

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Inspirational
- Box Tops for Education

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March is Deaf History Month

March is **Deaf History Month**. It's about recognizing the deaf people in our community as well as looking back at the achievements of pioneers in deaf culture. March was in Hartford, Connecticut and Clerc became the first deaf sign language teacher in the United States. After that, many schools for the deaf opened around the

In the 16th century, Geronimo Cardano, a physician in Padua, Italy, proclaimed that deaf people could be taught to understand symbols by matching them with the things that they represented. In 1775, Abbe Charles Michel de L'Epee of Paris, France, founded the first free school for deaf people. He taught deaf people to develop communication with gestures, hand signs and fingerspelling. L'Epee first studied the signs and gestures already used by the deaf people in Paris. This helped him make his won version of signed spoken French. He paved the way to close the gap between the hearing and non-hearing worlds.

In the United States, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, a congregational minister who became interested in helping his neighbor's young deaf daughter, went to Europe in 1815 to study methods of communicating with deaf people. While in England, the 27 year old met with Abbe Roche Ambroise Sicard who invited him to study at this school for the deaf in Paris. After several months, Gallaudet went back to America. Along with him he brought Larent Clerc, a deaf sign teacher from the school in Paris. Gallaudet founded the first school for deaf people in the United States. This school

Sign Language-Fun Facts

country. Twenty two schools had been established by 1863.

- Sign language is the fourth most-used language in the U.S.
- Deaf History Month is observed from March 13 to April 15 every year.
- Each culture has developed its own form of sign language to be compatible with the language spoken in that country.
- Many general education classroom teachers introduce sign language to their students as early as kindergarten. By the end of a kindergarten year, they know how over 30 signs.



Shay's Story

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

“When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does, is done with perfections. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?”

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued, “I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way 20 other people treat that child.”

Then he told the following story:

“Shay and I walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, ‘Do you think they’ll let me play?’ I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, ‘We’re losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we’ll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.’

Shay struggled over the team’s bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy



at my son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay’s team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay’s team scored again. Now with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn’t even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay’s life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed.

The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay.

As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would have been over. But the pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman’s head, out of reach of all team mates.

Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, “Shay run to first! Run to first!”

President's Corner



*You can't leave
footprints in the
sands of time if
you're sitting on
your butt. And
who wants to leave
buttprints in the
sands of time?
-Anonymous-*

Hi Ladies,

February has just about passed us by. This is one of my favorite months, I love the infamous AT & T Pro-Am Golf Tournament hosted by our friends at the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, I love celebrating Valentine's Day with friends and family, I love that we get a three day weekend in honor of George Washington's and Abe Lincoln's birthdays. What a whirlwind of a month, only 28 days to it. Yet during these 28 winter days, I draw my energy in, catch my breath and recharge my internal batteries for spring, summer, and fall. To borrow the words of a famous singer, Carole King, I am ready to "feel the earth move under my feet."

Hopefully you are all recharged and ready to take on the rest of the year with me.

Kathy Hemenway and Kelli Hemenway, 2009 Annual Event Co-Chair, are planning a wonderful annual fundraising event to be held in September, 2009. The location is fantastic, the theme, the program for the evening all sound fabulous. Even in these tough economic times, I see the fund raising opportunity we have in front of us so we can continue to help the special needs children in Monterey County to thrive in their living and learning environments. We are counting on your help to

make this a memorable and spectacular event!! Please start thinking about sponsorships, auction donors and guests that you would like to invite. With just about six months to go, we need to give this event our all.

Please advocate for Salinas Circle for Children in March by inviting a friend to our upcoming March meeting. Invite your friends that are "doers", your friends that are "empty nesters", friends who like a sense of community, friends who have a special needs child in the their household, friends who have skills that we need.....

It's a good life,
MJ Viglizzo

Membership Dues by March 1st

Active Membership:

- Active members shall attend all general meetings, serve on a Standing Committee and an Annual Event Committee
- All Active Members shall be required to chair a Standing or Annual Event Committee a minimum of every other year
- Dues for Active Members shall be \$30.00 per year payable in January
- Members shall be required to notify the membership chairman if they will be absent from a meeting

Associate Membership:

- Associate members shall consist of

previously active members who have been active for a minimum of five (5) years

- Dues for Associate Members shall be \$40.00 per year payable in January
- Associate Members must attend the two general meetings held immediately before the Annual Event and serve on one Annual Event Committee

Sustaining Membership:

- A Sustaining Member is anyone who is interested in supporting the organization financially without obligation to participate in any events
- Dues for Sustaining members shall be \$50.00 per year payable in

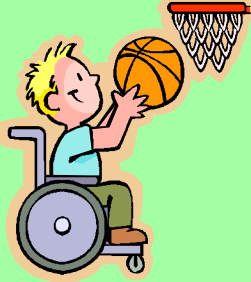
January

- A Sustaining Member who wishes to work at the Annual Event must attend the two general meetings held immediately before the Annual Event

Please bring your Membership Dues to the next General Meeting

Or Send to:

Attn: Melissa Ballew
Salinas Circle for Children
P.O. Box 2064
Salinas, Ca 93902



**Help them thrive
in their living
and learning
environments**

March Meeting Notice

**March 3rd, 6:30 pm to 8:30p
Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital
Cislini Room 1 & 2**

Hostess Brittney Slaton

Don't forget your Secret Pal!!

Shay's Story

continued from page 2

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!'

Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball, the smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team.

He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the way Shay!'

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third! Shay, run to third!' As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!'

Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into the this world."

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy, and coming home and seeing his mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day.

May Your Day, Be a
Shay Day.





How to earn cash for the A.B. Ingham School Christmas Party....




Types of Products in your Grocery Store you can find Box Tops on:

- Baking -Beverages
- Cereal -Frozen Foods
- Meals & Sides -Snacks
- Paper Products -
- Disposable Tableware -
- Waste Bags -Storage Bags
& Containers
- Baby & Child Care
- Refrigerated & Dairy

For a complete list and more
information, visit
www.boxtops4education.com

Clip Box Tops:

Look and Find this label  on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents towards the A.B. Ingham School Christmas Party.

Bring Box Tops to the Meeting:

Bring your clipped Box Tops to the Salinas Circle for Children General Meetings and put them in the collection box.

Get a Check:

Twice each year, Box Tops will send a check for each Box Top redeemed, up to \$20,000 per year.

Salinas Circle for Children/A.B. Ingham School Coordinator:

Marie Riso
14285 Mountain Quail Road
Salinas, Ca 93908
831-484-9684

"Happy Birthday"

to the

March

birthday friends!

Diana O'Mary

Carolyn Sanders

John Condon

Linda Castro

Hostesses for 2009 Meetings

April:	Kelli Hemenway & Vickie Casacca	SVMH, Cislini Room 1&2
May:	Diana Powning & Ginger Siltman	SVMH, Cislini Room 1&2
June:	Lainey Hunt (need one more volunteer)	SVMH, Cislini Room 1&2
July:	Potluck — not a business meeting	TBD
August:	Potluck — not a business meeting	TBD
September:	Kathy Hemenway & MJ Viglizzo	SVMH, Cislini Room 1&2
October:	Connie Fields (need one more volunteer)	SVMH, Cislini Room 1&2
November:	Carma Hunter (need one more volunteer)	SVMH, Cislini Room 1&2



**March
2009**

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Salinas, CA 93902

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Fax: 831-424-4761

E-mail: salinascircle@aol.com

Web site: www.salinascircle.org

Salinas Circle for Children



*Welcome New Members
Monica Rajdek
Ginny Lott*

The purpose of the Salinas Circle for Children is to raise and provide funds, and to perform needed services, to assist children with physical, mental, or emotional needs in Monterey County.

Our mission is to provide the tools and support needed so they can thrive in their living and learning environments.

Board of Directors

President:	MJ Viglizzo
1st Vice President:	Diana Powning
2nd Vice President:	Kelli Hemenway
Secretary:	Kathy Hemenway
Treasurer:	Dawn Hershberger-Clark
Annual Event:	Kathy Hemenway & Kelli Hemenway
Membership:	Melissa Ballew
Sunshine:	Vickie Casacca
Communications:	Brittany Slaton
Hospitality:	Ginger Siltman
Special Activities:	Carolyn Sanders
Parliamentarian:	Alethea Leandro-Farr
Discretionary:	Diana Powning

2009 Annual Event

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, September 13, 2009



3:00pm to 8:00pm