

HOUSTON DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

December 2009

Issue 12

HALLOWEEN PARTY Held on October 28th



From left to right: 2nd place is Earl Coleman, 1st place is Bubba Lorenz, and 3rd place is Tommy Wells for the Men's category. Next, 1st place is Judy Lorenz, 2nd place is Ann Wheeler along with her Mother, Marie Hays, and 3rd place is Eunice Woodson for the Women's category.

For the Pumpkin judging, Judy Lorenz won 1st place, Margie Graham won 2nd place, and Linda Smith won 3rd place. Several of our members created wonderful pumpkins. All of the pumpkins were so cute.

Several members participated in a Cake Walk. We had a great time. After the awards were presented, we enjoyed a delicious meal. Thanks to all that made this party successful!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1, 2009 (Tuesday)



Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will have a presentation on "Holiday Personal Safety". With the holiday season here, we will be reminded and updated on how to protect yourself this season. 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.

December 2-3, 2009 (Wednesday & Thursday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will take a trip to San Antonio, TX. Everyone that has signed up for the trip needs to be at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd., Houston, TX by 6:00 AM as the Bus will leave by 6:30 AM. We will stop at El Mercado Market Square for sightseeing and lunch. Then, we will head to Best Western Alamo Hotel. After that, we will head to Marriott Rivercenter for the river cruise, mall shopping, and dining. Bus will depart on Thursday at 8:45 AM after breakfast at the Hotel for Witte Museum for education on the Circus Folk - Secrets behind the Big Top. Please contact Gertie Sessions at 281-447-7575 (VP) or Julie Spaulding at 281-249-5276 (VP) for more information.

December 4, 2009 (Friday)



ASL Social will meet at Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant, 8775 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77024 from 4:00 PM till 9:00 PM. Let's meet and enjoy chatting with your old & new friends. Check their website at www.sweettomatoes.com. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at ejohnson127@comcast.net for more information.

December 5, 2009 (Saturday)



Houston Bass Club of the Deaf is hosting a Christmas Party with dinner at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 from 11:00 AM till 5:00 PM. Admission is \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Children under 12 years. Raffles-\$600 cash giveaway, door prizes, and silent auctions will be held. Please bring a wrapped Christmas gift (Crafts, fishing or Christmas items) under \$15 for fundraising which will go to 2011 National Bass Association of the Deaf Team Tournament/Houston Club of the Deaf. Please contact Juan Carrizales Jr., Chairperson at VP 281-712-8605.

December 9, 2009 (Wednesday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have their business/social meeting at West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 at 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Please bring your games to play and bring your friends to have a great time. We are having lunch to celebrate Christmas. To become a member of our organization, you must be 60 years old and fill in a form with Rochelle Simpson.

December 11 - 13, 2009 (Friday through Sunday)



Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church presents Christmas Drama 2009 about Deafville USA II. The dates and times are as followed: Friday, December 11 at 7:30 PM; Saturday, December 12 at 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM; and Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 PM. These performances are voiced for the hearing audience since all the actors and actresses are signing. It's held at 9920 Long Point, Houston, TX 77055. Their website is woodhavendeaf.org; then, click on HOME PAGE to scroll down to "Christmas Drama". For more information, you can contact them by TTY/Voice at 713-467-3325.

December 11, 2009 (Friday)



Houston Hand Talk Social will be at Baybrook Mall in Food Court, 19400 Gulf Freeway (I-45 South), Friendswood, TX 77546 from 5 PM till 9 PM. This is a fun way to meet people that are learning ASL. Let's meet and enjoy chatting with old and new friends. Any questions, please e-mail Roger Spivey at spivey39@yahoo.com.

December 12, 2009 (Saturday)



Deaf Houston Latino will meet at Lupe Tortilla's Restaurant, 2414 Southwest Frwy. Near Kirky, Houston, TX 77098 from 4 PM till 9 PM. For more information, please contact Rafael Gonzalez at lalacake25@tmail.com. Come and chat with old and new friends.

December 17, 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 281-249-5251 VP and let them know what you plan to bring. If you do not bring food, please bring \$5 to help cover the cost of providing food.

December 25, 2009 (Friday)



Christmas is an annual holiday celebrated on December 25 that commemorates the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Popular modern customs of the holiday include gift-giving, Christmas carols, an exchange of greeting cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and the display of various decorations; including Christmas trees, lights, and garlands, mistletoe, nativity scenes, and holly. Santa Claus is a popular mythological figure in many countries, associated with the bringing of gifts for children.

December 28, 2009 (Monday)



Joe's Banquet Center, 1300 East Hwy. 6, Alvin, TX 77511 will provide free meal for Seniors from 6 AM till 10 AM. It is free on the last Monday of each month. However, you have to pay for your drinks.

DONATIONS & NEWSLETTER DUES

Donations to Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Love Fund and Newsletter:

Thanks to Dameria Autry, Joy M Gibson, William Hebert, Nancy Krone, and Lennie Morton for their thoughtful donations.

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 Love Fund**. In the memo part of your check, please write down what the amount applies to or you can send a note. Please mail to address on back page. Thanks so much!

RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS:

Thank you for your renewal: Deanna Dupre, Joy M Gibson, Judith Griffin, Donald H Hahn, Deborah Lokey, Mary A Luna, Shirley Cox Miller, Zane Owens & Nancy Krone, Linda Smith, Robert Stevens, John & Betty Stone, M/M James Nathan Wallace, and Daril Williamson, Sr.

REOPENING SUBSCRIBER: Welcome back, Susan Jackson .

NEW SUBSCRIBER: Welcome to our new subscribers - Glenn Brunson, Elaine Palmer (a gift subscription from Lucille Suire), and Dale & Mary Tice. Lucille, thank you for your generous gift.



REST IN PEACE

OBITUARY



Gallaudet University legendary track and field, cross country and indoor track Coach **Tom O. Berg**, 86, passed away in Round Rock, TX on Sept. 28th. Berg was surrounded by his wife of 64 years, Betty Hogan Berg; daughter, Jennifer; and son, David as well as other family members. Tom & Betty moved from Colorado Springs, CO two years ago so they could be close to Jennifer, her husband, and their grandchildren in north Austin. Berg received many impressive honors and awards, but nothing compared to the naming of the national high school deaf track and field championship after him along with another legendary coach, Ruth Seeger. He made his last appearance at TSD's Gamblin Field last April and said, "Anything less than hard work is wasting the coach's time."



Mary Lou Mitchum, 82, changed her address to her heavenly home Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009. Funeral was held at 3:30 pm on Saturday in Moore Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation was held by friends from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm on Saturday at Moore Funeral Home. At Mary's request, memorials in lieu of flowers should be made to Psalm 40 Ministries, Box 14196, Arlington, Texas 76094. Mary was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was loved by all who knew her and will be remembered by her warm smile. Mary had a way of taking care of everyone. She was one of the first employees of the Hallmark Brothers in Kansas City where Hallmark was established. Mary was a prayer warrior and was a member of Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington. She worked several years with special needs students in the Arlington ISD. She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Helen Hardester; and her husband, Gene Mitchum. Survivors: Daughter, Pamela Gesford; son, Paul Mitchum and the Rev. Mark Mitchum (Melanie); six grandchildren; and one great-grandson.



Walter M. Richardson passed away Wednesday, November 11, 2009, in a Houston hospice center. He was born September 14, 1943, in Buna, TX, to Thomas and Minnie (Kirkendoll) Richardson. He worked as a printer for Matherne's Office Supply for 35 years. He was a member of Memorial Baptist Church, Texas School of the Deaf, and the Houston Association of the Deaf. He enjoyed fishing and helping others. Walter is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gloria



Richardson; and two brothers. He is survived by his son, Ronnie Richardson of Houston; daughters, Lisa Hernandez & husband, David, of Baytown, and Laura Richardson, of Houston; sister, Iris Jean Miller; sister-in-law, Neil Richardson; six grandchildren, Heather Colon, Jimmy Ruzieck, Mary Hernandez, David "Boy" Hernandez Jr., Riley Richardson, and Jordyn Richardson; seven great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. The family received friends Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 am at Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life was followed by the visitation at 11:00 am at Crespo & Jirrels Chapel. Burial was held at Cedarcrest Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Crespo & Jirrels Funeral and Cremation Services, 6123 Garth Rd, Baytown, Texas 77521, 281-839-0700. To view the obituary or post a tribute to the family, visit www.crespoandjirrels.com.

Beverly Lormand Decuir (Feb. 15, 1940 - Nov. 15, 2009). Funeral services were held at 2 pm on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at Vincent Funeral Home, Kaplan, LA. Honoring Beverly, 69, Class of 1959 at Louisiana School for the Deaf, who died Sunday, November 15, 2009 at Regional Medical Center of Acadiana. She was laid to rest at Kaplan Cemetery with Reverend David Broussard officiating the services. She is survived by one son, Steven Decuir & his wife Shirley of Kaplan; one sister, Barbara Menard of Houston, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Claude Decuir Jr.; her parents, Ellis and Electa Lormand; her brother, Francis Lormand; her brother-in-law, Milton Decuir; and her sister-in-law, Vivian Decuir. The family requested that visiting hours be observed at Vincent Funeral Home-Kaplan, 300 N. Eleazar Avenue, on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 from 8:00 am until services. A rosary was prayed at 11:00 am.



NEWS

Deaf Elderly Man In ICU After Home Invasion

By Sana Syed (Submitted by Linda Smith from DeafNetwork.Com, Nov. 13th)

An elderly North Texas man is fighting for his life after one of two home invasions that happened Tuesday morning. Police believe the same three people are responsible for a Fort Worth crime spree. The home invasions happened blocks from each other, on south Hampshire Boulevard, in Fort Worth. An elderly woman, who didn't want her face shown on television, says she's is still shaken up after three masked men kicked in her door just after midnight. "I thought they were gonna kill me when I saw the pistol," said victim Diane Thomas. Thomas is 72-years-old and says two men ransacked her home while a third person robbed her at gunpoint. The men stole money and jewelry. "I'm mad and sad. Most of all, I'm scared to death," she said.

Police believe the men then drove a mile down the street and broke into Frank Burk's house. Burk is known for being the one person who takes care of a local city park. Burk does the work voluntarily, despite the fact that he is 85-years-old and deaf. The elderly man's family members believe the suspects may have beaten him when he didn't do what they told him to do. "Because he didn't respond to their demands, because he's deaf. He would have if he had heard them," said Burk's niece Pam Fojtik. "I think that's why he ended up getting hurt." Fojtik says the suspects broke into her uncle's house through the garage and back door. As a result of the attack, Burk has brain damage and broken bones in his face. He remains in intensive care. Fojtik says her uncle may not survive. "He loves the Lord and he's ready to go home to the Lord if that's what God has in store for him," she said. Burk's attackers got away with a few dollars in change. They also stole his truck, but it was later found wrecked. While investigating one of the business robberies a witness noticed a car that looked like the one driven by the suspects. When police stopped the vehicle they found three people inside and a number of items stolen during the robberies. Police took two men and a 16-year-old into custody.

Statement by Council Member - Jolanda "Jo" Jones

Email received from Grant Martin

Every day I go to work and am inspired by these words on the wall at City Hall: "The People Are the City." My overriding goal as a Council Member is to make sure that city government serves all the people of Houston. That's why I submitted a budget request for audible crosswalk signals at busy intersections and requested that City Council meetings be interpreted in American Sign Language. Hearing-Impaired and Deaf Houstonians are our neighbors. They pay taxes and contribute to our quality of life and the fabric of our city. They deserve access to the same tools that keep us all safe, and access to the same public information available to Houstonians who are not hearing-impaired. Let's all work together to make sure that we make the promise of Houston available to all the people that make up our city.

Deaf Miscellaneous stuff

Submitted by Audrey Leger

Regarding the Fort Hood tragedy, we have read about the civilian police officer Kimberly Munley who shot the killer to stop the carnage. What about it? She was an interpreter for the deaf years ago in North Carolina before she moved to Texas to become a police officer.

The \$2.99 Special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns, and toast for \$2.99. "Sounds good," my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs."

"Then, I'll have to charge you \$3.49 because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.

"YES!!" stated the waitress.

"I'll take the special then," my wife said.

"How do you want your eggs?" the waitress asked.

"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

Update on Donna Fair

Submitted by Lavern and Donna Fair

(From Lavern) Our daughter, Donna, was in the hospital for almost a week for tests. These tests were negative except for the West Nile. She had to rest for 2 weeks without going to work. Her sister, Barbara, spent most of 24 hours with her. James and I watched her fever to make sure it didn't go up since she left the hospital.

(From Donna) I just left Infectious Disease Doctor on November 17th. He says I have West Nile encephalitis. I asked how I got it. He said thru mosquito bite.....so I want to warn everyone to wear spray to keep bugs away. I didn't even realized it. There's no way to really prevent it. I am not contagious.

If you all get fever over 102 or 103 for sure, take it seriously and go to Doctor or ER. He said it could take couple months to regain all my strength. Also, said I look much better and no confusion today compared to last week in hospital. So that's good.

I feel better mentally (believe it or not LOL!). I still feel tired, but I'm getting my rest. Let me be an example.....when u don't listen to God and He keeps trying to slow you down, He WILL find a way to make you listen to Him!!! I am definitely living proof!! I thank you all for your well wishes, thoughts, and prayers. I don't know what I would have done without any of you. If I don't respond to you, it isn't because I don't appreciate you - I'm just trying to rest when I can!

Love all of you! I am truly fortunate to have such wonderful friends. **Donna Fair**

Twenty reasons why vitamin D is better than a swine flu vaccine

Mike Adams, the Health Ranger, Natural News Editor

The news is out: Vitamin D is better than the swine flu vaccine at halting H1N1 infections. In fact, without vitamin D, chances are that a vaccine won't generate much of an immune response in the first place. That's because vitamin D is essential for healthy, active immune function. Here are the 19 more reasons:

- #1 Vitamin D activates your immune system to respond to any viral exposure.
- #2 Vitamin D naturally belongs in your body.
- #3 Vitamin D has been functioning as medicine in the human body since the beginning of the human species.
- #4 Vitamin D is available right now and there's no shortage of it.
- #5 Vitamin D won't cause your brain to swell and put you into a coma.
- #6 Vitamin D doesn't require an injection with a scary needle.
- #7 Vitamin D is found naturally in many foods such as sardines or salmon.
- #8 Vitamin D has a perfect safety record. No one ever died from consuming it.
- #9 Vitamin D is affordable. You can even get it for free (from sunlight).
- #10 Vitamin D doesn't contain viral fragments from diseased animals (like vaccines often do).
- #11 Vitamin D doesn't contain chimerical or other chemical preservatives.
- #12 Vitamin D doesn't need a warning sheet describing possible side effects.
- #13 Vitamin D doesn't hurt your arm when you take it.
- #14 Vitamin D also improves sugar metabolism, bone density, and healthy moods.
- #15 Vitamin D is safe for the environment.
- #16 Vitamin D doesn't contain squalene or other inflammatory adjuvant chemicals.
- #17 Vitamin D works on everyone and is safe for everyone, including infants and children.
- #18 Vitamin D is made in nature, not a laboratory.
- #19 Vitamin D is found naturally in breast milk.
- #20 You can walk, and chew gum, and generate vitamin D from sunshine all at the same time!

KEEP JEFFREY IN FLOUR BLUFF

Submitted by Linda Smith from DeafNetwork.com

Jeffrey Petty is a 6-year old boy who has dreams and goals in his life. He is being denied quality education at Flour Bluff Independent School District (FBISD) in Corpus Christi, TX simply because he is deaf. The school district is turning him away because they do not want to provide him with the appropriate communication access through a sign language interpreter. However, this is not the first time this happened. In 1994, the same situation happened to Katie Murch. However, because of the tremendous support from the community, FBISD dropped the case. Katie went on to graduate with honors while being involved with various student organizations and activities. She also became Miss Deaf Texas 2007-2009, first-runner up for Miss Deaf America 2008-2010, and a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Texas A&M Corpus Christi. She owes this success to the support of her family and friends and the education she received at FBISD.

Imagine what Jeffrey could achieve at FBISD! Please help us change the school's attitude about deafness and to support his enrollment at FBISD.

Deaf Seniors of America

Submitted by Audrey Leger

Here's website of www.dsa2011-chicago.org/ that you may find interesting to verify and search. The date is August 31 to September 6 in Chicago, IL. Enjoy reading....

Pimento Cheese Salad

Submitted by Margie Scribner

1 can crushed pineapple (8 oz) drained	1 1/3 cup boiling water
2 pkg. orange Jello (3 oz) or 1 large box	2 jars Pimento cream cheese
1/2 cup sugar	1 - 8 oz. cool whip

Pour boiling water over sugar and jello. Dissolve cream cheese in hot mixture. I usually use a whisk. When mixed well, add pineapple and set in refrigerator until it becomes thickened. Then, fold in cool whip and put in long baking dish to set for several hours.

Norwegian Apple Cake

Submitted by Margie Scribner

3/4 cup sugar	2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup all-purpose flour	1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp baking powder	1 medium tart apple - peeled and chopped
1/4 tsp. salt	1/2 cup chopped walnuts

In a bowl, combine the sugar, flour, baking powder, and salt. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Stir in apple and walnuts. Spread into an ungreased 9 inch pie plate. Sprinkle with 1 Tbsp. of Cinnamon Sugar, if desired. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Yield: 8 servings.

Tell me this will not happen to us

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?" "No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday." And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's go get something to drink."

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



I did some research on the West Nile virus. The symptoms are mild infections which include fever, headache, and body aches, which are often accompanied by a skin rash and swollen lymph nodes. There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus infection. Intensive supportive therapy is directed toward the complications of brain infections. Anti-inflammatory medications, intravenous fluids, and intensive medical monitoring may be required in severe case. There is no specific antibiotic or antidote for the Virus infection. There is also no vaccine to prevent the virus. For more information, check out the Internet by typing "West Nile Virus". That is where I got the information from.

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. My E-mail address is 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 large pictures to me, please make sure you use a larger envelope.

I wish you and your families a BLESSED & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Nancy Morris, Editor

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