



**ROCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
Alumni Association  
RSDAA Newsletter**

**Spring 2011**

**REUNION 2011 from Peter Simpkins, Class of 1973**

Welcome to 135th anniversary and reunion of Rochester School for the Deaf, which will be held the weekend of October 14 -16, 2011. The tradition of reunions is an important part of RSD - both for the school and the Alumni Association. I was chairperson for the 125th reunion almost 10 years ago. It was a success with nearly 400 people attending. I hope we can do the same or maybe more next year. As of now, we have more than 30 committees planning this event. I look forward to welcoming you back in October 2011. Please encourage RSD alumni and their friends and family to attend this reunion. Thank you!

[CLICK HERE to get the RSD  
135th Reunion Invitation](#)

**RSD Archives Center Receives Grant for Film Preservation**

The Carolyn White Siegfried & DeFois Hathaway Siegfried Archives Center at Rochester School for the Deaf received a grant award of \$7,051 from the National Film Preservation Foundation. These will be used to "make accessible to the public" some of oldest, historical films ever made at RSD. The films being restored are together on one large reel titled: **Graduation Ceremonies and Other Events, 1929-1938**. This collection of films show scenes from various Rochester School for the Deaf graduation ceremonies, building dedications, Boy Scout and Girl Scout gatherings, skits, an extravagant lawn party, outdoor plays and dancing, woodshop demonstrations, sewing class instruction, elementary school classes and an RSD baseball game. The grant will support efforts to make a new film negative and preservation master prints, as well as digital access copies.

The Carolyn White Siegfried & DeFois Hathaway Siegfried Archives Center at Rochester School for the Deaf is staffed solely by volunteers. The archive center's mission is to collect, hold, care for, and make available for research, historical documents, photographs, artifacts and other valuable records of Rochester School for the Deaf, which was established in 1876. The center is open to members of the RSD community, researchers from academia as well as interested individuals from the private sector. Visit: [www.RSDeaf.org/Archives](http://www.RSDeaf.org/Archives)

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**Stop, Look & Listen: Woman's quilts reach worldwide**

From June 6, 2009, by Margaret K. Look, *The Post-Journal*, Jamestown, NY

Long before quilting became a popular hobby, Helen Shoup of Frewsburg, a graduate of Rochester School for the Deaf, was making quilts for needy people throughout the world. During the years, she has made more than 300 quilts which have been distributed by the Lutheran World Relief. So far this year, she has made 18 quilts.

For Helen this is much more than a hobby. It is her way of showing her faith in God and carrying out the mission of helping others. Friends and members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Frewsburg sometimes help her by tying the quilts.

The quilts and their purpose begin as pictures in Helen's mind. She thinks of the thousands of people throughout the world who are destitute and often are without a warm place to sleep. The way Helen envisions the needy people and how she sees the quilts in her "mind's eye" is especially poignant, because Helen is deaf.

When people ask her how she can make so many quilts, she replies, "I do it first by faith in God. Without faith, the talent and interest for sewing the quilts would be nothing. Second, I ask God for the strength."

Whenever she finds an inspirational message in her daily devotions, she cuts it out and puts it on the window in her sewing area. Although she often works late at night, she never works on Sundays.

Making the quilts is done mainly in the fall and winter, but the quilts are never far from Helen's mind. When I spoke with her recently she said, "Yesterday I got some nice materials for next year's quilts."

She added that she had washed the material, which, I understand, is what many quilters do to make sure the material will not shrink after it is cut into pieces and they are put together.

I have attended many quilt shows and admired the beautiful handwork, but Helen's quilts are very special. They carry her love of God and humanity wherever they go.

Her husband, John E. Shoup, 78, passed away October 11, 2010.

He was born in Emporium, Pa. Mr. Shoup was a graduate of Philadelphia School for the Deaf, class of 1952. He worked as a machinist at the former Premium Tool and Die and retired from Jamestown Metal.

Besides quilting, Helen enjoys gardening, doing crossword puzzles and reading her daily devotions.

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**REMEMBERING RSD ALUMNI**

**Beardsley, Robert K.:** Age 90; Passed away Friday, April 1, 2011, in Rochester, NY. Robert was a member of the RSD Class of 1953.

**Green, Estella Z.:** Passed away Wednesday, December 8, 2010, in Auburn, NY. She was a member of the RSD Class of 1940.

**Grimes, Delane V., Sr.** Passed away Sunday, January 16, 2011, in Rochester, NY. He is survived by his wife Susan, sons Delane V., Jr. "Don," Douglas and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. His son David died in 2010. Delane, Sr. retired from Kodak after 25 years of service. Contributions to honor Mr. Grimes may be made to RSD.

**Riggs, Thomas E.** Passed away December 24, 2009, in New Mexico. After graduating from RSD in 1973, Tom moved our West, where he received a degree in Environmental Studies at the Metropolitan State College in Denver. He received a Masters in Linguistics from the University of Colorado in Boulder. He went on to lead several ASL/Interpreter Preparation Programs in colleges and universities in New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado. He is survived by his wife Bonnie Chauncey-Riggs and many more, dear family members and relatives. Contributions to honor Tom may be made to: ASLTA c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 20823, St. Petersburg, FL 33742.

