

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Sept. 24 - 28, 2012
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

This is Deaf Awareness Week (DAW) which is celebrated internationally during the 4th week of September. WSD celebrates DAW annually to educate our students and staff about the rich history and culture of Deaf people.

Which of these deaf actresses represents the fourth generation of her deaf family and is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor?

- a) Marlee Matlin
- b) Phyllis Frelich
- c) Shoshannah Stern
- d) Deanne Bray

Answer “c” – Shoshannah Stern

Bonus question: What does Shoshanna mean in Hebrew?

Shoshannah Stern represents the fourth generation in her deaf family and is a graduate of the California School for the Deaf at Fremont. Both of her parents are children of Holocaust survivors. She attended Gallaudet University but left in the spring of her senior year to pursue her dream of becoming an actress. Eventually however she did complete her degree in English and graduate from Gallaudet.

Shoshannah has appeared in roles on TV, in the theatre and in film. Shoshannah’s most recent role has been as Megan in the TV drama “Weeds” which airs on the Showtime network. Shoshannah means Rose in Hebrew. When she was eleven she changed her name from Rose to Shoshanna because she wanted to be in touch with her Jewish heritage. [Cited from:
<http://www.abilitymagazine.com/past/brianW/Shoshna.html>]

Visit Shoshannah’s website here: <http://www.shoshannah-stern.com/>

Note that

Deaf Culture Questions of the Week are archived at: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>