

Fall 10-1-2008

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

17th Annual Deaf Culture Tea September 18, 2008 Hall of Flags, State House



John Shattuck, Director of the Division of Deafness
Interpreter: Tina Englert-Morrison

The Deaf Culture Tea took place on September 18, 2008, at the Hall of Flags in the State House. Welcome remarks were given by John Shattuck, Director for the Division of Deafness, and Senator Beth Edmonds, Senate President.



Senator Beth Edmonds, Senate President
Interpreter: Tina Englert-Morrison

The keynote speaker was Elissa Moran, Executive Director for the Maine Center on Deafness. The topic of the speech was "What a difference a year makes!!" Her speech was well received by the audience and very enjoyable.



Elissa Moran, Executive Director, Maine Center on Deafness

John Dunleavy, Chair of the Advisory Council to the Division of Deafness, presented the awards to selected individuals by the Deaf community.



John Dunleavy, Chair of the Advisory Council to the Division of Deafness

Six awards were presented this year in five categories to individuals who have contributed to Deaf Culture in Maine. Recipients are as follows:

***Clifton F. Rodgers Award
A Lifetime Achievement Award***

This award is named for Clifton F. Rodgers, a resident of Maine all his life. He attended the Maine School for the Deaf and lived in Belfast for over 30 years with his wife Dorothy. Cliff was a member of the Division of Deafness Advisory Council and also worked for the Division of Deafness. Quotes that describe him were: "He made an indelible impression on everyone he came in contact with, for his style always created goodwill and warm feelings;" "His knowledge of Maine and its Deaf Culture were immense;" and "He passed through this world making it a better place."

This award is given to an individual in recognition for their outstanding service in a professional or voluntary capacity to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in the State of Maine by the Advisory Council to the Division of Deafness. The award is presented to an individual who has worked in or with the Deaf community for many years. It is a "life-time achievement award."

This year's recipient of the Clifton F. Rodgers Award is Mary Edgerton. Mary was unable to attend the Tea; however, she was honored for her twenty years as an advocate for the civil rights of individuals with hearing loss in the state of Maine.

Over the years she has worked to improve access to the legislature, the Maine Human Rights Commission, medical and legal settings, emergency information, 911, crisis services and even Social Security offices. She provided or helped to provide trainings for the courts, the police, and the Deaf community regarding their rights and responsibilities under different federal and state laws. She improved TTY access to the city of Portland, Hannaford stores throughout Maine and the Maine Turnpike rest areas, just to name a few of her many accomplishments.

Mary is one of the most nominated individuals since the Division of Deafness Advisory Council has been presenting awards.

Some comments about Mary are as follows:

- ❖ When you turn on the TV and see that emergency announcement, think of Mary and her devotion to make sure we had access to this important information.
- ❖ Mary was on the ground floor of many new programs in Maine such as the Newborn Hearing Screening Program; interpreter licensing, the interpreting program at USM, visual smoke detectors in private apartments,

adult education for the Deaf; and hearing aid insurance for children which finally passed just last year.

- ❖ Mary is inspirational in her dedication to right wrongs and level the playing field for those of us with hearing loss. She is passionate and driven, and we sincerely appreciate all of her hard work.

***Outstanding Role Model for the
Deaf Community Award***



Michelle Ames

Michelle Ames – Michelle is currently working as an adult case manager at Community Counseling Center. She is passionate and dedicated to the community and to the work she does. Community Counseling Center, Deaf Services program considers itself to be VERY lucky to have her on their team!



Michelle Ames with her award.

Additional comments from nominations forms:

- ❖ Michelle Ames has been a role model for the Deaf community, showing her talents; she also contributes to the needs of Deaf community with different services.
- ❖ She is a very good advocate for the Deaf community.

Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award



Jennifer McCann with her award.

Jennifer McCann – Jenn has worked with the Deaf community for many years, and is currently a Case Manager at Community Counseling Center in Portland. She is a strong advocate who has continuously fought to obtain resources for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Maine.

Jenn has been nominated several times and in more than one category. Here are more of the reasons Jenn has been chosen as this year's Outstanding Advocate.

Additional comments from nominations forms:

- ❖ Jennifer McCann is one of the few people who we see is involved with advocating and improving the quality of life for Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adults. When she is not working in her job at Community Counseling Center as a clinician and case manager, she uses her free time to encourage accessibility for those with hearing loss, and she is often found educating the community about HIV, sex education, and other issues. Her kindness and compassion has shown to have an impact on the lives of those around her.
- ❖ I have been working with her for nine years. She is a caring and thoughtful person. Jennifer does have "Deaf" heart. She is a very good listener and good supporter.
- ❖ Jennifer McCann was my case manager and she impacted my whole life. She gave me so much support to reach my goals.



Jennifer McCann & John Dunleavy

Special Commendation Award



Interpreters: Bottom left to right: Ruth Vigna, Margaret Haberman, Mary Jane Grant, Tina Englert, Debra Reynolds, Stacey Bsullak, Debbie Myers, Meryl Troop, & Jillian McLaughlin accepting award on behalf of Betsy Reifman.

Elizabeth M. Reifman - Betsy was one of Maine's premier interpreters. She received nominations from both the Deaf community and her fellow interpreters. Her contributions to the Deaf community are many, specifically in supporting Deaf persons in their right to accessibility and the field of ASL interpreting. Betsy was a leader in the area of legal interpreting, which promotes greater access to interpreters in courts and legal meetings. She provided ethics education for new and experienced interpreters focusing on the rights of Deaf people. Betsy served on the Division of Deafness Advisory Council for numerous years and often volunteered at community events. She was a role model to experienced and new interpreters on how to be a life long learner, to be ethically minded, and promoted the growth of the Deaf community through work.

Additional comments from nominations forms:

- ❖ I would like to nominate Betsy Reifman for her dedication and professionalism in the interpreting profession. Primarily, Betsy has been instrumental in educating and alerting consumers, courts, legal entities and fellow interpreters regarding legal happenings in Maine via workshop and personal experience. Betsy would be an ideal candidate.
- ❖ I would like to nominate Elizabeth Reifman for a Special Commendation Award. Betsy works tirelessly in support of the Deaf community's right for qualified interpreters. She organizes many workshops so that interpreters could become qualified to work in legal settings. Betsy has both a personal and professional interest in ethics, and she continues to guide both new and experienced interpreters alike to a better understanding of how to make ethical decisions that respect the rights of Deaf people and the Deaf community. She has served on many committees that serve both the Deaf and interpreting communities, including terms as President of the Maine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and on the Division of Deafness Advisory Council. Betsy has accomplished so much while also caring for her responsibilities to her family, to her local community, and as a citizen. In so doing, she has set a fine example of giving, yet never neglecting.
- ❖ She is an outstanding interpreter in community and legal settings in Maine, and promoted quality standards and professionalism between Maine and national interpreters. Also, she has been a supporter of and advocate for Maine's Deaf community, and her intelligence, warmth and empathy have helped many people within and around the Deaf community.

Special Commendation Award

Ellie Archambault – Ellie is a senior citizen from Westbrook who has been an advocate for Maine Deaf senior citizens for about 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 put on 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 will take place on November 18th in Westbrook with Deaf senior citizens attending.

Promoting ASL, Deaf Culture and Deaf People Award



Gail Carlson with award

Gail Carlson – Gail has taught American Sign Language (ASL) I and II at Lisbon High School for the past two years. She previously taught ASL at the Southern Maine Community College. Gail has coordinated ASL gatherings in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties for many years. She was instrumental in establishing programs for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people at the Wilton Free Public Library, and was a key player in bringing Peter Cook/ Keith Wann to perform in Farmington last April.

Gail coordinates, "Interpreted Story Times" at the Wilton Free Public Library. Wilton Free Public Library will also offer interpreted story times through their Hands On PAH! program, which is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adults and their families in western Maine.

Interpreted story times will be at the library, the first Saturday of each month, from 10:30-11:30 AM. 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.

The first interpreted story time took place this fall on Saturday, October 4, with Lori Lewis interpreting the story "Moses Goes to a Concert," by Isaac Millman. The story explains how deaf children can enjoy going to an orchestra performance, and also discusses the work of real-life Deaf percussionist Marjorie Elwyn. In addition to an ASL arts and crafts activity, many ASL words and phrases will be taught. All D/deaf and hearing children, and their families, are encouraged to attend.



Award Recipients: Left to Right: Margaret Haberman, on behalf of Betsy Reifman, Gail Carson, Michelle Ames, & Jennifer McCann

Deaf Culture Tea "After Party"



Deaf community members & hearing friends at Elio's Place Restaurant.

The celebration with the Deaf community continued after the Deaf Culture Tea at Elio's Place Restaurant, 108 Water Street in Hallowell. The Maine Center on Deafness hosted the event. There were delicious treats and everyone enjoyed the warm and inviting environment of Elio's Place.



Left to Right: Paula Wentworth, Peter Martineau, & Alma Simmons at Elio's Place Restaurant

Deaf Culture Festival "Giving Back to Our Community"



Welcoming sign for the Deaf Culture Festival

The Deaf Culture Festival took place on October 4th at the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) on Mackworth Island in Falmouth.



Display table for Maine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

While the morning hours had a steady flow of people, the afternoon hours were bustling. It was a fantastic social event with American Sign Language as the first language. Events included a book drive, children's clothing swap, a motorcycle show, vendors, artists, a moon bounce for the children, and a soccer game.

There were vendors from a variety of places: Maine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; Maine Center on Deafness; Division of Deafness; Lutheran Social Services; Camp Sign-A-Watha; Sorenson Video Relay; Kristen Kaleo, Esq.; Hands on "PAH"; Deaf Women of Maine; Daniel Winship, artist; Sprint, to name a few. For a complete list of vendors, contact the Maine Center on Deafness.

A delicious lunch was provided by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Camp Sign-A-Watha. There were hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, potato salad and sodas.



Pictured left to right: Willie Tarr & Bruce Monro-Ludders, head chefs at the grill

Deaf Women of Maine (DWM) had a display table which was tended by members. There was also a jail set up for anyone caught using their voice to communicate, and the money collected will be used to help with the cost of hosting the Deaf Women United National Conference to be held in Southern Maine in 2011.



Diane Poulin, Deaf Women of Maine

At the same display table was another fundraiser by Deaf Women of Maine which took place on October 18 at the University of Maine, Jewett Hall Auditorium. The event was a film titled "Wrong Game." The film was done in American Sign Language with Deaf actors and actresses. The proceeds will also help with the costs of the Deaf Women United National Conference. Please see ASL Films web site www.aslfilms.com for information on other ASL films.



Debbie Bolduc, Deaf Women of Maine

The Maine Center on Deafness (MCD) table was very informational. The Telecommunication Equipment Program, Civil Rights Program, and the Communication and Outreach Program were just some of MCD's highlights at the table.



Jennifer Welch, MCD's Telecommunication Equipment Program manager

The Hands On PAH! Program is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adults, and their families, in western Maine. The program offers interpreted story times at the Wilton Free Public Library every month. Their display table was delightful. The fundraiser consisted of handmade, beautifully colored ILY pins and magnets.



Gail Carlson with her "Hands on PAH" display

Deaf Health Fair



Speaker John Post and audience at the Deaf Health Fair

On August 22, Maine's First Ever Deaf Health Fair took place at Camp Cobbossee! The Health Fair was the result of a partnership between the DHHS Office of Multicultural Affairs, Office of Minority Health in the Maine Center for Disease Control, Office of Adults with Cognitive and Physical Disabilities, Mobius Inc., Community Counseling Center, Lutheran Social Services. With the help of additional agencies, this first ever event was a smashing success. We can't wait to do it again!



DHHS tooth fairy spreads cheer & toothbrushes to all

Approximately 40 people attended the Fair, including the Tooth Fairy, who passed out toothbrushes to Fair participants. Thanks, Tooth Fairy!

There were 22 vendors/displays with valuable information and goodies to give out. Everything from coupons, pins and peaches, to jump ropes and frisbees were given away! We even tried out the new Wii Fit system!

Some of the vendors/displays represented were: Domestic Violence; Maine Center on Deafness; Maine Center for Disease Control: HIV, Sexual Transmitted Disease & Viral Hepatitis Program; Poison Control of Northern New England; Breast and Cervical Health; Family Planning; Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault Project Advance; American Heart Association/Maine

Cardiovascular Health Program; and many other agencies.

If you want any information from these agencies, please contact Meryl Troop at 1-866-241-8639 (TTY), 557-0232 (V), meryl.troop@maine.gov or Romy Spitz at 866-241-8684 (TTY), romy.spitz@maine.gov at the Department of Health & Human Services. Come join us at the next Health Fair.

Camp Sign-A-Watha Is Back



Welcoming sign for Camp Sign-A-Watha 2008

Camp Sign-A-Watha came alive again August 25-29, 2008 at Camp Cobbossee in Monmouth. Campers from all over the state attended, and it was a wonderful success. Staff attended from various agencies to be with their campers.

The goal of Camp Sign-A-Watha is to provide Maine's Deaf adults with developmental disabilities with a language and communication enrichment experience within a program that emphasizes peer support, peer-to-peer learning and encourages independence.



Staff & campers on a hay ride

In 1988, Camp Sign-A-Watha was begun in order to combat the linguistic isolation facing Maine's Deaf adults with developmental disabilities and autism. In fact, Camp Sign-A-Watha is the only such camping experience in the world. For one week of the year, these adults are brought together into an environment that emphasizes learning and growth within a completely visually accessible communication environment. For "campers," this is the one time a year that they have the opportunity to interact, form long-term social bonds, to be a peer leader, join activities that are designed by and for Deaf adults, and enjoy the benefits of communication, such as news regarding world events, community news, and yes, even causal gossip.



Fred McKinley & camper

If you would like to make a donation to Camp Sign-A-Watha for future campers, the contact information is:

Camp Sign-A-Watha
39 Mechanic Street, Suite 300
Westbrook, ME 04092
207-591-6714 (VP)
207-591-4134 (TTY)
207-797-3935 (V)



Staff & campers craft making

Camps philosophy:

- ❖ To help each camper develop a realistic and positive attitude about themselves.
- ❖ To help each camper have fun and develop new skills.
- ❖ To help each camper develop an appreciation for nature, conservation, and the out of doors.
- ❖ To help each camper develop and build physical, social, and leisure time skills that represent reasonable expectations for that person.
- ❖ To help each camper achieve growth in independence and self-confidence.
- ❖ To help each camper achieve recognition for his/her achievements.
- ❖ To help provide a respite-care for the family members of each camper, and of the campers themselves.



Staff & Campers



Staff & Campers

**Lutheran Social Services
Deaf Services of Maine
Is
Growing!!**



**We Are Seeking Direct Service And
Management Staff Who Are Competent In
ASL To Join A Growing Deaf Program!!!**

**Earn Up To \$10.15 (Or More For Management!) Per Hour Assisting Deaf
Consumers Who Are Residents of LSS Homes Located In Standish, North
Gorham, and South Portland.**

LSS employees who regularly work 20 or more hours per week are eligible to receive agency benefits, including:



- Health Insurance Blue Cross/Blue Shield HMO (85% of premiums paid by employer for both Individuals and families!)
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Long Term Disability Insurance
- Fidelity 403B Retirement Plan
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- \$1000 Tuition Assistance
- 27 Paid Days Off Per Year
- Employer Paid Training....All trainings are done by ASL competent instructors! No interpreters are used!
- Life Insurance

Frequent opportunities for promotions in a growing company

Deaf Services of Maine
Lutheran Social Services
39 Mechanic Street, Suite 300
Westbrook, ME 04092
Email: BruceML@LSSNorth.org
Video Phone: 207/591-6714
Voice: 207/797-3935





343 Forest Avenue
Portland, ME 04101-2006
tel 207.874.1030
tty 207.874.1043
fax 207.874.1044
email info@commcc.org
web www.commcc.org

October 4, 2008

To the Deaf Community,

I would like to announce some changes within the Deaf Services program at Community Counseling Center, some sad and some that are exciting.

As many of you who attended the Deaf Culture Tea already know, Jennifer McCann has accepted a position at the Maine Center on Deafness. While we are sad to lose Jenn as a supervisor of our case management programs, we are excited for her and for the increased opportunities for collaboration between MCD and CCC. In addition, Jana Harbaugh, who has been a director for Deaf Services and several other programs at CCC, has stepped down from her director position but will continue to work at CCC and to provide therapy to her Deaf clients. We feel so fortunate that both Jenn and Jana have asked to continue working with the Deaf community through Community Counseling Center and will both continue to see a few counseling clients here.

With those loses, we also recognize that we have had many gains. I have been at Community Counseling Center in the Deaf Services program for many years, and my role has changed from supervisor to Team Leader for all of Deaf Services. This currently includes counseling services in both Bangor and Portland and both child and adult case management services in a number of regions, including Bangor, Augusta, Lewiston, Kittery, and Portland. We continue to expand the variety of groups, programs, and services that we offer, and we thank all of you who have nurtured and supported our program over the years.

Community Counseling Center has a hard working and skilled Deaf services clinical team, and we are honored to have the opportunity to continue to provide counseling and case management services to the community. Please contact me with any questions or thoughts you might have. I can be reached by phone or TTY at the numbers listed above or at 874-0099 (VP) or skelleycohen@commcc.org via email.

Sincerely,

Shana J. Kelley-Cohen, LCSW

Team Leader for Deaf Services
Community Counseling Center

**If you were hurt by a teacher,
staff or student while at the
Maine School for the Deaf or
Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD),
counseling is available
at no cost to you**

Some **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 abused at 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 Affairs
Meryl Troop
1-866-241-8639 (Toll free TTY)
287-4240 (V)
557-0232 (CELL)
E-mail: meryl.troop@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.

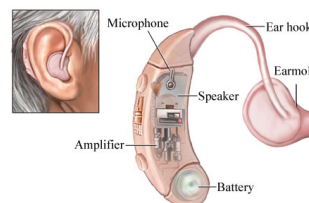
**Contact numbers for the Department of Labor,
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

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

**ALDA-Maine
(Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Maine)**

ALDA-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/

Hand & Voices Family Social

Please join us to connect with new families, visit with old friends, and share your ideas and visions for Hands & Voices Maine. We need YOU to make Hands & Voices Maine what Maine families want and need it to be! Professionals and service providers, please spread the word to the families with whom you work. We are eager and excited to see new faces as we establish the Maine chapter of Hands & Voices.

Thursday, November 13, 2008
4:00-5:30 p.m.
51 Waters Edge Drive
Lewiston, Maine
786-4020
Home of Bethany, John, Meredith and Julia Brubaker

Bring a snack to share if you wish. Childcare will be available. Please RSVP by November 10, 2008, to Vivian Mikhail at handsandvoicesmaine@earthlink.net, or to (207) 781-6215 or 1-800-231-8910

In Loving Memory of Betsy Reifman

Published in the Cape Code Times on 10/10/2008

Elizabeth M. "Betsy" Reifman



HARPSWELL, Maine — Elizabeth M. "Betsy" Reifman, formerly of Eastham, died Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, at home surrounded by family and loved ones. She was 55 years old and always said she was blessed with a wonderful life.

She came into this world on March 21, 1953, in Washington, D.C., in a loud,

boisterous way that remained her style until her untimely death.

Betsy moved to Paris, France, at the age of seven and said she had the most perfect childhood, running around the city of Paris during the days of Camelot. She moved back to the D.C. area when she was 13 years old, where she finished junior and high school. She was very involved in the peace movement and demonstrated against war and for social justice.

Betsy attended the University of Michigan's Residential College and majored in drama. After graduation, she moved to Boston, where she worked in theater, including Sarah Caldwell's Opera Company, and the Little Flags Theater. From there she moved to Cape Cod, which became her adopted home.

While living in Eastham, Betsy drove a school bus and danced as a member of the VIVA Dance Company. She also met the love of her life, Russell Packett. She returned to school, attending Northeastern University, to become a sign language interpreter.

In 1986, she and Russell moved to western Massachusetts, where they lived in picturesque Shelburne, Mass., in beautiful Franklin County. While living in western Massachusetts, Betsy worked as a staff interpreter with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

In 1989, they had their first son, Sam.

In 1993, they moved again, this time to the wonderful seaside community of Harpswell, Maine. Betsy continued to work as an interpreter, focusing on courtroom, legislature, and conferences/workshops. She also was on the waters of Casco Bay as much as possible, in their boats or her kayak.

Betsy has always enjoyed Maine winters and eagerly

anticipated the snow.

In 1994, she was again blessed, with the birth of her second son, Andy. Betsy was always amazed at how it was possible to love her children so much, and she felt she had the best children in the world.

In 1995, Betsy was diagnosed with breast cancer. Although this journey presented her with many challenges, she still maintained a positive outlook and lots of energy. She taught aerobics and choreographed for various community school theater events while continuing to receive treatment for re-occurrences over the next 13 years.

Betsy leaves behind the best husband in the world for more than 28 years, Russell Packett, and her two precious sons, Sam and Andy.

In addition, Betsy is also survived by her parents, Lucille and Alfred Reifman of Bethesda, Md., and Eastham; two sisters, Ann Reifman and her husband, Elliot Blum, of Bethesda, Md., and Katie Reifman of New York City; and her cousin and lifelong friend, Karen Wacks and her husband, Marty Ginivan, of Peabody, Mass. Also surviving are her in-laws, Bernice and Manuel Packett of Winter Haven, Fla., formerly of Brewster; two brothers-in-law, Jim Packett of Leesbrug, Fla., formerly of Brewster, and Alan Packett and his wife, Marcia, of Raleigh, N.C.; two sisters-in-law, Pat Christenson and her husband, Jack, of Cape Coral, Fla., and Marilyn Smith and her husband, Jeff, of Alexandria, Va., formerly of Orleans; plus many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

She felt that she was blessed with the most wonderful life, and looked forward to every new day.

There will be a memorial service/celebration of her life at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008, at the Crooker Theater at Brunswick High School. Everyone is welcome to attend and be a part of this celebration. Betsy requests that people wear brightly colored clothes and come to celebrate, not mourn.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please send donations to the educational fund for Betsy's children, R. Packett/R-P Educational Fund, c/o Joan Ducharme, 63 Ledgeview Lane, Harpswell, ME 04079.

Remember, laugh, dance and live every day.

Arrangements are under the care of the Brackett Funeral Home, 29 Federal St., Brunswick.

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)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

E-mail: Alice.C.Johnson@maine.gov

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.*