

TDHHC Connections

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016



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This newsletter
is dedicated to uniting
the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
of East Texas and all supporters
by providing information and
reporting events that enhance
our lives and our community

To receive a newsletter
mail your name and address to
TDHHC at PO Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711-6134
or email:

connections@tdhhc.org

Articles and photos are welcome

*Sometimes we never know the true
value of a moment until it becomes a Memory*

Welcome autumn! This season is truly exciting for everyone with some cooler weather in East Texas where special friends, families, and loved ones gather together for the yearly holiday season.

The smell of fall often brings me back to my childhood days, riding in the backseat with my sisters while Momma and Daddy had their windows rolled down. And oh, that smell is definitely sketched in memory. We lived in Rochester, New York while I was attending Rochester School for the Deaf. My family sacrificed this move from Texas so that I could attend school and live at home back in the late 1960's.

Here we are back to that cherished memory when my Daddy would take us girls on a road trip in Upstate New York. I recall looking out the window in awe. The sight of the colorful trees was truly unbelievable and just gorgeous! It looked like our God the Master Artist splattered his talents on this earthly

palette. That picture is still vivid in my memory.

Momma and Daddy took us to this apple farm where we picked fresh apples right off the trees. My sister, Joanie, the middle child was busy eating her apple while sitting on the dirt ground, and Momma had my baby sister in



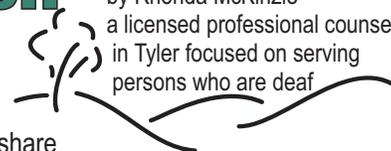
her arms. Unfortunately, with my teeth in braces and rubber bands crisscrossed in front, I couldn't bite into the apple. But my knight in shining armor, Daddy, took out his pocketknife and sliced that red delicious apple for me and he'd pop a slice in his mouth too, and he would smile, nod his head, "Yummy!" Aah, that is truly memorable.

I'm definitely thankful for Daddy, Momma,

Joanie, and Lori, and I'm blessed with a wonderful husband and children too. It is my prayer that each one of you will have a wonderful holiday filled with family, friends, and love.

Happy autumn folks,

Susie Grona



Holiday Tips for Deaf & Hearing Families

Both deaf and hearing family members need to find ways to include each other. Be patient and share memories and feelings with each other. Communication is key...one way or another.

For some families, holiday gatherings are the only times family members get to see each other. However, when it comes to hearing families who have members in their family who are deaf, it can be quite stressful if no one knows sign language, or there is no other strong form of communication. Often times maybe one family member knows how to fingerspell or maybe knows a few signs. For this one family member, it can become -in their mind “a burden” to be the only one responsible for the communication and feels they will miss out enjoying the family gathering. With more than 2 or 3 people gathered for a party, dinner or just a visit, communication can be exasperating. This is why some people who are deaf prefer not to attend such gatherings. Lack of communication causes a strain on everyone.

Oftentimes the family member who is deaf is left out and can't keep up. (The best lip reader usually only gets about 1/3 of the conversation one-on-one.) Sometimes they are told “I will tell you later” or “It's not important” which deprives the deaf member of equal access to family stories, traditions and general conversations. Often people who are deaf have no knowledge of family medical history or their own childhood medical history since many times these topics come up in family gatherings and there is no communication access. Many times both family members don't realize they are being insensitive.

There are always exceptions, but these are some general tips to try for both hearing and deaf family members:

Hearing

1. Make a point to invite your deaf family. Also ask them to bring a close friend so that they will have someone else to chat with, too. Not considering your deaf family's needs can be considered rude and insensitive-even oppressive, even though that may not be your intention at all.
2. If your deaf family member knows sign language and no one else knows sign language, consider hiring an interpreter. Interpreters are held to the code of professional conduct and must keep everything confidential. Some interpreters volunteer their time or have negotiable rates. You may include them in dinner, give them a gift card, pay for their gas at least and possibly a little more.(Some TDHHC interpreters are glad to do this if they are available.) Please request one far in advance because of scheduling.
3. Be aware of visual noise: flashing lights, many patterns, open blinds, sun, etc. This makes it more difficult to read lips or even signs.
4. Face the deaf or hard of hearing person and speak normally - not exaggerated but not mumbling; do not cover your mouth. Yelling does not help. Be sure to get their attention by gently tapping them on the shoulder first before speaking. Try to remind others not to talk at the same time. This helps the family member and the interpreter to understand the conversation more clearly.

Deaf

1. When asked to a family gathering, make every attempt to attend. Ask if you can bring a deaf friend for those times you feel left out so that you can have someone else to chat with.

Maybe try to let your family know your feelings about “feeling left out.” Suggest tips for them to help you to be able to understand what the family is discussing. It is best to

do this in person or at least try VP, text or e-mail. Even a letter. You never know when this could be the “last gathering” when certain family members are together. Life is too short to miss out and regret.

2. If you have a trusted friend who is an interpreter, you could ask them to come and interpret for the gathering and give them a gift card of something in appreciation. Some people who are deaf do

this, but your friend may not be comfortable doing this. If this is the case, please don't take it personally if they decline. Please respect their decision.

3. Be aware that children who are misbehaving, loud, or playing loud video games, etc. are very distracting to people who are hearing. Some are more sensitive to noise than others. Try not to be offended if your family alerts you to the kids loud activities. Also, please don't respond with “I don't hear it, I'm deaf; I don't care.” In hearing culture, that is considered rude and insensitive.

4. Gently remind others to first get your attention and to look at you face to face before speaking. Give others tips regarding what works best for you. Understand that even interpreters can't get a clear message when everyone talks at the same time. You may want to ask for clarification of what was said, especially on important topics.

It bears repeating...both deaf and hearing family members need to find ways to include each other. Be patient and share memories and feelings with each other. Communication is the key.

Blessings!



LOOKING INTO
SOMEONE'S
EYES CHANGES
THE ENTIRE
CONVERSATION.
KUSHALIGHT.COM



Coffee Chat Seniors Outting

1st Saturdays 7pm
 STARBUCKS
 1817 E. SE. Loop 323, Tyler
 and

3rd Fridays 7pm
 WHATABURGER
 311 S Main Street, Lindale

Thursday, November 3
 11:00am
 Cole's Backyard Grill
 3405 S. Main - Lindale, TX



Meet you there!

DATES PLACES

Thursday, November 3
 FREE Job Skills Event
 Tyler Rose Garden Center
 TDHHC providing interpreters 10am-4pm
 see TDHHC Facebook page for details

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5
 TJC West Campus - 10:30
 TDHHC Community Committee Meeting
 election of officers and new member applications
 and

TMAD Social - 11am
 TJC West Campus
 East TX Thanksgiving Feast
 Turkey & Ham provided
 Please bring side dishes from the list
 on TDHHC Facebook event page
 and

JOIN US at 4:30
 For Men and Women's
 Putt Putt Tournament
 2311 E SE Loop 323 at Old Troup Hwy
 next to Green Acres Bowling
 \$7 for 18 Holes



Saturday, December 3
 2nd Annual Kiss-Fist Christmas
 see the TDHHC website for details

Saturday, December 17
 Ladies Mexican Holiday Fiesta
 1pm-5pm - Hideaway Marina

What to Bring:
 a Mexican dish and/or dessert of your choice
 and
 A White Elephant gift for Senorita or Hombre
 RSVP to Susie Grona
 suzygrona@gmail.com



FALL BACK November 6

Turn clocks back
 an hour to
 standard time

Apache Alert!

● CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Bailey for passing the BEI Test of English Proficiency. She is preparing for the performance test at the Basic certification level. Here are Rebecca's comments:

"I am a recent graduate from TJC's ITP. While the program was quite challenging, it was also very fun! I feel it really prepared me to go out and interpret to the best of my abilities. The entire time I was enrolled, my professors pushed me to better myself and to keep going when I felt like giving up. Now I work as a substitute interpreter for a local school and I am working hard to become certified. I was lucky enough to have such an amazing education and the opportunity to work so soon after graduation. I am lucky that the Deaf community has been so welcoming and accepting of me in my journey. I will forever be grateful for all the people I've met and the connections I've made."

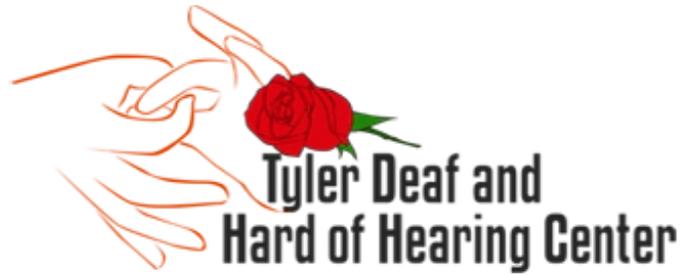
● ASL Students from Robert E. Lee HS, Whitehouse HS and TJC will compete in a contest at the TDHHC 2nd annual "Kiss Fist Christmas on Dec. 3rd. Come and see what it's all about!

● SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY 25, 2017
 Interpreting Workshop in the TJC Apache Rooms



Merry Christmas

SAVE THE DATE
 February 5, 2017
 Superbowl Party
 WINGSTOP
 in Lindale



We APPRECIATE our Supporters and Sponsors

Thank You!



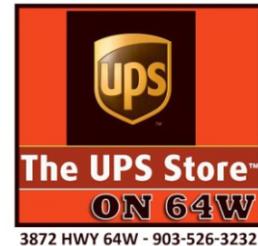
Thank You!



Thank You!

**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

Thank You!



Thank You!

To receive a FREE paper copy of the TDHHC newsletter in your home mailbox
Send your request with your name and full address to
TDHHC at PO Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711-6134
or email Newsletter@
connections@tdhhc.org

For more information about entering your articles or photos
email Newsletter @
connections@tdhhc.org



Tyler Rose Garden Center

Thursday, November 3, 2016

10 am – 8 pm FREE Job Skills Event

TDHHC will provide interpreters

from 10 am – 4 pm.

No registration required to attend event.

Childcare and transportation provided at no cost to you.

The purpose of this event is to provide practical information and resources to individuals who face barriers to employment. A brief intake, assessment, and referral process will be used to identify each individual’s barriers and have them meet with agencies able to assist them.

Childcare (for ages 2-12) will be provided by Champions for Children for *Take the Step* participants while they attend the event. (Parent/guardian must bring photo ID.)

City of Tyler residents will have access to Tyler Transit fixed route buses at no cost. Simply tell the bus driver that you are going to the *Take the Step* event. Questions? Call Tyler Transit at 903.533.8057

Smith County residents will have access to transportation provided by the Alliance for Regional Mobility (ARM). To arrange transportation, Smith County residents must call 903.592.3232 by end of day on Tuesday, November 1 (two days before the event).

Take advantage of this opportunity!

But wait! One week later... employers will be made aware of those who attended *Take the Step* which will enhance their opportunities at this hiring event:

“HIRING RED, WHITE, AND YOU!”
(hosted by TWC)

Rose Garden Center
Thursday, November 10
9 am - 1 pm

For more information about the event, go online to: <http://www.ethnn.org/take-the-step.html>
or call TDHHC at 903-617-6204.

Dinner Catered
by
Oliveto's
\$15 per person
\$7 age 10 & under
Seating Limited

Entertainment
Raffle drawings
Signing Santa
Photo packages by
Blessings Photography
Handmade Crafts for sale

Tyler Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center
Presents our Second Annual

**KISS-FIST
CHRISTMAS!
AN
ENCHANTED
EVENING**

Saturday, December 3, 2016
4:30 - 8:30pm
Woodmen of the World Bldg.
1922 Sybil Lane, Tyler, TX 75703

For more information contact Christine: email: coordinator@tdhhc.org or by phone: 903-617-6204

LIMITED SEATING - NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR - PRICE OF ADMISSION is SAME WITH or WITHOUT DINNER- NO REFUNDS

Kiss-Fist Christmas Ticket Purchase - Please print name for each ticket you are buying

Your Name: _____ your contact: email: _____ phone: _____

Name: _____ (please indicate Adult ___ or Child age 10 or under ___)

Name: _____ (please indicate Adult ___ or Child age 10 or under ___)

Name: _____ (please indicate Adult ___ or Child age 10 or under ___)

if you need additional tickets, please print names on backside of this order form and include #, \$ with your totals below

SUBTOTAL # adults: ___ X \$15 each = \$ ___ #Children ___ X \$7 each = \$ ___
TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____ cash ___ check No. _____ Money Order _____

Deadline for payment is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016
or pay at TMAD, Saturday, Nov 5 EVENT
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR - NO REFUNDS

MAIL TO: TDHHC
P.O. Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711

