

**DEAF-BLIND SERVICE CENTER
PRO-TACTILE NEWS – JUNE 2014**



Message from Angela Theriault, Executive Director

I am very excited to announce that five new people have joined DBSC's board. Please welcome them to DBSC! I am thrilled to work with them.

I want to say many thanks to Elizabeth Bass, DBSC's administrative assistant. She created a new website for DBSC. You can visit the new site at www.seattledbsc.org. Enjoy reading the new website!

Lastly, I want to say "Many thanks!" to all the people who donated money to DBSC during the Seattle Foundation's Give BIG event.

Enjoy your summer - hope to see you at the WSDBC/DBSC picnic!

Message from Jorgé Aristizabal, Board President

It is my pleasure to announce that DBSC has added 5 new board members: Roger Poulin (DB), Kevin Anderson (DB), Christopher Loomis (DB), Kevin Payne (hearing), and Greg Donoghue (hearing)! Michelle Miles is still on the board, as well as, Merrilee Avila who is our

volunteer secretary. We have already started working as a team and are looking forward to the future, establishing a fundraising committee and planning events – because “Wow! Summer is almost here!”

Good News - DBSC has a new website! And it includes a video blog (vLog) page. Take a minute and check it out, especially the vLog page at www.seattledbbsc.org/vlogs/.

**That’s all - enjoy yourself and have a fun summer!
Thank you!!**

Support Service Provider (SSP) & Communication Facilitator (CF) Services

DBSC wants to say “Many thanks!” to all our donors, those organizations and foundations that have provided grants, the City of Seattle, and the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) for providing the money necessary for our SSP and CF programs. Without your support, these programs would never happen. Here are four short articles from Deaf-Blind participants about their experience in these programs. They were asked to share why the SSP or CF Program was beneficial? And why the services were important to them?

1. DB Man – SSP Program

A 67 years old gentleman with Usher syndrome is very happy with his SSPs and uses the time for very important things for his health. For example, after he gets home from a doctor visit, the SSP will sit with him

and his medications and label them in a way that he can tell them apart and know how often to use them.

He uses a “PenFriend” system with his SSP to put labels on food, especially cans that all feel the same! Before every shopping trip he makes a list on the computer and prints it out for the SSP. It can be a bit of a challenge when you say “bread” there are row after row of bread products - Which brand? Which kind? So much visual information needs to be narrowed down - wheat bread, no seeds, don’t care what brand, please check the expiration date, and then take what you can get. It helps him so much that his SSP knows him and what he likes.

He also uses his SSP for reading mail and taking a few short trips to the drug store. These things usually use up his SSP time. He would like to go to one of the big stores for furniture, but never has enough time left over.

2. DB Man – SSP Program

A gentleman with Usher syndrome who uses tactile sign language uses SSP services for a wide variety of daily living activities, such as: food shopping, reading mail, walking for exercise, doing personal errands, and receiving visual and environmental information. This gives him a greater sense of independence and the ability to make independent decisions and informed choices regarding his life. So, having SSP services connects him to the world and the information highway. Having SSP services is a very important part of each DB

person's life, enabling them to get all the information she/he needs to stay fully independent.

3. DB Woman – CF Program

ASL is her first language and faster than communicating with a TTY. With a TTY it is sometimes hard for her to catch all of the message and she will often have to ask the other person to repeat, even though they typed slowly. ASL means less misunderstanding and less doubt that she understands. CF services are beneficial to her because she is deaf-blind and cannot see a videophone.

Communication is key and CF services helps her ask questions and get answers in ASL. With a CF, the videophone is more accessible than using the TTY. CF is also more ready and reliable than asking friends or family. And, she couldn't depend on interpreters because they sometimes have a policy which limits their time to 15 minutes, which is not enough time for her.

If she did not have CF service, she said she would FREAK OUT! She would be more hesitant to ask friends, family, or advocates to interpret for her and would miss being able to ask questions and receive answers. She wants to be independent and make calls with a CF. A CF is very important and helpful and she intends to ask that CF services continue forever!

4. DB Man – CF Program

A DeafBlind gentleman who uses tactile sign language states that CF services truly benefit him and other DB folks to communicate with their families, friends, businesses, and others in the telecommunication world. He can easily schedule a CF who will come over to his house enabling him to communicate with others on VP or VRS. He and the CF are a team because they support each other in a professional manner. He gives each CF constructive feedback. His CF lets him know that he is directly in front of the VP or lets him know to reposition himself so others can see him directly on the VP. CF services are a very important part of the DeafBlind telecommunications world so they can communicate with others in their native language. CF service is the most effective communication method for us other than electronic technology.

If CF services were not available it would create a total communication access barrier between DB folks and everyone else. He would not be able to access a TTY because he cannot read the TTY screen anymore. He will advocate for permanent funding so CF services can be available to the DB community all the time.

CF services are very important and helpful. He intends to ask you to keep CF services FOREVER!

Obituary for Doris Fedrid

Doris Fedrid, born June 26, 1927, in Tarnopol, Poland, died peacefully in her sleep on May 17, 2014. Her death was preceded in 1963 by the love of her life, Fred

Fedrid. Doris leaves behind her children: Charles (Ilene) Fedrid and children: Elissa (Jon), Adam (Amy), Michael (Sandra), Cherie; Rose Ogata and children: Randy, Shelby, and Samara; and Eleanor (Jim) Corner and children: Abby and Franky. She is also survived by daughter-in-law Marina Fedrid, 5 great-grandchildren, and her very dear sister, Esther (Lawrence) Landman, their children and grand-children.

Doris was born in Poland and was one of the few Deaf people to survive the Holocaust. She then lived in Denver until 1983 when she moved to Seattle where she benefited from the immense help and support of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Jewish Family Service, and the Deaf-Blind Service Center.

The family is forever grateful to her dear friends and interpreters for their love and care, especially: Bethel Spagnolo, Kristin Curley, Dawn McKenna, Mary Burns, Tami Berk, and Rachael Byer Kwong, as well as the caretakers: Diane Britt, Rolly, and Librada, who took extra special care of her during her end stages of life. Doris will be very much missed. The family suggests



memorial contributions be sent to: Jewish Family Service of Seattle, 1601 16th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.

Picture above: Doris wearing a small black top hat with ribbons and feathers.

Deaf-Blind/SSP Curriculum

We are excited to announce, at long last, that the materials for the Deaf-Blind/SSP Curriculum are now ready and posted online. All printed materials are available in regular print, large print, and Braille (grade 1 and 2). There are 39 PowerPoint presentations with many pictures, descriptions of all the pictures used, 18 video clips to help illustrate the materials and methods, and transcripts of all the videos.

The curriculum was designed to be a flexible tool from which anyone can select and adapt to fit their community and situation. There are three parts, one for SSPs, and two related sections for DB people (A and B), depending on the foundation they need. It includes descriptions of the role of SSPs, including ethics and boundary concerns, and the uses and benefits of an SSP for a DB person, whether they have remaining useful vision or hearing or whether they do not.

We feel these materials will be useful to interpreters working with DB people and friends within the Community, as well as, to SSPs and DB people themselves.

The materials include:

- Visual illustrations of specific skills, such as: sighted-guide, including navigating stairs, elevators, and so on**
- Written description of all pictures**
- Video and written interviews with experienced DB instructors**

- A video example of a one-on-one lesson using a DB instructor, novice DB person, and an experienced SSP
- Description and photos of tactile classifiers and special signs used by DB people.
- Description and examples of top-down discourse
- Suggested exercises for practicing new skills
- Diversity (and complexity) within the Deaf-Blind Community
- An analysis of DB discourse and how we use our vision

All this and more. Previous users of the curriculum will find that registration is no longer necessary, and that it is easier to find the desired curriculum chapter, PowerPoint, or video.

To find the materials (and the curriculum), go to the Seattle Deaf-Blind Service Center website at www.seattledbbsc.org/dbssp-curriculum.

Senior Citizen Tea Party

On Thursday, June 12, eleven DeafBlind seniors got together to enjoy a nice cold iced tea and delicious snacks. The Senior Citizen Tea Party started with everyone giving tactile hugs and smiles in the DBSC Conference Room. During the event the seniors got to snack on a huge variety of yummy treats along with an array healthy nutritional snacks brought and shared by everyone.

For a long time the seniors have waited to get together and “pah!” - A tea party! For those who went, it was like magic meeting up with an old friend they had not seen in a very long time. Generally, this get-together was to help enhance wellness, we hope to have another social event in the fall.

We want to extend our thanks to the volunteers for helping us set-up such an enjoyable experience - It was an awesome success all around!

Tea Party Photo Gallery



Above: Lavena & Annie chatting tactilely

Above on right: Terri & Elinor visiting



Above: Annie with her SSP, Peg, getting some goodies!

Above on right: The “Guy” table with Roy, RJS, Dave, and Ken



Above: Christine & Lavena visiting

Above on right: Roy and RJS having a tactile chat



Above: Margarita and Angela posing

Above on right: Angela taking pictures of all the Tea Party people!

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browse or shop at AmazonSmile. There is no cost to the charitable organizations or to the customers and AmazonSmile does not deduct any fees from the donation amount.

So visit: www.smile.amazon.com, select DBSC as your charity and have fun shopping!

Save these Dates:

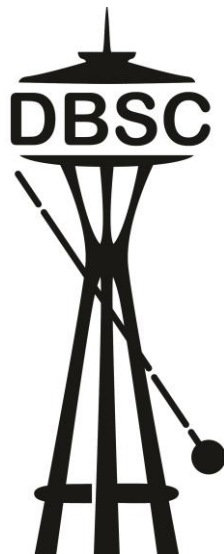
- **DBSC/WSDBC Picnic: Saturday, August 9, 2014**
The picnic will be held at Woodland Park, Shelter #6, from 10 am to 2 pm. Registration form is posted DBSC's website.
- **DBSC's Annual Walk-A-Thon: Saturday, September 13, 2014, at Alki Beach. More information is posted DBSC's website.**

Donate to DBSC

If you would like to donate DBSC's programs & services, you can donate on our DBSC website, visit www.seattledbsc.org/donate!



DBSC is on Facebook!



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