

## ***Culture Encounters of the DeafBlind Kind***

Katherine Gabry

*Presented at the DeafBlind Division's Workshop*

*NFB National Convention, Orlando*

*July 4, 2018*

*Culture Encounters of the DeafBlind Kind* was developed by a nonprofit organization called the DeafBlind Community Access Network of New Jersey, Inc. DeafBlind Division Board member Mark Gasaway and I are on the Board of Trustees of this organization, and we were on the team that developed *Culture Encounters*. *Culture Encounters* is an interactive, small group activity that lets you immerse yourself in DeafBlind culture as led by the experts: DeafBlind people. That's why it's absolutely imperative that all the leaders of this activity are DeafBlind! At the 2018 DeafBlind Division's *Culture Encounters* workshop, 10 DeafBlind people led 10 tables of activity. The comments we heard led us to believe that all we hoped would happen, did! Everyone in the room would:

1. Experience the variety of communication modes used by DeafBlind people.

2. Share cultural information between DeafBlind and non-DeafBlind people.
3. Understand how similar we all are!

Some of the comments heard over and over were:

- “This was a great way to meet other DeafBlind people.”
- “This was a fun way to share the different ways that people do everyday things.”
- “This event showcased the many kinds of communication used in our DeafBlind community.”
- “What a great ice-breaker!”

Anyone interested in learning more about *Culture Encounters*, or interested in purchasing sets of the cards, is encouraged to email the DeafBlind Community Access Network of New Jersey, Inc. at [dbcannj@gmail.com](mailto:dbcannj@gmail.com)