



October 15, 2014

VSA Vermont uses the magic of the arts to engage the capabilities and enhance the confidence of children and adults with disabilities.

National Disability Awareness Month

In part three of our October e-newsletter, we celebrate National Disability Awareness Month. People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to participate fully in our communities. During this month, we recognize all individuals who live with disabilities, noting the many ways that they enrich our world and have added so much to our history.



The Library of Congress is recognizing the contributions of Americans with disabilities with a [special publication](#), featuring people with disabilities from a number of areas of expertise (e.g. musicians, poets, authors, playwrights, sculptors, politicians, etc.) and a range of disability categories, including deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, mobility, dexterity, cognitive, mental, and medical disability.

Here at VSA Vermont, we are celebrating National Disability Awareness Month with our free BOOM VT drum festival and disability identity project on October 18th from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College in Colchester. We've just added two exciting drummers--Jeff Salisbury and David Segal--to our program. You can read about them below. Come join us as we model the joy of inclusive communities through the magic of the musical arts.

[BOOM VT](#)

| [Salisbury and Segal](#)

| [UVM ACCESS](#)

| [News You Can Use](#)

BOOM VT Celebrating Disability Awareness Month...



It's time to help VSA Vermont make a BOOM! Come celebrate with us at the Elley-Long Music Center on Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

We'll make drums, learn drumming rhythms, and drum up a musical mural from 10 AM to

Elley-Long Music Center
at Saint Michael's College
223 Ethan Allen Ave,
Colchester, VT

Join the
beat! Listen
or drum with us!
Come support the
talents of Vermonters
with disabilities!

FREE ADMISSION
For information
or to request access
services by October 6:
802-655-4606
or info@vsavt.org

www.vsavt.org/boomvt

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

noon.

We'll eat BOOM dogs, socialize, and participate in some informal drumming circles from noon to 1:30 PM.

We'll listen to some great drumming-- Burlington Taiko, Jeh Kulu, Sambatucada!, Jeff Salisbury and David Segal, and more-- from 1:30 to 3:45 PM.

We'll end the day with a large group jamming session and raffle and door prizes.

Come help us make magic!

Salisbury and Segal *Drumming up awareness...*



Drummers **Jeff Salisbury** and **David Segal** will be performing at BOOM VT, sharing a combination of solos and duets. Jeff Salisbury has performed, recorded, and taught in the Burlington area for over three decades. He has played with Albert King Blues Band, Cold Blood, Linda Tillery, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, and countless other artists in blues, rock, jazz and other styles. Drum set artist/teacher at the University of Vermont for over 18 years, he taught in the music department at Johnson State College prior to that, and continues to teach privately. His students have become teachers themselves throughout the region. He is the author of a softcover audio online book Motion Studies for Drumset which is packed with exercises that enable one to develop a high degree of fluency.

Jeff's articles have been published by *Modern Drummer* and *Downbeat* magazines. Jeff loves music, and his passion for teaching is evident in the success of his many students. There is no doubt that his enthusiasm is contagious! We are grateful to Jeff for introducing us to David Segal and to helping us extend an invitation to him to perform.



David Segal teaches drums at a top private school and has his own home studio for lessons and recording sessions. He has performed with the Simone Bolivar Big Band at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Lincoln Center, leads his own trio, and is a freelance musician. He has played with noted musicians such as Yoham Chiqui Ortiz, Itaguara Brandao, Bob Stewart, Stanley Banks, Memo Acevedo, Marcos Santos, Victor Rendon, Mario Monaco, Gerry Eastman, among others.



David was born with Arthrogryposis which affects the development of bones, muscles and nerves in the extremities. It left his hands and feet clubbed and required 12 corrective surgeries. These obstacles haven't stopped him from aspiring and dreaming of great things. Candomusos was started by David Segal, Dom Famularo, Andrew Hewitt, and Mike Mignona in March 2013. The aim is to promote and support musicians with any kind of disability. The name comes from the idea that having a "Can Do Attitude" is the first step toward success. A "Musos" or "Musos" are terms used widely in England and Australia to describe a musician or group of musicians with passion and dedication to their art. On the [Candomusos website](#), the term "challenges" is used instead of disability, which is too often misinterpreted as inability. As of October 13, Candomusos has 125 members, representing 14 countries from across the world.

UVM Access

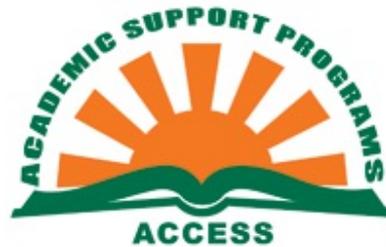
A story from David French...

Drumming took center stage at "Let's Make a Boom," a recent event sponsored by the University of Vermont's ACCESS Office, which provides support to students with disabilities, and VSA Vermont, the state organization on arts and disability.

The event, at UVM's Davis Center, was a prelude to VSA's annual drum festival, [BOOM VT](#), to be held at The Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College on October 18th from 10 AM to 4 PM. And it served as a kickoff for a month-long observance by UVM of [Disability Awareness](#). Co-hosts for the evening were **Jean Haverstick**, a disability specialist with ACCESS, and **Heidi Pfau**, VSA Vermont's volunteer coordinator.

Alex Stein, a drummer and UVM senior, says that drumming has been around forever as a means of communication: "The djembe drum was the original cell phone." The djembe comes from West Africa, and according to **Mark Swank**, another UVM drummer, "That's where music began, that's where life began." To get the evening properly underway, Alex and Mark straddled their drums and demonstrated what life and djembes amount to in the Vermont of 2014.

It wasn't easy getting the music from Africa to America. **Jeff Salisbury**, a professional musician and artist/teacher on the faculty at UVM, spoke of the way in which slaves stolen from Africa brought their music and



drumming with them to the United States. Great amounts of what we think of as American popular music and jazz is based on those rhythms. “It’s amazing,” said Jeff, “what beauty can come from such suffering and oppression.”



Percussion can involve great subtlety and complexity. Jeff gave a mini-class in musical composition, covering everything from polyrhythms (two different rhythms – three beats over two or four – played simultaneously) to musical structure (12-bar blues in contrast to the 32-bar standard American song form). Then the UVM Percussion Ensemble played a number of pieces, featuring work Jeff had composed. The Ensemble consisted of **Nathan Simmons**, **Ben Kennedy**, **Sean Dunwoody**, and Jeff.

The evening embodied what Heidi Pfau called a major goal of VSA, “to have people with and without disabilities engaging together in joyfulness and celebration.” That meant being sure that everything would be accessible to people with disabilities.



If you’re deaf or hard of hearing, for example, you can feel drums through the soles of your feet, but due to the music of the drums may have difficulty taking in what’s being said about them. For those who use American Sign Language to communicate, **Joan Pellerin**, an ACCESS staff interpreter, was there to interpret.

There aren’t many drummers of the stature of people like Jeff; but according to Heidi, “Everybody can drum. What happens when people drum together is that there’s joyful celebration.” The operative words here are “everybody” and “joyful”: “People can be shy and self-effacing outside of drumming,” said Jeff, “but when you’re drumming, why not just freak out, have fun, get loose!” By the end of the evening, everyone had something to drum on, had gotten loose, and was finding their version of what Jeff called “your inner drummer.”



Explore your own inner drummer on Saturday, October 18th at VSA Vermont’s BOOM VT Drum Festival and Disability Identity Project! Join Burlington Taiko, Sambatucada!, Jeff Salisbury and David Segal, Jeh Kulu, and others in support of inclusive arts programming.



News You Can Use



Art at Hand: The Shelburne Museum is having its fourth and final Art at Hand Tour for the year in November and we wanted to make sure VSA Vermont e-newsletter readers have the two dates: Tuesday, November 4th and Thursday, November 6th , 9:30 -11:30 am. Art at Hand is a program at the Shelburne Museum that provides tours for people who are blind or partially sighted. We have specially-trained guides who utilize verbal descriptive language and tactile materials to bring the art and history of the museum to our guests. Both November dates are the same tour to accommodate our guests and to create smaller tour sizes for a more personalized experience. The tour will focus on the current exhibition in the Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education, [Homefront and Battlefield: Quilt and Context in the Civil War](#).

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