

NEWSLETTER

December Events

Friday, December 5

Mexican Train 7:00 pm
Poker League 8:00 pm

Saturday, December 5

Executive Board Meeting 8:30
Tingo 8:00 pm

Friday, December 12

Open to Public 7 pm

Saturday, December 13

Terrylene Show 2 to 5 pm
Launch of AAD website 6:30 pm
General Meeting 7:30
Oath of new Board Members
BANKNIGHT

Friday, December 19

Open to Public

Saturday, December 20

Poker League 8:00 pm

Friday, December 26

Club closes

Saturday, December 27

Poker League 8:00 pm

Wednesday, December 31

Happy New Year's Eve Party
(see the flyer inside)

Club Hours

Fridays:

7:00 pm-1:00 am

Saturdays:

7:00 pm-2:00 am

Bar opens at 7:00 pm



WARMEST THOUGHTS
AND BEST WISHES FOR
WONDERFUL HOLIDAYS
AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



Austin Deaf Club Executive Board

President

Jo Bienvenu

Vice President

Earl Day

Treasurer

Ann Horn

Secretary

Marilyn Swanson

Director of

Public Relations

Deb Kuglitsch

Member at Large

Kristin Lund

Ronny Taylor

Gretchen Forgey

Christy Schoneman

Sarah McAvoy

NOVEMBER WINNERS

TINGO

November 1

T - \$390 Christy Schoneman

I - \$30 Vincent Dailey &
Lisa Mills

N - \$30 Shainna Thompson

G - \$30 David Garcia

O - \$30 Judy Thomas

Totto \$100 Judy Thomas

Bonus \$40 Billy Kendall

BANKNIGHT

November 8

\$35 Kent Kenndy

\$45 (Robert Swanson)

\$65 (Kim Hamilton)

\$15 (Melissa Cologar)

\$35 (Pam Parnell)

\$5 (George Hess)

(not presented to win)

December 6 TINGO

December 13 BankNight

TINGO Rules: Spouses/partners must sit across, rather than next to each other. Pay attention to the card leader for more instructions. All active members and temporary members who win, they get full amount of each prize.

BANKNIGHT Rules: Prizes will be awarded based on drawn chips matching membership numbers. The first five prizes will be awarded only to winning members who are present and who have also previously bought blue tickets the night of the drawing. If more than five prizes are awarded, any member who buy tickets that night may win. The winners need to be present.



Jerry McGaugh	December 2
Ann Marie White	December 2
Brenda Oates	December 3
Iris Sandell	December 4
William Schwall	December 7
James Maxwell	December 9
Roger Swanson	December 9
Nancy Schwall	December 10
Earl Day	December 11
Christy Schoneman	December 13
Charlene Giacona	December 14
Mark Gunderson	December 19
Connie Dannels	December 21
Roberto Wise	December 22
Marian J. Seale	December 25

WELCOME NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERS

As of December 1, 2014

Members in Total: 128

If you want to become a member, contact Ann Horn, our membership coordinator at aadmembership@gmail.com or see any officers on list.

Austin Deaf Club Poker League
1st Friday at 8 pm
3rd Saturday at 8 pm
4th Saturday at 8 pm
Please register before 7:30 pm
(2nd Friday Poker Tournament at 8 pm)

Austin Deaf Club will have a New Look Website

Visit our site with new features on December 13

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website on December 13 at 6:30 p.m. This product is the result of a lot of work done by Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD). People looking to find the information, to make donations or to purchase our ADC products refer to the website.

Our goal with this new site is to provide our members and visitors with an easier way to visit to learn what we and deaf community do and how to get involved. We will be adding news and newsletters on a regular basis, and feature a newsletter every month.

We are working on a vlog that will highlight life in the website. Look for it in the coming months!

We hope you find the new website has a fresh look, is easy to use and is informative. Please send us your feedback: austindeafclub@gmail.com.



Deb Kuglitsch, ADC Public Relations director and Jason Ruzicka, CSD Brand Delivery Manager observed ADC President Jo Bienvenu signed the Creative Media Services agreement between CSD and Austin Deaf Club.

AAD Club Contact Information

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Earl Day, *Vice President*
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Marilyn Swanson, *Secretary*
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John Mills, *Treasurer*
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Deb Kuglitsch, *Director of Public Relations*
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Sarah McAvoy, *Member at Large*
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Rosemary McGaugh, *Reserve Fund Chair*
aadreservefund@gmail.com

General Inquires
austindeafclub@gmail.com

Website
www.austindeafclub.org

The Whole Story behind Christmas

HISTORY.com

Christmas is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

AN ANCIENT HOLIDAY

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many peoples rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on fire. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days. The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new pig or calf that would be born during the coming year.

The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of

year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.

SATURNALIA

In Rome, where winters were not as harsh as those in the far north, Saturnalia—a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture—was celebrated. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continuing for a full month, Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, slaves would become masters. Peasants were in command of the city. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could join in the fun.

Also around the time of the winter solstice, Romans observed Juvenalia, a feast honoring the children of Rome. In addition, members of the upper classes often celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on December 25. It was believed that Mithra, an infant god, was born of a rock. For some Romans, Mithra's birthday was the most sacred day of the year.

In the early years of Christianity, Easter was the main holiday; the birth of Jesus was not celebrated. In the fourth century, church officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a holiday. Unfortunately, the Bible does not mention date for his birth (a fact Puritans later pointed out in order

to deny the legitimacy of the celebration). Although some evidence suggests that his birth may have occurred in the spring (why would shepherds be herding in the middle of winter?), Pope Julius I chose December 25. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival. First called the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century. By the end of the eighth century, the celebration of Christmas had spread all the way to Scandinavia. Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.

By holding Christmas at the same time as traditional winter solstice festivals, church leaders increased the chances that Christmas would be popularly embraced, but gave up the ability to dictate how it was celebrated. By the Middle Ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religion. On Christmas, believers attended church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to today's Mardi Gras. Each year, a beggar or student would be crowned the "lord of misrule" and eager celebrants played the part of his subjects. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined "debt" to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens.

AN OUTLAW CHRISTMAS

In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was cel-

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celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

IRVING REINVENTS CHRISTMAS

It wasn't until the 19th century that Americans began to embrace Christmas. Americans re-invented Christmas, and changed it from a raucous carnival holiday into a family-centered day of peace and nostalgia. But what about the 1800s peaked American interest in the holiday?

The early 19th century was a period of class conflict and turmoil. During this time, unemployment was high and gang rioting by the disenfranchised classes often occurred during the Christmas season. In 1828, the New York city council instituted the city's first police force in response to a Christmas riot. This catalyzed certain members of the upper classes to begin to change the way Christmas was celebrated in America.

In 1819, best-selling author Washington Irving wrote *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, a series of stories about the

celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. The sketches feature a squire who invited the peasants into his home for the holiday. In contrast to the problems faced in American society, the two groups mingled effortlessly. In Irving's mind, Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing groups together across lines of wealth or social status. Irving's fictitious celebrants enjoyed "ancient customs," including the crowning of a Lord of Misrule. Irving's book, however, was not based on any holiday celebration he had attended – in fact, many historians say that Irving's account actually "invented" tradition by implying that it described the true customs of the season.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Also around this time, English author Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The story's message—the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind—struck a powerful chord in the United States and England and showed members of Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday.

The family was also becoming less disciplined and more sensitive to the emotional needs of children during the early 1800s. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention and gifts on their children without appearing to "spoil" them.

As Americans began to embrace Christmas as a perfect family holiday, old customs were unearthed. People looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated. In the next 100 years, Americans built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards, and gift-giving.

Although most families quickly bought into the idea that they were celebrating Christmas how it had been done for centuries,

Americans had really re-invented a holiday to fill the cultural needs of a growing nation.

CHRISTMAS FACTS

- Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone. There are 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the United States, and trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.
- In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous—a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.
- From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.
- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.
- The first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.
- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus-clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890s.
- Rudolph, "the most famous reindeer of all," was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store.
- Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1931.

MY PRICE is RIGHT!

10 PRIZES worth over \$\$\$ plus MORE SURPRISES

**November 21, 2015
7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**

**\$10 per person including
10 ticket book & surprises**

**Buy extra 10-ticket book for \$3 at door
ALL of YOU WILL PLAY!**

**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE
ANNOUNCED SOON!**



8818 Cullen Lane
Austin, TX 78748

For more information or questions, see
Deb Kuglitsch or Gretchen Forgey
austindeafclub@gmail.com
austindeafclub.org



Austin Deaf Club Hosts Roaring 20's New Year's Eve Party



When: Of course- December 31, 2014

Time: 8:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m.

COST: \$15 per person \$23 per couple

**Appetizers, One Alcohol Beverage, tiny cup of
Black-Eye Peas and Champagne will be served**

Games and Activities will be provided.

Address: 8818 Cullen Lane, Austin, TX.

**Hostesses: Sandy Kimball, Coleen Utzman,
Bel Inman Johnson and Ann Horn**

If you have question(s) or want to
obtain Austin Deaf Club

Membership

Contact Ann Horn,
Club membership coordinator
at aadmembership@gmail.com

If you want to use the club
or host the event, contact
Fred Newberry at
aadclubevents@gmail.com.
If you want to share your
concerns or ideas, contact
Jo Bienvenu at
AADPresident@gmail.com



Moving? New Address?

Do not lose your subscription
to the Club newsletters or any
event information. Notify
AAD Secretary at
austinsecretary@gmail.com or
P.O. Box 3884, Austin, TX 78764



Reminder: ALL members are required to bring membership cards at all times.

Austin Association of the Deaf
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