

Deaf Seniors Newsletter

Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Interpreter

SAC members enjoyed Christmas Luncheon



Enjoy a delicious Christmas luncheon celebration on board the SAC's annual - a unique and special luncheon experience

The SAC Senior Citizen's annual Christmas Luncheon to honor the area's senior citizens recently took place at the Heather Gardens's Blossoms Restaurant on December 15, 2012.

MORE than 120 seniors citizens were being treated to a delicious Christmas Luncheon and Christmas gifts to winning ticket holders.

MORE than 125 gifts were donated by sponsors, businesses and organizations.

SAC Seniors Hours:

SAC Senior Citizen Programs are open from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on every Tuesday.

SAC Hall:

*1575 Elmira Street
Aurora, CO 80010*

We welcome seniors from the Denver area as well as other towns.

We will hold our 1st and 3rd Tuesday SAC potlucks and Volunteers of America (VOA) on the 2nd and 4th on Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 AM.

The SAC potluck will furnish the foods. Please bring dessert or anything else you might choose.

Seniors play cards to improve brain fitness and fun talk and socialize.

For more information, please contact:

Director of SAC Senior Citizen Programs, Jerry Jones



Want to see more?
See Gallery.



Ideas for Fun Activities for the Elderly



Seniors find the best place to discuss, learn, and chat about the iPad.



Seniors love playing card games of all types.



Seniors love to play poker and socialize with fun people.



There are many fun activities elderly people can take part in to keep their mind sharp...fun talking and socializing.



Seniors Obituaries

Anthony Raymond Bellofatto

(Nov. 6, 1940 - Sept. 18, 2012)

Irene Alexandria Boyd (Ancharuk)

(Jan. 30, 1935 - Nov. 30, 2012)

Carol Eileen Sponable

(May 18, 1930 - Jan. 16, 2013)

Richard Joseph O'Toole

(Oc. 13, 1921 - Jan. 23, 2013)

If you have obituaries you would like to see placed here, please send me a copy of article and mail to SAC/obituaries, 1575 Elmira St., Aurora, CO 80010

Seniors Contributors' Information

Contributing to the Deaf Seniors Newsletter

The quarterly Deaf Seniors Newsletter of the SAC publishing news of current research, recent publications and events pertinent to SAC Senior Citizen Programs.

Contributions are welcome. The Deaf Seniors Newsletter is published in February, May, August and November. The deadlines for Deaf Seniors newsletter copy are December 1 (for the February issue), March 1, June 1, and September 1.

Send to:

*SAC/Deaf Seniors
1575 Elmira Street
Aurora, CO 80010*

IN MEMORIAL OF:



Anthony Raymond Bellofatto, Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather, passed away on September 18, 2012 after a long fight with heart disease.

Ray was born on November 6, 1940 in Queen, New York. On September 30, 1961, Ray married Karen Wechter. By 1969, they had three wonderful children, Richard “Ricky”, Laurie, and Tammy.

Ray was a mechanic on bowling machines. Ray was the first deaf bowling pro shop owner when he lived in New York. Ray was an avid deaf bowler in deaf regional and national tournaments for many years.

In 1982, Ray moved from Bellaire, New York to Lakewood, Colorado with his family. In Colorado, Ray was the supervisor at AMF Bowling in the pro shop where he refinished bowling balls. Ray was very active in the deaf community, was a long time member and held many board positions with the Silent Athletic Club of Denver.

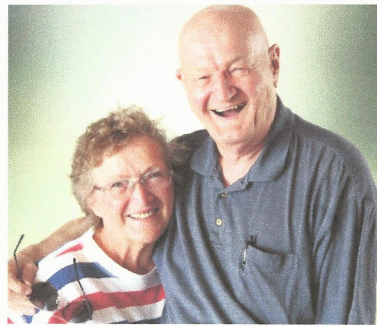
Ray was proudest of his family. Family meant the world to him. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren grow up and playing with his great-grandchildren.

Ray is survived by his wife of 50 years, Karen Bellofatto, two daughters, Laurie Clark and Tammy Bellofatto, six grandchildren, Holly Gummerson, John Clark, Rikki Netherton, Jennifer Clark and Jason Clark, three great-grandchildren, Kalob Gummerson, Kaelynn Gummerson, and Kylie Jo Gummerson, and God-daughter Janna Green.



Anthony Raymond Bellofatto, Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather

IN MEMORIAL OF:



Photographed in July 4, 2012



Photographed in 1952

A quote from Dick:

"She was my one and only. We always wanted to be together and when we were not together, we were thinking about each other. We needed each other and without each other, our life experience was not whole"

Irene Alexandria Boyd (Ancharuk) was born on January 30, 1935 in Davis, West Virginia. Her parents Ella Cecillia Ancharuk (Komoski) and Serkey Ancharuk immigrated to the United States from Russia in the early 1900's. Irene died on November 30, 2012 from a terminal inoperable brain tumor diagnosed on October 29, 2012. Irene passed away at Porter Hospice in Centennial, Colorado and entered eternal life at the age of 77. During her stay at Porter, she continued to demonstrate her love for everyone and embraced the love shown by her family and friends celebrating her life. She had a positive impact on many people's lives.

Irene was preceded in death of her father Serkey in 1958 (Davis, West Virginia; sister Ella Margaret McKee in 1961 (Oahu, Hawaii), mother Ella in 1979 (Steubenville, Ohio), and sister Betty Martina Pell in 1994 (Weirton, West Virginia).

Irene lost her hearing while she was a little girl from an unknown illness. Irene graduated in 1953 from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind located in Romney, West Virginia's eastern panhandle. Irene was active during her high school years participating in volleyball and cheerleading. Later the same year she married her high school sweetheart, Richard ("Dick") Hugh Boyd on December 26, 1953 in Davis, West Virginia; thus, Christmas time was always a special time. Irene celebrated 58 years of marriage to Dick and together they nurtured the Boyd clan.

During Irene's stay at the hospice, she stressed the importance of family and to communicate the family genealogy and history to every family member. We fulfilled Irene's request to contact her childhood hearing friend Veronica Staron in Davis, West Virginia to ask her to share stories of Irene's family history. Veronica vividly remembers Irene's perversicacious soul, *"Irene is a survivor. During her childhood growing up in the 1940's - 1950's she overcame the general populace ignorance of the deaf community and not only survived, but had a very rich life!"*

Irene and her family moved to Denver, Colorado in 1961 and she was very active in the deaf community. She actively participated in the Hobby Club, Birthday Club, Red Hat Club, Silent Athletic Club of Denver, Center on Deafness, her High School Class Reunions in Romney, West Virginia and presented numerous workshops to senior deaf citizens.

Irene loved to plan and give parties throughout the year and especially enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. Her passion in life was to (1) cook for her family, friends or party guests and (2) nurture her flower garden every year (she amazed us in knowing the names of each plant or flower).

Irene, continued page 5

Irene, continued from page 4

The foundation of Irene's life was her husband and family. Irene loved to travel the United States, sightseeing and visiting friends. For many years she traveled in a camper truck enjoying the outdoors; and later in life she traveled in a motorhome - throughout her travels Irene visited all fifty states! She especially enjoyed Alaska and Hawaii. Irene had a thirst for experiencing various cultures around the world. She traveled to Germany, Italy, Rome, Peru, Chile, Brazil (Amazon River), Panama Canal, Puerto Rico, Easter Island, Mexico, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Canada, a Mediterranean Sea cruise and a windjammer cruise to St. Croix. Irene was quite an adventure seeker!

Irene is survived by her spouse Dick (Centennial, Colorado), three (3) grown children, ten (10) grandchildren and five (5) great grandchildren as follows:

- * Marvin and Christy (Rice) Boyd (Colorado Springs, Colorado) and their three grown children
 - Mackenzie and Brendan Dougherty (Madison, Wisconsin)
 - Keagan Dougherty (3 years old)
 - Maeve Dougherty (five months old)
 - Sean and Ashaley (Ivy) Boyd (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
 - Mason Riddle (6 years old)
 - Avery Boyd (3 years old)
 - Derek Boyd (Fort Collins, Colorado)
- * Karen Boyd and Johnny Saddler (Boulder Colorado)
 - Stanley and Rebecca (Phillison) Nichols (Boulder, Colorado)
 - Andrew and Chelsy (Thompson) Nichols (Arvada, Colorado)
 - Aiden Nichols (2 years old)
 - Aaron Saddler (Surprise, Arizona)
 - Joshua Saddler (Surprise, Arizona)
- * Cheri Jo and George Stewart (Guam, U.S. Territory)
 - Kyle Legozzie (Guam, U.S. Territory)
 - Nathan Legozzie (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
 - Emi Stewart (Hilo, Hawaii)

Irene has many nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives throughout the country, not named herein.

The Silent Athletic Club of Denver, Senior Citizens program, would like to extend our thanks to all those who participated in Irene Boyd's Memorial Donations to Senior Citizens Fund.

IN MEMORIAL OF:

Carol Eileen Sponable, 82, Denver, Colorado, died Wednesday, January 16, 2013, at her retirement home. She was born May 18, 1930, at Chandler, Oklahoma, the daughter of Bernard Michael Evanhoe and Clara Mae Burris Evanhoe. Profoundly deaf from her babyhood days, Carol attended Oklahoma School for the Deaf and Kansas School for the Deaf, and always received top honors. She dropped out of Gallaudet College for the Deaf and on June 3, 1950, she married Harry Sponable in Denver, and raised their three hearing children there.

After their divorce, she returned to college and acquired a bachelor's degree in library science in 1968. Mrs. Sponable retired as medical librarian from the Colorado Medical School Library. She started as a library clerk and ended up as a library technician during a period of 21 years of service with a sincere desire to increase the accessibility of the library materials to her patrons. She retired in 1990.

For many years, Carol served as president of the Mile High Chapter of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association. In later years, she volunteered with the Metro Denver Deaf Senior Citizens on various worthwhile projects. Volunteerism was her strong suit. She taught sign language classes, edited the now-defunct Mile High Banner, for which she won the National Association of the Deaf's Literary Award and the Best Publication Award. When not holding office, Mrs. Sponable was a very active member of various deaf organizations. She was one of the founders of the Colorado Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (CRID) and was among those who started the Deaf Program Services at Fort Logan Mental Health Center. Her service to the deaf began at age 12 when she became an organization secretary. This was followed by her being a secretary for more than 10 organizations for the deaf. Over the years, she gave thousands of hours for deaf causes, and was always devoted to help them overcome discrimination in the work place and for receiving fairness in the legal matters through the Colorado Legislature. She worked to assure deaf children had quality education and that the deaf received quality sign language interpreting services. She received the Golden Hand Award from the Colorado Association of the Deaf (CAD) for being editor of the Deaf Coloradan, for her devotion and protection of the deaf, and for being a board member of the Center on Deafness.

Survivors include a son, Alan Sponable of Simi Valley, California, and Eileen Milligan of Cupertino, California; a sister, Patricia Stephenson, Bowler, Wisconsin; a brother, Charles Alfred Evanhoe of Derby, Kansas; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Carol was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harry Sponable; a son, Dean Sponable; a grandson, Don Andrae Sponable; and a brother, Edward Evanhoe.

Published in Topeka Capital-Journal on January 20, 2013

IN MEMORIAL OF:



Richard Joseph O'Toole was born in Yoder, Wyoming on October 13, 1921. At age of 7 years old, he went to Colorado School for the Deaf. In 1941, his football team won champion in history. He received Hall of Fame Award for Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Athletics.

In 1942, he left CSDB to go back to Yoder, Wyoming to work on the farm during the summertime then moved to Denver. He got a job at Samsonite where he worked on assembly line making card tables and Chairs.

In 1944 he was the founder of Silent Athletic Club and had first meeting at YMCA in downtown with 13 Charter Members. He was the first Vice-President. Later the members rented hall on West Colfax Avenue and All Souls Church. He was the last surviving of the 13 Charter Members.

In 1945 he moved to Akron, Ohio to have a new life. He worked for Firestone Tire Company. While living in Akron, he played basketball with the deaf men and was all Star in basketball at American Association of the Deaf. In 1949, after being laid off from the job, he moved back to Denver. When he came back to Denver, he was driving Buick car and the deaf people were jealous of him to have a Buick in 1940's. He went back to work for Samsonite. He was a briefcase repairman. He worked for Samsonite 33 years and retired in 1984.

In 1952, he met the love of his life Amelia DeSantis. They both were met and introduced by Margaret Herbold at Samsonite. They were married on February 14, 1953. They had a son who was born on December 14, 1954. Richard was a member of Silent Athletic Club for 68 years. For many years he held officers position as President, Vice President, and Treasurer and also on board. He is the last person of the organization SAC member to serve full years since 1944. He also was a coach for baseball and basketball. He was on bowling league for many years and continued to bowl until he was 86 years old.

Richard and Amelia have traveled extensively throughout their marriage. They went on several cruises to Caribbean, Greece, and Hawaii. When they retired in 1984, They went to Italy. They also ventured throughout the United States.

He is preceded in death by his wife Amelia of 47 years. He is survived by a son David, Sister Agnes Mason (AZ), Brother James O'Toole (CA), Sister in Law Emily O'Toole (CA) and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial Service will be held on February 17, 2013 at Silent Athletic Club at 1575 Elmira Street from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In Memory of Richard O'Toole, please donate to Silent Athletic Club, 1575 Elmira Street, Aurora, CO 80010