



SENIORS' CHAT



Don's Column



Hello, Happy Hands Members and Friends,

Happy Hands will meet on July 9 (not July 2). See page 2 for information.

All of our recent events are reported with pictures in this newsletter for your reading pleasure. The annual picnic pictures are on pages 5-8.

As usual, Stay Happy Safely with Our Awesome Hands!

~ Don



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

Maria Dollhopf [2nd]
Eileen McCartin [2nd]
Tom Drake [13th]
Janice Dillman [15th]
Jeanne Lavelle [17th]
Alfred Taurig [19th]

Bill Morris [20th]
June Freeman [25th]
Vicki Shank [25th]
Tom Dowling [26th]
Cheryl Rockburn [26th]
Eleni Triantafell [26th]

Happy Hands In-Person Meeting

July 9 at 10:00 AM



We will have our monthly meeting on July 9, 2025 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BAGS AND BEVERAGES.



Before lunch, Lois Herberger will give a presentation on “Little Moons.”

After lunch, Cyril Potosky will show pictures from his trip to New York City. Appetizers related to NYC will be provided (we need head count). Please RSVP to Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com, if you plan to come.



Happy Hands Social Chat

July 30 at 10:00 AM



We will have our social chat on July 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BAGS AND BEVERAGES.

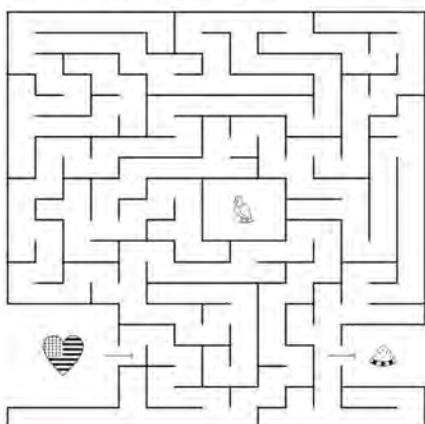


After lunch, Lois Herberger and Jill Moebus will do the UNO game activity.



July 4th Labyrinth

Can you get through the maze?

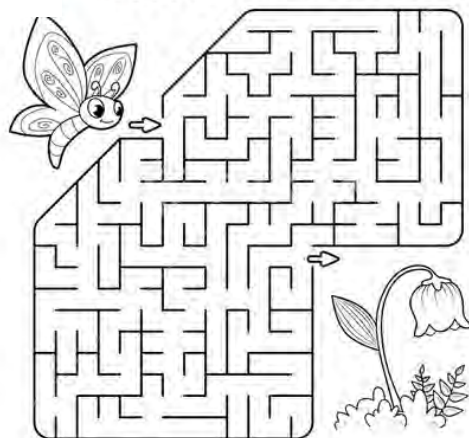


MAZE PUZZLE!

Can you help the bear reach the flower?



MAZE GAME





HH Social Event

05-28-2025



Barry Harlan, Stan Smith,
Vicki Shank, Jill Moebus,
Gloria Pagan, and Lois Herberger



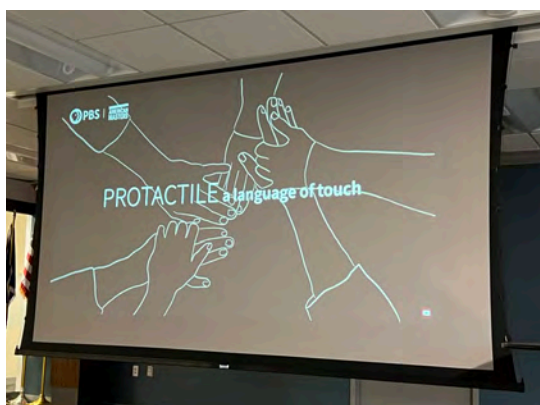
Laurie Dowling
and Peggy
Daniels



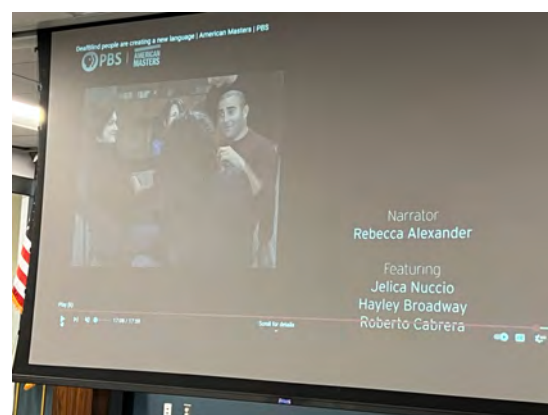
Melanie Williams,
Tim Lavelle, and
Steve Williams



Pat Beech and
Jonathan Kiell



Paul Daniels and
Don Ames



Watching "Protactile: A Language of Touch"

Summary: DeafBlind people are creating a new language called Protactile, based on touch.

Intro (5 minutes): <https://youtu.be/8im72wFTa9Y>

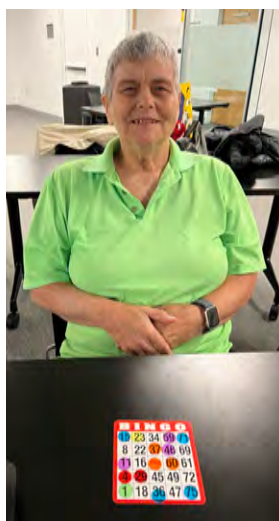
Video (18 minutes): <https://www.pbs.org/video/protactile-a-language-of-touch-1u5hgv/>

Recommended book: "Touch The Future" by John Lee Clark

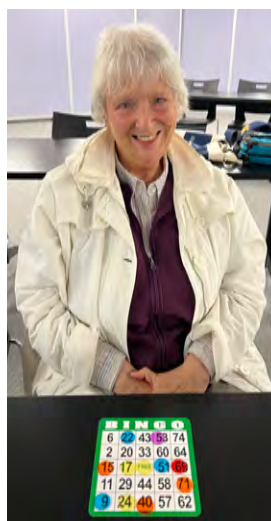


HH Social Event

(continued from page 3)



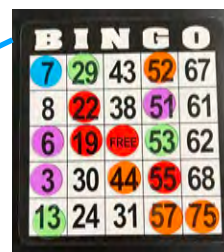
Game #1 Winner
(1 row with \$5 prize)



Game #1 Winner
(1 row with \$5 prize)



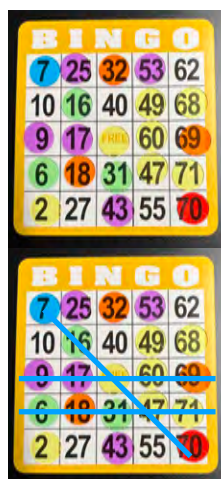
Game #3 Winner
(2 rows with \$10 prize)



Game #4 Winner
(2 rows with \$15 prize)



Game #4 Winner
(3 rows with \$20 prize and the Mystery Bobblehead)



Card with
3 rows



Jayson Werth
(This Bobblehead was donated by Paul Daniels)



Gallaudet Class of 1972
Bingo Winners

Happy Hands Picnic on 06-04-2025 at Lake Fairfax Park



Mission BBQ delivery



Happy Hands Picnic at Lake Fairfax

(continued from page 5)



Turtle is laying eggs



Bob Hickey,
Eileen Goran, and
Alfred Traurig



Barry Harlan and
Margaret Huang



Bob Hickey, Thelma Schroeder,
Cathleen & Cyril Potosky,
Jonathan Kiell, and Bethel Daniel



Jonathan Kiell, Tom Dowling,
Mary Ann & Tim Beatty,
and Pat Beech



Lois Herberger, and
Cheryl & Rocky Rockburn



George & Barbie Sidawy,
Laurie Dowling, and Jill Moebus



Margaret
Huang



Don Ames with Cooper,
and Serry Fahmy



Vicki Shank, Cyril Potosky,
and Mary Ann Beatty



Bill Morris and
Bob Hickey

Happy Hands Picnic at Lake Fairfax

(continued from page 6)



Cathleen Potosky
and Stan Smith



Neil & Kathy Ferris,
and Cheryl Gault



Denise Drake, Eileen Goran,
Tom Drake, and Richard Cohen



Don Ames
with Cooper



Paul & Peggy
Daniels



Eddie Drawdy and
Prudence Shaw



Cindy & Steve Burton,
Steve Williams, and Eleni Triantafell



Cheryl Gault and
Laura Garrett



Jean Buffardi and
Melanie Williams



Eve Christian,
Kathy Ferris, and
Tom Dowling



Peter Brawley and
Mario Ascencio

Happy Hands Picnic at Lake Fairfax

(continued from page 7)

PICNIC

PICNIC



Ross & Selina Gilson,
and Darren Marquardt



Eve Christian and
Cheri Hunter



Pam Gannon, and
Laurie & Tom Dowling



Laurie Dowling and
Laurie Warren



Jeanne & Tim
Lavelle



Cooper



NCS D Graduates



Chicago Natives

Tom Dowling and
Bob Hickey are
White Sox fans
(from the south side).

Eileen Goran and
Lois Herberger are
Cubs fans
(from the north side).



An appreciation gift
from Mission BBQ
for Lois

MISSION BBQ



“So long, farewell. Auf Wiedersehen”
Source: *Sound of Music*



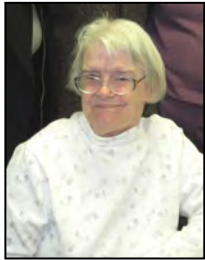


In Loving Memory



Ramona Burgess McClelland, 94, died on July 14, 2024. She was a long-time member of Happy Hands Deaf Seniors. Ramona graduated from Gallaudet in 1952. She was predeceased by Robert L. McClelland (husband of 56 years). She is survived by Steve McClelland and Pamela McClelland.

Source: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/ramona-mcclelland-obituary?id=55762572>



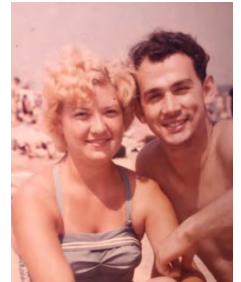
Katherine Hull Blaylock, 82, of Frederick, MD died on September 27, 2024. She was a long-time member of Happy Hands Deaf Seniors. She was preceded by Ronnie Blaylock in 2016. She is survived by Robbie Blaylock and Christine Blaylock.

Source: <https://www.staufferfuneralhome.com/obituaries/katherine-blaylock>



Ryland Ray Thomas, Sr., 90, died on March 8, 2025. He was predeceased by Doris (wife of 62 years). They had 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

Source: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/hampton-va/ryland-thomas-12276153>



Gloria Helen Obermiller of Columbia, MD died on May 24, 2025. She is survived by her husband Gail; daughters Mary and Helen; and son Joseph.

Source: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/gloria-obermiller-obituary?id=58486624#obituary>

David Owen Burton of Brentwood, MD died on May 19, 2025. After he retired, he enjoyed doing carpentry work. He was Vice-President of Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens for four year while Joseph S. Rose was president. He was preceded by wife Hilda, and is survived by son Eddie.





Graduations in 2025



Steve & Melanie Williams' Grandkids
Left: Ashlyn Lanoue from Stone Middle School
Right: Jordyn Lanoue from Westfield HS



Lynn Keefe's Grandkids
Granddaughter Lydia will enter middle school.
Twins, Liam and Lachlan, will start 1st grade.



Lynn Keefe's Niece
Niece, Grace Robert, graduated from high school. She will attend Air Force Academy in October.



VSDB Interim Superintendent



The Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind Board of Visitors has appointed Charity Reedy Warigon as interim superintendent, effective on June 1. Her previous roles include Chief Enrollment Management Officer at Gallaudet University. She also had leadership positions in nonprofit and government sectors.

Source:

- * <https://www.newsbreak.com/share/4026935621865-interim-superintendent-named-at-staunton-s-virginia-school-for-the-deaf-and-the-blind>
- * <https://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/education/2025/05/28/vsdb-names-interim-superintendent-following-retirement-of-pat-trice/83876710007/>





Past Graduation Memories



Pam Gannon
Gallaudet College in 1982
M.A. Counseling



Cathleen Potosky
NTID/RIT
Graduation '81



Cyril Potosky
NTID/RIT
Graduation '80



NTID/RIT Yearbook 1981
designed by Cathleen Potosky in 1980



Sally Drown
Edmunds High School '64
in Burlington, Vermont



Eileen Goran
High School
in 1962



Janice Dillman
VSDB in 1957



Nate Drown
University of
Vermont '64



Stan Smith
Age 16



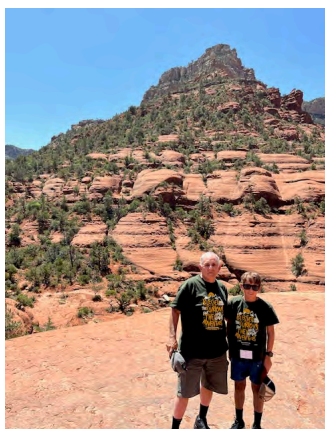


Trip to Grand Canyon



Jonathan Kiell and his grandson Wes went on a “RoadScholar - Grand Parent and Grandchild” trip to Sedona, AZ and the Grand Canyon during June 8-14, 2025. There were 35 participants (about half of the group were ages 8-12, and the other half were their grandparents somewhat older). The trip included:

- * Sedona Jeep Adventure (approximately 15 miles roundtrip in the mountains around Sedona)
- * Montezuma Castle National Park (one of the best-preserved cliff dwellings in North America — though this had nothing to do with Montezuma)
- * Red Rock Crossing on Oak Creek (walk about 2 miles to creek-side location for river swimming)
- * Drive about 250 miles during the day to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and then drive on Old Route 66 to the town of Peach Springs on the Hualapai Indian Reservation (hotel for two nights)
- * River Raft on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon including several substantial rapids — no pictures on the rapids — taking out a phone was not a good idea — everyone got thoroughly soaked. One stop along the river included a short hike and climb to a waterfall inside a cave
- * Short helicopter Ride off the river bank back to the top of the cliffs to meet the bus home



Red Rock Canyon



Watering Hole Swim



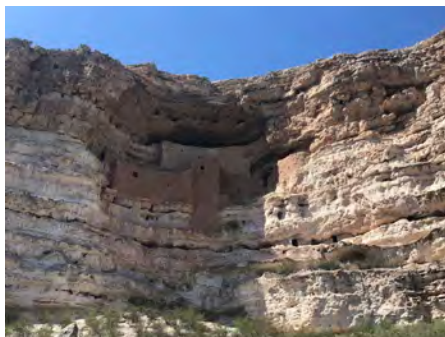
Wes and his buddies



Handling a
tarantula



Wes and his
new pet



Cliff Dwelling



Temps during the week



Trip to Grand Canyon

(continued from page 12)



NVRC Presentation on 06-06-2025 at Ashby Ponds



Paula Olejarz and Debbie Jones

Debbie Jones, Resource and Technology Manager at NVRC (<https://www.nvrc.org/staff-members/debbie-jones/>), gave a presentation to the Hearing Loss Awareness Group at Ashby Ponds on June 6. Paula Olejarz, a resident at AP, is the Point of Contact for the Hearing Loss Awareness Group.

Debbie talked about devices that are available through the Technology Assistance Program (<https://www.vddhh.virginia.gov/equipment.htm>). She talked about: amplified telephone, cordless model, caption telephone, and Virginia Relay Service. She also talked about signaling devices (wireless and non-wireless).



Amplified Telephone



Cordless model



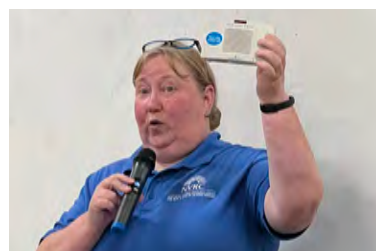
Caption telephone



Signaling Device



Signaling Device



Amplified Ringer



Signaling Device



<https://www.diglo.com/>





NVAD Picnic

06-14-2025



NVAD had its annual Strawberry Festival Cook-Out at Frying Pan Farm Park on June 14, 2025. Thanks to Jill Moebus and Darren Marquardt for the pictures.



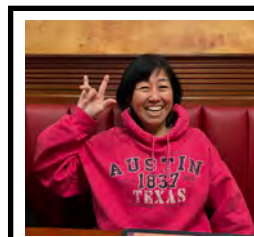
Fishing with Family

Ashby Ponds on 06-14-2025



Ashby Ponds residents, staff, and family members participated in this "Fishing With Family" event on June 14, 2025. Free hot dogs and live music were provided. Thanks to Jill Moebus for the pictures.





Training at HKNC



Getting from one place to
another blindfolded



Certificate of Achievement
ServSafe Food Handler



Next to Lanny is
Braille Teacher, Peggy



TDI will lead the WAWABILITY Summit during July 11-12, 2025, as part of the national celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Summit will be live-streamed from the Anthem in D.C., offering nationwide access to over 45 speakers.

The Summit will have five key tracks:

- * Accessible Technology
- * Policy and Advocacy
- * Media, Arts, and Entertainment
- * Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship
- * Health and Lifestyle

For more information, see: <https://www.wawability2025.com/summit>. For the agenda, see: <https://wawability.performedia.com/#agenda>. To register, see: <https://wawability.performedia.com/registration/>.



“Scraposaurs”

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley



Pat Beech went to the “Scraposaurs” exhibition at Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) in Winchester on 05-24-2024. This exhibition had 14 dinosaurs and prehistoric animals made from scrap metal and found objects. Created by Minnesota artist Dale Lewis, each sculpture blends art and history. This exhibition ends on October 19. For more information, see: <https://www.themsv.org/events/scraposaurs/>,



“Dino”

Inspired by the family pet on “The Flintstones” TV show to make this “Dino” sculpture.



“T-Rex Evolved”

1,800 pound sculpture made of mixed metal and found objects. The ribs and most of the teeth are made with parts from a John Deere rotary hoe. The claws are part of a Boeing 747 cargo bay door latch.

“Little Susie”

Inspired by the famous T-Rex fossil named Sue that was 42 feet long. Little Susie is over six feet tall. It has railroad spike toes, galvanized lag screws for teeth, and red glass eyes.



“Musk Ox Mom”

Life-sized musk oxen, made of scrap steel and covered with salvaged steel banding for hair



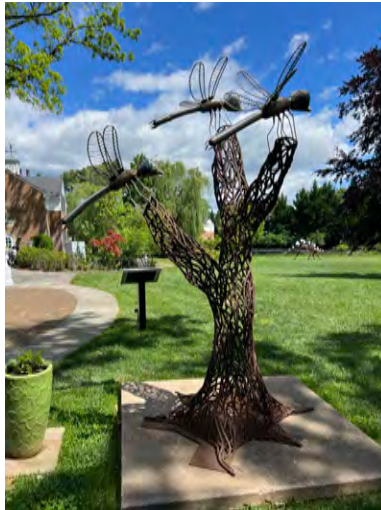
"Scraposaurs"

(continued from page 17)



"Stanley"

18 feet long; made of mild steel and galvanized metal.



"Dragonflies"

Made of stainless steel.
Tree is made of scrap rebar.



"Jitters"

Inspired by a Caudipteryx dinosaur. Artist used propane tanks to construct arms, legs, body, and head. The sculpture is nearly 11 feet tall and weighs 1,000 lbs.



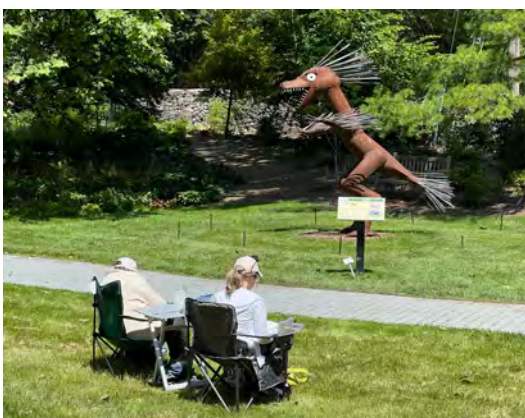
"Tri-Tops"

20 feet long; made of steel with stainless steel horns.



"Thing"

Inspired by Similicaudipteryx, a feathered creature that lived in what is now China about 125 million years ago. The feathers are made from painted metal panels cut into strips.



Two ladies painting pictures of "Jitters"



"Smiley the Smilodon"

Smilodons are also called saber-toothed tiger. This sculpture is made from salvaged rebar.



“Scraposaurs”

(continued from page 18)



“Woolly Rhino”

The life-size woolly rhinoceros was constructed from salvaged steel and covered with “hair” plugs, made from 600 pounds of tie wire. Woolly Rhino has stainless steel horns and eyes made of green glass. The artist used material from salvaged 265-gallon oil tanks to cover the rhino’s frame. He also added tick birds (also called oxpeckers) for fun.



“Spinosaurus”

The vertebrae was made with barn cleaner chain links from the artist’s cousin’s dairy farm.



“Scrappy Ed”

A version of Edmontonia, a new species of dinosaur. The artist used railroad spikes for the spiked armor.



“Mother of Dragons”

The sculpture is a prehistoric Pterodactyl with an 18-foot wingspan, made of stainless steel scrap. The teeth are forks!



Happy Hands 2025 Members

(as of June 23, 2025)

As of 06-23-25, Happy Hands has 104 paid members for 2025:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Don Ames | 36. Kathy Ferris | 71. Jill Moebus |
| 2. Mario Ascencio | 37. Neil Ferris | 72. Bill Morris |
| 3. William Athy | 38. June Freeman | 73. Sally Newman |
| 4. Janice Barker | 39. Pam Gannon | 74. Paula Olejarz |
| 5. Mary Ann Beatty | 40. Laura Garrett | 75. Lydia Olugbodi |
| 6. Tim Beatty | 41. Cheryl Gault | 76. Rose Otterman |
| 7. Pat Beech | 42. Robert Gault | 77. Cathleen Potosky |
| 8. Josephine Bergner | 43. Ross Gilson | 78. Cyril Potosky |
| 9. Claudia Brawley | 44. Selina Gilson | 79. Denise Proulx |
| 10. Peter Brawley | 45. Eileen Goran | 80. Lanny Quarles |
| 11. Dot Brenner | 46. Julie Greenfield | 81. Iryna Ravliuk |
| 12. Jean Buffardi | 47. Barry Harlan | 82. Geneva Riffe |
| 13. Cindy Burton | 48. Anthony Heller | 83. Cheryl Rockburn |
| 14. Steven Burton | 49. Lois Herberger | 84. Rocky Rockburn |
| 15. Lew Carr | 50. Bob Hickey | 85. Rebecca Sadler |
| 16. Felix Chevere | 51. Margaret Huang | 86. Nancy Sanders |
| 17. Patty Christenson | 52. Irene Hunter | 87. Thelma Schroeder |
| 18. Eve Christian | 53. Vicki Hurwitz | 88. Vicki Shank |
| 19. Carol Duffy Clay | 54. Chris Jackson | 89. Prudence Shaw |
| 20. Richard Cohen | 55. Song Jo | 90. Barbie Sidawy |
| 21. Joan Corley | 56. Kathy Jones | 91. George Sidawy |
| 22. Paul Daniels | 57. Lynn Keefe | 92. Shelley Simms (deceased) |
| 23. Peggy Daniels | 58. Mary Kay Kelley | 93. Stan Smith |
| 24. Janice Dillman | 59. Jonathan Kiell | 94. Sharon Svenningsen |
| 25. Maria Dollhopf | 60. Maryann Kielsgard | 95. Cathy Thompson |
| 26. Laurie Dowling | 61. Barbara Eger-Klatt | 96. Rick Thompson |
| 27. Tom Dowling | 62. Walter Klatt | 97. Linda Tom |
| 28. Denise Drake | 63. Jill Kotchen | 98. Mike Toms |
| 29. Tom Drake | 64. Jeanne Lavelle | 99. Alfred Taurig |
| 30. Eddie Drawdy | 65. Tim Lavelle | 100. Eleni Triantafell |
| 31. Nate Drown | 66. Kea Manfredonio | 101. Laurie Warren |
| 32. Deanna Dunham | 67. Darren Marquardt | 102. Melanie Williams |
| 33. Phuong Duong | 68. Frances Marzolf | 103. Steve Williams |
| 34. Newby Ely | 69. Eileen McCartin | 104. Sam Yates |
| 35. Serry Fahmy | 70. Kerry Anne Mike | |

2025 JULY

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

© BlankCalendarPages.com

Thanks to:

- Set-Up before the May 28th Social Event; and Clean-up after the event
- Bingo Crew for the May 28th Social Event (Pat Beech, Jonathan Kiell, and Melanie Williams)
- Set-Up before the picnic; and Clean-Up after the HH picnic
- Lois Herberger for coordinating the catering order with Mission BBQ for the HH Picnic
- Pat Beech for collecting RSVPs for the HH picnic
- Pat Beech for pictures for HH Social Event (pages 3-4), HH Picnic (pages 5-8), NVRC at Ashby Ponds (pages 13), and “Scraposaurs” (pages 17-19)
- Those who submitted pictures for “Various Graduations” (page 11)
- Jonathan Kiell for pictures for “Trip to Grand Canyon” (page 12)
- 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





E-mail: info@nvrc.org
 URL: 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 2025-2026

Sitting: Don Ames (Chair),
 Eddie Drawdy (Vice Chair),
 Melanie Williams (Secretary),
 and Tim Beatty (Treasurer)

Standing (Members-At-Large):
 Jill Moebus, Cathleen Potosky,
 Lois Herberger, and Bob Hickey

Thanks for Donations

- * Pam Gannon
- * Lynn Keefe
- * Jill Moebus
- * Rose Otterman
- * Gloria Pagan
- * Vicki Shank
- * Cathy & Rick Thompson



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 July 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 July 16.

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

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

Gallaudet University and The Coca-Cola Company



“We Want to Teach the World to Sign”
<https://youtu.be/rUCtzkKUwSo>

Coca-Cola teamed with Gallaudet University to unveil its official ASL name sign.