

## Outstanding Performacne Awards



Front row left to right: Cast - Beth Larsen as Edna Kleih; Eric Murphy as Orin; Jane Argabrite as Mrs. Norman; Liz Leisure as Sarah; Sam Wilder as James Leeds; Dave Prather as Mr. Franklin; Chana Fraser as Lydia. Second Row left to right: Production Staff - Charlie Matthews, Director; Sherry Wilson, Dresser; Nancy Bond, Running Crew; Susan Courtney, Assistant Director/Stage Manager; Danny Depugh, Sound Technician and Sabrina Dye, Light Board Operator.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg has announced the winners of the 2002 Khalil Awards. The Outstanding Production Award for 2002 was presented to *Children of a Lesser God* and Outstanding Performance Awards were presented to Elizabeth Ann "Liz" Leisure and Sam Wilder.

Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have been loyal and enthusiastic Guild patrons for many years. with the establishment of the Khalil Awards, the family expresses its support of live theatre in the community and makes a donation to ensure its perpetuation. an anonymous panel of three persons who

saw every show of the previous season selects recipients of the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance Awards. The names of those honored with these awards are recorded on a permanent plaque displayed in the Guild's lobby.

Written by Mark Medoff, *Children of a Lesser God* tells the story of James, a young speech therapist who joins the faculty of a school for the deaf, where he is to teach lip-reading. He meets Sarah, a school dropout, totally deaf from birth, and estranged both from the world of hearing and from those who would compro-

mise to enter that world. Fluent in sign language, James tries, with little success, to help Sarah, but gradually the two fall in love, and marry. Discord soon develops, as Sarah becomes militant for the rights of the deaf. The chasm between the worlds of sound and silence seems almost too great to cross...but love and compassion hold the hope of reconciliation, and deeper, fuller understanding of differences, which, in the final essence, can unite as well as divide.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg's June, 2002 production was directed by Charlie Matthews. Ms. Leisure was honored for her role as Sarah. Sam Wilder was a co-honoree for his role as James.

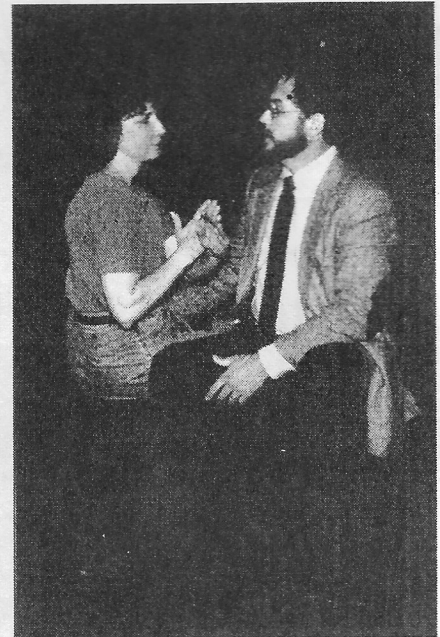


Liz Leisure and Sam Wilder  
See More Photos on page 2



Prior to this role, Ms. Leisure had no previous stage experience. She is the former president of Deaf Education and Advocacy Focus and former secretary of West

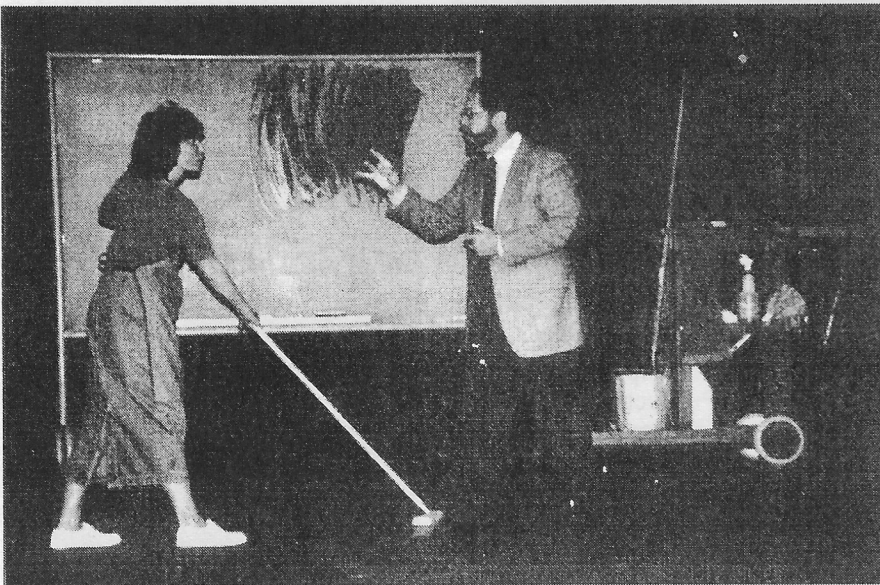
Virginia Association of the Deaf. She is treasurer of WVAD, secretary of Parkersburg Association of the Deaf and a member of the National Association of the Deaf.



Ms. Leisure is a social service worker with Children's Specialty Care.

Mr. Wilder also had no previous stage experience. The son of deaf parents, Mr. Wilder is a teacher in Warren (Washington County, Ohio) Local Schools. His grandparents, aunts and uncles were also deaf. He teaches American Sign Language at Warren High School.

Mr. Matthews has many acting and directorial credits to his name. He is a senior Vice-president at United Bank, Parkersburg. The Actors Guild of Parkersburg is funded in part by Artsbridge. For season information, call 304-485-1300 or visit online at [www.actorsguildonline.com](http://www.actorsguildonline.com).



## Help!

**The West Virginia Association of the Deaf Needs You!**  
**We need your membership dues. \$15 or \$30 are not much for an individual and \$20 is not much for a senior citizen, but it adds up for a small association like ours.**

**Let's keep the ball rolling. Join now!!**



## At 100, deaf elder looks back

Clifford Leach was born the same year Henry Ford organized the Ford Motor Co., and the Wright brothers' plane lifted off at Kitty Hawk.

"I know so much history and have seen so many things," said Leach, who turns 100 today. He's most amazed by the advances in technology.

Deaf since contracting whooping cough when he was 18 months old, Leach feels blessed that technology has enabled deaf people to communicate more easily. He recalls that a traveling minister told him a huge text telephone, or TTY, in the late 1950s. It was the first time he could use a telephone to communicate with someone else.

"What a wonderful convenience it was," he said, using sign language.

Leach, of Greece, was one of nine children born on a farm in Moatsville, WV. His mother died in 1912, and his father two years later. He graduated in 1924 from the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, WV, and is a member of its baseball Hall of Fame.

Leach moved to Binghamton to work for the Public Works Department. He was an outfielder in a semi-pro baseball league there and is proud of his .408 batting average one season.

"All my life, I've been a sports fan," Leach said. He excelled in baseball, softball, golf and bowling, which he gave up at age 90, when he also gave up driving.

In 1941, Leach was one of 16 deaf workers hired as assembly workers by IBM in Endicott, NY, near Binghamton. Prior to that, the company had hired four deaf workers, but had shied away from hiring more because the deaf people would scream during lunch hour, he said.

"The government said they had

to hire people with disabilities, so they hired us. The personnel department was very satisfied with us and we turned their opinion," he said. "The 16 of us opened up the way for more deaf employees."

Leach retired from IBM at age 65 and moved to Avon, Livingston County, nearer to relatives of his wife, Ruth, whom he married in 1975. His first wife, Helen Larkin, died in 1972 of cancer.

"I was tired of being in the same old place," Leach said. "I really liked it here because of the many deaf people in the community."

He's always been active in associations for the deaf, including the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf and the Empire State Association of the Deaf.

"He's is a very, very friendly and smart man," said Frank Kimmes of Greece, president of Deaf Elders Around Rochester. He said for years, Leach -- possibly the most senior deaf elder in the state -- has encouraged deaf people to stand up for their rights and not be afraid to approach lawmakers to make positive changes.

"He always cares about the deaf," Kimmes said.

Leach's days now are spent reading, watching television, walking when he can and eating in restaurants with his friends as much as he can.

He and his wife are setting into a new apartment off West Ridge Road after the one they had lived in for more than 15 years was heavily damaged in an electrical fire in November. They weren't injured, but had to flee with just the clothes they were wearing.

Leach was slowed a bit from a fall a few years ago which injured his head, but he still walks unaided, easily rises from his chair and makes each of his monthly doctor checkups.

Asked whether there are more things he'd like to do, he said: "I want to go on a space flight, go on another planet and populate it with deaf people."

He shrugs when asked the secret to his longevity. He said he was a heavy drinker until 20 years ago, and smoked five cigars a day for 45 years.

"I thought, 'Where'd my money go?' I should have saved it for a good cause or invested it. I smoked it all up," he said.

Leach plans to celebrate his birthday quietly with friends and relatives. His only surviving sibling a sister, Elsie Cross, 93, is visiting from Maryland.

And he'll continue regularly playing euchre with his wife at the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf on Lyell Avenue.

"One thing I can do is play cards," he signed with a smile. "I keep going."

*-From Democrat and Chronicle  
Rochester, NY*

## Deaf Motorist Killed by Train

A deaf Lincoln County man recently killed at a train crossing was a former high school football star.

Brian C. Egnor, 21, of Yawkey, died when an Amtrak passenger train struck his pickup truck in South Charleston, WV on Friday, Feb. 14, 2003 as he was returning home from technical school.

Egnor played football at Guyan Valley High School in 1999, he played cornerback and was the team's leading rusher.

Egnor may not have realized that two trains were approaching from opposite directions on separate tracks when he drove around the crossing gate, said South Charleston police Patrolman J.S. Combow. The second train was several hundred yards away.

The accident was the second Friday involving the same Amtrak train, which struck another vehicle 12 miles away.

The driver of the other vehicle fled the scene, leaving the vehicle's bumper in the street. No one on the train was injured.

## NAD Board Highlights

The NAD Board of Directors held productive meetings at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, Texas. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Board of Directors also met during the same weekend. As primary sponsor, Sprint gave generous support for both meetings, which were also supported by the Austin Association of the Deaf, Deaf Worldwide, Texas Association of the Deaf, and Texas School for the Deaf.

NAD Board action highlights are as follows:

- \* Appointed Al Hilbok and Ken Rothschild as co-chairs of the Deaf America Stamp Committee.

- \* Made nominations to the World Federation of the Deaf Board of Directors for Grand Cross Award and First Class Award consideration, for the upcoming XIV World Congress in Montreal, Quebec.

- \* Appointed Claudia Lee, as recommended by the NAD Interpreter Section (NADIS) Board, to fill the sixth and remaining NAD vacancy on the NAD-RID National Council on Interpreting.

- \* Appointed Leon Curtis as NAD representative to the CSD Sprint Video Relay Service (VRS) Advisory Council.

- \* Reviewed NAD's financial condition and gave special recognition to the Arkansas Association of the Deaf for their generous donation to the NAD.

- \* Discussed Board strategies for development (fundraising) and membership (recruitment and retention).

- \* Ensured NAD representation at ASLTA's Second National Professional Development Conference to be held April 10-13, 2003 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Recognition was given to ASLTA for its donation to the NAD-RID National Council on Interpreting

test development effort.

- \* Reviewed progress toward accomplishment of 2002 Biennial NAD Conference recommendations and resolutions.

- \* Reviewed plans for the 2004 Biennial NAD Conference in Kansas City, MO and approved the conference schedule in concept.

- \* Approved wording for NAD's official vision statement: "The vision of the NAD is that every deaf and hard of hearing individual can and will participate fully in all aspects of society and life without barriers".

The next NAD Board of Directors meeting will be held May 2-3, 2003 at the NAD Headquarters in Silver Springs, Maryland. As always, the public is welcome to observe the Board in action.

Yvonne Dunke  
and Charlie Reisinger  
National Association of the Deaf  
Region 1 Board members

## Kids of Deaf Adults (KODA)

The Camp Mark Seven (CM7) will have the summer programs for the KODA camping this summer.

The KODA Children's Session: Ages 9-12 from August 10 to August 22 and the fee is \$700.00 per person. The KODA Youth's Session: Ages 12-16 from July 27 to August 8 and the fee is \$700.00 per person.

The activities for KODA programs: swimming, water-skiing, kneeboarding, and tubing. Paddle a canoe on the winding Moose River or other chosen rivers/lakes and camp out under the stars. Diverse outdoor games and arts & crafts. Hike different mountains.

If your children are interested in attending, for more information, visit website at: [www.campmark7.org](http://www.campmark7.org).

**Editor's Note:** My boys are planning to attend to the KODA this summer. Dalton Harrison, 17,

will be a counselor in training (CIT) for five weeks. Jason Harrison, 16, will be at KODA for two weeks. I hope your children can attend to the camp this summer meet our boys, and to have fun.

## Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant Planned for August 9, 2003

At its biennial conference this coming August, the West Virginia Association of the Deaf hopes to have the Miss Deaf West Virginia pageant on Saturday evening, August 9th at the Holiday Inn in Bluefield, WV. This event is contingent on having at least three contestants as required by the National Association of the Deaf.

The pageant is open to all deaf and hard of hearing single females who will be between 17 and 27 years of age on July 1, 2003. Requirements are as follows:

Each contestant must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of West Virginia, but is permitted to be attending out-of-state schools or colleges. Be prepared for a two-minute platform presentation and a three-minute talent routine or performance, plus an evening gown competition.

The winner of the pageant will receive an all expense, paid trip to the National Association of the Deaf conference in Kansas City, Missouri, the first week of July, 2004, where she will compete in the Miss Deaf America Pageant. A chaperone will be selected to work with her during both the state and national competitions.

For more information and an application blank, please contact Donna M. Williams, State Pageant Director, PO Box 881, Parkersburg, WV 26102 or e-mail: [dmwilliams49@yahoo.com](mailto:dmwilliams49@yahoo.com) or AOL Instant Messenger (AIM): DMWilliams49



# West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

## 34th Biennial Conference

August 7-9, 2003

at

Holiday Inn - On the Hill

US Route 460

Bluefield, WV 24701

# \$1,000.00

## Cash Prizes Giveaways

(Depends Upon Attendance)

|               |                                  |           |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Reception     | Socialize with Old & New Friends | Workshops |
| Exhibitors    | West Virginia Deaf Pageant       | Meetings  |
| Entertainment | Banquet                          | Ballroom  |

If you are an early bird and purchase a combo ticket before July 18, 2003, you will get two tickets per person for cash prizes. If you purchase a combo ticket after July 19, 2003, you will get one ticket per person for cash prizes.

**Come one, Come all, and Have Fun!**  
**Please Don't Miss A Chance to Win!**

# West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

## 34th Biennial Conference

Holiday Inn Hotel – On the Hill

US Route 460

Bluefield, WV

Phone: (304) 325-6170

1-800-465-4329

FAX: (304) 323-2451

### August 7-9, 2003

### Event Fees

| Conference         | Registration | Friday Night Social & Game Reception | Saturday Night Banquet & Ballroom | Miss Deaf WV Pageant | Total    |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| WVAD Member        | \$20.00      | \$20.00                              | \$50.00                           | \$15.00              | \$105.00 |
| Non-Member         | \$20.00      | \$25.00                              | \$55.00                           | \$15.00              | \$115.00 |
| Student (13 to 18) | \$10.00      | --                                   | \$20.00<br>(Banquet Only)         | \$15.00              | \$45.00  |

| Conference                      | Early Bird Combo Till – July 18 | How many? | Included Miss Deaf WV Pageant (Optional) | How many? |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| WVAD Member                     | \$55.00 (Save \$35.00)          |           | \$70.00                                  |           |
| WVAD Senior Citizen (55+)       | \$50.00 (Save \$40.00)          |           | \$65.00                                  |           |
| Non-Member                      | \$65.00 (Save \$35.00)          |           | \$80.00                                  |           |
| Non-Member Senior Citizen (55+) | \$60.00 (Save \$40.00)          |           | \$75.00                                  |           |
| Student (13 to 18)              | \$20.00 (Save \$10.00)          |           | \$35.00                                  |           |

### Combo Tickets

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you diabetic? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you allergic to foods? \_\_\_\_\_ What? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*No Personal Checks Accepted after July 18, 2003\***

**Deadline on August 2, 2003 For Cancellation of Any Events.**

Please make personal check or money order payable to **WVAD** and mail to: WVAD Conference, Elizabeth Leisure, Treasurer, 3302 Central Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26104.



**West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

# **34th Biennial Conference**

**Holiday Inn – On the Hill**

**US Route 460**

**Bluefield, WV**

**Phone: (304) 325-6170**

**1-800-465-4329**

**FAX: (304) 323-2451**

**August 7-10, 2003**

**Motel Reservation Request Form**

**Room Rates**

**Single \$80.00**

**Double \$80.00**



**West Virginia Association of the Deaf  
34th Biennial Conference**

**Reservation Request to: Holiday Inn – On the Hill  
US Route 460  
Bluefield, WV 24701**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARRIVAL DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DEPARTURE DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of GUESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** \_\_\_\_\_ **MONEY ORDER**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **CREDIT CARD** \_\_\_\_\_ **VISA** \_\_\_\_\_ **MASTERCARD** \_\_\_\_\_ **DISCOVER**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **AMERICAN EXPRESS**

**CARD #** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXPIRATION DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*DEADLINE ON JULY 18, 2003\*\*\***

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1/8 Page (3 5/8"X2 3/8").....\$20

**Announcement From Editor**

Issue for Date.....Apr.-June  
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Date You Receive Your Copy.....June

**WVAD Membership - Join Now!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  \$15 for one year Regular  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  \$30 for two years Regular  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  \$20 for two years Senior Citizen (55+)  
TTY \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  \$10 for two years Student (Age 12 to 18)  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  Yes! Here is my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes! I want to donate to WVAD Deaf Pageant \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Membership & Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make money order or personal check payable to: **WVAD** and mail with membership form to: West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., Jimmy D. Harrison, Membership Coordinator, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

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