



# TDHHC Connections

## Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center

**Video Phone:** 903-253-9655

**Communication Coordinator:**  
call 903-617-6204 or email  
[coordinator@tdhhc.org](mailto:coordinator@tdhhc.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Detkos, President  
Susie Grona, Vice President  
Stephanie Deibert, Secretary  
Lonny McKinzie, DC  
Scott Spillyards  
Scott Whitney  
Monica McCullough

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Judge Nathaniel Moran  
Senator Bryan Hughes

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alana Husband, President  
Elizabeth Crook, Vice President  
Kathy Westberry, Secretary

Visit our WEBSITE

[www.tdhhc.org](http://www.tdhhc.org),  
or follow us on FACEBOOK  
[www.facebook.com/tdhhc.org](https://www.facebook.com/tdhhc.org)

This newsletter is dedicated to uniting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of East Texas and all supporters by providing information and reporting events that enhance our lives and our community.

To receive a newsletter, email your name and address to:  
[connections@tdhhc.org](mailto:connections@tdhhc.org).

**CONTACT US:** You can leave a compliment or complaint at:  
[www.tdhhc.org/feedbackform.html](http://www.tdhhc.org/feedbackform.html).  
We want to hear from you!



## TRUE BIZ! CODA IS A HUGE SUCCESS AT 2021 SUNDANCE VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL

### The Storyline:

At 17, Ruby is the only hearing member of her culturally Deaf family. The family owns and runs a fishing business in Gloucester, MA. When Ruby discovers her talent for singing, her priorities shift and family tensions rise. Will she continue to help the family with the fishing business, or can she follow her dreams of music school?

### The Scoop:

After premiering at the Sundance Virtual Film Festival this year, CODA was an instant classic that elicited a huge bidding war between Amazon and Apple.

Apple won, purchasing the global rights to CODA for a record-breaking \$25 million. You can read more about it on [TheWrap.com](https://www.thewrap.com) or at [this link](#).

Sian Heder wrote and directed this English version of the 2014 French-language film La Famille Bélier.

Emilia Jones (H, Ruby), Troy Kostur (D, Frank, father), Marlee Matlin (D, Jackie, mother), and Daniel Durant (D, Leo, brother) loved working with the director to bring the storyline to life.

You can watch them discuss their involvement in making CODA [here](#), or search for it on [TheWrap.com](https://www.thewrap.com). The interview is in both ASL and English. They very much enjoyed their work on-set, and felt the screen-play did a great job of conveying the challenges, successes, and richness of Deaf culture.

Although Apple is not yet streaming CODA, you can click [here](#), or check back in the near future at [decider.com](https://www.decider.com) for streaming locations and times.

Let's hope we can view it in time for Deaf History Month!



**WELCOME**  
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
 VICE PRESIDENT  
 ELIZABETH CROOK



Elizabeth was born and raised in Tyler and has three siblings. After attending TJC, she received a Bachelor degree from TWU and Master from UT at Tyler. She has been actively involved in Deaf organizations and participated in various Deaf functions since the 1980's.

For more than 12 years, she has worked at TJC as a Lab Specialist and taught ASL in public schools and TJC West Campus.

In the fall of 2020, she took a few theology online classes through The King's University (TKU) and now she is a substitute teacher at Grace Community HS and ASL Instructor in private lesson.

Currently, Elizabeth serves as a treasurer of the East Texas Deaf Association and vice president of the Advisory Committee of TDHHC.

Since the pandemic, Elizabeth enjoys cooking and spends more time with her family. She looks forward to jumping back into the Deaf Community and New Beginning Deaf Fellowship this year.



**DEAF HISTORY MONTH**

March 13 - April 15

March 13, 1988

*Deaf President Now*

April 8, 1864

*President Lincoln signs*

*Gallaudet University Charter*

April 15, 1817

*American School for the Deaf opens in Hartford, CT*



**COVID-19 Vaccination Information**

- NETHealth has provided a sign-up link for the COVID-19 vaccination. You can access it [here](#).
- They have also provided location and map information [here](#).
- You can also access their website at [www.nethealthcovid19.org](http://www.nethealthcovid19.org) for more information.
- Or reach them at (903) 535-0030.

Even though all social events are on hold, please find ways to connect with your friends and loved ones!  
 Stay safe & healthy!

First Aid / CPR / AED  
 Training

**Jeremy  
 Norman**

 Certified Trainer

**J. Dean Enterprises LLC**  
 JNorman@JDeanLLC.com  
 903.686.3117 voice/text

Proud Provider of  
**American Red Cross**  
 First Aid, CPR and AED Training  
 English / American Sign Language

**From the Desk of Brenda Toney**  
*Managing Editor, TDHHC Connections*

Just a little food for thought...

Are you staying inside *too* much? It's easy to do these days!

We *do* want to protect each other, but we also *need* social interaction. Staying in touch with our friends and family and finding ways to continue our community activities are *incredibly important* for our well being.

So. How do we find a balance?

**One of the first steps is to eliminate fear.** Understanding facts will drive away fear. It will also help us be able to carry on with our normal activities in a way that is safe and feasible.

We've all been told these basics many times over — hand washing, hand sanitizer with 60% or above alcohol, etc. Why? Because of the way the virus spreads. This thought might bring fear, so what do we do to eliminate that fear?

If we take a moment to understand how COVID-19 *actually* spreads, we can *reduce fear* and function closer to normal in our daily life. The "list" is important, but it doesn't have to completely stop our daily lives.

The CDC has done a page called the "Ways COVID-19 Spreads". You can Google the article, or click [here](#) for more information. They have also done an **informative ASL video series**. You can access it from the link above, search on YouTube, or click here: [CDC #COVID-19 ASL](#) .

**Don't let fear keep you from living the best life you can right now.** Eat well and take your vitamins, drink plenty of fluids, get enough rest and exercise, buy a good mask and take yourself to **go enjoy doing something normal**.



## GENTLE REMINDERS



AVOID SICK



CLEAN SURFACES



COVER COUGHS  
+ SNEEZES



DON'T TOUCH  
EYES/NOSE/MOUTH



WASH YOUR  
HANDS OFTEN



**McKinzie Chiropractic  
and Nutrition has  
moved!**

**They have re-opened  
and are receiving  
patients.**

**The new location is:  
601 Chase Dr., Suite A  
Tyler, TX 75701**



SAVE PAPER AND POSTAGE  
Let us know of any address  
change or to drop your name  
from our mailing list, call the  
office: 903-617-6204 or email:  
[connections@tdhhc.org](mailto:connections@tdhhc.org).

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TYLER, TX  
PERMIT NO. 75715

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**ABILITIES SUCCESS, INC.**  
**Teresa Dell**  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Specialist  
Region IV - DHHS  
1530 S SW Loop 323, Ste. #111  
Tyler, Texas 75701  
903-858-4577 (V/VP)  
214-663-9145 (TXT)  
903-795-4132 (C)  
[dhaccess4a@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:dhaccess4a@hhsc.state.tx.us)

ASL's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Specialist Project is funded by Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) - Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHHS).

THANK YOU TO OUR  
SUPPORTERS AND  
SPONSORS!

**Pretty Petals**  
by Paula  
[fb@prettypetalsbypaula](mailto:fb@prettypetalsbypaula)

**ITCS**  
Interpreting Training and Consulting Services

**Betty Kyle**  
Co-Founder  
Cell: 936.552.1173  
[bkyle@itcstexas.com](mailto:bkyle@itcstexas.com)

**Maggie Patterson**  
Co-Founder  
Cell: 713.927.1702  
[mhpatterson@itcstexas.com](mailto:mhpatterson@itcstexas.com)

PO Box 632643  
Nacogdoches TX 75963  
[WWW.ITCSTEXAS.COM](http://WWW.ITCSTEXAS.COM)

**Anonymous Donor**

1910 E Se Loop 323  
Tyler, TX 75701  
P. 903-533-8077  
F. 903-533-8079

*Bea*

**Beate Simpson**  
Store Manager

[store2104@theupsstore.com](mailto:store2104@theupsstore.com)  
[upsstoreprint.com/2104](http://upsstoreprint.com/2104)

M-F	08:00 AM-06:30 PM
Sat	09:30 AM-03:00 PM
Sun	Closed

**The UPS Store**

**McKinzie**  
Chiropractic & Nutrition  
[DrMcKinzie.com](http://DrMcKinzie.com) (903) 531-2243

**Rhonda McKinzie, MS, LPC**  
TX BEI Master/Court Certified Counselor & Workshop Presenter  
Interpreter for the Deaf  
903-262-7779  
[rmckinzielpc@gmail.com](mailto:rmckinzielpc@gmail.com)

PO Box 9805  
Tyler, TX 75711

Life Insurance | Retirement | Financial Security | Community

**Much more  
than life insurance™**

Dennis Taylor  
9034661960  
[dttaylor@woodmen.org](mailto:dttaylor@woodmen.org)

**WoodmenLife**  
[woodmenlife.org](http://woodmenlife.org)

Products are not available in New York and all products may not be available in all states. CD1419 6/19 Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society: Omaha, NE