

# ASL NEWS

Volume 18, Issue 1

Fall 2017

## Campus & District News

The ASL News has been on hiatus for a while. Due to shifting demands at the college and some vacant positions, I have had to direct my time elsewhere. However, we seem to have reached a state of equilibrium, allowing me to work on the newsletter again.

Take note, beginning with this fall semester there are changes to the procedure to add a class. Students may add regular-term classes, **where space is available**, using Passport through Friday of the first week (8/25). After the first week of class, students may only add a full-term class by obtaining a permission number from the instructor, regardless of the number of spaces available.

Providing a permission number is at the instructor's discretion. When enrolling online, only the permission number is necessary. When enrolling in-person both permission number **and** the instructor's signature on an add card are required. Students are responsible for registering themselves in the class by the last day to add for the term.

Short-term and dynamically dated classes are NOT included in this process.

Since our last publication, the college has welcomed a new Vice President of Student Services, Jason Cifra. Additionally, the following individuals have also have come on board: Janice Adam as Public Information Officer, Hue Huynh as Admissions and Records Technician, Andrea Williams as Coordinator/Career & Transfer Center, Willis Liu as Network Support Specialist, Hilary Lee as Student Services

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## ASL, A Treasure for Many

*By Iris Miller Stetson*

I am hearing but in 1960, when I was twelve-years-old, I was afflicted with an inexplicable speech problem. Until that time, I had been a normal speaker. When my speech suddenly changed, my fluency was gone.

At the time I knew very little about the Deaf community or ASL. The only Deaf people I was aware of were called Deaf beggars. I sometimes saw them in the street or when they knocked on our front door. I remember answering our doorbell one day to find a man holding a card with the ASL alphabet stamped on it, along with a message that said he was Deaf, asking for money or work. Although my mother gave some money to the man, I sensed that she was uncomfortable in his presence. I, however, was intrigued and soon found out that there was a Deaf school not far from our house. Although I pleaded with my parents to let me attend this school and learn how to sign, they refused. They were very clear in their position when they told me, "You're not Deaf. You have a voice, so don't ever bring this up again."

I never approached my parents again about learning ASL, but I also never lost the longing to use my hands to communicate. To me, it was absurd that I lived every day with a splintered voice, straining to force out unintelligible words when I could be expressing myself through the beautiful language of the Deaf.

During the forty years that I remained undiagnosed, I sought help wherever I could. I tried drugs, meditation techniques, hypnosis, met with speech professors, medical doctors and psychologists, but no one ever sug-

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# Events & Announcements

## Three Free Places to Park Your Bicycle in Downtown Berkeley.

1. BCC Bike Room. Enter the building through the main doors and take the elevator on your left down to the ground floor. Do not bring bikes up or down on the stairs. 2. Across the street from BCC at the City Garage.\* 3. At the Downtown Berkeley Bike Station at 2208 Shattuck Avenue, just beyond the intersection of Shattuck and Allston Way. Minimal fees may apply for night parking. (510) 548-7433 or bartbikestation.com.

\*Note that #2 is not currently available. The City of Berkeley has torn it down, but will build a new garage scheduled to open in fall 2017. The new garage will have space for 300+ bikes via an attended bike station.

**Information about local Deaf events** is available at DCARA's web site, [dcara.org](http://dcara.org) and click on "events". One-time and on-going events are listed.

## ASL COFFEE SOCIALS

**Antioch.** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month 7-11 pm. Starbucks, 5779 Lone Tree Way #G in the Slatten Ranch Shopping Center (across from Target). For more information: [melissachildcare@gmail.com](mailto:melissachildcare@gmail.com).

**Berkeley.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 7-10 pm. Royal Grounds Coffee & Tea, 2409 Shattuck Avenue. For more information: Daniel at [pah\\_daniel@aol.com](mailto:pah_daniel@aol.com) or Pam at [pmbrawl@aol.com](mailto:pmbrawl@aol.com).

**San Francisco #1.** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month, 6:05-9:05 pm. Starbucks at 2727 Mariposa Street, near KQED. For more information: [sanfranasclub@gmail.com](mailto:sanfranasclub@gmail.com).

**San Francisco #2.** Every Thursday 6:30-9:00 pm. ASL Cafe by Project Insight. **New Location:** Mission Playground Clubhouse, 3555 - 19<sup>th</sup> Street. All ages welcome. Free. For more information, including changes, cancellations, etc.: [contactpi@sfgov.org](mailto:contactpi@sfgov.org) or [projectinsight.org](http://projectinsight.org).

**San Francisco #3.** Deaf LGBT. 1st Friday of the month, 6-9 pm. Cafe Flore, 2298 Market Street, San Francisco (across from LookOut). For more information go to [meetup.com/LGBT-Deaf-HOH-and-ASL-Allies/events/204692402/](https://meetup.com/LGBT-Deaf-HOH-and-ASL-Allies/events/204692402/). All hearing and deaf LGBTIQ and straight allies are welcome. ASL students look for Burnie.

**Santa Rosa.** Meets every Sunday at 10 am at Aroma Roasters at Railroad Square on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Vallejo.** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7-11 pm. Starbucks at 400 Lincoln Road East. Contact: [tatobud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tatobud@sbcglobal.net)

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gested that I stop struggling to use my dysfunctional voice and learn sign language. It wasn't until I was in my mid fifties, a few years after I was diagnosed, that I had the opportunity to follow that dream.

My first ASL class was in the spring of 2006 at Vista College (Berkeley City College's previous name), taught by Cheri Smith. As the class settled in, someone dropped by and started signing with Cheri. Silence seemed to take over the room as the students sat, staring at the teacher and her visitor as they rapidly conversed without a sound. I was mesmerized, watching the beauty and rhythm of their dialogue, seeing their fingers flow as if they were gracefully bobbing up and down, each signer's face conveying a wealth of emotions. When the visitor left, I was excited, hoping that I could communicate that way one day.



*Miller Steton, left, signing with her niece Laura Salazar.*

Thinking back, I can see how much that first class gave me. Beyond a concise introduction to ASL, it set me on a path where I could learn a skill that would change and enrich the rest of my life. I went on to complete the two-year ASL program at Vista College, volunteer at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, become a Volunteer-of-the-Year at the Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA), teach ASL to Deaf and hard-of-hearing preschoolers, and write a book, a memoir that delves into my experiences as a person who is voiceless.

However, the greatest benefit came from all the wonderful people that I met along the way, starting with Cheri Smith and the great ASL staff at Vista, as well as my co-workers at CSD, DCARA, and in

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## ASL MEETUP GROUPS

**Berkeley/Oakland.** [meetup.com/Berkeley-Oakland-ASL-Meet/](https://www.meetup.com/Berkeley-Oakland-ASL-Meet/)

**San Francisco.** [meetup.com/asl-294/](https://meetup.com/asl-294/)

**San Mateo.** [meetup.com/SMASLCHAT/](https://www.meetup.com/SMASLCHAT/)

**Vacaville.** New meet-up forming. [meetup.com/Vacaville-ASL-Sign-Languages-Meetup/?gj=ejlb](https://www.meetup.com/Vacaville-ASL-Sign-Languages-Meetup/?gj=ejlb)

**Vallejo Bible Church of the Deaf.** Sunday and Friday services. 1640 Broadway Street, Vallejo. For more information: [vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:vallejodeafchurch@yahoo.com); [vallejodeaf-church.org](http://vallejodeaf-church.org)

**Hands On Travel tours.** Small group tours in ASL. Locations include: Thailand, Japan, Italy, Honduras, France & Spain, Costa Rica, China, Russia, Finland and the Baltics, and Peru. For more information and a listing of all tours go to [handsontvl.com](http://handsontvl.com)

**Mozzeria.** An Italian restaurant and pizzeria owned by a Deaf couple with Deaf and hearing staff. Restaurant features a huge wood-fired oven imported from Italy. Deaf and hearing diners welcome. 3228 16<sup>th</sup> Street (near Guerrero), SF. (415) 489-0963, [mozzeria.com](http://mozzeria.com). See website for food truck locations.

**California Deaf Wheelers Cycling Club.** The club promotes the sport of cycling among deaf and hard of hearing people. Membership is open to all, no specific skill or experience is required. Casual social rides via bike trails, road rides and mountain biking. [californiadeafwheelers.org](http://californiadeafwheelers.org)

**Oktoberfest.** September 30, 7-11 pm. Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577

**ALDAcon 2017.** October 11-15. Orlando, Florida. Annual conference of the Association of Late Deafened Adults. More info: [alda.org/aldacon-2017/](http://alda.org/aldacon-2017/)

**Deaf Bay Area Expo.** October 14, 9 am-5 pm. Alameda County Fairgrounds, Building A, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Deaf Bay Area Expo bigger than ever, including an arts & crafts section, lounge area, and entertainment as well as vendors. Entrance is free, but requires advance registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/deaf-bay-area-expo-presented-by-sorenson-communications-tickets-33096558698>. Note there is a fee for parking.

**California School for the Deaf Homecoming**  
October 14.

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*Treasure continued from page 2*

the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing program that I was a part of in the Oakland Unified School District. So many of them, Deaf and hearing alike, generously helped me to improve my skills and myself as a human being. ASL gave me the opportunity to share my stories of being voiceless with many Deaf adults and, through our commonality, we formed bonds and a realization that ASL is not only a treasure for the Deaf but for many others.

Today, my signing is good. I'm not fluent but I'm comfortable using ASL. Although medical intervention has helped me to speak fluently most of the time, I know how happy I am when I have a chance to sign. It reminds me of the feeling I had when Cheri announced that our first class meeting was the



*Miller Stetson, left, with Don Keleher at the Mastick Senior Center in Alameda. ASL classes for seniors are offered here.*

only time when students would be allowed to use their voice. From all classes forward, they had to sign. The room echoed in response with a roar of moans and groans but I sat there in silence, overjoyed.

For so long I had felt lost and unable to connect in the way that I needed and wanted. That first ASL class made me feel as if I was finally beginning to live my dream, going to a place where I could just be me.

Miller Stetson's book, *The Voice of Acceptance: A true story about abuse, disability and the pursuit of happiness*, was published in 2016 and is available from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LW00001). 🐾





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**5<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Conference of the Council de Manos.** October 26-28. Marina del Rey, California (LA area). Hosted by California Manos del Corazón. Breaking Barriers is the conference theme. Activities around breaking down the social, political and economic barriers that have created inequalities include workshops (professional development), networking opportunities, leadership mentoring, and personal discovery. More info: <http://2017conference.wixsite.com/home>

**Chocolate & Wine Fest.** December 16, 7-11 pm. Deaf Community Center, 1550 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577.

**National Association of the Deaf Conference.** July 2-7, 2018. Hartford, CT. NAD holds a conference every two years. [nad.org/2018conn](http://nad.org/2018conn)

**Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research 13.** Hamburg, Germany. 2019. Linguistic study of signed languages. Supported by Sign Language Linguistics Society. Takes place every 3 years. <http://slls.eu/tislr-conferences/>

**18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the Deaf.** July/August 2019. Location TBA. This is an activity of the World Federation of the Deaf. Cultural wealth & heritage, sign language await you! More details coming.

Interested students can join the ASL listserv by sending an e-mail message containing your name, class that you are enrolled in, and instructor's name to [bcc\\_vistaaslgoup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bcc_vistaaslgoup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). If you join, you will receive information about Deaf events, articles of interest, job announcements, etc. You can also post information, find other students to form a study group, have discussions, to name just a few options. Membership is limited to current and previous Vista/BCC ASL students.

## Congratulations to Jenny Gough

The ASL Department congratulates Dr. Jenny Gough on being a President's Award recipient. The award is given annually to members of the college who have consistently

demonstrated the highest level of support to students and colleagues in alignment with

Berkeley City Col-

lege's Mission, Vision, and Values.



*Gough, center, with PCCD chancellor Jowel Laguerre on left and BCC president Rowena Tomaneng on right at the award presentation in May 2017.*

Award winners must also demonstrate synergy and teamwork within the college community that promotes innovation and collaboration. Dr. Gough was nominated by multiple people at the college.

Other award winners were: Nathalie Austin, student worker in the counseling department; Dwayne Cain, head custodian; Lisa R. Cook, dean of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences; Pieter de Haan, biology instructor; Jennifer Lenahan, veteran's program coordinator and counselor; Marilyn Montague, staff assistant in telecommunications; and Mariella Thaning, communications instructor.

## BART Updates

### Downtown Station Renovations

As part of the ongoing renovations and station modernization of the Downtown Berkeley Station, BART has re-opened the entrance at the northwest corner of Shattuck and Allston Way (in front of Walgreen's). A Clipper card is required to enter the faregates from this entrance. Paper tickets will not be accepted to enter here. However, both paper tickets and Clipper cards will be accepted to exit.

Any fare machine will allow you to add value to your Clipper card. In the future, a Clipper vending machine

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will be available to purchase a card or add fare. In the meantime, If you don't have a Clipper card, you can go to [clippercard.com](http://clippercard.com) to order a card by mail or find a retail location to purchase one, such as Walgreens or Target Express.

Clipper cards can be set up to "autoload" to avoid having to add value at a machine.

On August 14, BART closed the main rotunda entrance on Center Street (in front of Chase Bank) to work on the plaza improvement project. At the same time, the entrance at the corner of Addison St. West and Shattuck Avenue (in front of Revival Bar & Kitchen) will also close. These entrances are scheduled to reopen in early 2018.

BART users can use one of three remaining entrances:

- Entrance at NW corner of Shattuck & Allston (in front of Walgreen's)
- Entrance at NE corner of Shattuck & Allston (in front of Target)
- Entrance at NE corner of Shattuck & Berkeley Square (in front of Original Pollo)

Access to the platform, station agent booth, and fare machines in the center of the station will continue to operate as usual. Street-level access to the elevator (located near Shattuck & Center St.) will still be available to transport you into the station.

to transport you into the station.

The renovations will improve lighting, safety, wayfinding and enhance bike parking.

The project will also improve access to other modes of travel, redo station entrances, improve bus shelters, as well as provide new plaza paving, lighting and landscaping.

Once completed, the plaza will provide open space for events and activities.

New wayfinding signs and electronic displays with real-time BART and bus arrival information, throughout the station and plaza, will be added.

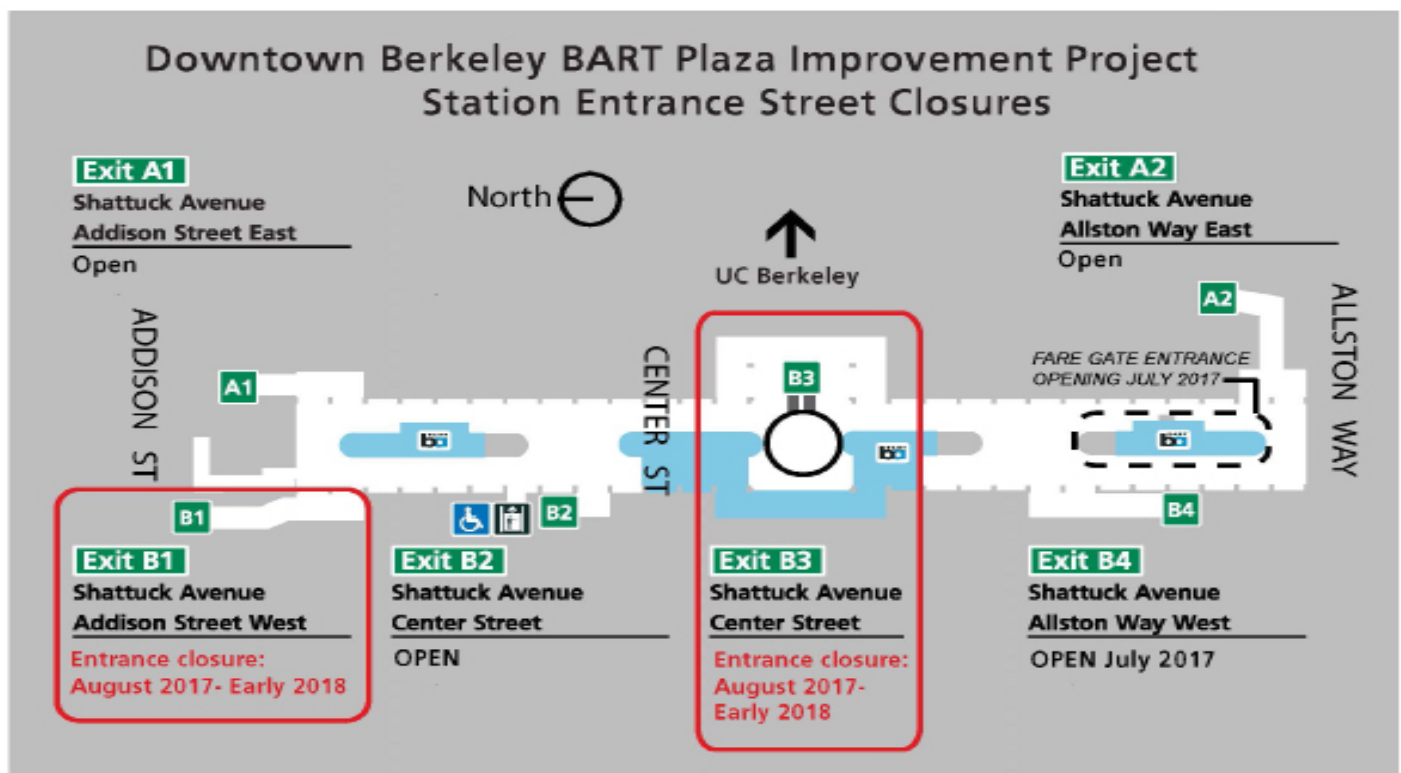
While the work requires that BART temporarily close some of the station entrances, there will always be open entrances.

Bus and shuttle stops and the taxi stand will need to be relocated during the work. There will be signs and maps to direct customers to the temporary locations of these services.

Please see the map opposite for the entrance locations.

For more information about this project and other happenings with BART, you can receive automated BART Service Advisories (BSA) on your phone or by email. To sign up for BSAs, please visit [www.bart.gov/alerts](http://www.bart.gov/alerts).

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## Hearing Loop Pilot Project

Pilot project at Fremont Station tests hearing loop technology to help those with hearing loss

*By Melissa Jordan, BART Senior Web Producer*

A BART platform like the one at Fremont Station can be swamped with sounds: cars rushing by on nearby roads; wind whooshing through; bystanders talking. Cutting through the clamor in order to hear important announcements can be challenging even for those with perfect hearing.

It's even tougher for the hard-of-hearing riders who use hearing aids amid that cacophony of sounds. Through a pilot project, BART is working with the hearing-loss community on new technology that could make a big difference.

The technology is called a hearing loop and it's being installed at Fremont Station with completion expected later this spring. Riders who use most typical modern hearing aids, which employ something called T-coils, will be able to toggle a switch on their hearing aids to get a much clearer, isolated sound of announcements made over the public address system, or interactions with the station agent.

"It's like wifi for your ears," said Richard McKinley, managing director of [Contacta Inc.](#), which is the contractor's vendor supplier on the pilot project.

Carl Orman, project manager for the installation, said the idea came through collaboration with the [BART Accessibility Task Force](#) (BATF). Orman also is BART's accessibility program manager in the Office of the District Architect.

"We're trying to improve the situation so people can better hear and understand what's going on in the noisy, environment," Orman said. "This is a pilot so we're going to experiment and see how things go." To set up the loop, grooves were cut into the platform surface; wire was laid in the grooves and sealed over to transmit the electromagnetic signal

that is picked up by the T-coil in the hearing aid.

Janice Armigo Brown is a member of the Accessibility Task Force and uses a hearing aid with T-coil technology.

"In public transit situations such as BART, noise can be a huge factor," said Brown. "People with hearing loss rely on visual cues such as lip-reading to compensate for or 'fill in the blanks' when communicating with Station Agents, transit personnel or other riders when asking questions or obtaining vital information," she said. "Any added background noise can prevent a person with hearing loss from understanding or deciphering speech."

Brown explained how it can be especially stressful when there are special announcements conveying non-routine information.

"I look at facial expressions from transit riders for cues-- frightened look on face, disgruntled look on face or possibly a frustrated eye motion -- to make sense of what has been said," she explained. "Sometimes, suddenly I feel a bit tense as I do not know what is happening. Is it an emergency or safety concern? Is it something such as a track or work delay announcement that I should hear and respond to such as tell a family

member, friend or co-worker that I will be delayed? The truth is that I do not know what has been communicated so I am unaware of how to respond. The 'not knowing' is most frustrating, and thus, the situation can be stressful."

Hearing assistive technology such as the hearing loop pilot can be a major improvement, said Brown, who has tested hearing loops at other locations that employ hearing loops, such as the [Landmark Theaters at Embarcadero Station](#).

It's like your own "personal sound system" that eliminates background noise and funnels the sound directly into the assistive device, she said. "Riders with access to the hearing loop system

can feel more assured of receiving important information without straining to understand and decipher what



*Janice Armigo Brown, member of the Accessibility Task Force and hearing aid user.*

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is being said; however, users will still have to factor in different tones, voice volume, speed of speech and/or an accent.”

Brown said making riders aware of the technology will be important. Once it is up and running, BART will invite riders who use T-coil hearing aids to test the pilot project and give feedback. Some users including Brown, pictured above at right, already gave feedback earlier when a more limited demonstration project was tested at Colma Station.

Also, hearing-aid users may want to check the settings on their device; a toggle to the T-coil only mode may be needed to isolate the correct sounds. There will be pictogram placards placed in the area indicating that hearing loop technology is available.

Juliette Sterkens, an audiologist based in Wisconsin, is the hearing loop advocate for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). “In the T-coil-only mode a person can isolate the sound that is coming through the hearing loop, which is particularly advantageous in a place with a lot of background noise,” she said, adding that some newer hearing aids can be adjusted by a smartphone app. “The hearing aid industry is responding to hearing loop technology as it becomes more widespread,” she said.

Indeed, hearing loop technology will also be among the capabilities of BART’s [Fleet of the Future](#). BART is working with train car manufacturer Bombardier to develop and test an induction loop system for BART’s new fleet. If the testing goes well, this system will transmit audio announcements and other BART information directly to receptive hearing aids and cochlear implants while riding in the new fleet – a much more comprehensive deployment, for which the Fremont pilot project is another step in laying the foundation.

BART customers who use hearing aids and/or cochlear implants with T-coils will be invited to try out the new onboard system and provide feedback. (Note: those who might be interested in participating can send an email to [bartresearch@bart.gov](mailto:bartresearch@bart.gov).)

Hearing loss affects people of all ages, and it’s on the rise. Various studies have looked at reasons why; one theory is a negative impact from the nearly ubiquitous use of earbuds, often at high volumes, by people listening to music or using their devices for speaking.

While the hearing loop is a promising new technology,

it cannot be the solution for all riders with hearing loss, said Dr. Ike Nnaji of BART’s Customer Access Department, and liaison to the BART Accessibility Task Force. For the profoundly deaf or those who do not use hearing aids, alternative delivery of information remains the textual messages that are displayed on the station information signs.

BART has posted the story video on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp2xUKygEHU>

*This article originally appeared as a BART publication on May 2, 2017.* 🙋🙋

## Important Dates for the Fall Term

- Aug 21 First day of fall 2017 semester
- Aug 26 Last day to add without permission number\*
- Sept 1 Last day to add class in person with permission number & add card\*
- Sept 4 Last day to add, drop without a “W” on transcript, and receive a refund\*
- Sept 4 Labor Day holiday
- Sept 8 Last day to update grading option (pass/no pass or letter grade)
- Oct 20 Last day to petition for degree or certificate
- Nov 10 Veteran’s Day holiday observance
- Nov 15 Last day to withdraw\*
- Nov 23-26 Thanksgiving holidays
- Dec 10-15 Final examinations and semester end
- Dec 22-Jan 2 campus closed
- Jan 22 First day of spring 2018 semester

\*Dates apply to regular, full-semester classes. Short-term and dynamically dated classes will have different dates; consult with the admissions and records office.

All dates are subject to change. Consult the academic calendar at <http://web.peralta.edu/admissions/category/academic-calendar/>

Personnel Specialist/Assessment and Orientation, Ke Van Valkenberg as Staff Assistant/Administrative Services with Dean Brenda Johnson, and Dolores Harshaw as Staff Assistant/Programs and Services for Students with Disabilities (PSSD).

Just recently the following people have started work at BCC: Barbara Godoy in the new Dean of Enrollment Services position, Kiara Allen as the Follett Bookstore manager replacing Rich Berberian, and Alejandra Oseguera as an EOPS Counselor and Fatima Shah as a General Counselor, replacing Carlos Romero and Tamara Harris-Coleman, respectively. Also, math instructor Mike Orkin has moved to BCC from the district office and will be teaching this semester.

Last but not least, instructor Amy June Rowley joined the ASL Department last semester and continues this term. Rowley is a full-time ASL instructor at California State University East Bay and runs their ASL program. She has a Ph.D. in Urban Education with a focus in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, an American Sign Language Specialist Certification & an M.S. in Deaf Education from Western Maryland College, and a B.A. in Biology from Gallaudet University.

The college community congratulates Jennie Braman, an art faculty member who has been awarded a year-long sabbatical for the 2017-2018 academic year. Her project is the Narrative Project Commons. The purpose of the project is to create a shared space of images and stories that empower, reflect, and build community among BCC and Peralta students and faculty. Students choose a personal story that is important to them, and that often reflects very real issues in our world including loss, mental and physical health challenges, disabilities, being a minority, immigration, and oppression of many kinds. Alongside moments of difficulty are moments of triumph. In the sharing of their projects, students experience active witnessing, being brought together through empathy and reflection; the experience is life-changing for both the artist and the audience. Braman will return to teaching in the 2018-19 academic year. 🙌🙌

## **Airline In-Flight Entertainment to be Captioned**

In April 2016, the Department of Transportation (DOT) established the [Advisory Committee on Accessible Air Transportation](#) which included disability advocacy organizations, airlines, aircraft manufacturers, and content providers. These committee members were to negotiate among themselves to develop a proposed rule

addressing accessible in-flight entertainment and communications, accessible lavatories, and service animals. Zainab Alkebsi, Policy Counsel of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), led as co-chair of the in-flight entertainment and communications work group.

After seven months of negotiations, the committee reached an agreement ensuring that the in-flight entertainment that is available to all passengers is accessible to deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and visually impaired passengers. The committee submitted its recommendations to the Department of Transportation to incorporate in its rulemaking.

All new in-flight entertainment systems, whether on newly delivered aircraft or newly-installed on existing aircraft, must be capable of supporting closed captions and audio descriptions as of the effective date of the final rule.

If an aircraft has inaccessible seatback in-flight entertainment systems, it must provide an alternative personal entertainment device (PED) with accessible comparable video content. Airlines can do this either through their own PEDs, on which content can be preloaded or streamed wirelessly, or by streaming wirelessly to passengers' PEDs.

Airlines shall request from video content providers that 100% of covered in-flight entertainment content is closed-captioned and audio-described, and shall obtain such covered video content from the content providers, including edited versions.

Other requirements mandate user-customizable captions, accessible WiFi for blind and visually impaired passengers, information collection and reporting by the airlines, disclosure of accessibility options in advance of travel, and the provision of search filters and identifying icons. The advisory committee also agreed to establish an independent task force to develop and submit recommendations on proposed specifications for accessible cabin announcements via text displays on or before November 15, 2017. The NAD will be a representative on this task force.

“Movies have long entertained passengers on airplanes but have been inaccessible to millions of deaf and hard of hearing travelers until now. With this historic agreement, in-flight entertainment and communications will finally be accessible to everyone,” said Howard A. Rosenblum, CEO of the National Association of the

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Berkeley City College (formerly Vista Community College) is part of the Peralta Community College District

The *ASL News* is published four times a year, in August/September, November, January and April by Berkeley City College's (formerly Vista Community College) American Sign Language Department. Unsolicited contributions are welcome, but may not be printed. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and content and to hold contributions for later printing. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the college or ASL Department. The ASL Department reserves all rights to publication. Reprinting of any material published in this newsletter is not allowed without the express permission of the ASL Department.

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*In Flight Captions continued from page 8*

Deaf. The NAD is proud to have been a leader in the regulatory negotiation process and applauds the Department of Transportation for taking steps to mandate increased accessibility in the air where the viewing experience is inclusive for all passengers.

The NAD is the nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America. The NAD represents 48 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

*Press release provided by the NAD December, 12, 2016.*