First of all.....WHO IS NYLE DIMARCO????

According to his website, Nyle DiMarco is Deaf, 4th generation of a Deaf family (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents were Deaf). Originally from Queens, New York, he and his family moved to Texas and then settled down in Maryland. After graduating from Maryland School for the Deaf, he went to Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. After he graduated with a bachelors degree in mathematics, he began traveling around the world doing many things. He now lives in Washington D.C.

He originally had a goal of becoming a math teacher, with hopes of moving up to an administrative position. But life took him on a different path. He found himself as an actor for an independent film by ASL Films, then acting for a national TV show called Switched at Birth (a TV show about two teenage girls, one of them is Deaf, who discovered that both were switched as newborns in the hospital by accident). There are several leading Deaf actors and actresses. For more information go to www.ABCFamily.go.com/shows/switched-at-birth.

It was during that time that he was told by his friends, fans, and supporters that he should try modeling. After getting an agent, he started taking some modeling pictures and sent them to different modeling agencies, hoping someone would take notice. Someone did!
From De Linda’s Safari

Well, 2015 is coming to a close, can’t believe the year is almost gone! A lot of things have happened during 2015, so much that I can’t keep up. Here’s the review of 2015’s top 15:

1: Gallaudet University recently hired the first female President!! Roberta “Bobbi” Cordano from St. Paul, Minnesota, will begin her term January 1st, 2016. She will be Gallaudet’s 11th president since 1864. And...yes, she is Deaf! (see page 8)

2: Nyle DiMarco, was the first Deaf contestant on America’s Next Top Model TV show (see page 1).

3: Deaf West Theatre’s play, “Spring Awakening”, is currently being shown on Broadway in New York City! This is the second time for Deaf West Theatre to appear on Broadway (first show was “Big River” 2003)! Several actors/actresses from Switched at Birth are in this play (see page 11).

4: One of Switched at Birth’s leading Deaf actresses, Kate Leclerc, was contacted by Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, and became a leading actress in three movies, The Reckoning, Cloudy with the Chance of Love, and The Confession.

5: The ABC Family TV show, Switched At Birth, has been renewed for another season! Thanks to the fans, the show will go on!

6: Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) came to a screeching halt with their testing system for interpreter’s national certification. The test system is suspended until further notice which means current state licensed interpreters or students graduating from Interpreter Training programs cannot take the test to become nationally certified (see page 12).

7: Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing just had their first Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) training, which was held at Williams Woods University in Fulton MO. I attended the training with hope of becoming one of the CDIs in MO. (see page 9).

8: Scott Dollar became the first Deafblind certified scuba diver for the Professional Association of Diving Instructors.

9: The city of Wentzville, MO (near St Louis) installed the first tornado siren with LED lights. The lights will begin flashing when the sirens go off to alert Deaf and hard of hearing citizens about a tornado in the area and to take cover.

10: Ozark Mountain Deaf Camp and Kim Snelling donated a total of $3,000 to the SSP Directory that MERIL will develop for the Deafblind community (see page 12).

11: Helen Keller National Center announced that they will recognize September 19th as the global Usher’s Syndrome Awareness Day, with the Usher Syndrome Coalition.

12: The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), its Members and 1,312 participants from 97 countries gathered at the XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Istanbul, Turkey.

13: ADA celebrated its 25th anniversary!

14: Bridge Interpreting grew bigger, by adding 4 new staff interpreters.

15: MERIL finally bought the second half of the building at 4402 S. 40th Street and Bridge Interpreting and Communication & Transition Services have moved.

Wow! A lot has happened in 2015, for the Deaf, HH, and Deafblind community! Wondering what 2016 will do for us? No matter how busy we get, we need to take the time to be with our friends and family.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you, my friends!

De Linda
 Interpreter’s Corner

Bridge Interpreting’s New Staff!

Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Michelle DeMartino to the ever growing Bridge Interpreting team! She will begin her journey with us on November 2nd as an Interpreter Services Specialist.

Bridge staff interpreters attended the annual Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Interpreter Conference October 23 - 25, with the exception of Chris Kaster who bravely stayed behind to handle the phone. They shared with the interpreting community about MERIL and Bridge as they do each year, as well as participated in educational workshops, and cheered on De Linda, Harrison, and Scott Dollar as they presented their Interpreter & SSP: Effective Teaming with the Deafblind Workshop.

Also, you may notice some new faces with the interpreters in the near future. It’s that time of year again, and Bridge will once again host interpreting students to observe their daily work and get a true taste of what it is like to work in the profession.

Sign class started October 1st, the next session will start in late February or early March. Contact Chris Kaster for information (816) 752-7490.

Workshop Updates:

Thursday, December 3rd, 2015 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Interpreters of the Round Table - Part One, Harrison Jones, Location: The Whole Person

Thursday, January 7th, 2016 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Interpreters of the Round Table - Part Two, Harrison Jones, Location: The Whole Person

Saturday, February 20th, 2016 10:00 am - 11:00 am - Tax Tips for Terps, Judy Hausman, Location: The Whole Person

Saturday, April 16th, 2016 8:00 am - 6:00 pm - Mental Health First Aid, De Linda Kelly, Location: Northland Deaf Church

Interpreting Services Team

Sarah, Lyndsey, Harrison, Cassie, Chris K, April, Chris B, and Michelle

THAT DEAF GUY

BY MATT & KAY PAIGLE

ISN'T SIGN LANGUAGE BEAUTIFUL?

[ YOU HAVE TO POOP, RIGHT NOW?]  [ THIS MINUTE? ]
Deaf Educational Workshop

IT'S A PARTY!

Come check out some of Young Living’s Essential Oils and learn how you and your family may benefit

Date: November 7, 2015  Hosted By: De Linda Kelly, MERIL
Time: 10 AM—11:30 AM  RSVP: By Wednesday, Nov. 5th

Locals

IT’S FREE and

CANCELLLED!

Sorry for the cancellation. We will reschedule in the spring of 2016.

What are Essential Oils?

They are oils that come from certain trees, flowers, and herbs and are proven to help with needs such as dry skin, headaches, difficulty sleeping, upset stomach, and so much more! The seeds or plants were processed into oils and you can either put the oil on your skin, in smoothies, or in a diffuser (scent machine) to make your home smell lovely.

This is not only for women, men can come and learn about products that were made for men too.

This workshop will be presented by Jeanenne Zeider and Stacey Storme.

Come on in and learn something new and IT’S FREE!
News From Craig’s Ballpark

The holidays are coming soon!!

What are your holiday plans?

Here are my Thanksgiving and Christmas plans :)

CRAIG

Silent Lunch Social

12:00 – 1:00 PM every Tuesday

Nov 3 - MERIL
Nov 10 - MERIL
Nov 17 - MERIL
*Nov 24 - MERIL
(*see flyer on page 13)
Dec 1 - MERIL
Dec 8 - MERIL
Dec 15 - MERIL
Dec 22 - MERIL
Dec 29 - MERIL

Come meet with other Deaf, Deafblind, hard of hearing, & hearing signers!
Deaf Churches
Northland Deaf Church
101 NE 70th Terrace, Gladstone, MO
www.northlanddeafchurch.org
Deafblind service at 9:30 AM
Main service at 11 AM
Wednesday services at 7 PM
Deaf International Community Church
Center of Grace
520 S. Harrison Street, Olathe, KS
www.deafinternational.org
Sundays at 10:00 PM
Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Deaf Liberty Baptist Church
7910 W. 75th Street, Overland Park, KS
www.deaff libertybaptist.org
Sunday school at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:45 AM
Wednesday service at 7 PM
Services are in ASL and voice interpreted
Overland Park Church of Christ
1300 W. 119th Street, Overland Park, KS
www.deafchristianfoundation.org/deafministry
Hearing worship at 8:15 AM (interpreted)
Sunday School at 9:45 AM
Deaf Worship at 10:45 AM
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 PM

Churches Using Interpreters
Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church
5502 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, MO
www.frederickboulevard.com
Sunday school at 9 AM, in ASL
Worship at 10:15 AM, interpreted
New Life Cathedral
323 N. 8th, St Joseph MO
Worship at 10:30 AM, interpreted
Wednesday at 7 PM, interpreted
First Raytown Baptist Church
10500 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO
www.firstbaptistrytown.com
Worship at 9:30 AM, interpreted & real time captioning
Country Side Baptist Church
14150 W. 175th Street, Olathe, KS
www.csid e.org
Sunday School at 9 AM, in ASL
Worship at 10 AM, interpreted
Redeemer Olathe Lutheran Church
920 S. Alta Lane, Olathe, KS
www.redeemerolathe.org
Worship at 10:45 AM, interpreted
St. Paul Catholic Church
900 S. Honeysuckle, Olathe, KS
www.spcatholic.org/DeafMinistry
Mass 10 AM (1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays), interpreted
2 PM (2nd Sundays Deaf Mass, August to April)
Prince Of Peace Catholic Church
16000 W. 143rd, Olathe, KS
www.popolathe.org
Mass at 5 PM on Saturdays, interpreted
St. Joseph Catholic Church
11311 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS
www.stjoesshawnee.org
Mass at 10:30 AM (1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays), interpreted

Any other churches not listed, please notify De Linda at delindab@meril.org
America’s Next Top Model

Come and support Nyle DiMarco as he competes to be the next top model!

WHEN: Friday, November ??, 2015
TIME: ?? pm– ?? pm
WHERE: MERIL
4420 S. 40th Street, St. Joseph, MO

The reason there is a question mark for the date and time is because De Linda does not know when the finale will be. CW’s website (www.cwtv.com) would not reveal the date for their finale. Also she does not know if Nyle will be one of the two finalists. So, De Linda will have to watch the next few shows to find out when and what time the finale will be shown.

Please keep your eyes peeled for immediate announcements on MERIL’s website (www.meril.org), MERIL’s FB page (www.facebook.com/meril4u), and/or Cross Roads Deaf Club’s FB page (www.facebook.com/crossroadsdeafclub).
The Gallaudet University Board of Trustees announced on October 9, 2015 it has selected Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano, J.D., to become the next president of Gallaudet University, effective January 1, 2016.

In making the announcement, Gallaudet Board of Trustees Chair Heather Harker said, "We are delighted to have selected Ms. Cordano to become the 11th President of Gallaudet. As our students are connecting with our vibrant community, discovering their academic and career aspirations, and influencing conversations and their futures, Ms. Cordano will be the kind of president to lead transformational change at the university. She’s the right person at the right time for Gallaudet."

Cordano, who is deaf, currently serves as the vice president of programs for the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In this role, she oversees direct community-based programs for nearly 9,500 people in the areas of early childhood, community mental health, family supportive housing, aging and caregiver services, school reform, and food access. She is widely credited for managing and sustaining programs in a highly volatile revenue environment, providing community leadership, fostering innovation, strengthening and supporting diversity within the workforce, and structuring services for optimal alignment and collaboration.

Cordano has held several leadership roles in different sectors, including health care; higher education as assistant dean for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota; and in government as an assistant attorney general for the State of Minnesota. She is a founding member of Metro Deaf School, a pre-k through eighth grade school, a bilingual-bicultural charter school for deaf and hard of hearing children in St. Paul, and a founding board member of Minnesota North Star Academy, a bilingual-bicultural charter high school for deaf and hard of hearing students. In 2003, Cordano, along with Vice President Walter Mondale and former Minnesota Governor Elmer A. Anderson, was a recipient of the inaugural Public Leadership Award from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. To read her full biography, please go to http://www.gallaudet.edu/board-of-trustees/president-select/finalist-candidates/roberta-bobbi-cordano.html.

Established in 1864, Gallaudet University is the world’s only four-year, liberal arts university at which all of its programs and services are designed for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Gallaudet’s current president, T. Alan Hurwitz, is retiring at the end of this year. His five-and-a-half year term began in January 2010. Last year, he agreed to a six-month contract extension to allow enough time for a thorough and comprehensive search process for a new university president.

"The goal for the presidential selection process was to select someone who would be described as a transformational leader; someone who will work to establish a vision that is shared by the entire campus community and inspire the community toward positive change," said Harker. "Ms. Cordano brings to the position experiences and skills built in both traditional and non-traditional settings -- skills that can be applied toward transformational change at Gallaudet so we can continue to successfully serve future generations of deaf, hard of hearing and hearing students."

The selection of Cordano is a result of a year-long search process led by a committee representing a cross-section of the campus community. Three finalist candidates were announced on August 11, and in September, each candidate visited campus, met with constituent groups and presented at a campuswide open
This week, the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees interviewed each candidate and made a final selection at the close of its fall meeting.

"I want to thank the entire community for making me feel welcome throughout this selection process," said Cordano. "There is no other place like this in the world and I’m honored to have been chosen to lead and serve this unique, one-of-a-kind university. With Gallaudet’s world-class researchers and faculty, innovative academic programs, a motivated, ambitious student body, and a dedicated staff that serves all institutional needs, there is great promise to develop and graduate future leaders who will make significant contributions to our country and the world. I look forward to working with the entire university on the transition process over the next several months."

Gallaudet University, federally chartered in 1864, is a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard of hearing individuals through American Sign Language and English. Gallaudet maintains a proud tradition of research and scholarly activity and prepares its graduates for career opportunities in a highly competitive, technological, and rapidly changing world.

Congratulations Roberta “Bobbi” Cordano
& welcome to Gallaudet!

Certified Deaf Interpreter Training
October 16–22, William Woods University, Fulton, MO

De Linda was among 9 Deaf people who attended Missouri’s very first Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) training in Fulton, MO, co-sponsored by Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) and William Woods University. What does a Deaf Interpreter (DI) do? A DI is a Deaf person who works as an interpreter, interpreting for a Deaf individual, using their preferred language. A DI could be used in medical, legal, mental health, schools, and more settings. American Sign Language is a hearing interpreter’s second (or third) language, it is not their native language. Their ability to understand and/or to interpret American Sign Language can be challenging. A Deaf Interpreter can come in and work as a team with a hearing interpreter (HI) and interpret in their native language to a Deaf individual. Using a DI does NOT mean that the HI is not skilled enough to interpret! No, it means that the HI would get more language and cultural support with a DI. A Deaf person can request a DI if they prefer a native language interpreter. Please contact De Linda or MCDHH for more information.

Now that De Linda completed the training, she can and will be taking written and performance tests either through the state, MCDHH, or through a national organization, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Once she passes both tests and becomes certified, who knows—she may end up interpreting for you someday!
America’s Next Top Model (ANTM), Cycle 22 accepted him to join in the competition. Nyle came on board with 33 other aspiring models. He gets to work with a famous model, Tyra Banks, creator, host, and executive producer for ANTM. Week by week, Nyle competes against other models, trying to get high scores to remain in the contest. The person with the lowest score is sent home. The winner will get a career-launching prize package that includes new luxury fashion partner Zappos Couture as well as Nylon and Next Management. The winner will receive prizes including: $100,000 from Zappos Couture as well as being the face of their national luxury brand re-launch in 2016, a fashion feature in Nylon, as well as being offered a modeling contract with Next Management. Wow - what a big prize!!

Ever since ANTM Cycle 22 started, Nyle has been getting noticed, all over the world! For the most part, it is because of his Deafness and his ability to thrive in the difficult modeling world. He has been advocating for the Deaf community, showing the hearing community that Deaf people CAN do anything they set their heart on! But that’s not the only reason why everyone is drooling over this guy. Come on, admit it - he is super sexy!! Those eyes, the way he stares at you. Whooo… it sure can melt anyone very quickly!

As of October 30th, Nyle is STILL in the running for America’s Next Top Model, with only 4 other models left. He is in the homestretch! It is amazing that our very own Deaf brother, Nyle, survived 28 cuts! He did not give up, he fought hard and listened to Tyra Banks and the other judges and tried his best to stay in the competition.

The website, www.CWTV.com/shows/Americas-next-top-model, did not reveal when the finale will be but according to the history of the last three seasons, the finale seems to happen during the first or second week of November. De Linda Kelly, Director of Communication and Transition Services is planning to have a finale watch party at MERIL to support Nyle, only IFFFFFF he is one of the finalists. We would be watching the finale on our big screen. Please check MERIL’s website and FB page, as well as CRDC’s FB page for any information about Nyle and his finale watch party. Good luck, Nyle!

In ANTM - The Girl Who Got All Dolled Up, Nyle had to act like a doll in this photo shoot. Nyle won the best photo in this shoot which placed him first during that week!

Here, Nyle models for Tyra’s Boom Boom Boom Cologne commercial.
Deaf West Theater, from Los Angeles, CA, is thrilled to present their play, Spring Awakening on Broadway in New York City. Spring Awakening is not a story about a Deaf person or anything related to Deafness. Based on Franz Wedekind’s 1891 play with music, Spring Awakening boldly depicts how young people navigate the thrilling, confusing and mysterious time of their sexual awakening. The directors at Deaf West Theater decided to use Deaf actors and actresses while using interpreters to shadow around the Deaf actors/actresses, voicing what they sign to the audience.

New York City invited Deaf West Theater to continue performances on Broadway! To get chosen to perform on Broadway means your performance has to be top notch and excellent, with promises that it will attract a lot of people! A lot of critics who write articles about Broadway shows ended up writing positive reviews about Spring Awakening!

There are a few famous Deaf actors and actresses who are performing in Spring Awakening. You would probably recognize one person—Marlee Matlin. Yes, Marlee Matlin (Academy Award winner for Best Actress in the leading role for Children of a Lesser God) is performing as a Deaf woman in this play. Another leading actor for Spring Awakening is Daniel Durant, who also appeared on ABC Family’s Switched At Birth, as one of the Deaf students at Carlton School for the Deaf. He left the show when his character graduated from Carlton. You may not recognize this gentleman’s name, Russell Harvard, but you will recognize his face. He is featured in most movies by ASL Films, such as Versa Effect, and Gerald. One more famous actress who is involved is Camryn Manheim. She is not Deaf but she used to be a certified interpreter for the Deaf. She was an interpreter when she started doing some acting. Once bitten, she fell in love with acting and began to hang up her interpreting hands and start focusing more on acting. She still remains at large with the Deaf community.

Hands waving (applause) to Deaf West Theater and their hard work in making this production successful and being on Broadway for the second time! The first time they were on Broadway was for Big River, in 2003.

BREAK A LEG!!!

It’s bad luck to say “Good Luck” in theater, so we say “Break a Leg,” which means the same thing.

The cast, performing on stage.
SSP DIRECTORY

De Linda would like to give you an update about the online SSP Directory, after announcing in July’s newsletter that Ozark Mountains Deaf Camp selected MERIL as the recipient of their fundraiser, for the SSP Directory. In early August, OMDC donated $2,000 to MERIL! Then, in September, after De Linda’s brief presentation at an Usher Syndrome Awareness event in KC, MERIL received another gracious donation of $1,000, solely for the directory, from Kim Snelling, of Lenexa, KS.

So now MERIL is very excited to have a total of $3,000 in donations for the directory, but unfortunately it is not enough to get the directory up and running yet. We are at about 90% of our goal, with approximately $400 left. We are almost at the end of the tunnel, De Linda can see the lights and will not give up!

If you are interested in doing some fundraising or making a contribution to the SSP directory, please contact De Linda at (816) 396-0234 or e-mail her at delindab@meril.org.

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Suspension of the National Interpreting Certification Exams

Big changes are happening with interpreter certification. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has placed a moratorium on credentialing effective January 1st. What this means is that the National Interpreting Certification exam that was previously used to measure the skill levels of sign language interpreters will be suspended until further notice.

What is not yet clear is the rationale for this decision, a timeline as to when they will reinstate performance testing, and exactly what other implications this will have for consumers of interpreting services, agencies that provide these services, and the impact to the field of interpreting as a whole.

While there are many concerns to be addressed, among them is what changes need to be made to ensure quality of service for the diverse community interpreters serve. We look forward to learning about what decisions are made by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and will keep you posted!
Silent Lunch’s Thanksgiving Potluck
November 24th, 2015
12 - 1:30 PM

De Linda will bring a turkey to share.
Please bring a popular Thanksgiving side dish to share with your friends. You could check in with De Linda and let her know what dish you plan to bring.
Remember, there are some of us who don't have a family to be with on Thanksgiving, so please come to this potluck to be with their second family.

Merry Christmas
CRDC's Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5th
1 - 4PM

CRDC will provide ham and is asking everyone to bring a side dish. No dessert, please. There will be a $5 Dirty Santa game, which is optional. If you want to play the game, bring a wrapped gift worth $5 (with no name written on it). Please look at CRDC's FB page, www.facebook.com.crossroadsdeafclub, for more information as it gets closer to the party.
Any questions please contact CRDC officers or De Linda.

Young, old, big, small, Deaf, hearing or Deafblind - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
CRDC Officers

Holidays are coming! Winter is coming! What will you be doing for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year’s Eve? Ready to deal with the snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain? Because of the weather, there will not be a lot of events with CRDC because we want you to stay home, be safe, and not drive out in the snow. But first here is what happened in September and October.

September 13 – 26th was Deaf Awareness Week, and we were disappointed to share that no one came to the DEAFTOWN USA event in Maryville, and only two came to the Game night which was not enough so we had to cancel. The movie night was successful, 11 people came to watch the movie, Gerald, and we had a competition for the best dip. De Linda Kelly won with her best chili dip!! She still would not share her #1 secret ingredient.

On October 23rd, Sherry, Ashley, and Brandie volunteered to help out during MERIL’s Fall Festival, with CRDC’s I Love You board that children love to throw bean bags through. About 230 people came to this festival! On the same day, October 23rd, Scott Dollar left for the Missouri Interpreters Conference to co-present with De Linda Kelly and Harrison Jones during Deaf Empowerment on October 24th. Their presentation was called “Interpreter and SSP: Effective Teaming with the Deafblind.” This will be their third time giving a presentation on this topic in one year, they must be very popular!

PLEASE come to CRDC’s general meeting on November 7th, from 1 to 4 pm. There will be an election for the President and Treasurer positions. The current President and Treasurer’s term will expire in February of 2016. Sherry Thurn and Scott Dollar were nominated for President, and there are no nominations for Treasurer, yet. If you are interested in running for President or Treasurer, or have a nomination – please get in touch with one of the officers or De Linda quickly before November 5th.

Also don’t forget the Christmas party - more information on page13.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, & Happy New Year!

CRDC Officers
November:
LUNCH SOCIALS - 12 to 1 PM, every Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, @ MERIL
CRDC General Meeting - Nov. 7th, 1 - 4 PM, @ MERIL
Thanksgiving Holiday - Nov. 26th - 27th, "MERIL WILL BE CLOSED!"

December:
LUNCH SOCIALS - 12 to 1 PM, every Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th @ MERIL
CRDC Christmas Party - Dec. 5th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, @ MERIL
Christmas Holiday - Dec 24th - 25th, "MERIL WILL BE CLOSED!"
MERIL WILL BE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

November 26th & 27th
And
December 24th & 25th