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Maine-Lines: A Newsletter for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Late-Deafened, Winter 2008

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Maine Division of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Late Deafened

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DIVISION OF DEAFNESS

MAINE-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR LATE DEAFENED



Ellie Archambault with award

Special Commendation Award

Ellie Archambault – Ellie is a senior citizen from Westbrook who has been an advocate for Maine Deaf senior citizens for ten years. She included the Deaf seniors in informational meetings regarding the Internal Revenue Service and tax refunds. She has always been available to Deaf senior citizens in need.

Additional comments from nomination forms:

- ❖ Ellie is small in stature and large in mind, heart and spirit. She is always busy working with the Millbrook Estates Planning Committee to organize community suppers, plan the Christmas party, organize the annual yard sale or start the next new community adventure. Ellie is a powerful presence not only at Millbrook Estates but also around Westbrook. She serves as President of Westbrook Senior Citizens and is Commissioner at Westbrook Housing.
- ❖ Ellie is the mother of two wonderful daughters, Pamela and Denna, and the grandmother of three grandsons and one granddaughter. One of Ellie's grandsons is serving in Iraq. Her family is as proud of her as she is of them.

- ❖ People often say that if you want to get something done, ask a busy person. Well Ellie has been asked and she has responded, not only to the needs of her family but also to the needs of the people with whom she lives and the local community. The Maine Deaf Senior Citizens group is proud and grateful for Ellie.

Ellie could not attend the Tea; however, a separate award ceremony took place on November 18, 2008 in Westbrook with over 30 Deaf and hearing senior citizens attending. The ceremony was held to recognize Ellie for all her contributions to the Deaf senior citizens.

Division of Deafness Advisory Council

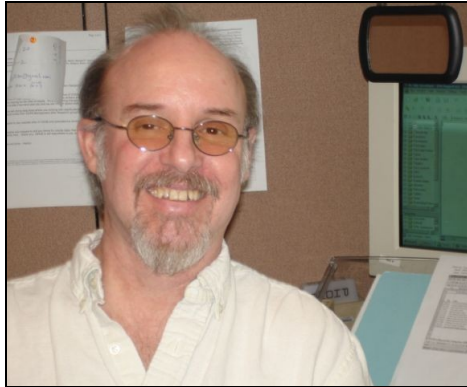


Division of Deafness Advisory Council

The Division of Deafness Advisory Council invites you to visit the DoD web site www.maine.gov/rehab/dod and view the 5-Year Plan that has been created by council members.

The Division of Deafness Advisory Council meetings are open to the public and take place at the Central Maine Commerce Center, Department of Labor, in Augusta, in the Frances Perkins conference room, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Upcoming meeting dates are April 16, June 11, and October 8, 2009.

Meet Michael Welch
Office of Information Technology



Michael Welch, Senior Programmer/Analyst,
Office of Information Technology (OIT)

DoD: How long have you worked for the State of Maine and what positions have you held?

Mike: I have been working for the State of Maine for 28 years. Currently I work for the Office of Children and Family Services at the Department of Health and Human Services. The positions I have held in the past were: Computer Programmer Trainee, Computer Programmer, and Programmer Analyst.

DoD: What is your current job title and what does your job consist of?

Mike: My current job title is Senior Programmer Analyst. My job consists of: Advanced technical services involving the development and maintenance of highly complex computer programs that support the Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System. Responsibilities include designing, coding, testing, debugging, documenting, and maintaining complex application programs; conducting advanced analysis of client and financial data, supporting client requests for troubleshooting complex queries, and preparing detailed specifications from which programs may be written. There is so much more that I do for work.

DoD: Where did you learn about computer technology?

Mike: I learned about computer technology at Bangor Community College, which was the subdivision of the University of Maine at Orono. I also attended several trainings that were provided by the State of Maine during my 28 years of state employment. I also did a lot of customizing (building) personal computers (PC), network set-up, etc. at home.

DoD: What types of telecommunication equipment do you use on your job?

Mike: Videophone, Sorenson Video Relay Service (VRS) and TTY.

DoD: You have taken a leadership role in getting videophones for state employees; how many Deaf state employees do you know have videophones?

Mike: There are about 6 Deaf state employees who have been using Sorenson videophones. They all seem to be very happy and love them.

DoD: Have the videophones been useful for Deaf state employees?

Mike: Definitely, the videophones have been useful for Deaf state employees. It's much easier to communicate with hearing people through a videophone and video relay services (VRS) in American Sign Language (ASL).

DoD: Is it easy for people to have videophones installed at their work place or home?

Mike: Yes and no, some are easy and some are challenges. It depends on what type of modems are provided by the Internet service providers and firewalls that might be involved.

DoD: Who should people contact to have a videophone installed?

Mike: People should contact Sorenson Communications, but preferably the New England Outreach manager of Sorenson Communications, to have a videophone installed.

DoD: Do you feel that your job is accessible?

Mike: Oh yes, I am thankful I work for the State of Maine. I am glad I made the right choice to work for the State of Maine. My job has always been accessible.

DoD: Is there anything that could improve accessibility on your job?

Mike: I wish I could have a full-time interpreter but that would be costly for the State of Maine.



Hands On PAH! (*[what's PAH?](#)) Hands On PAH! is a service of the Wilton Free Public Library that is dedicated to meeting the information and accessibility needs of the deaf and hard of hearing communities of western Maine, as well as meeting the information needs about hearing loss to the general public.

Our goals for this program include expanding our collection of books and media, providing information and referral services, providing accessible adult and youth programming such as interpreted story times and open-captioned movies. We are accessible to Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons through the use of a TTY, the library's web site, instant messaging services, and by being a relay friendly business. As an additional goal, we hope to engender a love of books and reading in Deaf children, and in hearing children who communicate primarily in American Sign Language (ASL).

Together with continued input and information from the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, Hands On PAH! will grow to meet the needs of these communities. Hands On PAH! is guided by an advisory committee of Deaf and hearing volunteers who are responsible for communications with the Deaf community, fund-raising, event planning, and development of library services. The library welcomes ideas, feedback, and comments from interested community members.



Left to Right: Holding the book: Gail Carlson, a Deaf ASL teacher at Lisbon High School, and Wilton resident. Right: Darleen Winship, a Deaf teacher at the Maine Center on Deafness, and a Canton resident

Wilton Free Public Library's Hands On PAH! program has been busy during this past month. Interpreted story times are held at the library on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:30-11:30.

Deaf and hearing children and their families will enjoy stories that are deaf-centered, and children will have the opportunity to learn about Deaf culture, American Sign Language, and participate in an arts and crafts activity.

On January 3, 2009 Darleen Winship, a Deaf woman from Canton, signed the story "The Mitten" by Jan Brett. Lori Lewis, interpreter, voiced for her, and Gail Carlson and Lynne Hunter assisted. The story was about a child who loses a white mitten in the snow, into which crawl a succession of animals, including a rabbit, a fox, a bear and a hedgehog.

In the craft activity, children constructed paper mittens, into which they could insert an ASL paper letter with the initial of their first name, or the name of one of the characters in the story. Great fun for all of us! All deaf and hearing children, and their families, are encouraged to attend.

Hands On PAH! Advisory Council member Gail Carlson attended the annual Deaf Festival at the Maine Educational Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) in Falmouth on October 4, 2008 and talked to many people about Hands On PAH!. Gail was also recently honored by the Division of Deafness Advisory Council in recognition of her service to the Deaf community in Western Maine.



Gail Carlson with her "Hands on PAH" display

Hand On PAH! advisory council members recently met with Amber McCallister from Abused Women's Advocacy Project (AWAP) and Julia Terry from Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES). They discussed some Deaf cultural issues relevant to Deaf people who may need the assistance of these agencies.

*** PAH! is an expression in American Sign Language** that, loosely translated, means "Finally, we made it!", "What a breakthrough!", "Victory!" or, "It's about time!" We are proud to "finally" offer these services to the Maine's Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.

ALDA (Association of Late-Deafened Adults)- Maine Conference on Resources for Adults Who are Hard of Hearing or Late Deafened



Panel participants: (Left to Right) Sandra Haggard, Gwen LaPointe, Jan DeVinney, & Debbie DiDominicus

The first annual ALDA-Maine Conference on Resources for Adults Who are Hard of Hearing or Late Deafened took place on November 5, 2008 at the Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast.

The purpose of the conference was to provide information about available resources to hard-of-hearing and late-deafened consumers and service providers. Approximately forty people attended, and participants evaluated the conference as a success.

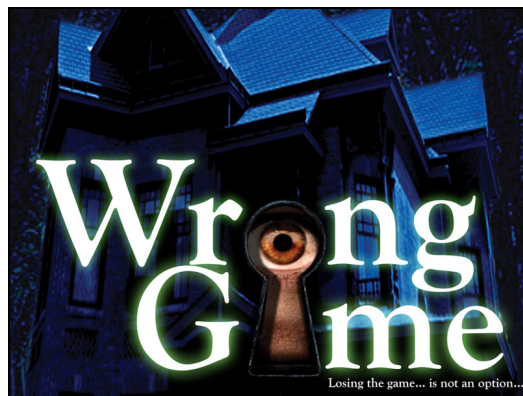
Some of the speakers included O. J. Logue from the University of Maine; Gwen LaPointe from ALDA-Maine; Amy Sneirson from the Maine Center on Deafness spoke on the civil rights of hard-of-hearing and late-deafened adults; Elissa Moran from the Maine Center on Deafness spoke about the Telecommunications Equipment Program. A panel of late-deafened/hard-of-hearing consumers answered questions and encouraged discussion from the audience regarding their hearing loss. The panel participants were: Sandra Haggard from the University College of Bangor; Gwen LaPointe from ALDA-Maine; Jan DeVinney from Maine Medical Center; and Debbie DiDominicus from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging.



Display tables at the ALDA-Maine Conference

Display tables included the Maine Center on Deafness, Telecommunications Equipment Program, the Warren Center, Hartling Communications, Division of Deafness, and Community Counseling Center.

A big thank you to the University of Maine for their hospitality. Special thanks to Richard Warren for his generous contribution for the conference.



ASL Films "Wrong Game"

On October 18, 2008 the Deaf Women of Maine (DWM) hosted a movie showing of "Wrong Game," rated PG-13, at the Jewett Hall Auditorium, University of Maine at Augusta (UMA). The event was sponsored by Sprint Relay. The actors in the film were Deaf and they used American Sign Language (ASL) with no voice or captions showing throughout the movie. Approximately 106 Deaf and hearing people came to watch the movie. The proceeds went to the convention fund for Deaf Women of Maine who will be hosting the National Conference for Deaf Women United in Portland sometime in 2011. We are planning to show another ASL movie called "The Legend of the Mountain Man" hopefully in early of 2009.



Debbie Bolduc, Deaf Women of Maine

Video Remote Interpreted (VRI) Workshops at Lewiston & Wilton CareerCenters

The Department of Labor (DOL) would like to invite American Sign Language (ASL) users to VRI interpreted workshops in April at the Lewiston and Wilton CareerCenters. This is a pilot program that DOL is sponsoring to encourage ASL users to participate in these beneficial workshops during difficult economic times. Please notify Nancy Melanson at the Division of Deafness (see last page of newsletter for contact information) if you're interested in attending and VRI will be arranged.

CareerCenter Employment & Training Orientation
Lewiston CareerCenter
Tuesdays 9 AM-11 AM
Thursdays 1 PM-3 PM

Job Search
Lewiston CareerCenter
Every other Tuesday 10 AM-12 PM

Resume Writing
Wilton CareerCenter
Mondays 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

The Difference Between Video Relay Service (VRS) and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)

While both VRS and VRI require the use of an interpreter, there is an important difference between both services. On a VRI call, both the deaf and hearing person are located in the same room and the interpreter is in a remote location. There is a fee involved.



Video Remote Interpreting

With VRS, the deaf user and the hearing person are in different locations and are connected through the interpreter at the VRS center. VRS is funded through the Federal Communication Commission.



Video Relay Service

Did You Know?

♦ **The Maine State Legislature is back in session and Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART)* and sign language interpreters are provided for anyone who requests the accomodation.**

*CART is a word-for-word, speech-to-text translation service, using closed captioning technology, for people who need visual communication access.

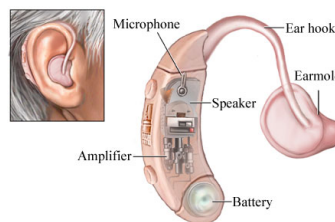
♦ **Maine Center on Deafness (MCD)** will be traveling to various areas throughout Maine to explain the Civil Rights Program, Telecommunications Equipment Program and Peer Support Group. The dates are:
May 13-14, 2009 – Farmington area
June 2-5, 2009 – Caribou area
July 8-10, 2009 – Down East area
For more information contact MCD at 1-800-639-3884.

♦ **Contact numbers for the Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing:**

Joe Roquebecil.....624-5111 (VP)
Rod MacInnes.....822-0410 (VP)
Ginny Pelletier.....624-5109 (VP)

♦ **ALDA-Maine (Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Maine)** is an all volunteer group for the empowerment of over 100,000 people in Maine and more in neighboring states who are deafened, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss of any kind. New members and visitors to all events are welcome. Come talk with us. Read the new "*Hearing Loss Herald*" publication and join us soon for timely on-line information and discussions, whether you have a hearing loss, are hearing, or interested in equal rights for all people with disabilities. See www.alda-maine.mysite.com.

♦ WANTED, USED HEARING AIDS



Do you have a pair of hearing aids in a drawer?

Want to put them to good use? Mail them to the Warren Center. We will fix them, and pass them along to an individual in need.

Warren Center
175 Union Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
941-2850 (V)
Web site: www.warrencenter.org/

If you attended the Maine School for the Deaf or Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD), counseling is available at no cost to you.

Signing mental health counselors are listed in the Division of Deafness Resource Guide www.maine.gov/rehab/dod/resource_guide/clinical.shtml they are trained to help deaf people who were abused. If you prefer, **nonsigning** counselors with a qualified interpreter can be arranged at no cost to you. Insurance or MaineCare will be billed first (if you attended the Maine School for the Deaf or GBSD, no money will be charged to you for co-pay or deductible).

For more information, please contact:

Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Services
Noel Bonam
1-866-241-8639 (Toll free TTY)
287-4272 (V)
E-mail: Noel.Bonam@maine.gov

Department of Labor-Division of Deafness
John Shattuck
623-7957 (V)
1-888-755-0023 (Toll free TTY)
E-mail: john.g.shattuck@maine.gov

Maine Center on Deafness
797-7656 (V/TTY)
1-800-639-3884 (V/TTY)
24.97.54.29 (VP)
E-mail: info@mcdmaine.org

Do you...
...have trouble sleeping?
...have bad dreams?
...still think of bad experiences from the past?
...pass along the hurt to your children, partner, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend or husband?
...find it hard to keep intimate (close) relationships?

You Can Feel Better. You are not alone.

In Loving Memory of June Leighton Carrier

Published in the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram
on February 1, 2009

June Leighton Carrier, 85, life-long resident of Westbrook, passed away at Maine Medical Center on January 30, 2009, after a brief illness.

The daughter of Keith Melvin and Martha (Johnson) Leighton, was born May 19, 1923 at the Johnson Family Farm on Bald Mountain in Dedham. Her parents lived in Westbrook and at the end of Martha's pregnancy the couple traveled north to Dedham for the birth. June was delivered by her grandmother who was a lay midwife.

Her parents were both deaf. June, her sisters Jane Byron, and Joy, were all very hearing impaired. Their father required that his daughters mainstream in public school, in place of the Maine School for the Deaf, and June graduated from Westbrook High School in 1941.

After graduation she began work at the S.D. Warren Paper Company where she was employed for over 40 years. She worked in the Finishing Room and the Quality Control Department. June had an outstanding attendance record, she was known for the quality of her work and her attention to detail. She was a hard worker and treated all people with an equal amount of respect and dignity.

She met her husband, John Henry Carrier, in the Finishing Department at the mill and they married in 1943. Last fall they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with family at the Black Point Inn in Scarborough.

Upon retirement in 1985 she became more deeply involved in her passions of travel, crafts, painting, and the local deaf community. She founded the Maine Deaf Senior Citizens Group, an achievement for which she was honored both at the state and local level. June and her husband traveled over the world with their highlight trip being a two week Alaskan cruise. She took weekly art lessons for over 20 years and continued them up to the time of her death. Her many paintings and crafts are enjoyed by family and friends. She enjoyed many summers at the family cottage on the shore of Sebago Lake at Long Beach.

Because of her hearing impairment June was unable to continue her studies and become a nurse. She saw her dream completed when her daughter Jean graduated from Westbrook College as a registered nurse. June valued formal education and was most proud of the educational accomplishments of her children.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, John Carrier as well as her sisters Jane and Joy. She also leaves her children Paul Carrier, MD and his wife Paula, Jean Roberson and husband Dale, and Jama Marvel and her husband Mark; as well as 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Monday Feb. 3, 2009, from 3-5 p.m. at Blais Funeral Home, Westbrook to be followed by a memorial service at 5 p.m. led by her grandson Bryan Marvel. A reception will follow at the Westbrook Congregational Church on Main St.

Internment will be in the spring. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in June's name to the Maine Deaf Senior Citizens Group June Leighton Carrier.

Maine Department of Labor
Division of Deafness
150 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0150

Return Service Requested

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Jill Duson, Director

Division of Deafness

The Division of Deafness provides a program of services to Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in Maine, which includes information and referral, advocacy, and accessibility promotion.

John Shattuck, Director

Tel: 623-7957 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

E-mail: John.G.Shattuck@maine.gov

Alice Crandall Johnson

Rehabilitation Consultant

Tel: 623-7964 (V)

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Nancy Melanson, Assistant to the Director

Tel: 623-7998 (TTY), 623-7958 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

287-5292 (FAX)

E-mail: Nancy.A.Melanson@maine.gov

*The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*