

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference

by Hannah Mann and Megan Thomas

For fifty years, Cued Speech has weathered politics, discrimination, and ignorance; and yet, it holds strong, thanks to dedicated parents, educators, advocates, and of course, cuers themselves. They've experienced firsthand what Cued Speech has done for themselves, their children, their careers, and their lives.

In 1966, Dr. Orin Cornett developed Cued Speech to address the deaf community's flagging literacy rates, which averaged to a 4th-grade reading level at age 18. It started with Mary Elsie Daisey and her daughter, Leah, and grew into an international community of cuers over several generations. These cuers kept pace with, and often surpassed, their hearing peers, entering fields in medicine, law, technology, arts, and more.

Today, we have Cued Speech in over 70 languages and dialects, and thousands of cuers in over 30 countries



worldwide, and that number grows daily. In the past year alone, we've developed or refined four cued languages and birthed two small cued language communities in new countries.

On July 8-10, 2016, the National Cued Speech Association will host its 50th Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference in Falls Church, Virginia at the **Westin Tyson Corner**. The conference offers three tracks (p. 12) covering international cued languages, Cued Speech research tailored for professionals and families, and personal stories from native cuers. With an exhibition hall, a children's program, and

a leadership program for teens, we've got something for everyone.

Parents can meet other families who truly share a common language through Cued Speech.

Educators can see for themselves how Cued Speech enables D/HH children to read and write English fluently, without needing to give up their Deaf identities or forgo American Sign Language.

Audiologists, speech pathologists, and teachers of the deaf can discover how Cued Speech gives full visual access to increase spoken-language capability.

No matter who you are, or whether you talk, sign, or cue, you'll be able to network, make friends, and meet other world-changers. We all have valuable knowledge and experiences to share so you'll be welcomed with open arms.

Register at the website, [www.cuedspeech50.org](http://www.cuedspeech50.org), and cue it forward!

## CLEAR: The Future of NCSA Advocacy

by Aaron Rose, M.S.D.E.

With over three workshops since 2010, CLEAR has served 29 individuals who self-identify with Cued Speech as a mode of communication. Originally titled as "Cuers for Leadership, Education, and Advocacy Retreat," this program's ideal outcome has been to prepare cuers in becoming better leaders, educators, and advocates for Cued Speech.

One success of CLEAR as an NCSA program is the robust fiscal responsibility that allowed for three workshops to take place on a grant budget allocated for one workshop and basic curriculum development.

Furthermore, we are able to provide seed funding for more CLEAR programming this summer at the Cued Speech 50th Anniversary Conference. After our success with the adult and teen versions

of CLEAR, it only made sense to offer a CLEAR track for adults as well.

When I think of past cue camps, I remember the profound impact that young adult cuers had on my identity as a native cuer. Those cuers included Leah Lewis, Steve Scher, Rob McIntosh, Daniel Koo, and many more.

Today, after having taught a CLEAR teen workshop in Minneapolis, MN, I

*CLEAR, continued on P. 11*

# President's Message

One year into our current board administration, and we're already busy with outreach, fundraising and planning for the 50th anniversary of Cued Speech next July. As someone who was there from the beginning (I was very young), I can't believe it's been 50 years already! And yet, for my family, Cued Speech has always been part of our lives.

The 50th Anniversary Conference takes you through the past, present, and future of Cued Speech, with activities planned for children, teens, parents, educators, other professionals, and anyone who just wants to see what it's all about.

We're elated to announce that one of our board members, Amy Crumrine, recently succeeded in having Dr. Cornett's portrait hung in the Student Union at Gallaudet. Amy has also gotten approval to launch an online Cued Speech class through Gallaudet, and is currently looking for people to register. We continue to support the mission of literacy and language for deaf children.

The NCSA board had a productive fall meeting in Greenville, S.C., where local Cued Language Translitterators (CLTs) attended, shared their experiences, and exchanged knowledge with our experts. A student liaison from Lenoir-Rhyne University, Logan Waddell, proposed a logo depicting the availability of CLTs at public events.

We also met with AGBMS/AEHI representatives about ways to collaborate, support each other, and spread the word on Cued Speech, particularly through electronic means. We agreed on laying out a plan for increasing awareness and acceptance of Cued Speech over the next 50 years.



As I write this, I remember being on stage at age 10 with Dr. Cornett and my parents. When we talked about getting into our pajamas, I corrected them and said in my house we called it pajamas (different pronunciation), or PJs. These distinctions would not be possible without the tool we were given 50 years ago. So, join us in celebration, but help us spread the word. We have a lot of work to do!

- Anne Huffman, President

*If you live in an area where there is no regional director, the NCSA is looking to fill several vacant positions. To be considered as a regional representative, send an email outlining your interest and a resume to [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org).*

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*On Cue, the newsletter of the National Cued Speech Association™, is published twice a year. We always welcome Cued Speech news, calendar items, stories, and photos! Want to contribute your voice to On Cue? Send your materials to [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org). Electronic photos must be high-resolution at 300 dpi.*

### On Cue

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**Hannah Mann: Editor-in-Chief; Aaron Rose: Layout Editor**



# It All Started with Cheese: A Story of Language

By Nabeel Keblawi

I was diagnosed with a severe to profound hearing loss and fitted with hearing aids at a year old. My parents, Feisal and Suhad Keblawi, immediately started searching for an educational program for deaf children. First, they placed me in an oral program because they were encouraged by one teacher's success in that program.

Unfortunately for me, the oral program did not help me learn the necessary language skills to communicate with my parents, siblings, extended family members, and friends. At home my parents would struggle to understand what I was trying to say. I'd have temper tantrums almost daily because I didn't know how to express my thoughts, wants, and needs. This went on for two years. We were one frustrated family!

My parents decided to move me to another program. I was already three years old and had virtually no language, so we were running out of time for language development. I began in the sign language preschool program at Mantua Elementary School. In the summer of '83, my family and I attended a one-week Family Learning Vacation at Gallaudet University to learn sign language. During that week, parents attended sign language classes while children learned sign language through play, field trips, and participating in arts and crafts.

I proved to be a quick learner. On the second day of the Family Learning Vacation, when I needed to go to the restroom with a teacher, I got stuck in one of the stalls. I tried to open the stall door but it wouldn't budge. There was about a foot of space between the stall door and the floor, so I put my hands under the door and signed the word help. The teacher saw it and helped me out. It was the first word I had ever used in any language.

Over the next year, I learned sign language so rapidly that my parents could hardly keep up. Their signing vocabulary was limited so communication broke down sometimes. Each time they came across a word they didn't know the sign for, they'd stop mid-sentence, open the sign language book, flip the pages, and look up the sign



for that word. There were many words for which there was no sign. My parents tried fingerspelling these words, but fingerspelling did not mean anything to a four-year-old with a short attention span.

While I was at Mantua, my father was elected president of the parent organization Hear NOVA, where parents of deaf children in Fairfax County got together to share experiences and exchange ideas. One night my father attended a technology fair where he met Dr. Orin Cornett, who invented Cued Speech.

After listening to Dr. Cornett's explanation of how Cued Speech worked, my father came home that night brimming with excitement. He tried to convince my mother to switch me over to Cued Speech, but my mother was skeptical at first. My parents were invited to Dr. Cornett's home, where he explained it in more detail and showed them videos of kids and their families using Cued Speech.

One film showed a four-year-old boy and his mother. The mother cued and asked the boy whether he wanted parmesan or mozzarella cheese on his pasta, and the boy replied with his choice. The entire conversation was in English using Cued Speech. That got my mother's attention because I had a very discriminating taste for cheese. I have had countless temper tantrums because I didn't like the taste of certain cheeses that my mother picked up from the store. All she could do was sign to me: *yellow cheese* or *white cheese*. Fingerspelling the actual brand names was neither an option for a parent muddling through sign language, nor for a hungry, frustrated, and impatient four-year-old toddler.

Mom never knew if I wanted the Wisconsin, New York, or Colby, and those were just a few of the cheddar brands. Maybe I did not always want cheddar. Or, even if I wanted cheddar, there were the creamy, mild, medium, and sharp kinds. The options at the grocery store were endless. Some days I wanted the sharp. Other days I wanted the creamier stuff. My tastes kept changing every day and there was no way my parents could figure out what I wanted just by using sign language.

Seeing that film of a mother cueing the exact names of the cheeses convinced my mother that we should switch to Cued Speech. A major benefit of Cued Speech was that my parents didn't have to change the language to talk with me, and they could speak naturally like any other parent talking to their child. So my parents switched me to the Cued Speech Program at Beech Tree Elementary School. Before I enrolled at Beech Tree, my parents hired Ms. Kathy Lovette, who was to be my teacher at Beech Tree, to get my family and I up to speed on Cued Speech by the time the school year began.

A year after I learned Cued Speech, I knew all the cheese brands, as well as everything between creamy and extra sharp. I could describe the taste and texture in excruciating detail, and I could tell my mother exactly what type of cheese I wanted on my pasta or sandwich. Before long, she knew exactly what to get from the store. Over the years, the benefits of Cued Speech extended far beyond knowing the brands of the cheeses I liked.

Cued Speech helped raise my English level to among the top of my class with hearing peers, got me into a coveted university for a bachelor's degree in Information Technology and a master's degree in Atmospheric Science, and into well-paying jobs after graduation. I currently work in Houston, Texas at EDP Renewables, a renewable energy company. I am also a freelance writer. My parents and my sister Jill still cue with me to this day.

And I love a good Brie!



# Cornett Scholarship Winner Roars At Auburn

by Tammy Lamb

NCSA Scholarship Committee Chair

Rebecca “Becca” Schier is one of more than 25,000 on the Auburn University campus in Alabama this year. Her plan to pursue a professional nursing career has been set in motion as she has been admitted to the Pre-Nursing Science track of courses at Auburn. She credits her academic and social successes to her family’s support and the linguistic foundation established by her use of Cued Speech.

Becca lost her hearing at six months old due to bacterial meningitis and has bilateral cochlear implants. She moved frequently while growing up because her father was in the military. Becca’s family started using Cued Speech with her when she was eighteen months old. Mainstreamed in school, she was a member of her high school concert, symphonic, and marching bands. She was also dual-enrolled during her senior year of high school with a local

community college. Her activities included dance, running, and baton-twirling. She participated in Cue Camp Virginia, AG Bell’s LOFT program, and church mission trips; and volunteered in an after-school program for elementary students.

While in the Cued Speech program in Fairfax County, VA from first through ninth grades, Becca used a cued language transliterator (CLT) for all classes and extracurricular activities. She also used a CLT for two years of her education after moving to Alabama with her family, who also continues to cue with her when her cochlear implant processors are off.

These CLTs witnessed firsthand Becca’s passion for learning and her drive to succeed. “[I see Becca] pursuing the highest of education at the graduate levels and becoming a productive member of society in any arena she chooses,” says long-time CLT, Suhad Keblawi. Faith Hurley, another CLT familiar with Becca’s accomplishments, agrees: “I



believe she will be a powerful advocate for patients’ rights to transliterators and complete access to communication in healthcare settings.”

The NCSA is proud to have Rebecca Schier as the 2015 R. Orin Cornett Scholarship recipient.

## NCSA Accepting College Scholarship Applications

Established in 1997, the **R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund** was created to help qualified deaf or hard of hearing students to continue their education past high school.

There are two scholarships available via the R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund:

**R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)** - Honors the memory of the inventor of Cued Speech, Dr. R. Orin Cornett, who dedicated his life to increasing language, communication and literacy among deaf and hard of hearing children.

**Carol Shuler Memorial Scholarship (\$500)** - Carol Shuler was a speech pathologist and a teacher of the deaf who embraced Cued Speech for its English access. Award recipients must reside in Arizona, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah or Washington.

Scholarships from the R. Orin Cornett

Scholarship Fund are NOT awarded based on financial need, degree of hearing loss or use of a cochlear implant.

Cornett Scholars will be an advocate for the use of Cued Speech for language, learning and literacy.

Every application will be considered on the basis of academic achievements and other accomplishments including how s/he has represented the mission of NCSA and the use of Cued Speech. All candidates are encouraged to apply.

For information on the scholarship application and deadlines, please visit [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org) or email [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org)



### Past Cornett Scholars

2014: Nicole Dugan  
 2013: Ann Mochinski  
 2012: Caitlin Cunningham  
 2011: Jason Gorny  
 2010: Michael McAllister  
 2009: Hannah Mann  
 2008: Jennifer Godsey  
 2007: John Veazey and Liz Tolleson  
 2006: Esther Rimer and Patrick Gildea



# NCSA Collaborates with H&V on Cued Mandarin

by Hannah Mann

In September 2015, two Chinese instructors for deaf and hard-of-hearing children flew to America for the National Hands & Voices Conference in New Braunfels, Texas. Hands and Voices leadership reached out to the NCSA as part of our partnership to accommodate the Chinese delegation. The Chinese teachers had expressed interest in Cued Mandarin, and as it so happened, I lived four hours north of the venue and had minored in Mandarin. The NCSA arranged for me and Tony Wright, their regional representative for the Southwest, to attend

the conference.

Before the conference, I reviewed the existing cued Mandarin chart and tweaked it to more fluidly express tones and diphthongs. Tony and I prepared copies of cue charts, exercise sheets, and instructional materials.

We spent two hours going over the system with the Chinese teachers. They proved to be quite receptive to Cued Mandarin, picking up the concept quickly and asking in-depth questions. We parted on positive terms, with promises to keep in touch.



Photo courtesy of Hannah Mann

For 2016, I plan to produce online videos showing examples of Cued Mandarin as a starting point. We hope to be able to provide Cued Mandarin training in a year or two.

## NCSA Board approves logo for CLT services

By Hannah Mann



Those in the signing deaf community recognize the logo of two interlinked hands to indicate the availability of sign language interpreters at an event. Given the growth of cued language services,

Logan Waddell decided it was time for a specific logo that represented the field of cued language transliteration.

Waddell, who works for Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC, as a CLT, sign language interpreter, and self-proclaimed pun expert, posed his idea on the Cued Speech

Facebook page, to much positive feedback. After consultations with Tom Shull and other CLTs, Waddell drafted a basic design and fine-tuned it with the help of professional artists.

"They were able to make the design look more like a professional symbol and less like a five-year-old's art project," said Waddell.

The NCSA board approved the design at its board meeting in Greenville, SC. Waddell hopes to spread the logo into public consciousness and educate others about its purpose.

"I want deaf cuers to be able to recognize it and know when an event will be transliterated," he says. "My hope is to see this symbol plastered around by the 50th anniversary of Cued Speech next year. Happy cueing!"

## Reception For Dr. Cornett at Gallaudet University

To honor his contribution to the education of deaf children and his commitment to improving literacy, the NCSA commissioned a portrait of Dr. R. Orin Cornett with the help of a donation from Giant Food, courtesy of cue dad Barry Scher. Dr. Cornett was Vice President of Long Range Planning at Gallaudet when he invented Cued Speech in 1966. The portrait is now displayed on the Second Floor of the Student Union Building at Gallaudet.

A free reception will be held in the Atrium on **Sunday July 10, 2016** at 2 pm just after the close of the conference to see the portrait and celebrate Dr. Cornett. The reception is being sponsored in part by past president Shannon Howell of Destin, FL.



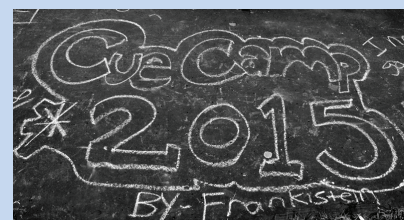
Painting by R. Bogdan

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 8-9, 2016	Basic Instructor Workshop (Natick, MA) NCSA Board Meeting (Natick, MA)
April 9-10, 2016	Beginners Cued Speech Workshop (Natick, MA)
April 10, 2016	InsCert Exam (Natick, MA)
July 8-10, 2016	50th Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference (Falls Church, VA)
November 4-5, 2016	Basic Instructor Workshop (Berkeley, CA) NCSA Board Meeting (Berkeley, CA)
November 5-6, 2016	Beginners Cued Speech Workshop (Berkeley, CA)
November 6, 2016	InsCert Exam (Berkeley, CA)



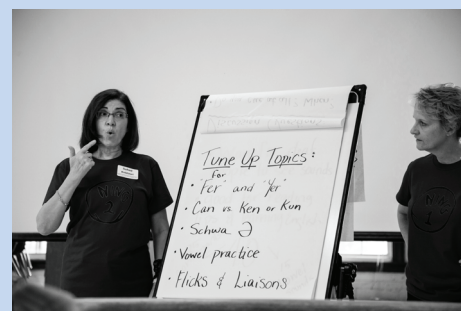
# Cue Camp Season 2015



Spring Camp Cheerio

Camp ChiCueGo @ ISD

Cue Camp Virginia



- all photos by Chett Delong

# Become A Cued Speech Instructor!

As part of its mission, the NCSA advocates for standards of cueing ability and knowledge by those teaching Cued American English. InsCert – instructor certification – is a workshop that teaches the basics.



The Basic Instructor Workshop, a 2-day intensive workshop, is given at least twice a year, usually simultaneously with NCSA Board meetings. The BIWS, or Basic Instructor Workshop, is a 2-day intensive workshop taught by 2 qualified instructor trainers. The BIWS was designed to ensure that all

An Instructor of Cued Speech certificate is a credential that certifies the holder's ability to **present information about** CS and to **teach beginning level** CS courses. In order to be certified as an Instructor of Cued Speech, an individual must be at least 18 years of age and meet the following five requirements: NCSA paid membership, maintain proficiency skills (currently, as evidenced by Expressive Cued Speech Skills: Word-level Assessment), maintain 15 hours over three years of continuing education, completed the Basic Instructor Workshop), and pass ICS-National Certification exam, written test, and Assessment of Cue Errors (ACE) test.

The requirements can be completed in any order, but all five must be met within a time period of no more than 3 years for certification to take effect. Certification is permanent, as long as the first three requirements are maintained. However, certification can be revoked from any certified Instructor whose maintenance requirements lapse for more than a year.

instructors are exposed to the NCSA's current policy on cueing and cueing mechanics standards. However, the workshop alone is not meant to be complete preparation for the national certification exam.

More information is available at [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org).

## Upcoming Basic Instructor Workshops and Exams

<b>April 8-9, 2016</b>	<b>InsCert Class, Natick, MA</b>
<b>April 10, 2016</b>	<b>InsCert Exam, Natick, MA</b>
<b>Nov 4-5, 2016</b>	<b>InsCert Class, Berkeley, CA</b>
<b>Nov 6, 2016</b>	<b>InsCert Exam, Berkeley, CA</b>

## NCSA offers Free Beginner Cued Speech Classes

Have you heard the expression "If you build it, they will come?" That is the new mantra of the NCSA board, which meets face to face around the country twice a year.

To meet the increasing demand for face-to-face cueing instruction and training of professionals, the NCSA has been offering free CS beginner classes during board meeting weekends. These classes have been meeting a need to provide direct CS instruction in places that normally would

not have a class.

To date, classes have been offered in Monroe, LA; Portland, OR; Destin, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; and Minneapolis, MN. The class in Portland attracted students from as far away as Alaska and Korea. The Destin class attracted folks from Alabama, Mississippi and Kansas.

Classes are now being planned in conjunction with the NCSA Board meeting

in Natick, MA on April 9-10 and Berkeley, CA on Nov 5-6, 2016.

The NCSA fields frequent requests for CS instruction. Providing these classes to local families meets the NCSA mission. At the same time, the families and professionals who take the classes have the opportunity to interact with the board, which includes parents and native cuers.



# NCSA releases Five Children's iBooks

By Sarina Roffe

The NCSA has released several iBooks through the Apple Store. They are: *Three Little Pigs*, *Snow White*, *Red Riding Hood*, *I Have a Special Grandma*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Hansel and Gretel*. Each iBook is a free download and is viewable on iPad, iPhones or computers.

During the next few months, the following books will be produced and released: *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Peter Pan*, *My Brother is Special*, and a book of nursery rhymes. *I Have a Special Grandma* and *My Brother is Special* were written by Peggy McGlone, mom of native cuer Amy McGlone. The books are primarily adaptations of classic children's books. Each story has a video of someone cueing on each page next to the illustration and text. Deaf children can read these stories and see the video of a person cueing the

text in real time. iBooks allows the reader to expand the video narration to full screen.

The project is under the supervision of native cuer Simon D. Roffé. A variety of illustrators captured images for the iBooks. Pioneer Cuers may remember that Dr. R. Orin Cornett, the inventor of Cued Speech, had a project in the 1980s whereby stories were cued on video tape, and these tapes along with the book

NCSA

*Alice in Wonderland*



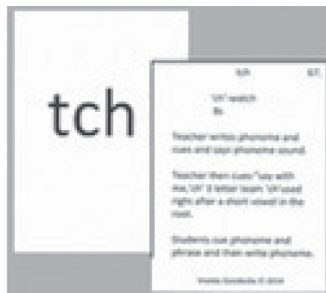
Illustrated by Kersey  
Barrett-Tormey  
Edited by Steve and Ella  
Scher

would be sent to cueing children to promote literacy. Dr Cornett wanted to make these stories accessible to deaf cueing children! The iBook Project is the 21st century version of Dr. Cornett's vision.

Each book is sponsored by a donor, or combination of donors, who are recognized on the cover page of the book. To sponsor

a book, contact the NCSA at [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org).

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# Cued Speech in Upstate South Carolina

## *Two decades of cued language services*

By Esther Rimer

Greenville County Schools is the largest school district in South Carolina, and the 44th largest public school district in the nation with over 76,000 students. Because of its large student population, it has a sizable deaf and hard-of-hearing program localized throughout several hub schools in the county, including one preschool, elementary, middle, and high school. Students are placed in mainstreamed classes, "resource" class periods, and/or self-contained classrooms according to their IEPs and educational needs. However, this school district stands out because its D/HH program relies upon Cued Speech to teach many of its deaf students the English language.

It all started in the late 1980s. Even then, the D/HH program at Greenville County Schools included many great students, supportive parents, and talented, dedicated teachers. However, there was no continuity in instruction. Various modes of sign language were being used, but there was no specific curriculum for goal-setting. Content was being taught, but no one was teaching language. The district struggled with huge gaps in their students' language foundations.

Those gaps were especially pronounced at the high school level. Despite several advantages, even the brightest and most hard-working deaf students were failing reading and writing. As a result, they were unable to pass the mandatory standardized tests required to graduate high school. The program's educators wanted their students to graduate as competent users of the English language in both reading and writing, but they soon realized that what they had been doing with a sign-based program was not succeeding.

The arrival of a new teacher, Ms. G, opened the possibility of using Cued Speech in the program. Around this time, a local mother whose toddler had recently become deaf also learned about Cued Speech and decided that she wanted Cued Speech to be used with her child. Suddenly, Cued Speech was no longer an abstract concept that district educators vaguely remembered from their



Photo by Aaron Rose

undergraduate courses; it was now a viable, tangible option.

When the first student to use Cued Speech in the district began pre-kindergarten, she was assigned a transliterator. Everyone watched the outcome closely. As it turned out, this student would be the first deaf child in the district's program who did not need language intervention services when she began kindergarten.

As Greenville County educators learned more about Cued Speech and its benefits, they started re-thinking their approach to education. The district chose a three-pronged approach to bring language access into the classroom: 1) establish a road map for language development and curriculum, 2) use a modality to access the English language, and 3) implement an aggressive audiological management system. Cued Speech was chosen as the modality. Through many classes, trips to North Carolina and Louisiana for Cued Speech training, adherence to consistency and the COOL principle ("Clear, No Omissions, English word Order, Lots of it"), and above all the support of school district leaders, Greenville County Schools transitioned to a Cued Speech component in their D/HH program.

Today, the district's program still embraces Cued Speech as the best method available to teach its deaf students the English language. Cued Speech is not the only modality in use;

the program still includes an ASL component, since some students do transfer into the program with a previously-established expressive mode of communication. The district's educators start working early with parents and deaf or hard-of-hearing preschool age students, and have

seen greater success with their students since introducing Cued Speech into the curriculum.

\*\*\*\*

Esther Rimer graduated summa cum laude in 2003 from J.L. Mann High School in Greenville. She was a product of the Greenville D/HH program and the first preschooler to cue in Greenville County.

## Gallaudet Offers Online Class

By Aaron Rose

Gallaudet University, located in Washington, D.C., has created an online course for learning Cued American English with Amy Crumrine as the instructor. Accessibility will include captioning and sign language interpreters for the course.

The pilot course, which is currently ongoing, covers skill development and context as well as related topics to Cued Speech and how it can be used in conjunction with American Sign Language.

Tuition was listed as \$558 for the course, which will take place from January 19 to May 6, 2016. For further information, contact the Center for Continuing Studies at [ccs@gallaudet.edu](mailto:ccs@gallaudet.edu) or visit [www.gallaudet.edu/css/cued-speech.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/css/cued-speech.html).





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- Use of Cued Speech throughout the school as a multi-sensory component to access English, regardless of hearing ability
- Instructional Staff are able to provide direct instruction and 100% visual language access with the use of Cued Speech, eliminating the need for a transliterator
- Special Education Team on staff to address needs of students with hearing loss & students who need language and academic interventions
- Unlimited opportunities for interaction with all peers, regardless of age and ability level

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# CueFamily: The Browns

by Suzy Brown

My daughter Felicity is profoundly deaf. Through some stroke of luck, I already knew some sign language, having used it with my son with speech apraxia. I started signing to her from day one, but even so, I felt a deep disappointment – it wasn't enough. It was a life-saver for my son, who needed a way to express himself before he could speak. But as a stand-alone method of communication, it was frustratingly limited. So many words didn't have a sign or had to be finger-spelled. English is a rich language and sign language was not able to convey it all.

We heard about Cued Speech for the first time soon after Felicity was born. My husband Anson had shared with his coworkers that his new baby was probably deaf. It turned out one of them had a son who was deaf too, and he used Cued Speech. He was very successful with it – he had even just graduated from law school, which his mom claimed was only possible because of Cued Speech.

I learned all I could – read all the websites and watched every video on YouTube. I was very excited to find out that it was offered in my local public school system. I got in touch with the lead CLT, and she was kind enough to meet with me even though it was the end of the school year. In one hour she gave me a quick history of Cued Speech and taught me how to read the American English cue chart. She also told me about Cue Camp and assured me that even a family of seven with an infant would fit right in.



Photo by Suzy Brown

So, armed with my cue chart and YouTube videos, I taught myself to cue over the summer. The biggest challenge I had when learning was finding resources and support from other cuers – emphasis on the word “finding.” Great resources and an awesome community exist, but it takes a little detective work to find them! I highly recommend going to a cue camp; that's the best first step. Luckily, we have that and Cued Speech classes near me. Through those classes and other events for parents of deaf kids, I met other cuers.

I started a support group for my fellow parents, and when we meet, the parents can practice Cued Speech with each other while our kids play with their peers! I want Felicity to have friends who are like her so that she will always be understood, loved, and accepted. And our Cued Speech Families group provides that to all our children! We learn so

much from each other.

Be the change you want to see in the world; start the Cue-mmunity you wish you had in your area! You are not alone, and if everyone waits for someone else to take the first step, that first step will never happen. As a parent, the battle cry sounds like, “Do it for your child!” But honestly, my daughter is only two years old and I can honestly say I've gotten so much more out of Cued Speech than she has at this point (haha!). You can do it!

When I'm not cueing with my family, I'm transliterating at Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA. And in my free time, I've been studying to become an instructor. Did I mention it permeates every aspect of my life? It's only a matter of time before I start dream-cueing! But I love every minute; it's a noble calling and I feel so blessed to be a part of this community!

## CLEAR: The Future of NCSA Advocacy (continued from p. 1)

realized just how important those relationships, however brief they may be, can be for the next generation of young cuers, having had direct access to the spoken languages in their home and communities.

My experience in Minneapolis had taught me that the young cuers of today may not necessarily be expressive cuers, even though they receive cued language services through transliterators and direct instruction in Cued American English.

I wasn't surprised that many of these teenagers couldn't cue expressively, as they preferred to use their voice only or with sign.

Over the past few years, CLEAR has evolved from a basic workshop for native adult cuers with hearing loss to an inclusive program that includes any cuers who want to build up on their leadership, education, and advocacy skills while expanding available resources.

In 2016, we will offer CLEAR programming to not only cuers with hearing loss, but also anyone who wants to expand their skills in the area of leadership, education, and advocacy, as well as gain a better understanding of the current resources available for promoting and teaching Cued Speech to the masses.

In the end, the goal of CLEAR is to get as many cuers cueing it forward as possible!

# 50th Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference

In addition to children's and teens' programs, the 50th Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference offers an exhibit hall and three tracks covering different areas of Cued Speech, which are detailed below.

**Track A - International Symposium**  
Cued Languages in other parts of the world

**Track B - Research**  
latest research on Cued Speech  
the growth of Cued Speech as a mode of communication  
needs of parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children

**Track C - CLEAR**  
advocacy for Cued Speech  
native cuer testimonials  
everyday applications of Cued Speech

**Exhibit Hall**  
Attendees can explore various exhibits during the conference.

**Children's Program**  
The Conference will provide programming for children up to age 12 during presentations; bring swimsuits for the hotel pool!

**CLEAR Teen Program**  
Our Teen Leadership program for 13- to 18-year-olds combines leadership, team-building, and a chance to bond with native cuers from around the world.

**For more information, email [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org).  
To register, go to [www.cuedspeech50.org](http://www.cuedspeech50.org).**



25th Anniversary in San Diego, CA, 1991  
(Courtesy of Anthony Jefferson)



40th Anniversary in Towson, MD, 2006  
(Courtesy of Julie Reese Ehrig)



## Great Opportunities to Be a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cued Speech Sponsor!

July 8-10, 2016, Westin Falls Church, VA

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### PREMIER SPONSOR (3)

\$7,500

As Premier conference sponsor, enjoy all the benefits and maximum exposure from participant registrations (8), an exhibitor booth, logo and recognition on website and signage, emails blasts, digital signage, a branded item to participants, a full page ad in the Conference program and an opportunity to speak to attendees at our Gala Dinner. The NCSA will also recognize your sponsorship with press releases and in our newsletter.

### PLATINUM SPONSOR (5)

\$5,000

As the Platinum conference sponsor, enjoy all the benefits and maximum exposure from participant registrations (6), an exhibitor booth, logo and recognition on website and signage, emails blasts, digital signage, and a full page ad in the Conference program. The NCSA will also recognize your sponsorship with press releases and in our newsletter.

### GOLD SPONSOR

\$3,000

As the Gold conference sponsor, enjoy all the benefits and maximum exposure from participant registrations (4), an exhibitor booth, logo and recognition on website and signage, digital signage and a half-page ad in the Conference program. The NCSA will also recognize your sponsorship in our newsletter.

### SILVER SPONSOR

\$2,000

As the Silver conference sponsor, enjoy all the benefits and maximum exposure from participant registrations (2), an exhibitor booth, logo and recognition on all signage, digital signage, and a 1/4 page ad in the Conference program.

### BRONZE SPONSOR

\$1,000

As the Bronze conference sponsor, enjoy all the benefits and maximum exposure from participant registrations (1), an exhibitor booth, logo and recognition on signage.

### BREAKFAST/LUNCHEON SPONSOR

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Guarantee attention and a happy audience when you sponsor the meals area of the conference. Exhibitor is responsible for providing any promotional items such as napkins, cups, brochures and content for a video monitor set-up for recorded promotional content. Sponsor may also provide a banner.

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Show your support & expand your reach by having your company logo displayed on flash drives that are handed out to all conference attendees. The flash drive content can be loaded by your company with a product demo or marketing materials.

### PEN & PADS SPONSOR

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Logo exclusively placed on Thank You signage in break bar area

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# In Memoriam

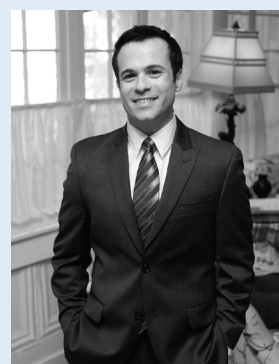


From: *Written in Memory: Portraits of the Holocaust* by Jeffrey A. Wolin

"I was at Lager 4 by Kaufering, a camp under Dachau and I worked for this German in a forest cutting trees, giant trees, giant. And we were carrying these trees by hand. For example, we are ten people carrying this big giant tree - he took away two. If eight people would carry it, he took away another two, and he hit us with a stick. When six people could carry it he took away another two until the tree squeezed us down... We were building underground hangers for German airplanes. I was working down at the bottom pouring concrete and smoothing out the floors and this wasn't hard

work. My German supervisor had left to attend a meeting and when he came back he was surprised I did it so nice. So quietly he said, 'Monday I'll bring you a piece of bacon.' I thought about it all weekend. Come Monday I worked the whole day. And when the day was over he came so close to me and so nobody should see it, he gave me a little package with a piece of bacon in it. People are still people in every nation - there are good and bad. And if people would not be bystanders, evil would not succeed."

- Al Lachman (1918-2015)



"To Papa Lachman (1918-2015), thank you for teaching me that we experience the events and meet the people of today on behalf of tomorrow's generation."

- Benjamin Lachman

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## 50th Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference Announcements

### Seeking Volunteers

Had your life changed by Cued Speech and want to give back? Here's your chance. As a nonprofit organization, the NCSA relies on donations and volunteers to carry out its mission.

For the 50th Anniversary Conference in July 8-10, 2016, you can donate at [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org), or if you're more hands-on, you can help with:

**Administration**  
**Logistics**  
**Exhibitions**  
**Registration**  
**Fundraising/Sponsorship**  
**Children's and Teens Programs**

Contact [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org) for more details on how to support the NCSA and the 50th Anniversary of Cued Speech Conference.

### Sponsorship or Exhibitor Opportunities

To defray costs, the NCSA welcomes sponsors and exhibitors to promote their brand, products, and services at the 50th Anniversary Conference. From professionals to families, the conference offers exposure to a broad range of prospects that fit niches in healthcare, education, reading and literacy, D/HH services, and more.

If you'd like to be a sponsor or exhibitor, or know someone who does, contact [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org)



### Gala Awards Dinner

Know someone who's contributed much to Cued Speech and deserves recognition for it? Awards will be presented at the NCSA Gala Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at the Westin Tyson Corner in Falls Church, VA.

**Cueing Leadership Award:** for leadership in activities that impact the use and awareness of Cued Speech

**Cueing Educator Award:** for excellence and innovative leadership in promoting the use of Cued Speech in education

**Cueing Service Award:** for research, development and support of activities that promote the use of Cued Speech

To nominate someone, go to [www.cuedspeech50.org](http://www.cuedspeech50.org) and click award nominations.