



Hands & Voices New Mexico

August 2013

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

Saturday, September 14th, 2013, 1:30 PM

Speaker: New Mexico Rhodes Scholar, Rachel Kolb

Activities: Speaker, Meet & Greet, ASL Museum Tours,

***Free Museum Entrance for HVNM Members (*New and Renewing Members who RSVP before August 30th)**

Please join Hands & Voices New Mexico Chapter (HVNM) at our fall event featuring New Mexico's most recent Rhodes scholar, Rachel Kolb.

Rachel's talk will be about her perspectives, experiences, and advice for personal advocacy and academic success. All ages are welcome, although the topic will be geared to what students might want to know (or wish you had known) as d/hh teenagers enrolled in middle school and high school preparing for the transition to college.

Rachel was born profoundly deaf into a hearing family; her parents and sister all learned sign language, and Rachel herself also learned to speak via many years of speech therapy while being mainstreamed from an early age. Rachel grew up wearing hearing aids, but received a cochlear implant during the summer of 2010. She is a recent graduate of Stanford University, where she received both her B.A. (2012) and her M.A. (2013) degrees in English literature. She attended Albuquerque

Academy with the use of sign language interpreters and lip reading, which she has continued to use at Stanford and beyond. This fall, Rachel will pursue a M.St. in contemporary English literature at Oxford.

Speaking with Rachel and learning about her journey has been fascinating. Many of the experiences she describes have parallels to other deaf and hard of hearing (d/hh) children's journeys. I was introduced to her by Hailey Heinz's November 2012 article in the Albuquerque Journal Article, "*NM Rhodes Scholar.*" Rachel's own work to date focuses on exploring and raising awareness of the unique experiences and challenges of d/hh individuals. She eloquently wrote about her perspectives on lip reading in the *Stanford* magazine essay, "*Seeing at the Speed of Sound,*" and also gave a TEDx talk at Stanford entitled, "*Navigating Deafness On The Way to a Rhodes Scholarship,*" in addition to writing about her listening journeys on her blog, *Perception Unearthed*.

There will be a 30 minute Q&A period

following the presentation, meet & greet reception and then guided tours of the museum. Both the talk and the tours will have ASL interpretation.

Stanford Magazine Article

http://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/magazine/article/?article_id=59977

Stanford TEDx

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKKpJvPd6Xo>

Rachel's Blog

<http://perceptionunearthed.blogspot.com/>

Albuquerque Journal

<http://www.abqjournal.com/148896/news/nms-rhodes-scholar.html>

RSVP before August 30th to:

handsandvoicesnmchapter@msn.com
www.surveymonkey.com/s/JFNWBXG

We think you will thoroughly enjoy hearing what Rachel has to say!

Back to School Event Details

When:	Saturday, September 14 th , 2013
What:	1:00 Check in starts 1:30 HVNM Introductions and Rachel Kolb – NM Rhodes Scholar 2:00 Question & Answer Period 2:30 Meet & Greet Reception 3:00 * Free Museum Entry for New and Renewing HVNM Members (Up to 4 Admissions) * Reduced rates of \$3.00 per additional person for more than four per family. * Must RSVP and pay before August 30 th to be on guided tours.
Where:	New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science
Who:	All are welcome!
RSVP:	handsandvoicesnmchapter@msn.com

Museum of Natural History and Science generously provided space, tours and reduced entry fees.

Please complete and mail in survey and 2013 dues!

Other Upcoming Fall Events

Visit Hands & Voices New Mexico website for more information: hvnm.org

Presbyterian Ear Institute

Golf Tournament Friday, Aug 23rd
PEI, Mercedes-Benz Dealer of Albuquerque and Sandia Golf Club present a golf tournament.

Run to Break the Silence Sunday, Sep 29th
5K, 20K, and fun run at Sandia Resort. Live music!

New Mexico School for the Deaf

Homecoming Saturday, Sep 21st

ASL Academy

Halloween Party Night Saturday, Oct 26th

2013 Membership

Join and pay by August 30th and up to four family members receive free museum entries after this event on September 14th. Must RSVP for this event.

Please be sure to join Hands & Voices NM Chapter:

Parent/Family: \$25 per year
Professional: \$40 per year

Benefits to you:

- Receive *The Communicator*, a Headquarters H&V quarterly newspaper
- Receive quarterly H&V NM Chapter newsletter
- Information on workshops, resources, events
- Informational support for you and your family
- Opportunities for parents and professionals working together to help children who are D/HH

Scholarships are available if you wish to become a member but cannot afford the dues, please contact us.

Thank you!

Meet Our New Board Member, Carmen Armenta!

I am a mother of three wonderful children, one hearing (6yrs old) and two with hearing loss (4yrs old & 4 months old). I want to be part of an organization that will help educate and support other parents and families with Deaf or Hard of Hearing children. When I found out that my middle child had hearing loss I was extremely sad, scared, mad, freaked out, and a bunch of other emotions. I did not know where to turn! If it hadn't been a little boy I saw at CarMax one day with hearing aids, I would have still been lost and confused about how to help my daughter. After seeing this child, I talked to his mother and asked her a million questions. What, where, how, WHO, can help me? She got me in touch with a program called Step HI and the rest is history. I want to pay it forward and help as many families as I can so they don't have to feel as lost as I was. I want to let them know that everything is going to be okay! Help is out there.

I believe that everybody has the right to choose what form of communication they feel most comfortable with. My children with hearing loss use both spoken language and sign language. My philosophy is simple utilize any and all mediums to communicate so you can be heard. Everybody has the right to be heard!

Shout out to Yadira Delgado for translating HVNM Newsletter!

Board Members

Judy Underhill
President, Parent

Carmen Armenta
Parent

Seema Katiyar, AuD
Professional

Carol Clifford, AuD
Secretary/Treasurer
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Professional
Deaf Adult

Jessica Sanchez
Parent

Marjorie Madsen Keilers
Executive Director
Parent, Hard of Hearing Adult

If you have a personal story, ideas for future articles, or if you know of an upcoming event that would benefit our readers, please let us know:

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