

INTRODUCING - DCLP PARENT KITS

By Rachel McAnallen

NCSA is thrilled to announce the launch of its DCLP (Deaf Children’s Literacy Project) Parent Kits, available as a series of four boxes distributed over a one-year period to any family of a child who is deaf/hard of hearing. NCSA’s 2nd Vice President (Fundraising), Rachel McAnallen, shares the story behind this new resource for families.

After two suspect Auditory Brainstem Response tests, my infant son was referred to our state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system. As someone who was born deaf and raised with Cued Speech, I didn’t panic when I was told my son could be hard of hearing or have progressive hearing loss. However, I was overwhelmed quickly. My son needed to have his heart and eyes checked. Hearing loss sometimes presented with other health issues affecting the heart and eyes, they explained to me.

Further complicating matters, weeks later I got a fat, heavy envelope in the mail. Inside was a stack of fliers, brochures, booklets, trifolds, checklists, and articles. My well-meaning state EHDI (Early Hearing Detection Intervention) system had “thrown the book” at me. I skimmed through everything as best as I could -- being post-partum, working full-time,



cleaning, cooking and raising my other two children. Mention of Cued Speech appeared briefly among the materials, but if I had not been looking for it, Cued Speech was easy to miss - or to dismiss.

At the same time, I was stepping into my new role as 2nd Vice President at the National Cued Speech Association. My recent experience had made me realize that in order to reach families of children who are newly identified as deaf/hard of hearing, we needed to be more nurturing. Instead of telling families about Cued Speech and then expecting it to “click” the first time hearing about it, families should feel more supported and confident about trying Cued Speech as part of a guided journey.

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Esther Rimer,
NCSA President

It feels a bit wild to be writing to you all as the new President of the NCSA. I've been involved with the NCSA in various ways since I was in college when I applied for and won an R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship. I still remember going to Towson, MD, for the 40th Anniversary of Cueing Conference in 2006 and meeting all these new people and so many other deaf adult cuers I had never met before.

Who knew I'd be President over a decade later?

There have been several deaf and native cuer presidents in the two decades before me (Paul Swadley and Josh Libby), but this is the first board we have had where half of the Board of Directors is made up of deaf native cuers. It is great to see so many deaf cuers paying it forward and working with the NCSA. (However, don't take this to mean you must be a deaf cuer to help the NCSA. Sign up to volunteer - we still need our parents, teachers, and professionals to be involved more than ever!)

Like many of you, I've been limited in travel and personal interactions since last April. I still have yet to meet any of this term's Board members in person...we are all faces in little boxes cueing to each other. NCSA Board meetings have all been online since the pandemic began (and will continue to be online until the national health situation improves). We've moved to having many short meetings over the course of the season rather than having two full weekend meetings and two online meetings per year as we normally would. It has been a very hard and strange time, but our Board has

continued its work.

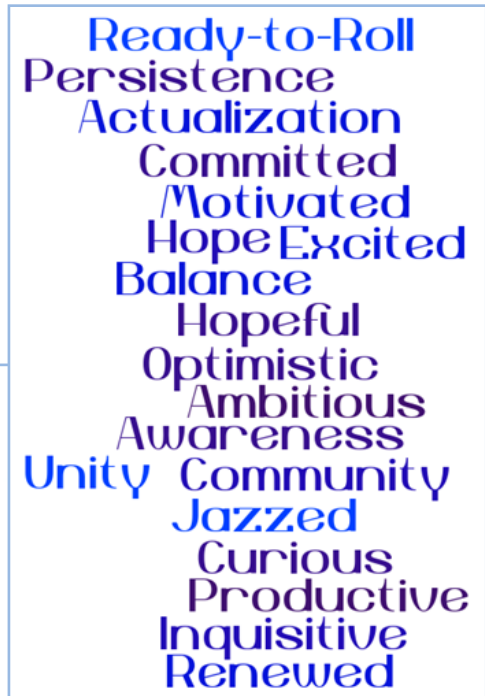
The Board has been using the slogan, *New Times New NCSA*, since the start of the term. It's very apt. We have a brand-new website, we're starting a new project (DCLP Parent Kits), we're in the process of updating our Bylaws, and we're just now gearing up to begin another attempt for getting grant money through Congressional appropriations.

Gee golly! Mind you, much of this work was begun before I stepped in as President, so we are seeing the culmination of the past year's work done under Past-President Anne Huffman. I know the Board is proud to see their efforts come to fruition. We have many more things planned for you in the next few years.

"Cuedially" yours,

P.S.

At our first meeting in September, our Board members were asked to give one word that described their thoughts about the new term. The lists below indicate the positive feelings our board members have for this new term.



GROUNDBREAKING NEW COLLABORATION - CUED SPEECH AND EHDI

By Sandy Mose tick

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system was created by federal law in 2010 and provides oversight and assistance to states in their efforts to implement universal newborn hearing screening and appropriate referral and follow-up services for families whose children fail their screenings.



The organization that functions as the national resource center for all state level EHDI systems is NCHAM, the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, located at Utah State University. The founding Director of NCHAM is Dr. Karl White – and many of us who have attended or presented at EHDI meetings over the years and/or received EHDI system emails have met or know of Dr. White.

Gone are the days of late diagnosis. With the implementation of early hearing screenings, thousands of babies are newly diagnosed with hearing loss every year and referred to EHDI for support services and resources. In each of the two latest years for which data was published by the Center for Disease Control, the number of newly diagnosed infants referred to EHDI was approximately 6500.

But, historically, very few of these children and their families have discovered Cued Speech or have had access to Cued Speech resources. This has been the case partly because the keepers of the gates through which most of these families have passed may not have known enough about Cued Speech or may not have been advocates of Cued Speech. Before EHDI was created in 2010, there had not even been a well-organized system of gatekeepers. But before AND after EHDI – and until recently -- there had never been a widely available, accessible, and affordable way of learning about Cued Speech or learning how to cue.

In Spring of 2018, Cue College, a program of Alternatives in Education for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Individuals (AEHI), a Chicago-area affiliate of the NCSA, launched

a new website www.cuecollege.org and their first online course, *CS100 – Introduction to Cued American English*. CS100 is a self-study, online course that teaches the entire Cued Speech system for American English in 14 lessons that take approximately 15-25 hours to complete. With Cue College and CS100 came a way of making CS information and instruction available to the masses.



The Cue College CS100 course was developed from a CD-ROM based course, “I CUE U CUE,” originally developed by IDRT, the Institute for Disability Research and Training, in collaboration with the NCSA. The NCSA contracted with IDRT in 2014 for the rights to use video and other I CUE U CUE content to create a web-based course, and in 2017, the NCSA shared those rights with AEHI. I CUE U CUE included lots of instructional material, as well as over 900 practice videos, and it was of great benefit to AEHI and Cue College to have this “leg up” in developing our web-based version of the course.

Meanwhile, in recent years, more and more of us in the Cued Speech community had been attending EHDI meetings and presenting and exhibiting about Cued Speech. In Kansas City, at the 2020 national EHDI meeting, I met informally in the hallway with Dr. White immediately following my half-hour presentation, “Yes You Can Cue 30 Million Words!” We discussed a topic about which I had recently been emailing Dr. White: Why don’t we add information about Cued Speech to the NCHAM home page? And why don’t we offer free Cued Speech training, alongside the free “SIGN IT!” and “Hear to Learn” resources that NCHAM was already offering to families with young deaf children?

Dr. White agreed to have his NCHAM team work with the Cue College team to make this happen. After several months of collaborative design and implementation work, Cue College launched its CUE FAMILY program – and NCHAM and the NCSA both promoted it on their respective websites. CUE FAMILY provides a year of free access

to the Cue College CS100 course – plus a free one-year family membership in the NCSA, which comes with other valuable information, resources, and support.

At Thanksgiving time, 2020, Dr. Karl White emailed the entire EHDI database, including over 6000 family members, professionals, and organizations, the following message about CUE FAMILY, and signed his name at the bottom:

“This recent collaboration between NCHAM and Cue College builds national awareness for Cueing. Cue College has online resources available so that families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing can learn Cued Speech for free. Cued Speech combines a small number of simple hand cues with the natural mouth movements of speech to make the sounds or “phonemes” of spoken language clear through vision alone.

“Consistent use of Cued Speech enables a deaf child to attain age-appropriate English language and literacy skills.

“Cued Speech effectively complements the use of hearing aids and implants, clarifying any and all sounds, in real time, as they are spoken.

“Cued Speech complements the use of sign language in a family that has the goal of English and ASL bilingualism for their child.

“The Cue Family Program includes free access for one year to the online Cue College course, “CS100 – Introduction to Cued American English – Self Study,” for parents, guardians, additional family members, and caregivers of a child with hearing loss or other communication challenges.

“NCHAM wants to make sure that families are aware of this free resource! Visit <http://infanthearing.org> and click on the Cue College box to learn more, see what is being offered, and take advantage of this great opportunity!

**Cue College is an outreach program of Alternatives in Education for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals (AEHI), an affiliate of the National Cued Speech Association (NCSA).”*

Thanks to the decades of effort by the NCSA, AEHI, and others in the wider Cued Speech community – and thanks to Dr. Karl White and NCHAM and, of course, Cue College – families entering through the EHDI gates will now have easy access to Cued Speech information, training, and support.

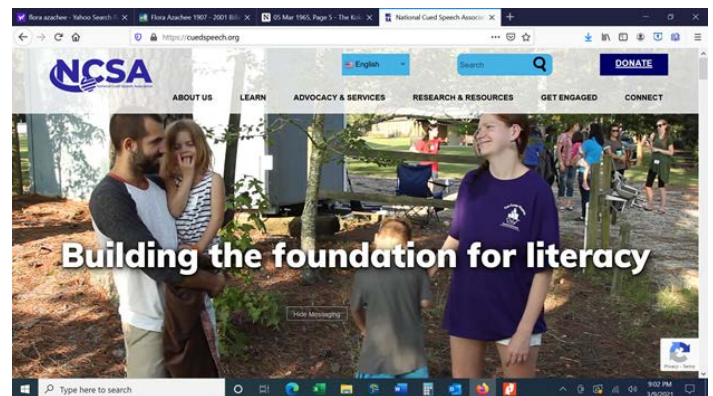
NCSA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

By Maureen Bellamy

January 15, 2021, marked the launch of the new - and improved - NCSA website! Still located at www.cuedspeech.org, the new website is the product of more than a year of collaboration with website developer Dominic Eubanks of Acuta Digital and Project Manager, Virginia Hoang.

“Creating a new website was a lot of work and more technical than we anticipated,” said Website Committee Chair Charlie Musser. “But it’s been a great experience and we’re all excited about the launch! We have a great appreciation for the previous website director, Rob McIntosh, and all the work he did over the years on the old website.”

The new website offers such long-awaited features as a Cuemunity Directory and Cuemunity News and Events pages, a link to free, online Cued Speech instruction from Cue College, and expanded ways to connect, including many topic-specific contact forms to encourage and enable visitors to our new site to get involved and seek resources.



The Website Committee (Charlie Musser, Benjamin Lachman, Rachel McAnallen, Hannah Mann, Hilary Franklin, and Maureen Bellamy) met regularly - often several times per week - to define, quantify, and develop the concept, the sitemap, the content, and the interactivity of the new site. While some material was transferred directly to new pages, most content required updating or rewriting for clarity and accuracy.

The previous website had been edited and expanded periodically since its last overhaul more than a decade ago. Changes introduced during multiple revisions resulted in duplicate entries, buried information, and some confusing navigational challenges. Hannah Mann recalled, “We wanted the new website to be dynamic, clean, and well-organized, with everything accessible within a few intuitive clicks.”

The new website is all those things, opening to a video banner highlighting children and adults cueing. The website is also part of a rebranding campaign and highlights the updated logo, designed by Justin Van Valey from Illinois. There is also the option to view the site in up to 24 languages. The menu tabs take visitors to six well-defined sections of the site: **About Us, Learn, Advocacy & Services, Research & Resources, Get Engaged and Connect.**

“Cuemunity,” a catchy contraction of “Cueing Community,” accurately describes the new directory of service providers. The **Cuemunity Directory** allows Cued Language Transliterators, Certified Instructors of Cued Speech, and cueing professionals providing other services (such as Speech and Language Therapy, Audiology, Pediatrics, and Social Work) to list their businesses. Additionally, graduates of the CLEAR program (Cuers for Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Resources) may offer mentorship to families. Visitors can narrow their search for providers by state. Self-reported entries are reviewed upon submission, then updated or deleted upon membership renewal.

The Cuemunity News section allows individuals, organizations, and affiliates to post current news and announcements, as well as upcoming classes, activities, events, and volunteer opportunities. The team anticipates that members will visit this resource regularly to find learning and social opportunities, and to see what’s new in the Cuemunity.

Topics under **Advocacy & Services** include expanded **Legislative Oversight** and **Get Legal Support** sections. As Benjamin Lachman, committee member and current NCSA Government Liaison noted, “It’s essential for families to understand their rights regarding their child’s education, and their voice in the process of developing the laws that create those rights.”

Driven by newly installed Second Vice-President Rachel McAnallen, the new website provides an important foundation for the launch of a substantive new program under **Deaf Children’s Literacy Project**. The DCLP now offers

programs that provide outreach to families with newly diagnosed infants, as well as families with older children who are new to Cued Speech.

One of these new offerings, the **DCLP Parent Kit**, is comprised of a series of shipped “boxes” filled with information, toys and resources developed by the Materials Committee to help new families navigate their first year with Cued Speech.

It also includes free first-year family membership in the NCSA and a free online Cued Speech class through Cue College. Rachel expressed the enthusiasm of the development team, “We are so happy to be able to offer the DCLP boxes to new families! We truly appreciate the generous donors who made this great resource a reality.”

The NCSA Board of Directors recently approved a **new membership structure** which is now represented on the website. In the past, membership was solely on an annual basis, renewable on the anniversary of membership initiation. The new structure has all membership renewals aligned with the NCSA fiscal year (September 1 through August 31). Additionally, members may renew for terms of one, two, or five years (with a \$25 discount for a five-year renewal). Lifetime memberships remain available only to individuals.

Several sections of the site are still in process. **Explore Community Resources** is an opportunity for affiliates, organizations, businesses, and independent organizations supporting the Cued Speech community to tell visitors who they are and what they do. This section will grow as our community grows. The **Our Stories** section relies on our members contributions. Are you a parent, professional, or adult deaf cuer? Tell a part of your story that you think will be of interest to other members of the community.

Though the new website is now live, maintenance and updates are ongoing, and the Website Committee will remain active.

“We will continue to review and evaluate the website in order to ensure it meets the needs of our community,” notes Hilary Franklin, whose input and technical expertise were critical in the final stretch prior to launching the site.

The Website Committee hopes the new platform is perceived as welcoming, informative, and user-friendly. Comments and suggestions may be submitted to the team via the **Contact Us** form under the **Connect** tab.

FREE ON-CALL REMOTE CUED LANGUAGE TRANSLITERATOR (CLT) SERVICES

By Melanie Metzger, PhD.

In mid-March 2020, the impact of COVID-19 began to have its first widespread effect on daily life. With no vaccine available, it quickly became clear that pandemic-related closings, changes to teleworking, potential quarantines, and the continuously evolving situation were increasing the need for communication. Clearly, these changes would have a major impact on hearing, deaf, and hard-of-hearing people. That impact would be uniquely challenging for the deaf and hard-of-hearing cueing community.

Since 2003, deaf and hard-of-hearing people who sign have had free access to government-provided video relay services (VRS) enabling them to make and receive interpreted phone calls involving hearing non-signers. However, as a marginalized minority group within a minority, the deaf and hard-of-hearing cueing community has had no such service.

In order to address this reality at a time when the need for communication access was especially vital, Language Matters Inc. (LMI) and Visual Language Associates (VLA), working closely with the NCSA, and with support from CueSign, the TECUnit, Cue For You, Cued Language Access (CLA), CueOn, Cue Cognatio and Cue College, partnered to provide free online video remote cued language transliterating services. Beginning March 26, 2020, and funded entirely by charitable donations, the service continued until donation money was exhausted.

Remote CLT services were offered free of charge from 9 am – 9 pm EDT seven (7) days a week to members of the cueing community. The service aimed to provide CLT services for a variety of opportunities, including family contact, medical appointments and advising, spiritual, religious, and mental

health interactions, and to facilitate working with employers and schools to set up alternative long-term remote services during the COVID-19 crisis.

The free service was not intended to replace transliterating services otherwise provided to individuals through their respective institutions nor to be used for 911 emergencies. Over \$20,000 was raised, seven certified CLTs worked part time at partial pay, and over 600 hours of free remote CLT services were made available over 51 days of lockdown.

The online CLT service used Zoom as the interface platform for placing calls. The program was made possible by the partnership between ten cueing organizations. LMI and VLA collaborated in organizing the technology, coordinating service requests, and scheduling CLTs. All collaborating partners supported messaging and fundraising. The NCSA and CueSign, as nonprofit organizations, sought donations and grants in support of the program.

NCSA affiliate groups were instrumental in this process. Remote video connections reflected use in every NCSA region and nearly half of the states nationwide, including: MI, NY, IL, TX, NC, LA, CO, NC, VA, MD, IA, ME, PA, MN, CA, IL, MA, NM, MO, FL.

Deaf signers have been provided federally funded interpreted video call services for 18 years. The spring 2020 donation-supported on-call remote CLT service program demonstrates that deaf cuers would also make use of federally funded video relay calling. The service was an historical first for the cueing community. Hopefully, it proves an effective shot in the arm for future possibilities as well.



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Go to smile.amazon.com and choose the NCSA (DC Location 52-1263121) as your charity. Whenever you make a purchase on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com and the NCSA will receive a small donation for each purchase.

IN MEMORIAM - MICHAEL POORE



Michael and his wife Sheledy hiking at Stone Mountain at Cue Camp Cheerio

Native cuer **Michael Poore** passed away unexpectedly on November 12, 2020. Michael lived in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He and his parents, Teri and Jerry, were from Arlington, Texas, and relocated to Wilmington, NC, when Michael was a teenager. The family was warmly welcomed into the cue community.

Michael and his family made friends and connections with many other deaf cuers and cueing families in Wilmington. Michael had access to a trove of CLTs while attending Hog-gard High School, as well as Campbell University, in North Carolina.

Michael was also a huge part of Spring Cue Camp Cheerio. He was one of the original cue-kids who grew up coming to cue camp in the late 90's. Michael continued to stay actively involved at Spring Camp Cheerio after graduating from college. He continued to re-

turn to camp and give back every year. Michael donated a family scholarship every year to give a family a chance to learn Cued Speech who may have never been able to have this opportunity otherwise. He had a significant role in creating and assisting with the new camp website, donated his time and energy to help get the website created, and supported it with his philanthropy every year.

While Michael was running his own business, *Independent Living Technologies*, he participated by having a vendor table at camp showcasing products such as vibrating alarm clocks and other deaf-friendly products. Michael loved technology and wanted to share his knowledge with everyone. He was always donating items and coupons for the camp silent auction.

Michael was part of the original CLEAR group and a well-loved member of the North Carolina cueing community. He had a huge heart for Cued Speech and an amazing personality. He had such a positive outlook on life, loved to tell jokes and make people laugh.

Michael is greatly missed by his family and friends, especially his wife, Sheledy, who is also a deaf native cuer, and his dogs, Stout, Dallas, and Willow. His obituary can be found here at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/michael-poore-obituary?pid=197144352>.



Group photo of deaf adult native cuers, CLTs and deaf professionals



Sheledy and Michael cueing with Scott Clayton at Cheerio



Michael with the teenage group hiking Stone Mountain. He is third from the left behind his wife.

IN MEMORIAM - IAN FOURNIER



Ian Fournier was a bright, funny, thoughtful, young man with a huge heart. He grew up in Maine and, thanks to his parents' choice to raise him using Cued Speech for access to spoken English, he successfully participated in a general education setting. It was clear early on that Ian was an excellent athlete; his mad basketball skills shone on the court. When Ian was a senior, one of his proudest moments was during the final playoff game when his coach played Ian almost the entire game and they won! One friend shared, "I was so proud of him because he worked so hard to prove to his coach that, after all his struggles, frustration, and wanting to give up, he finally did it!"

Ian attended NTID and during his first year transferred (due to his high reading and language levels) to RIT, majoring in Graphic Media. He left college and began a long stint at the William Center at Austine School for the Deaf in Vermont, becoming fluent in ASL as he worked with children with behavior problems. He was passionate, helping them keep calm and teaching them new skills to cope with their past trauma. As one close friend stated, "Humor was his best skill to make kids forget about what they were mad about."

Ian also enjoyed playing golf and disc golf with his close friends, Travis and Josh. He was a fan of all the New England sports teams and grabbed any opportunity to socialize with other cuers and signers. He was dedicated to improving the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, and was grateful that Cued Speech had opened up the world to him.

As one friend shared, "Ian didn't let his deafness stop him." He was forever grateful that his parents, Robin and David Fournier, helped establish Cue Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, Maine. Ian grew up coming to cue camp and established early friendships that continued until his unfortunate passing in July 2020. He was a part of the camp staff and was a role model for the children who grew to love him for his sense of humor and his big smile. Cue Camp Mechuwana campfire gatherings, swimming time, cue classes, and evening board games will never be the same without him. So much joy will be missing. But Ian's close camp companions will be watching and laughing right along with us. Please take a few minutes to watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoAdYOoZues>.

IN MEMORIAM - JOSH LIBBY

Joshua Libby passed away on October 28, 2020, after a short illness. A native deaf cuer, Josh was a passionate and tireless advocate for Cued Speech, especially in New England where he grew up and lived.

Josh served on the NCSA board for several years beginning in 1997 when he was selected to be the interim Co-Director-at-Large for the New England region for the remainder of the 1996-1999 term. He also served as the Regional Representative for the New England area from 2002 to 2005.

In 2008, Josh became the second native deaf cuer elected President. During his tenure as President, Josh used his passion and vision to propel the NCSA forward. In recent years he worked tirelessly to help establish the NCSA's newest affiliate, Cued Speech Association of New England (CSANE). He was also one of the original Cue Camp Mechuwana campers and volunteered at the camp whenever he could. Josh was a tireless volunteer at these camps, meeting with families and young children, who looked up to him as a role model.

His passion, easy-going laugh, and sense of humor will be dearly missed. The following article written April 2019 for the NCSA is in his own words.

NEW ENGLAND CUED SPEECH JOURNEY

By Josh Libby

Cued Speech is the love of my life. It is simple, clear, concise and is structured and standardized in a way that makes English accessible and perfect for me. Without Cued Speech (CS), I would most likely not be able to have the career I enjoy as a highly functioning paralegal and title examiner in real estate law for a prominent law firm in the Boston area.

I was born in the town of Damariscotta, Maine in Lincoln County in 1976 to an elementary school teacher and a marine scientist. My hearing was typical for the first three and a half years of my life before I lost it to meningitis. I was at that point already verbal, musical, noisy and all the typical things a three-and-a-half-year-old would possess. The first half year of deafness was absolutely horrifying - I was so confused and scared. I mean - I had just lost my hearing and did not understand the who, what, when, where, why and how of anything - just that something was eerily omitted from my life and people were plugging hot wax molds into my ears.

Meanwhile, my Mum, Dad, my brother and both sets of grandparents went to meet Dr. Cornett in Washington DC in 1980-1981 to learn his system of handshapes, vowels, diphthongs and structure. This was a mere fifteen years after the ROC(k) established his awesome system. So there was a brand new plethora of resources and community involvement to assist with the learning, understanding and implementation of CS in my daily environment.

After returning from DC, my family simply started cueing to me; I was quite confused - "Why are these people flapping their hands in my face? What are they doing?!?" Well, after a little bit of time, I finally caught on and started to understand exactly what was going on. It just came naturally after that.

The school system for Nobleboro Central School absolutely championed the use of Cued Speech in my daily classroom and education for me for the next 13 years all the way through to Lincoln Academy, where I graduated without honors because I didn't always do my homework, but I still excelled and became a well-rounded individual. Every year was the same; I was the only deaf student in the school, class, etc., so I never really got to interact with deaf classmates. I just wanted to keep up with my peers, my friends, my classmates, and my community, and I was successful at doing that.

After high school, I embarked on a strange journey through my collegial education that took a little longer than planned, but it was all done in due time. My first year at Colby Sawyer College in the rural area of Sunapee in New Hampshire, I was unable to obtain CS services on a consistent basis, so I adapted and relied on note-takers and my fast-made friends.

The golden rule of thumb that I learned quickly was: everything you need to know for a test is in bold print in the books. Learn the books and know them. Class discussion and interjection may have suffered, but I found a way to interject myself and be useful. I asked a lot of questions. I did yearn for Cued Speech, though, and decided to transfer for my sophomore year to the University of Maine at Orono (UMO), where I had a dedicated Cued Language Transliterator.

I had been planning to stay at UMO for the next three years but had an immediate hunger for a side dish of a cochlear implant surgery. I planned to take a year off to recover from the surgery and get acquainted with this newfound hearing that would come my way, so I moved to Boston to be close to Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute (MEEI) and the resources in Boston.

I furthered my college education via a piecemeal fashion, with some classes here and there at Harvard Extension School, and finally finished it off with a BS in History and the Law at Suffolk University in Boston. While at Harvard and Suffolk, I patchworked my accessibility with Cued Speech, CART reporting and note takers in that order of preference.

Today I have a cochlear implant, but I shall simply remain forever a deaf individual. I will never be a 'hearing person.' Deafness is ingrained in my identity. I am still working on my aural rehabilitation and have a long road ahead of me, with my ultimate goal to be able to discriminate spoken languages and sounds from say a telephone or behind a brick wall. Whether I will attain that goal is unknown - but I have determination to do so. Lipreading is such a vortex, but lip-reading is made perfect when used in tandem with Cued Speech. I do wish more of my friends and colleagues would make an effort to learn CS, however I cannot demand or expect it. It would make my life a little easier, however, I do enjoy being kept on my toes and expected to sustain my success in lip-reading.



Josh Libby
Boston, Massachusetts

While that structure worked marvelously in my upbringing, the same is not always available to other deaf people across the United States, much less the globe. Accessibility and general access to required methods and tools of education are not always adequate; financial and economical boulders exist in school districts, budget cuts, and a general inadequacy of legal aptitude and incorrect use of ADA requirements and cutting corners creates a snowball effect that hinders the progress of Cued Speech.

Cued Speech is not advancing as it should - it is such a logical fix. Lawyers, financial administrators, judges are scattered far and wide, and nobody is set on a primary mode of communication. The "Deaf culture" is still quite strong and conveys powerful boulders that stunt the natural flow of Cued Speech.

That's just fine -- I understand their objection to it, but I still believe Cued Speech is a very powerful tool that should be taken more seriously. The general education career for a typical student is 12-13 years - which means a program has to be put in place for them and mandated in support. After that student graduates from high school, they are on their own - and must continue their advancement into the collegial/post-secondary system. The data from the past has shown that deaf people do not possess proper literacy levels, somewhat being at the "4th-grade level." I don't know what the numbers are these days, but just as my hero, Dr. Cornett, surmised/anticipated - deaf students should essentially be bookworms.

Joshua Libby was a direct product of Cued Speech; the system enabled him to acquire all tenets of spoken language in ways that would otherwise be difficult. He wanted to see it continue to prosper and to reach more corners of this world and to foster educational opportunities for all. He worked in Boston and stayed close to his Maine roots and loved to go to Cued Speech Camps!

Families: Learn to Cue Online for FREE with Our Self-Study Course
 “Introduction to Cued American English”



Cued Speech is a mode of communication that uses simple hand cues with the natural mouth movements of speech to make the sounds of spoken language clear through vision alone.

CUED AMERICAN ENGLISH



Cued Speech enables age-appropriate language and literacy, works in synergy with hearing aids and implants, and complements the use of sign language if used as part of a bilingual ASL/English approach.

Our easy-to-navigate course teaches all of the consonant handshapes, vowel placements, and rules of Cued American English. Learn the system in a few days -- and then jump right in and start cueing!

Included in Our Self-Study Course:

Overview: What is Cued Speech? Why Cue?



14 Lessons on Handshapes and Hand Placements



/r/



Ray

Lots of Practice Videos to Check Your Understanding



Free online access available for 1 year from date of enrollment

Families will also receive a free one-year membership to the National Cued Speech Association, which comes with other valuable information, resources and support!



Scan the code to register
 or sign up via our website

www.cuecollege.org/cue-family

CS100 - Introduction to Cued American English is a collaboration between Cue College, Deaf Children's Literacy Project (a program of the National Cued Speech Association), and Institute for Disabilities Research and Training, Inc.



Cue College is a program of AEHI: Alternatives in Education for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals, an affiliate of the NCSA.
www.cuecollege.org | info@cuecollege.org | 9300 Capitol Drive, Wheeling, IL, 60090

NEWS FLASH: CLTs PROVIDED FOR BIDEN/HARRIS INAUGURATION

A Letter of Gratitude by Lauren Tribby Pruett, TSC, President of LMI

Editor's note: The week of January 18, 2021 culminated in a groundbreaking accomplishment for the cue-munity with access to Cued Language Transliterators (CLTs) during the Biden / Harris Presidential Inauguration on January 20, as well as other inaugural events.

January 23, 2021: To the NCSA Board and Members of the Cuecommunity

Hello, everyone!

This has been an amazing week for the cueing community!

- A first for deaf cuers receiving equal access to this national occasion
- A first for cued language transliterators seeing themselves on a platform so grand
- A first for the accomplished CLTs to be the face (and hands) for all of us
- And certainly a first for Language Matters Inc. to be the chosen provider

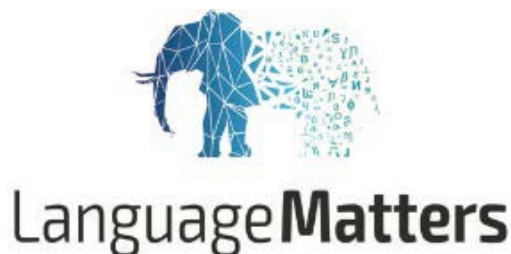


I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who had a hand in this (no pun intended):

- To Ben Lachman, whose persistence and perseverance created this opportunity
- To the NCSA for its consistent leadership in the community
- To Earl Fleetwood and Melanie Metzger for developing and nurturing the profession of Cued Language Transliteration as we know it today

To my LMI transliterators who provided stellar “performances,” without whom we would not exist, I'd like to say “I owe you a lifetime of gratitude for your work!”

- Jane Dolan
- Angela Laptewicz
- Claire Klossner
- Victoria Hedgecock
- Ashley Gordon
- Tom Shull



And foremost, to the deaf cuers who give us our reason for being, our reason for diligently perfecting our “art,” and who are our guiding forces every day.

Thank you all for recognizing our work, for supporting LMI, and for creating the foundation for extraordinary events!

2020 R. ORIN CORNETT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



The NCSA is proud to announce that Nate Elliott of Illinois is the winner of the \$1,000 NCSA R. Orin Cornett Scholarship for 2020. He plans to attend Illinois State University in the fall, with a major in Library Science.

Established in 1997, the R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund was created to aid qualified students who are deaf or hard of hearing to continue their education past high school. Scholarships are not based on need.

The Director of Carle Auditory Oral School said this of Nate: “Nate’s strong oral and written communication skills, as well as his rich academic success, are a strong endorsement of the benefits of incorporating Cued Speech into the communication development plan of children who are deaf

or hard of hearing. Nate’s parents have talked with him about Cued Speech over the years and pointed out how Cued Speech helped him to begin to develop phonemic awareness skills, even before his cochlear implant was first turned on. He believes in the power of Cued Speech and enjoys sharing his experiences with parents of young children who are deaf and hard of hearing in whatever venue presents itself.”

Nate said: “Cued Speech allowed me to learn how to read before I turned three, when I was still learning how to speak. Cued Speech also allowed my parents to help me finish my words and sentences when I was learning to hear and speak. This allowed me to communicate with others more effectively when I was taking speech and language therapy.

“This means Cued Speech has a value and other families should use it to teach their language to their children. In my post-secondary school experience, I will educate my classmates and professors as well as advocate for Cued Speech within my school, Illinois State University. As someone that used Cued Speech during my language learning years, I am a role model of what Cued Speech does for infants.”

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2021 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the NCSA provides 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 2021 are available at www.cuedspeech.org.

CUE CAMP NEW ENGLAND - HOME EDITION



The first-ever virtual cue camp, *Cue Camp New England - Home Edition*, was held for three weeks during July-August 2020. The Cued Speech Association of New England (CSANE) annually hosts Cue Camp Mechuwana on a beautiful, wooded lake in Winthrop, Maine, but due to the pandemic, that was not possible in 2020.

Instead, thanks to the efforts of a hard-working planning team consisting of Polly Earl (CSANE president), Suzanne Flint and Angela Laptewicz (camp co-directors), and Danielle Paquin (CSANE secretary), and the work of so many individuals who were willing to share their time and expertise, all classes and events were offered virtually. The virtual camp was a huge success with over 150 registered participants from 24 states who attended online presentations, panels, socials, and classes to learn more about Cued Speech and to learn or improve their cueing skills.

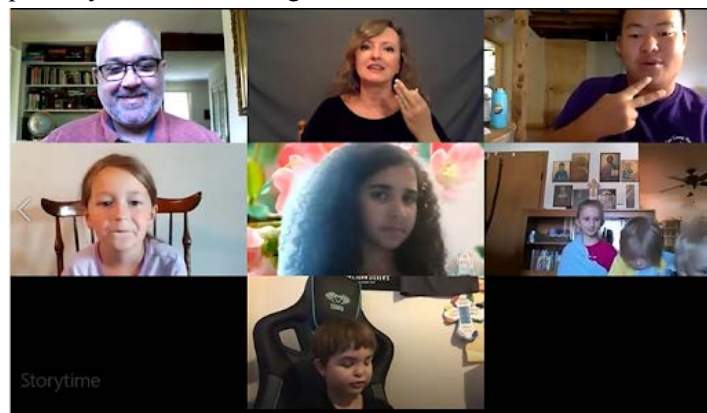


Nine presentations were offered on a range of topics by researchers, professors, certified transliterators, and other professionals from all over the country, and even overseas, thanks to Dr. Jacqueline Leybaert, who joined in to discuss past, current, and future research on Cued Speech. Other presentation topics included how to become a Cued Language Transliterator, how to cue with babies, how research supports the use of Cued Speech, and how Cued American English can play an important role in a bilingual American Sign Language-Cued American English program.

Evening programming included a panel of deaf adults, two

professional panels (one with those working in early education/preschool and the other with school-aged children), a dialogue on advocacy, a parent support chat, a cueing game night, and three Saturday evening “campfire” socials.

Two levels of adult cue classes were offered for both beginners and more advanced cuers. Suzanne Flint led three sections of an *Introduction to Cued American English* class taught in spoken English. Nicole Dugan and Hilary Franklin led a fourth section taught in ASL. In these classes, participants learned the entire system of handshapes and placements and how to put them together to cue words, phrases, and sentences. Two sections of *Intermediate/Advanced Cued Speech Skill-Building* classes were offered by Angela Laptewicz for those who already knew the Cued Speech system, but wished to work on improving cueing mechanics, fluency, prosody, and cue reading.



Children ages three to twelve had a chance to meet with others of a similar age during morning cue classes and afternoon story times. Cue classes, instructed by Ashley Gordon, Danielle Paquin, and Elena Fernsler, taught the handshapes and placements with activities, games, and crafts. Storytime featured books shared by guest readers who were fluent cuers, many of whom were deaf native cuers.

A *Cued Language Transliterator (CLT) Mentor Program*, offered in cooperation with Language Matters Inc., provided an opportunity for current and future transliterators to not only observe nationally certified transliterators, but be observed by them and by their peers as they practiced their skills. Debriefing sessions gave participants a chance to give and receive feedback and discuss various strategies for effectively transliterating in general, and specifically in a remote environment. In addition to the many CLTs who worked during the three-week camp, ASL interpreters and captioning were also provided for accessibility to all programs and classes being offered.

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INTRODUCING - DCLP PARENT KITS

By Rachel McAnallen

continued from p.1



From the words of Penny Hakim, parent of Abraham, a native cuer and past Vice President, “Cued Speech felt like coming home.” I hoped to re-create that sense of relief and homecoming for every family upon realizing that Cued Speech could empower them to be their child’s language model in a matter of weeks or even days.

With mail subscription boxes being all the rage, I thought, why not have a Cued Speech family learning subscription box? For each stage of their “learning journey,” a family could get boxes of personalized letters, Cued Speech articles, charts, research, activities, and an invitation for optional one-on-one family support. And why not implement this under the flagship of NCSA’s Deaf Children’s Literacy Project?

After contacting NCSA’s Executive Director and Materials Committee Chair, I realized that they shared the same vision. We worked with the new NCSA Executive Committee to determine which of our materials would best fit in each box, starting off with simple, informative materials and pro-

gressing towards more advanced materials, such as research articles about cueing with cochlear implants and with babies, a Cued Speech dictionary, and children’s Cued Speech iBooks.

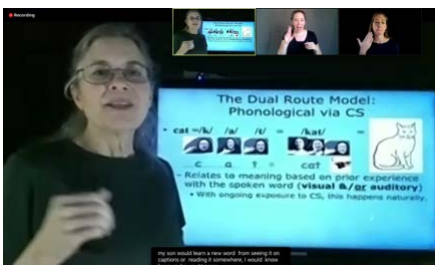
To make the kits fun and welcoming, Nuby, Inc., generously donated cute toys such as teething, rattles, bath toys, and lovies to include in each box. The NCSA designed a pretty certificate for each family’s free one-year NCSA membership with a handwritten signature from our President and native cuer, Esther Rimer. Cue College, which offers an online cueing course, created a postcard with a code that families can scan to register for their free, online Cue Family Program and begin learning Cued Speech immediately from the comfort of their own kitchen or home office. We reached out to a native cuer to design exciting, colorful boxes that families could look forward to getting in the mail.

Upon launch in January 2021, we decided to call this free family resource “DCLP Parent Kits,” available to any family of a child newly identified as deaf/hard of hearing. Immediately, there was a surge of interest, especially from families with older children. NCSA is already collaborating with Teachers of the Deaf and parents to develop a “DCLP Children’s Kit” with activities geared towards children who want to learn to cue and most importantly, to *play* with cueing!

The NCSA is working with other family-based organizations and EHDI providers to ensure that as many families as possible can request these free kits. The NCSA will continue to fundraise for our DCLP Parent Kits and DCLP Children’s Kits. To support these kits, please check out our “Easy Ways to Give” article in this issue of *On Cue!*

CUE CAMP NEW ENGLAND - HOME EDITION

continued from p.15



Despite the challenges faced in adapting a traditional cue camp into a new virtual format, the endeavor was a success. *Cue Camp New England-Home Edition 2020* allowed

for a greater number of Cued Speech experts and learners to

gather together, no matter how distant, to participate in a wide range of programming. Past cue camp attendees know the magic of gathering together for conversation around a campfire or watching kids build memories of fun and laughter, and hopefully will be able to do so at Cue Camp Mechuwana again soon. In addition to the virtual cue camp, CSANE continued to offer more online classes and programming with their *Cued Speech Winter Workshop* in March.

EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO THE NCSA

By Maureen Bellamy

The NCSA is always in need of funds to support its programs, including free classes, family support weekends (cue camps), scholarships, exhibits and presentations at conferences, outreach and advocacy services, and a website backed by a network of regional representatives to provide families with access to a plethora of Cued Speech information and resources. The NCSA depends 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 – it's easy and costs nothing. When making purchases on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com and use your same login. 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.

Use PayPal Give at Checkout when making purchases with PayPal. Visit our charity profile at PayPal (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1736573>) and click "Set to Favorite Charity." With the NCSA set as your favorite charity in PayPal you can choose to add \$1 each time you checkout using PayPal, which will be given to the NCSA without any fees being deducted. These microdonations add up over time to make a huge impact!

Make a donation using PayPal. Feeling generous? Donate any amount you would like at our PayPal charity profile page. PayPal will cover all fees. <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1736573>

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. Set up a 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. Just add the NCSA as a beneficiary to your will, IRA or insurance policy.

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 its 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!

Prefer 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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

IN MEMORY OF JOSH LIBBY

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In Honor of Riley Mathers

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In Honor of Alyssa Klinger

Lisa Weiss

In Honor of Rachel McAnallen

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THANKS TO OUR FACEBOOK* FUNDRAISERS!

Angela Laptewicz
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Sara Sizemore
John Veazey
Kara White
World Cued Languages

Over \$20,000 was raised for the free CLT program held during March and April 2020.

About \$14,000 was raised through Facebook campaigns, including Giving Tuesday, during 2020.

Includes donations from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Note: Please accept our apologies if your donation is not listed above or is included in the wrong category.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS!

Jennifer Cranston
Jamie and Nate Elliott
Debbie Kovalsky
Esther Rimer
Sara Sizemore and Ivan Yermolenko

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES

The NCSA Board of Directors recently approved a new membership structure. In the past, membership was solely on an annual basis, renewable on the anniversary of membership initiation.

The new structure has all membership renewals aligned with the NCSA fiscal year from September 1 through August 31. Memberships that expire in the middle of the year are being extended to the end of the fiscal year on August 31.

New or renewing members may sign up as individuals or families for one, two, or five years (with a \$25 discount for five-year renewal). Lifetime memberships (\$500) remain available only to individuals. Go to cuedspeech.org to join or renew.

Membership Family 1 year - \$40
Membership Family 2 years - \$80
Membership Family 5 years - \$175

Membership Individual 1 year - \$35
Membership Individual 2 years - \$70
Membership Individual 5 years - \$150

Membership Organization/Affiliate 1 year - \$50
Membership Organization/Affiliate 2 years - \$100
Membership Organization/Affiliate 5 years - \$225

Life Membership Individual - \$500



National Cued Speech Association

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 190-713

Washington, DC 20004

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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.

NCSA: CHAMPIONING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, AND LITERACY THROUGH THE USE OF CUED SPEECH
