



## SENIORS' CHAT



# Don's Column



Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

At the October 2 Monthly Meeting, we will have two brief presentations before lunch and then an Oktoberfest lunch. After lunch, Stan Smith will give a presentation about his trip to Italy (Rome and Sicily). See page 2.

See pages 3-4 for a recap of the September 4 Monthly Meeting. Twenty-five people attended in person. Stan Smith demonstrated Tai Chi. After lunch, Jill Kotchen gave a presentation on "The State of Florida."

As usual, Stay Happy Safely with Our Awesome Hands!

~ Don



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...to the folks with birthdays in October

Ross Gilson [3rd]  
Robert Gault [4th]  
Donna Graff-Viall [5th]  
Chuck Kelley [13th]  
Sam Yates [19th]

Claudia Brawley [23rd]  
Julie Greenfield [24th]  
Cheryl Gault [25th]  
Kea Manfredonio [25th]  
Laura Sweeney [27th]

# Happy Hands In-Person Meeting

## October 2 at 10:00 AM

We will have our in-person monthly meeting on October 2 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. See below for the menu, which is Oktoberfest. The Menu Committee will take care of getting the food items.

Members will pay \$8.00 while non-members pay \$10.00.

**Please give Pat Beech [pgbeech@aol.com] your choice of meat — Brats or Hot Dog — by September 25.**

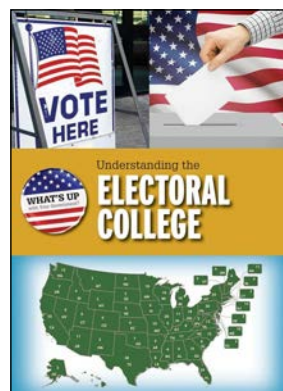
If there are dietary concerns, you can contact Pat Beech.

Please bring **YOUR OWN BEVERAGES.**

Before lunch, we will have two brief presentations:

- \* Melanie Williams will explain how Electoral College works.
- \* Denise Proulx will talk about making sure your Voter Registration is up to date.
- \* Bob Hickey will talk about American Heritage Girls (for his daughter, Della Duerksen).

After lunch, Stan Smith will give a presentation on “Italy, Rome, and Sicily.”



Brats or Hot Dog (pick one) — **RSVP by September 25**

Buns  
Potato Salad  
Sauerkraut

Desserts:

- \* Black Forest Chocolate Cake
- \* Apple Streudel






 RECAP

# Recap of Monthly Meeting on September 4, 2024


 RECAP

At the August 7 meeting, we had 25 attendees. Here is YouTube link for the meeting: <https://youtu.be/YuDR6wv4wYs>:

- \* NVRC Updates by Eileen McCartin, current NVRC Executive Director
- \* Announcement of Darren Marquardt as new NVRC Executive Director
- \* September Birthday Celebration
- \* Darren Marquardt introduced himself
- \* Demo Tai Chi by Stan Smith
- \* Introducing Visitors
- \* 50/50 Raffles
- \* Presentation on “The State of Florida” by Jill Kotchen

Tai Chi by Stan Smith — <https://youtu.be/Zg7oVBzyAKI>

The State of Florida by Jill Kotchen — <https://youtu.be/PB9oDt3vpFU>



Serry Fahmy, Jonathan Kiell,  
Stan Smith, Eddie Drawdy,  
Lois Herberger, and Jill Kotchen



Barry Harlan, Pat Beech,  
Eileen Goran, Alfred Traurig,  
and Cathleen Potosky



Steve Williams, Treasurer  
Melanie Williams, 50/50 Raffles



Cathleen Potosky,  
Richard Cohen,  
Jill Moebus, and  
Lanny Quarles



Bob Hickey and  
Rick Thompson



Cathy Thompson  
and Deanna  
Dunham



Deanna Dunham,  
Margaret Huang,  
and Jill Moebus




**RECAP**

# Recap of Monthly Meeting

(continued from page 3)


**RECAP**


Tim & Mary  
Ann Beatty



Jill Moebus, Mary Nguyen,  
and Lanny Quarles



Darren Marquardt and  
Melanie Williams



Lydia Olugbodi and  
Hamidat Ahmad



Lynn Keefe  
and Lois  
Herberger



Barry Harlan  
and Bill Morris



Denise Proulx  
and Jill Moebus



Julie Greenfield  
and Jean Buffardi



50/50 Raffle  
1st Prize  
Jill Moebus



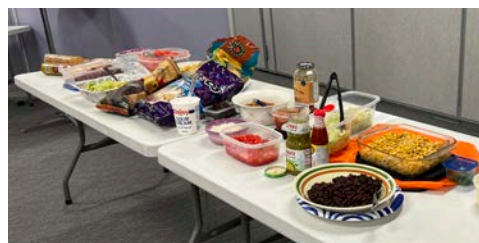
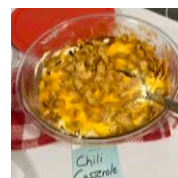
Stan Smith demonstrating Tai Chi



50/50 Raffle  
2nd Prize  
Mary Ann Beatty

## NVRC Executive Director

- Darren Marquardt,  
Incoming
- Eileen McCartin,  
Outgoing





# News of Interest



## Keivonn Montreal Woodward

Keivonn Montreal Woodard, a student at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, was featured in the August 26 issue of TIME as one of the six finalists for Kid of the Year 2024.

Source: <https://gallaudet.edu/university-communications/kdes-student-keivonn-woodard-honored-in-time-magazine/>

TIME: <https://time.com/6996553/keivonn-woodard/>



<https://www.facebook.com/EbonyRGooden/videos/175163841039363/>

## Name Sign for Kamala Harris

A team of Black and Indian Deaf women worked together to come up with a name sign for Kamala Harris.

Source: The Daily Moth [<https://www.dailymoth.com/blog/kamala-harris-name-sign>].



## Budweiser Clydesdales

The Budweiser Clydesdales made a quick stop at Frying Pan Farm Park on September 27 for a meet-and-greet. Melanie & Steve Williams went to this event with granddaughter Ashlyn. The Clydesdales became popular due to Super Bowl commercials and holiday parades. For more information about the Budweiser Clydesdales, see: <https://www.anheuser-busch.com/about/clydesdale>.







# New Executive Director



On September 4, NVRC announced that Darren Marquardt would be the new Executive Director of NVRC. He assumed the position on September 23. Eileen McCartin's last day was at Celebrate Communication on September 28.

Darren grew up in Faribault, MN, known for its fully integrated Deaf, Blind, and Hearing communities. He lived across the street from the Minnesota School for the Deaf, and down the street from the Minnesota School for the Blind. At a young age, he was immersed in an environment where sign language was widely used.

Darren has genetic hearing loss, and is a BTE hearing aid user. He is involved with ASL and the Deaf Community by participating in many Deaf events. He is the Organizer of the Meetup ASL Bridge/DMV.

Darren's first job was as a professional ballroom dancer and teacher. He transitioned into real estate, earning his license and owning a real estate business for the past 23 years. He is also a professional actor. He performed in Deaf/Hearing productions that bridge communication between communities. He holds degrees from George Mason University and George Washington University.

**Personal Vision Statement:** As the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC), Darren's vision is to create a thriving and inclusive community where the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are fully empowered, respected, and integrated into every aspect of life. By fostering innovative communication strategies and building strong, collaborative relationships, he aims to bridge the gap between the Deaf and Hearing communities, ensuring that everyone has equal access to opportunities, resources, and support.

**Personal Mission Statement:** Darren's mission is to lead NVRC with integrity, passion, and a deep commitment to the values of Communication, Community, Collaboration, Contribution, and Encouragement. He will work tirelessly to enhance NVRC's impact by working to expand our services to the community, strengthening existing partnerships, and forming new connections that advance our mission. Through strategic fundraising, advocacy, and the promotion of diversity and inclusion, he is dedicated to building a sustainable future for NVRC, where the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can thrive alongside the Hearing community.





# Happy Hands Social Chat at Wegmans on 09-11-2024



Standing: Jean Buffardi, Eileen Goran, Jonathan Kiell,  
Pat Beech, and Lois Herberger  
Sitting: Tom Dowling, Darren Marquardt, Richard Cohen,  
Cathleen Potosky, and Stan Smith  
Kneeling: Dotty Smith and Eddie Drawdy



Eddie Drawdy  
and Laurie Dowling



Tim Lavelle



Photo Credit: Darren Marquardt



Pat Beech, Jean Buffardi,  
and Dotty Smith





# Deaf Way

## October 16-29, 2025



Gallaudet University is bringing back Deaf Way. This time it will have a new twist. Starting in 2025, Deaf Way Festival will have the original artistic and cultural gathering concept but reformatting it into a series of festivals with specific tracks on a bi-annual basis.

The first event in October 2025 will be a film festival. This aims to create a space where deaf filmmakers and deaf professionals can participate. The weekend of films will showcase the work of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing creatives and celebrate Deaf culture, sign language, and Deaf pride. This festival will also include panels and workshops.

Future events will include a Science Festival, Visual and Performing Arts Festival, and DeafBlind Festival. Each festival will have different partners and collaborators who are experts in their field.

Source: <https://gallaudet.edu/university-communications/deaf-way-to-return-in-2025-as-a-series-of-biennial-celebrations/>

URL for Deaf Way: <https://gallaudet.edu/deaf-way/>



Happy Hands will celebrate the new year, 2025, on January 15 @ 12:00PM at Clyde's Willow Creek Farm in Broadlands, just west of Dulles Airport in Loudoun County.

Address:  
42920 Broadlands Blvd  
Broadlands VA 20148

URL: <https://www.clydes.com/location/willow-creek-farm/>



Please let Pat Beech [[pgbeech@aol.com](mailto:pgbeech@aol.com)] know by January 3, 2025, if you plan to come. We need a head count. More details will be provided, as time nears.

FYI, the closest Metro Station is Ashburn Station [<https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/silver-line-extension/Ashburn.cfm>]. You could get Uber or Lyft from Ashburn Station to Clyde's Willow Creek Farm.





# A Guide for the 2024 Election: Why Research Matters More Than Ever



With so much at stake in the 2024 election, voting is more important than ever. Voting is a powerful tool that allows us to shape the policies that impact our healthcare, schools, jobs, and communities.

Some people feel that their votes do not matter. In recent elections, such as the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election in Florida, just a few hundred votes determined the outcome. Those close margins remind us how every vote matters. John Lewis said that “The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society.” By voting, you become part of the decision-making process, ensuring that your voice and values are represented in government. Don’t let others decide your future — make your vote count.



John Lewis  
Congressman  
and Civil Rights

Researching candidates thoroughly is essential for informed voting, especially in a time when misinformation can easily mislead voters. Here are some recommendations to help you navigate the 2024 election:

## Candidate’s Official Websites:

Visit each candidate’s official website to review their platforms and policy positions in their own words.

- Kamala Harris [Democratic Party] — <https://kamalaharris.com/issues/>
- Chase Oliver [Libertarian Party] — <https://votechaseoliver.com/platform/>
- Jill Stein [Green Party] — <https://www.jillstein2024.com/platform>
- Donald Trump [Republican Party] — <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/platform>



Kamala Harris  
Democratic Party

## Nonpartisan Voter Guides:

Use these nonpartisan guides to compare where candidates stand on the issues that matter most to you.

- League of Women Voters of Virginia — <https://my.lwv.org/virginia>
- NAACP — <https://naacp.org/know-issues>
- Comparison Chart — <https://2024election.procon.org/side-by-side-comparison-chart/>
- AARP — <https://help.aarp.org/s/article/what-election-information-is-available-from-aarp>



Chase Oliver  
Libertarian Party

## Fact-Checking Websites:

Before believing or sharing political claims, check them against these reliable fact-checking sites to avoid misinformation.

- The Facts — [https://verbaai.org/election\\_facts/va](https://verbaai.org/election_facts/va)
- FactCheck — <https://www.factcheck.org/>
- PolitiFact — <https://www.politifact.com/>
- Snopes — <https://www.snopes.com/category/politics/>



# A Guide for the 2024 Election

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## Endorsements:

Compare candidate endorsements.

- [https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential\\_election\\_endorsements,\\_2024](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_election_endorsements,_2024)

## Deepfakes and Manipulated Media:

Deepfakes are manipulated videos or audio that falsely depict candidates saying or doing things they never did. Always check the source before believing or sharing media online.

## Conclusion:

As the 2024 election approaches, the power of your vote cannot be overstated. By researching candidates thoroughly and relying on credible sources, you can make an informed choice that reflects your values and priorities. Remember, every vote matters, and your participation helps shape the future of our country.

In an era where misinformation and manipulated media can easily sway opinions, staying informed and vigilant is more important than ever. Use the resources provided in this guide to explore candidates' platforms, verify facts, and understand where each candidate stands on the issues that matter to you.

Your voice is a crucial part of our democracy. Don't let others decide your future—engage in the electoral process with confidence and make your vote count.



Jill Stein  
Green Party



Donald Trump  
Republican Party



## Are You Registered to Vote?



Are you registered to vote? Eight states purge voters for inactive voting: Ohio, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Arizona, Texas, Nevada, and Wisconsin. Voters are removed from the rolls if they are deemed “inactive,” often due to failing to vote in consecutive elections. Even though Virginia is not one of the 8 states, it is a good idea to check your Voter Registration status.

A member of Happy Hands Deaf Seniors recommended this video: <https://youtu.be/pUtQVvG9agY>.

This link shows states requiring some forms of identification: [https://www.lgbtmap.org/democracy-maps/in\\_person\\_voting](https://www.lgbtmap.org/democracy-maps/in_person_voting).

Voter Identification for Virginia: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/voter-id/outreach-materials/documents/Voter-Identification-Chart---Revised-08.23.2023.pdf>.



# 2024 OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 	2 HH Monthly Meeting (p. 2)	3 	4 	5 
6 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 12)	7 	8	9 HH Social at Wegmans (p. 12)	10	11	12 
13	14 	15	16 Fine Tuners Meeting 10AM-12PM	17	18	19 
20 Social Night at Wegmans (p. 12)	21	22	23 Crafts and Board Games 10AM-2PM (p. 12)	24	25	26
27	28	29 	30	31 		

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## Thanks to:

- Everyone who brought goodies for the Mexican-Style lunch
- Menu Committee for planning a great and delicious menu
- Eddie Drawdy for conducting the meeting (in Don's absence)
- Everyone who helped with set-up and clean-up
- Stan Smith for demonstrating Tai Chi
- Jill Kotchen for presenting "The State of Florida"
- Jonathan Kiell for helping Jill Kotchen with displaying her PowerPoint file
- Pat Beech for doing the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- Melanie Williams and Jonathan Kiell for proofreading the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- Debbie Jones and Pat Beech for preparing the monthly HH Newsletter hardcopies for mail





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 URL: [www.nvrc.org](http://www.nvrc.org)  
 VP 571-350-8656  
 10467 White Granite Drive  
 Suite 312  
 Oakton, VA 22124

URL: <https://nvrc.org/about/directions/>



Don Ames, Chair  
[\[dames@cox.net\]](mailto:dames@cox.net)

URL: <https://www.nvrc.org/happy-hands/>



### Fine Tuners for 2024-2025

Front Row: Don Ames (Chair),  
 Eddie Drawdy (Vice Chair),  
 Melanie Williams (Secretary),  
 and Steve Williams (Treasurer)

Back Row (All are Members-At-Large): Jill Moebus,  
 Lois Herberger, Bob Hickey, and Cathleen Potosky



### Crafts and Board Games



Happy Hands will host Crafts and Board Games on  
 October 23 at NVRC during 10:00AM-2:00PM.

Point of Contact for Crafts: Lynn Keefe at  
[lskusgs@aol.com](mailto:lskusgs@aol.com).

Point of Contact for Board Games: Eddie Drawdy at  
[ce@drawdy.us](mailto:ce@drawdy.us) and Jill Moebus at  
[jmoebus7@gmail.com](mailto:jmoebus7@gmail.com).

## Silent Social at Wegmans

This occurs on the first and third Sundays of each month at 7:00PM in Fairfax Wegmans at the corner of Route 29 and Monument Drive (Upper Level, near the stairs). Registration is suggested. The dates for the Silent Social Chat are October 6 and 20. FYI, some people arrive early (6:00PM) and grab some of Wegmans prepared food for dinner.



The date for HH Lunchtime Social Chat is October 9 at 10:30AM.

Please come join the very informal chat; the group often includes students and interpreters looking to learn and practice ASL. You can also get your groceries while you are there!

For more info, contact Jonathan Kiell at  
[jona3ki@msn.com](mailto:jona3ki@msn.com) or see: [https:// www.meetup.com/aslbridge/](https://www.meetup.com/aslbridge/).



### Deaf America and the 2024 Elections



Gallaudet Alumni Relations hosted a webinar on “Deaf America and the 2024 Elections” on September 5, 2024. Dr. Brendan Stern, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy in Deaf America, explored the current state of American democracy. He discussed how we could make a meaningful difference in the 2024 elections.



Here is URL for the webinar:  
<https://youtu.be/6MUvENd5izI>.