

The Singapore
Association
For The Deaf
新加坡聾人协会



Signal

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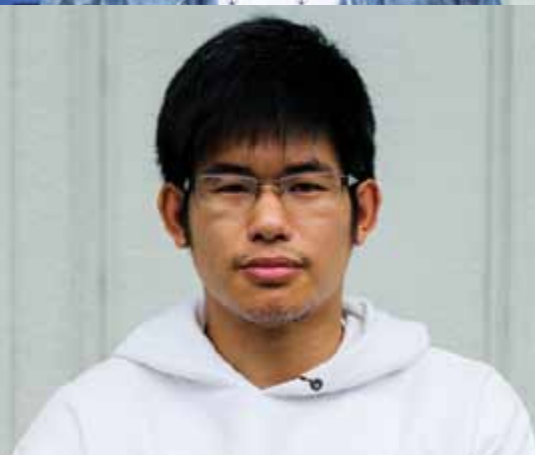
May 2015

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Looking To The Future:
Presenting the Singapore
Deaf Youth Section (SDYS)!

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Special thanks also to the following:

- Singapore School for the Deaf
- Claudine Chan & Jessica Mak



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Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future

As I write this, it has been two days since the state funeral of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore and our greatest statesman. His passing was mourned by Singaporeans and marked the end of an era. But as we reflect upon his immense contributions to our country, we should also seek to build on the foundations Mr Lee and our pioneers have established.



Mr Lee Kuan Yew said, in one of his many inspiring speeches, that Singapore would not be based on race, language or religion, but on fundamental values – multi-racialism, equality, meritocracy, integrity, and rule of law. He declared, “This is not a country that belongs to any single community; it belongs to all of us.”

Likewise, SADeaf aims to promote inclusiveness within our community. SADeaf belongs to everyone with hearing loss. The Association has traditionally served and been associated with the culturally Deaf who use sign language as their primary communication mode. The signing Deaf community has been SADeaf’s bastion, supplying the passionate leaders in the Executive Council and among the staff.

At the same time, SADeaf sees itself as the national body for all persons with hearing loss — regardless of their mode of communication, age of onset of hearing loss, or other disabilities. We warmly welcome the hard of hearing, the Deafblind, and the elderly deaf to join the Association as our clients and members, and we do our best to serve them equally. Unity in numbers means strength and resilience; all of us with hearing loss face similar challenges and have interrelated needs.

SADeaf is also keen to cultivate ties and work closely with the various deaf-related organisations — in view of our hosting of the WFD Asia Conference in 2016. This is especially important and pertinent.

Here, we invite everyone in the community to come together to work hand in hand for our common causes — our right to accessibility, communication, and the welfare of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Singapore.

Casting our eyes ahead

Singapore celebrates its golden jubilee this year — if you are on this sunny isle, you couldn’t miss the ubiquitous SG50 logos and that certain festive mood in the air. But do you know 2015 also marks SADeaf’s 60th anniversary? Yes, the Association, which was set up in 1955, is ten years older than independent Singapore! Stay tuned as we kick-start our milestone 60th anniversary celebrations in the coming months.

SADeaf will also be holding its biennial election to select the next Executive Council during the Annual General Meeting in September 2015. We call on all who wish to serve the community to step up and run for office. Do remember to renew your membership so that you can run or cast your vote!

This issue of Signal also marks a shift in its editorial direction. Signal will now focus more on personalities, features, happenings and important news and announcements. An example is the cover story which spotlights our potential future deaf leaders. Be sure to catch the new series “A Day In The Life Of...” which does likewise for our SADeaf staff.

And one more shiny new thing — our revamped website! Do check it out at www.sadeaf.org.sg.

Here’s looking forward!

Alvan Yap
Deputy Director

have your say



For feedback, comments and suggestions on **Signal Newsletter**, you can email corporate@sadeaf.org.sg or mail to **The Singapore Association for the Deaf, 227 Mountbatten Road, Singapore 397998.**

SADeaf Website Revamped & “Live”!



Check out SADeaf’s new official website at www.sadeaf.org.sg! Revamped and launched in late March, it now has a fresh look and feel. Besides a design overhaul, new coats of paint and varnish, as well as a mobile-friendly version,

there is now more information, photos, resources and links. It will also be updated regularly with the latest news and more!

Oh yes, there are other ways to keep up to date with the many happenings at SADeaf too. Just friend us at our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SADeafSG), or sign up for our Mailchimp (email) list (by emailing cs_swa@sadeaf.org.sg to subscribe).

Do stay in touch!

We also wish to thank our talented deaf volunteer photographers Edwin Ong and Raymond Lee for providing some of the lovely banner photos used on the website.

Ambassadors For The Deaf

ABC Tissue Hearing Express
 AV-Science Marketing Pte Ltd
 Barclays Technology Centre Ltd
 ERA Singapore Pte Ltd
 Field Catering and Supplies Pte Ltd
 Fraser and Neave, Ltd
 Grid Synergy Pte Ltd
 Hengrich Pte Ltd
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 Mun Siong Engineering Ltd
 Natural Cooling Holdings Ltd
 Select Group Ltd
 Siemens Medical Instruments Pte Ltd
 The GoodWater Company Pte Ltd
 The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
 Vobis Enterprise Pte Ltd



Ambassadors for the Deaf are our cherished partners who believe in, and are committed to, playing a part for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Singapore. Together, we work to raise public awareness of deafness, support our fundraising activities and provide employment opportunities. Please contact the Deputy Director at alvan@sadeaf.org.sg to find out more.

Introducing the Singapore Deaf Youth Section



SDYS management committee (from left to right) Chen Jie Ying, Chua Kim Leng, Lisa Loh, Erika Herdman, Nurul Humairah, Yew Hau En, Eugene Tan

A newly established group under SADeaf, the Singapore Deaf Youth Section (SDYS) aims to groom and cultivate the next generation of leaders in the Deaf community. It also hopes to encourage the many talented and enthusiastic Deaf and hard-of-hearing young people out there to step forth and join in!

SDYS is open to Deaf and hard-of-hearing youth aged 18 to 35, and you can contact the nice folks there at sdys@sadeaf.org.sg. You can also check it out online at www.facebook.com/DeafYouthSG, and have a look at its Youtube channel: DeafYouthSG.



The SDYS logo consists of five stars, echoing those on the Singapore flag, and represents Empowerment, Leadership, Pride in Deaf Identity, Involvement and Advocacy.

The Y-shaped design below refers to “Youth” and looks similar to a bud. In International Sign Language, “youth” is signed like a bud (closed flat hands blooming upwards in the movement of “J”).

Read on for SDYS President Erika’s essay on SDYS, what it means for her, and an overview of its upcoming plans and activities!

Presenting the first SDYS management committee (2014 to 2016):

President : Erika Herdman
 Vice President : Lisa Loh
 Secretary : Nurul Humairah
 Treasurer : Chua Kim Leng
 Board Members : Chen Jie Ying, Eugene Tan, Yew Hau En

All Systems Go for SDYS!

Erika Herdman, President of SDYS



I remember growing up at a time where I was surrounded by deaf adults at McDonald's every Friday. I was just seven years old, but these deaf adults signed to me as if I was one of them. It made me feel grown up. We have had some amazing deaf leaders in our community over the last fifty years.

Things are slowly improving for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Singapore. For example, we now have some subtitled English-language movies being screened at the cinemas. But many things remain to be improved, especially the issue of education for deaf children.

Nelson Mandela said, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* Recently, a deaf 21-year-old Australian, Drisana Levitzek-Gray, was named Young Australian of the Year, for her efforts in pushing for the rights of deaf children around the world. She is definitely an inspiring example!

At SDYS, our dream is for the next generation of deaf persons in Singapore to have the same equal access as their peers in all aspects of life.

Our first step is to get the deaf youth to gather together, like how it used to be in the good old days. That is why we will be holding the national deaf youth camp annually! This will be a wonderful opportunity for deaf youth to interact, confront challenges together, and most importantly, gain invaluable experience and skills to prepare them for life. We hope to catch a

glimpse of a future Singaporean Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela or Drisana Levitzek-Gray among our youth participants at the camp!



We will be organising the first ever National Deaf Youth Camp (NDYC), to be held from 10 to 12 April 2015. I guarantee that it will be something special. With an all-deaf organising committee, all participants are sure to have some lasting memories. The camp programme was entirely done by the whole team who are deaf! Yes, they know exactly what you will enjoy. So, come on, join us!

We also have great news to announce! Lisa Loh Yee Chen and Yeong Zhi Wei have been selected to represent Singapore at the 6th World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS) Youth Camp in Istanbul, Turkey from 19 to 25 July this year! Going overseas and meeting many different youths from other countries will be definitely an eye-opening experience for them. I attended a WFD RSA Youth Camp in Indonesia in 2009, but this one in Turkey is much bigger with hundreds of participants. How cool is that? Yeah, I know!

Lisa and Zhi Wei are members of SDYS and they are involved in the organising committee for the 8th WFD RSA Youth Camp 2016. I wish them all the best and hope they bring some valuable experiences to the Deaf youths in Singapore!

Lastly, the great news is that Singapore will be hosting the 8th World Federation for the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia (WFD RSA) Youth Camp in 2016. You can participate in the camp or be in the cool WFD RSA Youth Camp organising committee!

Grab the opportunities to explore and expand your horizon by becoming a member of SDYS! Hoping to see you at NDYC, WFDYS Youth Camp in Turkey and the WFD RSA Youth Camp in Singapore!

Carpe Diem!

All Hands on Deck for WFD RSA Youth Camp!



Feeling bored? Eager to have interesting experiences? Or do something meaningful? Want to meet new friends and exotic folks?

Well, your answer is right here.. we need volunteers for a novel, fun, meaningful project! Come help out in the preparations for the 8th WFD RSA Youth Camp. Step up, volunteer and have loads of fun - guaranteed!

Hold on, you say, what is this camp about? Well, SADeaf is hosting the World Federation for the Deaf

Regional Secretariat for Asia (WFD RSA) Youth Camp – it aims to encourage Deaf youth in Asia to take up leadership positions and advocate for Deaf rights in their countries. To be held in October 2016, the camp will see participants from all over Asia flocking to our sunny isle!

If you are keen to be part of this exciting event, simply email us at wfdasiayouthcamp2016@sadeaf.org.sg with the subject “WFD RSA Youth Camp: Volunteer”. In your email, state your name, age, contact details and specific skills. Also Like us on Facebook: [wfdasiayouthcamp2016!](#)



Sign Language, the Language of the Deaf

Wang Li-Sa, Linguistic Sub-committee

Sign language is a general term used to refer to a group of languages that are manually produced and visually understood. Sign language is natural to deaf persons who do not orientate their lives to the world of sound. It is not universal though - each nation, state and/or community with deaf persons will develop their unique signed language.

People use language to relay ideas, feelings, sentiments, share history and culture. Deaf people use sign language in the same ways. So sign language is important to a Deaf person's identity, just as Singlish is important to a Singaporean's identity.



SgSL's grammatical structure has also been influenced to some extent by spoken languages in Singapore. These include locally generated signs for place names and words such as "kiasu" and "bochup". But while SgSL is socially recognised and accepted by the local Deaf community, its vocabulary, grammatical structures, rules and morphology remains largely under researched.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In order to advocate for the provision of quality services for the Deaf, we need an in-depth understanding of the language.

Only then can we have more effective training of educators of the deaf and sign language interpreters, validate the Deaf community and its language and empower Deaf persons.

The Linguistic Sub Committee (LSC) under Deaf Access Services (DAS) need funds for SgSL corpus research and to cover manpower costs to conduct analyses and production of SgSL material. We also need programmes to create awareness of the language among hearing people, especially parents of deaf children, late deafened youths and adults, as well as educators and employers of the deaf.

To support or donate to this research project, please contact our SgSL Development Officer, Jessica, at jessica@sadeaf.org.sg.



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www.thatdeafguy.com | www.fb/thatdeafguycomic

TOWARDS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

Many nations recognise Sign Language as official languages alongside spoken languages. Some examples are **Kenyan Sign Language (KSL)**, introduced into the national constitution in 2013; **New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)**, the country's official language together with Maori and English in 2006, and **Thai Sign Language (TSL)**, the national language of deaf Thai since 1999.

SINGAPORE SIGN LANGUAGE

Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) is our native sign language which developed over the six decades since the setting up of the Singapore Chinese Sign School for the Deaf in 1954. Today's Singapore Sign Language comprises a combination of Shanghainese Sign Language, American Sign Language, Signing Exact English and locally developed signs.

A Day in the Life of...



Have you ever wondered what our staff at SDeaf do in the course of their work? It's time to shine a spotlight on the dedicated social workers, case managers, audiologists, interpreters and other frontline staff who serve our clients on a daily basis.

Kicking this new series off is Rosa Yan, our Case Manager with the Community Services (CS) department who has been with us for almost four years.

Why Rosa joined SDeaf:

"I had been providing employment support service to individuals with special needs, and SDeaf's job placement services for the Deaf community back then was a perfect match for me. At that time, I did not have any prior exposure to the Deaf community - my first experience with sign language was great fun indeed!

What her job involves:

Our team of social worker and case managers in CS helps clients in many areas, such as financial, legal, housing, employment, social relationships, counselling, and personal development issues. We also refer clients to external resources or organisations that can meet their specialised needs, if such assistance is not available at SDeaf.

A typical work day for Rosa:

Early in the morning, our social work assistant, Xue Er, informs me of an elderly walk-in client who wishes to apply for financial assistance for a new pair of hearing

aids. I attend to this client and help with the required documents.

Then I rush down to the Legal Aid Bureau for an appointment with a client who needs help to apply for legal aid services. After lunch, I make a home visit to another client who has been feeling depressed after being retrenched. Apart from a referral to SG Enable for job matching services, I offer counselling for the client's emotional struggles, and discuss budgeting issues with the family members to help tide over their financially tight period.

Phew! It has been a busy day. I still have to record and follow up on these cases.

How she finds her work fulfilling:

Every client I work with is unique. Some are very nice people with interesting personalities. I am always delighted when they ask after me when we bump into each other at the Association. I am even more happy when they say my signing has improved!

I feel happiest when our clients update me that they are doing well, especially for those that we had accompanied through their difficult moments in life – such as being homeless, jobless, going through relationship breakdowns or family conflicts. Our greatest achievement is bringing out their positiveness and taking the initiative to help themselves and improve their lives.

Getting In Line With Bernardette Chew!

Shirley Lim, Volunteer Writer



Line Dance Instructor Bernardette Chew (right)

Bernadette Chew, who is deaf, is an avid fan of line dancing. For the past one year, she has been sharing her love for line dancing with the Deaf community by conducting line dancing lessons for them.

Tell us how you got started.

Bernadette: *I have been learning line dancing for eight years (from 2007 to present) from my hearing friend who teaches line dancing.*

When it comes to line dancing, what was the most challenging aspect? How do you overcome the challenges?

Memorising the steps in line dancing was the most challenging part. I had to watch the instructor's steps closely. Because I can't hear the music, I had to memorise the timing as well. My friend is an interpreter at a church so she is able to sign to me. During lessons, she was very patient in demonstrating the steps.

It is recommended to have one deaf participant dancing with a hearing partner. With a hearing partner, if we don't do the steps correctly, they will alert us. Also, I read the step sheets and learn the steps slowly to make sure that I get them correct.

Alternatively, I will watch YouTube videos on line dancing to make sure I get the steps correct. I also joined various community clubs' line dance activities. Doing all these deepened my interest in line dance and has also improved my memory!



Bernadette (5th from right) with her line dance group

I feel line dancing is a good form of exercise. I felt more relaxed and less stressed.

Tell us more about learning line dancing with the hearing.

One year after I first picked up line dancing, I decided to join my hearing friends who line dance. We all shared the new songs and learnt new dance steps together. I will look at the foot movements and follow them. Normally, before I start line dancing with my group, I would inform the organiser that I need to know the scheduled list of line dance lyrics, and I will practice the dance steps till I am satisfied. We all attend the same class, so there is no discrepancy between the hearing and the Deaf. After enjoying myself so much, I decided to share this joy by teaching the Deaf community line dancing.

What would you like to tell the Deaf community on encouraging them to join the hearing community?

Be positive and interact more with the hearing. They all welcome me when I first joined line dancing with them. You can achieve satisfaction by overcoming the obstacles and challenges along the way and learn many new things too!



All together once again!

New Ambassadors On Board!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our two new Ambassadors for the Deaf. GoodWater Company Pte Ltd and Hengrich Pte Ltd have recently joined us as our 19th and 20th Ambassadors.

The two companies and their big-hearted staff will partner SADeaf in various ways, such as promoting awareness of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in our community, helping in our fundraising drives, and through other joint programmes and activities.



GoodWater®
The GoodWater Company Pte Ltd
www.egoodwater.com

GoodWater Company Pte Ltd

The GoodWater Company is a solutions integrator (SI) that focuses on social and environmental impact services and innovations. It engages various government agencies,

corporates and schools in various Corporate Social/ Sustainability Responsibility (CSR) projects and has an presence in developing countries too.



GoodWater intern Mr Gu Ting Kai, a member of SADeaf, showing Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, the functions of the S3 watch at the Global Social Innovators Forum. ~ Photo courtesy of GoodWater.

In the words of Mr Sean Tan, CEO of GoodWater Company, "In a rapidly changing world that has numerous complexities, uncertainty and inequalities, administering comprehensive social innovation is key to resilience for a more cohesive and stronger society."

As an example of its CSR commitment, GoodWater collaborated with the Nanyang Polytechnic last year on the S3 (Sense, Signal and Sound) Wearable Watch for persons with hearing loss. The watch uses environmental acoustic detection technology to identify different types of loud sounds and vibrates to alert the wearer of potential dangers.



Hengrich Pte Ltd

Hengrich Pte Ltd is a corporate solutions company which provides IT consultancy and events management services. Among its customers are Cycle & Carriage, Daikin, Swissotel and Gaggenauand. Hengrich's IT consultancy services include web and apps development, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, as well as providing market survey and data analytic platforms for businesses.



Free Admission to WRS Parks!

Elizabeth Khoo, Community Services

If you are a registered SADeaf client with a Hearing Help Card, you can enjoy free entry to the following Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) parks - Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, River Safari and Singapore Zoo!

Complimentary admission to all four parks is valid every day (including weekends and public holidays). Tram and boat rides are not included in complimentary admission, and will need to be purchased separately, at the prevailing rates. The only exception is Night Safari, where the tram ride is included in the admission.



Seniors' Mobility and Enabling Fund (SMF)

SADeaf is officially a SMF administrator for hearing aids. Eligible seniors can enjoy up to 90% subsidy of the actual cost of the hearing aids. SADeaf provides help in the SMF application process to our registered clients*.

To be eligible, the senior:

- Must be aged 60 years and above
- Must be a Singapore citizen
- Has not made any previous claims for hearing aids
- Has a household monthly income per person of \$1,800 and below
- Has been assessed by a qualified audiologist to determine the need for and type of hearing aids

For further queries on SMF, please email our Social Work Assistant at cs_swa@sadeaf.org.sg.

* If you have hearing loss, you are eligible to be our client. Client registration is free. Please bring along an audiogram or doctor's letter to certify deafness. For those who do not have an audiogram or doctor's letter, SADeaf offers a hearing test service at our Hearing Care Centre for \$15.

Hard or Soft? Take Your Pick!

Going green is the buzzword these days, so e-books and e-publications are becoming more and more popular. At SDeaf, we also want to be environment friendly and save money at the same time!

Some of you may prefer to read Signal or the Annual Report (in the universal PDF format) on your computers, tablets or mobile phones. But others may prefer to flip through the pages of the hard copies of these publications instead. Now you can choose!



If you wish to continue to receive hard copies of both Signal and the Annual Report, you do not have to do anything. We will continue to send these to your postal address.

But if you wish to receive soft copies instead, just fill in the following online form (it will only take a minute!).

URL:


<http://goo.gl/A6X9Ev>

Yes, I want to receive e-copies of Signal and/or Annual Report.

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Some of you may prefer to read Signal or the Annual Report (in PDF format) on your computers, tablets or mobile phones. But others may prefer to flip through the pages of the hard copies of these publications instead. Now you can choose!

Or scan this QR code:



ALSO IMPORTANT! If your postal address, email address or mobile number have changed, please update us so that you will continue to receive our updates and publications. Just email info@sadeaf.org.sg with your full name and new contact information.

REMINDER: Renew Your Membership!

If you have not renewed your SDeaf membership for 2015, you can do so now! Membership grants you various perks and benefits, such as free interpretation and note-taking services (for Deaf and hard-of-hearing members), and also the right to vote in this year's Executive Council elections during the AGM!

For more information on membership fees and benefits, please browse to www.sadeaf.org.sg/join-us/be-our-member.

Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) Programmes



SgSL Courses

Interested in learning a deaf language and exploring a new culture? In Singapore Sign Language (SgSL), you use your hands, body and facial expressions to communicate. Sign up for these courses, unleash your linguistic talents and gain an insider's view of Deaf culture and language!

Course	Duration & Length	Pre-requisite
LEVEL ONE	36 hours: 3 hours x 12 sessions (twice a week)	Beginners with no previous knowledge of sign language
LEVEL ONE (transit)	36 hours: 3 hours x 12 sessions (once a week)	Those with knowledge of Signing Exact English (SEE) or/and Pidgin Signed English (PSE)

Level One: The course aims to develop capabilities in non-verbal, visual-gestural communication as well as the study of gestures as a form of communication and visual language basics. Theme based and including activities in expressive and receptive skills, the course focuses on training learners in basic functions such as greetings and introductions. It also emphasises the systematic study of the SgSL vocabulary and structure.

Level One (transit): This course focuses on the sign vocabulary and structure of SgSL transited from Signing Exact English (SEE) or/and Pidgin Signed English (PSE). Learn more about non-verbal and visual gestural communication. It is theme-based and includes communicative activities which help learners develop their expressive and receptive skills. Classes are conducted in the weekday evenings and are designed for beginners, with an option to progress to the intermediate level.

For more information, visit sadeaf.org.sg/services/sign-language-courses/.

Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) Town Hall Meetings

SADeaf's Linguistic Sub-Committee is organising SgSL town hall meetings every month! It invites you — Deaf or Hard of Hearing or Children of Deaf Adults (CODA) — to join us. The aim of the meetings is to discuss SgSL signs for research purposes as well as to develop a SgSL dictionary as our long-term goal.

These town-hall meetings will be held once a month at SADeaf, from 3pm to 5pm.

Topics to be covered include Food and Drink (19 April), Race, Religion & Festivals (30 May), Health & Medical (27 June).



2015 International Deaf Events - You are invited!

This year marks the hosting of the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and WASLI 2015 Conference — the most important Deaf-related events in the world, held once every four years — in Istanbul, Turkey. And, yes, SADeaf will be sending official delegates for both events!



XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf

Held from 28 July to 1 August 2015, this edition of the WFD World Congress focuses on the theme “Strengthening Human Diversity”. It strives for societies and governments to recognise Deaf people as a part of human diversity and work together in the areas of sign language, deaf studies, education, employment, accessibility, technology, health and bioethics.

For more details, visit the congress website: www.wfdcongress2015.org



WASLI 2015 Conference

With the theme “Human Rights: Where do Interpreters Fit In?”, the World Association of Sign Language Interpreter (WASLI)’s 2015 conference will focus on the development of interpreting skills and services around the world. Key dates are 20 to 21 July 2015 (Workshop), 22 to 25 July 2015 (Conference). For more details, visit the conference website: www.conference2015.wasli.org

If you are interested, contact the DAS Interpretation Section at terp-service@sadeaf.org.sg. A briefing will be held later. Register with us and be updated!

50 For Fifty for SADeaf

Under the 50 for Fifty project (<http://50for50.sg>), fifty young people under the age of 35 embarked on various fundraising and awareness raising projects for charity.

Two of them are Mr Thomas Tan and Ms Belinda Teo – and SADeaf would like to thank them for adopting us as their beneficiary under this initiative.



From left: Daniel Lin representing the All Saints Home, Thomas Tan and Belinda Teo for the SADeaf

Together with Suburbia – a fine dining restaurant at Sentosa – the two big-hearted change makers raised more than \$24,000 for SADeaf. This was done via a set meal promotion over two months, as well as a special Charity Dinner cum Wine Auction event on 19 December 2014. The sum also qualified for the one-to-one matching grant under the Care & Share programme by the Community Chest, doubling the total amount raised!

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to the generous donors and support of all guests at the wine auction/dinner, as well as management of Suburbia. Find out more about Suburbia at www.suburbia.com.sg.

Where to Find Street Murals, Snakes, Batik & Buddhist Temples?

Barbara D'Cotta, Vice Principal, Singapore School for the Deaf



Wanna hitchhike from the cyclist?



Visit to Thai Temple in Penang

The beautiful, historical state of Penang was the Singapore School for the Deaf (SSD)'s destination for its second Learning Journey from 8 to 11 November 2014. And what fun it was!

When we arrived, our friendly guide brought us to a local restaurant for our first taste of the local cuisine. The children were surprised the dishes were similar to Singapore's, but with a distinctive Penang tinge.

On the Georgetown city tour, we saw Fort Cornwallis, a Burmese temple, Clan Jetties (house on stilts), mural paintings and the Penang State Museum. A highlight was the Reclining Buddha, the size of which left the students awestruck.

We were also privileged to call on the warm and friendly members of the Association for the Deaf in Penang, who invited us to dinner at a popular eating haunt. At the Sekolah Pendidikan Khas (Rendah Dan Menengah), the principal briefed us on the school's history and showed us around. It was wonderful to see our students being able to communicate easily with the Deaf persons there as our sign systems are similar.

The following day exposed us city-bound types to the 'kampong' life - we dropped by the Malay Village and the Fishing Village, and also visited the

Batik Factory where we learnt about the intricacies of designing and creating batik. The students were also amazed with the dizzying variety of fruits and got to try some!

We also went to Snake Temple where we got close and personal with a huge python, as well as Armenian Street where the children were able to feel and touch the 3D paintings, and take countless photos.



Group photo @ Summit of Penang Hill

Our next stop was Penang Hill; we got to the top via the Funicular Train. The children were amazed that something so old was still functioning.

At the Toy Museum, they got to see how children used to play with the toys from days of yore. Nature played an important part in their learning journey too, entailing a visit to Tanjung Bungah (Flower Garden) and a Butterfly Farm. This gave them an opportunity to see for themselves the concept of life cycles "live".

Finally, everyone had the chance to do some shopping and buy souvenirs before heading home with indelible memories of our enjoyable and educational Penang sojourn.

It Feels Like Christmas!

Tan Keng Ying, Volunteer Writer



The Sports and Recreation Committee of the Deaf (SRCD) organised a Christmas party at the SADeaf Hall on 20 December 2014. We were delighted to have a total of 47 participants – 46 deaf and 1 hearing – turning up for the event. Ms Tan Keng Ying, chairperson of SRCD, held a storytelling session, followed by costume-making and memory games. The gathering wrapped up in a festive mood with a buffet dinner, gift exchange and lucky draw giveaways!

Charity Walk 2015



Sunday, 8 March, dawned bright and clear, as a crowd of 300 gathered at SADeaf to take part in the ERA Charity Walk 2015. Our long-time Ambassador for the Deaf, ERA Realty Network Pte Ltd, had organised this fundraising event for the third time. The participants consisted of ERA staff and agents, as well as our Deaf clients and students from the Singapore School for the Deaf.

SADeaf Patron, Ms Ho Ching, also turned up to show her support and even walked the entire route with us! SADeaf President Dr Christopher Low and members of the Executive Council were on hand to receive our patron and ambassador. At the end of the walk, which looped around the open space at the Sports Hub, Mr Jack Chua, CEO of ERA Realty Network Pte Ltd, gave a short speech and presented a cheque for \$80,000 to us.



We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the ERA folks for their big hearts, and also wish to extend a warm welcome to ERA as our neighbours, as it has just moved to its new head office at Mountbatten Square beside our premises.

Medically Speaking.. in Sign Language!

Celine Chong and Ada Ng, Medical Students



Basic medical terms such as "Pain" in sign language

In today's rapidly evolving healthcare scene, patients' needs are becoming increasingly complex. So we need cohesive and seamless teamwork between various healthcare professions to provide patients with the most holistic care possible.

With the aim of fostering interaction and cooperation between the various healthcare professions, the Sign Language Course 2014 was organised under the IPE programme from 11 August 2014 to 3 October 2014. Seventy-five participants from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, the Faculty of Dentistry and the Department of Pharmacy (Faculty of Science) attended the eight-week course which was conducted by SADeaf instructors.

Over the following weeks, participants were immersed in the world of Singapore Sign Language (SgSL). The instructors, who are native users of SgSL, first taught participants the basic sign alphabet and then the commonly used vocabulary. We also had the opportunity to learn the signs for some basic medical terms such as 'pain', 'fever' and 'diarrhea'.

Ms Wang Li-Sa also gave an extremely informative talk about ethical issues surrounding the treatment of deaf persons and working with sign language interpreters.

The course concluded with a role-play activity. For example, one team had to demonstrate what they would do if a deaf person showed up at their clinic, and no sign language interpreter was available at that time. Most participants enjoyed this activity as it allowed them to consolidate their knowledge of sign language, and gave insights into the various problems that healthcare professionals could potentially face when interacting with deaf patients.

"Learning SgSL has been an amazing experience for me. It was not just about the vocabulary; rather it was the opportunity to meet and understand a bit more about the Deaf community. I have learnt to empathise with the Deaf and also the unyielding spirit of the community. Being able to communicate with the Deaf in their language and in a medical context makes me really happy, especially to see that smile on their faces whenever I sign to them. This course has inspired me in many ways and I would definitely recommend it to everyone."

- Mr Leong Wei Qi, Pharmacy

"I was first introduced to sign language in junior college and was intrigued by this form of communication. Hence I was excited about this course and I must say the lessons have indeed been very enjoyable and beneficial. Apart from the technical skills we learnt, I felt the most impactful lesson was Ms Wang Li-Sa's. She pieced together a picture and missing links that many of us could not previously appreciate about the Deaf community. Now I definitely am even more interested in learning more about sign language and using this skill to bridge the communication gap."

- Miss Priscilla Lye, Medicine

Navigating DeafBlindness – A Learning Journey

Lisa Loh

Lisa Loh, who is deaf, was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa – a condition that could lead to blindness. She attended the 15th Duskin Leadership Training Programme in Japan where she learnt more about welfare issues for the deafblind. An active volunteer with SADeaf, Lisa is currently vice-president of the Singapore Deaf Youth Section (SDYS).

How would you feel if you can't hear and can't see? What would it be like to face total darkness and total silence? It is something most of us would dread. Perhaps 0.01% of the resident population in Singapore would face this condition of both diminished sight and hearing, which translates to an estimated 350 Deafblind people.

However, awareness of Deafblindness among the general public is not high, nor are there much resources to support them. The available resources and facilities are also very costly; for example, a Braille display which would be useful for the Deafblind costs more than \$10,000.

Here, let me share my personal journey in the world of the Deafblind.



I attended the 15th Duskin Training Leadership programme for 10 months in 2013. This programme provides young people with disabilities in Asia-Pacific countries - who wish to become community leaders - an opportunity to learn about the welfare issues for the disabled in Japan and undertake in-depth study. For five months, I interned at various associations and

centres where I could interact with and be exposed to Deafblind clients. One of these was SMILE, a support service centre in Osaka for the Deafblind.

Among other things, I discovered many Deafblind clients could enjoy activities such as playing Japanese drums. The centre's first chairperson is Deafblind himself and had studied and worked in an institution for Deafblind in USA for many years. I was also inspired by and learnt much from the Japan Deafblind Association and its director who kindly addressed my many questions.



Back in Singapore, I conducted a workshop "Understanding Deafblind" on 2 November 2014. Open to the Deaf community and public, I gave an overview of the Deafblind and their needs – types of Deafblindness, communication methods, and assistive technology. I am very glad the workshop was well-received and hope to hold more of such workshops and reach out further to the community at large. I also plan to conduct a special training session for Interpreter-Guides (IGs) for the Deafblind.

The road ahead for the Deafblind in Singapore will be a challenging one, but I hope I have sparked your interest in this area and welcome you to join me!

A Very Special Outing to the Science Centre

Elizabeth Khoo, Community Services



For the first time, SADeaf organised an outing for four Deafblind participants. The date was Saturday, 13 December 2014. The destination was the Science Centre. We aimed to show Deafblind participants they could participate and enjoy the same activities as anyone else. Each Deafblind person, paired with

one volunteer, had the chance to smell, touch and feel the exhibits at the centre.

According to Mrs Chng, the mother of one of our participants, Puay Ying, they were very thankful and glad to have the chance to get out and about, as well as make new friends. During the outing, the Deafblind group also expressed the wish for more support from the government, such as Braille training, transport, equipment, orientation and mobility training.

We wish to thank Ms Lisa Loh who volunteered to guide and train the Deafblind participants in tactile signing with the help of SADeaf staff Jessica Mak and James Ong through three interpreters.

We definitely look forward to more of such trips!

A Most Memorable Ducktour Adventure for Deaf Seniors

Elizabeth Khoo, Community Services

On a fine sunny Saturday, on 22 November 2014, our deaf senior citizens had an unique experience!

A group of 28 seniors joined us for the thrilling land-and-sea ride on a remodelled WWII-era Vietnamese warcraft. Our senior citizens eagerly paid attention to the commentary of our tour guide provided with the help of the sign language interpreter.

As our sightseeing bus turned into an amphibious vehicle and splashed onto the sea, our seniors squealed with excitement. The entire journey brought us to view Singapore's famous skyline, historical landmarks and places of interest like the Fountain of Wealth, Singapore Flyer, Esplanade, Merlion, and so on.

At the end of our tour, the senior citizens even enjoyed a free lunch. It was indeed a memorable day for all!

“Live” Interpretation for Budget Speech 2015 & State Funeral Service



For the first time in Singapore Budget Speech history, “live” sign language interpretation was provided via webcast. SADeaf staff interpreters Zach Tay, Hanna Omar and Nix Sang interpreted for the speech by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, on 23 February 2015.

On a more sombre note, our interpreters also provided interpretation for the “live” webcast of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s state funeral service on 29 March 2015. We were honoured to be part of this event which pays tribute to our first Prime Minister. The staff involved were Teo Zhi Xiong, Amirah Osman, Nix Sang and Hanna Omar.

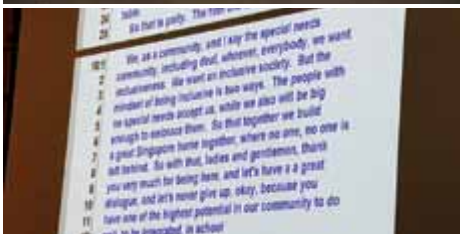
We at the Association are heartened that major government speeches are now more accessible to the Deaf community, following on the heels of the “live” webcast interpretation of the previous three years’ National Day Rally speeches by the Prime Minister.

SADeaf would like to express our appreciation to the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister’s Office, and also thanks to MediaCorp for the filming and webcast coordination.

Deaf Dialogue 2015



The 3rd Deaf Dialogue organised by SADeaf was held on Saturday, 17 January 2015, and attracted about 200 members of the community. They included Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, SADeaf staff, family members, supporters and professionals in the field. It was held at the Lifelong Learning Institute at Paya Lebar from 2pm to 8pm.



We were glad to have, as our guest of honour, Ms Denise Phua, Mayor, Central Singapore District, who has been a strong and passionate supporter of our community over the years. The Dialogue also marked a milestone – it was the first time ‘live’ captioning was provided at a SADeaf event.

With the theme “Our Lives, Our Future”, the Dialogue focussed on various areas of concern to the community – such as communication, accessibility, employment, healthcare, early intervention and education. Representatives from various agencies and institutions such as the National Council of Social Service, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ministry of Health, Agency for Integrated Care, Building and Construction Authority, Singapore Management University, and SG Enable had the opportunity to update the community on current initiatives and programmes, and to take questions from the audience.



Local theatre company Pangdemonium, set up by Adrian Pang (who doesn't know him?), is staging TRIBES from 22 May to 7 June 2015. The award-winning play tells the story of Billy, who is deaf, and is a heartwarming comic drama about communicating with the ones you love.

Pangdemonium has made special arrangements for the play to be accessible to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Sign language interpretation will be provided for five shows, and a 50% discount off the front-row premium seats will also be given to all SAdeaf clients!

This is a great opportunity to introduce our community to the world of the performing arts and theatre, as well as experience a play which should resonate with many among our clients and members.

SAdeaf wishes to express our deepest appreciation to Pangdemonium and Marina Bay Sands for generously subsidising the concession tickets for our clients.

Do check out the TRIBES ad on the back cover! You can also go to <http://pangdemonium.com/productions/tribes> for more information. To find out how to purchase the concession tickets (only valid for SAdeaf clients), watch out for our email notice to clients or email corporate@sadeaf.org.sg.

SAdeaf In The News

News about the Association has been appearing in the mainstream media since the beginning of the year. Besides having forum letters published in the Straits Times, our YouthBeat volunteer group and sign language interpreters, as well as those of our clients, have also been mentioned in news articles. Of special interest are the Straits Times articles on SAdeaf's helping hand to Ms Colleen Turzynski, whose poignant search for her maternal family through her Deaf Singaporean mother touched the heart of a nation.

For links to these news stories and letters, check out the News & Media section regularly on our revamped website at www.sadeaf.org.sg.

Source: <http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/colleen-tomboy-her-mother>



Upcoming Programmes

Date & Venue	Event	Contact
MAY		
9-10 & 23 & 24 May 2015 9am-5pm SADeaf	Training of Trainer: SgSL Studies for Deaf Registration Fee: \$80 member & \$100 non member	DAS
30 May 2015 (Sat) 3-5pm SADeaf	SGD MegaZip Adventure	SGD
JUNE		
6-8 June 2015 9am-5pm TBC	SgSL 2020 Workplan Seminar	DAS
JULY		
25 July 2015	SGD Hari Raya Puasa Party	SGD
19-25 July 2015 Florya-Istanbul, Turkey	6th World Federation of the Deaf Youth Camp Theme: Youth Beyond Diversity For more information, please visit www.wfdyouthcamp2015.org or contact SDYS at sdys@sadeaf.org.sg	SDYS
20-25 July 2015 Istanbul, Turkey	WASLI 2015 Conference For more information, please refer to page 15.	DAS
28 July-2 August 2015 Istanbul, Turkey	XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf For more information, please refer to page 15.	SADeaf

Enrichment Programmes

Deaf Movie

On Wednesday of last week every month
7pm to 9pm | SADeaf

SADeaf Art & Healthcare Enrichment Programmes

Line Dancing | Hatha Yoga | Bokwa
Every Friday | 7pm to 9pm | SADeaf Hall

Legend:

SDYS : Singapore Deaf Youth Section
SGD : Social Group of the Deaf
DAS : Deaf Access Services
SgSL : Singapore Sign Language
WASLI : World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters
WFD : World Federation of the Deaf

Programmes are subject to changes. Please check the SADeaf website or email contact for the latest updates.

PANGDEMONIUM!

A heartwarming comic drama about communicating with the ones you love.

TRIBES

BY NINA RAINE

22 MAY - 7 JUNE 2015 • DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

ADRIAN PANG
as Dad

SUSAN TORDOFF
as Mum

GAVIN YAP
as Big Bro

FRANCES LEE
as Sis

THOMAS PANG
as Billy

ETHEL YAP
as Sylvia



CONCESSION FOR SPECIAL PERFORMANCES WITH SIGN LANGUAGE. For more info, visit www.pangdemonium.com

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