 Meet Joshua Libby, President-Elect

“Thank heavens for people like Dr. Cornett and all those who carried the torch for and after him! My entire family cues and understands the system, and I learned Cued Speech through osmosis shortly after becoming profoundly deaf from meningitis at age three-and-a-half. By 4, I could comprehend cues and communicate effectively,” said Joshua Libby, the president-elect of the NCSA.

Joshua, 32, was completely mainstreamed within the public school system in Maine. His speech therapist, Susan Buckland learned how to cue when he was in preschool. She immediately used Cued Speech in speech therapy sessions and Josh credits her with his ability to be completely oral in his life and work in the hearing environment. Josh indicates that a few of his elementary school teachers learned how to cue as well.

“All of my classmates learned the system and cued with me to a certain extent. As my lipreading skills progressed, I became more reliant on lipreading when Cued Speech was not available or being used,” said Josh.

“I had a Teacher Aide named Barbara Woodward from K-7 and then I got my first professional Cued Speech Transliterator (CST) in Dee Forgues, and she opened my eyes to all the environmental and backroom chatter going on in the classroom. I didn’t know people talked while the teacher was talking!! She stayed with me until I graduated from Lincoln Academy in Newcastle, Maine, in 1994.”

Josh received a BS in History and the Law from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. He continued post-grad studies at Boston University where he received a Paralegal Certificate.

First Cueing Family: Breaking Barriers

by Zainab Alkebsi

Grace Consacro and Steve, Lola, Ella, and Max Scher represent a unique family in that all of them are deaf cuers. Steve and Grace have expressed and demonstrated a commitment to raising their three children with avenues of communication readily available to them. To them, Cued Speech was undoubtedly the way they wanted to go.

When the twins, Lola and Ella, were born, the new parents imagined the best for their children. Nothing was going to change that. “We basically had the same expectations that all parents do for their children, I think: our hopes for our children are that they grow up to be happy, healthy, productive adults. When we found out that they were deaf, our expectations didn’t change; we just knew that the path there would change a little bit,” explained Grace.

Of course, that is not to say there were no concerns. “I think our biggest concern for our children early on was getting their communication skills and their language skills up to par,” said the Scher-Consacro Family (Clockwise from Top): Grace, Steve, Lola, Ella, and Max
President’s Message

by Sarina Roffé

As my second presidential term draws to a close, I am proud to hand over the leadership to Joshua Libby, a native deaf cueer from New England, who is as passionate as I am about the NCSA and its role as the international leader in the cueing community.

The bylaws of the association do not allow any one person to stay in a position for more than two terms. As a result, the majority of the existing board is retiring and there will be many new faces among the national leadership. In this newsletter, you will read about Josh and also view the proposed slate for the 2008-2011 term. Having worked with the nomination committee, under the dedicated leadership of Deanna Jordan (Chicago, IL), I am confident that each new person will bring his or her own important contribution to the NCSA.

The NCSA has come a long way in the past six years and we have a tremendous record of accomplishment. In terms of management, we have adopted policies to see that our fiscal house is in order and in 2007 we hired Amy Ruberl as executive director to oversee the day-to-day management of the organization. Under the leadership of Aaron Rose, our entire board structure was revamped in the past year, and the bylaws modified to be in line with our actual operating procedures.

Our investments are secure and growing. NCSA audits show that we have good fiscal health, such that the NCSA proudly carries the prestigious “Best in America” Seal of Excellence from the Independent Charities of America (ICA). Only 2,000 of the one million charities in the U.S. have been awarded the “Best in America” Seal of Excellence from the Independent Charities of America (ICA).

In terms of fundraising, the NCSA prepared a case for giving and with your help has received two federal grants under the appropriations process, as well as a grant from the Newman’s Own Foundation. Our fiscal integrity has not gone unnoticed. As a result of Joan Rupert’s lifetime commitment to CS, the NCSA received a major bequest from the Carol Shuler estate. We have also been able to work with several donors and have received major gifts from our supporters, some directed for designated projects and some for general operating funds.

We have produced two DVDs with a third in production; created a professional exhibit for use at conferences; and written Reflections of Cue Adults, information sheets and other professional level materials that provide research information supporting the use of Cued Speech. Our website was redesigned twice in the past six years and has lots of exciting information that is easy to find. The NCSA also worked...
President’s Message, continued from page 2

with the library at Gallaudet University to launch the R. Orin Cornett Memorial Library, as well as commission his portrait, which will hang in Gallaudet’s new communications center building.

In 2006, the NCSA held a major three-day international conference in Towson, MD, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the development of Cued Speech. We honored Dr. Cornett’s memory and those who have made significant contributions to Cued Speech at a gala dinner. We also held a number of new Cue Camps and workshops, and trained native deaf cuers to become qualified instructors of Cued Speech.

The NCSA organized the Academic Advisory Council, which includes a star-studded list of academics and medical doctors who will provide counsel to the NCSA on a variety of issues. We are also working with international representatives of the CS community to form a World Cueing Alliance. The first meeting was held during the Towson conference, which numerous international representatives attended. The goal of the World Cueing Alliance is to increase our visibility in our home countries by being part of a larger global organization.

The R. Orin Cornett Scholarship and the Carol Schuler Scholarship were both launched in 2006, making another of Dr. Cornett’s dreams come true.

InsCert, our instructor certification process, which ensures that CS is taught with the knowledge of NCSDA standards, has been refined and implemented under the excellent leadership of Dr. Jean Krause of the University of South Florida.

In terms of advocacy, the NCSA is a member of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance, an organization that includes the leadership from many organizations that work with or represent the deaf and hard of hearing community. This organization advocates on behalf of hearing health issues legislation and funding. Joining this alliance helped the NCSA to insert language into the reauthorization of the IDEA pertaining to the provision of educational services using Cued Speech, including, but not limited to, cued language transliterators in the classroom. This important, specific language gives parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing the right to demand Cued Speech when sitting down to develop their child’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The first deaf cuers are now parents themselves. Some of them have deaf children of their own that they are cueing with. The NCSA is now working to fill the needs of these adult deaf parents as well as adult deaf cuers who want services in the workplace and community. The list of things we can do to increase awareness of Cued Speech in both the educational and community environments—if we had the resources—is endless.

To help the NCSA ensure its future, the R. Orin Cornett Legacy Society was launched in 2008. Individuals who intend to include the NCSA in their estate plans are encouraged to let us know of their intentions. This ensures the future of the organization and continued efforts to promote awareness of Cued Speech. I am proud to say that I have included the NCSA in my personal estate plans and invite you to join me to ensure the NCSA’s future.

Remember, the NCSA is YOUR organization. We can only do it with your help.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to lead this GREAT organization.

CFC # 12036

Make a donation to the NCSA’s Deaf Children Literacy Project through the Combined Federal Campaign today!

We Cue! A New Blog
by Barb Ballard

The word blog is an abridged version of the term web log, and is a web site that includes regular entries, commentaries, descriptions of events, and/or other material such as graphics or video. Blog entries are often displayed in reverse chronological order with the newest entry appearing at the top of the page. This reverse chronology makes it easy for visitors to find the most recent posts. While a blog usually provides commentary on a specific topic, it also invites readers to submit their own comments, thereby allowing two-way discussion and interaction with the readers.

In May, a new blog called We Cue! (www.wecue.net) was introduced to the web. Designed to be a contributors’ blog, We Cue! hopes to bring the perspectives of many cueing individuals and families to people looking online for information about Cued Speech. The growing volunteer staff of writers for We Cue! are a mix of individuals who, for personal or professional reasons, have embraced Cued Speech.

Please stop by We Cue!, where you can share your comments and thoughts with our writers. By providing comments to the writers, you help stimulate new ideas that can lead to future posts along the same line of thought. If you are interested in submitting an article as a “guest blogger,” please contact me at editor@wecue.net. Thanks!
New Board Members

**Linda Polk** is the mother of Allison Kaftan, a prelingually deaf cuer and Marmee of Leah, a deaf cuer and signer. Introduced to cueing by Dr. R. Orin Cornett and Cathy Quenin, past NCSA president, Linda has been cueing for over 24 years. She also previously served as the treasurer of the Maryland Cued Speech Association.

Linda received her B.S. in Management Information Systems from the University of Arizona and has two hearing children; Lara Hennessey, 20, and John Hennessey, 18.

**Jane Smith** has over 30 years experience working with the deaf. She is a Communication Specialist and a Cochlear Implant Consultant in Montgomery County Public schools in Maryland. She has used Cued Speech with deaf children for over 20 years. She has a master’s degree in deaf education from Teachers College at Columbia University and 60 hours of post-graduate work, including a Certificate in Auditory Learning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Steve Scher** is a native cuer who grew up in Rockville, MD, and graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park. After college, he worked in public relations, most recently for the National Captioning Institute. He is married to a fellow native cuer, Grace Consacro. In addition to being the president of the Maryland Cued Speech Association, Steve is a stay-at-home dad to his three children, three-year-old twin daughters and an infant son. Steve is proud to say all three children are being raised using Cued Speech—and well on their way to being proficient cuers!

**Susan Price** is a Coordinator with the Parent Outreach Program at Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB). She is responsible for coordinating services for families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth–three years old in the southern region of Arizona.

Susan is a teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, having earned her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary and Special Education at the University of Delaware. She earned her Master’s degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University. Susan began her experience with Cued Speech in 1982 in southeastern Pennsylvania, where she worked for two years with a child and family using Cued Speech.

She has also worked as a resource room teacher for cueing children in Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, then as a Parent-Infant educator serving all families using cued, signed and oral communication. In Arizona, she has taught Cued Speech

**Esther Rimer** is a native cuer who was introduced to Cued Speech at age four. She became profoundly deaf after contracting meningitis at age two. She is a native of South Carolina, where she currently resides. She graduated in 2007 with a BA in Liberal Arts from Wellesley College near Boston, MA. She hopes to become a bona-fide archaeologist in the near future. In the meantime, she is currently working towards becoming an NCSA-certified instructor of Cued Speech.
classes and conducted workshops at the University of Arizona, Pima Community College and with the Center for Hearing Impaired Children at ASDB.

Lisa Weiss is a Colorado native who has been living in the New York City area for the last 12 years. She is an attorney who practiced as a litigator for the City of New York before having her children. Lisa and her husband, Terence Tucker (also a Colorado native), have three adorable boys, 6-year-old twins (Max and Cole) and an almost 3-year-old (Heath). Max has auditory neuropathy, which led them to Chuck Berlin, an audiologist and expert on auditory neuropathy. They learned about Cued Speech from Dr. Berlin, and have been cueing since Max was diagnosed at the age of three. Lisa looks forward to working with a growing community of cuers in the Rocky Mountain region.

Winner of 2008 R. Orin Cornett Scholarship
The NCSA is proud to announce the winner of the 2008 R. Orin Cornett Scholarship, Jennifer Godsey. Read her article on page 11 or check out the Press Release at http://www.cuedspeech.org/PDF/press/08CornettWinner.pdf
Cued Speech Transliterator Positions Available

Montgomery County Public Schools
Hours: 65 hours biweekly with opportunities for additional hours
Pay Rate: $20.12 to $27.56 Depending on experience and qualifications
Date of Employment: August 22, 2008
Contact:
Cheryl Lee, Interpreter Coordinator
Office of Interpreting Services – Deaf/ Hard of Hearing Program
Rockville High School,
2100 Baltimore Road
Rockville, MD 20851
Phone: 301-279-3791
Fax: 301-279-3791
Email: Cheryl_L_Lee@mcpsmd.org

Intermediate District 287 Service Center (Plymouth, Minnesota)
Hours: 35 hours per week
Pay Rate: $13.80 - $24.29 Depending on experience and qualifications
Date of Employment: August 2008
Contact:
Mitch Cooper
1820 Xenium Lane N
Plymouth, MN 55441
Email: hr@district287.org
District Web Site: http://www.district287.org/

CUED SPEECH USERS NEEDED

To participate in lipreading and Cued Speech perception experiments.
House Ear Institute, 2100 W. Third St., Los Angeles, California 90057
$10.00/hour – behavioral

Requirements:
• Age 18-40
• Learned Cued Speech as deaf children
• Normal or corrected-to-normal vision
• American English as a native language

For more information and to schedule an appointment, Please call (213) 353-7038 or email to echao@hei.org
Co-directors Kristin Bergholtz and Sarah Moragne settled on a fitting theme for CCNY: “Dr. Seuss.” The rhetoric genius’ books revolved around social issues and raised many sundry ethical issues that are integral to child development.

One of Seuss’s lessons of compromise is reflected in a story about two respective North and South-going Zaxes, who meet in the Prairie of Prax and refuse to budge for one another. Then there are the Sneetches, which shows discrimination between those with stars upon their bellies and those without. In The Lorax, a little boy learns about the toll taken on the environment due to a greedy Once-ler’s need for “thneed,” and takes the initiative to plant a new Truffala seed in order to avert the damage.

To exercise strength, there comes a time when thrusting oneself into unfamiliar territory must become as routine as putting on a pair of shoes. In a quest to leave my accustomed surroundings in the small town of Gaithersburg, MD, behind, CCNY engaged me in my newest self-discovery. Sure, Cued Speech gave me the passion for reading and my current pursuit of a doctorate degree in English—but more than just giving me the ability to escape into an exciting novel, Cued Speech gave me a home where my heart is. I flew into Rochester June 13, not recognizing any of the names on the camp list.

Somewhat apprehensive about the idea of going to a new camp at a new location, my pre-camp jitters dissipated when I saw Steve Bergholtz’s friendly face at the airport.

Shortly after arriving at Nazareth College, I walked into my class of 8-10 year olds Friday afternoon and was introduced to the teacher, Stacy Barry. Soon accompanied by fellow teacher assistants, Bridgette Burt and Valerie Centola, it wasn’t long before I felt like I had known the teacher, parents and students for a lifetime. It was truly a learning experience for us all, as each of us watched parents, teenagers and children—hearing, deaf, hearing impaired and language-delayed alike, make outstanding progress. One child in my class, initially having no language a few years ago before he moved to the US from China, made exceptional progress with his speech and receptive skills over the course of the weekend.

One of my favorite events of the weekend was the camp show, which featured each level and age group performing a skit, song or poem using Cued Speech. The “Cued Speech” rendition of Green Eggs and Ham by Jill Burress and Marissa Kleisley brought laughter mixed with tears. A four-year old girl who has CHARGE syndrome, is tube-fed, deaf, and has some facial paralysis, ran around the stage during the slideshow that Kristin and Sarah’s husbands created as the finale of the show, making a delightful scene as her father taped her.

I also enjoyed conversing with parents in the adult-parent panel about my experience with Cued Speech. Brian Kelly and Nicole Dugan were the two other deaf adult cuer panelists. One parent asked what not to do when raising a deaf child, and Nicole’s response (paraphrased) was: “When a child wants to do something that may seem out of reach, never tell a child that he or she ‘can’t.’” It goes without saying that she’s right.

Our support for Dr. Cornett’s gift of improving literacy, blurring the divisive line between the deaf and hearing, and giving children the choice to be able to communicate with and understand

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**Thank you to our donors**

**General Fund**
- Amy & Rob Landis
- Michael & Debbie Naso
- John & Kathy Nice
- Jerry & Teri Poore
- Sarina & David Roffé
- Barry Scher

**Conferences/Conventions**
- The Ronald & Mary Ann Lachman Foundation

**Kris Wilson Fund**
- Cherry Wilson
- Dan Wilson

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Championing effective communication, language acquisition and literacy through the use of Cued Speech.
AG Bell Convention 2008: Planting the Seeds for Change
by Aaron Rose

Nearly 1500 AG Bell members came together at the Midwest Airlines Center in Milwaukee, WI, for the biannual Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing International Convention. The AG Bell association promotes developing spoken language through listening and talking. Historically advocates for oral deaf education, AG Bell recently began a partnership with the National Cued Speech Association by supporting Cued Speech as a way to provide access to spoken language visually while still promoting its own mission of listening and talking.

Representatives of the Cued Speech community attended the convention, with several presenting short courses and concurrent sessions. Barbara LeBlanc and Jane Smith presented a short course titled “Building Blocks: Listening Skills and Intelligible Speech.” Barbara Lee headlined the short course “Fostering Critical Links Between Early and Complex Language.” Both courses featured the use of Cued Speech in language and speech development.

In Barbara Lee’s short course, attendees studied the Lahey Developmental Language model, observed video footage of children at various levels, and analyzed language samples.

Barbara LeBlanc engaged the audience by teaching them Cued Speech. Jane Smith said, “Many of those who did come were changed by the information and will look to Cued Speech in the future.”

Along with the concurrent sessions that took place throughout the convention, Dr. Donna Morere, a parent of a deaf cuer, presented her session, “Supporting Auditory Oral Language Development with Cued Speech.” The emphasis within the presentation was that multi-modal input may facilitate oral language skills. She included a brief review of research into the cognitive processes revolving around language development.

Historically, attendance by deaf cuers at the AG Bell conventions has been minimal, but this year, a well-rounded contingent appeared.

Louisiana Cuers Present at LSHA’s 60th Anniversary Convention
by Barbara LeBlanc


Barbara LeBlanc, a retired public school speech-language pathologist and currently a speech pathology and educational consultant, describe the what, why, and how of Cued Speech and taught part of the Cued Speech system to the audience. Graduate students from Louisiana’s different universities chose this presentation mostly to see what CS is, how to do it and, most of all, to hear an adult cuer talk about its benefits. The audience was very receptive and enthusiastic throughout the presentation.

Denise Taylor, a Monroe, LA, private speech pathologist and Penny Hakim, mom of young adult cuer, Abraham Hakim, presented a single Cued Speech success case. Ms. Taylor described how she used Cued Speech easily while applying the Ling speech-training model, the Bloom and Lahey language development model, and the DASL II auditory training program with Abraham Hakim.

Abraham developed meningitis when he was 13 months old. At the age of 24 months, he was the first child in the Monroe area to have a cochlear implant. Penny and Denise described the process of finding the professionals that would model what needed to be done, since these specialized therapies and Cued Speech were not available in the Monroe area at that time. Both Denise and Penny shared old movies of speech therapy sessions, school activities and family events.

Penny shared her trials and tribulations finding help from her family members.

AG Bell Convention, continued on page 9
Louisiana Cuers, continued on page 9
with some participating in various functions. Catharine McNally took part in the panel, “Living with Bilateral Cochlear Implants: Adults Speak Out.” Danielle Paquin served as a facilitator with the LOFT program (Leadership Opportunities for Teens), while Mary-Beth Robie helped with the Cued Speech booth in the Exhibit Hall. Brian Kelly, a long-time AG Bell member, also attended the convention.

Hema and Anand Nakval came to the convention to meet with cuers and discuss their adaption of Cued Speech for Marathi, one of the primary languages used in India. Hailing from Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India, the Nakvals are teaching Cued Speech to school educators and parents in their region. Many of the cuers met with the Nakvals, sharing their perspective and experiences with advocating and teaching Cued Speech.

This year, some cuers observed that attendance amongst families and deaf adults were lower than past years, but according to Brian Kelly, “to the best of my memory, [the presence of cuers] was much bigger than any of the past conventions I have attended since 1994.” He also commented that “it would be really fantastic if more cuers show up at the 2010 convention in Orlando to show the world about Cued Speech.” The next AG Bell convention will take place June 25-28, 2010, in Orlando, Florida.

Living throughout Louisiana, finding Dr. Charles Berlin in New Orleans, attending Cue Camp Cheerio and learning Cued Speech. Penny described how Cued Speech was so appropriate for her Louisiana culture, raising her son with his three siblings, enjoying a very close family with its traditions and being able to be herself when she used Cued Speech to raise her son just like his other siblings. Penny described her son as a risk-taker and how she tries to remain his best supporter without limiting his opportunities.

Abraham described how he was most often the only one who used Cued Speech, especially when he was in public school. Abraham was mainstreamed beginning at age 6 years old and has had a Cued Speech transliterator from kindergarten all the way through high school. (Abraham graduated 8th in his class.) He described how using Cued Speech allowed him to learn like the other students and how his fellow peers and teachers treated him just like anyone else at school or in his community. He also described how difficult it is to update CI processors and how he always has Cued Speech to fill in what he has to relearn to hear.

He currently attends Tulane University in New Orleans and is in the advanced architecture degree program and is passionate about this major. He also explained that he has not requested a Cued Speech transliterator because he feels his reading and academic abilities allow him to effectively use real-time captioning and he also has access to the written notes. He prefers not to take notes during class but instead to listen to the professors and class discussions and refer to the notes later. His professors are allowing all of the students to correspond via email for extra explanation and study notes. Although Abraham does not have a CST, his girlfriend learned to cue. Abraham, with continuous family support, keeps up with the latest assistive listening and computer devices but he knows when all else fails, there is always Cued Speech.

AG Bell Convention, continued from page 8

Calendar

2008

August 2008

Cue Camp New England (7/30 - 8/3)
Governor Baxter School of the Deaf, Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME
Contact: Nicole Dobson at ncldobson@yahoo.com

September 2008

Professional Workshop (9/12 - 9/14)
University of Alberta, Canada

Cue Camp Virginia (9/25 - 9/28)
Jamestown 4-H Center, Williamsburg, VA
Contact: Rosemary Salvi and Maureen Bellamy at nvcsa@yahoo.com

Basic Instructor Workshop (10/24 - 10/25)
Montgomery County, MD

NCSA Board Meeting (10/24 - 10/26)
Montgomery County, MD

Instructor Certification Exam (10/26)
Montgomery County, MD

2009

March 2009

Basic Instructor Workshop (3/27 - 3/28)
Baton Rouge, LA

NCSA Board Meeting (3/27 - 3/29)
Baton Rouge, LA

Instructor Certification Meeting (3/29)
Baton Rouge, LA

October 2009

Basic Instructor Workshop (10/23 - 10/24)
Portland, ME

NCSA Board Meeting (10/23 - 10/25)
Portland, ME

Instructor Certification Meeting (10/25)
Portland, ME
A Wedding and A Reunion
by Sarina Roffé

It was a beautiful May wedding. The bride and groom were both glowing, and parents Dr. Paul and Susan Van Nice, stood proud as 150 friends and relatives looked on. To me, it was more than a wedding; it was a reunion and also the culmination of the years of raising cue kids.

On May 31, 2008, national board member Scott Alexander Van Nice married Rebekah Zuravel at Christ Church in Washington, DC. Even though he is not my biological son, as my son Simon’s friend since preschool, I have watched Scott grow from a disheveled boy to a wonderful young man who graduated from RIT, and is about to graduate from Northern Kentucky Law School.

Scott, Simon and Todd Goldberg were all in the Cued Speech program in Montgomery County, MD, when it began in 1979. Shane Feldman is two years younger and came to the program a year or so later.

The four boys grew up together, attending Flower Valley Elementary School. Their preschool and resource room teacher, Barbara Williams-Scott, was also at the wedding, along with Todd’s parents, Marcia and David Goldberg. All four boys attended Wood Middle School. Todd and Scott both attended Rockville HS along with Shane, who attended in his junior and senior year. The boys have remained close all these years. As parents, we have long since lost touch. We all enjoyed being reunited at the wedding, reminiscing about the old days and feeling full of pride at the accomplishments of the boys.

There are many stories I can tell about the boys growing up, but after a conversation with Scott during the reception, I will relay this one. Scott was the only one of the four boys who was not Jewish. Several times a year, Shane, Simon and Todd would get together under the auspices of a Jewish deaf youth group operated by the National Council of Synagogue Youth called Our Way.

They also all attended Hebrew School a few times a week after school.

Once a year the three boys went away on an Our Way retreat weekend. Scott told me he always felt left out because his friends were away having a good time without him. One year, he even pretended to be Jewish so he could join the boys, immersing in Orthodox Jewish religion and culture. Over the years, Scott attended many Jewish functions including Shane, Todd and Simon’s bar mitzvahs (where a Jewish boy enters manhood) and weddings. Scott said he always felt left out.

During the magnificent reception at the Sulgrave Club in DC, the three boys decided to give Scott a Jewish blessing. Simon asked the band to play a hora – a celebratory circle dance played at bar mitzvahs and weddings. The song tune is Hava Nagilah and people dance in a circle around the bride and groom, who are in the center. Others join the middle to dance with them and congratulate them. At the height of the dance, the bride and groom are lifted in chairs above the crowd. A handkerchief is held by the bride and grabbed by the groom to show that the married couple is now one.

As a celebratory dance, the hora fills the room with excitement and embraces everyone and really can make a party. For Scott and Rebekah, the dance roused the crowd and filled the room with energy. And what is a party if not a celebration? After the dance, with tears in their eyes, the parents of both the bride and groom came to thank us for giving Scott and Rebekah such a wonderful blessing. Scott’s glowing bride Rebekah, an ASL interpreter, comes from a large and loving extended family that largely appreciated the blessing.

I am filled with pride at Scott and his accomplishments. In a small way, I feel I had a part in his growing up. An employee of Proctor & Gamble in Cincinnati, OH, Scott is in his last semester of law school and has a bright and promising future ahead of him. Of course, Cued Speech played a big part in the success of all four boys. Each was fully mainstreamed from kindergarten on, used Cued Speech transliterators, had the services of a cueing speech therapist, Jane Smith, and a resource room teacher (Barbara Williams-Scott most of the time). All four went on to graduate college and establish a career.

Where are the four ‘boys’ today?

Shane Feldman graduated from RIT. Formerly the editor of NAD magazine, he is now head of customer service at Viable, a video relay service. Shane and his wife Julie have a daughter, Sabine, and their second child, Elliott “Eli” Tibbitt Feldman, was born June 15.

Todd Goldberg holds a master’s degree in social work from Ohio State, works as a social worker at Family Services Foundation and is married with three daughters.

Simon has a degree from New York University and is working at a career in real estate. He is also married and has a daughter, my namesake, Sarina Eileen.

Barbara Williams-Scott, their teacher, now lives and works in Fairfax County where she teaches children with autism.

This was not just a wedding. It was a reunion and a bridge to the future of four cueing boys, their careers and families. It was a tribute to Dr. Cornett, who planted the seeds of success in each of the boys when he developed Cued Speech.
Developments in Cued Speech Technology
by Julie Verhoff

The Communication Neuroscience Laboratory at the House Ear Institute, Los Angeles, California, is engaged in several projects involving Cued Speech. The research team includes Lynne E. Bernstein, Ph.D., Jintao Jiang, Ph.D., and Julie Verhoff, Au.D.

Cued Speech Synthesis System

Widespread access to Cued Speech training is one goal of a project being led by Jintao Jiang, Ph.D., with support from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Another goal is to promote literacy in deaf children. In order to accomplish these goals, Dr. Jiang is developing a computer-based system that will automatically generate cues and combine them with video of a person who is talking. When fully realized, this system will be capable of generating unlimited Cued Speech materials for training cuers and for use with children. The system will be available as a web-based application. At present, the first generation of the system is being evaluated with adults.

Because Cued Speech uses a small set of hand gestures, cue generation is a tractable problem for a computer-based system. However, because cues are produced in relationship to speech, achieving a system that can generate unlimited materials implies that unlimited video of someone talking is also needed. This problem cannot be solved by merely making video recordings, as far too much recorded material would be needed. The solution to this problem will likely be a computer-generated talking face. Therefore, another project in the Communication Neuroscience Laboratory is the development of an artificial talker that produces naturalistic speech gestures. This work is being led by Dr. Bernstein, who has a long-term research program on visual speech perception (lipreading/speechreading) by deaf and hearing adults.

The researchers in the Communication Neuroscience Laboratory are also very interested in the possibility that users

Spring Camp Cheerio: Making Connections
by Jennifer Godsey

My foremost and favorite memory of Camp Cheerio is the stone sign located behind the cafeteria. It is the first thing that I saw and loved. I remember playing on it as a child as well as taking pictures with my parents back then.

Now, 13 years later, I look at that stone sign and smile. Unfortunately, I’m too old to play on it. I did, however, participate in other activities and met old and new friends, just as I had done as a child.

This year, I was honored to assist Beverly Elwell with the Book Fair. It was exciting to see children of all ages so passionate about reading. I even had the opportunity to meet young deaf cuers reading two grade levels above their enrolled grade. It makes me happy to see that deaf cuers are getting the educational opportunities to advance through school. When Beverly read a book about owls, the children huddled together as the plot thickened. I noticed that all the children were able to hear her voice change throughout the story, which pleased me.

As Barbara read the story, I realized that our lives are like a journey through books. We are all faced with different challenges, choices and obstacles in life.

In addition to working with the Book Fair, I participated in Barbara Lee’s Cued Speech class. Four other cuers and I demonstrated cueing as well as shared our experiences growing up with Cued Speech. Many of the participants in the class were intrigued by our experiences and how Cued Speech impacted our lives both socially and verbally.

While attending the cueing classes, I met some people learning how to cue. Later that night, I joined them during dinner and then hung out with them throughout the night. I showed them more cueing, and they taught me some signs.

I also got a chance to go bowling with some of the college-age deaf cuers. It was fun, and I met some who are already enrolled or will be attending the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I enjoyed that part of the camp experience most because I will be going to UNCG this fall and I love surrounding myself with a diverse group of friends.

My experiences at Camp Cheerio were memorable and fun. This is a camp that I would recommend to everyone of all ages, whether they are hearing or deaf. Not only is the scene breathtaking, the camp is full of cuers who are trying to make a change in the lives of deaf children, adults and their families.
Ways You Can Help the NCSA Stay Strong

The National Cued Speech Association has grown up! Now operating in its 26th year, the NCSA has a proud record of accomplishment and strong fiscal integrity. Our operations include scholarships, supporting Cue Camps, working with state and federal legislators on laws that include Cued Speech so cuers can obtain the needed services in their school districts, working to assure that qualified personnel work with students and adults, spreading the word about cueing to teachers and service providers, and so much more!

As an established 501(c)3 under the Internal Revenue Service, your gifts to the NCSA are tax deductible. And we care for your gifts using sound financial policy. The NCSA is proud to have received the Best in America Seal from Independent Charities of America (awarded to fewer than 1 percent of non-profits in America)

In order for the NCSA to stay financially strong and continue carrying on the mission Dr. R. Orin Cornett dreamed about 42 years ago, we must ensure that we continue operating long into the future. We hope you can help!

How You Can Help the NCSA Stay Strong!

Unrestricted gifts are among the most valuable to National Cued Speech Association, because they allow the Board of Directors to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. Your unrestricted contribution may be used to support costs associated with Cue Camps, camp and academic scholarships, training programs, outreach to universities and much more.

Directed gifts allow you to designate your gift to a specific project. When you make a directed gift to NCSA, you enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a project that is personally meaningful to you. Please call the NCSA office to discuss possible projects we are seeking to fund.

Gifts can be designated for current use or to increase the NCSA Laird Endowment Fund. Current-use gifts provide funds and flexibility over the short term, whereas endowment gifts provide security over the long term by creating a stable source of income for such things operating expenses, scholarships, teaching materials and conducting seminars at schools and universities.

Types of Gifts

Matching-Gift Programs

An easy way to double or even triple your donation to the NCSA is to find out if your company has a matching-gift program. Such programs typically match all or a percentage of employee contributions to charitable organizations, making the employer a partner in employees’ personal philanthropy. Simply obtain a matching-gift form from your employer’s personnel office, fill it out, and provide it to the NCSA with your contribution.

Gift Pledges

The NCSA welcomes your gift through a pledge—a formal statement of intention to make a gift to the organization. With a pledge, you may complete your gift by making regular payments over time, allowing you to give more generously than you originally may have considered. What is more, each payment on your pledge is eligible for an income-tax charitable deduction.

Outright Gifts

When you make an outright gift to NCSA, your contribution can be put to work immediately—either by providing funding for current programs or by creating a reliable source of future income by expanding our endowment. An outright gift may be composed of almost any asset of value:

• Cash gifts — the simplest and easiest gifts you can make — can be made through credit/debit card transactions, outright cash, or personal checks, cashier’s checks, or money orders made payable to the NCSA.

• Gifts of appreciated securities, stocks, and bonds also provide considerable tax advantages when transferred to NCSA before they are sold. If you have held your securities for more than one year, you may find that your gift will provide a twofold tax benefit, creating an income-tax deduction as well as helping avoid the capital-gains tax that would have been due on their sale.

If you wish to transfer stocks from a broker’s account:

- Have your broker call the NCSA Office for further details and information.

If you wish to make a gift of physical securities on hand:

- Physical stock certificates may be sent to the NCSA, 5619 McLean Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814 by certified mail or overnight express, with endorsement on the back of the certificate(s) exactly as stated on the face of the certificate(s). Do not fill in any other blanks. No stock power is necessary as long as you do not fill in the NCSA’s name on the back.

You also may make a gift of mutual funds, non-marketable stock, or closely held stock. Contact the NCSA Office for information about giving these types of securities.

Bequests

A bequest to the National Cued Speech Association allows you to extend the impact that Cued Speech has had on the lives of your family or friends. While many are able to give generously during their lifetimes, others find satisfaction in knowing that the legacy they leave in their estate will allow the NCSA to give the gift of language, communication and literacy to cuers and their families in the future. Individuals who let us know their intention to leave the NCSA with a bequest become members of the R. Orin Cornett Legacy Society. See http://www.cuedspeech.org/sub/about/legacy.asp for more information.
A bequest to the National Cued Speech Association allows you to extend the impact that Cued Speech has had on the lives of your family or friends. While many are able to give generously during their lifetimes, others find satisfaction in knowing that the legacy they leave in their estate will allow the NCSA to give the gift of language, communication and literacy to cuers and their families in the future.

Make the dream of language, communication and literacy part of your legacy by remembering the National Cued Speech Association in your estate plans. Leaving a gift for future generations of cuers can be as easy as adding a codicil to your will. You can give a specific amount, a percentage or the residue of your estate. You can even name the National Cued Speech Association as a contingent beneficiary.

A charitable bequest allows individuals to retain use of and control over their assets during their lifetime and remains fully revocable. To expedite your good intentions, here’s a recommended clause for making an outright, unrestricted bequest to the National Cued Speech Association:

“I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the National Cued Speech Association, a not-for-profit corporation, having its principal offices at 5619 McLean Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814, (insert description of gift) to be used for its general, charitable and educational purposes.”

Retirement Assets
If you leave your retirement plan assets (such as an IRA) to your heirs they may be taxed twice. After the assets are diminished by inheritance taxes, they may be further reduced by the income tax your heirs will have to pay on what they receive! You can stop the “Incredible Shrinking IRA” by naming the NCSA as the beneficiary and leaving other assets to your heirs.

When you make this charitable gift, the death benefit qualifies for a charitable deduction from your estate and 100% of the assets pass to the National Cued Speech Association without being taxed. Your heirs may benefit from this arrangement because they can receive other assets, which are not as highly taxed.

Bequests are the final expression of a life of caring and concern. Express yourself now by making a gift for the future.
First Cueing Family, continued from page 14

couple. However, thanks to the Schers’ methods, the twins are currently age-appropriate and meeting all benchmarks for three-year-olds. “They recently transitioned from early intervention services to the preschool program and the various testing that they went through all showed age-appropriate to above-appropriate receptive, expressive, and cognitive development,” clarified Grace. Can this be attributed to Cued Speech? The Schers seem to think so. “That was confirmation, to us, that what we had done previously worked. We just want them to continue down the path they are on,” they said.

Exactly what did the Schers do? They took it one step at a time. The twins were implanted at 18 months at Johns Hopkins. “We were a little nervous about [them] undergoing surgery, but we knew the rewards would ultimately be well worth the risks, particularly at a facility like Hopkins, which is one of the leading cochlear implant (CI) programs, and it has since proved to be a great decision for our family,” said the couple.

The rewards were apparent. They were cueing before the implant but tended to do so without their voices. Post-implantation, Lola and Ella added a lot of vocalization to their cues. In addition to improvements in hearing auditory information, improvements in their speech occurred as well. “Their speech intelligibility has developed nicely which is a bonus. The point of implantation was to aid language development and to add environmental sounds for safety’s sake. The fact that they have nice speech is a bonus but isn’t why we undertook the surgery. They now use their audition well but we still cue everything we say, and they need it for clarification and when we are adding new words to their vocabularies,” explained Grace.

In fact, Lola’s and Ella’s first words were “shoe” for both (“which proves that a love of shoes is genetic!” said their mother) and their names respectively...or name approximations rather; “Ella’s cue for herself was the “E” handshape at the chin and Lola’s first cue for herself was the “L” handshape, and also at the chin. They added movements to those cues later on. This was at 9 months to 12 months,” clarified Grace.

Now at this point in their journey, Lola and Ella are typical 3-year-olds having fun. “They love art, dress-up, being read to, ‘reading’ their favorite books to us—really books they’ve just memorized, but they THINK they’re reading—and running around singing and dancing and being noisy. They also like pestering their baby brother,” said their proud parents.

In raising their three children, Steve and Grace have divided the responsibilities. Explained Grace, “Steve is the stay at home parent. I’m working full time as a teacher but I’m fortunate in that my schedule allows me plenty of family time. We basically split the responsibilities 50-50 and we both feel that we are equals in terms of encouraging cues and communication and language development.”

Steve and Grace have also faced challenges in raising twins and becoming more aggressive in cueing regularly and consistently. “Aside from the obvious challenges of having twins, the first task that was before us was for Steve and [me] to change our communication mode. Prior to the girls’ birth, we rarely—if ever—cued to each other. We had to change our mindset and really cue, not only directly to the girls but to each other so that the girls would pick up information from us ‘indirectly’.”

Furthermore, they faced criticism from others for their decision to use cueing from birth. “Fortunately, for as many people we had tell us that we should try to use sign first or as a ‘bridge’ option, we had people telling us that we were doing just the right thing and that kept us going. Steve was the champion the whole way too,” lauded Grace.

The proud parents have many fond memories, but one related to Cued Speech was a milestone for them. The twins “first demonstrated to us that they could understand what we were saying via cues by responding to us saying ‘pattycake’ with clapping their hands and saying ‘where is...’ by looking at the person named, and then the ‘So Big’ game—raising their hands to show how big they were when we cued ‘How big are you?’ They were 9 or 10 months old at this time. Now it seems obvious in retrospect that they were getting and understanding what we were saying but remember, this was fairly new ground. So the first proof that language could develop naturally via CS was tremendously exciting!” exclaimed Grace.

The cueing community has hailed Lola and Ella as prime successes, and Max is soon to follow. When asked about the community’s reactions, the parents replied, “Gosh, that is an interesting question. Maybe we’re oblivious to that. We don’t know exactly that we know the community’s reaction. We are just happy that we have finally won over our parent-infant teacher—somewhat. I think we’re just trying hard to be good parents the only way we know how and of course it’s gratifying that our kids are turning out well and part of that is due to hard work on our part and part of that is due to pure sheer luck, I think.”

However, members of the cueing community are quick to praise Steve and Grace. Hilary Franklin warmly noted that “the willingness of Steve and Grace to allow their children to be videotaped for research is nothing short of outstanding. Their girls proved that cued language input can be decoded as early as 9 months of age, possibly sooner, and that expressive cued language can soon follow. Theoretically, we all knew this was possible, but to see it happen and be able to show the process to others is just icing on the cake.”

Aaron Rose also had nothing but warm praise. “As the world’s first family composed of deaf cuers, the Scher-Consacro family has a lot of eyes on
Meet Joshua Libby, continued from page 1

A former board member, Josh has many qualities he can bring to the presidency.

According to current NCSA President Sarina Roffe, “I have worked hard during the past six years to see the NCSA grow and it was important to me that we choose the right person to continue to keep the NCSA growing.

“I feel confident that the NCSA is in good hands with Josh at the helm. He shows excellent leadership skills, understands non-profit management, understands the need for fundraising, and is willing to put in the time needed to keep the organization growing along the same path we have worked so hard to achieve.

“Josh has a great sense of humor; everyone loves and respects him. As a native deaf cuer, he understands the needs of the deaf adult (cueing) community. He is married to a CS transliterator and understands the role and importance of cueing standards.

And, as a parent of a Downs child, he now understands the educational process and all the challenges faced by parents. I think Josh has all the right qualities needed to move the NCSA forward.”

Joshua Libby

And the NCSA has played a part in Josh’s life, he said. “I have been involved with the NCSA for my whole life, and have always believed that Cued Speech is a valuable tool to be employed to increase the reading levels of deaf children. I have been involved in the NCSA in the leadership level for some time now, and I understand the process of decision making within the NCSA, and I believe the NCSA is the standard bearer for Cued Speech.”

As president, Josh hopes to continue to bring in funding from grants, further the research and development of Cued Speech related projects and increase the profile of Cued Speech in academia.

“My ultimate goal is to get every speech therapist, pathologist, audiologist and anyone working with deaf children to be aware that Cued Speech exists and to consider using it in their profession if it fits the needs of their client. I would also like to work on building strong partnerships and relationships with other people in the country and abroad, to form a strong partnership and pursue the formation of a World Cueing Alliance begun during the NCSA Conference in 2006, where we can create a global awareness program.

“I would also like to envision furthering our research and possible involvement with the Down Syndrome Congress, as I have a beautiful daughter who has Down Syndrome and my wife and I have been using Cued Speech with her and we believe she is proof that Cued Speech can expedite the motor and verbal skills of children with Downs.

Currently, Josh works as a Title Examiner for the law firm of Gilmartin, Magence & Ross LLP with offices in Boston and Newton MA, one of the premier boutique real estate firms in Massachusetts. His expertise is in property title examination and in resolving complex title issues related to real estate property.

“I enjoy all the big condominium projects and developer projects going on, I visit all the courthouses and registries and am the main liaison between the firm and Land Court, so a significant portion of my work is done in the field.”

Josh’s favorite hobby is glassblowing. He loves to read (wouldn’t Dr. Cornett love to know that!) and write and enjoys baseball, tennis and golf.

Championing effective communication, language acquisition and literacy through the use of Cued Speech.
On Cue, Vol. 22, No.2
On Cue, the newsletter of the National Cued Speech Association, is published three times a year; e-mail updates to members are more frequent. Letters to the Editor must include contact information of the author. The Editor reserves the right to select those letters to be published and to edit for length and language. News, calendar, items, letters, classified ads, and photos are needed! Electronic transmission of all materials is preferred. Electronic photos must be high-resolution at 300 dpi.

Send to Aaron Rose, Editor, at oncue@cuedspeech.org or mail hard copy to:
On Cue
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Bethesda MD 20814-1021

Canterbury Woods Cue Carnival

On Wednesday, June 11, Canterbury Woods Elementary School in Fairfax, VA, held its first annual Cue Carnival. Canterbury Woods lived up to its reputation for Cued Speech immersion, as the purpose of the Carnival was to reward all students who had become an active part of the school’s cueing community during the 2007-8 school year. Carnival activities included face painting, games, relays, challenges, a moon bounce, snacks, and a dance.

Approximately 120 students attended the Cue Carnival, including deaf cuers, members of the school’s popular Cue Club, and those who committed to a weekly “Cue In The Room” program throughout the school year.

The Cue Carnival was the brainchild of the Canterbury Woods Lead Transliterator, Beth Blair. With help from the Deaf/HOH staff, including teachers, CLTs, instructional assistants, the audiologist and many helpful volunteers, the Cue Carnival has become an event that will be anticipated for years to come.