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 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 SignWriting Site
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...
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