

1999 YEAR-END REPORT

CENTER FOR SUTTON MOVEMENT WRITING Deaf Action Committee For SignWriting

1. SignWriting Annual Membership Meeting

Twenty people attended our annual SignWriting Membership meeting on February 7, 1999 in La Jolla, including members of the Deaf Community, sign language students, scientists, and people working in marketing and fund raising. Darline and Dave Gunsauls told about their work with the DAC in 1998. Phil Carmona & Nancy Romero interpreted. Refreshments were donated by Jonathan's.

2. New Publication:

[Learn To Read American Sign Language in SignWriting](#)
Transcribed from the video: "SignWriting Children's Stories Series", signed in ASL by Darline Clark Gunsauls, this new collection includes 3 colorful booklets plus the video, in a white video case.

3. National Association of the Deaf Acquired Four SignWriting Video Titles

The Captioned Media Program is an arm of the National Association of the Deaf, funded by the Department of Education. Videos are captioned and then distributed on a loan basis to deaf people in the US. The Captioned Media Program purchased four SignWriting video titles in 1999: the Lessons In SignWriting Video Series (2 titles) and the Deaf Perspectives on SignWriting Video Series (2 titles).

4. SignWriter 5.0 Software Development

Programmer Larry Peranich started the year making it possible to convert old SignWriter files into the new SignWriter 5.0 format. Then a new programmer, Richard Johnston, took over the entire project June 1st, 1999. Richard programmed a brand new, very flexible, multi-lingual user interface in Java.

5. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Computer programmers refer to the "ISO 639-2 Registration Authority" for the standard codes used to represent the world's languages. This helps standardize software development. At present, Sign Languages are not included in this listing. In September, 1999, with the help of Michael Everson in Dublin, Ireland, the Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting (the DAC), and the Irish National Body, applied to the Registration Authority requesting that the world's Sign Languages be included. The application is currently waiting approval.

[6. Moved DAC Web Sites & Email Accounts to DeafVision](#)
DeafVision is owned by a Deaf woman, and all employees are Deaf. We are proud to place all of our web sites and email accounts on a deaf-owned web server. DeafVision gives excellent service.

7. SignWriting Table at DeafExpo Conference in San Diego

The weekend of November 18, 1999 was a busy one. The Deaf Expo is a big gathering of Deaf people, filled with booths and presentations from the Deaf Community. Dave Gunsauls and Valerie Sutton managed the SignWriting table, offering free SignWriting literature.



8. SignWriting Literacy Project in Albuquerque

Cecilia Flood's students in the Albuquerque Public Schools started learning SignWriting in earnest in 1999. Excellent feedback was received when Silent News journalist Alexandra Han interviewed Cecilia and her students. Their interview was published in an important article in Silent News, November 1999.

9. SignWriting Literacy Project in New York State

Deborah Holden is teaching Deaf students at the Algonquin Middle School in Averill Park.

10. SignWriting Literacy Project in Michigan

Dawn McReynolds is homeschooling her Deaf daughter in Michigan, developing special materials.

11. SignWriting Literacy Project in Georgia

Cynthia Frey is teaching the Deaf at Jordan Vocational High School, Columbus, Georgia.

12. SignWriting Literacy Project in In Canada

Private tutor Kathy Akehurst gave terrific feedback on the SignWriting List, being the first teacher to try our new publication: "Learn To Read American Sign Language in SignWriting". Kathy explained in detail the positive reaction of her seven native-signing Deaf students.

13. SW Literacy Project in Germany

Teacher Stefan Woerhmann at the "Landesbildungszentrum für Hörgeschädigte Osnabrück", has diligently learned SignWriting, creating a German Sign Language Dictionary. Stefan is teaching SignWriting to his young Deaf students, who seem to be enjoying it and learning well.

14. SW Literacy Project in Peru

Julianna Palmer visited in the Fall, carrying a large pile of books and software home to Peru, where native-signing Deaf adults, and also a local school for Deaf children, are learning SignWriting.

15. The SignWritingSite

The SignWriting Web Site is a reference library for written Sign Language Literature and free SignWriting Lessons Online. It is designed and managed by webmaster Valerie Sutton. There are over 250 pages. Below are some important postings in 1999 (about half the list):

[January 04, 1999](#)

Writing Straight Movement On The Diagonal Plane

[January 24, 1999](#)

Children's Story: A Giraffe Named Ivan, by Nancy Romero

[February 1, 1999](#)

Sign Dic Program, Daniela Remião de Macedo, of Brazil

[February 9, 1999](#)

The Runaway, a poem by 12 year old Gabriel Tollette

[April 15, 1999](#)

SignWriting In Nicaragua: expanded directory of articles

[April 27, 1999](#)

Silent News Article: "SignWriting: An Alphabet"

[May 3rd, 1999](#)

Learn To Read ASL, SW Level 3: Advanced Reading

[May 24, 1999](#)

Interviews with Patty Duke & William Schallert

[September 14, 1999](#)

New Web Site: The SignBankSite

[September 15, 1999](#)

SignWriting In Germany: Literacy Project In Osnabruck

[October 4, 1999](#)

SignWriting In Brazil Directory: Brazilian Sign Dictionary

[November 1, 1999](#)

Master's Degree Thesis by Amy Rosenberg

[November 17, 1999](#)

Transcription Systems: Stokoe, HamNoSys, SignWriting

[December 1, 1999](#)

Silent News Article: SignWriting: Way To Teach Literacy

[December 15, 1999](#)

Frosty The Snowman by Deaf Author Lourdes Tollette

16. Thanks To The DAC's 1999 Sponsors...

Without them none of the above could have been possible! Many thanks to the R.C. Baker Foundation, the Seuss Foundation, the George Hoag Family Foundation, the Parker Foundation, the Edwards Foundation, Hewlett-Packard Corporation, Macromedia, and several other foundations and individuals. 1999 was a great year!



Who Else Used SignWriting In 1999? ... some other projects around the world...

Spanish Sign Language Publications in Madrid & Alicante

Several SignWriting publications were produced in Spain in 1999: "Primeras Lecciones de SignoEscritura" is an adaptation of the Lessons In SignWriting Textbook, by Irma Maria Munoz Baell, & Dianne & Steve Parkhurst, published at the University of Alicante. The textbook "SignoEscritura" by the Parkhursts is an excellent instruction text. Monthly magazines written in SignWriting are distributed in Madrid.

Irish Sign Language Dictionary

Deaf signer Patrick Matthews asked Valerie Sutton to edit the new Irish Sign Language Dictionary, which includes life-like illustrations combined with SignWriting. The dictionary still needs funding.



Brazilian Sign Language Dictionary

Professor Fernando Capovilla, the director of the Brazilian Sign Language Dictionary Project, has coordinated two teams of hearing and Deaf people to work on, and edit this large dictionary, which should go to press in 2000. The dictionary will include an Introduction to SignWriting.

SignBible Site in American Sign Language

Pastor Ron Dettloff of the Deaf Church in Michigan and web designer Jerry Spillman have created the SignBible Site, regularly posting Bible passages written in American Sign Language in SignWriting.

SignWriting in Two Schools in Nicaragua

A long list of publications were translated into Nicaraguan Sign Language in SignWriting.