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 Georges Enterprises  
 Henry Goodrich, artist  
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 Lawrence M. Shor, artist  
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 Lewis Gifts  
 McCary's Jewelers  
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 Ristorante Giuseppe  
 Ryan Wicker, DDS  
 Scuba Ventures  
 Shreveport Speech and Language  
 Pathology/Puretone  
 Hearing Aid Center  
 Smith Photographic Services  
 Stephen Miller Fine Jewelry  
 Stephen Forte Interior Designs  
 Superior Steakhouse  
 Swim School  
 Thrifty Discount Liquor and Wines  
 Toy Fair  
 Vintage Realty  
 Zama Dexter, artist

**And also:**

3-D Packaging and Consulting  
 Alex Harris, bartender  
 Alexander and Company  
 Ambiance Salon  
 Arts on Fire  
 Auto Mall Car Wash  
 Azalea Cleaners  
 Belk Department Store  
 Bella Fresca Restaurant  
 Bill Bush Combo, musicians  
 Biscotti's Cafe  
 Bistro 6301  
 Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs  
 Bruce Campbell, artist  
 Bryan Wooley, city councilman  
 Cafe' Pierremont  
 Carlisle of New York/Pizzazz  
 Celine Rafaille Leyguis, artist  
 Curtis Farms  
 Cush's Grocer and Market  
 Dee's Photo  
 Dental Plaza  
 Diane Feducia, Florist  
 Don's Seafood and Steak House  
 Doncaster Clothing Co. and  
 Rozann Frey  
 Dough Basket  
 Dr. Karen M. Pendleton  
 Dr. John J. Ward  
 Duncan Optical Dispensary  
 Earthereal Restaurant and Bakery  
 Enchanting Designs  
 Etre Jolie  
 Fairfield Grocery and Market

Fairfield Place Bed and Breakfast  
 Inn  
 Fitness World  
 Frame of Mine  
 George's Grill  
 Giglio Plumbing  
 Graef Electric  
 Greenwood Equine Assisted  
 Therapies  
 Bobby Greene Plumbing and  
 Heating  
 Heidi Kallenberg jewelry designs  
 Hooglands  
 Hooters of Bossier City  
 Horseshoe Casino and Hotel  
 Indigo Indian Bistro  
 Jack Farmer Florist and Antiques  
 Jeff Mitchener, artist  
 Jerry Wray Studios  
 Jill Brant, artist  
 Jim Williams, musician  
 Joseph Matthew Gallery  
 Juan Ramon Sato, artist  
 Just For Fideaux  
 King Hardware and Fancy  
 Kitchen Works  
 Knox Goodman Boutique  
 Kon Tiki  
 La Bambolina  
 Lauren Ross McKennen, artist  
 Lavender Shoppe  
 Leone's Shoe Shop  
 Lila's Cakes & Chocolates  
 L'Oasis Gift and Gourmet

Loft Hair Design  
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 Continuing Education  
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 OK Cleaners  
 Outback Steakhouse  
 Paige Bodden, dance instructor  
 Peace of Mind Center  
 Penne Mobley, artist  
 Peter Pan Players  
 Petroleum Club of Shreveport  
 Photography by Scarlett  
 Pierremont Exxon ServiCenter  
 Pomodoro House of Sauces  
 Porter's Fine Dry Cleaning  
 Red River Revel  
 Roadrunner Car Wash  
 Rose-Neath Flower Shops  
 Ryland Miller Personal Training  
 Sam's Town Casino and Hotel  
 Santa Maria Wholesale Produce  
 Sarah Anderson Jewelry Designs  
 Sci-Port Discovery Center  
 Sheppard's Countertops  
 Shreveport Gun Club  
 Shreveport Metropolitan Ballet

Shreveport Opera  
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 Splash Pools and Spa  
 Sue Peyton's Women's Apparel  
 Suzie's Custom Embroidery  
 Swiss Specialties  
 Tamara's Merle Norman  
 Cosmetics  
 Tip Toe Couture  
 Tony's Liquor  
 Tower Book Shop  
 Trinkets on Line  
 True Colors Salon  
 Vacuum Cleaner Hospital  
 Vintage Wine Bar  
 Waddell's Gallery of Distinction  
 Waves of Color  
 Willis Knighton Fitness &  
 Wellness Center  
 Yarbrough Interior Designers

**The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center of Louisiana**  
 601 Jordan Street  
 Shreveport, LA 71101  
[www.deafactioncenter.org](http://www.deafactioncenter.org)  
 (318) 425-7781

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# Las Vegas Nite 2007 Draws a "Full House"!

Las Vegas Nite 2007, a major black-tie benefit for The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center, sparkled December 1 at the Cambridge Club in Shreveport. Many new faces helped attendance this year to be the highest in the 28-year history of the event, which is held every two years. After entering through a giant roulette wheel created by Deaf volunteers, guests received \$200 in chips to spend at blackjack, roulette, and craps tables manned by dealers from Eldorado Resort Casino. Lucky winners spent their chip earnings bidding for over 100 silent auction items surrounded by glittering "Flamingo Hilton" decorations.

Professional auctioneer David Goodman from Chicago was master of ceremonies for a fast-paced live auction that included the Mega Sports package, instant wine cellar, Sunday brunch for 100, and passes to meet Tracy Lawrence and see his Dallas concert. Trips were auctioned to "anywhere American Airlines flies" on the continent, as well as to San Francisco, and to Los Angeles for the movie premier (and star-studded after-party!) of "Mad Money." Bill Smith of Kalmbach Smith Meadows public relations produced a short video to launch local support for the new Video Remote Interpreting services now being provided by The Center to Deaf across the state and the country. (See next page for related story.)

The \$125 ticket price included an open bar and the always-anticipated buffet, which served boiled shrimp, carved beef tenderloin, artichoke-stuffed mushrooms, desserts, smoked chicken salad-stuffed tomatoes, and even fresh pigs in a blanket! Traditional Louisiana fare included cochon du lait bites, boudin bites, and quail legs.

Area businesses donated more to the live and two silent auctions than ever. Combined with enthusiastic support from our sponsors and guests, this resulted in the most successful Las Vegas Nite in Center history. Your generosity supports programs that reach thousands. Please patronize those businesses that have helped our community so much!

**(See back page)**

## Welcome New Staff

The Center welcomes **Wendi Coker** as Director of Communication and Compliance, **Jonathan Bucklew** as receptionist, and **Greg Hebert** as Director of Development.

Wendi returns after a 10-year stint in another career. Jonathan, a child of deaf adults (CODA) who is fluent in American Sign Language, has been working several months. Greg joined the Center last Spring. Welcome!

## Invitation to all Interpreters in our Community

Come over for supper! Anyone who works as an interpreter in North Louisiana is invited to eat with us at 6 p.m. Monday March 31, at The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center. We are also planning a short demonstration of the new Video Remote Interpreting service that evening. We're located in the Highland area of Shreveport at 601 Jordan Street, at the corner of Creswell and just one block off Line Ave. Please RSVP at 425-7781.

## Thank you Quota Club!

The Shreveport Quota Club has been a long standing supporter of the Deaf Action Center and meets once each month at the Center. Quota held a Bunko tournament on September 25, 2007 that raised over \$2,600 to benefit The Deaf Action Center! With a motto of "we share," Quota International is a women's service organization known for its work with the Deaf and hard of hearing, as well as disadvantaged women and children. We thank you so much! Be on the lookout for the 2008 tournament!

## Center offers Video Remote Interpreting service!

The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center in Shreveport is one of the first nonprofit agencies in the country to offer this VRI service, called AccessAmerica. Our affiliates, Deaf Resource Center in New Orleans; Monique Champagne in Dallas, Sign Language Services in Baton Rouge, and Visual Communication in Alexandria are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week together with a network of interpreters in Shreveport and across Louisiana. They provide high-resolution interpreting services across the state (and country) via high-speed internet, including areas that do not have access to live, dynamic interpreters. For example, hospitals in rural North Louisiana parishes can contact our Shreveport call center when a Deaf patient enters their emergency room, and the patient can communicate through our interpreter who appears on their screen, explaining his medical problems to the doctor sitting beside him. The doctor can then instruct the patient, paying only for the minutes of interpreting services actually used. The service is also highly adaptable to educational settings, staff meetings, conferences, doctor's office visits, and training sessions.

The acquisition of this sophisticated technology has

been funded by over \$350,000 obtained by The Center through grants funded by:

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf  
Quota Club International  
The Charles T. Beaird Foundation  
The Frost Foundation  
The Gannet Foundation  
The William C. Woolf Foundation  
Polycom  
Visual Systems Group, Inc.

Assistance with the call center has also been provided by the VRI fund at Las Vegas Nite. We are extremely grateful to everyone.

The Center will continue to provide dynamic interpreting (in person) throughout Northwest Louisiana. The Americans with Disabilities Act does require the Deaf to have access to all community services provided to hearing people. Our interpreters work at community functions such as theatre, meetings, and lectures, as well as individual appointments at weddings, doctor's visits, court appearances, or applying for a loan. If possible requests should be made at least 72 hours in advance, by contacting Wendi at 425-7781 ext. 208.

## American Sign Language Classes

The Sign Language Studies program at the Deaf Action Center resumed classes in basic American Sign Language (ASL) on January 8. Classes are held every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. for a total of 8 weeks (through March 4). According to demand, the Center also offers more advanced

courses in ASL conversation and vocabulary, with specialized training in medical, legal, educational, vocational, and spiritual settings. Students have the option of progressing to an interpreter training program that leads to the examination for national certification.

Classes begin again Tuesday,

May 6, 2008. Interested persons must register in person at the Deaf Action Center or online before May 1. The fee for the basic course is \$135 and includes books, DVDs, educational materials, and a T-shirt illustrating the American Sign Language alphabet.

## Free Amplified Telephones

If you know anyone who is hard of hearing and might benefit from an amplified telephone with large numbers, contact Renee at 425-7781 ext. 207 to make an appointment. Please bring to your appointment:

- 1) driver's license or proof of Louisiana residency, such as electric bill
- 2) copy of hearing test (even if it's old) or a note from your doctor stating that you have clinically significant hearing loss
- 3) date of birth

- 4) social security number
- 5) your name, address, and phone number
- 6) name, address, and phone number of a family member not living with you.

Other Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) may be available, such as visual alert systems for the doorbell, telephone, and alarm clock, voice carry-over telephones (VCOs), and telecommunication devices for the Deaf (TDDs)

## 2008 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of The Deaf Action Center will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18. The 2008 president of the board is Patty Warmack, and vice-president is Gerald Bamburg. Mary Jean Lewis will serve as secretary and Charles Williams as treasurer. We are extremely grateful to our entire 2008 Board (\* denotes Deaf):

Terry Arnold \*  
Gerald Bamburg \*  
Diane Broadwell (new member)  
John Broadwell (new member)  
Joe Brocato  
Connie Brown  
Kelly Bucklew \* (new member)  
Michelle Bucklew \* (new member)  
David Burch \* (new member)  
Cody Campbell \* (new member)  
Steve Carby  
Fred Dupre \* (new member)  
Angie Evans (new member)

Frances Hunter \*  
Jeffrey Kallenberg  
Sandi Kallenberg  
Mary Jean Lewis  
Glenda Mathis \*  
Betty Phillips  
John Roberts \*  
Patsy Stroud  
Doug Sweeney \*  
Irene Sweeney \*  
Keith Todaro  
Patty Warmack \*  
Charles Williams

## Save the date!

We are planning an interagency luncheon for area agencies utilizing our interpreting services or interested in working with the Center. Accessibility requirements as mandated by Federal and State laws will be discussed, as well as, the new VRI program, specific needs regarding the provision of American Sign Language interpreters in various settings and the the procedure for requesting interpreters. As is customary for this event Lunch will be provided. It will be held at noon Thursday, March 13. RSVP at 425-7781.

## Hearing Aid Program

Some Louisiana residents may qualify for free basic hearing aids, depending on:

- 1) annual income
- 2) age (50 or older)
- 3) severity of hearing loss (40 dB or greater in the good ear)
- 4) not already being eligible for state or federal hearing assistance (Medicaid, VA)

Contact the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf at 1-800-256-1523 to be added to the waiting list.

Your connection to current events, registration information and deaf related news!

[www.deafactioncenter.org](http://www.deafactioncenter.org)

Subscribe to our E-Group by sending an email to [DACofLA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DACofLA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### USE TDD OR VP TO CONTACT DAC

We remind the Deaf community to please use our TDD #425-2063 when calling us instead of the Louisiana Relay System. DAC's Video Phone number is 208.42.219.156.

### ARTS AND CRAFTS TEACHER WANTED

Anyone interested in teaching an arts or crafts class at the Center? We are looking for hearing or Deaf instructors. Please call Greg at 425-7781 ext. 210.

These days, email is much more economical than postage. If you would prefer to receive our newsletter via email, let Greg know at [greg@deafactioncenter.org](mailto:greg@deafactioncenter.org).

## Open Call to the Center's Design and Decorations Committee!

The Mardi Gras Krewe of Gemini has offered to make a donation to us in return for help constructing one of their decorative pieces. Everyone who helped with Las Vegas Nite decorations certainly qualifies! Contact Greg or drop by the Center.

## Advanced Workshops for Terps

In an effort to provide training opportunities to our interpreting communities, the Center has scheduled the following two workshops. Other opportunities will be added as plans are finalized.

"So Many Books, So Little Time" is a 3-hr workshop that will provide strategies to prepare for the NAD-RID National Interpreters Certification (NIC) Knowledge Examination. It will be held March 1 from 9 am until noon at the Deaf Action Center in Shreveport at 601 Jordan St. The fee is \$50.

"The Interview: Discussion and Practice" will prepare participants for the NIC Interview and Performance Exam. Also held March 1 at The Deaf Action Center, this 4-hr workshop will be held from 1-5 pm for a fee of \$50. **Both workshops can be taken for \$75.**