

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – April 5 – 9, 2010

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Who was the first woman to serve as President of the National Association of the Deaf?

- a. Marlee Matlin
- b. Gertie Galloway
- c. Nancy Bloch
- d. Marcella Meyer

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: “b” Gertrude S. Galloway was born into a Deaf family on November 12, 1930 and grew up in Washington D.C. Gertie attended Kendall Demonstration School for the Deaf on the Gallaudet campus. Gertie excelled as a student and by the age of 15 she was enrolled in Gallaudet College. She became a teacher of the deaf and an administrator of schools for the deaf. She completed her doctoral studies at Gallaudet and in 1980 she became the first woman to assume the presidency of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). (Source: Moore, M. & Panara, R. (1996) Great Deaf Americans, Deaf Life Press, Rochester, NY)

All of the women listed as choices have made significant contributions to the Deaf community. Marlee Matlin, of course, is an actress and first Deaf person to win an Oscar for “Best Actress.” Nancy Bloch is most recent past Executive Director of the National Association of the Deaf, a post she served in for 18 years. Marcella Meyer, a powerful deaf advocate, who helped found and run the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD) for over 30 years passed away in 2009. (Read about Marcella Meyer here:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-marcella-meyer16-2009jun16,0,6219168.story>)