and an additional \$65,000 worth of technical assistance.

*Reprinted partially from the Deaf Network of Texas*

## Police 'killed deaf cyclist with stun gun after he failed to obey instructions to stop'

A police officer killed an elderly, deaf and mentally disabled man riding his bicycle by shooting him with a Taser stun gun after he failed to obey instructions to stop.

Roger Anthony, 61, was killed as he made his way home in Scotland Neck, South Carolina, after officers responded to a 911 call about a man who had fallen off his bicycle in a car park.

The caller told dispatchers that the man appeared drunk and that it looked like he had hurt himself.

Officers said they repeatedly told Mr. Anthony to get off his bike, but when he didn't respond, they shocked him.

The state Office of the Medical Examiner hasn't yet determined a cause of death.

Family members claim Mr. Anthony had hearing problems and suffered from seizures. Now they're considering whether to file a lawsuit against the town.

His brother Michael said, "What did they tase him for? It's hurting me. It's really hurting me."

Scotland Neck Mayor James Mills said he wouldn't blame the family for suing.

'There has been no information that this man was a threat to anybody,' he said.

'If I was a family member, I'm sure I'd be thinking the same way.'

Mills said he has tried to get information from the police department about what happened to Mr Anthony, but they have turned him away.

Police Chief Joe Williams says the officer is on administrative leave while the SBI conducts its investigation.

He declined to comment further. Anthony's family said they hope the case is resolved soon.

Mr. Anthony's niece, Porsha Anthony said: 'I'm sad. I lost an uncle.

'Hopefully it will be rectified so that not another family in Scotland Neck has to go through this'.

The State Bureau of Investigation in South Carolina said they are looking into Mr. Anthony's death.

*By Daniel Miller*

*Last updated at 12:19 pm on 24th November 2011*

## BACK IN TIME

Because of the different calendar system used in ancient Babylon, the actual New Year started with the New Moon., which was followed by the first day of spring in March. In that time, New Year's Eve and any celebrations associated with it transpired over 11 days. Every day was a different type of celebration which usually signified rebirth, a new period of blossoming and a new season of crops.

The Roman calendar was changed over and over again each time a new emperor took charge until it eventually did not match the Sun's patterns. It took an official act of the Roman Senate to dictate that January 1 would be the beginning of the New Year.

Resolutions are popular pastimes to make for each New Year. Friends often sit around and discuss or share these resolutions with each other on New Year's Eve. In ancient Babylonia, one common resolution was to return any farm equipment borrowed from friends or neighbors.



## NEW YEAR'S EVE FUN FACTS

Most New Year's Eve fun facts also involve New Year's Day and traditions that occur close to midnight.

- The Catholic Church denounced any New Year's celebrations as paganism. Ironically, as Christianity rolled through the world, the Catholic community devised other types of celebrations for the "Feast of Christ's Circumcision," which is observed the same as New Year's Eve and Day.
- It is often thought that the first visitors you see after ringing in the New Year would bring you good or bad luck, depending on who you keep as friends and enemies. That's why most people celebrating on New Year's Eve often do so with friends and family.
- If the first person to visit you was a tall and dark-haired man, this was especially lucky.
- Items or food that is ring-shaped is also good luck.

This symbolizes "coming full circle", which is what one year does. Some cultures eat ring-like food through the evening and through the night to ensure that good luck will be bestowed upon everyone who eats. The Dutch often eat doughnuts.

- Black-eyed peas (usually with ham) are often consumed in certain parts of the United States. These are thought to bring good fortune in cultures around the world, not just in the U.S.
- Other foods that are eaten on New Year's Eve are cabbage because the leaves represent prosperity. Ham (or a hog) also symbolizes prosperity. In Asian cultures, rice is a hearty and lucky staple that is eaten around midnight to signify the coming year of fortune.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- December 31, 1907 saw the very first ball lowering in Times Square (New York City).

## OTHER FUN FACTS

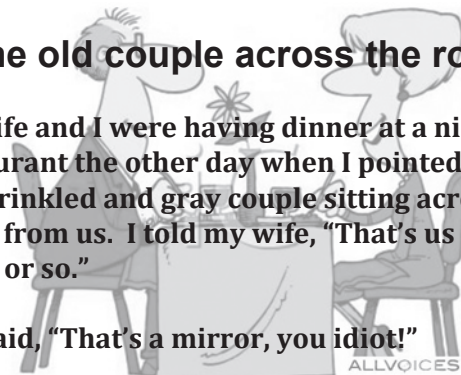
- Auld Lang Syne is sung at midnight to toast in the New Year. The song was composed by Robert Burns sometimes in the 1700's. The term means "old long ago" or "the good old days."
- Stats of the first New York ball: 700 pounds; 5 feet in diameter. The ball was made from wood and iron.
- The modern ball that is dropped is made from Waterford Crystal and weights over 1,000 pounds. There are over 9,000 LED lights, but uses hardly any energy. The ball begins to drop at 11:59 and completes the journey exactly at midnight to ring in the New Year.
- The ball was not lowered in 1942 and 1943 due to wartime restrictions.
- On New Year's Eve, about 75% of American Parties are with 20 people or less.

*Copyright from LoveToKnow Corp.*

## The old couple across the room

My wife and I were having dinner at a nice restaurant the other day when I pointed to an old wrinkled and gray couple sitting across the room from us. I told my wife, "That's us in ten years or so."

She said, "That's a mirror, you idiot!"





**12th Biennial Deaf Seniors of America**  
**Baltimore 2013 Conference**  
 August 22 – 27, 2013



**Registration Form**  
 www.dsa2013baltimore.org

Please print clearly (One form per person)

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pager Address: \_\_\_\_\_

VP: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ TTY: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Combo Rates</b> <small>(Includes \$20 DSA membership dues for 2013-2015)</small>	
<b>\$250.00</b>	Ends Dec. 31, 2011
<b>\$275.00</b>	Jan. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012
<b>\$300.00</b>	July 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2012
<b>\$350.00</b>	Jan. 1, 2013 to July 31, 2013
<b>\$400.00</b>	Aug. 1, 2013 to At Door

Add \$10 for credit card transaction fee

- Conference Combo Registration includes:**
- Registration fee
  - DSA membership dues for 2013-2015
  - Pre-conference information and updates
  - Program book
  - Admission to all exhibits, workshops, meetings, and programs
  - Admission to welcome reception, farewell banquet and entertainr
  - Daily conference newsletters
  - Tours not included in conference admission but open for registrant



Mail this form and payment to:  
 MDSC/DSA 2013 Baltimore Conference  
 PO Box 6200  
 Silver Spring, MD 20916-6200

**Cancellation Refund Table**

Combo Ticket Price	Cancel by February 28, 2013	Cancel by April 30, 2013	Cancel by July 15, 2013	Cancel after July 15, 2013
\$250	\$200	\$143	\$105	No Refund
\$275	\$225	\$159	\$118	No Refund
\$300	\$250	\$175	\$130	No Refund
\$350	\$300	\$208	\$155	No Refund
\$400	-	-	-	No Refund

I have read and accepted the cancellation policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

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

I give DSA 2013 Baltimore conference committee permission to list my name on the website  Yes  No  
 For more information, send an email to registration@dsa2013Baltimore.org

<b>Payment Method</b>	
Please Check One	
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <small>(Additional \$10 fee for Credit Card transaction.)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
<input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money Order (Made Payable to MDSC/DSA 2013 Baltimore) <small>(A \$25 penalty will be charged to you for returned checks.)</small>	
Name of Cardholder: _____	
Card No.: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____	Exp. Date: / _____ CSV: _____
Signature: _____ <small>CSV is three numbers found on the back of credit card.</small>	
<b>Payment:</b> \$250.00 (Check/Money Order) <input type="checkbox"/> Check No. _____	\$260.00 (Credit Card)

## THE OLD-TIMERS' RIGHT

A group of Sun City Senior citizens were sitting around talking about their ailments:

"My arms are so weak I can barely hold a cup of coffee," said one.

"Yes, I know. My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee," replied another.

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck", said a third, to which several nodded in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me dizzy," another went on.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he shook his head.

Then there was a short moment of silence.

"Well, it's not that bad" said one woman cheerfully. "Thank God, we can all still drive!"



## Chief's Citywide "Positive Interaction Program"



This month our program will be presented by the  
**Houston Area Women's Center.**

**The Topic will be "Walking in their Shoes"  
The Dynamics of Intimate Partner Violence.**

Renee Gillespy, from the Houston Area Women's Center  
will present this informative program to the  
Citywide PIP membership.

Also, comments from Chief of Police  
Charles A. McClelland, Jr.

**WHERE: . . . . . 1602 State St. (Auditorium)  
TUESDAY January 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 7:00 p.m.**

From: Officer James Sobota  
Hope to see you there.

Voice # 713-308-9079 Fax # 713-308-9073

TTY For emergency dial 911 - then tap space bar !

E-mail: james.sobota@cityofhouston.net



Interpreter and captioning provided

## Come and see Project Endeavor's Jo Bienvenu!

**January 25, 2012  
10 a.m. — 1 p.m.**

**MMSC Adaptive Sports and Recreation  
1475 West Gray  
Houston, Texas 77019**



Jo Bienvenu

Refreshments will be served



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## GOOD & BAD NEWS

An old man visits his doctor and after thorough examination the doctor tells him: "I have good news and bad news, what would you like to hear first?"

Patient: "Well, give me the bad news first."

Doctor: "You have cancer, I estimate that you have about two years left."

Patient: "OH NO! That's awful! In two years my life will be over! What kind of good news could you probably tell me, after this???"

Doctor: "You also have Alzheimer's. In about three months you are going to forget everything I told you."

Copyright from the AhaJokes.com



## OBITUARY



**Robert Lee Bihm**, 77, of Baton Rouge, passed away in his sleep on Monday morning, November 21, 2011. He was born on November 30, 1933 in Church Point, La. He was a student of the Louisiana School for the Deaf (Class of 1954).

He was survived by his wife, Linda. There was no funeral or memorial service per Robert's wishes. The funeral was served for his immediately family only. He will be greatly missed.

*Submitted by Audrey Leger*



**Henry Lee Crawford**, was born January 16, 1954, passed away November 22, 2011. Services held Saturday, December 3, 2011, at Calvary Way Missionary Baptist Church.

Interment - Houston Memorial Gardens Cemetery.



**Anthony "Tony" Koosis**, 62, passed away on November 25, 2011. Tony was at HCIL for 18 years & made a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities. He was a Champion among Champions, a strong advocate for the rights of people with Disabilities, & a kind & gentle human being who always had a smile or funny story to tell. On behalf of the HCIL's Board of Directors and Staff will always love Tony Koosis & wish the best for his family.

*Partially reprinted from Houston Center for Independent Living*

**Inez Ray Harris Boston**, a retired educator and resident of Baton Rouge, departed this life Sunday, November 27, 2011. Dismissal at the Southern Memorial Gardens Mausoleum. She received her bachelor's degree from Southern University, Master's from Gallaudet in Washington, D.C., and did further study at LSU and Hampton University in Virginia. In 1947, Inez married Prince B. Boston II, and a son, Prince B. Boston III, was born. She went to teach at the Louisiana School for the Deaf. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Inez's name to the Bethel AME Church Trustee Board, 1358 South Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

*Partially reprinted from The Advocate on December 2, 2011*



**Sydna Fern Norton Smith**, 71, of Beaumont, died, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont. A native of Forney, Texas, & a resident of Beaumont since 1994, she was the beloved wife of Albert Louis Smith for over nine years & was dedicated to First Baptist Church in Beaumont. Sydna will forever be remembered by beloved children, William Norton Hebert of Walnut Creek, California, Albertine Louise Smith of San Diego, California, Josephine Fern McGee of Lake Charles, Louisiana, & Albert Louis Smith, Jr. of Olivehurst, California; treasured granddaughters, Rebecca Suzanne Hebert & Megan

Noelle McGee; caring in-laws, John McGee of Lake Charles, Louisiana, & Laura Harvey of San Diego, California; along with countless other friends & family, whom were blessed to know her. She was buried at Smith Cemetery in Starks, Louisiana.

*Submitted by James Fair*



**Deborah Sue Friesen Gunter** went to that big garden in the sky on Thursday, December 15, 2011, after a full life of 58 years. She passed away at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital at the hands of a sudden illness but there was no suffering and she will always be in our

hearts & fondest memories. Mrs. Gunter was not only an active member on several healthcare committees, but also for a number of years could be seen on Houston's ABC 13 morning show as the resident American Sign Language interpreter. She also founded and co-owned Sign Shares/DSG, Inc., which today survives as her legacy & one of the top ASL interpreting agencies in the state of Texas. A loved & revered figure in the deaf & hearing communities, a vivacious business woman, devoted wife, mother, & tour de force till the end. She is survived by her soul mate of 33 years, Randy Gunter; daughter Lindsey Gunter; parents Meldine & step-dad Larry Netz; sisters: Pamela Larsson Toscher & husband Mark of Santa Barbara, California, & Diana Friesen of Seattle, Washington; & many nieces, nephews & cousins. Interment at Earthman Resthaven Cemetery.

*Partially reprinted from Earthman Resthaven Funeral*



**Julius Pierce Seeger**, age 89, a long-time Austin resident, passed away on December 15, 2011. He graduated from TSD in 1943 & went on to get two college degrees, a B.A. Degree

in Education from Gallaudet University in 1949 & an M.A. Degree in Psychology from University of Texas at Austin in 1968. Julius worked for 37 years at TSD. His culinary & housekeeping expertise enabled his beloved wife, Ruth Mae Taubert Seeger to pursue her athletic activities. His passing will be solely missed by the Texas Deaf community, his loving family, fellow TSD alumni, former students & friends. Julius was preceded in death by his parents, Edward & Bera Seeger; one older brother, George Seeger; one younger sister, Rhea Fernandes. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Ruth; his son, Mark & his partner, Jeff; Julius' older brother, Billy; younger brother, Lawrence; a special nephew, Bob Taubert; as well as many other beloved nephews & nieces & cousins throughout the Seeger, Taubert, & McNamara families. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that memorial contributions be made to the Texas School for the Deaf Foundation. TSD Foundation, PO Box 42727, Austin, Texas 78704 Donations can be made online at: [www.tsdfoundation.org](http://www.tsdfoundation.org).

*Partially reprinted from Austin American-Statesman*

## NEW SUBSCRIBERS

H L Hensley, Melvin J Humphrey, and Bill & Juanita Thompson.

## RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS

Mark Broussard, Deanna Dupre, Carroll Frazier, Marcia Green, Doris Mae Jameson, Joe & Sheila Kennedy, David Naumann, and Steve Sirois.

## SUBSCRIPTION GIFTS

Bill & Juanita Thompson - a gift from Margie Scribner. Margie, thanks for your generous gift.

## LOVE FUND DONATIONS

Any of you wishes to donate money to the **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Love Fund, Inc.** (501c3 non-profit organization), please make check or money order payable to **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Love Fund**. In the memo part of your applies to or you can send note. Please mail to address shown below:

Thanks to those, who donated to Love Fund for their generous support: Sheri Crabtree, David Naumann, and Margie Scribner.

Thanks to the people, who bought leftover of Mexican foods on December 14 for Christmas & we earned \$40.

*Audrey Leger, HDSCLF Treasurer*

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Judy (Temple) Becker. As a retired illustrator for ExxonMobil, I have wealth experiences with newsletter and catalog design for some organizations and private corporations. I am delighted to be your new editor. If you have any news, articles and notices, please send them to my attention through email at hdsnews@yahoo.com or memaw519@gmx.com. Or, call me @ VP # 281-667-4763.

Thank you.

Judy Becker  
HDSCLF Editor



## Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Love Fund

A non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

### Subscription / Donation Form

Check one of the following:

**Newsletter Subscription only** (\$10.00/person for one year)     New    or     Renewal

Gift subscription from (who) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00/person for one year)

Donation to HDSCLF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Love Fund, Inc. (tax deductible)

#### CURRENT ADDRESS: (Please print)

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MOVING? - NEW ADDRESS: (Please print)

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

VP,  TTY or  Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the above form with a check or a money order (payable to **HDSCLF**) to HDSCLF, P. O. Box 664, Missouri City, TX 77559-0664. Thank you for your support.

**HDSCLF Staff only:**  Cash (in person only)  Money Order (# \_\_\_\_\_)  Check (# \_\_\_\_\_)