



*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.