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IDAHO HANDS & VOICES July 2011

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ARE YOU CRAFTY?

Idaho Hands & Voices will be participating in the Deaf Center of Idaho's holiday bazaar, generally held the first weekend in November. One item we will be selling is Christmas cards featuring art by our kids; if you have a kid who likes to draw, or if you can donate craft items or baked goods, please let us know sooner rather than later.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

(detailed information about many of these events can be found on the calendar on our webpage.)

Idaho Hands & Voices board meeting Thursday, August 4, 7:00 pm, IESDB Region 3 & 4 offices, 3071 E Franklin Rd, Suite 212. All current H&V members welcome, please check for possible updates to time and place on web page.

Treasure Valley Hands & Voices parent meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Paiute Room (basement) of St. Luke's Meridian Medical Plaza, 520 S Eagle Road, Meridian, 6:30-8:00 pm.

July 21: School programs around the Treasure Valley

August 18 and September 15: TBA--contact Shannon Garlitz at shangarlitz@gmail.com or (208)869-9363 for more information or topic suggestions.

Magic Valley H & V Saturday, August 20 at Story Book Park in Burley, 4:00 pm potluck picnic. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share; H&V will provide chicken. RSVP by Saturday morning so we'll have a head count! Contact Lorna Irwin at (208)324-7544 or niwri2@msn.com.

Idaho Parents Unlimited has a monthly support meeting at their offices in Boise at 500 South 8th Street the second Wednesday of each month, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The July 13 meeting will be an informal chat, and the August 10 meeting will be "Success with the IEP." For more information about this or future meetings, contact Angela Lindig at (208)342-5884 or angela@ipulidaho.org.

PARTNERS Now! Conference sponsored by Idaho Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Idaho Association of the Deaf, Deaf Center of Idaho and Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing August 11-13 in Boise. "People and Resources Together: Nurturing, Empowering, Respecting & Succeeding." For more information and to register, go to www.idahorid.org/conference. There is a parents' track on Saturday, plus a children's program. There is no charge for these, but you must register. Idaho Hands & Voices will have a table at the conference; come by and say hello.

There are two extra events associated with this conference. Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:00, a community picnic at Julia Davis Park, shelter #1, sponsored by Hamilton Relay and hosted by the Deaf Center of Idaho. No charge; bring a side dish or dessert to share. Friday evening at 7:00, you can enjoy "Black Sand," a PG-13 film in ASL (subtitled in English for the sign-impaired) at the Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy, 516 S. 9th St, Boise. Tickets are \$11 and available in advance from Janice Finch at spudgaa@gmail.com, and will be sold at the door if available. This is a fund-raising event for the Gallaudet University Alumni Association Spud Chapter Scholarship Fund, and is being sponsored by ZVRS.

Deaf Awareness Day at Roaring Springs Water Park 11:00 am to 8:00 pm Saturday, July 23, 400 W Overland Rd, Meridian. Discounted entry fee of \$15.99 plus tax; also discounts on food and beverages. To

take advantage of the special deals, you need to print off the flyer available at www.cdhh.idaho.gov, under "events."

DHH Summer Play Group for the Treasure Valley: Two more great days of family fun are still coming up: Jabbers (July 26), and Settler's Park (August 9.) Reduced or free admission! For details, contact Jill Muir at 914-3728 or jill.muir@iesdb.org, or Esther Brune at 284-2912 (text) or ruthbrune05@gmail.com.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival is once more offering sign language interpreted performances. (They also have an assistive listening system.) To order tickets for your group or family at a reduced rate in the Deaf section on the nights when plays are interpreted, call 208-429-9908 and order your tickets through Chandra. YouTube clips coming soon; go to www.idahoshakespeare.org to see a synopsis in ASL and subtitles of each 2011 play!

July 26	<i>Cabaret</i>	8:00 pm (Green Show at 7:30)
August 10	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	8:00 pm (Green Show at 7:30)
Sept 14	<i>The 39 Steps</i>	7:30 pm (no Green Show)

Signing Time Concert with Rachel Coleman Friday, September 2, 6:00 pm at Summit Church, 10375 W Overland Rd, Boise. For all the fans of the show, here's a live performance by the lady who started it all! More information and tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/175396>.

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Shannon Garlitz and Lorna Irwin went to the Hands & Voices Leadership conference in June (thank you, Idaho Sound Beginnings!) We learned lots of stuff and came home brimming with new ideas. One session covered recent legislative and legal developments affecting our kids, and we'd like to pass on what we learned, along with implications for current developments in Idaho education.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act or ADAAA (otherwise known as the new ADA): the "old" ADA was passed more than 20 years ago, so it was about time for an update. It's important to realize that the ADA applies to all schools, public or private, whether or not your child is covered by an IEP. It supplements special education law. One significant change in the law is that whether or not a person is covered by the ADA is determined by whether he has a disability when not using technology or other means to mitigate his disability. This is important for kids, since they need time to learn how to use their hearing aids or cochlear implants successfully, and it protects their status under the law after they are able to use these devices well. The mitigating measures are to be taken into account when determining what accommodations need to be made. (The only exception to this is eyeglasses or contact lenses.)

The new ADA clarifies and expands requirements for providing communication access. It allows for the use of video remote interpreting, and sets standards for this. This will be of benefit for rural communities and other communities with a shortage of qualified interpreters. It also includes "cued language transliterators" for the first time. (note: the IDEA has not yet specified cued language as an option, and it is a "hot button" issue; you can ask for it, but may not get this service onto an IEP.) It requires that the deaf or hard of hearing companion of a hearing person (spouse, parent, etc.) be provided communication access when it is appropriate for information to be shared with him, and restricts the use of family members as interpreters except in emergencies or when requested by the deaf or hard of hearing individual (and minor children may not be used at all, except in emergencies.)

The U.S. Department of Education recently responded to a problem that arose at the college level with access to material supplied on e-readers when these were not accessible to blind students. It issued a guidance document spelling out what schools must do to make sure that the use of emerging technologies meets existing laws. While the document frequently references visual impairment as a possible barrier to technology use, it also makes clear that the guidelines apply to students with other disabilities, and students at all levels, not just college students. It states that accessibility should be considered at the time new technologies are acquired, even if the school currently has no students with disabilities enrolled. Access should be as near as possible equivalent for disabled and non-disabled students; if the material is available

to most students on line 24 hours a day, it's not appropriate to ask the student with a disability to go to a certain place during certain hours to gain access.

The "Students Come First" legislation passed earlier this year in Idaho calls for increased use of technology in the classroom, including online courses and supplying students with personal devices (laptops or other) to use. The legislation was controversial and petitions have been filed to put it on the 2012 ballot, but the Idaho Department of Education has gone ahead and formed a Technology Task Force to work up a plan for Idaho. Idaho Hands & Voices made some preliminary contacts with IESDB to inquire about this process and its implications for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. We learned that there are members of the task force who have knowledge and experience with the issues of technology access for students with disabilities and who are in contact with IESDB about issues specific to the students they serve, but there may still be a role for our organization to play in raising awareness and providing information. As more and more technology is introduced into classrooms (and it's coming, with or without this legislation) individual parents will need to keep an eye on new developments and remind school districts of the need to provide access.

That said, we'd really welcome any input our members have. Have your children run into access problems with school-based technology? Have any of your older children taken an online class? Send us your stories, and the solutions that were found (or not) when the available technology fell short.

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Coming this fall: Sign classes for parents! Paula Mason, IESDB Outreach coordinator, is working on a plan to provide classes in all regions of the state. Her goal is to map out classes for the entire school year, instead of having classes sporadically. She is also making arrangements for a one-day Cued Speech training in the Treasure Valley, to be followed by some kind of practice sessions. If parents in other areas of the state express interest, it should be possible to give them access to this opportunity via IESDB's polycom system. Watch for further announcements.

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The next Hands & Voices Leadership Conference will be June 22-24, 2012, in Hood River, Oregon. This is a terrific opportunity for any parent or professional, and it will be within "road trip" (think car pool!) distance. Mark your calendar and start thinking about it now!

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The next issue of *Wavelengths* will appear sometime in early September. Please send in stories, book reviews, helpful hints, whatever you have to share. To contact Lorna Irwin (editor) for any reason: niwri2@msn.com or (208) 324-7544. We're still looking for contributions to our series "Fun Stuff to Do with Your Kids."