



The next TDHHC newsletter will go out February 2018. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!!!

Mark your calendars:

December 2: Christmas Social at Jalapeno Tree in Tyler (Loop 323), 11AM

December 2: Coffee chat at Starbucks in Tyler, 7 – 9PM

---December 7: Last day of fall semester at TJC---

December 10: Deaf Ladies Christmas party, 2 – 5PM. Location TBA

---December 12 – December 20: Hanukkah---

December 14: Senior Citizens Luncheon at FD's in Tyler, 10:45AM – 1PM

December 15: Coffee chat at Whataburger in Lindale, 7 – 9 PM

---December 21 – January 2: Christmas Break for Tyler ISD---

---December 25: Christmas Day---

---December 31: New Year's Eve---

---January 1: New Year's Day---

January 6: TMAD at TASCA, tables games \$1 per person per game, 1 – 5PM

January 6: Coffee chat at Starbucks in Tyler, 7 – 9PM

---January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day---

---January 16: Spring semester begins at TJC---

January 19: Coffee chat at Whataburger in Lindale, 7 – 9PM

Poem on Deafness

By Dianne Kinnee

“What is it like to be deaf?”
People have asked me.
Deaf? Oh, hmm... how do I explain that?
Simple: I can't hear.

No, wait... it is much more than that.
It is similar to a goldfish in a bowl,
Always observing things going on.
People talking at all times.
It is like a man on his own island
Among foreigners.

Isolation is no stranger to me.
Relatives say hi and bye
But I sit for 5 hours among them
Taking great pleasure at amusing babies
Or being amused by TV.
Reading books, resting, helping out with
food.

Natural curiosity perks up
Upon seeing great laughter, crying, anger.
Inquiring only to meet with a “Never mind”
or
“Oh, it's not important”.
Getting a summarized statement
Of the whole day.

I'm supposed to smile to show my
happiness.
Little do they know how truly miserable I
am.
People are in control of language usage,
I am at a loss and really uncomfortable!

Always feeling like an outsider
Among the hearing people,
Even though it was not their intention.

Always assuming that I am part of them
By my physical presence, not understanding
The importance of communication.

Facing the choice between Deaf Event
weekend
or a family reunion.

Facing the choice between the family
commitment
And Deaf friends.

I must make the choices constantly,
Any wonder why I choose Deaf friends???

I get such great pleasure at the Deaf clubs,
Before I realize it, it is already 2:00 am,
Whereas I anxiously look at the clock
Every few minutes at the Family Reunion.

With Deaf people, I feel so normal,
Our communication flows back and forth.
Catch up with little trivials, our daily life,
Our frustration in the bigger world,
Seeking the mutual understanding,
Contented smiles and laughter are musical.

So magical to me,
So attuned to each other's feelings.
True happiness is so important.
I feel more at home with Deaf people
Of various color, religion, short or tall.
Than I do among my own hearing relatives.
And you wonder why?
Our language is common.
We understand each other.

Being at a loss of control
Of the environment that is communication,
People panic and retreat to avoid
Deaf people like the plague.

But Deaf people are still human beings
With dreams, desires, and needs
To belong, just like everyone else.