

TRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

Austin, Texas

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January, 2012

Volume 7

Issue 1



Holiday Greetings from Downtown Austin, Texas



"Supermoon" Rises: Biggest Full Moon in 18 years Occurs March 19, 2011, Saturday night. The full moon is at its closest point to the Earth since March, 1993. (Photo by American-Statesman)

From Travis Association of the Deaf-Senior Citizens (TAD-SC)

Earl Day, President James Ed White, Vice-President Joanne Brininstool, Secretary Glenn Brunson, Treasurer



Beth Strain, Entertainment Committee Brenda Mills, Entertainment Committee Jimmy & Eileen Brookes, Subscription & Mailing Manager Nicholas Garza, Membership Chairman

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2012-2013 TADSC Officers

Earl Day, President
James Ed White, VicePresident
Joanne Brininstool,
Secretary
Glenn Brunson, Treasurer

Eileen Hurne
Hospitality Committee
Beth Strain,
Entertainment Committee
Brenda Mills,
Entertainment Committee

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING at 1:00 p.m.

South Austin Senior Activity Center 3911 Manchaca Road Austin, Texas 78704

HAPPY NEW YEAR! January 5, 2012

TAD-SC Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Larry Evans will give some information on new TAD videos from Troy Hill's time.

We've Moved to a Large Room!!

February 2, 2012 March 1, 2012 April 5, 2012

May 3, 2012

Sixth Annual TAD-SC Picnic

June 7, 2012
July5, 2011
August 2, 2011
September 6, 2011
October 4, 2011
December 6, 2012
LVSMSC & TAD-SC

Christmas Lunch

TAD-SC CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 1, 2011



The Travis Association of Deaf Senior Citizens had a Christmas party instead of a business meeting on Thursday afternoon, December 1st at the South Austin Senior Citizens Activity Center at 3911 Manchaca Road. Seventy-eight (78) members and visitors were present.

Robert Giuntoli of Sorenson Communications gave a presentation about the new nTouch Video Relay System.

There were several announcements.

Jack Busenbark announced that there was a Gallaudet Alumni event at the ACCRiverside campus on Saturday December 3rd from 1 to 3 pm, at cost of \$15 per person for appetizers served by Paul Rutoski's chef, Kurt. The deadline for RSVP was that day.

Gertrude Galloway announced David Myers is to retire on December 31st and she passed a basket for donations.

Larry Evans gave some information on new TAD videos from Troy Hill's time that will be made. One of them involves a Dallas basketball game and banquet. He also announced TAD will be sending out E-letters with TAD information to members and non-members alike so that people can see what TAD is doing for them.

Prizes were drawn. Larry Evans won a 19 inch HD TV set donated by Sorenson Communications. Beth Strain and Brenda Mills, the TAD-SC Entertainment Committee, also had some cash prizes to award the lucky persons whose names were drawn.

Cookies and punch were served. It was a very nice party.



Robert "RG" Giuntoli, Sorenson Communications



Barbie Vicencio, Brenda Mills, and Beth Strain



On Thursday, December 1, 2011 about seventy-eight TAD-SC members and visitors had a cheery Christmas social. Cookies and punch were served.





Marian Seale and James Maxwell were awarded prizes for the best Christmas costumes. Everyone enjoyed themselves.



\$25.00 DOOR PRIZE WINNERS Left to right: Barbie Vicencio, Sandra Turner, Beth Strain, and James Goolsby (Santa Claus played by Glenn Brunson)





Larry Evans won a 19 inch HD TV set donated by Sorenson Communications.

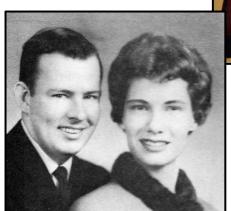


On Wednesday, December 14, 2011 Walt and Franna Camenisch gave an appreciation party for the TSD Heritage museum volunteers at Camenisch's home. Attached is a photo: Left to Right; Brenda Mills, Brenda Oates, Barbara and Glenn Brunson, Beth Strain, Janet Morris, Joanne Brininstool, Franna Camenisch, Bobby Creed, Jodi Oates, and Rosie Serna. *The volunteers greatly enjoyed this wonderful party and the beautiful Christmas decorations*.

50th Wedding Anniversary



Jimmy and Eileen Brookes celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 22, 2011 while cruising the Caribbean islands.



They were surprised when the cake was given to them in the ship's main dining area.

They were married on November, 22, 1961 in Austin, Texas.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JOAN PATE

Joan Pate's children helped her have a memorable birthday on November 20, 2011. Her oldest daughter, Brenda Cuellar, had a Mexican dinner for Joan on Saturday, November 19th, with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren present to help Joan celebrate the event. A granddaughter-in-law made a purple birthday cake. On Sunday, November 20th, Joan's other daughter, Linda, fixed meat loaf and trimmings with cake for another celebration. Joan has four daughters, 15 grand-

children, 32 great-grandchildren, and a new great-great grandson.

OPEN HOUSE AT APACHE TRAILS

Vernon and Joan Pate attended an Open House event for deaf senior citizens at the new Apache Trails apartments in Tempe, Arizona on Wednesday, April 16th. There was a very nice crowd of approximately 375 there. Joan's youngest brother, Art Burnett, resides there. Joan and Vernon's daughter, Linda Moredo, drove them there to enjoy this occasion.

During the 1943-1944 school year, Mrs. Melver (Beasley) Hunter had just graduated from the University of Texas after participating in a teacher training program at TSD under Principal Hugo F. Schunhoff. That fall, she became the new Fourth Grade Manual Class teacher. She also got married during the Christmas holidays. Vernon Pate plans to donate a picture of the 4th grade to the TSD Heritage Center. (Submitted by Joan Pate)

TSD 4th Grade Manual class (1943-1944)



Left to Right: First row; Gladys Dyess, Rose Stoffels, Jessie Bolton, Betty May Leggett, Lavern McCanlies, Back row; Charles Graf, Lewis Stovall, Perry Hale, and Don Sowell (center). (Vernon and Joan donate this picture to TSD Heritage Center).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send any news announcement, note of favorite recipes by January 18th, 2012 to TAD-SC Editor Glenn Brunson, P.O. Box 41134, Austin, Texas 78704, or email gbrunson@austin.rr.com

Thank you.

The most snowfall in Austin History



The most of snowfall in Austin history, it turns out, was 9.7 inches on November 11th, 1937. That's a pretty healthy snowfall for anywhere in a 24-hour period, but for Central Texas it's darn near apocalyptic.

The second most snowfall in Austin history was 6.5 inches on January 30, 1949. 6.5 inches is also a pretty healthy amount of snow, but this one is probably remembered even more for the next day. Unlike our recent snow event, where 65 degree temperatures the day after melted virtually all the chilly white stuff in a day's time, January 31st, 1949, recorded the coldest day in Austin history at -2 degrees below zero. (from City of Austin websites).

School for the Deaf in South Austin wins \$130,000 prize to go green

COURTESY OF TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



Claire Bugen, TSD School superintendent said grant will help expand environmental education. Consider the faucet. You turn it on, wash your hands, turn it off, dry your hands. But if you're deaf and you turn to dry your hands without shutting off the water, it's possible that you'll miss the

aural Chaire and the ave the room with the water blasting down the drain. "It's probably something we as hearing people don't even consider," said Claire Bugen, superintendent of the Texas School for the Deaf in South Austin. Consider the problem solved. Hands-free

automatic faucets are coming to the school, part of a \$130,000 grand prize the school won in Global Green USA's Green School Makeover Competition, presented by the organization that promotes sustainability and green jobs along with Pureology, which uses natural materials in its hair-care products. The award was announced last week. Texas School for the Deaf beat about 220 other schools for the top prize in a process that included written applications, essays and on-site visits from contest representatives. Half of the money will go for renovations and materials, the other half for technical assistance. Improvements — set to begin next month and continue through June 2012- will include retrofitting light fixtures for energy-efficient bulbs, installing rain barrels and motion-sensitive lights, switching to reusable water bottles and hands-free hand dryers, expanding recycling and recycling education, and more. The school got in the running for the contest at the urging of nearby businessman Francisco Villa, owner of Francisco's Salon, 1400 S. Congress Ave. "I'm tickled to death," Villa said. "I nominated them; they picked up the ball and did the essays. When I got the email that they were a finalist, I said, 'You're going to win!' "When Villa opened his salon early last year, he did about 50 makeovers for students and staff at the school, which is a block away from his shop. A cousin of Villa's attended the school in the 1970s, he said. So when he heard about the contest, "I automatically thought of the school," Villa said.

Bugen hopes this prize will seed other grants and possibly make the school a environmentally conscious model campus, she said. "We have not been as diligent about recycling as we should be on a campus this size, especially on a campus where kids live 24 hours" a day, Bugen said. "We're committed to single stream, but this will help us bump it to the next level by adding more bins and involving the students through their science classes and being part of that expansion and their role in supporting the environment. "We're also excited about rain barrels. The only thing the grant can't do is guarantee the rain," she said. "This is a 67-acre campus that requires a lot of watering to keep everything looking nice and the football field playable."

And maybe when students head into the world, they'll take the environmental lessons they have learned with them. "There's somebody in charge of the Earth," Villa said, "but we can do our part while we're here, right?" (pbeach@statesman.com)











2012-2013 LA VISTA DEAF SENIORS
OF SAN MARCOS OFFICERS



La Vista Deaf Seniors of San Marcos Officers for 2012-2013 Left to right: front row; President Earl Day, Vice-President Darlene Polson, Secretary Mary Lou Whitsit, Treasurer Barbie Vicencio, Back row; Trustees Arlene Whitsit, Joan Stovall, and James Maxwell.



\$5.00 to \$25.00 DOOR PRIZE WINNERS Left to right: First row: Nicholas Martz, Carol Craghan, Fred Newberry, Tennie Sessions, Virginia Ruebush, Maggie Gonzalez, Mary Whitsit, Back row: Sandra Turner, Kathie Briscoe, Earl Day, (middle Santa Claus) Carolyn Cook, and Darlene Polson.

On Thursday, December 8, 2011, forty-one (41) LVDSSM members and visitors elected new officers for 2012-2013 year and had a cheery Christmas social in La Vista Community Center. Punch and Cookies served.

Ten members of the La Vista redhatters group, A Dozen of Red Roses, went to Gruene, Texas for a Christmas lunch at the Grist Mill on Friday, December 9, 2011. Marian Seale, the Queen, brought Christmas gifts and the members selected their gifts by drawing numbers. All had a good time..

La Vista Deaf Seniors of San Marcos will have their regular meeting on January 12, 2012, Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at La Vista Retirement Community Center. *Mark your calendar!*

In Memoriam





Sydna Fern Norton Smith, 71, of Beaumont, died, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont. A native of Forney, Texas, and a resident of Beaumont since 1994, she was one of two children born to the late Morris and Floy Norton. Sydna was the beloved wife of Albert Louis Smith for over nine years and was dedicated to First Baptist Church in Beaumont, since 1994. Sydna will forever remembered by her sister, Suzanne Ruth Bean of Temple; beloved children, William Norton Hebert of Walnut Creek, California, Albertine Louise Smith of San Diego, California, Josephine Fern McGee of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Albert Louis Smith, Jr. of Olivehurst, California; treasured granddaughters, Rebecca Suzanne Hebert and Megan Noelle McGee; caring in-laws, John McGee of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Laura Harvey of San Diego, California; along with countless other friends and family, whom were blessed to know her. She is preceded in death by her husband, Albert Louis Smith. Her funeral service was 11:00 a.m., Friday, December 16, 2011, at First Baptist Church, Deaf Chapel, 900 Calder Avenue, Beaumont, with a gathering of family and friends to begin at 10:00 a.m. A graveside service followed at 2:00 p.m., at Smith Cemetery in Starks, Louisiana, under the direction of Broussard's, 2000 McFaddin Avenue. Complete and updated information may be found at: broussards1889.com. (Published in The Beaumont Enterprise on December 16, 2011)





Julius Pierce Seeger, age 89, a long-time Austin resident, passed away on December 15, 2011. He came into this world on July 6, 1922 in McKinney, Texas. Like many loving and caring parents of a deaf child, Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Bera Seeger wanted their child to have a well-rounded education at the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD). During his first years at TSD, he often spent time with his McNamara cousins and beloved Aunt Olive. He often took McNamara bakery goods back to the school to share with his fellow students. After the great depression, his parents relocated their bakery business and their five children to Austin in 1931. At the time, TSD had quality academic, vocational, military, athletic and scouting programs. The sacrifice paid off when Julius graduated from TSD in 1943 and went on to get two college degrees, a B.A. Degree in Education from the only liberal arts college for the deaf in the world, Gallaudet University, in 1949 and an M.A. Degree in Psychology from another quality university, the University of Texas at Austin in 1968. Julius had a special sign name that is well known in the Deaf Community by the way of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture: the pinkie finger touches the shoulder, then travels down quickly to touch the lower arm, communicating that he was a strong man. The sign name is reminiscent of the immaculate uniforms he proudly wore either as a Lieutenant Colonel Commander or Explorer Scout Master at TSD where he taught generations of students the necessary selfdiscipline and the sport of camping, fishing and hunting. He also taught the students outdoor cooking, especially with a lot of brick butter to go on the BBQ meats. He was like Food Channel's "iron chef" in his glory days of great cooking of any cuisine or style, especially fantastic desserts. Indeed, cooking was his specialty as much as his passion for teaching and counseling at TSD where he worked for 37 years. His culinary and housekeeping expertise enabled his beloved wife, Ruth Mae Taubert Seeger, to become a successful track and field coach at the high school and international level. Upon their simultaneous retirement in 1987, Julius encouraged Ruth to become one of the nation's most celebrated

and medaled senior citizen track and field athletes, winning more than an unprecedented 300 medals from 1991 to 2004. Their only son, Mark Seeger, who sometimes drove his parents across the city or state to those senior games, is a nationally known certified interpreter for the deaf and a dedicated professional advocate for the social and communicative needs of the Deaf Community. Between the achievements of his wife and his son. Julius had time for himself in terms of giving back to TSD and the Texas Deaf Community. Historically, he became one of the first true deaf jurors in Travis County, an unprecedented role he cherished. Besides volunteering as an Explorer master for years, Julius focused his interest on the interpreting, educational and social needs of the Deaf Community in Travis County as well as the great State of Texas. He became a board member of the Travis County Services for the Deaf Advisory Board as well as the American Foundation of Elderly Deaf and Vaughn House (VH) of Austin. At VH, he became its director as well, which testifies to his interest in the needs of multihandicapped Deaf adults. Julius also became president of the Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) from 1982 to 1984. For his advocacy and legislative efforts, TAD gave him the Rehabilitation Award. The most recent honor Julius received was having the Career, Technology and Education facility at TSD named in his honor. That facility was unveiled as "The Julius P. Seeger Career Center" before his family, friends and TSD staff on August 16, 2008. Other organizations, such as Sertoma Club of Austin and the Texas Department of Human Resources, awarded and commended Julius for his excellent community service on behalf of the Deaf. Two more distinctive awards stood out strongly: the Order of the Arrow from the National Brotherhood of Scout Honor Campers and the induction into the Texas School for the Deaf Alumni Association Hall of Fame as a community leader. Not many people realize that Julius also served as president of the TSD-PTA in the 1970s, which showed how much he cared for the overall education of deaf children in Texas. And he still found time to gain his credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor and deaf intermediary sign language interpreter from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. His reputation as a great cook and meticulous housekeeper continued beyond his retirement until health problems forced him to enter a health care facility in 2005. According to many of his close friends and colleagues, Julius was the consummate volunteer with a heart of gold who was always there to help with an honest smile. He was a

warm and friendly person who welcomed anyone in his home, office, printing shop, camp or at any kind of meeting. Never one to flaunt his talents, contributions or act of kindness and professionalism, Julius was an unassuming southern gentleman who personally preferred to be in the background so that others could enjoy the limelight of fame, success, skills, knowledge and happiness. In hindsight, Julius was the epitome of humility, a quality lacking in this materialistic world. Indeed, Julius will be solely missed by the Texas Deaf community, his loving family, fellow TSD alumni, former students, and friends. Julius was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Bera Seeger; one older brother, George Seeger; one younger sister, Rhea Fernandes. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Ruth; his son, Mark and his partner, Jeff; Julius' older brother, Billy; younger brother, Lawrence; a special nephew, Bob Taubert; as well as many other beloved nephews and nieces and cousins throughout the Seeger, Taubert, and McNamara families. A Memorial Service with reception to follow was held at 3:00 p.m., on Thursday, December 29, 2011 at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 2620 South Congress Avenue. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that memorial contributions be made to the Texas School for the Deaf Foundation. TSD Foundation, PO Box 42727, Austin, Texas 78704 Donations can be made online at: www.tsdfoundation.org. The family would like to extend our sincere thanks to the staff of the Summit at Westlake Hills, Heart-to-Heart Hospice, AlzCare of San Marcos, and the "Boss" (Jo) for their many hours of loving care. Memorials and guestbook online at www.wcfish.com Published in Austin American-Statesman



Frances Dianne Cockerham, of Aledo, age 64, passed away Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at Weatherford Regional Hospital, following a very brief illness, at age 64. Funeral services were held Friday, December 30, 2011, at 3:00 P.M., at the Groesbeck **Funeral** Home Chapel, with Brother Raymond Chapman from Killeen officiating. She was buried Faulkenberry Cemetery

Groesbeck. Dianne was born March 8, 1947 at Houston to Fred L. Robinson and Mattie Marline Robinson. She grew up in Houston, but lived in Austin while she

attended the Texas School for the Deaf, having lost her hearing at age two. She visited her relatives in the times, Groesbeck area many including grandparents, Bill and Johnnie Lloyd, and aunts, Gwen Lammons of Groesbeck and Marie Harris of Donie. As an adult, she lived a few years in Louisiana, then moved back to Texas. Dianne worked for the Post Office early in her life, and retired from the Veterans Administration in Austin after working there for eighteen years. Dianne loved sewing quilts, crafts, reading, but especially loved to travel, with her passport always ready. Dianne had traveled many places in the world to visit her daughter's family while they were stationed in various countries in the military. She loved to fly, and had no fear of overseas trips to visit her grandchildren wherever they were living, including visiting all over Germany, Switzerland, and Paris. She lived with the family in Okinawa Japan and Mildenhall, England the past five years, where she helped take care of her grandchildren. She had returned to the family home in Aledo about six months previous to prepare for the family's return from England, and had Christmas all ready for their return on Monday, before she became very ill. Frances was preceded in death by both of her parents, and her husband Wayne Cockerham. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Diana and Darrin Kotlinski of Aledo (and recently returned from England) and three grandchildren, Garrett, Emily, and Olivia Kotlinski; stepson and daughter-in-law, David and Erin Cockerham of North Carolina and their children, Ethan, Ktriel, Ayrianna, and Ani Cockerham; brother and sister-in-law, Gary L.and Barbara Robinson of Hempstead; brother and sister-in-law, Kerry and Tracy Robinson of Wimberly; sister, Karen Aleman of Houston; sister and brother-in-law, Kim and Johnny Ivey of Houston; and many nieces and nephews, and many friends in the deaf community



Kay (Williamson) Nunn, age 68 a member of the TSD Class of 1960, passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2011 in Austin, Texas. No details are available right now. We will have more information in next month's newsletter.



RENEWAL and NEW MEMBERS/SUBSCRIBERS

Barry Lee Blalock, Don Bradford, Larry Butler, Vera Butler, Bobbie Cheatham, Patricia Clark, Billy Collins, Henry Collins, Julie Eckber, Carroll Frazier, Nick & Maria Garza, Mark Gunderson, Melba Hallmark, Betty Hancock, Doris Mae Jameson, Lorin King, James Moore, Evelyn Norman, Carlene Preziosa, Erna Quiran, John & Patricia Reid, Marian Seale, Mary Jo Stevens, Miriam Thumann, Marcus Vahalik, Ann Marie White, and Peter Wright.

NEW GIFT SUBSCRIBERS:

Hedda Hawk (gift by Ann Marie White)

DONATIONS TO TAD-SC:

Julie Eckber donated to TAD-SC in memory of Eula Adams and Ron Strain. Thank you.

Glenn & Barbara Brunson donated to TAD-SC in memory of Sydna (Norton) Smith. Thank you.

TRIVIA

How large is Las Vegas?



Through the Las Vegas sprawl measures 15 miles wide by 15 miles long, most of the 30 million tourists each year tend to mob the 6-mile stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard that includes both the Strip, home to the city's glittering, impressive major casinos, and the downtown area.

RECEIPES

Heavenly Pie By Glenn & Barbara Brunson

½ pint whipping cream
1 small can crushed pineapple
24 large marshmallows

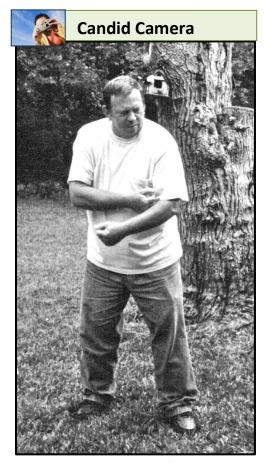
1 pie shell

Drain the pineapple real well and set aside.

In a small saucepan melt the 24 marshmallows in the pineapple juice. Allow to cool in refrigerator.

When it is cool, whip the whipping cream and fold in the crushed drained pineapple.

Pour into a baked pie shell and let it set in the refrigerator.



Morris Porter always sings "Happy Birthday" to anyone. (*Photo by Jackie Pace*)

TRIVIA

Does Japan get much snow?

In the southern part of Japan, it rarely snows to any great amount except for the mountains, but the northern part usually has plenty of snow in the winter. Autumn is by far the best time to visit Japan, as far as the weather goes.

Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

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APPETIZERS
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BUFFET
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CHAMPAGNE
CONFETTI
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DAY ONE

SREZ

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ITEP

FEAST FESTIVITIES FIREWORKS FIRST OF JANUARY FRIENDS HATS HOLIDAY HORNS KISS MIDNIGHT

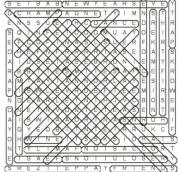
MIDNIGHT MUSIC NEW YEARS DAY NEW YEARS EVE NOISEMAKERS OCCASION PARADES PARTY PUNCH RESOLUTIONS SINGING STREAMERS THIRTY FIRST TIARAS

YEAR IN REVIEW

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MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION TRAVIS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-SENIOR CITIZENS

☐ New subscriber *\$10.00 a year*☐ Renewal subscriber *\$10.00 a year*



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Gift Member /Subscription fro	om (\$10.00 per person (1 year).
Donation to TAD-SC \$	in memory of
Please mail the above form with a	check or money order payable to Travis Association of the Deaf-Senior Garza, Membership Chairperson, P.O. Box 41134, Austin, Texas 78704.