



TDHHC Connections

Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center

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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 P.O. Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711-6134,
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“The History of Sign Language” Series - Part 2 of 5

by Sara Seamons (April 2017) <https://aslblog.goreact.com/>

French Sign Language Revolution

Abbe Charles Michel de l'Eppe was a French Catholic priest who studied theology and law. After he was ordained, l'Eppe devoted his life to caring for the impoverished French, and it was during this service in the slums of Paris that he met two twin sisters—both deaf. Another cleric had been tutoring the girls but died very suddenly. L'Eppe stepped in as their new teacher, a decision that started his lifelong mission of serving and educating the deaf population of France.



By the 1700s, a standardized sign language—Old French Sign Language—already existed in Paris. L'Eppe added to this system at his school.

The French Deaf community already used a common sign language in Paris, one that had developed organically over centuries. L'Eppe added to this Old French Sign Language system by creating a series of hand signals to replace the sounds of the alphabet. As he taught the twins, l'Eppe uncovered a breakthrough in deaf education: that deaf people learn visually all the same things that other people learn by hearing. Deaf and mute people already had a language that was every bit as powerful and expressive as spoken French, and the key to educating them was training them to communicate with their hands instead of their voices.

In 1760 l'Eppe founded the first free public sign language school in the world, funded by his own inheritance. The school was called Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets à Paris (The Royal Institution of Deaf-Mutes). As the French signing system and l'Eppe's methods of teaching continued to develop, deaf people from all over France flocked to his school. Even officials from other countries started to take notice. The emperor of Austria and the empress of Russia both sent teachers to learn l'Eppe's teaching style, and his influence eventually led to the creation of twenty-one schools total in France and many other countries.

Of course, l'Eppe wasn't the only influential sign language teacher of this time period. In England Thomas Braidwood was establishing the Braidwood's Academy for the Deaf and Dumb around the exact same time that l'Eppe's school opened in France. Braidwood taught his pupils using a unique two-handed method of sign language, and he was pivotal in developing the same British Sign Language used today in the United Kingdom.

But not all the teachers of the time were accepting of sign. Samuel Heinicke started the first German school for the deaf in 1778, but unlike l'Eppe, Heinicke was a staunch oralist. He falsely believed that the primary function of education for deaf children should be to develop their spoken language skills so they could fully integrate into hearing society.

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This is the one area where l’Eppe’s influence stood out among the other European teachers.

L’Eppe truly was the first “manualist” teacher, the first leader of deaf education who realized that sign language was the way deaf people should be communicating, and not just as a vehicle to help them speak oral languages. Aside from perpetuating the importance of sign, l’Eppe’s unique background in theology and law also made him a valuable ally for deaf rights in both religion and the court room. He was one of the first people in history to publicly assert that deaf people deserved to be treated as fully functioning human beings with something meaningful to contribute to society, even if they spoke a different language. It’s little wonder that today l’Eppe is known as the “Father of the Deaf.”



TJC faculty give a heartfelt goodbye to Rebecca Bailey, as she goes into full time interpreting at Tyler ISD.



Seniors Lunch at Posado’s

John Allen Davis
1944-2017



John Allen Davis, (72), passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, July 15, 2017, after a short battle with cancer. John was born October 19, 1944 to Carl and Mary Davis in Tyler, Texas. He received his education at Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas (1950-1962). He worked for over 20 years at Tyler Pipe before he retired. John was very active in the deaf community. In 2001, he received an award for his dedicated service to the Tyler Metro Association of the Deaf. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers Carl Davis, Jr., and Jerry Davis. He is survived by his sister Martha Looney, his sons John Davis and wife, Misty, and their daughters Kylie, Katie and Kennedy, Allen Shane Davis and wife Michele, and his children, Marianna, Austin, and Quentin, his step-son Brian Marquis, step-daughter Jennifer Black and husband Jeremy and their children Calista and Jack, and grand-daughter Gabrielle Collins and her children Freia and Bjorn. He is also survived by many cousins, nephews and nieces, all of whom he adored. John loved the Dallas Cowboys and Monday Night Wrestling, but his true joy came from spending time with his beloved children and grandchildren.

WINNERS! 



Women’s bowling competition winners: 1st Lexi, 2nd Jenna, and 3rd Madison



Men’s bowling competition winners: 1st Korbin, 2nd Tim, and 3rd Eric

September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 LABORDAY WEEKEND	22 LABORDAY WEEKEND
3 LABORDAY WEEKEND	4	5	6	7	8	9 Tyler Area Senior Citizens Association
10	11	12	13	14 ASPEN CREEK GRILL Senior Citizens Luncheon	-- WHATABURGER	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 TSD'S HOMECOMING DEAF CELEBRATION AT TCC
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 2-4: Labor Day weekend

September 5: TDHHC Board Meeting at 5:30 PM (for more info, email: coordinator@tdhhc.org)

September 9: TDHHC Committee Meeting at TASCA (Tyler Area Senior Citizens Association) 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM at 10495 County Rd. 2167, Whitehouse, TX (Susie Grona will email agenda soon.)

September 9: TMAD at TASCA (Tyler Area Senior Citizens Association) 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at 10495 County Rd. 2167, Whitehouse, TX
Food cost: \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. Optional \$1 donation or more for TASCA building use.

September 9: Coffee Chat 7:00 PM - 9:00PM at Starbucks in Tyler (by Hobby Lobby and Dairy Queen)

September 14: Senior Citizens Luncheon at Aspen Creek Grill 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at 1775 W SW Loop 323, Tyler, TX

September 15: Coffee Chat 7:00 – 9:00 PM, at Whataburger 311 S Main St Lindale, TX 75771

September 21: TJC Advisory Committee Meeting (contact Rhonda McKinzie at: rmck@tjc.edu)

September 23: TSD's Homecoming (www.tsd.state.tx.us)

September 23: Pilot School for the Deaf Reunion (www.pilotschoolfordeaf.homestead.com)

September 23: Deaf Celebration at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, TX (www.deafcelebration.org)

Did You Know?

The man who invented shorthand (a method of rapid writing by means of abbreviations and symbols), John Gregg, was deaf.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

FREE and open to the public
All ages and skills welcome!
(Young students must be accompanied by an adult)

Where:

Clarkston Elementary
2915 Williamsburg Drive

In the Cafeteria, off of Fairfax Dr

When:

Monday Evenings
Sept 18th-Dec 4th

Time:

6:00-7:00pm



For more information, contact Regina Cooper
903-262-1640

Regina.Cooper2@tylerisd.org

Classes meet on these dates: Sept 18, Sept 25, Oct 2, Oct 16, Oct 23, Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13, Nov 27, Dec 4





P.O. Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711-6134

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Thank you!