

# HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

This is funded by DARS-DHHS

Volume 10

May 2009

Issue 05

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR OUR SUBSCRIBERS

First of all, I want to say many thanks for continuing to subscribe and to enjoy reading our newsletter...

Remember, if you want to renew your subscription or change your address, please send in a renewal form so we can have a back up copy for our records. The renewal form is located on the back page of the newsletter. For address changes, you may also e-mail the change to me at [hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com). Please include your name and both the old & new address.

Thank you all for your attention...And may you be in good health through all those years!!

Regards, Audrey Leger, Treasurer

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**Don't laugh - your day is coming...and it's much closer than you think.**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## May 1, 2009 (Friday)



**ASL Social** will be at Fadi's Mediterranean Grill, 8383 Westheimer Rd., Suite 112, Houston, TX 77063 from 4 till 9 PM. Check out the website at [fadiscuisine.com](http://fadiscuisine.com). Let's meet and enjoy chatting with your old & new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at [ejohnson127@comcast.net](mailto:ejohnson127@comcast.net).

## May 5, 2009 (Tuesday)



**Positive Interaction Program (PIP)** will present their topic about Hurricane Preparation. We will have Niky Smith from the Harris County Office of Emergency Management present us some facts. The meeting is held at Woodhaven Baptist Church for the Deaf, 9920 Long Point, Houston, TX at 7:30 PM. Door prizes! Interpreter and captioning are provided.

## May 8, 2009 (Friday)



**Houston Deaf Senior Citizens** will take a trip to Lufkin, TX. We will stop at Texas Forestry Museum (\$1) and Ellen Trout Zoo and ride the train (\$6). Everyone needs to be at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd., Houston, TX by 7:00 AM as the Bus will leave at 7:15 AM. We will stop of lunch somewhere. Please contact Gertie Sessions by VP 281-447-7575 or Julie Spaulding by VP 281-249-5276 for more information.

## May 8, 2009 (Friday)



**Houston Hand Talk Social** will be at Greenspoint Mall, 12300 North Freeway, Houston, TX 77060 from 5 PM till 9 PM. Let's meet and enjoy chatting in the Food Court with your old and new friends. Any questions, please e-mail Roger Spivey at [spivey39@yahoo.com](mailto:spivey39@yahoo.com).

## May 9, 2009 (Saturday)



**Deaf Houston Latino** will meet at Ninfa's Mexican Restaurant, 5923 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77057 from 5 PM till 9 PM. Please contact [LaLacake25@yahoo.com](mailto:LaLacake25@yahoo.com) or VP: 832-413-4947 for more information. Come and chat with old and new friends.

## May 12, 2009 (Tuesday)



**Chief's Citywide PIP** will be held at 1600 State St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, TX at 7:00 PM. Contact Officer James Sobota at [james.sobota@cityofhouston.net](mailto:james.sobota@cityofhouston.net) or call 713-308-9079 (voice) for more information. Interpreter and closed caption will be provided.

## May 13, 2009 (Wednesday)



**Houston Deaf Seniors Citizens** will have their business meeting at West Gray Adaptive Recreation Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019 at 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Please come and share your ideas with us as the meeting begins at 10:00 AM. You have to be present to vote on the motions.

## May 15-17, 2009 (Friday-Sunday)



Pasadena is having their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasadena Strawberry Festival beginning at 10 AM till closed. There will be several attractions such as the Pre-festival Bike Ride, Helicopter Ride (\$15), Star Family Circus, Swamp Master Alligator Show, etc. Check out their website at [strawberryfest.org](http://strawberryfest.org) for more information.

## May 16, 2009 (Saturday)



**Houston Bass Club of the Deaf** will host a picnic at Memorial Park located on East Memorial Loop Drive at Arnot Street, Houston, TX. It will begin at 11 AM till 5 PM. Admission will be \$5 for Adult; \$4 for Senior Citizens; \$3 for Child (under 12); and free for under 5 years old child. Lunch will be served and consist of Hot Dogs, Beans, Potato Salads, chips and drinks. Please bring your own lawn chairs. Contact Juan Carrizales, Jr. at VP 281-712-8605 or email to [jscir@tmo.blackberry.net](mailto:jscir@tmo.blackberry.net).

**May 21, 2009 (Thursday)**



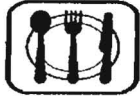
**Houston Deaf Senior Citizens** will have a fellowship and potluck at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church at 9920 Long Point Rd. from 9 am till 1 pm. If you wish to bring a covered dish, contact Evelyn Autry at 713-984-8186 TTY or Jenice Wells 281-442-8015 TTY or 281-442-8016 VP and let them know what you plan to bring.

**May 22, 2009 (Friday)**



**ASL Social** will be at Firehouse Subs, 12804 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX 77034 from 4 till 9 PM. Check out the website at firehousesubs.com. Let's meet and enjoy chatting with your old & new friends. Any questions, please e-mail to Earl Johnson at ejohnson127@comcast.net.

**May 25, 2009 (Monday)**



**Joe's Banquet Center**, 1300 East Hwy. 6, Alvin, TX 77511 will provide free meal for Seniors from 6 AM till 9 PM. It is free on the last Monday of each month.

**May 27, 2009 (Wednesday)**



**Houston Deaf Senior Citizens** have invited a Speaker to explain about Reverse Mortgage. Everyone can arrive at 9 AM since we have the room from 9 AM till 1 PM. The Speaker will begin at 10 AM for about an hour. Any questions will be followed after the Speaker is done talking.

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**HOUSTON DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS/LOVE FUND**

Thanks to those for their thoughtfulness who donated to LOVE FUND IN MEMORY OF: Nancy Morris in memory of Bernard J. Repsdorph (her friend's Father); Sidney Braquet in memory of Z. X. and Dorothy Curry; and Thelma Jo Hays in memory of all friends.



Anyone who wishes to donate money to **HDSC Love Fund, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation)** or HDST should please make check or money order payable to either **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens-Love Fund** or **Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas**. And mail to:

HDSC Love Fund, Inc.  
c/o Mrs. Zelma Curbello  
9623 Tiltree  
Houston, TX 77075-4042

OR

Houston Deaf Seniors of Texas  
c/o Audrey Leger  
P. O. Box 664  
Missouri City, TX 77459

**HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS OF TEXAS FUND**

**RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS**

Thank you for your renewal: Evelyn Autry, Clyde Clark, Ralph Daniels, C.A.A.G., Billie Dover, Virginia Diana Duncan, Margaret E. Eyrich, Bonnie Gough, Janet Hamilton, Billie J. & Thomas Holloway, Mary Ruth F. Jones, William G Lambert, Mildred Leblanc, Ima Jean Martin, Early McVey & Patsy Walker, Adrenna Montez, Esther Lavonia Morris, Evelyn & John Norman, Martha P Phillips, M/M Herbert Picou, Jim & Martha Quinn, Fred & Cathy Simerka, Kennedy Slavin, Robert Lee Small, M/M Wayne Southwell Sr, Mary Faye Tippett, Dalton J. Trahan, and Alton Young.

**NEW SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBER:**

Welcome to our Senior Citizen, Dameria Autry.

# NEWS

## My Vacation Trip

Submitted by Lennie Morton

I had a wonderful one week vacation with my 2 daughters and their husbands. We went on a cruise ship to Key West, Fl and rode a Conch train to tour the city. Next, we went to the Bahamas. First morning in Freeport, we toured the city by bus and went to the beach. Then, the next morning in Nassau, we took a taxi tour and stopped at Atlantis, the largest casino and to see the large aquarium there.



## Hope Farms Gardens Open Yard!

Sent by email from Ann Wheeler

Please join us for our annual Hope Farms Gardens Open Yard! Dates are every weekend starting April 25 to May 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Groups on weekdays by appointment only/ Visit our website [www.hopefarmsgardens.com](http://www.hopefarmsgardens.com). Address is 18750 F.M. 1484, Conroe, TX 77303. Phone #936.264.1499. PLEASE FORWARD TO A GARDENING FRIEND!

## McKinney Deaf Club - Grand Opening

Sent by Linda Smith from Deaf Network.com

The McKinney Deaf Club is proud to announce our GRAND OPENING at Holiday Inn in McKinney on May 2nd. Everyone is welcome to come. Please remember, all parents are responsible for their kids while socializing with us. For more information, go to our website called <http://www.mckinneydeafclub.org> and click on the 'Upcoming Events' page to get a flyer with directions. If you are interested in subscribing to the newsletter, please go to our home page and scroll down. You will see the box saying "NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION" and fill out. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## Joke Submitted by Audrey Leger

### **When Grandma Goes To Court**

**Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.**

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said,

'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'



## **BROCCOLI CORNBREAD**

Submitted by Audrey Leger

2 - Box of Jiffy Cornbread mix  
1 - 16 oz cottage cheese  
5 - Eggs  
1 - Onions, chopped

1 - Red & Green Bell Pepper, chopped  
1 - 10oz frozen Broccoli, chopped  
1 ½ - stick margarine, melted

Mix by hand. Seasoning to taste. Pour into 13X9" pan and bake at 400 degree until golden about 45-60 min, and cool. Use electric knife to cut up 1"X4-6" pieces and serve. Really delicious, Yummy!!

## **19th Annual Austin Sertoma Club Golf Tournament**

Benefiting the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD)

Please join us this year on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at Star Ranch Golf Club for our 19th annual golf tournament. Proceeds from this year's tournament will be used to award scholarships to selected TSD seniors and to supplement the TSD golf program started last year. Star Ranch Golf Club is at 2500 FM 685, Hutto, TX 78634 (website is starranchgolf.com). For information, call 512-346-2121.

## **House For Sale**

Submitted by Ann Wheeler for her Mother, Marie Hays

You can go to [www.Har.com](http://www.Har.com) to find information about her house. When you go to the Website, click on "Find a Home". Next, enter this MLS # which is 33270777 and click on "Search". When you see a GREEN FLAG, click on it and it will take you to the page of the house. It has a listing of what's in the house and the measurements along with the cost of the sale. You can talk to Ann Wheeler or her Mother, Marie Hays if you want more information.

## **Dallas man who lost wife, kids in fire seeks visual smoke alarms for deaf tenants**

Submitted by Linda Smith from DeafNetwork.com

By: EMILY RAMSHAW of The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN – When the raging late-night electrical fire broke out, Tyrus Burks, who is deaf, couldn't hear an alarm sound. The alarm's flashing light—tucked by apartment managers into a stairwell—also didn't wake him or his sleeping wife. By the time the flames reached him, it was all he could do to rouse his oldest sons from bed. When his mother arrived at the scene of the West Dallas apartment blaze, she found Tyrus curled in the fetal position on the asphalt with his deaf high school sweetheart and two more of their children trapped inside. Four years after Tyrus, now 31, lost half of his family in that fire, he is determined to save other deaf people from a similar fate. He was in Austin last week pushing legislation to require property managers to install fire alarms with flashing lights in the bedrooms and common areas of hearing-impaired people who request them—a bill named for his wife, Sephra.

"I wasn't able to find my babies and wife and save them," Tyrus told lawmakers through a sign language interpreter. "If I had just had a little bit more time, I know they would be with me today."

Today, the state property code requires landlords to install audible smoke alarms, not visual ones. The Sephra Burks bill, authored by Dallas Senator Royce West, requires property managers to buy and install visual smoke alarms if a tenant with a hearing impairment requests it and to put them in highly visible locations, including bedrooms. The bill awaits a vote in both the House and the Senate. Apartment managers say they support the bill and can handle the expense. The deaf routinely wake up to flashing lights—it's how many of their alarm clocks are outfitted. And studies show audible smoke alarms often aren't loud enough to wake children younger than 10.

Debilitating grief eventually led to outrage. City officials can implement their own, stricter fire codes, and Dallas building code inspectors had told the Colonial Tepeyac Apartments to install multiple strobe light smoke alarms in the family's unit. Instead, property managers installed one at the top of a stairwell, not in the bedroom and common areas as required. Investigators determined having visual smoke alarms in the right places would've given the family an extra 3 ½ minutes to get out of the apartment.

# REST IN PEACE

## OBITUARY



**Winona (LaBry) Sonnier**, 68, passed away on February 21, 2009 at Magnolia Estates Nursing Home. Mrs. Sonnier, a resident of Lafayette, was the daughter of the late Gabriel LaBry and the former Angelle Meaux. She graduated in the class of 1960 from Louisiana School for the Deaf. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, John Sonnier; 2 daughters, Cheryl Payne & her husband, Andrew of Lafayette and None Wood & her husband, Michael of Virginia; 3 sons, Johnny Sonnier & his wife, Michelle of Lafayette, Anthony Sonnier of Lafayette, and Larry Sonnier & his wife, Catherine of Virginia; and 12 grandchildren. She was preceded in death of her parents and grandson, Anthony Sonnier, Jr. Visiting hours were observed on Saturday from 8:00 AM till the time of service held at 10:30 AM in Delhomme

Chapel of the Flowers at Delhomme Funeral Home of Lafayette. Deacon Randy Hyde, Pastor of St. Edmond Catholic Church, conducted the memorial services. Memorial contributions can be made in the name of Winona Sonnier to Journey Hospice, 101 La Rue France, Suite 406, Lafayette, LA 70508.

**Robert P. Frank** of San Marcos, TX passed away on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, at the age of 65. Memorial services were held at a later date. Arrangements by Pennington Funeral Home, 323 N. Comanche St., San Marcos, TX and phone number is 512-353-4311.



**Edith Gray Gilmore**. A true Lady of the Hill Country was called to rest on March 14. She was born in Dripping Springs to Charles Monroe Gilmore and Verna Victoria Gilmore on January 28, 1907. She was a house mother for the Texas School for the Deaf and the Texas School of the Blind, each for 20 years. She lived in Dripping Springs until 1968 and Austin until 1986, upon finally settling down with her sister on Alamo Street in San Marcos. She is preceded in death by brothers, Howard Gilmore, Bill Gilmore, Paul "Peck" Gilmore and sister, Dillie Fae "Skeet" Gilmore. She is survived by nephews, Terry Paul Gilmore (San Marcos), Michael E. Gilmore (Colorado), Gary Anderson (Austin), Roland Gilmore (Austin), Charles Ray Smith (San Marcos) and a niece, Peggy Smith Barron (San Antonio). She dedicated her career to taking care of children, and she dedicated her life to take care of

extended family. She lived an amazing 102 years, on her own terms.

Graveside services was conducted at 10 AM on Wednesday, March 18th at the Phillips Cemetery in Dripping Springs, with Jack Gary officiating. Arrangements are under the care and guidance of Pennington Funeral Home, 323 N. Comanche, San Marcos.

**Charles David Carter**, 53, died peacefully at home in San Diego, CA on March 21, 2009. He was born in Rotan, TX to Grover C. Carter and Mary Ruth Carter. He attended Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, TX and Harrison Chillhowee Baptist Academy in Knoxville, TN. He spend most of his youth in Dallas, TX where he worked for Haggar Corporation and performed as an actor in a number of plays for national and local theatre of the deaf. He moved to Los Angeles in 1990 and worked at the AIDS Education of the Deaf for the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness. Later, he was employed as a Residential Property Manager for 17 years. He served on Los Angeles County Commission on HIV and was an American Sign Language Instructor for Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC). Last year, he relocated to San Diego where he became a supporter of the Youth Housing Project through SDLBGT Community Center and Deaf Services Center of San Diego.

He was preceded in death by his father, Grover C. Carter. He is survived by his loving daughter, Kami Jennifer Carter and her partner Beth of Kamuela, HI; his mother, Mary Ruth; stepfather, Carl Tucker; sister, Gwen White & husband Mike; nephews, Sean and Kyle White and families of Dallas, TX; cousin, Robert Carter of Houston, TX; and a large extended family. Charles leaves loving friends; David, Andrew, Angela, Billy, Byron, Christina, Jim, Kevin, Richard, Roxanne, Shari, Scott, Tim, Vicki, and countless close friends across the country. Celebration of Life of Charles David Carter was held on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 3:00 PM at Coronado Beach, 1700 Silver Strand Blvd., San Diego, CA (On the beach at the end of Avenida Del Sol). In

(Continue on next page)

lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his name to: GLAD - AIDS Education Services for the Deaf, Los Angeles and/or Being Alive, San Diego

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Annette Bonafede** who died peacefully on Sunday, 3/22/09, in Plano, TX following a lengthy illness. She had a Funeral Mass celebrating her life at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Plano, Texas on 4/18/09 at 10:00 AM. Her ashes will be buried in New York on a later date. Annette was born on 2/21/22 in Brooklyn where she lived until she retired. She graduated from PS47 School for the Deaf in Manhattan. She worked 42 years for UPS and moved with her sister to Plano in 1984. She touched many lives and will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She was predeceased by her parents, sister, and numerous cousins. She is survived by her many cousins in New York and her Texas "family" in Plano. Submitted by Yvette Mouser (Email: [ymouser@earthlink.net](mailto:ymouser@earthlink.net)).



**Edgar Noel Smith III** passed from this life on March 26, 2009 in Pasadena, TX. He was born on October 17, 1946 in Beaumont, TX to Edgar Noel Smith, Jr. and Marjorie Nell Horn. He has been a member of St. Dominic Center for the Deaf for 30 years and was a dedicated employee with the US Postal Service where he retired after 33 years. Edgar loved horses, anything western, and John Wayne Movies. He enjoyed watching football, barbecuing, woodworking, and took pleasure in visiting with friends and family. Most of all, Edgar was a kind and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 sisters, Loise Ann Shirley and Mary Lou Thiem. He leaves behind his loving wife of 42 years, Phillip Smith; 4 sons: Robert Allen Smith; Kevin Scott Smith & Wife, Loretta; Edgar Noel Smith IV & wife, Mona; and Jason Lee Smith & Wife, Janie; 9 grandchildren: Alexa, Rylee, Ravyn, Natasha, Kevin Jr., Sarah, Kamron, Edgar Noel V, and Grady; 1 brother, Lloyd Noel Smith & wife, Phyllis; 3 sisters: Marjorie Nell Garza & husband, Ray; Glanda Faye Henninger & husband, David; and Karon Renee Gary & husband, Ben. A visitation was held on Sunday, March 29, 2009 from 3 till 7 PM with a Wake Service beginning at 7 PM at Rosewood Funeral Home, 3939 Pasadena Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77503. Funeral Services were held on Monday, March 30, 2009 at 10 AM at St. Dominic Center for the Deaf, 2403 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77021 with interment following in Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.



**Sharon M. (Roth) Keith**, resident of Fremont, entered into rest on March 28, 2009 at the age of 70. Loving wife of 43 years to Kenneth R. Keith of Fremont. Beloved mother to Susan Camacho & her husband, Richard of Fremont. Cherished sister to Jane Ward of Vacaville, Mary Elwood of Santa Barbara, Patricia Volesky of Dickinson, ND, and Mark Roth of Los Angeles, CA. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was born September 2, 1938 in Belfield, ND; went to the California School for the Deaf in Berkeley; and then, went on to graduate from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC in class of 1963. Later in life, Sharon lost her sight and was a member of the NCADB. She attended Fremont Deaf Church / Evangelical Free. Sharon will be remembered for her vibrancy, beautiful smile, and her abundant love for her family.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, April 9th, 1pm at Fremont Memorial Chapel, 3723 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536. Donations may be made to the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.

**Ranata Knibble Blevins**, 50, passed away on Easter Day, April 12, 2009. She had massive stroke. She graduated Texas School for the Deaf in 1979. She was married to Chris Blevins who graduated TSD in 1978. She has a daughter, Tiffany and son, Rogers, and has 2 grandchildren. Her service was held on Friday, April 17, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Doepperschmidt Funeral Home at 189 North Seguin Ave., New Braunfels, TX. Submitted by Barjohn Ainsworth (Email: [ainsjatz08@yahoo.com](mailto:ainsjatz08@yahoo.com)).

**EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

I want to thank Bubba Lorenz for submitting that article about "Honey & Cinnamon". Several people have called and told me that it really works. Wow! Amazing! I'm always happy to hear good news and this was a great article to share with everyone. Please keep the good news and articles coming to me so we can share with everyone. Thanks so much!

If you have any information, jokes, recipes, event, pictures, sports, or news that you want me to publish, please send them to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please keep articles to less than 300 words, due to limited space on the newsletter. My E-mail address is [nmorris726@gmail.com](mailto:nmorris726@gmail.com) or you can mail to me at 15335 Falmouth Ave., Houston, TX 77084-1412.



Please note that Editor may, at her discretion, edit articles or news items for brevity and to correct errors. When sending pictures to me, please make sure you use a larger envelope. When the pictures are fold, it is very difficult to scan them without showing those folded lines. Audrey does the scanning for me so she will appreciate it, too.

Thanks!

*Nancy Morris, Editor*

**HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS of TEXAS**

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