

February Newsletter



Black History Month

Black History Month is here, and GCDHH is featuring some leaders and innovators from the DEAF Black community. Learn all about them below.



Dr. Carolyn McCaskill

Dr. Carolyn McCaskill was recently appointed as the founding Director for Center of Black Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University. She's also a Professor in the ASL & Deaf Studies Department at Gallaudet University and has been teaching since 1996. She has conducted numerous workshops about multicultural issues in the Deaf Community, along with Black Deaf history, community, and culture.



Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University

Dr. Glenn B. Anderson

Dr. Glenn B. Anderson grew up in Chicago and began college as the only Deaf student on a campus of 12,000 students at Northern Illinois University. However, he encountered bias and discrimination there due to his deafness and race. The following semester, he transferred to Gallaudet, and upon transferring said "my eyes were opened wide" because he saw Deaf people with advanced degrees working in professional positions. He was the first African American Alumnus of Gallaudet to earn a doctorate (New York University), the first African American Deaf person to be appointed as Gallaudet trustee, and the first Deaf person hired by Michigan Rehabilitation Services to work as a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor.



Laurene Simms

Laurene E. Simms is Chief Bilingual Officer at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. After graduating from the Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis, Indiana, she received a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and a M.Ed. in Deaf Education from Western Maryland College, Westminster, Maryland. She received a Ph.D. Degree in Language, Reading, and Culture from the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. She has been Professor in Department of Education at Gallaudet University for twenty years.

Warren "WaWa" Snipe

Warren "WaWa" Snipe is a well-known Deaf writer, rapper, and performer. His accomplishments include working at The National Deaf Dance Company and working on two episodes of "Black Lightning." He's also coined his genre as "Dip Hop," which simply means Hip Hop through Deaf eyes.

Haben Girma

Haben Girma is the first Deafblind person to ever graduate from Harvard Law School. She is a human rights lawyer that advances disability justice and was named

a White House Champion of Change by President Barack Obama.

Claudia Gordon

Claudia Gordon's accomplishments include being the first Deaf Black female attorney, and the first Deaf person to work at the White House as a detailee. She is currently working in the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

CJ Jones

CJ Jones is a big name in the Deaf world and is noted for his humor and inspiration in TV, movies, educational films, and theater. He uses his passion for acting, producing, and directing in order to give back to the Deaf and sign language community.

Harold Foxx

Harold Foxx is a Deaf American theatre, film, TV actor, comedian, and writer. He is known for his stand up comedy and "The Harold Foxx Show," an online brand featuring comedy skits with over 80,000 followers.

Aaron Loggins

Aaron Loggins is an entertainer and advocate/activist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. He is known for performing the National Anthem at Super Bowl LIII for Gladys Knight and Chloe X Halle.

Michelle Banks

Michelle Banks is one of a handful of Deaf African American actors in the US. She is known as the founder and artistic director of Onyx Theater Company, the first Deaf theater in the US that's oriented towards POC. She has appeared in multiple film and TV roles as well.

Jade Bryan

Jade Bryan's well-known success comes from being the founder of DeafVision Filmworks, Inc. and Jade Films and Entertainment, LLC. Over her career, she has produced and directed award-winning documentaries including "Listen to the Hands of Our People", "On and Off Stage: The Bruce Hlibok Stories", "9/11 Fear in Silence: The Forgotten Underdogs," and "Reaching Zenith: A Black Deaf Filmmaker's Journey."

Andrew Foster

Andrew Foster is one of the most important people in Deaf history. His accolades

include being the first African American Deaf person to earn a Bachelor's Degree from Gallaudet University, as well as a Master's Degree from Michigan State University. He is also known as the "Father of the Deaf" of Africa because he founded the first school for the Deaf on the continent, then continued by opening another 31 schools.



GCDHH Employee of the Year

Lara Whitfield has been named GCDHH's Employee of the Year, making her the first to receive the reward (formerly awarded every quarter). To choose the award, each staff member nominated their co-workers, and some board members voted on staff members based on the staff's comments.

In 2020, Lara went above and beyond her job responsibilities, especially with events that GCDHH hosted such as the Clear Mask Distribution, Camp Julienna Journey, Signing Santa Claus, and ASL Storytelling.

When COVID-19 made the in-person Camp Julienna canceled, Lara jumped in to set up an online camp for the children so they would not be left out and had something to look forward to through the difficult time.

The Clear Mask Distribution was also a great success, with a turn-out of over 150 people that needed these masks to communicate properly.

In addition to all of these superlatives, Lara sits at the front desk and is a person's first impression when they come into our office. She's also helped bridge the gap of

communication with many GCDHH clients.

Thank you Lara for all of your hard work in 2020 and GCDHH looks forward to your continued success in 2021!

GCDHH Spotlight



Deanna Swope

Deanna Swope is a program manager for BRIDGES, a first direct Deaf domestic violence Advocacy program. BRIDGES was founded in February 2019 under GA Coalition against domestic violence. She began her career as a domestic violence outreach specialist in 2012 and has been training the hearing agencies. It's one of her passions and she's humbled to be in a position where she can help survivors find themselves again. Learn more about her [HERE](#).



A Special Moment with Captain Hall

Our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community wondered how Captain Andrea Hall learned sign language so we reached out to her recently.

She is a Child of Deaf Adult (CODA) and learned sign language from her father. Her father was from Albany and attended the Georgia School for the Deaf in Cave Spring.

Captain Hall is also a firefighter at the City of South Fulton Fire Department and is the local organization's president. Her sister is a Chief in Savannah, GA and some of her cousins are firefighters, too. She is so well-recognized in her local area that the Presidential Inauguration Committee picked her to speak the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that no one knew she was going to sign the Pledge of the Allegiance and wanted to sign because she has family members and friends who are Deaf that could understand what she spoke.

Captain Hall did not realize how much impact she did on our community by using sign language. She used her platform to recognize sign language as the language used by the Deaf community. GCDHH Director, Jimmy Peterson mentioned to Captain Hall that all over the US and UK were in awe and proud of her signing in front of millions of viewers.

Jimmy is looking forward to working with Captain Hall on how she can collaborate with GCDHH on safety issues.

ASL ONLINE CLASSES




American Sign Language is the 3rd most common language in the U.S. and a beneficial skill for everyday life. It is a rich & visual language used by the Deaf community. Don't just learn ASL, open your eyes to a whole new culture-Deaf culture!

AGES 14+ ARE WELCOME TO ASL VIRTUAL CLASSES!

LEARN FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE, TABLET, LAPTOP FROM HOME!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE COURSES



 ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION TO EACH STUDENT

 INTERACTIVE ONLINE COURSES

 GAIN ACCESS TO AUTHENTIC SIGNERS

Register today!



VIRTUAL ASL CLASSES : \$90



VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS

ASL I 6PM-8PM EST

ASL II COMING SOON

ASL III COMING SOON

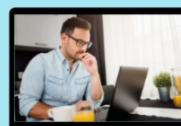
FEBRUARY 23

MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

APRIL 6, 13

THIS IS A NON-CREDIT 2 HOUR COURSE FOR 8 SESSIONS, PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR CLASSES TO REGISTER

DEADLINE: FEB 16, 2021 TUESDAY @ NOON



GOT A QUESTION?



CONTACT ANDREA ALSTON
AALSTON@GCDHH.ORG



GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

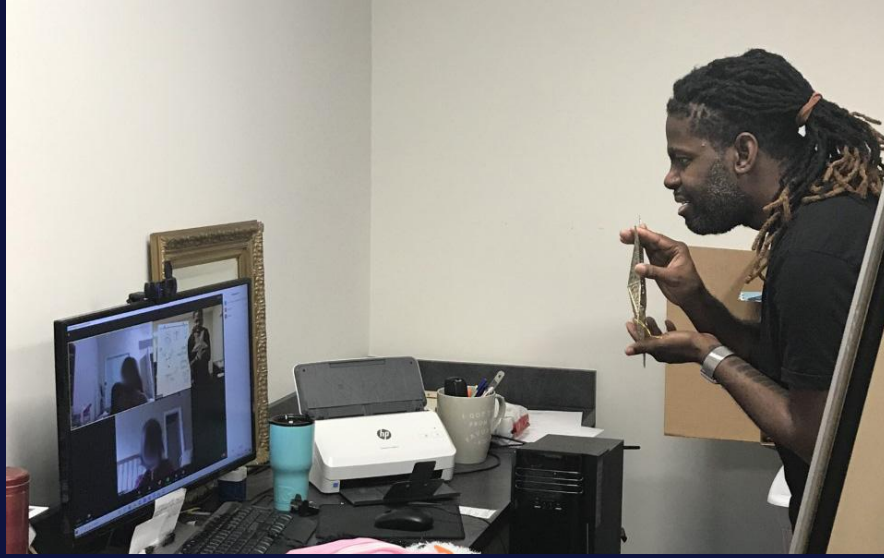
Prior to COVID-19, Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) offered American Sign Language (ASL) Courses in-person at the center. When the pandemic started, GCDHH took a new approach with virtual classes for ASL to respect safety concerns. Today, the remote classes are available for community (age 14 and up) and businesses. Below are upcoming available courses:

ASL I- Beginner

ASL II- Intermediate

ASL III- Advanced

*There will be eight two-hour long classes each semester.



Angelo teaching children ASL.

The textbook is highly recommended for all ASL units- **A Basic Course in American Sign Language (Second Edition)**. This can be ordered via Amazon. GCDHH offers online ASL classes for children younger than 14 years old for one hour for eight sessions. We also offer private ASL one-on-one for a separate fee. At the end of the semester, a Certificate of Attendance will be given for those who participated. This is only for the proof of participation in ASL course and this does not count as certified for Sign Language Interpreter. If you wanted to become a certified interpreter, you would have to take Interpreting courses at any college/university that offers them.

If you are interested to learn American Sign Language, price inquiry or have questions, please email Community Coordinator, Andrea Alston at:

Aalston@gcdhh.org

404-381-8448

Register Now!

Did you know you can sign up your workplace for virtual American Sign Language Classes?

GCDHH offers customized ASL classes for businesses and workplaces. With a flat rate (prices are negotiable), your company can pick the hours and multiple dates for virtual ASL classes. You and your co-workers will take sessions and practice together on learning a new language. If interested, you can bring this available course to the attention of your management and contact us at Aalston@gcdhh.org. Your company can make a difference in language accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

Fill out Questionnaire

Literacy FRIDAY



GCDHH is hosting "Literacy Friday" every second Friday of the month starting this month. There will be a new children's story posted to GCDHH's Facebook page. Be sure to check them out!

GCDHH
Facebook

Follow us on Social Media!



[View Email as Webpage](#)