Disability Rights Maine cordially invites you to attend our 2016 Annual Dinner

Friday, October 7, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn
Freeport, Maine

5:30 pm Reception
6:30 pm Dinner

Keynote Speaker
Hon. Kristin Booth Glen (Ret.), Dean Emerita, CUNY School of Law

2016 Award Recipients
Helen M. Bailey Advocacy Award – Margaret Cardoza
Equal Access for All Award – Noah Carver
Business Award – Emery-Waterhouse

Contribution Levels:
Event Ticket/Patron 75.00
Supporter 250.00
Benefactor 500.00
Sponsor 1000.00

Please RSVP by September 30, 2016

To register online, go to www.drme.org/ad2016

For more information, contact Shannon Crocker at 1.800.452.1948

Contributors To Date:
Deaf Awareness Week
September 15 - 24, 2016

Brought to you by the Maine Deaf Community and its volunteers. Without volunteers or sponsorships, these events would not be made possible. Special thanks to the following: the Maine Commission of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened (MCDHHLD), Maine Association of the Deaf (MEAD), Maine Educational Center on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) and their Foundation Program, University of Southern Maine’s Linguistics Department (USM), the Deaf Culture Festival Committee, and “ASL Live!” founders Darleen Hutchins, Daniel Winship, and Regan Thibodeau.

Events

September 15
◆ 9am-1pm: MECDHH students tour Augusta
◆ 2pm-4pm: Deaf Tea Awards Ceremony
   Where: Hall of Flags, State House (Capitol Building), Augusta
   The Tea initiates Maine’s Deaf Awareness week by recognizing prominent members of the Deaf Community for their active promotion of the Culture, Language, Folklore, and Arts on the occupational, educational, legislative, and/or humanitarian level.
◆ 6pm-8pm: Deaf Rights Group
   Where: Francis Perkins Room, Dept. of Labor, 45 Commerce Dr., Augusta
   For more information, email deafservices@drme.org.

September 16
◆ 6pm-10pm: ASL Night Out
   Where: Portland, Location TBA
   Planning in the works! Contact regan.thibodeau@gmail.com to be on the email list for this fun event!

September 17
◆ 9am-5pm: ASL Apple Picking Day at Robert’s Orchards
   Interpreter-Owned: Stacey Bsullak
   Where: 307 Poland Corner Rd, Poland (you will see a barn after the house marked 305)
   ✓ A signing photographer will be available for 20-minute photo sessions on the orchard!
   ✓ Easy walking distance from parking to picking apples!
   ✓ Live music by “Pond Lilies” (featuring interpreter Polly Lawson)
   ✓ There will be face painting, free samples, and more!

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September 18
♦ 11am: ASL Walk & Roll - Back Cove, Portland
Meet at the Payson Park Area. Strollers and wheelers welcome! Bring friends and family then play at the playground after as an incentive for your little ones!

September 19
♦ 10am-12pm: ASL Walk & Roll - Waterfront, Bangor
Meet at the waterfront at 10am. If you come later, run to catch up to the group!

September 20
♦ 10am-4pm: Honoring Deaf Senior Citizens Social Day!
Where: GBSD Gym, 1 Mackworth Island, Falmouth
Come play games, swap stories, buy some crafts, and walk with the Deaf Community’s oldest treasures. Learn about Deaf lives before modern technology and just show appreciation for their contribution to our younger deaf generation.

September 21
♦ 4pm-7pm: Tea with the Superintendent in the Mansion & Museum Tour
Where: GBSD, 1 Mackworth Island, Falmouth
Come have tea with the Superintendent inside the historic mansion on the beautiful island. Also come enjoy a tour of the quickly expanding GBSD Deaf Museum next door! Donations are accepted.

September 22
♦ 12pm-4pm: Camp Sign’s Open House & BBQ
Where: Pine Tree Camp, 114 Pine Tree Camp Rd, Rome
The campers will be making an announcement for Camp Sign’s new name and want to share their camp adventures with you! For more information please email: mnolin@pinetreesociety.org.

September 23
♦ 5:30pm-7pm: Reception with Dack Virnig (http://dackvirnig.com)
Where: GBSD Cafeteria - RSVP Required
Sponsored by MECDHH Outreach and DCF, we hope to bring parents of Deaf and KODA children for a reception with a storyteller who mimes Disney movies using gestures, body language, and facial expressions. There also will be fun communication building activities for the parent and child. All language users welcome (cued speech, oral, ASL, PSE, etc.)
Space is limited. To RSVP, please email darleezhutchins@gmail.com.

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Deaf Culture Festival
25th Anniversary
Mackworth Island
10 am to 4 pm
Come see our culture!

Sept - 24 - 2016
September 24

- 10am-4pm Deaf Culture Festival
  Where: GBSD Gym, 1 Mackworth Island, Falmouth (Enter at the gym)
  Admission: Free
  This annual festival concludes Deaf Culture Awareness week. Vendors of various artists, agencies, and local service programs are set up in the gym near the children’s activities area so you can keep an eye on your little one while purchasing crafts and educating yourself about new things such as new technology providing access to ASL skits performed on the stage. Food is available for purchase. This event is open to the public - maybe you are a barista that have deaf customers, a hard of hearing family member, a late-deafened neighbor, a student learning ASL, or a working interpreter and want to socialize with members of the Deaf Community. This event is for you!

  **General Festival Schedule**

  - 8:30am-12pm: ASL Storytelling Workshop
    Where: GBSD Cafeteria - Registration Required. Please email regan.thibodeau@maine.edu.
    Novice-advanced ASL users are welcome! This workshop is designed to have Dack give you tools toward developing fluency in Depicting Verbs (classifiers in motion) through storytelling. Dack will customize your learning experience for most benefit. This is open to the Deaf Community and interpreters. CEUs/contact hours are awarded.
    Fee: $35 (CEUs free for MERID members, $10 for non.)

  - 10am: Festival opens to the public

  - 10am-3pm: Vendor and experience exhibitions

  - 10am-4pm: Children’s activities

  - 11:30am-1pm: Lunch available for purchase

  - 2pm-4pm: Stage events

  - 5pm-7pm: ASL Live! Featuring Dack “Mountain Dew Man” Virnig
    Where: Studio 55, 55 Market St, Portland
    Fee: $10
    Join us for a night of jokes, storytelling, and games in a lively atmosphere!

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Become a RE-Member, a Recurring Electronic Member, today!

Your membership allows Disability Rights Maine to provide free legal services to Maine citizens with disabilities.

For more information and to sign up for your RE-Membership, visit http://drme.org/support#did-you-re-member!
Imagine you wanted to vote on Election Day, but the polling place was locked. Now, imagine that it keeps happening, year after year.

If you are a person with a disability, this situation is all too real. Factors like inaccessible polling places, discriminatory attitudes, and lack of outreach create true barriers that prevent voter participation for thousands each year. People with disabilities are less likely to be registered to vote, and more likely to lack transportation to the polls. And, while absentee ballots, accessible voting machines, and other accommodations are available, the widespread isolation and marginalization of people with disabilities in our society leaves many unaware of these options.

The results are stark. While more than 35 million Americans with disabilities are eligible to vote, only 15 million do vote. That means that the voices of 20 million people with disabilities are missing on Election Day. Elected officials go on to make important decisions that dramatically affect budgets, policies, services and economic equality for people with disabilities. It is essential that voters with disabilities are significantly present in the process of electing them.

Full political participation for Americans with disabilities is a right. But, more than that, political participation is power. At nearly 20% of the voting age population, people with disabilities represent one of the largest minority groups in our state and country, and a significant voting bloc. Yet, candidates rarely address issues from a disability lens, including on essential issues like healthcare, jobs, education, or housing. This situation must change.

This year, it is critical that people with disabilities are heard and counted. As individuals, friends, family members, or service providers, we can all do our part to make the disability vote count by:

- **Promoting** voter registration and turnout for people with disabilities. Talk about your plans to vote, and encourage those around you to do the same.
- **Helping** voters to become registered or find transportation to the polls.
- **Reporting** barriers to access at polling places.
- **Engaging** candidates and elected officials to recognize the disability community.
- **Connecting** voters to helpful resources to learn more about candidates, issues and voting rights

**Every vote counts.** This year, tell elected officials that the disability vote matters. For more information on voting resources or how you can get involved, contact Disability Rights Maine at 1.800.452.1948.

Disability Rights Maine seeks public comment on our program priorities throughout the year.

To submit a comment, please send an e-mail to advocate@drme.org.
REV UP! Voter Registration Event
Tuesday, September 27, 2016
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Your vote matters! September 27th is National Voter Registration Day and Disability Rights Maine wants to help you get ready for the November 8th election. Stop by to learn about voting options, ask questions, and get registered. While you’re there, try casting a ballot on Maine’s new Accessible Voting System (which will be available at all polling locations in Maine on Nov. 8th). Information and resources on absentee voting, early voting, ballot questions, and voting rights will also be available. This event is free and open to all individuals. ASL interpreters will be available.

Questions? Call or email Riley Albair @ 1.800.452.1948 • ralbair@drme.org
VOTING FAIRS 2016:
GET INVOLVED!

Disability Rights Maine’s 2016 voting fairs are free events of food, fun, information, and action to promote the involvement of people with disabilities in the election process.

✓ Learn about voting rights!
✓ Try out Maine’s new accessibility voting technology!
✓ Learn about opportunities to get involved in your community!
✓ Have fun!

Interested? For more information or to RSVP for one of our voting fairs, call or email Rick Langley: 1.800.452.1948, Ext. 208 or rlangley@drme.org.

If you need an interpreter or accommodation, please contact DRM at 1.800.452.1948.

Thursday, September 29, 2016
Two Sessions
10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm
Independence Association
2 Columbus Drive
Brunswick, ME 04011

Friday, October 7, 2016
10am-12pm
Living Innovations
248 Northport Avenue
Belfast, ME 04915

Friday, October 21, 2016
10am-12pm
Living Innovations
238 North Street
Saco, ME 04072