

See Page 4 for a list of organizations to help you advocate for your child's rights.

Parents advocate so kids can participate

It seems it's just part of the job—when you're a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing you are also an advocate, doing whatever it takes to ensure your child has every opportunity to succeed or, in many cases, just to participate.

Parents agree, the biggest battle they face for their kids is access—getting their kids into activities in the community where they need a sign language interpreter, Cue transliterator or captionist in order to understand what's being said. It happens with swimming lessons at the local pool, with recreation classes, with church outings, with summer day camps, with museum offerings ... and the list goes on. Parents continually need to ask for accommodations for their children.

It's the Law

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was designed to protect the rights of the 43,000,000 Americans who have disabilities. The law covers employment, transportation, telecommunications, and public accommodation—this is the area that addresses the obligations of businesses, schools, recreational organizations, daycare centers, museums and other organizations to provide an interpreter or other means of effective communication such as captioning or a written text. The law says it is discrimination when an “individual with a disability is excluded...because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services [interpreting/captioning], unless the entity can demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the nature of the [business or activity] ...or would result in an undue burden.” The complete wording of the law can be found online at www.dol.gov/esa/regis/statutes/ofccp/ada.htm.

Many organizations, like Scouts, 4-H and the YMCA, have served kids with disabilities before and know they need to make their activities accessible. But usually, parents still need to make the request. With smaller organizations, parents not only need to request services, but they often need to fight for them.

The best weapon in these battles is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the federal law passed 15 years ago that ensures equal opportunity for persons who have disabilities. The ADA prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in a variety of settings and situations. (See “It's the Law” for a quick primer on the ADA.)

Often, it's enough just to mention the ADA to the organization and to cite the law's requirements. When that doesn't work, parents can get help from the State's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHSD).

“We're not lawyers, but we are very familiar with the ADA and can equip parents with the necessary information to help them resolve issues,” said Marie Koehler, DHHSD's regional manager.

“Sometimes all it takes is a call from us to the organization,” Marie explained. “They'll say something like, ‘Oh, I didn't realize. Can you send me some information?’ And, they'll be readily compliant.”

Marie and her staff have dealt with a lot of ADA issues. They have found that sometimes just being polite when making the initial request for interpreting services goes a long way in preventing problems.

“It helps to take a more positive approach to requesting an interpreter rather than walking in and demanding one and setting up an adversarial relationship,” she added.

In cases where organizations continue to deny ADA rights, parents can get legal help from the Minnesota Disability Law Center or the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. (See Page 4 for contact information.)

That's just what Cathi Lingle did for her son, Jacob, when the local athletic association refused to hire an interpreter so her son could participate in the hockey program. Cathi filed a “Charge of Discrimination” with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. The case went to District Court where the judge ruled that the association had discriminated against Jacob by failing to make adequate accommodation for this disability. The judge said that providing a sign language interpreter would not place an undue financial burden on the association.

That battle happened six years ago when Jacob was 12. Now he's a freshman at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and hopes to try out for the Deaflympics hockey team in the future.

The ADA can be a powerful tool for parents pursuing their children's rights. But it does have its limits.

“We were all so excited when the ADA was passed,” Marie said. “But, it has been 15 years and, every day, situations still come up.”

“Financial burden” is an issue that can keep smaller organizations from providing an interpreter. The ADA states that privately owned business establishments of all sizes must ensure effective communication through auxiliary aids and services when necessary, *unless* an undue burden or fundamental alteration of the business would result.

Candace Lindow-Davies, of the Family Support Connection, ran into the money issue when she tried to enroll her son, Lucas, in a class offered by a small, nonprofit arts group.

“Their first response was ‘You pay for the interpreter,’” Candace said. Candace dug deeper and found that the class was offered on city property. She contacted the city, which agreed to provide an interpreter.

“Knowing where an activity is being offered and where the money for a program comes from can help,” Candace said.

What's Happening Around Town

**Friday,
Nov. 11 & 25**

ASL Conversation Group meets in the Cafe at Barnes & Noble, 828 West County Road 42 in Burnsville from 7 to 9 p.m. Open to signers of all proficiencies.

**Saturday,
Nov. 12**

Metro Deaf School will host a **Pancake Breakfast** Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9:30 to noon at Thompson Hall, 1824 Marshall Ave. in St. Paul. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids and seniors.

**Tuesday,
Nov. 15**

"Cue Clutch" meets at Java Jacks, 46th & Bryant in Minneapolis from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for anyone who wants cueing practice. For more information, e-mail kbc29@aol.com.

**Tuesday,
Nov. 15**

The Greater Minnesota Assessment Service presents **"To Sign or Not to Sign: Language Development and Children with Cochlear Implants And Positive Behavior Management Techniques,"** a workshop with Ron Lybarger, Ph.D. The workshop runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Monticello District Office building, 302 Washington St. in Monticello. An evening workshop, "Talk with the Doc," runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. To register, contact Erin Judd at 218-894-5462 or e-mail erin@ncscmn.org.

**Saturday,
Nov. 19**

Minnesota North Star Academy hosts **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teens Basketball, Games, & Movie Night** for kids ages 12- 18 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 N. Arcade St. in St. Paul (use the south entrance with green doors). Cost is \$2.

**Monday,
Nov. 28**

Signing Santa comes to Ridgedale Mall from 6 to 9 p.m.. For Santa's complete schedule, see Page 5.

**Friday,
Dec. 2**

Swim Night for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community runs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Oxford Pool, 1079 Iglehart, St. Paul. \$3 kids/\$4 adults. For more information, contact Mary Livingston at St. Paul Parks and Recreation, 651-266-6366 (v) or 651-266-6378 (tty).

**Saturday,
Dec. 3**

The St. Paul Public Library presents **Deaf Storytime** with stories in ASL and voice interpretation at 10:30 a.m. at the Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Assistive listening devices are available. For details, call 651-642-0385 (v) or 651-298-4184 (tty).

**Saturday,
Dec. 3**

Disney On Ice at the Target Center has an ASL interpreter for the 3:30 performance. See the flyer included with this issue of *FOCUS*.

**Sunday,
Dec. 4**

The tour of "Holiday Traditions in the Period Rooms" at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts will be ASL-interpreted beginning at 2 p.m. on the third floor in the Bell Decorative Arts Court. The interpreted tour will be offered again Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. A holiday tour of the Purcell-Cutts House on Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m. also will be interpreted. For more information, call Visitor and Member Services at 612-870-3131 (v) or 612-870-3132 (tty).

'Harry Potter' captioned

The fourth movie in the Harry Potter series comes out Nov. 18. Theaters with rear-window captioning will have the new movie on opening weekend. These theaters include Crown Block E in downtown Minneapolis and the AMC in Eden Prairie. For theater links, see www.mnocfilms.org.

Oakdale Cinemas (Marcus Theatres) will show an open-captioned print of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" Dec. 16-18. Oakdale has an open-captioned movie each weekend. This weekend (Nov. 11-13) is "Zorro." "Chicken Little" shows Nov. 18-20. "Zathura" shows Dec. 2-4.



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Our mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing parent-to-parent support.

Newsletter Editor: Audrey Alwell

Information in this newsletter about events, services, or other organizations does not imply endorsement by the Family Support Connection or Lifetrack Resources.

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In Your Corner

By Candace Lindow-Davies, Family Support Coordinator

This Thanksgiving marks the fifth anniversary of the Family Support Connection at Lifetrack Resources. Five years of serving families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing...I have a lot to be thankful for this Holiday season.

I have had the pleasure of meeting inspiring parents all over the state, working with dedicated professionals, and helping to strengthen services to families. Although the job is often overwhelming, I have never loved a job so much.

A lot of work, however, remains to be done. 2006 is a big year for our program. As you know, we have plans to become a chapter of the national parent organization, Hands & Voices. We are going to be hiring Out-State Parent Mentors, and we are forming a higher-level parent and professional advisory board for our program. While doing all of this, we are also forced to work with an even tighter budget. That is why it is more important than ever for parents and professionals to help us by showing their financial support.

Shortly, many of you will receive a letter asking for a contribution to our program. I hope that you will take the next step and write that check.

Whether you have enjoyed reading our free monthly newsletter, attended a workshop, borrowed books from the library, come to our social events, called/e-mailed and received support or answers, or benefited from parents advocating for system-wide change, we hope you have been touched by the work we do. But we cannot do it alone. We are required to look to many different sources to support our efforts. Please be a part of that support. If everyone reading this newsletter even sent a small donation, the overall impact would be huge.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and wish you a most joyful Thanksgiving holiday.

Commission creates website about legislation affecting deaf, hard of hearing

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCSDDHH) has created a website to let people know what's happening at the legislature on a federal and state level.

MCSDDHH used funds from the Bremer and St. Paul foundations to design the site, which includes a "People/News" section recognizing the accomplishments of leaders in the Deaf community. Jamie Taylor, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota who is deafblind, wrote the content.

The site, www.mncdhh.com, also encourages community participation through the "Take Action" section. It will also include a voting section to explain the issues and candidate's stands. For now, visitors can view the website and sign up for "e-blasts" to get the latest information on legislation that affects people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Parents asked to complete survey

The Family Support Connection has teamed up with several other organizations to survey parents to identify needs and areas of interest for future workshops.

The survey was designed with the State's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division, the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota, and AG Bell Minnesota. The survey is available online at http://survey.dhs.state.mn.us/snap/dhhsd/dhhsd_survey.htm or on the DHHS website (www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_002703.hcsp). Just click on "Parent Survey." Or, contact one of the organizations to request a survey in the mail.

FCC accepting comments on captioning issues

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is accepting public comment about captioning on television.

Among the issues being considered is requiring networks to monitor the delivery of captions so they'll notice garbled transmissions. Another is creating a way consumers can contact networks immediately to notify them of captioning problems. Now, networks have 45 days to respond to a consumer, which doesn't fix an immediate captioning problem.

To make a comment to the FCC online, go to http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi and enter "05-231" in the first box under the name of "proceeding."

The FCC also is reviewing captioned telephones. A dozen national organizations for deaf or hard of hearing people have filed a petition with the FCC to initiate a rulemaking for mandating captioned telephone relay service nationwide and approving Internet Protocol (IP) captioned telephone through the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund. To add your comment, enter "03-123" at the address listed above.

FSC joins with others to offer workshops

The Family Support Connection has joined with PACER Center, Metro Deaf School and Minnesota North Star Academy to offer a series of educational workshops beginning in January with funding from a Department of Education Special Education Parent and Family Training Grant.

"Record Keeping"

Jan. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Metro Deaf School (No child care provided)

"Bullying"

Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon

Lifetrack Resources (Child care provided)

"Communication and Partnership"

March 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Metro Deaf School (No child care provided)

"Transition"

April 2 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Minnesota North Star Academy (No child care provided)

"IDEA"

Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon

Lifetrack Resources (Child care provided)

Advocating for your child: Where to Go for Help

American with Disabilities Act: Federal Information
www.ada.gov; 800-514-0301 (v), 800-514-0383 (tty)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)
www.dhhsd.org; 651-297-1316 (v), 651-297-1313 (tty)
Regional offices provide support and referral on issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing persons.

National Association of the Deaf
www.nad.org
301-587-7730 (v/tty), 301-587-0234 (fax)
NAD Law and Advocacy Center provides legal information and advocacy. The website contains specific information about ADA plus special education rights.

Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf
www.mcid.org; 800-894-3653 (v), 800-894-3654 (tty)
-provides information, referrals training and advocacy

Minnesota Department of Human Rights
www.humanrights.state.mn.us;
651-296-5663 (v), 651-296-1283 (tty)
-brings cases of discrimination to court

Minnesota Disability Law Center
www.mndlc.org; 612-332-1441 (v), 612-332-4668 (tty)
-provides free civil legal assistance to individuals with disabilities

Minnesota Special Education Mediation Service
www.mnsems.state.mn.us; 651-582-8222 (v)
-provides conflict resolution assistance for students, schools, parents and agencies

PACER Center
www.pacer.org; 952-838-9000 (v), 952-838-0190 (tty)
-focuses on educational rights with one-on-one help, workshops and publications

To raise funds for a middle school trip to Washington, D.C., Metro Deaf School will host a Pancake Breakfast Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9:30 to noon at Thompson Hall, 1824 Marshall Ave. in St. Paul. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids and seniors. Along with sightseeing and learning about US history, the students will compete in the Mid-Atlantic Jr. Classic basketball tournament Feb. 14-19.

ASL workshop offered at North Star Academy

Minnesota North Star Academy (MNSA) will host 4-hour ASL workshops to help raise money for the students to go to Sweden in the Spring.

The workshops are open to anyone interested in signing. Workshops will be divided into basic, intermediate and advanced levels. There will be one on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 8 a.m. to noon and another on Sunday, Nov. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$25 for each.

The workshops take place at MNSA, 1669 North Arcade St., in St. Paul. To register, contact Susan Outlaw at 651-771-2000 (v), 651-771-2112 (tty) or e-mail soutlaw@mnnorthstaracademy.org.

Workshops focus on teaching kids to talk

The Moog Center for Deaf Education in St. Louis, Mo., offers workshops for parents and professionals to teach children who are deaf or hard of hearing how to listen and speak.

"Early Intervention with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children" in February 2006 focuses on children up to age four.

"Helping Your Child Learn to Talk" in July 2006 is for parents of children ages 2 to 6. This four-day workshop will help parents learn effective ways to work with their children and help their children learn to talk. Children are taught by teachers of the deaf while parents attend the workshop sessions.

Registration for these workshops is limited and fills quickly. For registration information, e-mail Betsy Brooks at bbrooks@moogcenter.org.

Contact your representatives: National legislation that would provide a tax credit of up to \$500 per hearing aid once every 5 years is in the Senate (S.1060) and House (H.R.414). See www.asha.org/about/legislation-advocacy/briefs-agenda.

Ski lessons offered

The Minnesota Ski Council is again sponsoring a learn-to ski program for children (ages 7+) and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The council will offer five weekly beginner to intermediate lessons on Sunday afternoons at Hyland Hills in Bloomington. The cost for the 5 lessons is \$60 and includes lift tickets and equipment rental. If rental isn't needed cost is \$50.

Lessons are taught by volunteer instructors on a one-to-one basis when possible. ASL interpreters will be available, but may not be provided continuously throughout the lesson.

Registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 16. To request a registration form, contact Bob Barrett at 763-323-7644 or 763-639-3912.

Deaf conference moved to California

The biennial conference of The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) has been moved from New Orleans to Palm Desert, California, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The conference will be June 29 through July 3 at the Desert Springs Resort, one of the largest resort complexes in the southwestern United States. The basic 2006 NAD Conference schedule is now on the NAD website at www.nad.org.

Videophones explained

Sorenson Communications will offer community workshops to introduce the company's videophones and video relay service.

The workshops run from 7 to 9 p.m. at the following locations: Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead on Tuesday, Nov. 15, Courtyard by Marriott in Eden Prairie on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and the Rochester Marriott-Mayo Clinic Area on Thursday, Nov. 17.

For details about the company's services, see www.sorenson.com.

Santa signs, cues for deaf, hard of hearing children

Santa is coming to town to note the wishes of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Santa will sign with kids at the following locations:

Ridgedale Center
Monday, Nov 28
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Northtown Mall
Thursday, Dec. 1
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Ridgedale Center
Monday, Dec. 5
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Burnsville Center
Tuesday, Dec. 6
6:00-9:00 p.m.

HarMar Mall
Wednesday, Dec. 7
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Burnsville Center
Tuesday, Dec. 13
6:00-9:00 p.m.



Santa will Cue with kids at a party Saturday, Dec. 10 with the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota. The party will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave. in Minneapolis. Families also can make gingerbread houses. RSVP to Katherine Burns-Christenson at 952-929-3965 or e-mail kbc29@aol.com.



A Little Grin

By Linda Werness-Jaroszewski

I thought this would be a nice family project for Thanksgiving.

APPLE TURKEYS YOU CAN MAKE

You will need:

- Apples
- Colored toothpicks
- Colored mini-marshmallows
- Gumdrops

The apple is the body of the turkey.

Add colored mini-marshmallows to 5 or 6 toothpicks and stick them in one end of the apple, like a fan, to make a colorful tail.

Use a toothpick for the neck.

Use a gumdrop for a head.

Use 3 yellow toothpicks for the legs placed in a triangle so your turkey can stand up. (I know turkeys only have two legs, but this just won't stand up on two toothpicks.)



Church service interpreted

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA) now offers an ASL-interpreted service at 9 a.m. every Sunday. The church is at 14107 S. Hudson Road in Afton. The phone number is 651-436-8248. Hudson Road is the frontage road that runs along the south side of Interstate 94.

Website profiles deaf artists

A new website showcases the works of artists in the US who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The site, www.rit.edu/deafartists, was created by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology. It features more than 40 professional artists along with self-portraits done by Institute students. There are video interviews with various artists, artist biographies with descriptions of their chosen media, and a forum section for networking and discussions.

Gallaudet sponsors contests for high schools students

High school students who are deaf or hard of hearing can enter an art/essay contest sponsored by Gallaudet University and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center.

The art contest is open to students under age 19. The essay contest is for students ages 15 to 19. Students will write or draw a response to the question: "What will I be doing when I'm 30 years old? How am I preparing for it today?"

Accepted media for the art contest include pen and ink, pastel, watercolor, mixed media, cut and paste, acrylic, crayon, or pencil. Winners will receive \$500 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$75 for third place.

Essay place winners will receive scholarship money for the college or postsecondary training of their choice (\$1,000 first place, \$500 second place, \$300 third place, \$100 two honorable mentions). Scholarship awards will be doubled for winners who choose to attend Gallaudet.

Winning essay and art contest entries will be published in Gallaudet's periodical. In addition, every art contest entry will be included in an online art gallery. Viewers will be able to vote for their favorite works of art. The winning works of art will be exhibited at Gallaudet.

Deadline for entry is Feb. 10. For complete contest rules see <http://clerc-center.gallaudet.edu/showcase>.



Off the Shelf

By Robin Coninx, FSC Specialist

Gaining access to your community or to activities with your child who is deaf or hard of hearing can be challenging. Unfortunately I do not have a book in the Family Support Connection library that is similar to a recipe book in which you could follow the directions and *poof* you have instant access as if no accommodation is needed at all. Even though I say that in jest, we all wish that at some point in raising our children with a hearing loss that it could be easier for our kids to join in the activities that would be age appropriate for them.

While there's not a "recipe" book, we do have a couple of resources to help you sort out the legal aspects of gaining access for your child.

"Legal Rights : the Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People" was updated in 2000 by the National Association of the Deaf. It offers the latest state and federal statutes and administrative procedures that prohibit discrimination against deaf and hard of hearing people.

"IDEA Advocacy for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: a Question and Answer Book for Parents and Professionals" helps parents obtain the necessary educational benefits that are appropriate for their children. Included are discussions about the rights granted under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and effective approaches parents can use when advocating for their children.

PACER Center has the entire IDEA text at www.pacer.org/idea/idea.html. This act was updated last year. For a summary of the changes, see www.pacer.org/idea/2004/summary.htm.

Performances feature signing, captioning

Two plays running this month will have every performance accessible to patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis features James Sewell Ballet's annual production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors." In choreographing the "Amahl" story, Sewell incorporated the movement of American Sign Language (ASL) with that of classical ballet. The 50-minute opera will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 26 and 27. To order tickets, visit the State Theatre Box Office, call Ticket-Master at 612-673-0404, or see www.hennepintheatredistrict.com. Tickets are \$23.50 to \$30.50 for adults and about half-price for students.

"The Pink Dress" runs Nov. 5-20 with "supertitles" at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre. Puppets tell the story of a young Japanese-American girl living in the Amache Relocation camp in Colorado during WWII and her quest to show her individuality. The 45-minute show is \$10, with a special student matinee price of \$5. Call 612-721-2535. The theater is in Celebration Hall, 3rd Floor, Plaza Verde, 1516 East Lake St., Minneapolis.



ASL-Interpreted Performances

Flow

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 18, 8 p.m.
Reduced tickets: 612-874-0400.
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.; www.childrenstheatre.org.

Berenstein Bears

Friday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$6-12; 320-363-5777. St. John's University, Collegeville; www.csbsju.edu.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$8-14 at 612-624-2345 or utheatre@umn.edu. University of Minnesota, 330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Friday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$12, \$10 students/seniors, \$14 box seats, 763-422-1838.
Lyric Arts Main Street Stage, 420 E. Main, Anoka; www.lyricarts.org.

The Little Prince

Sunday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Tickets: Reduced from \$20 to \$13; 612-333-6200 or 612-332-3968.
Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 N. First St., Minneapolis; www.jeunelune.org.

The Kennedy Center Presents Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka

Friday, Dec. 2, 11:15 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$6-12; 320-363-5777.
College of Saint Benedict, www.csbsju.edu/finearts.

A Christmas Carol

Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: Reduced to \$16; 612-377-2224.
Guthrie Theater, 725 Vineland, Minneapolis; www.guthrietheater.org.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$9; Phone: 651-225-9265.
Landmark Center, 75 W. 5th St., St. Paul; www.steppingstonetheatre.org.

A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 12:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$14, \$11 children (age 2-17) & seniors (age 60+); 952-979-1111.
Hopkins Center for the Arts Mainstage, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins; www.stagestheatre.org.

Disney's Aladdin Jr.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Reduced tickets: 612-874-0400.
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls.; www.childrenstheatre.org.

Seussical

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.
Half-price tickets: 612-623-9080.
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.; www.youthperformancereco.com.