

Celebrating International Week of the Deaf

September 23-28, 2018

Bethany Beach Area

**Hosted by Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens and
The Delaware Association of the Deaf**

The Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens and the Delaware Association of the Deaf will celebrate the International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf) in the Bethany Beach area during the week of September 23-28, 2018 and will feature daily events that showcase American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Culture. The International Week of the Deaf is celebrated around the world during the last week of September to bring awareness of sign languages and the rights of deaf people worldwide. The theme of the 2018 IWDeaf is “With Sign Language Everyone is Included” and highlights the importance and recognition of sign languages. It emphasizes that sign languages and a vibrant deaf culture strengthen multiculturalism and multilingualism.

The week will begin at the Dagsboro Days coffee shop by marking the inaugural International Day of Sign Languages, sanctioned by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated by the World Federation of the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf and its state associations.

Other events during the week include a reception and presentation on Deaf culture, a children’s story hour in ASL, and two ASL classes at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach. A highlight of the week will be a showing of the documentary film *Through Deaf Eyes* at The Clayton Theatre in Dagsboro, followed by a panel discussion led by professors from Gallaudet University.

Numerous area businesses are supporting the week’s events. A schedule of events and descriptions of each event is attached. For more information on IWDeaf see <http://wfdeaf.org/news/theme-for-international-day-of-sign-languages-and-international-week-of-the-deaf-2018/> The Facebook page for Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1724871114214301/> The Delaware Association of the Deaf Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/delawaredeaf/>

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PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF (IWDeaf)

September 23-28, 2018

Day/Time	Location	Event
SUNDAY 9/23 11:00 am–1:00 pm	Dagsboro Days Coffee Shop 33103 Main St. Dagsboro	Celebrate International Day of Sign Languages, American Sign Language (ASL) Coffee Chat
MONDAY 9/24 2:00-5:00 pm	South Coastal Library 43 Kent Ave. Bethany Beach	Opening Reception Remarks by Billy Bowman, President of Delaware Association of the Deaf, and Mike Childs, President of Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens Presentation: “Deaf Culture 101”
TUESDAY 9/25 6:30-8:30 pm	The Clayton Theatre, 33246 Main St. Dagsboro	FILM: <i>Through Deaf Eyes</i> with panel discussion
WEDNESDAY 9/26 10:00-11:00 am	South Coastal Library	Children’s American Sign Language (ASL) Story Time (ages 3-5 years)
THURSDAY 9/27 6:00-7:00 pm	South Coastal Library	Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL)
FRIDAY 9/28 1:00-2:00 pm	South Coastal Library	Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL)

Event Descriptions

Sunday, September 23, 2018

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Dagsboro Days, 33103 Main St. Dagsboro, DE 19939

ASL Coffee Chat. International Week of the Deaf begins with the International Day of Sign Languages, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the status of sign languages and the rights of deaf people worldwide. Come get coffee, tea or a snack at Dagsboro Days and learn to place your order in American Sign Language (ASL). Deaf residents will be on hand to share this beautiful language.

Monday, September 24, 2018

2:00-5:00 pm

South Coastal Library 43 Kent Ave, Bethany Beach, DE 19930

An opening reception kicks off the International Week of the Deaf. Come and meet leaders of the local Deaf community. Opening remarks by the Presidents of the Delaware Association of the Deaf and the Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens will precede a presentation on “Deaf Culture 101” by local resident Sherry Duhon. Come learn insights into the deaf community and culture, ways of communicating with deaf people, how deaf people use technology in everyday life and ask questions that you have always wanted to ask about deaf people. Light refreshments served.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

6:30-8:30 pm

The Clayton Theatre 33246 Main St, Dagsboro, DE 19939

Film: *Through Deaf Eyes*. As a public service, the Clayton Theatre will offer a free screening of the renowned documentary film *Through Deaf Eyes*, which covers the deaf community in America and how it has evolved over the last 200 years. Deaf Culture, Deaf Education, Cochlear Implants, the Deaf President Now movement, Alexander Graham Bell’s eugenics efforts, and past “cures” for deafness, are some of the topics presented through stories from deaf individuals. Professors from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, Dr. William Ennis and Dr. Brian Greenwald, will lead a panel discussion after showing clips from the film.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

10:00-11:00 am

South Coastal Library 43 Kent Ave, Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Children’s story time at the library will include storytelling in American Sign Language with Dr. Roz Rosen, an internationally known educator and Deaf leader, and author of *Deaf Culture Fairy Tales*.

Thursday, September 27, 2018

6:00-7:00 pm

South Coastal Library 43 Kent Ave, Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Introduction to American Sign Language. If you have always wanted to learn American Sign Language, come to this introductory class, offered by certified ASL instructors. This class is open to all ages and you will have an opportunity to learn some basic ASL signs and phrases with deaf instructors Luanne Kowalski, Dennise Scott and Gerry Francini.

Friday, September 28, 2018

1:00-2:00 pm

South Coastal Library 43 Kent Ave, Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Introduction to American Sign Language. If you have always wanted to learn American Sign Language, come to this introductory class, offered by certified ASL instructors. This class is open to all ages and you will have an opportunity to learn some basic ASL signs and phrases with deaf instructors Luanne Kowalski, Dennise Scott and Gerry Francini.