

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 2017 or 2018. [See Organizations Serving the Deaf or OSD](#)

In case, the public library's space and meeting rooms might be fully booked in December 2017 or 2018, 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) about your display or program for inclusion in "Telling America's stories"

"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 the first 200 public library sites. Meantime, the public will have free access to this work progress on the FOLDA website www.FOLDAdeaf.net.

Librarians with deaf expertise may *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. NLS promotes books, reading, literacy and libraries related to deaf cultures.

Last March 13, 2007, the NLS 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 NLS 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 two years.

Group 1- Facts and Resources

Early 19th Century

When Clerc and Gallaudet arrived safely in America on August 9, 1816,

1. America had just celebrated its 40th anniversary – 1776-1816 (July 4).
2. Around 8 million people lived in 18 states.
3. James Madison was the 4th US president (March 4, 1809-March 4, 1817)
4. George Washington, the first US president (April 30, 1789-March 4, 1797), was not living.
5. John Adams, the 2nd US president (March 4, 1797- March 4, 1801) and Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd US president (March 4, 1801-March 4, 1809) were still living.
6. Henry Clay was the Speaker of the House.
7. No free public school existed for the Deaf
8. No free public school existed for the Blind
9. No free public school existed for the Hearing a.k.a. normal
10. Some children attended private schools in America or Europe.
11. The Library of Congress had just celebrated its 16th anniversary on April 24, 1816.
12. The Library Company a.k.a. Subscription Library in Philadelphia had existed since 1731, when it was founded by Benjamin Franklin with the support of his shareholders.
13. One formal sign language already recognized in Massachusetts as to what we call today MVSL or Martha's Vineyard Sign Language. E.g...
<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/09/marthas-vineyard-sign-language-asl/407191/>
14. Indian Sign Language already used by various native tribes of North America.
http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/native_american_sign_language.htm

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.

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).

<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

The following has been observed in past years by the United States; some will apply to Canada and other nations. Public libraries are encouraged to form partnerships with local OSD (Organizations Serving the Deaf) for observing one or more annual deaf events throughout the year.

Inventor's Day

February 11, birth date of Thomas Alva Edison

Since 1983 - A US presidential proclamation

To observe the birth anniversary of Thomas Alva Edison, an inventor with 1,093 patents His deafness was actually an asset as he once said it allowed him to work with less and to sleep deeply, undisturbed by outside sources.

National Deaf Youth Day

March 6

Began in 2017

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

Deaf History Month

March 13-April 15

Since 1997

To commemorate the three most important deaf milestones in American history

1. **March 13, 1988:** The first Deaf Civil Rights Victory Day 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, 1864:** Charter signed by the US President Abraham Lincoln, authorizing the Board of Directors of the Columbia Institution (now Gallaudet University) to grant college degree to deaf students. The first and only liberal arts college in the world founded for the Deaf in America

Thanks to Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, the first deaf lobbyist at the Congress, and Edward Miner Gallaudet (EMG), her youngest child of six and the second son, 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, 1817:** The first public school for the Deaf in America opened in the Western Hemisphere, known as the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT

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

Mother, Father Deaf Day

Last Sunday in April

Since 1994

To give members of Children of Deaf Adults, known as CODA, the opportunity to honor their deaf parents and to recognize the gifts of culture and language they receive.

CODA has library resources. www.coda-international.org

Better Hearing and Speech Month

May

Since 1927

To raise public understanding about hearing, voice, speech, and language disorders, and recognize speech and hearing professionals for the important work they do.

American Speech-Language Hearing Association has library resources. www.asha.org

National Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

Full week in June that includes the 27th, the birth date of Helen Keller

Since 1984 – A US presidential proclamation

To observe the birth anniversary of Helen Keller who was born on June 27 in 1880 and to enhance public awareness about deaf-blind people's needs for full participation in

Helen Keller National Center has library resources www.hknc.org

International Week of the Deaf

Last full week in September

Since 1958

To promote public awareness in local communities to strengthen solidarity among deaf people and to call attention to concerns important to deaf people

Some countries observe the Week at different times during the year. www.wfdeaf.org

Clerc-Gallaudet Week (CGW)

December 3 – 10

Since 1974

Originated 1974 as “Deaf Awareness Week” by the DC Public Library, in collaboration with the National Association of the Deaf and the DC Deaf Community; Followed by week names: Deaf Action and Deaf Heritage and now CGW.

1. To celebrate the birth anniversary of the two visionary leaders in the field of American Education who were born in December: Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet on December 10, 1787 and Laurent Clerc on December 26, 1785; and
2. To observe the two International Days: December 3 and 10

Since 1992, Dec 3 is the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities
<http://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/>

Since 1948, Dec 10 is the United Nations International Day of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

This page updated Dec 3, 2016 <http://www.foldadeaf.net/crossroads/index.html>

Group 3 – Organizations Serving the Deaf (OSD)

See also Group 5 – 200 Public Library Sites Application form

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 Cultures @ your library? Yes, You Do!

Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (MD DCDL)

MD 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.

MD DCDL project is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the Division of Library Development & Services.

The new website URL: <http://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/mddeafculturedigilib>

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.

Contacts

Irene Padilla, Assistant Superintendent of Libraries

Division of Library Development and Services

Irene.padilla@maryland.gov

410-767-0435 phone

410-371-4288 mobile

Susan Cohen, MD DCDL Project Coordinator

Susan.Cohen2@montgomerycountymd.gov

videophone: 301-637-2964

TTY: [240-777-0958](tel:240-777-0958)

Group 5 – 200 Public Library Sites

APPLICATION FORM

- 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 via to ahagemeyer@gmail.com**

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

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

First distribution: 10/24/16

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) <https://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/alice-hagemeyer>

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

(3) <http://www.foldadeaf.net/home/index.html>

A Deaf Culture Not To Be Lost: Orphans

Alice is currently working on her long-awaited book for young readers.