

Telling America's Stories

**By Bridging Deaf Cultures
@ Your Library**

**200 Reasons to Celebrate
American Sign Language and Deaf Education Now**

**By Alice L. Hagemeyer, in collaboration with
Organizations Serving the Deaf (OSD)**

A Creation of a Deaf Collaborative Organizational Culture

**With Tribute to
Laurent Clerc and Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet
First visionary leaders in the field of American Deaf Education**

**The Birth of American Sign Language
1816 – 2016
200th Anniversary**

**American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT
New York School for the Deaf – Fanwood in White Plains, NY
1817-2017
200th Anniversary**

**First distribution: 10/24/16
This is #2**

Introduction

Library Friends want to give back to America by telling stories and sharing deaf resources with local communities that are served by the public library.

They have been encouraged to ask organizations to form partnerships with the public library of their choice for observing December 3-10 as Clerc-Gallaudet Week in 2016. [See Organizations Serving the Deaf or OSD](#)

In case, the public library's space and meeting rooms might be fully booked in December 2016, OSD may choose to instead focus on celebration of the next deaf annual events like March 6: National Deaf Youth Day; March 13 – April 15: Deaf History Month or others [See Annual Deaf Events](#)

As partners, they have the specific responsibility for:

- Checking with a librarian who is responsible for the library policy for program accommodation and book signing
- Checking with the library's friends group about selling books and the related materials for library causes
 - E.g. honorarium fees for local ASL speakers, preservation of local deaf history, scholarships for local people with interests in library careers, writing contests, and others
- Setting up a “Deaf Culture and History Display” in the main lobby/appropriate area of the public library and/or presenting at least one deaf cultural program in the meeting room
- Selecting appropriate deaf resources for program agendas
 - E.g. presenters, performing artists, posters, art works, books, videos, periodicals, and other resources.
- Publicizing deaf annual events and activities through the use of mass media and networking with OSD. Some of you may want to ask your State Library to have the governor proclaim December 3-10 as Clerc-Gallaudet Week or to proclaim another annual deaf event
- Writing a story (limit 200 words) with ASL videos (limit 10 minutes) about your display or program for inclusion in “Telling America's stories”
 - [See 200 public library sites](#)

“I like stories well told. That is the reason I am sometimes forced to tell them myself.”

Mark Twain aka Samuel Clemens (1835-1910)

Premier writer of 19th century America with his works, “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”

About Alice's Book Project

Chris Wixtrom, my longtime colleague from Alexandria, VA, will be editing my work progress on this book project. Chris, who grew up in Riverside, CA across from the California School for the Deaf campus, fell in love with ASL and Deaf Culture. Alice first met Chris at the Arlington County Public Library in VA in 1991 and learned of her popular article published in 1988 called: "Two Views of Deafness." In 1997, Chris founded ASL Access. <http://www.aslaccess.org>

Later I will ask Renee V. McGrath of Missoula, MT, my former library intern and a long time contributor to the RED NOTEBOOK concept, for her input on my book before publishing.

"Telling Stories by Bridging Deaf Cultures @ Your Library" will be complete when we reach the goal of 200 public library sites. Meantime, the public will have free access to this work progress on the FOLDA website.

Librarians with deaf expertise are welcome to *key in relevant links* in the first four groups and will be acknowledged. Other sources listed are available from the FOLDA collection in which some will be ready for digitizing.

There will be no bibliography, but each of the 200 public library sites may highlight one or more books, including those for children and young adults, from their library display or program to encourage further reading or book discussion.

When published and ready to sell this book, proceeds will go to the National Literary Society of the Deaf, Inc. NLSLD promotes books, reading, literacy and libraries related to deaf cultures.

Last March 13, 2007, the NLSLD was invited to become a book reading promotion partner of the Center for the Book, in Library of Congress.

https://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4038

Last April 5, 2016, the NLSLD and the Center for the Book, in the Library of Congress co-sponsored an all-day discussion/workshop on "Telling America's Stories by Bridging Deaf Cultures @ your library

<https://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2016/16-052.html>

"The National Literary Society of the Deaf Inc. is honored to be a reading-promotion partner of the Center for the Book. Our program examines deaf history and culture and their impact upon America, one author at a time."

Alec McFarlane, President
National Literary Society of the Deaf, Inc
April 5, 2016

Tentative Groups

1. Facts and Resources (on-going)
2. Deaf Annual Events (on-going)
3. Organizations Serving the Deaf (OSD) (on-going)
4. Got Deaf Culture @ your library? Yes, You Do! (on-going)
5. 200 Public Library Sites (pending)
6. About Alice L. Hagemeyer
7. Special Packet while supplies last
8. Future Library Projects

WORK IN PROGRESS

It will be complete after we reach the goal – 200 public library sites – hopefully within a year.

Group 1- Facts and Resources

The Libraries Transform Campaign

Launched in October 2015 by the American Library Association (ALA) to increase public awareness of the value, impact and services provided by libraries and library professionals

<http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/>

Displaying Deaf Culture, History and Presentations of Deaf Cultural Programs through the partnership of OSD (Organizations Serving the Deaf) with public libraries will play an important role in America's local communities.

Such shared resources and networking will encourage the library to carry out its mission by providing equal access to information and services that empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all, and specifically for the American deaf community.

It has been said that more than a quarter of U.S. households don't have a computer with an Internet connection. And we also know that most students can't afford scholarly journals on a ramen-noodle budget and employers want candidates to know the difference between a web search and research.

*A Google search will give you 5 million hits.
A librarian will guide you to the correct answer.
Libraries Transform*

Nothing About Us, Without Us

The United Nations used the motto - Nothing About Us, Without Us – for its annual International Day of People with Disabilities on December 3, 2004.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/iddp2004.htm>

The National Association of the Deaf also used this motto for its 51st Biennial Conference, July 3-7, 2012 in Louisville, KY. <https://nad.org/louisville>

This motto gives the idea that no policy should be decided by anyone without the full and direct participation of members of any group affected by this policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability-based and other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

The purpose of the first National Convention of Deaf-Mutes held in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 25th, 1880 was to deliberate on the needs of the deaf as a class.

Edmund Booth, first chair <https://nad.org/nad-history>

The Birth of American Sign Language

Laurent Clerc taught French Sign Language to Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet at the Deaf Paris School before they departed France for America. Clerc's close deaf colleague, Jean Massieu, also taught Gallaudet.

During their 52-day voyage across Atlantic Ocean on the ship, *Mary Augusta*, from June 18 to August 9, 1816, Clerc practiced writing and reading English fluently and Gallaudet practiced signing. When they arrived in America, they continued to communicate with each other in sign language and this language became what we now call American Sign Language (ASL).

Nine months later they and Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell co-founded American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT on April 15, 1817.

<http://www.disabilitymuseum.org/dhm/lib/catcard.html?id=687>

“Diary of Laurent Clerc’s Voyage from France to America in 1816” is in the collection of Yale’s Sterling Library, New Haven, CT.

Schools - Abbé de l’Épée See also Statues

On July 29, 1791, two years after Abbé de l’Épée’s death, the newly established French government approved the funding for the Institut National de Jeunes Sourds de Paris (INJS) – the school that he had founded in 1760s. It was the world’s first public school for the deaf.

Many French Sign Language (FSL) speaking students from this school in the 18th and 19th centuries became successful writers, artists, educators, leaders and professionals. Among them was Laurent Clerc whose famous encounter with Thomas T. Gallaudet would bring deaf education and sign language to the Americas.

<http://giving.gallaudet.edu/HOF/pastinductees/the-abbe-charles-michel-de-lepee>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSfpkAOp7GY>

<http://joelbarish.com/video/france-deaf-paris-school/>

<http://www.injs-paris.fr/>

Statues - Abbé de l’Épée

On August 22, 1913, during an NAD Session, the Rev. James H. Cloud of Missouri moved that a suitable memorial in the shape of a statue be erected to perpetuate our gratitude to the pioneer of deaf education named Abbé de l’Épée. It was carried out and he volunteered to serve on the committee. Four years later he was elected the 10th NAD president (1917-1923).

On August 7, 1930 - 17 years later – after the success of raising \$15,077.42 and the hiring of Eugene Elmer Hannan as the Deaf sculptor, the NAD unveiled the statue during its 16th conference and the 4th World Congress of the Deaf in Buffalo, NY. NAD also celebrated its 50th anniversary at that time.

Over 3,000 people, including government officials from France and other countries, attended the unveiling of the statue on the campus of St. Mary’s School for the Deaf. The Rev. Cloud did not live to witness the NAD’s historical event as he died four years before on October 20, 1926 at the age of 64. <http://videocatalog.gallaudet.edu/?video=19198>

“Abbé de l’Épée in America”, by Alice L. Hagemeyer 2012 (22 pages)

Group 2 - Deaf Annual Events

December 3 – 10 - Clerc-Gallaudet Week (CGW)

Dual Purpose: To celebrate the birth of the two visionary leaders in the field of American Deaf Education who were born in December: Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (Dec 10, 1787) and Laurent Clerc (Dec 26, 1785) and to observe the two International Days – People with Disabilities on Dec 3 and Human Rights on Dec 10 – as proclaimed by the United Nations and US President. The 2016 Theme: Celebrate ASL Bicentennial (1816-2016)

Originated in 1974 as “Deaf Awareness Week” by the DC Public Library, in collaboration with the National Association of the Deaf and the DC Deaf Community

March 6 - National Deaf Youth Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA1BpegpXhc.7>

March 13 – April 15 - National Deaf History Month

The month acknowledges three important deaf milestones in American history.

(1) **March 13** – The first Deaf Civil Rights Victory Day in 1988 which led to the passage of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law on July 26, 1990

Thanks to Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, from March 6 to 13, 1988, as the first deaf person, Dr. I. King Jordan, became the 8th president of 124-year-old institution – Gallaudet University. <http://videocatalog.gallaudet.edu/?video=16458>

(2) **April 8** – the first and only liberal arts college in the world founded for the Deaf in America in 1864

*Thanks to Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, the first deaf lobbyist at the Congress, and her youngest child of six and the second son – Edward Miner Gallaudet – a mover and shaker of the first institution of higher learning for the Deaf – his dream before he was appointed by Amos Kendall as the first superintendent of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and the Blind on May 30, 1857. Source: *History of the College for the Deaf 1857-1907*, by Edward Miner Gallaudet. Edited by Lance J. Fischer and David L. de Lorenzo*

(3) **April 15** – the first public school for the Deaf in America founded in 1817

Thanks to Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell for caring about parents like him who did not want to send their deaf children to Europe for education; they sent Gallaudet to Europe to find the best teaching method for the deaf in America

http://www.pbs.org/weta/throughdeafeyes/deaflife/first_school.html

Group 3 – Organizations Serving the Deaf (OSD)

Criteria:

1. Name and acronym
2. Former name if any
3. Founding year
4. Web site address
5. Firsts (e.g. president, founder, mover & shaker, pioneer, celebrity, hero)
6. Type: Academic, School, Public or Special (i.e. nonprofits, businesses, etc)
7. Town and zip
8. Collection Preservation Source
9. Notes
 - Option: Name of contact and title
 - List of resources from the FOLDA collection ready for digitizing if not already done by Gallaudet, RIT/NTID, CUN, DC Public Library or others Print copies available for researchers and writers

Sample

1. National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

2. National Convention of Deaf-Mutes
3. August 25, 1880, Inc. 1900 in Washington, DC
4. www.nad.org
5. **Firsts:**
 - Mover and Shaker:** Thomas Brown with Laurent Clerc as his mentor in the 1850s
 - President:** Robert P. McGregor
 - NAD convention chair:** Edmund Booth, a former student and colleague of Laurent Clerc
6. Nonprofit, National
7. Silver Spring, MD 20910
8. NAD Collection 1880 – 1991 at Gallaudet Archives
<http://www.gallaudet.edu/library-deaf-collections-and-archives/collections/manuscript-collection/mss-081.html>
9. Notes
 - a. *NADmag and earlier periodicals (past and current issues)*
 - b. *National NAD Biennial Conventions and the related (only past issues)*
 - c. *NAD publications (out of print)*
 - d. *History of FOLDA NAD Section.*

1. ASL Access

2. NA
3. October 31, 1997
4. www.aslaccess.org
5. Firsts: Founding President: Chris Wixtrom
6. Nonprofit and International
7. Alexandria, VA 22306
8. Collection at ASL Access office
9. Notes

Chris' professional history, the record of videos contributions to the public library, articles and others ready for digitizing

Group 4 – Got Deaf Culture @ your library? Yes, You Do!

Maryland - Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL)

DCDL is the new “first stop” information center that will provide Maryland residents, organizations serving the deaf (OSD), librarians and the staff of public, school, college, university and other libraries in the state of Maryland with FREE access to online resources on deaf cultures, a comprehensive electronic collection of deaf resources, deaf cultural programs, and training programs for library staff.

Public libraries today are less about what they have for people and more about what they do for and with people, such as shared resources, cultural programming, and networking with organizations and library friends. Public libraries along with the support of schools, academic institutions, public and private services, for profits and nonprofits will reach out to the deaf diversity -- babies and families, students, teens, people learning new cultures, returned citizens, the unemployed; individuals with mental illness and others.

The Deaf with various hearing levels and of all ages E.g. Speaking ASL, Deafhood, Deaf Gain, DeafBlind, and Individuals with Intelligence / Developmental Disabilities

ASK A LIBRARIAN

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Group 5 – 200 Public Library Sites

1. Name of your organization (sponsor)
2. Website
3. Contact name, title and email address
4. Location of the Public Library
Name of town and zip code
5. About Display or
6. About Program
7. Library contact name and email address
8. Date:
9. Clerc-Gallaudet Week or Other
10. Email a story about your display and/or event – limit **200** words and 10 minute for ASL video via to ahagemeyer@gmail.com

We will follow up. Thank you for being a library friend.

Visit www.folda.net/nls often for rewritten or additional data

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This is #2

Email comments via ahagemeyer@gmail.com

Group 6 – About Alice L. Hagemeyer

*American Library Association (ALA), member since 1976; awarded honorary in 2007

*One of 15 visionary leaders selected in 2014 by the Gallaudet community in honor of Gallaudet University on its 150th anniversary in 2014

*Creator of Two Series: “I Made America Great!” & “Bridging Deaf Cultures @ your library”

*Founding president of the Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action or FOLDA since 1986

FOLDA, a current public service arm of the Library for Deaf Action or LDA (deaf-owned business), voluntarily shares deaf news and library issues with library friends throughout the country and globally,

(1) <http://www.gallaudet.edu/150/celebrate/visionary-leaders/alice-hagemeyer.html>

(2) http://www.deafpeople.com/dp_of_month/hagemeyer.html

(3) <https://nad.org/news/2012/3/celebrate-deaf-history-month-march-13-april-15-2012-0>

(4) <http://www.folda.net/home/index.html>

A Deaf Culture Not To Be Lost: Orphans

Alice is currently working on her long-awaited book for young readers, “A Deaf Culture Not To Be Lost: Orphans”. It will consist of the following four main topics, each 25 pages. Photos, illustrations, and notes will be added.

(1) Orphan Train Riders - being a deaf descendant of 3 hearing orphan train riders – her mother and two uncles;

(2) Deaf Residential School – being a deaf ward for 13 years (5-18) and who spent time with her parents and two siblings only during the summer time and Christmas break;

(3) Gallaudet University – being an undergraduate student for 5 years and whose history began with Amos Kendall, adopted father of five deaf orphans when he founded the first Deaf Residential School in DC (1857) now a part of Gallaudet University.

(4) Alice L. Hagemeyer – being a deaf mother adopting David, a 5½ years old deaf orphan in 1972 from Windsor, Canada.

My grandson, Antonio Guzman Hagemeyer in Puerto Rico will be my “consultant” He is already an author and illustrator of a children’s book, “Amigos Diferentes” (translated “Different Friends”). It was published in 2015 in Spanish by Story Jumper. Antonio and two other elementary students from 15 schools in Puerto Rico won the contest for writing the best books for children in Puerto Rico. His book was about six different “animals” living under the water that must learn to get along together. Fish, crab, turtle, octopus, seahorse, and shark!

Antonio (KODA) is fluent in English, Spanish and American Sign Language. Antonio wants to become a public librarian because he loves deaf cultures. Antonio and Andrew, his younger brother, are members of the ASL Club at the school. Noreen, their mother (CODA) is my hearing daughter and their father, Rafael Guzman was deaf who passed away two years ago. KODA stands for Kids (under 18) of Deaf Adults and CODA for adult children of deaf adults.

Special Packet:

“Laurent Clerc, George W. Veditz and Gallaudet University”

Available for sale to library friends and Organizations while supplies last

The first 20 orders will receive a complimentary book, “The Life Story of Mother Delight Rice and Her Children.”

Author Ronald M. Hirano, a deaf Nisei (Japanese-American), was adopted and raised by Delight Rice when his family was interred in relocation camps during World War II. Delight Rice (CODA) was the first teacher of the deaf in the Philippines. CODA stands for Children of Deaf Adults.

Books are also available for purchase
at <http://www.savorywords.com/books/> Deaf-owned business

A recommended book for the library when observing appropriate annual events such as the following: * US President Proclamation

***National Adoption Month (November)**
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/about/history/> and

Clerc-Gallaudet Week (December 3-10)

National Deaf History Month (March 13 – April 15)

***Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month** (May)
<http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>

Mother, Father Deaf Day (last Sunday of April)
<https://www.coda-international.org/MFDDay>

International Week of the Deaf (last week of September)
<https://wfdeaf.org/about-us/international-week-of-the-deaf>

About the Special Packet

In 2015, many Gallaudet alumni and friends received their complimentary copy of the special packet called “Laurent Clerc, George W. Veditz and Gallaudet University.” Courtesy of Library for Deaf Action

This packet was the former fundraiser of Gallaudet Class of 1957 for Gallaudet Archives in honor of the 150th anniversary of Gallaudet University in 2014.

We now sell them as a fund raiser for the National Literary Society of the Deaf, Inc. (NLSD) while supplies last.

The cost of each packet is \$30 postpaid

Plus free supplements. Please register through FOLDA if not already.

If interested, please make checks payable to

Library for Deaf Action and mail to:

2930 Craiglawn Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1816

This special packet (8.5” x 11”) includes the art work of three Gallaudet alumni (Jean Boutcher, Lois Hoover and the late Ruth Peterson) and useful documents for both heightening public awareness of Gallaudet University and acknowledging the deaf community of the two notable deaf leaders: Laurent Clerc, the first deaf visionary leader in the field of American Deaf Education in the early 19th century and George W. Veditz, the first deaf visionary leader to advocate for the preservation of the deaf culture and sign language in the early 20th century

Future Library Projects

If interested to work on next topics, please let Alice L. Hagemeyer know.

Maryland in 2018

- **Telling Maryland's Stories by Bridging Deaf Cultures @ your library**
 - With 150 reasons to celebrate deaf education and libraries in 2018
 - Tribute to Enoch Pratt, Maryland Philanthropist
 - Maryland School for the Deaf - 150th anniversary 1868-2018
 - Facts and Resources (rough draft)
1. In 1867, Enoch Pratt assisted in founding the MSD (former Maryland Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb)
 2. The original buildings at the MSD were the Hessian Barracks used during the Revolutionary War to detain Hessian mercenaries who were hired by the British. They are also used by Lewis and Clark to store supplies before their famous expedition began.
 3. In 1882, after many years of personal research and study, Enoch Pratt established the public library system in Baltimore, The Enoch Pratt Free Library, with a main library and four branches, and he donated \$1, 250.000 to Baltimore City for the Library on the condition that Baltimore City continue to fund the library in perpetuity
<http://mlis.state.md.us/2008rs/bills/sj/sj0005f.pdf>
 4. George W. Veditz founded Maryland School for the Deaf Alumni Association
 5. Leon Auerbach was the mover and shaker of the Maryland Association of the Deaf
 6. Jackie Stover, Mervin D. Garretson and Alice L. Hagemeyer visited the public library in all parts of MD in late 1980s.
- 150 public library sites **Pending**

United Nations in 2018

- **Telling the World's Stories by Bridging Deaf Cultures @ your library**
 - With 60 reasons to celebrate birth and founding anniversaries of notable people and organizations in 2018
 - Tribute to Ausma Smits, History Mover and Shaker
 - International Week of the Deaf - 60th anniversary 1958-2018
 - Facts and Resources (rough draft)
1. Deaf History International 1991 For all with interests in the study, preservation and dissemination of deaf people's history <http://www.deafhistoryinternational.com/>
 2. World Federation of the Deaf 1951 <https://wfdeaf.org/>
 3. Discovering Deaf Worlds 2006 www.discoveringdeafworlds.org
 4. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions <http://www.ifla.org/>
 5. Book: *World Federation of the Deaf: A History* by Jack R. Gannon
<https://nad.org/wfdbook/>
- 60 public library sites pending

The credit for the actual establishment of DEAF HISTORY INTERNATIONAL goes to Ausma Smits (USA), who untiringly did the "plowing and planting" to make it all happen. She called the meeting of historians at The Deaf Way Conference, drafted the Bylaws, set up groundwork committee meetings, and invited some key individuals for consultation and feedback.

<http://www.deafhistoryinternational.com/history-goals-of-dhi/>