



Valerie Sutton, inventor, completed the International SignWriting Alphabet in 2008.

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International SignWriting Alphabet ISWA 2008, First Used September, 2008

The International SignWriting Alphabet (ISWA 2008) is the newest SignWriting symbolset, designed for the latest SignWriting software. Valerie Sutton worked on the ISWA for over a decade. It was announced on the internet on September 19, 2008. The ISWA includes all symbols needed to write any sign language in the world.

Sutton's SymbolBank

<http://www.movementwriting.org/symbolbank>

The International SignWriting Alphabet (ISWA 2008)

There are 30 groups of symbols in the ISWA. The symbols can be written by hand or by computer.

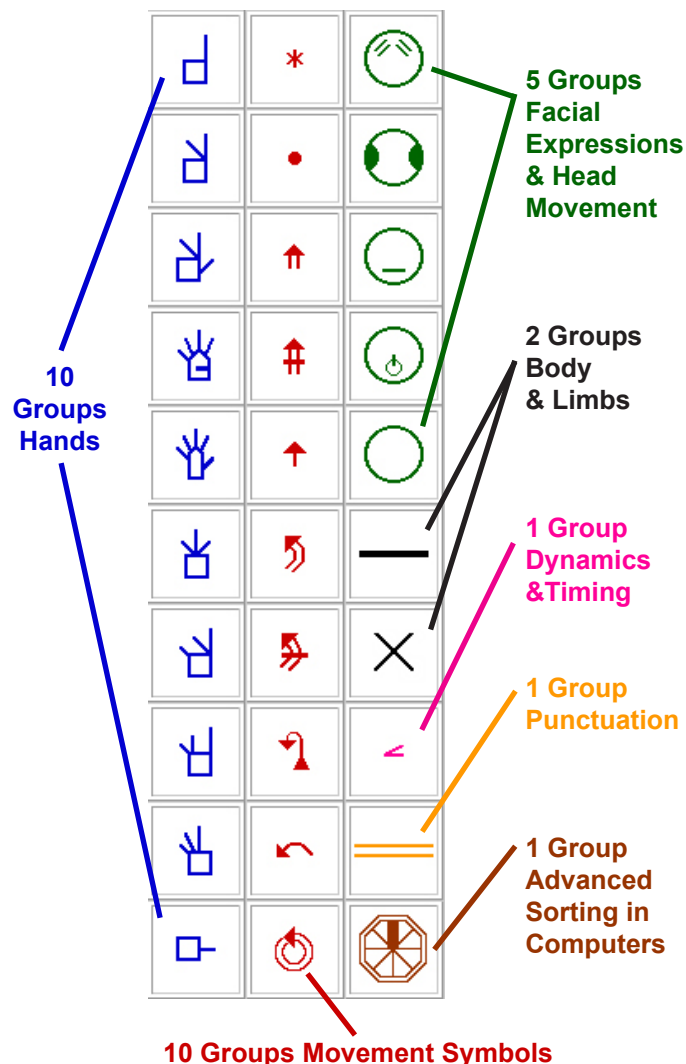
When using SignPuddle software, the user clicks on a group symbol to view other symbols in that group. There are symbols for writing handshapes, movement, facial expressions, head movement, torso movement, limbs, dynamics, timing and punctuation.

The ISWA can be compared to the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet for spoken languages). Like the IPA, the ISWA provides symbols that can be used to write many languages.

Sign languages are NOT international. There is a different sign language in each country, and some countries have more than one sign language.

The International SignWriting Alphabet IS international, because the symbols write body movement. SignWriting can write any sign language in the world, because it writes the way signs are "pronounced" in each country.

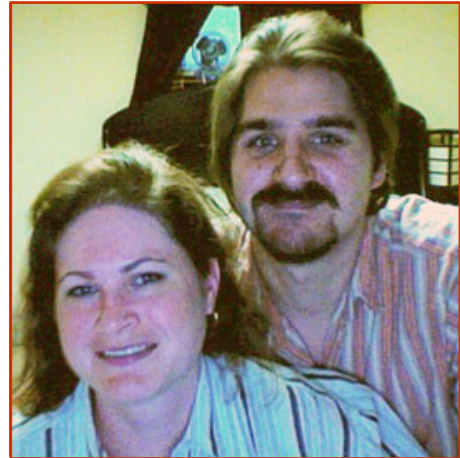
The SignWriting Alphabet is used to write Sign Language Literature, such as novels and children's stories.



2

Binary SignWriting (BSW v.1.2) Character Encoding Model for the ISWA 2008

Binary SignWriting, by Steve Slevinski, is a character encoding model for sign language data. It handles the specific requirements of a spatial script combined with the unique characteristics of SignWriting. The ISWA 2008 is the abstract character set for Binary SignWriting. There are three character encoding schemes available for Binary SignWriting: compact, XML, and binary. Two main types of data are represented: 1) Sign data with spatial and sequential information and 2) Sign text for sentences and lanes. To learn about the principles behind the Character Encoding Model, go to:



Steve Slevinski, software developer, with his wife Sonia. Steve developed ground-breaking software for SignWriting in 2008.

Binary SignWriting (BSW)

http://www.signpuddle.net/mediawiki/index.php/Binary_SignWriting

Sign data

Example	Compact	XML	Hexadecimal	UTF-8	Display
Symbol data	256	<sym>256</sym>	0100	f1 80 84 80	d
Single symbol glyphogram data	256,50,50	<sign><sym x="50" y="50">256</sym></sign>	0080 0100 F880 F880	f1 80 82 80 f1 80 84 80 f1 8f a2 80 f1 8f a2 80	d
Multi-symbol glyphogram data	256,50,50,356,70,70	<sign><sym x="50" y="50">256</sym><sym x="70" y="70">356</sym></sign>	0080 0100 F880 F880 0164 F894 F894	f1 80 82 80 f1 80 84 80 f1 8f a2 80 f1 8f a2 80 f1 80 85 a4 f1 8f a2 94 f1 8f a2 94	d p
Sequence data	256,356	<seq><sym>256</sym><sym>356</sym></seq>	0081 0100 0164	f1 80 82 81 f1 80 84 80 f1 80 85 a4	d p

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IMWA to ISWA Conversion Program SignPuddle 1.5 Updated to Use the ISWA 2008

The IMWA to ISWA Conversion Program, by Steve Slevinski, made it possible to update our current software, SignPuddle 1.5, with the new symbols of the ISWA in 2008. SignPuddle Online contains over 40 dictionaries with tens of thousands of written signs and hundreds of texts. Because of Steve's amazing conversion program, the changeover to the ISWA was perfect. Other programmers can use the Conversion Program too. Go to:
http://www.signpuddle.net/imwa_convert/
http://www.signpuddle.net/imwa_convert.zip





SignPuddle™

<http://www.signpuddle.org>




Build String

The build string for an image is a series of augmented glyphogram build string separated by semi colons ";". The augmented glyphogram build string has the format "size,line color,x offset,y offset,glyphogram build string".

Consider the following build string
 .7,ff0000,10,10,256,25,25,256,33,33;1.3,00ff00,27,27,364,25,25,364,33,33

Size	Line Color	X,Y Offset	Glyphogram Build String	Glyphogram
.7	ff0000	10,10	256,25,25,256,33,33	
1.3	00ff00	27,27	364,25,25,364,33,33	

Attributes

Basic Example	<code></code>	
Fill	<code></code>	
Back	<code></code>	

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SignWriting Image Server SWIS Beta 4

Open Font Rendering Software by Steve Slevinski

The primary purpose of the SignWriting Image Server is to display SignWriting images fast with a simple installation. SWIS requires a web server with PHP and the GD graphics library. The second purpose is to provide tools to create SignWriting images. The SymbolPalette and SignMaker are currently available as part of SWIS. SignText is in development. This project is about open standards, using the GPL v3 License, the Open Font License (OFL), and the Creative Commons (by-sa).

SignWriting Image Server

<http://www.signbank.org/swis/>































<http://www.signbank.org/swis.zip>



ISWA 2008 final



HTML Reference

Symbol	SymbolGroup Number	Name	Character Code	Hex	Symbol ID	Type	Base Symbols	Standard Color
	SymbolGroup 1	Index	256	100	01-01	Writing	13	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 2	Index Middle	1504	5e0	01-02	Writing	15	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 3	Index Middle Thumb	2944	b80	01-03	Writing	38	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 4	Four Fingers	6592	19c0	01-04	Writing	8	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 5	Five Fingers	7360	1cc0	01-05	Writing	58	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 6	Baby Finger	12928	3280	01-06	Writing	28	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 7	Ring Finger	15616	3d00	01-07	Writing	19	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 8	Middle Finger	17440	4420	01-08	Writing	18	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 9	Index Thumb	19168	4ae0	01-09	Writing	38	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 10	Thumb	22816	5920	01-10	Writing	15	0000CC
	SymbolGroup 11	Contact	24256	5ec0	02-01	Writing	17	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 12	Finger Movement	25888	6520	02-02	Writing	20	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 13	Straight Wall Plane	27808	6ca0	02-03	Writing	43	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 14	Straight Diagonal Plane	31936	7cc0	02-04	Writing	16	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 15	Straight Floor Plane	33472	82c0	02-05	Writing	35	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 16	Curves Parallel Wall Plane	36832	8fe0	02-06	Writing	30	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 17	Curves Hit Wall Plane	39712	9b20	02-07	Writing	17	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 18	Curves Hit Floor Plane	41344	a180	02-08	Writing	30	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 19	Curves Parallel Floor Plane	44224	acc0	02-09	Writing	14	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 20	Circles	45568	b200	02-10	Writing	20	CC0000
	SymbolGroup 21	Brow Eyes Eyegaze	47488	b980	03-01	Writing, Centering	32	006600
	SymbolGroup 22	Cheeks Ears Nose Breath	50560	c580	03-02	Writing, Centering	17	006600
	SymbolGroup 23	Mouth Lips	52192	cbe0	03-03	Writing, Centering	30	006600
	SymbolGroup 24	Tongue Teeth Chin Neck	55072	d720	03-04	Writing, Centering	20	006600
	SymbolGroup 25	Head	56992	dea0	03-05	Writing, Centering	11	006600
	SymbolGroup 26	Trunk	58048	e2c0	04-01	Writing, Centering	9	000000
	SymbolGroup 27	Limbs	58912	e620	04-02	Writing	7	000000
	SymbolGroup 28	Dynamics	59584	e8c0	05-01	Writing	8	FF0099
	SymbolGroup 29	Punctuation	60352	ebc0	06-01	Punctuation	5	FF9900
	SymbolGroup 30	Advanced Sorting	60832	eda0	07-01	Sorting	8	884411

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ISWA 2008 HTML Reference Guide by Steve Slevinski

http://www.signpuddle.net/ISWA_2008_HTML

The reference guide contains the same information as the SignWriting Image Server code pages, but doesn't require a configured web server to use it.

It is straight HTML and PNG graphics. It is 13MB, 670 pages, and over 35 thousand files. The reference guide documents the ISWA 2008 final, completed on October 20, 2008.

http://www.signpuddle.net/download/iswa_2008_html.zip

This is part of the initiative to make SignWriting an Internet standard.

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SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin (SWMP)

For Wiki-Style Web Sites in Written Sign Languages

SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin

http://www.signpuddle.net/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page

Extension: SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin

http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:SignWriting_MediaWiki_Plugin

MediaWiki Article (below) by Stefan Woehrmann in German Sign Language

http://www.signpuddle.net/mediawiki/index.php/GebärdenSchrift_in_Deutschland

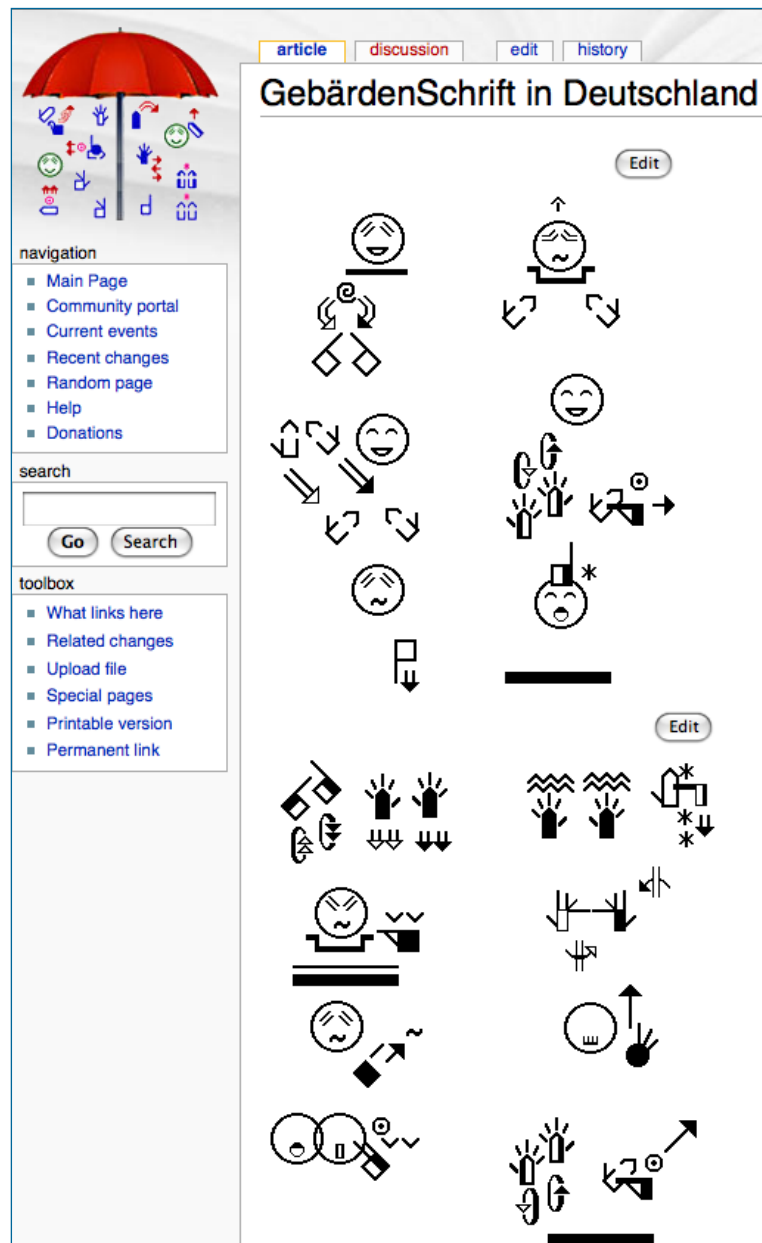
The **SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin**, (SWMP), by Steve Slevinski, is groundbreaking software that makes it possible for wiki-style web sites to provide SignWriting on their sites. An Alpha version was posted on the web at the end of 2008, with plans for the completed version to be released summer, 2009.

The SWMP extension adds SignWriting support to MediaWiki. The code is a specific implementation of the general code from the **SignWriting Image Server**.

The **SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin** is the harbinger of the future of SignWriting as an actively used script used openly on the internet. Someday it will be taken for granted that SignWriting will be written directly on the web, in web sites like Wikipedia. We look forward to the world's first Wikipedia in American Sign Language!

Many thanks to Gerard Meijssen for his encouragement in 2008. Gerard is a Wikimedia Foundation Language Committee member and he blogged about the need for a Wikipedia in written American Sign Language. Read Gerard's blogs about SignWriting:

Blog: Words & What Not
<http://ultimategerardm.blogspot.com>



PersonalPuddle Desktop Software

Write Sign Languages Without An Internet Connection

About Developer Steve Slevinski Jr.

<http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle/about>

Purchase the PocketPuddle

http://www.suttonshop.com/ecommerce/pages/products_sw_detail.jsp?id=49.0

Purchase PersonalPuddle Software

http://www.suttonshop.com/ecommerce/pages/products_sw_detail.jsp?id=60.0



The PersonalPuddle, by Steve Slevinski, was released in November, 2008. It is SignPuddle Desktop Software, similar to SignPuddle Online, except that it can be used on your computer desktop, without an internet connection.

The PersonalPuddle uses the new symbols of the International SignWriting Alphabet (ISWA 2008). It is available for download on the web, or can be installed using a CD, for both Mac OS X and Windows. It also comes pre-installed on the **PocketPuddle**, a portable USB Flash Drive for Windows only, which can be carried in your pocket and plugged into any USB drive.

Once the PersonalPuddle is installed on your computer, you can Import other SignPuddle files from SignPuddle Online, to use inside your PersonalPuddle.

The PersonalPuddle user interface opens in English and American Sign Language, but you will be able to download and install other user interfaces in other languages.

Instruction and Reference Manuals are now available in multiple languages on the web:

[SignPuddle Help Files](http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle/help)

www.signbank.org/signpuddle/help





Adam Frost, Deaf author, videotaped his article in American Sign Language and then wrote the article in SignWriting in SignPuddle Online. It was a hit on the web in 2008.

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Why SignWriting?

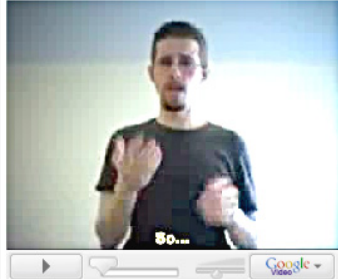
by Deaf Author Adam Frost

Hello. My name is Adam Frost. I have been deaf since birth. I use sign language everyday of my life. I have learned English. It is my second language. My greatest frustration growing up was trying to take my thoughts, which were in sign, and having to write them in English. I never liked that feeling of frustration. Later when I found SignWriting, which is a system based on handshapes and movements, not based on any sound whatsoever, I found that I was able to express my ideas in sign freely without constraint on paper...Read more on the web. Go to:

Why SignWriting? by Adam Frost

<http://www.signwriting.org/video/about/>

Why SignWriting 01



Hello. My name is Adam Frost. I have been deaf since birth. I use sign language everyday of my life. I have learned English. It is my second language. My greatest frustration growing up was trying to take my thoughts, which were in sign, and having to write them in English. I never liked that feeling of frustration. Later when I found SignWriting, which is a system based on handshapes and movements, not based on any sound whatsoever, I found that I was able to express my ideas in sign freely without constraint on paper. I didn't have to struggle with translating my thoughts into English just so that I could write them on paper. So, some people think that sign language is a universal language, but that is not true. I use American Sign Language which is only used across the United States and Canada.

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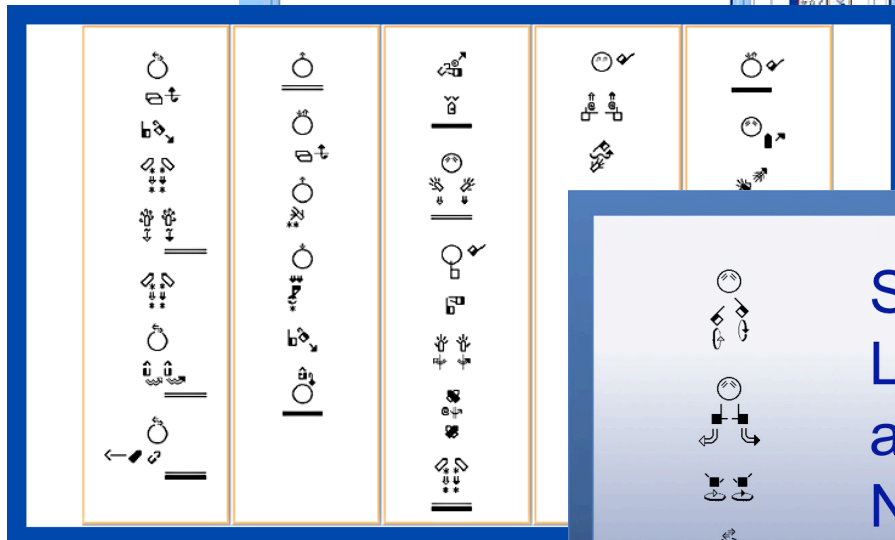
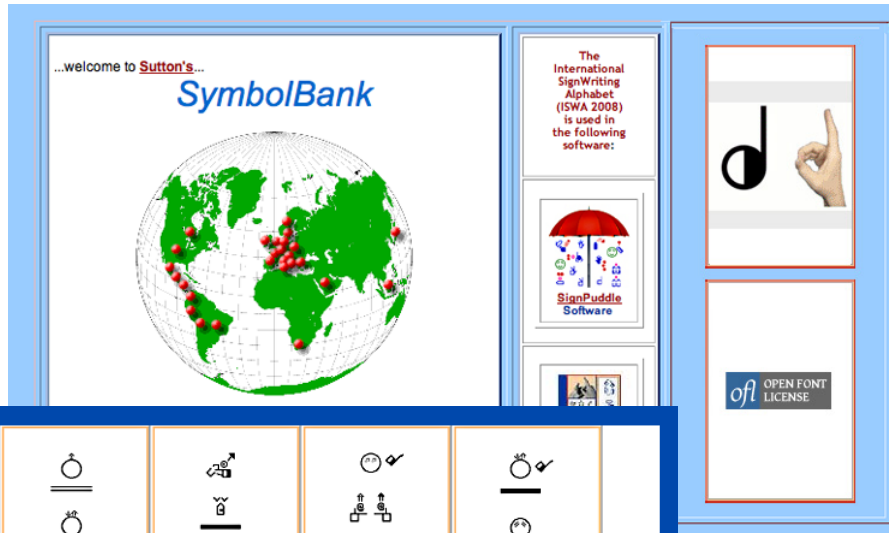
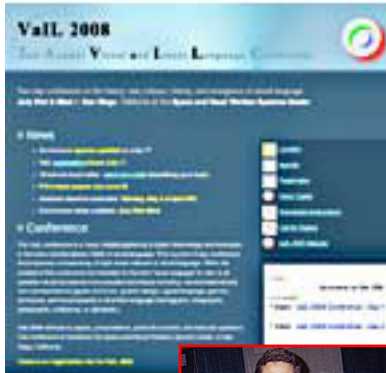
VAIL Conference 2008

Adam Frost & Valerie Sutton Presented a Paper

The 2nd Annual Visual and Iconic Language Conference (VAIL 2008), held in San Diego, California, July 21-22nd, at the Naval Base, was a two-day conference on the theory, use, history, and emergence of visual language. "Visual Language" is a new subject of research related to technology and visual communication. SignWriting is a visual writing system, and it fits well into this new field of research. It was a small, intense conference where intellectual concepts of visual language were discussed at length.

Download Paper & PowerPoint Presentation

<http://www.signwriting.org/video/about/SignWriting2008/>



SignWriting® Year-End Report 2008

Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.



Photo below: Nancy Romero demonstrates how a SignWriting text can be read "out loud" in American Sign Language.



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San Diego Channel 10 News Program About SignWriting April 1

Charisse Yu, reporter for San Diego Channel 10 News, interviewed Valerie Sutton & Nancy Romero, who interpreted. Nancy showed examples of the Gospel According to John, which Nancy has translated and written in American Sign Language. Charisse did an amazing job, conducting the interview, doing the camera work, and writing the story, which was aired that same night!

View The Program on the Web

signwriting.org/video/about/TVNews2008.html

11

National Association of Police & Lay Charities 2008 Sponsorship

The TV interview was stimulated by six Press Releases published on the web about SignWriting, posted by the non-profit National Association of Police & Lay Charities (NAPLC). Many thanks to the NAPLC for your support and sponsorship in 2008!

Press Releases by the NAPLC posted in 2008 about The SignWriting Literacy Project:

SignWriting Literacy Project: Mission
givecars.com/signwriting-charity/menu-signing.html

SignWriting Literacy Project: Employment
www.givecars.com/signwriting-charity/jobs.html

SignWriting Literacy Project: Literature
www.givecars.com/signwriting-charity/literature.html

SignWriting Literacy Project: Language
givecars.com/signwriting-charity/sign-language.html

SignWriting Literacy Project: Signing Texts
www.givecars.com/signwriting-charity/signing.html

SignWriting Literacy Project: Software
www.givecars.com/signwriting-charity/software.html

12

Lucinda O'Grady Batch Makes Several SignWriting Videos

Lucinda O'Grady Batch is the teacher in the Lessons in SignWriting Video Series, made with Kevin Clark in the 1990's. The two Lessons Videos are still used today. They are the first videos a student of SignWriting views, to learn the system. In 2008, Lucinda returned to working with SignWriting after a decade. She taught Movement Symbols in a new Lessons Video, to be released in 2009.

Lessons in SignWriting Videos

<http://www.signwriting.org/video/lessons/>



Above: Lucinda O'Grady Batch and Adam Frost taught Movement Symbols in a new Lessons Video, to be released in 2009.

13

2008 Video Transcription Projects

Many thanks to Charles Butler for transcribing two videos of Lucinda O'Grady Batch signing in American Sign Language. The Deaf History articles will someday be a part of the ASL Wikipedia when it is ready later in 2009. And thanks also to Jonathan Duncan for transcribing the article by Lucinda named "About SignWriting" and also transcribing the poem "One Harbor" by Kevin Clark. To read these articles, go to the ASL SignPuddle:

ASL Literature & Encyclopedia

<http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle/index.html#sgn-US>

Below: Charles Butler transcribed two Deaf History videos signed in ASL by Lucinda, located in the ASL Encyclopedia Puddle.

Deaf History 01-01
Charles de l'Eppe 01

His name was Charles Michel De L'Epee.



Kelly Jo Boal transcribed Snow White in American Sign Language from videotape.

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Snow White in American Sign Language Signed in ASL by Darline Clark Gunsauls

Transcribed from video by Kelly Jo Boal

Sponsored by the Claire Giannini Fund, Snow White in American Sign Language is destined to be a SignWriting classic. In 2008, Kelly Jo Boal did the first transcription of the story, based on a video signed in ASL by Darline Clark Gunsauls.

Snow White in American Sign Language

<http://www.signwriting.org/library/children/SnowWhite.html>

Snow White Written In American Sign Language (ASL)

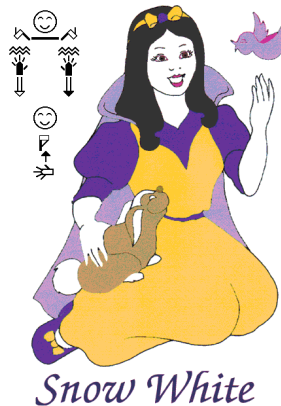
About The Claire Giannini Fund

This publication of Snow White is dedicated to Walt Disney and A.P. Giannini. In 1937, Walt Disney, and his talented team of animators, presented the first full-length animated motion picture of Snow White.

A.P. Giannini, who later founded Bank of America, loaned Walt Disney the funds to produce the animated film Snow White. In the same pioneering spirit, SignWriting is changing history, creating a written form for sign languages. Visual in nature, the invention of SignWriting was specifically influenced by the visual sophistication of Disney animation.

The writing of Snow White in American Sign Language in SignWriting is made possible because of funding from the Claire Giannini Fund. Claire Giannini, daughter of A.P. Giannini, established the Claire Giannini Fund to assist new and innovative projects such as the SignWriting Literature Project. This is just the first of several Snow White storybooks in SignWriting. We hope in time to produce a series of workbooks and storybooks, at different reading levels.

In 2007-2008, with the help of the Claire Giannini Fund, the SignWriting Literature Project produced the first drafts of some 40 new pieces of literature in American Sign Language, posted on the web. In 2009, these titles are being prepared for printing. Snow White will have four reading levels.



Darline Gunsauls signed the story on video.



The mirror answered,
"You are the fairest in the land."
The queen proudly went on her way.

