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Maine-Lines: A Newsletter for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Late-Deafened, Summer / Fall 2006

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

Blaine House Tea September 21, 2006



Governor John Baldacci & Victor Vigna, interpreter

It was a wonderful, unexpected pleasure to have Governor John Baldacci welcome everyone to the Blaine House Tea. His sincere speech regarding the importance of the Deaf community's challenges and accomplishments was well received by approximately 115 people who attended.



Jan DeVinney, Director DoD & Mary Jane Grant, Interpreter

Jan DeVinney's heartfelt opening remarks regarding her resignation from the Division of Deafness was sad news for many in the audience.

Her dedicated spirit to the Deaf community will continue in her new position as the Deaf Services/Access Coordinator at Maine Medical Center in Portland. She will be sadly missed at the Division of Deafness.



Michael Ralph, Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker was Michael Ralph, the Chair of the Maine Center on Deafness Board. His speech was titled "Moving Forward" regarding our Deaf community in Maine.

Brief history of the Deaf Culture Awards

In 1992, the Division of Deafness decided to host a Blaine House Tea to celebrate Deaf Culture Week, which is always the last full week in September. This created a great venue to honor the activities of Deaf individuals, professionals and agencies that work with the Deaf Community. The Division of Deafness requests nominations from Deaf Community members, professionals and agencies. To date 62 Community Awards have been presented. This year marks the 15th Blaine House Tea where we presented another six community awards.

The personal statements about each person are taken from the nomination forms sent to the Division of Deafness.



Larry Taub and John Dunleavy

Outstanding Role Model for the Deaf Community Award

This is a new award category and we had 10 nominations in the first year. The award committee chose two recipients:



John Dunleavy

John Dunleavy is a powerful and positive role model for the Deaf Community. He is an active member of the community, a strong leader, an innovative teacher, a mentor, as well as an advocate. He gives back to his community in both his professional and private life, and is always interested in ways to enrich and improve the lives of Deaf people in Maine.

In his short time here in Maine (5 years), John has been a major force in instituting new programs, such as the Adult Education Literacy program, Adult Education Computer training and revitalizing existing programs.

His work with Alpha One is tireless. His energy impacts the lives of deaf consumers in a very positive way.

He has been very active with Maine's Deaf Senior Citizen's group, working with the group to assist them with their needs and requests.

John is also a member of the Division of Deafness Advisory Council. The Division of Deafness Director often seeks his thoughts, opinions and input on issues affecting services to the Deaf community.

Outstanding Role Model for the Deaf Community Award



Ginny Pelletier

Ginny Pelletier is a Maine grown role model. She attended Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. After she graduated, she left Maine for a while BUT came back.

She has worked for the State of Maine for more than 20 years! Her first job with the State was as a Rehabilitation Assistant with the Division of Deafness. She wrote and edited Maine-Lines, worked with the old TTY Program and provided many Deaf Culture trainings to State and private agencies.

In her present job, Ginny works directly with Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and consumers. It is obvious that Ginny loves to work with people.

Ginny was nominated for her outstanding support and encouragement to the Deaf community, her selfless giving to deaf individuals, her career development work with individuals in the Career Center and her provision of Sign Language instruction to her hearing colleagues.

Ms. Pelletier is an outstanding Deaf individual who gives of herself selflessly to all.



Larry Taub & Ginny Pelletier

Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award



Patty Cook-Stewart, Deanna Hutchins & Lynn Schardel, Director

Peer Support Program Maine Educational Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

The staff of this program has actively provided services to hundreds of deaf and hard-of-hearing students in public schools all over the state. They work with the schools and provide recommendations that improve the d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing students' educational experiences.

Some staff members go beyond their regular duties; attend PET meetings and develop relationships with parents. They also educate the school, students, and their peers about deafness and hearing loss.

Along with the Outreach workers, the Peer Support Program staff works to connect the students within programs such as "Kids Like Me" and weekend trips with peers. As a result, the children of Maine are encouraged to meet each other and not feel isolated. Some individuals are empowered to advocate for themselves, look to the future with the understanding that their educational hopes and dreams can become real.



Deanna Hutchins, Larry Taub, Lynn Schardel & Patty Cook-Stewart

Special Commendation Award

This award is given to an individual or agency whose activities in and with the deaf community deserve recognition.

This year, two women are getting Awards for the same project. Each woman brought her own unique vision and talents to the Labyrinth Project. They were not alone, but without them, there would be no Labyrinth.



Kathy Wooten (Laurette Souliere not pictured)

Katherine H. Wooten and Laurette Souliere For the Labyrinth Project

With the burning of the old farmhouse on Mackworth Island, nothing was left except for ashes. With the vision of Kathy Wooten and Laurette Souliere, they encouraged the growth of hopes and dreams by creating a labyrinth that best represents Deaf Culture.

Kathy started the idea as part of healing for us all. A labyrinth is a patterned path, often circular in form, used for walking and meditation. She wanted to combine the design of a labyrinth with Deaf Culture to make it meaningful to students and alumni and came up with using the ASL symbol for "I Love You" as the main part of the design.



Labyrinth on Mackworth Island

Kathy and Laurette stepped forward, and along with volunteers, rolled up their sleeves, put their minds and bodies to work and made it all happen. From a small seed came fruit.

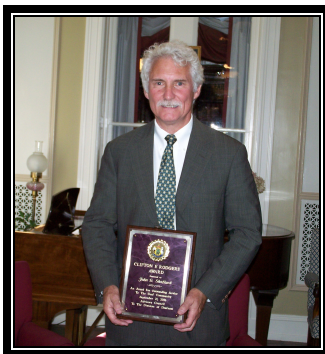
With their hard work, the community came together in harmony to create something meaningful and a positive representation of the future out of ashes of terrible memories. Their shared vision became a reality for everyone to enjoy.

They did not stop there, but continue to encourage community unity through the growth of the "Signing Red Hat Society." Kathy also was a wonderful speaker at a recent Mental Health conference. They are inspirations for us all.

Clifton F. Rodgers Award

In 1984 the Clifton F. Rodgers Award was created to honor individuals who have a life long history of service to Maine's Deaf Community. This award is chosen from nominees solicited from the Advisory Council to the Division of Deafness.

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 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 is a "life time achievement award."



John Shattuck

John Shattuck became a member of Maine's Deaf Community in 1979, when he was hired to work as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf (RCD) in the Rockland Office. For those who may not understand...one does not have to be Deaf to be a member of the community. While there, he distinguished himself and gained the respect of his clients, supervisor and fellow staff. John had worked in New York in the Mental Health field.

His experience at Fountain House strengthened his abilities to work with the most difficult clientele.

John held many positions in the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services: Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf; Case Work Supervisor; Regional Manager; Deputy Director, and also Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. John never forgot the Deaf community when his job title no longer included "for the Deaf." While John was Bureau Director, he was instrumental in getting the positions of Director and Assistant to the Director for the Division of Deafness reinstated, which started the Division of Deafness again. He also advocated for more funds for the Telecommunications Equipment Program and Maine Center on Deafness.

Mr. Shattuck left the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to head the Baxter Compensation Authority for the entire claims process. He worked very hard to ensure that all abuse survivors from GBSD/MSD were heard, compensated and received appropriate supports. He put the needs of the Deaf Community first for many years by providing admirable support, advocacy, and leadership. He is an important supporter of Deaf people in this state. John worked tirelessly with the Legislature to get more funding for the BCA to pay claims.

John was nominated for the Clifton Rodgers Award and the Outstanding Advocate Award many times in the past, but he always refused the honor. Now that the BCA Program is finished, he was convinced to accept this award.



Seated: Patty Cook-Stewart, Deanna Hutchins & Lynn Schardel
Standing: Kathy Wooten, John Dunleavy, Ginny Pelletier & John Shattuck

Changes at the Division of Deafness

Jan DeVinney left her position as Director at the Division of Deafness to start a new job at the Maine Medical Center. She was the first late-deafened director of the Division of Deafness.

Jan is leaving with a variety of accomplishments, the most impressive being the Emergency Notification System (ENS). This system is one of a kind in the United States. The ENS enables deaf and hard-of-hearing people to get the notification of emergencies at the same time as hearing people, who get their information mainly from radio and TV.

She also brought the issues of the hard of hearing and late deafened to the table by advocating to increase the number of late-deafened/hard-of-hearing seats on the Division of Deafness Advisory Council. She trained the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and legislative staff on the issues of hearing loss. Her passion and perspective on issues made her a great asset to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.

Jan accepted the position of Deaf Services/Access Coordinator for Maine Med. She will be ensuring access to all deaf and hard-of-hearing people who require services with the medical center.

The hiring process for the new Division Director has begun, and someone will be hired in the near future.

Jan, we wish you the best in all your future endeavors; you are sadly missed by everyone here.



Jan DeVinney

Jan's new contact information is:

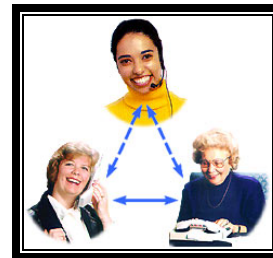
Jan DeVinney, Deaf Services/Access Coordinator
Maine Medical Center
Vocational Services
22 Bramhall Street
Portland, ME 04101
E-mail: devinj1@mmc.org
662-3847 (V)



Courtesy of Davideo Productions (www.davideo.tv)

Maine Relay 711

Why would a Maine business or government employee hang up on a relay call?



How relay works

Believe it or not it happens all the time. People need to be educated on relay calls.

A relay call is just one way a person who uses a different kind of a telephone due to a disability communicates with other people. Relay is vital to some people with hearing loss who cannot use a regular telephone and also to the people who call them. Relay is nationwide, anytime. Anyone can dial 711 and they will get a relay call assistant.

If you answer your phone and the person on the other end says, "Maine Relay, CA number 0000, with a call from a person who may be deaf or hard of hearing, are you familiar with relay?" **please don't hang up.** It is not a scam, telemarketer, or crank call, it is a person using a device other than a regular telephone trying to contact you or someone at that phone number.

Hamilton Relay provides traditional relay services for the state of Maine including TTY, Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech, Spanish and CapTel™.

When you call Maine Relay, a Communication Assistant (CA) will connect on the phone with you. Simply give the CA the number you wish to call and your call will be processed promptly, professionally and accurately.

Maine Emergency Notification System (ENS)

Maine's Deaf and hard-of-hearing residents can now receive alerts about emergencies in Maine sent out by the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

The Maine Center on Deafness (MCD) can provide the equipment to receive the emergency alerts. Current equipment available:

Stationary Emergency Weather Alert radio with LCD screen. This stationary unit allows people to receive emergency weather alerts auditorily as well as visually on a digital screen, and has vibration or strobe alert options. Equipment is also available to amplify the auditory alert for people who are hard of hearing.

One-way pagers by UCOM paging. This device allows individuals to receive text messages, but not to send text messages. You WILL NOT RECEIVE NEW MESSAGES on this pager if your pager is TURNED OFF, or if you leave the covered territory. You can also receive short e-mail messages from people who have your pager address, but you cannot reply.

Two-way pagers by T-Mobile. Contact MCD for more information about availability.

Equipment can be purchased directly at full cost, or individuals can apply for the "Cost-Share" or "Lending Program" from MCD. The cost of the equipment is dependent on the individual's annual income. Email EAlert@MCDMaine.org for more information.

\$10 Off Your Monthly Wireless Communication Bill!!*

You may qualify for a \$10 discount on your wireless cell phone, two-way pager, or pre-paid service. If your family's income is less than 135% of the poverty level, you may receive \$10 of your monthly service fee or a \$10 reimbursement for pre-paid service. Contact Alyssa Gagnon at (207)797-7656 or through e-mail as: EAlert@mcdmaine.org for more information.

*Must be deaf or hard of hearing, Maine resident, and receive Emergency Notification Messages (ENS) messages from MEMA.

For More Information Contact:

Maine Center on Deafness
68 Bishop Street, Suite 3
Portland, ME 04103

Voice/TTY: 207 797-7656

Voice/TTY: (outside Portland area): 1-800-639-3884

Fax: 207 797-9791

E-mail: info@mcdmaine.org/

Did you know?

- ❖ **Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA-Maine)** ALDA-Maine invites new members. ALDA-Maine provides needed information about hearing loss and promotes different activities depending on local needs. CART services will be provided (real time captions for the meeting discussions). If you cannot make it to the meetings, please e-mail your interest; your participation by e-mail is welcomed.

Next meeting: January 6, 2006, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM, at the Pen Bay Professional Building, Rockport/Rockland. RSVP to Lauren@caregiving-online.com.

- ❖ **Maine Center on Deafness (MCD)**

NEW OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 8AM-6PM

Tuesday 8AM-6PM

Wednesday 8AM-8PM

Thursday 8AM-6PM

Friday 8AM-6PM

Emergency Notification System (ENS) & Telecommunication Equipment Program (TEP) Hours:

Tuesday 8AM-4PM

Wednesday 3PM-8PM

MCD has hired Amy Snerison as the Civil Rights Program Manager, and Elissa Moran as the Telecommunication Equipment Program Director. MCD plans a search beginning this fall for the Executive Director position.

- ❖ **ASL NEWS** meetings take place in Bangor and Portland and allow the Deaf community to come together and discuss issues in ASL. Discussion topics change every month. (Note: This information available from the MCD web site. www.mcdmaine.org)
- ❖ The next **Division of Deafness Advisory Council** meeting is January 11, 2007 from 5:30 P.M. to 8:15 P.M. It will be held at the Department of Public Safety, 45 Commerce Drive, "Fallen Heroes" room, Augusta (formerly the SCI building, off Civic Center Drive). This meeting is open to the public.

Baxter Compensation Authority (BCA) has ended (update as of 06/06)

- ❖ 361 former students contacted and submitted a claim to the BCA.
- ❖ 342 claims were found eligible for compensation.
- ❖ \$17,740,000 was awarded to claimants.

Free counseling will continue; it does not have a deadline.

Obituaries:

Jan K. Repass, 72, Maine Avenue, Portland, passed away peacefully at his residence on November 2, 2006, with his family by his side. He was born in Bluefield, West Virginia on September 26, 1934, the only son of Zeyn and Okie Repass. He was educated at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, then went on to obtain his undergraduate degree from Gallaudet University and his Master's Degree in education from the University of Virginia. Obtaining his advanced degree was a special accomplishment, as there was little to no interpreting assistance available for hearing impaired students at the time.

In his lifetime, Jan enjoyed two very fulfilling careers. He was first an educator at his beloved Virginia School of the Deaf and Blind, and later spent 18 years as a teacher and Dean of Students at the Baxter School for the Deaf in Falmouth. In midlife, he leapt into the growing field of technology and became a computer programmer and analyst for L.L. Bean in Freeport. He enjoyed many years at L.L. Bean before retiring from the company in 1996.

Jan's true passion in life was teaching, and countless people were introduced to deaf culture and connected with the deaf community as a result of his more than 20 years of teaching American Sign Language, through Portland Adult Education and many other forums. His charismatic teaching style kept his classes consistently full, and he formed lasting friendships with many of his students. He was one of the founding members of the Maine Center on Deafness and helped create the Maine Relay Service, which established an important telecommunications link between the hearing and the deaf. In addition, he was responsible for establishing the ASL program at Central Maine Community College. Through all of these endeavors, he was able to build a bridge between the local deaf and hearing communities.

Jan was an enthusiastic participant in many organizations over the course of his lifetime. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout in his youth and later served as Scout Master, helping many other scouts reach this goal. He was an active participant in student organizations during his college years and a member of numerous deaf community organizations, both locally and nationally, throughout his adult life. He served as co-chair of the National Deaf Senior Citizens Convention in Boston in 2003. He had a true zest for life which was evident in his many interests, including photography, flower gardening, golfing, motorcycle riding, hiking, and simply socializing with his many friends.

Jan was an extremely compassionate, gentle, thoughtful and caring person who always kept a positive outlook on life, and he will be warmly remembered this way by his family and countless friends.

Jan is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Helen; son Jeff, his wife Daphne, and grandson Ryan; daughter Libby, her husband Dave, and grandsons Caleb and David; mother-in-law Catherine Walker; and many cousins and extended family in Virginia.

His family would like to thank Dr. Thomas Ervin and the staff at the Maine Center for Cancer Medicine for the exceptional care given to Jan over the past two years, and the VNA Hospice staff for their loving and compassionate care in the last days of his life.

Clay Corson Jordan



PORTLAND -- Clay Corson Jordan was born in Portsmouth, N.H., on June 7, 1915 to Commander Leland and Gertrude Wilson Jordan. He attended private schools, Deerfield Academy and the Manlius School in Manlius, N.Y. He received his B.A. degree from Harvard College, Class of 1938.

He traveled to and from Buenos Aires in Argentina, where his father was the U.S. Naval Attaché, earning his way as an apprentice seaman. After college, he worked as an assistance manager at JJ Newbury in Kingston, N.Y., and later worked 10 years as a company representative for Gillette, Briggs and Stratton, Hammerill Paper, and several other major companies in Calcutta and Bombay, India. On his return to America, he became a section supervisor in packaging at Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, California.

On his retirement in 1970, he and his wife, Wilma, moved to Falmouth, where they bought and renovated a 1753 house with no plumbing or electricity. After it was completed, they sold it and bought a home on the water in Scarborough. His wife died a few months later and he married, Dorothy C. Rodgers in 1990.

They enjoyed traveling all over the world. After 10 years, they sold their home and moved to the Woods at Canco, a retirement home in Portland. He was a volunteer for Ingraham Volunteers for nine years and served on the Governors Council on Employment of People with Disabilities. He was a member of the Maine Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; a daughter, Deborah Nelson and her husband, Peter of Westbrook; a son, Kenyon Jordan and his wife, Therese of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and a step-son, Robert Rodgers and his wife, Simone of Freeport; three grandchildren, Dr. Michael Mahoney and his wife Dr. Neda Mahoney of Sacramento, Calif., Travers and Rioux Jordan of Colorado Springs; and three step-grandchildren, Kristin of Seattle, Dr. Amy and Jonathan Rodgers; also, a sister, Letitia Cramer of Las Cruces, N.M.; several nieces and a nephew. At his request, there will be no funeral service and his ashes will be scattered at sea.

Maine Department of Labor
Division of Deafness
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Augusta, ME 04333-0150

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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.

Director
150 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0150

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1-800-698-4440 (V) (within Maine only)
624-5980 (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.*