

A Cue Kid With A Lucky Fin

By Kellie Hetler

At our 20-week ultrasound, my husband, Joe, and I found out that our daughter would be born missing both radius bones and several fingers. As we processed this news, we realized how grateful we were to have found this out in advance so that we could prepare for our beautiful girl. As so many parents can relate to, we had no clue what was to come. When the highly anticipated day came,



Gabby Hetler at the H&V Conference

When the highly anticipated day came,

almost five years ago now, Gabriella Hope arrived. She was absolutely perfect. Her sweet cry made my heart sing knowing that my girl was here, and I could finally care for her.

Shortly after her birth, Joe and I were told that she was profoundly deaf in both ears, which we would later find out was due to the shape of her cochleas. So many things raced through our minds. How would we communicate? How would we teach her that God loves her? How will we tell her that

we love her? We had HUGE questions with no ideas how to answer them for this tiny new baby.

Joe and I quickly learned more about cochlear implants and decided they were the best option for us and our Gabby. Her surgery was delayed a little because she was scheduled three different times. The first two surgeons had little to no experience operating on someone with abnormal cochleas, which we certainly were not comfortable with.

Our first reaction, which nobody contested at the time, was that due to her limb differences, visual communication with her hands would be a challenge. We are from West Michigan and needed someone with experience. We ended up at the University of Michigan with a surgeon that we had full confidence in.

A Cue Kid with A Lucky Fin continued on p. 13

The Story of Us

by Anna Stopher

Blessed. That's the short and sweet answer to when people ask me to describe my life. Now, please don't misunderstand me and interpret the last statement as things came easy-peasy. They didn't. There was an immeasurable amount of sweat, endurance, pain, grace, hurt, joy, frustration, triumph, obstacles, accomplishments, and a whole lot of tears, both sad and happy. Blessed God placed SO many powerful, encouraging, challenging, and inspirational contributors pouring into my life to help me become the woman I am today. My 25, almost 26, years of life have been amazing, wild, hectic, thrilling, terrifying, challenging, and rewarding and I quite frankly cannot see what the next challenge is.

Just before my first birthday, my parents were concerned that I had not yet started developing speech and brought me back to the doctor

for additional testing. Now, keep in mind newborn hearing screenings were not done in 1994. I believe for the state of Maine it was not required until the year 2000. I was officially diagnosed as deaf at 15 months old and was fitted with my first hearing aids, which we quickly found were not effective. My family started using American Sign Language (ASL) as my first mode of communication and continued researching how they wanted to prepare me for the rest of my life.

My mom was in the hospital with me after a hearing appointment and just so happened to run into Pat Slater, Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing and our family's angel. If you don't know Pat, you are missing out on one of the most INCREDIBLE people. Pat and

The Story of Us continued on p. 12

What's Inside

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Renewed Vigor in the Cuemunity</i>	3
<i>Ascension Parish Deaf Education</i>	
<i>Program Reunion</i>	4
<i>International Committee on the</i>	
<i>Adaptations of Cued Speech</i>	5
<i>TECUnit Board of Directors</i>	6
<i>NCSA Sponsors Cue Camps</i>	8
<i>Join the NCSA Board - Nominations</i>	
<i>Open</i>	10
<i>Thank You to Our Volunteers</i>	10
<i>Scholarship Applications Open</i>	11
<i>New NCSA Affiliate</i>	11
<i>In Memoriam</i>	11
<i>Easy Ways to Support the NCSA</i>	14
<i>Thanks to Our Donors</i>	15

National Cued Speech Association

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 190-713, Washington, DC 20004

info@cuedspeech.org • www.cuedspeech.org

800-459-3529

President's Message

At the time of this writing, our nation is locked down in the midst of a massive global pandemic. The NCSA had to cancel its March board meeting and classes in New Orleans, now a hotspot. But like many of you, we stay connected and had our first ever Zoom board meeting which gave us a chance to see each other's faces, both cue for ourselves while making use of CLT services, and accomplish much of the business we would have in our site meeting. We will hope to reschedule the local events and look forward to hosting in New Orleans in the fall.

Spring Camp Cheerio has unfortunately also been canceled for this year and the other cue camps are not sure at this time if they will be able to meet. It seems the world has undergone massive changes and we are more and more making use of on-line opportunities to offer classes and services.

In response to the coronavirus and people working remotely, the NCSA mobilized under the guidance of Vice President Benjamin Lachman. Working with local partners in the cueing community, we provided CLT services remotely to those who needed it. We are hopeful that the data from this initiative will provide the FCC

with the data needed to fund remote CLT services in the future.

Much has happened in the past year and we have many projects underway. The NCSA is working to develop a new website and a strategic plan to guide our organization for years into the future. Our presence at national conferences has increased an understanding and awareness of Cued Speech. A dozen presentations at the recent EHDI Conference in Kansas City were well attended. The CLTs requested were present throughout the conference and in turn, spurred people to ask for information about cueing.

In this issue, you will read an inspiring parent story, as well as one from a native cuer. There is a summary of the reunion from Ascension Parish, Louisiana, the formation of an International Committee of Adaptations of Cued Speech and the announcement of the TECUnit's new Board of Directors, and much more.



I am hopeful that by the time this newsletter is released, we will be moving on from this pandemic. In the meantime, we are living through a time that will challenge life as we knew it but will force us to find new and better ways to support each other, communicate our message, teach our children and learn from each other.

Wishing you and your families good health,
Anne Huffman

NCSA Affiliates

AG Bell Montessori School

(847) 850-5490
www.agbms.org
karla.giese@agbms.org

Cued Speech Association of Minnesota

info@cuedspeechminnesota.org
www.cuedspeechminnesota.org

Cued Speech Association of New England

cuedspeechnewengland@gmail.com

New York Cued Speech Center

(800) 459-3529
sroffe@cuedspeech.org

North Carolina Cued Speech Association

(336) 408-2434
nccuedspeechassoc@gmail.com

Northern Virginia Cued Speech Association

nvcsa@yahoo.com
www.nvcsa.org

Rocky Mountain Cued Speech Association

rockymountaincuedspeech@gmail.com
www.rockymountaincuedspeech.org

NCSA Board of Directors

Officers

President: Anne Huffman
1st Vice President: Ben Lachman
2nd Vice President: Penny Hakim
Treasurer: Suhad Keblawi
Secretary: Claire Klossner
Public Relations: Rob McIntosh
Community Engagement: Amy Crumrine

Directors

Camps/Affiliates: Nicole Dugan
Academic Advisory Committee: Dr. Polly Earl
Government Liaison: Jill Keblawi
Organizations Liaison: Vacant
Marketing: Charlie Musser
Representatives: Angela Laptewicz

Regional Representatives

Capital: Rachel McAnallen and Maureen Bellamy
Great Lakes: Nicole Frye
Gulf Coast: John Veazey
Mid-Atlantic: Andy Payonk & Courtney Poole
MidWest: Taylor Ozee
New England: Vacant

Northeast: Vacant
South: Lisa Gavin
Southwest: Hannah Mann
Rocky Mountains: Holly Steinke
West: Vance Deatherage and Sarah Sizemore
Upper Plains: Kitri Kyllo

Renewed Vigor in the Cuemunity: A Critical Time for Support

by Rachel McAnallen

I would like to share with you some of the exciting changes happening at the National Cued Speech Association! Over this last term, our board has worked to ensure that the NCSA remains a sustainable organization that will use your donation to support measured, strategic initiatives.

I am an NCSA Regional Representative. Along with my colleague, Maureen Bellamy, I co-represent the Capital Region, which consists of the District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia. I'm a deaf adult and have been cueing since my parents attended a workshop taught by Dr. Cornett in 1991. I'm currently a licensed Professional Engineer living in Alexandria, Virginia with my husband and two sons.

I joined the NCSA Board in 2016, and since then we've launched an ambitious website overhaul project, forayed into the world of digital fundraising, and adopted our newest long-term objective: develop more cuers. We are a small organization and we've chosen to distill our limited resources into two highly focused programs, the Deaf Children's Literacy Project (DCLP) and Cuers for Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Resources (CLEAR). DCLP and CLEAR will enable the NCSA to 'develop more cuers' while focusing on getting work done via partnerships.

And what an exciting time this is! A spirit of collaboration has energized us and we've established new relationships as well as rekindled old ones. For example, we've strengthened our relationships with the parent-driven support system, Hands and Voices, the resource center for states' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

(EHDI) systems, and the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM). We look forward to collaborating with our friends as evidence continues to mount that Cued Speech is a preferred mode of communication for a significant and growing portion of the population. In fact, a 2018 independent survey conducted by NCHAM indicated that 12 percent of all families with children under the age of 7 in 2016-2017 surveyed use Cued Speech as the primary mode of communication in their home, with another significant segment using cueing as part of a multi-modal strategy.

In addition to these newest partnerships, we are seeing a renewed vigor within the "Cuemunity" as more and more nonprofit groups supporting Cued Speech efforts are being launched around the country. In Illinois and other states, we've seen the rise of on-line Cued Speech instruction and tutoring through Cue College. Cue College is an affiliate of the NCSA via Alternatives in Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals (AEHI). Cue College will enable us to reach communities where limited services exist for Cued Speech instruction and support. A new generation of leaders are founding organizations to provide more Cued Speech advocacy across the country such as CueSign, CueOn, Visual Language Associates, and ValiDeaf. We've been impressed by the flurry of activity and leadership we've seen from regional affiliates such as the Rocky Mountain Cued Speech Association.

As mentioned earlier, NCSA is focusing its resources on DCLP and CLEAR. This is a two-pronged approach to ensure the sustainability of the Cuemunity. DCLP

focuses on identifying and supporting newly identified families from the EHDI system and getting them started on their Cued Speech journey. CLEAR helps these families and their cuers become future leaders, resource providers, and advocates.

The takeaway is this: we're becoming more active, effective, and represent a larger demographic. This means our partners and cueing consumers expect more from us. Without a steady stream of donations and grant money, we won't be able to accomplish the next steps vital to our long-term sustainability as a nonprofit organization. We need an employee dedicated to fundraising and grants. We need an employee to conduct outreach and work on collaborative projects with NCSA state affiliates and Cued Speech advocacy organizations, to collaborate with state EHDI systems, and to expand DCLP and CLEAR nationally. We also need YOUR ideas on how we can fundraise.

Additionally we need funds to continue providing the services and advocacy at the heart of our organization: Cued Speech workshops and instruction, Individual Education Plan advocacy, and funding for Cued Speech camps and scholarships.

We're looking for supporters like you to donate to help us get to the next level given the resourcing needs identified here. If you're looking for an opportunity to be part of a pivotal moment in our organization's history, please contact us immediately at info@cuedspeech.org. In addition to donations and pledges, we also need referrals to individuals who would be best suited for the two roles described to lead fundraising/grant writing and outreach efforts and initiatives.

On Cue Staff

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. Electronic photos must be high-resolution at 300 dpi.

1300 Pennsylvania Ave
NW Suite 190-173
Washington DC, 20004

Sarina Roffé: Editor
Aaron Rose: Layout Editor

Ascension Parish Deaf Education Program Reunion

The home of Pat Fletcher in St. Francisville, Louisiana, was the site of the third reunion held September 2019 for parents and professionals who were part of the deaf education program in Ascension Parish, which had a large number of students who used Cued Speech as part of their intervention program. The program was initiated in 1979 when Barbara Lee, the first deaf education teacher in the parish, was hired to start a deaf education program. Because Ms. Lee was familiar with Cued Speech, she quickly incorporated it when teaching deaf children into what would have been considered at that time an oral program.

The program flourished under Ms. Lee's supervision from 1979 – 1994,

continued to be an integral part of the program that served approximately 50 students from identification through high school graduation.

During the years of building and maintaining this program, a strong bond was formed between the parents and the professionals who were both equally committed to providing a quality education focused on the students being able to, “understand, speak, read, and write the English language at age-appropriate levels.” The reunion provided a time for laughter and thoughtful



Rear: Wendy Sheets, Tonya Veazey, Pat Fletcher, Wendy Wideman, Eloise Reynard, Karen Olivier, Priscilla Lynch, Jan Nelson; Seated Middle: Lucendia Mulberry, Barbara LeBlanc, Barbara Lee, Pam Gautreau, Mary Talbot; Front on floor: Iva Tullier, Kathy Denson, Kathy Foust; Not pictured, Gail White



Gail White and Barbara Lee

when she moved to North Carolina. Barbara LeBlanc, who had been part of the program from the beginning, then became the supervisor from 1994 – 2006, when she retired. Under Ms. LeBlanc's leadership, Cued Speech

reflection as poignant memories were recalled by all those who were able to attend.

Thanks to Barbara Lee

“Last September, several of our Ascension Deaf Ed family enjoyed food, fellowship and fun with our former coordinator, Barbara Lee. Telling stories about our children flourishing under her leadership brought home to all of us what a wonderful language foundation Barbara laid for her deaf students. Her “never give up” attitude with the parents and staff pushed us to levels we didn't even know we could reach! Our takeaway from our weekend visit with Barbara was

a sincere gratitude towards an educator and friend who had a vision for our deaf children like none other and who energetically motivated the parents and staff to take the journey with her! I am beyond thankful for the role she played in educating our son and his

parents.” *Gail White*

“There's nothing better than hanging out with good friends who understand what you're talking about.” *Iva Tullier*

“While spending time together that weekend, Barbara Lee shared with us that she thought of the 15 years she spent in Ascension Parish creating and leading the Cued Speech program as the “Camelot” of her life. I agree that it was an idyllic time. What she did in her role as the Deaf Ed coordinator was to help create opportunities for our children to live their own Camelot. There is nothing I can say that will impart the love and gratitude I feel towards her and the other pioneers in Cued Speech; I only pray that she and they can feel it.” *Tonya Veazey*

“If I had to describe our get-together, I would have to say that our gathering is like the best family reunion. A fun time, sharing old memories, and a blast making new ones!” *Mary Talbot*

International Committee on the Adaptations of Cued Speech

by Tom Shull

Cueing organizations from four countries have come together to form a committee to oversee the adaptations of Cued Speech to the world's spoken languages. The International Committee on the Adaptations of Cued



Kids from Ethiopia cueing

Speech is a group with representatives from England, France, Switzerland, and the United States and will serve as the central source for the more than sixty versions of Cued Speech. These representatives will collaborate on adaptations to new languages and dialects.

The initiative was the brainchild of Marjolaine Fages while she was teaching at the 2019 annual Cue Camp in France. Fages, a cued language transliterator and instructor, had planned a special workshop to introduce participants to cued Spanish. While preparing, she grew frustrated by a lack of access to materials and by inconsistencies she discovered among several charts. Fages reached out to fellow cue camp instructors, Michel François and Tom Shull.



Marjolaine Fages, French Cued Language Transliterator and Cued Speech Instructor teaching at the 2019 annual cue camp in France

Together, they devised a proposal to address the problem and submitted it to the ALPC – the national Cued Speech association of France.

Last November, Tom Shull presented the plan to the National Cued Speech Association at their board meeting in Washington, DC with Fages and ALPC President, Pierre-Christophe Merlin joining via teleconference. The concept

calls for a committee assembling two representatives from every country with a national cueing organization – each member a skilled and experienced cuer with formal training in phonetics and phonology. The group aims to update and publish charts, standardize phonemic representation using the International Phonetic Alphabet, track cueing use worldwide, and resolve cases where multiple versions exist for the same language and dialect. Shull, a cued language transliterator and speech-language pathologist, will represent the United States and is joined by Dr. Tony Wright, a sign language interpreter and cuer with his PhD in linguistics.

The Cued Speech Association UK (CSUK) will also lend support. Emma Sadeghi and Kirsti Moore, who are working on the existing adaptation for Welsh, will represent England. Besides English, cued Hindi and Urdu are in high demand in England. Executive Director, Henrietta Ireland, points out the importance of this committee, “Our need in the UK is quite urgent as children from our minority ethnic populations are more likely to have additional difficulties in hearing and



Pierre Christophe, French ALPC President

language. Access to language at home is the greatest barrier to intervention. The parents don't speak English and the deaf child has no visual access to language. CSUK provides specialist Family Support Practitioners to help families of deaf babies and children to learn to cue.”

The benefits of the International Committee could be far reaching. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals will have greater access to the world's languages, cueing use could increase worldwide, and the application of Cued Speech to additional languages around the world highlights its general efficacy, all of which would be advantageous for cuers here in the United States. Increased collaboration between countries will also be beneficial through encouraging shared materials and resources.

The International Committee is building an independent website to make charts available. Other priorities include reconciling the multiple versions of Korean and Mandarin and working with the Cued Speech Association South Africa to develop cued Zulu.

TECUnit - New Board of Directors

By Tom Shull

The Testing, Evaluation, and Certification Unit (TECUnit), the national certifying body for cued language transliterators (CLTs), is pleased to announce the installation of a new Board of Directors. The new Board will continue to oversee testing and credentialing of cued language transliterators in keeping with the CLT Code of Conduct.

A central focus of the TECUnit has always been the promotion of standards in our community. Toward that end, the Board will be working to upgrade and update the organization's infrastructure, outreach, testing, and credentialing materials and processes.

The TECUnit was founded in 1988 by Earl Fleetwood and Melanie Metzger. Its Cued Language Transliterator National Certification Examination (CLTNCE) was first administered in 1989 in response to Virginia's then new licensure law.

That mandate also drove development of the Cued Language Transliterator State Level Assessment (CLTSLA), which is administered by that state as the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS). The CLTSLA has since been adopted by other states to credential transliterators.

Since 2002, TECUnit operations have been led by Shellie and Mike Burrow. Under their leadership, the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) was created and implemented. The CMP provides a framework for transliterators to continue professional development, maintain and further develop their skills, and acquire relevant knowledge to support service provision.

The new Board of Directors would like to extend its deep appreciation to both Shellie and Mike for their tireless, uncompensated efforts in supporting the cueing community. On behalf of the profession, its practitioners, and deaf and hard-of-hearing cueders and their parents, we thank them for 18 years of ensuring the availability



Anne Huffman, NCSA President, Tom Shull, TECUnit President, and Lauren Tribby-Pruett, Director, Language Matters Inc.

and integrity of TECUnit testing and credentialing.

While continuing their work, the new Board will increase engagement within the cueing community and beyond. We look forward to gathering feedback from transliterators by implementing additional platforms for communication, including online meetings, which we are calling Digital Town Halls (DTHs). Through ongoing collaboration with the NCSA and others, the Board hopes to increase awareness and implementation of CLT standards of practice.

Like their predecessors, the new Board (listed below) is dedicated to the mission on which the TECUnit was founded: Improve opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers to secure professional CLT services.

The TECUnit invited certified cued

language transliterators, consumers, and other stakeholders to join us for our first ever Digital Town Hall on March 5, 2020 via Zoom.

We look forward to hosting additional DTHs in the future. Meetings like these will offer opportunities for the new Board to hear community views and share TECUnit news. We look forward to supporting an expanding community with enhanced services, communication, and outreach.

TECUnit Board of Directors

Tom Shull, President

Earl Fleetwood, Vice President

Emilie Mulholland, Secretary

Jane Dolan, Treasurer

Suhad Keblawi, Executive Director





CS100 Self-Study

Introduction to Cued American English



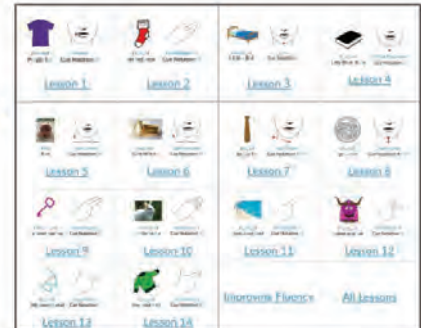
/ue/



Newt

Get started right away and learn at your own pace!

- Entire system broken into 14 lessons
- Three knowledge checkpoints
- Over 900 practice videos



Sign up at www.cuecollege.org/store/CS100



Cue On

**DO YOU WANT TO
PRACTICE
RECEPTIVE/EXPRESSIVE
CUEING WITH A DEAF
CUER?**

Our Deaf Cueducators will help you build your cueing skills through one-on-one video conferences.

**BOOK A CUEING SESSION WITH CUEON AND
GAIN CUEING PROFICIENCY! GO TO OUR
WEBSITE AT WWW.CUE-ON.COM TO START
BOOKING YOUR SESSIONS!**

**Email Daniel Koo and Amy Crumrine
at Cueducators@gmail.com for any inquiries.
Go to www.cue-on.com to book sessions with us!**

NCSA Sponsors Cue Camps

Spring Camp Cheerio

In 2019, the NCSA sponsored four cue camps - Cue Camp Mechuwana in Maine, ChiCueSignGo in Illinois, Spring Camp Cheerio in North Carolina and Cue Camp Virginia in Virginia.

Cue camps are two-, three- or four-day learning vacations where participants come together in a retreat-like setting. Participants attend classes where they learn to cue, attend presentations, and socialize with experienced cuers, both hearing and deaf, during meal and break times. Some camps offer a CLT mentor program, cuereading classes and other presentations.

Many of the camps offer activities such as tug of war, boating, swimming, and other physical activities after classes are over. Cue camp is meant to be fun while simultaneously being a time to learn, grow and connect.

The NCSA also held two-day workshops for both beginners and advanced beginners in Washington, DC and Denver, CO, as well as a CLEAR workshop in Denver.

The workshops and cue camps resulted in hundreds of new parents and professionals learning to cue. Funds were often used to provide scholarships or discounts to families in need so they could attend and learn to cue, practice their cueing and improve their skills.

**The NCSA depends
on your donations to
support cue camps and
workshops each year.
Donate today at
www.cuedspeech.org**



Jill Burruss of Rochester, NY teaches the Intermediate Class.



Lara Pike is co-chair of the Spring Camp Cheerio committee and uses Cued Speech with her daughter, Hollis.



Debby Peckham cues to the volunteers during orientation before camp begins.

Camp Chi-Cue-Sign-Go



Over 35 participants attended ChiCueSignGo at Illinois School for the Deaf



Dr. Donna Morere cues during a group practice session.



Vance Deatherage signs while Amy Fowler cues during a class.

Cue Camp Mechuwana



Native cuers return to their roots with their families.



Elena Fernsler cues to a young camper.

Cue Camp Virginia



Over 150 people attended CCVA in Jamestown in 2019.



Rosemary Bocuzzi cues to a group of new cuers.



Earl Fleetwood, M.A., and Melanie Metzger, Ph.D., give the keynote address "Language Acquisition and Cultural Competency: Bringing Literacy into Vision."

Cue Camp 2020 Schedule

NOTE: Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Cue Camp 2020 schedule may be subject to change.

Spring Camp Cheerio CANCELLED
 ChiCueSignGo, July 17-18, 2020
 Cue Camp Mechuwana, Winthrop, Maine Aug 9-13, 2020
 Cue Camp Virginia, Jamestown, VA October 9-12, 2020
 For more information go to www.cuedspeech.org/cue-camps.

Join the NCSA Board - Nominations Open

The NCSA is now accepting nominations for all positions on its 2020 – 2023 Board of Directors. Board positions will begin on September 1, 2020 and last for three years.

Being on the NCSA board is an exciting and meaningful experience as board members are at the pulse of all things related to cueing, not just in the United States, but around the world. Board members do purposeful work, spread ideas and information. They are at centerstage for the exciting developments occurring in the expanding national and international 'cued community.' They have a national voice and are a part of the overall conversation related to language access, and communication for and by people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Members of the NCSA may nominate qualified individuals to any position on the Board of Directors by emailing the person's name and contact information. Potential candidates must provide a curriculum vitae, biography, and personal statement.

Officers, Directors and Regional

Representatives are elected every three years and serve a term of three years, commencing on September 1 after the election and ending on August 31 of the term's third year. Board members are limited to two consecutive terms in the same position. Board members are expected to attend on-site meetings twice a year at their own expense, and participate in two online meetings a year.

Board positions include: President, Vice President, Vice President of Fundraising, Secretary, Treasurer, , Public Relations, Academic Advisory Chair, Camp/ Affiliates Liaison, Government Liaison, Marketing, and Regional Representatives Director. Regional Representative positions are available for each of the 12 national regions.

Regions are:

- Capital: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington DC
- Gulf Coast: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi
- Great Lakes: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin

- Mid-Atlantic: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee
- Midwest: Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri
- New England: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont
- Northeast: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio
- Rocky Mountains: Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming
- South: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
- Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
- Upper Plains: Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota
- West: California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

A description of each position may be found at: <http://www.cuedspeech.org/pdfs/NCSA-By-Laws-01-31-2017.pdf>

Nominations and materials should be emailed to info@cuedspeech.org as soon as possible for consideration.

Thanks to Our NCSA Volunteers

The NCSA owes a special debt of gratitude to its volunteers. NCSA board members devote countless hours to working with the NCSA at significant expense.



L-R: Daniel Koo, Amy Crumrine, Angela Laptewicz, Suhad Kblawi, Rachel McAnallen, Hilary Franklin, Lisa Weiss, and Maureen Bellamy at the September 2019 Hands and Voices Leadership Conference

Beyond the board, our volunteers include instructors during NCSA weekends as well as all the people who manage and help out at NCSA exhibit booths at state and national conferences including ASHA, Hands and Voices and AG Bell. A special thanks to:

Ashley Elder
Hilary Franklin
Betsy Kipila
Sandy Mose tick
Aaron Rose
Amy Ruberl
Jane Smart
Iva Tullier
Katie Turner



Aaron Rose and Jane Smart at the 2019 American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference in Orlando, Florida



Lisa Gavin and Maureen Bellamy at the ASHA Conference in Orlando, Florida

Applications Open for 2020 College Scholarships

Each year the NCSA is able to provide two college scholarships. Established in 1997, the R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund was created to aid qualified deaf or hard of hearing students to continue their education past high school.

Recipients of both scholarships must:

1. Have used Cued Speech as their primary mode of communication during their language-learning years OR for five or more years during their education, and
2. Be entering or attending vocational school, undergraduate school or graduate school as a full-time student.

The **R. Orin Cornett Scholarship** is a \$1,000 award given in memory of Dr. R. Orin Cornett, the inventor of Cued Speech.

The **Carol Shuler Scholarship** is a \$500 award to a deserving student from the western states. Carol Shuler was a staunch advocate of Cued Speech. Recipients of the Carol Shuler Scholarship must reside in Arizona, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah or Washington.

Scholarship Applications for 2020 are available on www.cuedspeech.org.

Cued Speech Association of New England Approved as NCSA Affiliate

By Polly Earl, CSANE President

The Cued Speech Association of New England (CSANE) is excited to be the newest affiliate to join the NCSA. Its goal is to provide learning opportunities for parents and professionals, networking for individuals of all ages who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing, and increased awareness about Cued Speech in the northeastern United States.

CSANE serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Cue Camp Mechuwana is sponsored annually by CSANE in August.

The affiliate has a diverse Board of Directors, half of whom are deaf, which includes parents, teachers of deaf/hard of hearing, cued language transliterators, and a paralegal.

CSANE looks forward to spreading the word about Cued Speech to the many corners of New England! For more information contact us at: CuedSpeechNewEngland@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

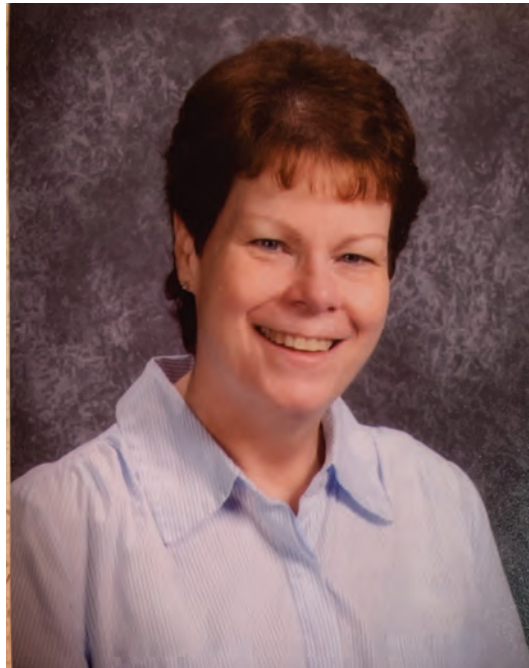
By Carol Mauro

Susan, aka 'Dean,' Gillespie, who was a Cued Speech pioneer in Fredericksburg, VA, passed away on January 20, 2020.

Dean was a young teacher working at Spotswood Elementary School as a teacher of deaf/hard of hearing in the late '70s and early '80s. She taught students who were deaf and hard of hearing for three decades in Spotsylvania, County.

Parents in this area were educated in Cued Speech and Dean supported their choice and goals. She was dedicated to Cued Speech and her students' future. She taught Cued Speech at the local community center and continued to teach privately to bring cued language transliterators into the classroom.

Dean was loved by her students and their parents. She was diligent in



Susan Dean Gillespie

working for the students' success, even during her battle with cancer.

I was one of those transliterators. Dean was a teacher, a mentor and a friend. I will miss her.

Federal or State Employee?



Give to the Deaf Children's Literacy Project with the COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

CFC CODE 12036

The Story of Us (continued from p. 1)

my mom started talking about me and when the topic of additional modes of communication came up, Pat introduced my mom to Cued Speech.

By the time I was a year and a half old, I was participating in six hours of therapy a week with Pat where she used a combination of Cued Speech and ASL. A year into the therapy, it was decided that we would focus more on Cued Speech in order to provide me with access to spoken English. At this time, my parents had heard about cochlear implants and flew to New York City to meet with the NY League for the Hard of Hearing (now known as the Center for Hearing and Communication) to discuss candidacy for the surgery. Ultimately, we were turned down due to the remoteness of Maine. We added a speech and language pathologist, Barbara Gillis, to our team when I turned three years old and continued working with Pat.

The summer after turning three, my mom and I went to the Minutemen Cochlear Convention hosted in Sturbridge, MA. She attended one of the first discussions and promptly went to the registration desk and wanted to talk (probably more like demanded) to someone about getting me a cochlear implant. It was there that we met Dr. Marilyn Neault, another powerful and key player. She sat and talked to my mom about cochlear implants for about two hours and when my mother walked away, I was moving forward with the cochlear implant candidacy process.

One key aspect of the qualification process was that all doctors on the board needed to approve. However, one doctor did not approve, citing I did not have a language. By the grace of God and some strong-minded individuals, the doctors ultimately proceeded with the surgery without the one dissenting doctor's approval. I was implanted February 2, 1998 and my implant processor was activated on March 7, 1998.

Fun fact! In 1998, the cochlear implant was FDA approved for adults, but it was not approved for children. However, I became a part of the clinical trial and as a result



Anna, and her mother, Laura Lorette, at Cue Camp Mechuwana 1998

became one of the first Cue-Kids to be implanted at Boston Children's Hospital!

Following my implantation, I continued my work with Pat and Barbara and made multiple trips to Boston to ensure the implant was performing properly and that I was progressing. From ages three to seven years old, I attended the Cued Speech camp in Winthrop, Maine, where I met Polly Earl, one of the early and continued pioneers of Cued Speech, and also met other young children who communicated the same way I did.

Moving forward to grade school, I began utilizing a Cued Language Transliterator (CLT) and a desktop FM system. This continued until about fourth grade when we decided to stop using a CLT and simply use the FM system. I say 'we,' but it was more of a situation where I refused to look at my CLT. I'll admit, I was a stubborn kid and I'm still a stubborn woman today! I continued using the FM system in various formats throughout middle school and high school. Most notably, using my FM system when I was playing softball was a HUGE game changer. I could now hear my coach when he was yelling plays onto the field or when he was calling us to shift due to the type of batter who was up. High school went quickly and before I knew it, I was off to college.

I ended up deciding to attend Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY as they had access services already in place for deaf and hard of hearing students.

This was largely possibly due to NTID, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college within RIT with approximately 2,000 students. I began my studies as a biology major but switched into packaging science halfway through my second year as I did not want to leave the school and fell in love with packaging. I continued my academics and went on to complete three different six-month co-ops with Corning Life Sciences, PepsiCo, and ACCO brands before graduating in the spring of 2017. Prior to graduation, I had a job offer from Brown-Forman Corporation in Louisville, KY and accepted. Off

I went to Kentucky, the home of Kentucky Fried Chicken, bourbon, and the Kentucky Derby!

I could not have asked for a better company to start off my young professional career. Brown-Forman was diligent, proactive, and accommodated any request without hesitation and I am incredibly thankful. I quickly settled in, made new friends, found a new church, and met the man who would become my husband. We connected and related on various levels, I with my deafness and he with his autism. He is extremely high functioning and he, too, has quite a team backing him! Caleb and I were married in Maine on October 6, 2018 and soon after, an opportunity was presented for us to move back to my home state (Maine).

We accepted the opportunity and now live in southern Maine with our two dogs, Elsa and Luna, as I happily settle into my new role at IDEXX Laboratories and Caleb pursues his dream of becoming an electrician. I am fortunate to be working for yet another company who places utmost responsibility and genuine focus on diversity and inclusion. In our free time, we enjoy spending time with family, traveling in and out of the state, being outdoors, and enjoying life day by day.

I would not be here if it was not for all the twists and turns I/we experienced along the way. For those, I am thankful. Thank you to all of you who have touched my life and helped it take the shape it has. This is not just the story of me; it's the story of us.

A Cue Kid with a Lucky Fin (continued from p. 1)

On the day of the surgery, we were at peace but also a ball of nerves. If you are reading this, then it's quite likely that you completely understand these feelings. In the end, Gabby only received the implant in her right ear because the left was not implantable.

From the time Gabs was an infant, we were touring schools, paying out of pocket for audio-verbal therapy and trying to find our way. The listening and spoken language route was the plan because, again, at the time we were under the impression that hand-based communications modalities would not be accessible.

We eventually put our home up for sale and moved one county over in order to have access to the oral deaf program there. After two years of no progress in this program, we were just beside ourselves. We would basically measure how bad things were by how much I would cry during conferences. I always felt so bad for those teachers. They loved our daughter so much. Seeing her make no progress then watching me sit there and cry through our conference must have been so hard.

Looking back, I wish they would have helped us find a solution for Gabs, but as many parents have said, YOU have to be the advocate for your child.

Our speech pathologist at the University of Michigan is simply our hero. We love her. One day she told us about a Cued Speech workshop they were hosting so we jumped on it! At this point, we were basically willing to try anything even if it went against our initial assumptions.

Gabby was three years old with no language and we needed something fast. Everyone talks about language deprivation and Gabby was very much on that path, which was unacceptable to us.

We went to the workshop in 2018 and learned the system, which we thought was interesting and something that could really be beneficial. We kept trying to use it at home and kept trying to give her whatever input we could, but we still weren't sure because it was a form of communication that used your hands.....and Gabby

has differently functioning hands.

After speaking with a few professionals, Joe and I were told that most native cueers would be able to understand her if she would be able to at least use the placements – which she can totally do! We also realized that language acquisition, particularly through a modality based on the same phonemic structure as spoken language, was a promising idea partially because we had already been going in that direction.

A few months after the workshop we toured the Alexander Graham Bell Montessori School near Chicago. There we saw teachers and children, some hearing, some deaf or hard of hearing, some with hearing aids and some with cochlear implants. They were all cueing! There we fell in love. We fell in love with the ease of the system, the access that it gives people to the world, the access to high levels of literacy, and we loved that you can even cue other languages including accents or dialects.

It seemed like we could cue anything and that is what we wanted for our daughter. Most importantly, we learned that if we can get all that language in, then more than likely, she would be able to get the language out. While her language journey may be different than what we were expecting, it didn't have to be as daunting as we feared it might be.

Since then, we have hosted a cueing workshop locally with the help of the National Cued Speech Association that helped a large portion of our family receive training. We host practice dinners, have quarterly cue games at our home, and we speak to college classes about our love for this form of communication. We have met many adult mentors who



The Hetler Family

have helped us greatly along the way. We went to Cue Camp Virginia, which was AMAZING, and we made a huge switch at Gabby's school. She now has a full-time cued language transliterator that we adore. I won't go into this too much because I could write a novel, but advocacy is key! Mediation helps and just don't give up! Your child has rights – know them!

Gabby had a vocabulary of zero words this time last year. Now at age 4, she has over 100 words receptively and her expressive language skills are now starting to emerge. Gabby is building on that each day in her mainstream class. She is even starting to read and write. Yes, it is hard work. Yes, it is something new. No, not everyone is doing it. But the rewards are far sweeter than anything you can imagine, and we are just starting. Gabby's future now has a known trajectory and that is because of Cued Speech.

Editors note: Children with upper limb differences often call their limbs "lucky fins" like Disney's Nemo because of the Michigan-based Lucky Fin Project.

Kellie Hetler lives in West Michigan with her husband Joe and their two beautiful daughters, Addison and Gabriella, where she practices photography by profession, faith in her heart and advocates for beautiful but different children everywhere in between!

Easy Ways to Support the NCSA

The NCSA is always in need of funds to support its programs, free classes, family support weekends, scholarship program, outreach and advocacy efforts. We depend on loyal cuers, their families and friends, and other generous donors to plan our budget and meet expenses. Here are some great ways you can help the NCSA:

Use Amazon Smile.

When you shop on Amazon, use Amazon Smile – it's easy and costs nothing. When making purchases on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com and log in with the same Amazon account. Choose the **National Cued Speech Association** as your charity (DC Location, EIN: 52-1263121). Simply by making purchases on smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a percentage of every purchase to the NCSA.

Buying a Vehicle?

Donate your used vehicle to the NCSA. It's easy! Just go to <https://www.v-dac.com/org/?id=521263121> and follow the directions to donate your vehicle. Your vehicle will be picked up from your location. The NCSA will receive the funds from the sale and you get a tax deduction!

Matching Gifts

Ask your employer if they will match your gift to the NCSA.

Set Up a Facebook Fundraiser

Create a Facebook Fundraiser to benefit the NCSA on Facebook for a birthday or other special event. Facebook fundraisers are frequently matched on Giving Tuesday (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving).

Make a unique donation or set up a monthly (fee-free) recurring donation via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cuedspeech/>. Select the DONATE button and follow the instructions.

Forego Holiday or Birthday Gifts

Ask relatives and friends to give to the NCSA the amount they would spend on a gift to you for your birthday or on a holiday.

Make a Bequest to the NCSA

Designate all or part of Your IRA or 401K to the NCSA. This will save your heirs estate taxes.

Federal or State Employee?

Donate to the **NCSA Deaf Children's Literacy Project** through your workplace giving campaign. Our Federal Combined Federal Campaign Code is: 12036.

Become a Monthly Donor

Give a small amount each month as a monthly donor. It's easy and helps the NCSA pay for our programs. Go to <https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=566>, enter the amount

you want to give monthly, and choose monthly under the donation amount.

Maintain Your Membership

For just \$40 you can be a one-year member of the NCSA. The NCSA will send you an email reminder to keep your membership up to date. To renew your membership or join the NCSA, simply go to <https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=566>, enter \$40 and choose membership from the Program Menu.

Become a Life Member

You can be a Life Member of the NCSA for just \$500. To be a Life member, simply go to <https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=566>, enter \$500 and choose Life Membership from the Program Menu. We will send you a certificate as a thank you!

Like to Write Checks?

You can mail a check with your generous gift to the NCSA Business Office at 3603 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, NY 11234. We will save on credit card fees!

Your donation to the NCSA is fully tax-deductible and the NCSA appreciates your support.

Need materials for a conference or workshop?

The National Cued Speech Association has information papers, brochures and materials available on request for individuals and organizations looking to provide more information and resources on Cued Speech and cued language services in their local community.

Email info@cuedspeech.org for more information.

DONORS LIST

We thank the following donors for their generosity.

Major Donors

Kami Barker
Donald Bear
Maureen Bellamy
Linda and Marty Brattner
Ralph and Synnove Engelman
Mark Fasold
Penny and Eddie Hakim
Shannon Howell
Irene and Edward Kaplan
Suhad Kelawi
Jill Keblawi
Charles Musser
Clifford Nemeth
Martin Osborne
Safety National
Jane Smith
David Swinehart
Perry Thompson

In honor of Gabbie Hetler

Shon Halacka

In honor of Makaila Howell

Austin Thompson

In honor of Suhad Keblawi

Jennifer Cranston

Maureen Bellamy

In honor of Riley Mathers

Lillian Dolloff

In honor of John David Nemeth

Clifford Nemeth

In honor of Aaron and Mary-Beth Rose

Jeanne Kennedy

In Memory of Ann Bleur

Nancy Burke

In Memory of Ralph and Connie Boccuzzi

Rosemary Boccuzzi

In Memory of Feisal Keblawi

Suhad Keblawi

In Memory of Alisa Weidenheimer

Maria Prokop

NCSA Website Project

Charles Musser

General Fund (over \$50)

Amazon Smile*
Facebook
Paypal Giving Fund
Lesa Coleman
Mary Elsie Daisey
Marshall Dietz
Helene and David Emsellem
Sylvia and Jack Falack
Felicia Fife
Matthew Goodall
Edward Guster
Danielle Harris
Aimee & David J. Hiday Charitable Fund
Deanna Jordan
Harry Kamdar
Jeanne Kennedy
Claire Klossner
Joyce and Howard Lieb
Sylvia Martinez
Robert McIntosh
Susanna McKendree
John Mutschler
Shelley Powsner
Cathy Rasmussen
Abraham Roffé
Harriet Roffé
Susan Russell
Douglas Schuler
Jonathan Shu
Ronald Tawil
Christy Tedeschi
Randy and Iva Tullier
Jerald Zarret

Amazon Smile donations are the result of our donors choosing the NCSA as its preferred charity when they make purchases on smile.amazon.com.

Welcome to Our New Life Members!

Kami Barker
Linda and Martin Brattner
Jennifer Cranston
Sarah Druley
Charles Musser

Thanks to Our Facebook* Fundraisers!

Latoisha Toi Bates
Debi Giles Bayless
Maureen Bellamy
Martha Bonneau
Angela Bodway Brownrigg
Lisa Marie Gavin
Penny Weaver Hakim
Judi Hays
Jalen June
Jill Keblawi Al-Aghbar
April Kilpatrick
Claire Klossner
Kitri Kylo
Benjamin Lachman
Tamika Marie Liebhart
Hannah Mann
Riley Mathers
Rachel McAnallen
Charlie Mariee McCoy
Juno Jaxon McGlew
Bryan Mulholland
Courtney Poole
Sarina Roffe
Maajidah Shambe
Thomas Shull
Oliver Sieben
Jamaree Smith
Holly Ruwet Steinke
Brook Stevenson
Liana Tsvetova
Connie Tolleson
John G. Veazey
Emily Vosloo
Janie Weiss

** Over \$12,000 was raised through FB campaigns, including Giving Tuesday*

Includes donations from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019



Shop Amazon? Use Amazon Smile and designate the NCSA. We will get a percentage of the sale.

Go to smile.amazon.com and choose NCSA in Washington DC. Our EIN number is 52-1263121.



National Cued Speech Association

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 190-713

Washington, DC 20004

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

NCSA Family and Professional Support Weekends

Fall 2020, New Orleans, LA

October 23-24	NCSA Board meeting
October 25-26	Basic Cued Speech Instructor Workshop
October 25-26	Beginner Cued American English Class
October 25-26	Beyond Beginner CAE Class
October 26	Cued Speech Instructor Certification Exam

For more information, visit www.cuedspeech.org.

Donate to the NCSA!



The NCSA proudly carries the “Best in America” seal awarded to less than 1% of non-profits nationwide.



Federal or State Employee? Donate to the NCSA Deaf Children’s Literacy Project through your workplace giving campaign. Our Federal Combined Federal Campaign Code is: 12036.