

January 4, 2024



Empowering Independence

CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

DHILS Consumer Holiday Party

On December 19th DHILS hosted a consumer holiday party. As always, we enjoyed good food: pizza, hot dishes, appetizers and yummy desserts.



Everyone chatted and socialized before playing the “Poppers” game. Consumers were split into 2 teams, “Elves” Vs. “Reindeer”, and tried to get points by shooting balls into various size boxes. The *Reindeer* team won, but everyone had fun! Several rounds of BINGO were played with consumers marking matching holiday pictures on their boards with Hershey kisses. Winners picked a prize from a “grab bag” of goodies.

DHILS staff gave each consumer a 2024 calendar and fun CLW gifts. A wonderful time was had by all!

See [Mexican Dip recipe](#) on page 2 & more pictures on pages 3-4!

CLW Staff Holiday Party

On December 22nd, CLW staff and some of it’s Board Members gathered at Val’s restaurant for our annual holiday outing. After a very busy year, we were grateful for the chance to get together in person.



Thank you ASL interpreters Betty & Mackenzie!

After a wonderful lunch and apple crisp for dessert, there was a Trivia game and a raffle for some homemade items —holiday pillows and a crocheted blanket. DHILS staff was lucky that day and won the trivia game and several of the raffles!



Release of Troy Kotsur's Film

Oscar-winning Deaf actor Troy Kotsur and 2 other producers have created a short film titled "To My Father." It is a tribute to Troy's father. The film was released on X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube in December, and will be posted on a platform named "Dad Saves America."

Renca Dunn interviews Troy Kotsur on the subject of "To My Father", a 23-minute film honoring his father, Len Kotsur. When Troy received his Oscar, he revealed that his father was the "best signer" in the family. The film goes into detail about Kotsur's childhood in a hearing family, his young adulthood, and the accident that caused Len to become paralyzed.



Watch the interview here:
<https://fb.watch/pk3pbuoJrY/>



Watch the movie trailer/preview here:
<https://youtu.be/P4hfBbDvgVY?si=c4qIBww3xTwmO7J3>

A Discussion About Grief

Grief is painful. Whether we face a loss through death, divorce, natural disaster, disability, or anything, grief triggers within us strong physical and emotional reactions. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to grieve - it is an individual process. *Deaf Counseling Center therapist, Mary, discusses expressions of grief.* Watch video here: <https://fb.watch/pk4Vj6VgzJ/>

Deaf Counseling Center provides therapy to Deaf clients on a national basis.

***NOTE:** We use the word "Deaf" as an inclusive term for all Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, DeafPlus, late-deafened, oral Deaf, ASL users, CI users, and other identities.*



Mexican Dip Recipe (from DHILS Holiday Party)

Ingredients:



(1) - 8 oz package



(1) jar salsa



(1) 8 oz package
shredded Mexican or
Cheddar cheese

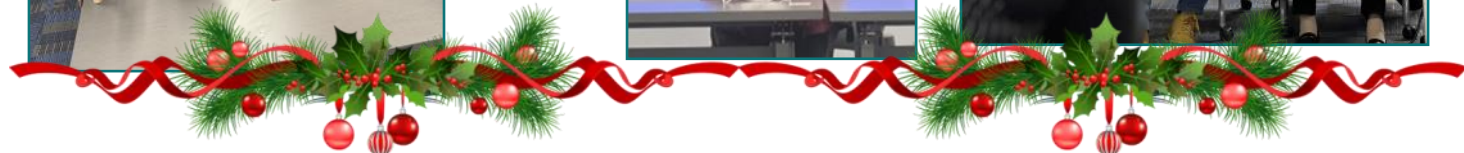
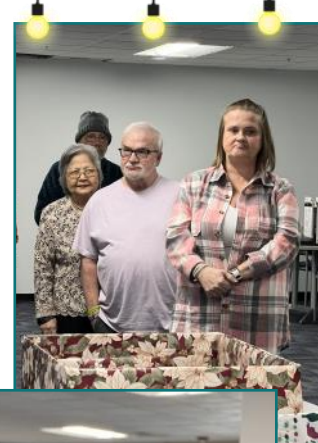
Directions:

1. Spread the cream cheese in a 8" or 9" pie plate.
2. Pour in the salsa.
3. Sprinkle the shredded Mexican or Cheddar cheese on top.
4. Microwave for 5 minutes.
 - Or bake for 15-20 minutes in the oven at 350 degrees.
5. Serve and enjoy with tortilla chips!



DHILS Holiday Party Pictures





January 2024



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services



January 4th: *World Braille Day*

- Invented by Louis Braille.
- Louis was born in 1809 in France.
- Became blind after a childhood accident.



January 13th: *National Rubber Ducky Day*

- 1928 - first rubber duck toy.
- Now made of vinyl and plastic.

January 27th: *Holocaust Remembrance Day*

- The holocaust occurred between 1933 and 1945.
- Nazi Germany killed millions of innocent victims.
- One group that was targeted was those of the Jewish faith.



January 31st: *National Hot Chocolate Day*

- A warm drink made with ground chocolate, heated milk or water, and sugar.
- Not the same as Hot Cocoa! [made with cocoa powder].



Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



Updated Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory

Click here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mRNQIKYYNjM4vYpRX7OECQkiW-PQlu62/view?usp=sharing>



MISSED A *WHAT'S UP* NEWSLETTER?
Past issues of newsletters are on our website!

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.CENTERLW.ORG/2022/07/WHATS-UP-NEWSLETTER/](https://www.centerlw.org/2022/07/whats-up-newsletter/)

Questions? Contact your Skills Trainer

Joan Philip	DHILS Director	508-762-1165 (VP)
Denise Paro	Administrative Assistant	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Deanna Emberley-Handricken	Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)	508-762-1021 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1166 (VP)
Jonathan Vanderschrick	Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)	508-762-1350 (VP)
Kim White	Staff Interpreter	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)

Contact Us!



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services

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www.CenterLW.org



CLW: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469192334303776>