

**SPECIAL EDITION!!**

**NATIONAL BLACK DEAF ADVOCATES, INC.  
SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSLETTER**

Volume 1, Issue 1

February, 2012



## The First Ever NBDA Black Deaf Senior Citizens Reunion

This is a 'special edition' that only covers the NBDA's first ever Senior Citizens Reunion that was held the October of last year. All the photos used in this newsletter were taken by the photographer Harold Williams. Mr. Williams took approximately 400 photos and video taped several events that are planned to include in the creation of DVD/CD for fundraising. All proceeds from sales will go to the NBD Senior Citizens fund to help defray the costs of future senior citizens activities.

The first ever NBDA Senior Citizens Reunion was held in Orlando, Florida on October 13 – 16, 2011 at the beautiful Residence Inn-Orlando Convention Center located less than a mile from the popular Disney Universal Studio. The event was hosted by the NBDA Senior Citizens Program, one of the seven programs of the National Black Deaf Advocates. The theme was, *"Coming Together to Do More, Learn More, and Live More"*

The reunion drew more than 140 people from 20 different states. A number of people under age 55 bought their senior parents to the event. Also, a few young adults came and volunteered their services when help was needed.

Thomas Samuels, (NYC), Director of the NBDA Senior Citizens Program and Gerald Miller (VA) served as Co-Chairs. Members of the reunion planning committee were: Lavonda Miller (VA), Registration Chair; Betty Henderson (PA), Reunion Treasurer; Debra Fuller (NJ), Entertainment Chair; Dorothy Brand (NYC) and Cynthia LaCour (LA) served as the Special Assistants. A special interest group of 8 dedicated senior citizens individuals residing in several cities of Florida such as; Orlando, Kissimmee, Bradenton, Ocala, Delray Beach, Sanford, and Miami. The group provided valuable information regarding the selection of Turkey Lake Park for our BBQ Cookout and hospitality. They also assisted with registration, serving meals, and donated food for Friday's night event. Member of the Florida Special Interest Group (FSIG) were; Bettye Gales (Bradenton), Chair, Walter Lewis Jr. (Ocala) Co-Chair, Bennie Johnson (Miami) Group Advisor, Vivian Rachel (Kissimmee), Deborah Dukes (Orlando), Madgeline Sawyer (Orlando), Harold Green (Sanford), and Shirley Wilson (Delray Beach). A number of individuals from other states outside of Florida who also volunteered for specific tasks were: Dorothalia Owens and Reginald Miles (PA) Registration; Carlton West (VA) and General Scott (VA) Transportation; and Hollis Fleetwood (NJ) Security/Crowd Control.

Continued on next page



**NBDA Senior Citizens Newsletter**

Thomas Samuels  
Newsletter Editor

**Newsletter Contributors**

Harold Williams  
Jackie Bruce  
Gerald Miller  
Benro Ogunyipe

**NBDA Officers**

Benro Ogunyipe, President  
Cory Parker, Vice-President  
Sharon White, Secretary  
Betty Henderson, Treasurer

**NBDA Regions**

Eastern Regional  
Midwestern Regional  
Southern Regional  
Southwestern Regional

**NBDA Programs**

Youth Empowerment Summit  
Colligate Black Deaf Student  
Leadership Institute  
Senior Citizens Program  
Interpreters and Translators of  
Color Committee  
Miss Black Deaf America Pageant  
National Black Deaf Archive  
Andrew Foster Scholarship

Editor note:



On behalf of NBDA and the senior citizens reunion planning committee, I would like to thank those of you who attended the reunion last October.

We hope you had a wonderful time and returned back home safely.

We wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2012.

Continued from front page

The reunion began with a welcome reception on Thursday night to a jam packed room. In attendance were Charles "Chuck" Williams and Lottie Crook, two of the six founding members of NBDA; Jackie Bruce, former president of the National Alliance Of Black Interpreters (NAOBI) and a loyal supporter of NBDA; Jerry Webster, a former NBDA National and Regional Treasurer; Angela Roth, CEO and President of ASL Services, a professional sign language interpreter agency located in Orlando, donated 8 certificated interpreter for 27 hours of services during the three days event; Alan Pool, a Purple Communication Representative and a reunion sponsor; and several former and present local BDA chapter presidents and officers.

Free airport/hotel van services were provided by NBDA Senior Citizens Program for reunion attendees. A free bus transportation was also provided travel to the Turkey Lake Park for Saturday's BBQ Cookout.

The FSIG group surprised everyone with two beautiful and delicious king size cakes engraved "National Black Deaf Advocates Senior Citizens Reunion."



## Residence Inn Orlando Convention Center

Special thanks goes to the Residence Inn-Orlando Convention Center and their staff for their wonderful hospitality and service during the reunion. The hotel provided us with 118 blocks room at a discount rate of \$89 and \$99 per night including complimentary a breakfast each morning and a complimentary dinner during their Monday to Thursday social night. Each guest room featured full kitchen with stove, microwave, refrigerator, coffee/tea maker, sofa beds, separate

sitting area and climate control. Free on-site parking and Internet access.



Five hotel staff working at the reception desk volunteer to participated in an American Sign Language/deaf culture session that was given by the NBDA Senior Citizens Program a day before the reunion started. Those attended were surprised and inspired to know that some of the staff

at the check-in reception knew some of the basic signs. Everyone enjoyed their stay at the Residence Inn-Orlando Convention Center.



### 2012 BDA Regional Conferences

Eastern Regional BDA  
Conference  
July 13–15, 2012  
South Plainfield, NJ

Midwestern Regional BDA  
Conference  
July 27–29, 2012  
Cleveland, OH  
(Middleburg Heights)

Southwestern Regional BDA  
Conference  
August 3–4, 2012  
Dallas, TX

Southern Regional BDA  
Conference (TBA)

## My Time at the Senior Citizens Reunion

By Jackie Bruce, Washington, DC



Attending the NBDA Senior Citizens Reunion along with members of my church, (Margaret, Carrie, and Ernestine-Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, DC) was the best reunion ever!

What a time ... what a time! Since I too have become a senior citizen sign language interpreter (over the age of 50), attending the reunion allowed me to “reconnect” with friends I had not seen in years! The reunion also allowed me to make new friends. A number of seniors remembered me from my early years of

interpreting for NBDA. My first interpreting job was with NBDA was at the 1986 NBDA Conference in Detroit.

Information gained from the senior citizens reunion held in Florida was truly revealing and enlightening. Tom Samuels’ presentation along with input from Lottie Crook and Chuck Williams regarding the early years of NBDA was priceless! To also see Ms. Ida Hampton presentation/interview, the first Black Deaf female to graduate from Gallaudet, was truly informative. She spoke of her experiences at Gallaudet in the early 1950’s. Thank you committee for a job WELL DONE! We are all look forward to attending the next reunion.



### ***NBDA 30th Anniversary Celebration***

(1982 - 2012)

November 10, 2012  
Holiday Inn - Inner Harbor  
Baltimore, Maryland

For more information, visit [www.nbda.org](http://www.nbda.org)

### ***2013 National Black Deaf Advocates National Conference***

July 30 - August 4, 2013  
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

More information will be available on [www.nbda.org](http://www.nbda.org)



## A CONVERSATION WITH IDA HAMPTON



Ida Hampton is credited as the first Black Deaf woman to graduate from Gallaudet University. More than 100 people attended "A Conversation with Ida Hampton", that took place at the Comfort Inn banquet room less than a mile from the Residence Inn-Orlando Convention Center.

Ida entered Gallaudet University in September 1952 and graduated in May 1957 with a B.A. in Education. After graduation she got a position as a teacher of the deaf at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine Florida. After earning a Master of Education degree from the University of North Florida in Special Education of Children with learning disabilities, she joined the school's Multi-handicapped Department for 8 years. After 2 years as a pre-school teacher she ended 32 years of teaching in May 1989.

During the conversation, she mentioned the barriers she had to overcome as a Black Deaf female during the academic years at Gallaudet University and what she accomplished.

Many who attend the event were students she taught at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. They were delighted to see her again. After the conversation ended, she chatted with her former students and posed for pictures with members of the audience. Ida Hampton is a remarkable woman and a true pioneer

Dinner for the event was donated and served by the Florida Special Interest group.



### COMING SOON! ... A REUNION PHOTO DVD

Harold Williams, a professional video/photography from New York City who was hired by the Black deaf senior citizens program took approximately 400 digital photos of individuals, groups, and activities during the reunion. 200 of the best photos will be selected to create a beautiful and professional looking DVD slide that we hope to complete and be on sale in sometime in February.

Harold also, videotaped five selective events and activities for a total of five 60 minutes DV video tapes. Because of the time consuming for reviewing and editing, the videotape will not be completed until the early part of spring.

All proceeds from the DVD purchases will go to the NBDA Senior Citizen Program fund to help defray costs of future senior citizens activities.

For future information on the photo & video DVD, please continue to check the NBDA web site (nbda.org).



**COMING SOON!**  
Photo - Video DVD of  
the 2011 NBDA Senior  
Citizens Reunion

### Reunion Interpreters

NBDA Senior Citizens give special Thanks to Interpreters who help contribute to the success of the Black Deaf Senior Citizens Reunion by volunteer their services. A big hand wave goes to Angela Roth, Marvin Molinedo, Anthony Demery, Vavia Buckman Sherry Hudson, Carlos Grant and others we may have missed.



Ida Hampton is surrounded with several interpreters who interpreted Friday night's "A Conversation with Ida Hampton".

# NBDA HISTORY SESSION

A "NBDA History" workshop was held Friday morning with more than 75 people attended. Thomas Samuels was the presenter. Lottie Crook and Chuck Williams provided corrections and in-depth information related to how and why NBDA was established in 1982.

Chuck Williams explained his reasons for filing a class action suit against the National Democratic and Republic Convention for refusal to televise sign language interpreter for linguistic accessibility during the convention, and the barriers he overcame during the proceeding.

Lottie Crook talked about the five other NBDA founders (Chuck Williams, Ernest Hairston, Linwood Smith, Ann Wilson, Willard Shorter) who played a major role in helping establish the organization. She emphasized how Deaf Pride became the key player and the contributions and support from others.



# REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



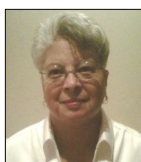
Thomas Samuels  
New York City



Gerald Miller  
Ashburn, VA



Betty Hendersen  
Philadelphia, PA



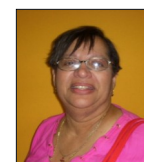
Lavonda Miller  
Ashburn, VA



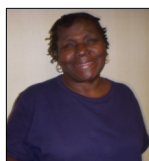
Debra Fuller  
New Jersey



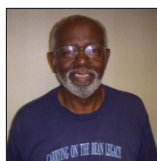
Dorothy Brand  
New York City



Cynthia LaCour  
New Orleans



Bettye Gales  
Bradenton, FL



Walter Lewis, Jr  
Ocala, FL



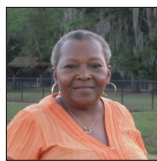
Shirley Wison  
Delray Beach, FL



Harold Green  
Sanford, FL



Bennie Johnson  
Miami, FL



Magdelene Sawye  
Orlando, FL

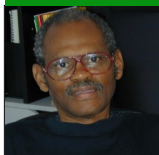


Vivian Rachel  
Kissimmee, FL

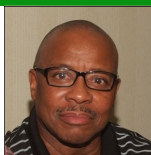


Deborah Dukes  
Orlando, FL

## VOLUNTEERS



Carlton West  
Newport News, VA



Hollis Fleetwood  
New Jersey



Reginald Miles  
Philadelphia, PA



Dorthalia Owens  
Philadelphia, PA



General Scott  
Virginia Beach, VA

# MEMBERSHIP

## Join Us!

By joining NBDA, you not only support our important cause, you also become a member of the NBDA family. As a member, you will receive:

- quarterly newsletters
- discounts to conferences
- special invitations to sponsored workshops
- discounts on NBDA merchandise

Most important, you will help Advocate for positive change for Deaf /Hard of Hearing African Americans seniors and at-risk youth to live their dreams and experience the warmth, security, joy and love that they deserve. Our vision is to repeat this process as many times as possible. **Join Us!!**

Membership and Contributions are tax deductible. To donate to the NBDA automatically through payroll deductions, see information on the Combined Federal Campaign. NBDA's designation is #11177.

For membership information, check [nbda.org](http://nbda.org) or contact NBDA Secretary Sharon White at [secretary@nbda.org](mailto:secretary@nbda.org).

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