

Signal

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JUL - DEC 2019



FEATURE:

International Week of the Deaf & Award Ceremony 2019

CONVERSATIONS:

Exclusive interviews with Volunteers Shelley Siu & Lynne Hong

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Purple Parade 2019 Fundraising • FUNraising

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Signal Goes Digital!

With effect from this issue, we are phasing out hard copies of Signal. It will be published as an e-copy which can be downloaded from our website and is publicly available to all. If you are a member or client of SAdDeaf and wish to have a hard copy of Signal, please write in to ca@sadeaf.org.sg.

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Warmest greetings from the Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf)!

We are immensely honoured to be back with SADeaf as the Executive Director and Deputy Director respectively. We are also delighted, once again, to work with and for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and DeafBlind community, with the support of the dedicated staff and volunteers of the association. SADeaf also welcomes on board the newly elected Executive Council members for the term 2019-2021.

This issue of Signal covers the eventful second half of 2019, and also gazes ahead to 2020 which promises to be an even more exciting year. You will, by the way, notice Signal has a fresh new look. The contents, too, have been revamped and features human interest stories about our clients, volunteers and staff. Do check out the write-ups on happenings such as International Week of the Deaf and learn more about our Ambassador, Grab.

This year, SADeaf will be celebrating our 65th anniversary. We had planned a varied line-up of events and activities to commemorate the occasion. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we might not be able to carry these out, depending on the situation. Do stay tuned to our updates on our media channels (Facebook page, website, emails) for the latest developments. If possible, we hope

to be able to get the entire community to join us in celebration while staying safe.

Last and not least, we wish all clients, members, volunteers, donors and supporters the best of health. Together, our community will play our part in getting through this crisis with the larger society and emerge stronger as a country.



Executive Director Ms Judy Lim (left) and Deputy Director Mr Alvan Yap (right) seated at a garden created by SADeaf volunteer Ms Shelley Siu.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT |

Executive Council (2019 - 2021)

The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) would like to express our appreciation to the immediate past members of the council for their dedication and considerable efforts in serving SADeaf and our community. We also wish to extend a warm welcome to the new elected and co-opted members, and look forward to working with you.

President

Mr Martin Marini

Vice Presidents

Dr Zahabar Ali

Ms Tay Lay Hong

Mr Gregory Wee Chong Yeow

Mr Eric Tseng Hao Chun

Honorary Secretary

Ms Wong Ee Kean

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Jeremy Chan Sek Wai

Council Members

Mr Robert Chew Mun Kai

Mr Steven Lee Chee Phat, PBM

Mr Ken Neo Hock Ping

Mr Lim Jiun Yih Leonard

Dr Adrian Yap Yei Mian

Ms Goh Lily

Ms Judy Ong Lian Hwai (Co-opted Member)

Please refer to SADeaf website for more information:
<https://sadeaf.org.sg/about-us/exco-subcommittees/>



International Week of the Deaf & Award Ceremony 2019

The International Week of the Deaf (IWD) is celebrated annually by the global Deaf community in the last week of September. In conjunction with the Singapore Sign Language Week, IWD and the Awards Ceremony was held at the Enabling Village from 17 to 21 September 2019. The theme for this year's IWD was "Sign Language Rights for All".

Throughout the week, the event also showcased a series of events such as the sharing of local folktales by our sign language instructors, song signing performance from Signifique, Gohpi Nathan the mime virtuoso, and a rip-roaring riot of a skit by Lighthouse School students (moonlighting as the seven dwarves and one Snow White), as well as a war tale by Dennis Tan, storyteller extraordinaire.

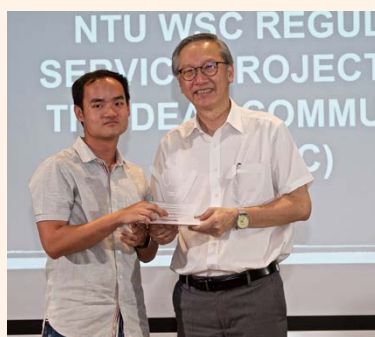
The SgSL Sign Bank (sgslsignbank.org.sg) was also launched, marking the beginning of a multi-

year project effort to officially document the sign language used by Deaf Singaporeans.

The last day of the IWD was marked by the Awards Ceremony where supporting organisations, outstanding Deaf Individuals, long-serving SAdeaf staff and a special Lifetime achievement award was presented. Graced by Mr Sam Tan, Minister of State, and a full house at the Enabling Village function room, the event kicked off with a welcome speech by SAdeaf President Martin Marini.

I-Love-You Award

The I-L-Y Award is given to an individual or organisation to recognise their social, educational or financial contributions to the Deaf Community for financial year 2018/2019. The award consists of the Diamond, Ruby and Sapphire categories.



The I-Love-You Sapphire Award presented to NTU WSC Regular Service Project for the Deaf Community (RSPDC)



The I-Love-You Diamond Award presented to Fullerton Fund Management



The I-Love-You Diamond Award presented to Sivantos Pte Ltd



The I-Love-You Diamond Award presented to Kentucky Fried Chicken Management Pte Ltd



The I-Love-You Diamond Award presented to Karexparts Pte Ltd

I-Love-You Award

Sapphire

Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd
Regular Service Project for the Deaf Community (RSPDC)

Diamond

Kuan Im Tng Temple (Joo Chiat)
Estate of Henry Bolter (Deceased)
Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd
Kentucky Fried Chicken Management Pte Ltd
Karexparts Pte Ltd
Sivantos Pte Ltd

Deaf Achiever Award

Four individuals received the Deaf Achiever Award in 2019. Each winner received a plaque, certificate, letter of commendation, and a cash gift.

Gan Jun Huan

Outstanding Deaf Student (Secondary education) Award

Jun Huan, 21, is an all-rounded student. She is an avid artist, talented dancer, passionate volunteer and top student. She is currently a matriculated student at the Institute of Technical Education College Central, and is performing exceptionally well – recently scoring two distinctions in two architectural modules. Her ambition is to become an architectural designer.



"I did not expect to receive this award. I am grateful to my family and teachers who are always supporting me. Thank you to those who have encouraged and accompanied me along my journey in learning new things."

Quek Hwee, Kimberly

Outstanding Deaf Student (Tertiary education) Award

Kimberly, 19, has balanced academic demands with her bowling pursuits.

As a student-athlete, she represented Singapore in the 2019 ASEAN Deaf Bowling Championships despite the heavy commitment of being in her final year of her International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) at Singapore Sports School.



She obtained a Grade 7, the highest possible grade, for her International Baccalaureate Ab Initio Malay although she only started learning the language for less than a year.

"I am elated and thankful...because it is a recognition of my effort and achievement. My personal goal is to do well in my final year and go to a course of my choice at a good university."

Adelia Naomi Yokoyama

Outstanding Deaf Sportswoman Award

Adelia, 20, made history by winning Singapore's first Deaflympics gold medal in 2017. In 2019, she bagged three more silver medals and two gold medals in the ASEAN Deaf Bowling Championships.

Adelia also embraces a growth mind-set and aims to move beyond being a stellar sportsman to being a coach and mentor. Having recently attained her Singapore Bowling Federation Level 1 Coaching Certificate, she hopes to build confidence in other junior bowlers, regardless of their physical abilities.



"This is definitely something that is not easy to achieve. Without the unconditional love and support from my friends, family and the Deaf Sports Association, I wouldn't have made it this far and wouldn't have felt that I could be something more."

Angel Chua Lay Keng

Special Talent Award

Angel has a special talent for making people look beautiful. As a testament to her great work, she has received numerous compliments, awards and features in top make-up artist reviews done by TheWeddingWow.Sg, IdealWeddings, Zula, BeautyInsiderSg, DailyVanity, AiidoSg and YelpSg.

With more than 13 years in the professional make-up business, Angel has built up an extensive portfolio of experience in providing make-up and hairdo services for a variety of settings. She has also worked with celebrities as well as a senior minister of state for photoshoot assignments. Her clients describe her as a professional and honest person, who is also meticulous and patient.

Angel continues to master her craft and upgrade her skills by attending courses overseas. She also conducts workshops for others to learn, and hopes to impart her skills to younger Deaf people.



“The award ceremony made me feel special. I am very happy and appreciative to SDeaf for selecting me.

Long Service Award

SDeaf would like to express our gratitude to the long-serving staff for their dedication and hard work.

Staff Long Service Award

Khor Mui Lan (30 years)
Ng Ah Ngoh (20 years)
Nur Amirah Binte Osman (5 years)
Siti Rohanna Binte Omar (5 years)
Nuryaminah Binte Rustam Pane (5 years)



Ng Ah Ngoh



Siti Rohanna Binte Omar



Nuryaminah Binte Rustam Pane



Nur Amirah Binte Osman



Mdm Mona Peng receiving the special Lifetime Award from Guest-of-Honour Mr Sam Tan

Lifetime Achievement Award

The highlight was the special Lifetime Achievement Award given, for the first time, to the late Mr Peng Tsu Ying (PBM) - who blazed a trail for Deaf education in Singapore and devoted his life to the cause. The award was received by the late Mr Peng's daughter, Mdm Mona Peng.



Retire ~~fire~~

Shelley Siu, 70, is not showing any signs of slowing down. SDeaf catches up with her to find out more about her active contribution to the social service sector.

The Singapore Shawl was founded by Shelley Siu in 2003 as a creative social enterprise that provides employment and skills development for marginalised women.

An eloquent and elegant lady in her 70s and one of our Pioneer Generation, Shelley says she has a high level of energy and “will never retire but only re-fire”. Indeed, she has a constantly burning passion to serve others.

Shelley adds that she enjoys doing things that depict a purpose of life. “Because I have already been blessed with so much, it is my turn now to

bless the community and to do what I can for social inclusivity.”

As an upmarket brand, Shelley explains that The Singapore Shawl had never participated in bazaars and fairs, so the experience and exposure supporting SDeaf has been an eye-opener. “I am blessed to meet people who have the same level of care for the community.

Prior to setting up The Singapore Shawl, Shelley was a teacher for 20 years and went into corporate training after that. She candidly shares that her father did not allow her to go to university

because of the view that “daughters will end up in the kitchen and looking after babies”, so he encouraged her to be a teacher instead. She followed his advice and ended up enjoying it. She also taught China migrants in Macau for free.

On what inspired her to get involved as a supporter to SADeaf, Shelley explains that her son-in-law is deaf. “This is my small way to return to the community.”

Shelley has lots of goals for SADeaf. “I hope for the premises to have a facelift.... it is important for people to come here to feel a sense of belonging. I would also love to see more vocational training and courses.”

For a start, Shelley aims to start a gardening course to cultivate a love for plants among the SADeaf community. Coincidentally, her name Shelley means “girl from the meadows,” she adds.



“There are a lot of benefits in having plants in terms of wellness and therapy...a garden takes time to develop, grow and nurture.”

SADeaf would like to thank Shelley for her meaningful contributions.

Finding Bliss in Giving Back to Society

Lynne Hong is the founder of Aloha Bliss Apothecary. Her small business is an artisan botanical apothecary which creates holistic skincare remedies. Rooted in traditional alchemy, its formulas stimulate our body's natural capacity for healing.

The little business is very new - less than a year old. Every month or every other month, she participates in Frank Food Market at Loewen Gardens, Dempsey Hill which falls on a Saturday from 9am to 1pm. 5% of her company sales go to fundraising for SADeaf.

As a professional writer for the past 11 years, Lynne is often surrounded by words. However, she finds that words can be limited. Sign language can sometimes be more intimate and immediate in the realm of communication. Lynne has a Deaf cousin, Dr Adrian Yap, who has helped her understand more about the Deaf world. She has also worked



with Deaf and hard-of-hearing people before. Her passion is to bridge the gap between the Deaf and hearing worlds and advocating for Deaf culture. She hopes are that Singapore can someday reach the level of advocacy that America has. In her own little ways, she hopes that she can raise awareness of Deaf Culture.



The Purple Parade - Through the Eyes of an Intern

The Purple Parade is Singapore's largest movement to support inclusion and celebrate the abilities of persons with special needs. Held annually, this year's edition took place at Suntec City. Around the area, one sees people in purple shirts; moving through the crowd was like wading through a flood at a Ribena factory.

The SADeaf contingent, holding our Merdeaf signs and slogan boards, waited patiently till it was our turn to march. A wide range of groups participated, including health advocates with giant purple paper-mâché replicas of thermometers and syringes; a contingent of wheelchair-using participants, in masks and face paint; another marching for autistic people; and even contingents from OCBC and Citibank among other brand names.

At 4.45pm, the SADeaf contingent moved to the start point of our march. Our contingent was

joined by our volunteers from the Taylor & Francis Group and our ambassador Grab. 178 participants marched for SADeaf, which was our largest ever contingent.

Accompanied by loud drums, the crowd cheered as the SADeaf contingent marched. We occasionally stopped for photo taking. I could feel my eardrums rattling with every strike of the drum, that I had to cover my ears for the rest of the march. And when you start thinking the parade has only just begun, it was over. The route lasted barely over an hour and within confines of one city block. I thought it would be longer in both distance and time. It didn't this year, but in the future, who knows?

Jason Cayan, third from the left in the photograph above, is a student of Republic Polytechnic and an intern with SADeaf.

Grab a Ride with our Ambassador

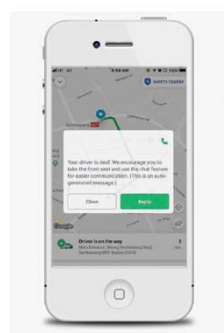


Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Mr Yee Wee Tang, Country Head of Grab Singapore and Ms Judy Lim, Acting Executive Director for The Singapore Association for the Deaf at an appreciation luncheon hosted by Grab for its Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing drivers and delivery partners.

On 27 September 2019, SAdDeaf signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Grab to benefit Deaf and hard-of-hearing people keen on working as private-hire drivers and delivery personnel.

Among the key points of the MOU which benefit and assist the community are: Grab will include subtitles and sign language in its training and onboarding materials to ensure smoother registration for its Deaf partners. In addition, Grab launched a rebate scheme for existing and new Deaf drivers who are members of SAdDeaf, which means an increase in their take-home pay. Other highlights are skills upgrading, customised feature support on the Grab app, as well as public education campaigns.

About 50 Deaf drivers and delivery personnel are currently earning an income using the Grab platform in Singapore and this year-long partnership with Grab will benefit them. Apply to be a member of SAdDeaf or renew your annual membership!



Message prompts



Fundraising • FUNraising



Ode to the King of Fruits

7 September 2019 - "Deafinitely Durian" is an annual fest for donors to come together to enjoy a durian fest! They also got to indulge in mangosteens and 'cooling' coconut water. Those who attended were also taught useful tips on ordering durians in sign language.

An Unusually Quiet Market



11 October 2019 - The Silent Flea Market is one where visitors are encouraged to use non-verbal means to communicate. The silence was not absolute, but many visitors were game and tried to communicate without making a sound! This event, held at the Singapore University of Social Science, also helped raised both awareness and donations to various organisations.

Memories of Mount Vernon

Established in 1968, Mount Vernon Secondary School (MVSS) has a special place in the history of Deaf education in Singapore. It was also one of the first local mainstream schools to accept Deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Singapore and was a pioneer of inclusive education. However, it closed in 1991 due to falling enrollment.

On **19 October 2019**, MVSS alumni gathered for a long-awaited reunion. Rekindling old friendships and reminiscing the good old days, the alumni also adopted The Singapore Association for the Deaf as a beneficiary of their fundraising efforts, bringing in \$11,902.90 in donations. SAdDeaf is grateful to the organising committee and the MVSS Alumnus for their kindness and support for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community.





Building Meaningful Community Partnerships

31 Oct 2019 - SADeaf conducted our Deaf Awareness Programme and a set up a small donation booth at Taylor and Francis Asia Pacific. Taylor & Francis wanted to be more than just being part of the SADeaf contingent at the Purple Parade. So they embarked upon a journey to cultivate a deeper understanding of Deaf culture and build meaningful partnerships with the community.

A Big Happy Family

3 November 2019 - Thanks to Siglap Community Centre for inviting us and our Deaf Ambassador The Singapore Shawl to its Family Day. The event was a great opportunity for SADeaf to raise funds and was graced by Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State and Mayor of South-East District.



Children's Charity Fair 2019

9 Nov 2019 - This annual fundraising highlight saw six different charities gathering under one (tentage) roof next to Ngee Ann City mall. Visitors could partake of dozens of stalls selling everything from food and drinks, to toys, embroidery and artworks. Let's not forget the game stalls as well as stage performances by bands and dancers!



Giving is Loving

17 November 2019 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave...". Members of the Christ Methodist Church donated generously to support SADeaf. Blessings to them for their cheerful giving.



Christmas Tree Lighting

24 November 2019 - To get everyone in the holiday spirit, Tanglin Club held its annual Christmas Tree light-up. SADeaf participated in the Christmas Fair hosted on the same day. Together with a unique selection of vendors, we gathered to showcase our latest Christmas collections. The room was filled with festive gifts, decor, fashion merchandise, wines and collectables. To add to the fun, there was an hourly lucky draw with amazing gifts to be won.

Season of Giving

5 December 2019 - As part of Giving Week 2019, Ernst & Young (E&Y) organised a Christmas Bazaar for non-profit organisations. Various social service agencies and social enterprises participated in the bazaar to raise funds and highlight the work they do in the community. We would like to express our gratitude to EY and the Giving Week Team for involving SADeaf in the event.



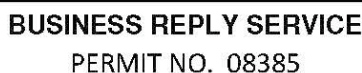
Christmas Wonderland

13, 14 & 21 December 2019 - In conjunction with the Giving Week, SADeaf was part of the magical journey to North Pole in Santa's Workshop - Christmas Wonderland at Gardens By The Bay. The room was freezing but it was filled with warmth of generous giving from the public.



here's my story

Many Deaf and their families need the right opportunity so their lives may be transformed. Your sustained giving can empower them and help them better integrate with the society.



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Other Amount

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 ☐ \$500
 ☐ \$300

Other Amount

Other Amount

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	Tel

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08/2059 - 11/2059	Citigroup

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Date _____

☐ Cheque (Please make crossed cheque payable to "The Singapore Association for the Deaf")

☐ I would like to receive a GIRO for monthly giving.

☐ I would like to be contacted by SADeaf on making a legacy gift through Will/CPF/Insurane Policy.

Notes:

1. In support of green efforts to save the environment, SAdDeaf will not be issuing any receipts for donation amounts below \$100, unless upon request. Regarding your donation amount, SAdDeaf will submit your tax deduction to IRAS as long as you provide your NRIC/FIN number when making a donation to SAdDeaf.
2. By filling this donation form, it is deemed that you have consented for SAdDeaf to use your personal information for donation-related and communication purpose.
3. Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.
4. Donation via credit card (including renewal card) will remain in force until SAdDeaf receives your termination request.
5. All donations are voluntary and non-refundable.

Please glue on the shaded area only

My name is Vasuthan Yuogan and I'm born deaf. I'm 21 years old this year. My mother passed away in a tragic car accident when I was three. Unable to accept the loss of my mother, my father drank and smoked excessively, and later developed lung disease. He was also diagnosed with depression when I was eight and was admitted to the Institute of Mental Health. He had no means and ability to care for me. Hence, I have been staying in the Boys' Home for as long as I can remember.

I'm currently studying Facility and Technology at NITEC. My dream is to be the first Deaf person to succeed in the air-conditioning and refrigeration industry.

My humble achievements would not have been possible without the support of The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf), as well as my teachers from the Deaf school. They gave me a sense of direction and helped me achieve every little milestone and goal in my life.

It's important for Deaf children to receive essential support to reach their full potential. Please donate generously to

SADeaf. Only with sufficient resources to cover the Association's daily operational expenses, SADeaf can continue their work to run meaningful programmes to benefit and better serve the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community. This may help transform lives of Deaf people like me so that I may better integrate with the society.

SADeaf has encouraged me to stay strong and emphasised that I need to study hard not only for myself but also for my late mother. One day I will have a place to call home and start a family of my own.

Your giving will help empower and inspire future generations in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community. Let more Deaf children, like me, shine and lead independent and meaningful lives!



SCAN TO DONATE

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Our team of social workers and case managers from Community Services department provides services such as counselling, financial assistance, employment support, and other crucial services to our Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. Log on to sadeaf.org.sg/CS for more information.

THE HEARING CARE CENTRE



The Hearing Care Centre serves the needs of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community via the provision of hearing care services and devices. Log on to sadeaf.org.sg/HCC for more information.

DEAF ACCESS SERVICES



Sign language interpretation and notetaking services are core services run by Deaf Access Services to provide access to information to the Deaf community and facilitate communication between the Deaf and Hearing. Log on to sadeaf.org.sg/DAS for more information.

Spreading the Joy of Knowledge and Festivals

Appreciating Our Merdeka Generation

In partnership with the Silver Generation Office, SADeaf organised a Merdeka Generation Package sharing session for our Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients.

Forty Deaf participants, who were born between 1950 and 1959 and qualified for the Merdeka Generation Package, attended the session on 16 August 2019. Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, was the guest of honour and took the chance to chat with the Deaf participants. She was warmly welcomed by SADeaf president Martin Marini, vice-president Tay Lay Hong, acting executive director Judy Lim and principal social worker Kelvin Tan, as well as staff from the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC).



Minister of State Mr Sam Tan and Member of Parliament Ms Denise Phua were at SADeaf on 8 November 2019. We were hosting a focus group discussion in collaboration with the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to better understand the aspirations and challenges of our community.

A follow-up engagement session by MSF to delve deeper into the salient areas of Employment and Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities, it featured 16 Deaf and hard-of-hearing participants, including a Deafblind client. The Employment Workgroup discussed how persons with disabilities

MSF hears from the Deaf Community

can be better enabled and supported in employment and the future economy, while the Independent Living workgroup focused on the use of technology and design to promote independent living both in the home and community settings.

Mr Sam Tan and Ms Denise Phua gave motivating speeches to close the event, calling on all present to "never give up hope" and that "we can do it together".



Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri!

Organised by our Community Services department on 22 June 2019, this Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration attracted about 30 deaf members. With a selection of food and festive tidbits, as well as contests including Best Dressed Competition, it was a memorable and enjoyable event for all. Special thanks to our dedicated staff Gohpi for leading the event, assisted by Halim, Hanna, Hidayat and Khairiyah.



Keeping Things Legal

The first-ever talk on Wills & Inheritance Planning was jointly organised by the SADeaf and NUS Law Pro Bono Office on 2 August 2019.



The audience of 68 deaf persons obtained basic knowledge about their legal rights pertaining to wills and inheritance matters, as well as learning where to seek legal aid when needed. Among the presenters were Jaryl Lim, a lawyer who presented in sign language, and NUS law students Ee Ning, Nicole, Osel, Ryan and Natasha.

The next in the series, held on 27 September 2019, was on the topic of the Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). Again, the response was excellent as 66 deaf participants turned up. It was presented by NUS Law students Natasha, Ashley, Shou En and Ee Ning and overseen by Jaryl and Hillary, both practising lawyers.

SADeaf wishes to thank Jaryl and team for their initiatives in spreading awareness of legal issues among our clients, and look forward to collaborating with them again in future.

Navigating BTO, HLE & other HDB terms

On 18 October 2019, SADeaf hosted 62 deaf participants for a talk on Housing and Development Board (HDB) matters. We are grateful to HDB staff Mr Michael Lok (Principal Estate Manager), Ms Yeow Lay Kuan (Senior Estate Manager) and Ms Sabrina Sim (Senior Estate Manager) for taking the time to explain various HDB policies and procedures.





All Aboard!

On 27 June 2019, student volunteers from Hwa Chong Institution organised a fun-filled afternoon of board games for Intinerant Support Service (ISS) clients. Participants engaged in different games that require strategic thinking, problem-solving collaboration as they competed and made new friends!

Day at the Museum

SADeaf Igniters organised a tour to the National Gallery Singapore on 12 October 2019. Guided by docents and with interpreters Valerie and June, it was an enriching experience for the deaf participants.

They learned about Singapore's history and its historical buildings such as the former Supreme Court Building and City Hall. They also viewed the 'If Walls Could Talk' exhibition as well as the Children's Biennale, being always young at heart!



All about CPF

CPF is something all working Singaporeans are familiar with and, at the same time, struggle to understand its intricacies. Mr Loo Cheng Chuan, founder of the 1M65 movement, conducted a talk on 26 October on managing one's CPF funds to achieve greater financial stability and security.

Christmas Party 2019 by the Social Group of the Deaf

The Social Group of the Deaf (SGD) and SADeaf organised a Christmas party on 14 December 2019 at the Royal Plaza on Scotts. Members of the Deaf community was treated to a night of good food, fun and games. The party was attended by our supportive sponsors, Mr Barry Clarke from Taylor and Francis Asia Pacific, Mr Wong Loke Hsien from Asia Farm F&B Pte Ltd.

Besides a sumptuous buffet spread, the participants had an enjoyable evening of fun and games such as Bingo, Moving On Up, Stack Attack and the Best Dressed competition organised by William Tan, Peter Chia, Sunny Tian and Tay Lay Hong. The emcee was Amy Ho. The highlight of the evening was the Mystery Prize - a trip to Batam - generously sponsored by the EU Holidays Pte Ltd. It was, without doubt, a wonderful night of chatting and catching up with friends and soaking in the festive spirit of Christmas.



The Social Group of the Deaf Committee with sponsors, Executive Council members and Executive Director, Ms Judy Lim.

Inclusion in Action

"Sign Language Rights for All"

The life and times of Lim Bo Seng and stories of other local war heroes in sign language? Only at the Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) week! The event was held together with the International Week for the Deaf at the Enabling Village. Performed by our Deaf sign language instructors, it was a wonderful celebration of SgSL and our Deaf community.

Other highlights were talks by Deaf entrepreneurs who shared their business

experiences, presentations on SgSL history, the launch of the SgSL Signbank, Deaf education, and sharing by our youth participants Dunrui and Faaiah's experiences at the WFD Youth Camp.

Also spotlighting SgSL were: The 'Storytelling at Public Libraries' series during the June and September holidays. Children who participated were seen signing along during the role-playing sessions and the overall response was excellent too! The first 'SgSL Workshop for

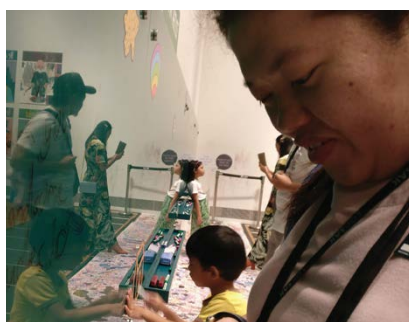
Families' workshop, ran over four days, offered an opportunity for families to learn basic signed communication and spurred the children to tell their stories in SgSL. Lastly, on 14 September, a SgSL Camp for Youths brought together our younger ones who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing, with help from volunteers from Goldman Sachs.



Deafblind Interpreting Training Course

From August to September 2019, the pilot Deafblind Interpreting Training Course was ran by SADeaf staff Teo Zhi Xiong and volunteer Lisa Loh, both of whom had attended the Deafblind Conference 2018 in Japan. It aimed to

promote better understanding and communication with the Deafblind community. Participants, including both Deaf and hearing, learned about the



different types of deafblindness, their needs and communication methods, as well as taking part in simulating the experience of being deaf-blind. To cap off the course, the participants' tactile signing and interpreter-guiding skills were put to the test on a visit to the National Gallery Singapore with three Deafblind individuals.

Making Theatre Come Alive For The Deaf

An increasing number of theatre companies are making their shows more inclusive and accessible by offering sign language interpretation and captioning. Among them are Wild Rice, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) and Esplanade Singapore.

Interpreting for the theatre requires extensive preparation. Besides familiarity with the script, interpreters attend live shows to study elements such as the music, mood, atmosphere and the body language and facial expressions of actors to incorporate into their interpreting. Prior to the live interpretation, a Deaf mentor will review the interpretation to provide feedback and guidance to



the interpreter. Mr Gophi Nathan, a seasoned Deaf performer, is one such mentor who have assisted interpreters through several productions in recent years.

Having both captions and Sign Language interpretation certainly resonate with deaf theatre-goers. Kudos to theatre-makers and organisers for making theatre more accessible to the Deaf Community.

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Signing Times

Having a splashing good time at Mayflower Primary School

As part of the school's Programme for Active Learning, the primary 2 students took part in the SwimSafer programme in term 3. Coach Joe Chan went the extra mile to create visuals of swim strokes to help our students with hearing loss understand his lessons better. The kids enjoyed it very much and looked forward to their water time every week.



Celebrating National Day 2019



The entire school was at Yio Chu Kang stadium on 8 August 2019 for its annual National Day celebrations! Besides having fun playing carnival games and telematches, the highlight of the event was the song-signing of "Our Singapore" (sung by JJ Lin) by twelve students from primary 2 - both hearing and deaf!

Beatty's First Visit to the Istana



Deaf students and resource teachers from Beatty Secondary School had a rare opportunity to be invited to visit the Istana on 18 November 2019. President Halimah Yacob had also invited Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School students, of whom six are blind. A team of Youth Corps Singapore volunteers assisted in organising the event. While touring the Spice Garden, we were joined by President Halimah. She shared her knowledge in

cooking with spices like laksa leaves and lime leaves. She also participated in the activities and interacted with the students and teachers in the Istana Banquet Hall.

"I feel happy and honoured to be invited to the Istana," exclaimed Lawrence Gabriel V. Angel, a Secondary 2 Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School student who is blind. Lee Yong Cheong, a Secondary 4 Deaf student from Beatty Secondary School, said, "This was the third time I met the President but today is my first experience visiting the Istana."



Article contributed by Muhammad Haziq Bin Razali of Class 1N2, Beatty Secondary School.

Deaf Movies

Most of us like to watch movies. For an hour or so, you get to leave behind the frequently-tiring real world and delight in someone else's world. However, the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community hardly see people like ourselves being represented in films.

We will now introduce you to a film which involves Deaf characters in unique and interesting ways. If you're beginning to tire of hearing-centric stories with casts full of hearing people, these movies might be something for you to watch and share with others.

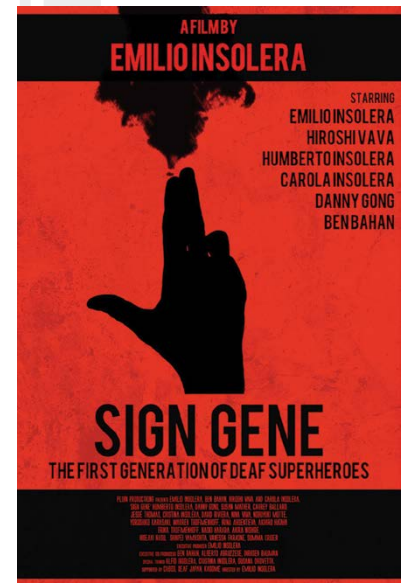
Sign Gene

Directed by: Emilio Insolera

Release date: 8 September, 2017

The film stars a deaf secret agent, who goes to Japan to investigate crimes committed by deaf mutants. Yes, you read that correctly: Mutants. And they all have superpowers that can be activated by Sign Language. Clearly, this is not your standard superhero film.

Not only that, the film is littered with references to Deaf culture and Deaf history. The main character is meant to be a descendant of Laurent Clerc (co-founder of the first permanent school for the Deaf in North America, and generally considered the most renowned deaf person in American Deaf History). And three different sign languages appear in the film (American Sign Language, Japanese Sign Language, and Italian Sign Language), along with their spoken counterparts.



A Silent Voice

Directed by: Naoko Yamada

Release date: 17 September, 2016

The Deaf Shoko Nishimiya attends a Hearing school and attempts to fit in, but is only met with bullying by from the troublemaker Shoya Ishida and his posse. However, the same bullying that Shoya inflicted began to be turned on him by the rest of the school. Now a social outcast himself, Shoya learns sign language and resolves to make amends. The film then follows the two of them as their relationship grows, and they grow out of their social isolation.

If you or your friends are anime fans, or interested in animation of any sort, then this is certainly something to try out. Making the film more resonant is the fact that the English voice actor for the deaf Shoko (Lexi Cowden) is herself deaf.

