



SENIORS' CHAT



Don's Column



Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

Our upcoming April 2nd monthly meeting's agenda will have a presentation by Linda Jackson on a survey developed with RIT/NTID. See page 2 for details. After lunch, we will have Board games.

All of our recent events are reported with pictures in this newsletter for your reading pleasure. Page 16 has information about election of officers for 2025-2026.

As usual, Stay Happy Safely with Our Awesome Hands!

~ Don

Picnic
June 4, 2025
10:00AM-4:00PM (Rain or Shine)
Lake Fairfax Park
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax>
More information
will be in the May issue.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...to the folks with birthdays in April

Kathy Ferris [7th]
Richard Cohen [11th]
Kathy Jones [11th]
Laurie Dowling [15th]
Iryna Ravliuk [16th]
Paul Daniels [20th]
Jonathan Kiell [24th]



Happy Hands In-Person Meeting

April 2 at 10:00 AM



We will have our monthly meeting on April 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. See below for the menu. For more information, contact Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com. **If you do not bring food, please pay \$10.00.** **BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES.** To make sure we have enough ham and chicken, please **RSVP** to Pat Beech (pgbeech@aol.com) **by March 28** which you want — Ham or Chicken.

Honey Baked Ham: Happy Hands
 Rotisserie Chicken: Happy Hands
 Scalloped Potatoes: Bob Hickey, ____
 Roasted Potatoes: Cyril Potosky and
 Melanie Williams
 Sweet Potatoes: Denise Drake
 Potato Salad: Tim Lavelle
 Glazed Carrots: Tim Beatty and
 Paul Daniels
 Green Beans: Cathleen Potosky
 Green Bean Casserole: Peggy Daniels
 Corn Souffle: Cheryl Rockburn
 Corn Casserole: Bill Morris
 Spring Salad (Spinach, Strawberries,
 Pecans): Lois Herberger
 Moroccan Bean Salad:
 Eddie Drawdy
 Fruit Platter: Stan Smith and
 Jonathan Kiell

Pasta Salad: Tom Drake, Don Ames
 Veggie Platter & Dip: Jean Buffardi
 and Cathy Thompson
 Jello: Margaret Huang
 Deviled Eggs: Eileen Goran and
 Eve Christian
 Mustard: Rick Thompson
 2 bags of Hawaiian Rolls: Vicki
 Shank & Barry Harlan
 Angel Food Cake with Strawberries:
 Lynn Keefe
 Carrot Cake: Serry Fahmy
 Cupcakes: Jill Moebus
 Surprise Dessert: Tom Dowling
 Lemon Meringue Pie: Rocky
 Rockburn
 Key Lime Pie: Mary Ann Beatty
 Paper Products: Pat Beech



Please **RSVP by March 28.**

To those on the menu list,
 please bring a dish that
 serves at least 12 people.

To those bringing desserts:

1. Cakes should be pre-sliced.
2. Pies will be put in fridge, and cut just before lunch.
3. Bring your own knives and pie slicers.



Before lunch, Linda Jackson and Arber Deski will give a presentation about a survey they developed with Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute of the Deaf (RID/NTID) to identify the needs of Deaf and HoH when calling 911. They both work for a non-profit organization, the MITRE corporation. MITRE is helping administer the survey under the direction of RIT/NTID who is the principal investigator. Together they are working with the FCC to improve 911 communications for the Deaf and HoH.

After the presentation, Linda and Arber will be available to anyone that would like to participate in the 911 survey. The survey has questions about VRS users' experiences with VRS when contacting 911. There are also questions about user experiences with Video Relay Services, so even if you haven't called 911, you can still participate in the survey. The survey will take about 15 minutes. If you want to do the survey online, here is the link: <https://redcap.link/l3e2ln26>.

After lunch, we will play board games or chat, while some of us participate in the survey.




 RECAP

Recap of Monthly Meeting on March 19, 2024


 RECAP

Thirty-five attendees came to the March 19 meeting. Highlights of the meeting were: March Birthday Song, “Logos with Hidden Messages” by Lois Herberger, Pizzas for lunch, and “Web-based Ad Blocker Pop-Up” by Cyril Potosky. Here is URL: <https://youtu.be/SjX7-ZVvAc>.

For the PDFs of the presentations, see:

- * Logos — https://www.nvrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/LogosWithHiddenMessages_19mar2025.pdf
- * Ad Blocker — https://www.nvrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Web-based_Ad_Blocker_Pop-up_19mar2025.pdf



Eileen Goran, Cheryl Rockburn,
Tom Dowling, Jill Moebus,
Laurie Dowling, and Vicki Shank



Bob Hickey, Paul Daniels,
Barry Harlan, Tom Drake,
and Don Ames



Richard Cohen,
Mary Ann & Tim Beatty,
Stan Smith, and
Cyril Potosky



Lynn Keefe and
Peggy Daniels



Rocky Rockburn
and Serry Fahmy



Cathleen Potosky
and Jonathan
Kiell



Denise Drake
and Lois
Herberger



Steve & Melanie
Williams, and Iryna
Ravliuk



Debbie Jones and
Pat Beech



Deanna
Dunham



Jean
Buffardi



Tim Lavelle
and Cathleen
Potosky



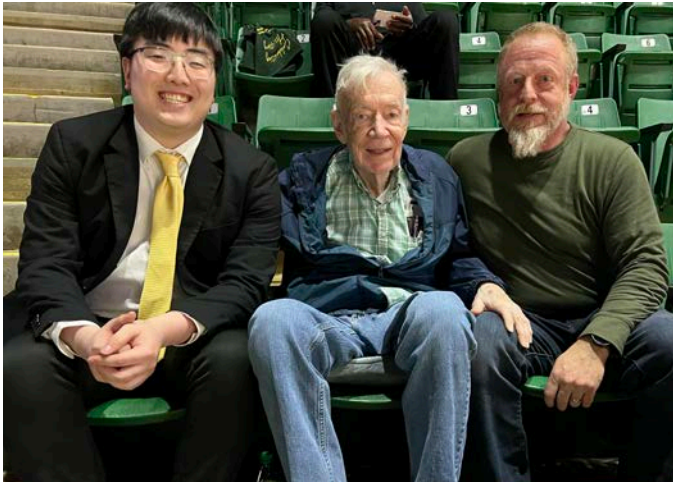
Bill
Morris



Jill Kotchen, and
Rick & Cathy Thompson



News of Interest



On March 1, Robert Whitworth's daughter Rosy took him to George Mason University to see the women's basketball team play Duquesne University's team. The Patriots won 86-63. The team is the #2 seed entering the A-10 Tournament in Henrico, VA following week.

Picture on the left shows Robert sitting between his grandson Connor Whitworth and his son Ryan Whitworth. Connor is the Head Student Manager on the GMU women's basketball staff.

URL: <https://gomason.com/sports/womens-basketball/>

Latest News: The women's basketball team won the Atlantic-10 tournament championship on March 9. This is the first time in the school's history that the GMU team is headed to the NCAA championship tournament.

URL: <https://gomason.com/news/2025/3/9/womens-basketball-herstory-patriots-win-a-10-championship-punch-ticket-to-ncaa-championship.aspx>



While visiting family in California during February 26 - March 12, Bob Hickey and family visited the Madame Tussauds Hollywood Wax Museum. Picture on left has him with Bruce Lee, the greatest icon of martial arts cinema.

For more information about the Wax Museum, see: <https://www.madametussauds.com/hollywood/>.



In Loving Memory



Richard Smrz died on March 4, 2025. A funeral service was held on March 29 at St. Francis of Assisi Deaf Catholic Church in Landover Hills, MD.

Source: <https://www.beallfuneral.com/obituaries/richard-smrz>



Shelley Simms died on March 17, 2025. She was born in New Orleans, LA in 1949. She was a long-time member of the Happy Hands Deaf Seniors group. She graduated from Gallaudet in 1977, and retired after 36 years as management assistant. She is survived by close friend, Betsy Wohl.



David C. Crocker died from cancer on March 19, 2025. He is survived by wife Virginia Tanner Crocker and sons David and Daniel.



Wedding
reception
at NVRC
on 10-25-2009

Frank & Marlene Turk, and their dog, Jenny, died on March 13, 2025 due to carbon monoxide poisoning. They had forgotten to turn off their car, which ran all night.

Source: <https://www.dailymoth.com/blog/frank-and-marlene-turk-tragically-pass-away-from-carbon-monoxide-poisoning>

Frank Turk: <https://www.koberfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Dr-Frank-R-Turk-Sr?obId=38893032#/obituaryInfo>

Marlene Turk: <https://www.koberfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Marlene-L-Turk?obId=38893088#/obituaryInfo>

Carbon Monoxide Detectors: <https://gallaudet.edu/university-communications/carbon-monoxide-detectors-a-must-for-every-home/>



Frank with Elaine & Ken Shaffer and Pat & Jim Beech on 11-17-2015
(Elaine and Frank graduated from Gallaudet in 1952)



05-06-2017

Pictured on left: Frank with son Frank Jr., and daughter Marianne, and friend Elaine Shaffer



Skiing in Breckenridge, CO



Jonathan Kiell joined his son, Adam, and his family for a skiing trip in Breckenridge, Colorado during March 8-15, 2025. Pictured on right is Jonathan with his three grandkids: Alden, Maddie, and Wes. His daughter-in-law's parents and three siblings were on the trip along with their spouses and kids. Adam rented a house for the 20 of them — 11 adults and 9 kids. Never a dull moment!



Wegmans Social 03-12-2024



Sitting: Lois Herberger, Vicki Shank, and Laurie Dowling
Standing: Steve Williams, Tom Dowling, Stan Smith, Barry Harlan,
Cyril & Cathleen Potosky, Jean Buffardi, and Melanie Williams



Training at HKNC



Since January 20, Lanny Quarles has been at Helen Keller National Center in New York for training on Independent Living, Orientation & Mobility, and Adaptive Technology. She is learning braille, how to use a braille computer, cook blindfolded, use a cane blindfolded, etc.



Perkins Paper Brailer

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perkins_Brailer]



Tactile Communication

[<https://youtu.be/9GrK3P15TYU>]
or
[<https://youtu.be/8im72wFTa9Y>]



Lanny and friends at a park
for family socializing

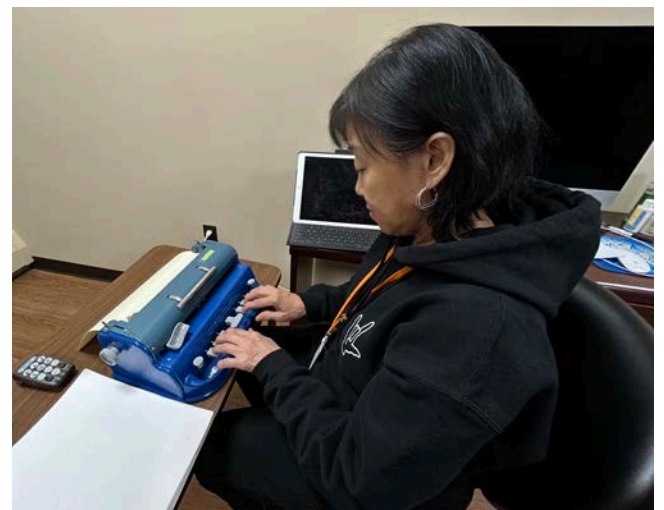


Refreshable Braille Display for pairing with phone

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refreshable_braille_display]



Lanny learns how to use
TATUM, a tactile robot
[<https://youtu.be/bNLrep3qXRk>]

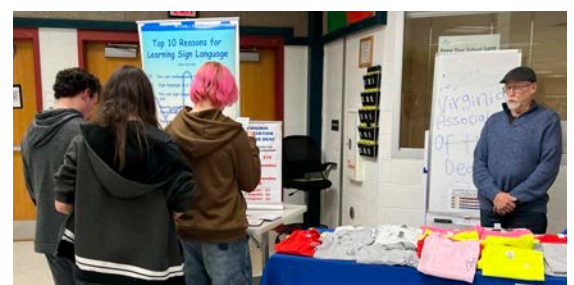


Lanny types on the Perkins
Paper Brailer



Westfield High School

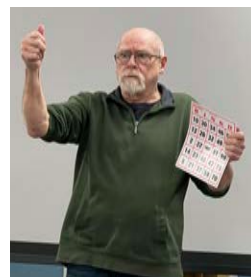
03-07-2025





NVAD Bingo

03-08-2025



Game #1 Winner
(1 row)

Game #2 Winner
(2 rows)

Game #3
Winner
(3 rows)



Game #4
Winner
(1 row)

Game #5
Winner
(2 rows)

Game #6 Winners (two)
(3 rows)



Hearing Screenings at Ashby Ponds



NVRC provided free hearing screenings for Ashby Ponds residents on February 28. A screening was to see if a resident could benefit from an evaluation by an audiologist. Pictured on both sides is Julie Greenfield with residents.



VBCD Weekend Retreat March 7-9, 2025

- by Vicki Shank -

Nine Happy Hands Members attended the Virginia Baptist Conference of the Deaf's weekend retreat at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg, VA on March 7 to 9, 2025. The theme presented by an inspirational guest pastor, Brance Long of North Carolina, focused on "Rebuilding the Church". The conference is held every two years and we invite everyone to attend the next one in 2027.



Vicki Shank with
Ross & Selina Gilson



Sitting: Paul &
Peggy Daniels,
and Don Ames

Standing:
Joan Corley,
Jill Moebus, and
Barry Harlan &
Vicki Shank



Vicki Shank with Cousins
Michele Showalter
and Bob Rhoads

Happy Hands 2025 Members

(as of March 24, 2025)

As of 03-24-25, Happy Hands has 87 paid members for 2025:

Don Ames
William Athy
Janice Barker
Mary Ann Beatty
Tim Beatty
Pat Beech
Josephine Bergner
Claudia Brawley
Peter Brawley
Dot Brenner
Jean Buffardi
Cynthia Burton
Steven Burton
Lew Carr
Felix Chevere
Eve Christian
Patty Christenson
Richard Cohen

Joan Corley
Paul Daniels
Peggy Daniels
Janice Dillman
Laurie Dowling
Tom Dowling
Denise Drake
Tom Drake
Eddie Drawdy
Nate Drown
Deanna Dunham
Phuong Duong
Newby Ely
Kathy Ferris
June Freeman
Pam Gannon
Laura Garrett
Cheryl Gault

Robert Gault
Ross Gilson
Selina Gilson
Eileen Goran
Barry Harlan
Anthony Heller
Lois Herberger
Bob Hickey
Irene Hunter
Margaret Huang
Vicki Hurwitz
Song Jo
Kathy Jones
Lynn Keefe
Mary Kay Kelley
Jonathan Kiell
Maryann Kielsgard
Barbara Eger-Klatt

Walter Klatt
Jill Kotchen
Jeanne Lavelle
Tim Lavelle
Kea Manfredonio
Frances Marzolf
Eileen McCartin
Kerry Anne Mike
Bill Morris
Sally Newman
Paula Olejarz
Cathleen Potosky
Cyril Potosky
Denise Proulx
Lanny Quarles
Cheryl Rockburn
Rocky Rockburn
Rebecca Sadler

Nancy Sanders
Thelma Schroeder
Vicki Shank
Prudence Shaw
Barbie Sidawy
George Sidawy
Shelley Simms
Sharon Svenningsen
Cathy Thompson
Rick Thompson
Mike Toms
Eleni Triantafell
Melanie Williams
Steve Williams
Sam Yates

For those who have not renewed or joined for the year 2025, here is the link for the Happy Hands 2025 Membership Form:
https://www.nvrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025Membership_Fillable.pdf





Fact-Checking for Yourself



Why Fact-Checking Matters

Fact-checking empowers you to find the truth for yourself instead of relying on others. Knowing how to verify information helps protect you and your community. This article provides tools to confidently check facts, avoid misinformation, and share accurate information.

Why We Need to Fact-Check

Changes in the News Landscape

Information spreads rapidly online. While this makes it easier to stay informed, it also increases the spread of falsehoods.

Social Media and False Claims

Platforms like Facebook and TikTok allow unchecked information to spread quickly. Common false claims include:

- **Health:** Fake cures for illnesses like cancer or COVID-19.
- **Government Policies:** Rumors about Social Security, taxes, or voting laws.
- **Scams:** Fake prize winnings or fraudulent benefit claims.
- **Celebrity Death Hoaxes:** False reports of famous figures passing away.
- **Political Misinformation:** Misleading claims about elections or candidates.

Learning to fact-check helps prevent the spread of false information.

How to Spot Misinformation

- **Check the Source:** Is it from a well-known, trusted news site?
- **Look for Author Information:** Reliable articles credit journalists.
- **Watch for Sensational Language:** Beware of emotional terms like "shocking" or "must-see."
- **Read Beyond the Headline:** Some headlines exaggerate or mislead.
- **Check the Date:** Old stories can be shared as if they're new.
- **Cross-Check Information:** See if other trusted sources report the same story.
- **Verify Images and Videos:** Use reverse image search tools (Google Images) to check for altered or out-of-context visuals.
- **Ask for Proof:** If someone shares a claim, ask where they got it.



How to Fact Check

(continued from page 12)



How to Fact-Check Political Speeches

Political speeches, like the State of the Union, often include bold claims. Here's how to fact-check them:

- **Use Official Sources:** Read transcripts or watch speeches on government websites.
- **Consult Fact-Checking Websites:** Trusted sources like FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, and The Washington Post Fact Checker analyze political claims.
- **Verify Statistics:** Check numbers against government agencies or research groups.
- **Read Multiple News Outlets:** Different outlets highlight different aspects.
- **Look for Half-Truths:** Some statements may be technically true but lack key context.
- **Follow Non-Partisan Groups:** Organizations like the League of Women Voters aim to provide unbiased information.

Fact-Checking Tools and Websites

- [FactCheck.org](#) – Independent fact-checking organization.
- [PolitiFact](#) – Analyzes claims and rates accuracy.
- [Snopes](#) – Investigates urban legends and online misinformation.
- [Washington Post Fact Checker](#) – Reviews political statements.
- [Facticity.ai](#) – A new tool for verifying information.
- **Google Reverse Image Search:** Go to [Google Images](#), click the camera icon, and upload an image to check its origin.

How to Research for Yourself

1. **Search for the Story:** Type the headline or claim into a search engine.
2. **Check Multiple Sources:** Do at least three reputable sources confirm it?
3. **Use Fact-Checking Websites:** See if trusted sites have already verified the claim.
4. **Evaluate the Source:** Who wrote it? What is their reputation?
5. **Look for Primary Sources:** Government websites and official press releases are more reliable.
6. **Check the Date:** Ensure its current information.
7. **Ask for Proof:** If a claim lacks a source, request verification.



How to Fact Check

(continued from page 13)



What to Do if You Spot False Information

- **Don't Share It!**
- **Inform the Person Who Shared It:** Politely mention that it may be false.
- **Share Correct Information:** Provide links to verified sources.
- **Report False Posts:** Use platform reporting tools to flag misinformation.

Conclusion

Fact-checking is crucial for protecting yourself and your community. Sharing the truth helps everyone, especially during elections and emergencies. Stay curious, stay informed, and always ask questions.

ASL Resources for Fact-Checking

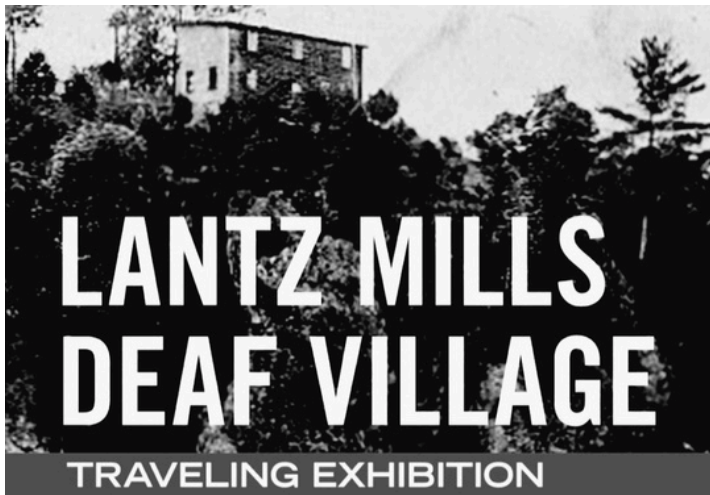
These sources provide fact-checked information in ASL, making it easier to stay informed:

- [**Jay Krieger - American Government in ASL**](#) – Explains U.S. government processes and policies in ASL.
- [**Gina G. Lucas**](#) – Covers news and political issues with an ASL perspective.
- [**Elsie Stecker - Former White House CDI**](#) – Shares insights on government and political fact-checking.
- [**The Daily Moth**](#) – A Deaf-focused news source that delivers national and political news in ASL.

Media Literacy & Research Guides

- [The News Literacy Project](#) – Teaches how to evaluate news credibility.
- [Pew Research Center](#) – Provides data-driven research on media and public trust.
- [Library of Congress](#) – A source for historical government records and policies.





Lantz Mills & Deaf History: A Presentation by Kathleen Brockway

Date: April 12, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim
3610 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22030

The City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources and the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) proudly present:

Echoes Through Time: Empowering the Community with Authentic Deaf History and Culture

Presented by Kathleen Brockway, Deaf historian, author, and advocate

Join us for a fascinating presentation by Kathleen Brockway, an expert in Deaf history, as she uncovers the rich, untold stories of Virginia's Deaf communities. This program will explore:

- The Lantz Mills Deaf Village, a unique shared-signing community in the Shenandoah Valley.
- The life and legacy of George Richard Lee Turberville, one of the earliest formally educated Deaf individuals in the U.S.
- The impact of early Deaf education in Virginia and the role of British Sign Language in shaping early ASL.
- Ongoing efforts to preserve historic Deaf landmarks, including Turberville's former home and cemetery in Chantilly.

Free and open to the public! ASL interpretation provided.

Lantz Mills Deaf Village Traveling Exhibit

On Display: April 7 – May 17, 2025

Location: Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, Fairfax, VA

For more information, contact:

Darren Marquardt, Executive Director, NVRC
703-352-9055 Voice, 571-350-8656 VP, 703-352-9056 TTY
execdirector@nvrc.org, www.NVRC.org

Sean Redmiles, Historic Resource Specialist II, City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources
703-385-2943 Voice, TTY: 711
www.fairfaxva.gov



Deafopia
APRIL 19, 2025
10 am - 5 pm

BUTTERFLYCAT DESIGNS

FREE BOOTH
FREE ADMISSION

1309 5th St NE, Washington, DC 20002
Dock 5

AVOID MR. FREEZE TO WIN CASH!
\$5.00 PER TICKET

www.deafopia.com

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR TELEHEALTH & AGING WEBINAR

Join us on Monday, April 14th, from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM ET, to learn about telehealth best practices for equitable care for older adults with hearing loss. Please note this a repeat session of the webinar held on 11/20/24.

Presenters:

- Kathy Wiberly, Director, Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center
- Sherri Collins, Executive Director, Deaf Seniors of America
- Tony Davis, Director of the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services.

Additionally, this webinar will feature a panel discussion with the presenters and Char Parsley, Vice President of Deaf Seniors of America, providing further insights on advancing accessibility for this population.

TO JOIN THE WEBINAR CLICK [HERE](#)

[ADD EVENT TO CALENDAR](#)



APRIL 14, 2025



1:00 PM - 2:15 PM ET

ce4ta@westhealth.org



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR
TELEHEALTH AND AGING



ce4ta.org

ELECTION

Of Fine Tuners for 2025-2026







At the Monthly Meeting on May 7, Happy Hands will have an election of officers (Fine Tuners) for 2025-2026.

If you are interested in any of the positions below, please contact Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com.

- * Chair will lead meetings.
- * Vice-Chair will substitute for the Chair when needed, and assist with other committee planning whenever needed
- * Secretary will take minutes.
- * Treasurer will maintain detailed records of all cash activities.
- * Member-At-Large (3-5) will help wherever needed.



2025 APRIL

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

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Thanks to:

- Everyone who helped with set-up and clean-up at the March 19 Meeting
- Debbie Jones for helping to order pizzas for the March 19 Meeting
- Lois Herberger for giving a presentation on “Brand Logos with Hidden Messages”
- Cyril Potosky for giving a presentation on “Pop-Up Ad Blocker Feature”
- Everyone who brought board games to the March 19 Meeting
- Pat Beech for pictures taken on 03-07-2025 (page 8), 03-08-2025 (page 9), Hearing Screenings (page 10), and 03-19-2025 (page 3)
- Melanie Williams for pictures taken on 03-12-2025 (page 6)
- Pat Beech for doing the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- Melanie Williams, Jonathan Kiell, and Vicki Shank for proofreading the monthly HH Newsletter issue
- Debbie Jones and Pat Beech for preparing the monthly HH Newsletter hard copies for mail





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 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

**Thanks for donating to
 Happy Hands:**

* Pam Gannon



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 April 6 and 20. FYI, some people arrive early (6:00PM) and grab some of Wegmans prepared food for dinner.



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!

Also, HH Lunchtime Social Chat at Wegmans will be on April 9.

For more info, contact Jonathan Kiell at jona3ki@msn.com.

For the Sunday Chats see: <https://www.meetup.com/aslbridge/events/304987317>.

