DDHH

Monthly Communicator

New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
March 2008 Vol. 29 No. 3

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New Marketing Focus for 2008 New Jersey Relay

by Aparna Lele

Sprint Relay is pleased to announce exciting plans with a new focus on specialized NJ Relay marketing for the year of 2008. Sprint Relay has dedicated the past two years focusing on establishing a foundation of resources for New Jersey Relay customers. Among those resources are the introduction of a new logo for New Jersey Relay, launching a new Web site with a wealth of information for specific customers who may have a preferred mode of communication and providing an array of new marketing materials (ex. brochures, exhibits, and outreach presentations) for TRS users.

We will continue to market and conduct outreach activities for general TRS awareness across the state, and expand our focus to increase awareness about service offerings for hard of hearing, Spanish-speaking and speech-disabled customers. Plans are underway to launch a campaign on CapTel services for hard of hearing users, Spanish Relay, and Speech to Speech Relay for persons with speech disabilities.

Based on feedback we received from the community during our two years of service in New Jersey, we have incorporated the following marketing and media plans:

1. CapTel Advertising ~ Public Service Announcements for TV and radio stations to targeted customers (including senior citizens, retirement communities, audiology and hearing aid vendors);
2. Various advertisement placements in major newspapers and billboards, and other print advertising;
3. Spanish Relay Advertising ~ New Spanish brochures, Web site and additional outreach activities to Spanish speaking communities;
4. Speech to Speech ~ Focus heavily on one-to-one marketing with individuals who have speech disabilities and additional outreach presentations on STS. Plans under way to hire outreach staff to focus on STS users; and
5. General TRS ~ "Don't Hang Up" Campaign targeted towards the general public to raise awareness about the benefits of New Jersey Relay users as being potential customers for their businesses and educating the public that these are not "marketing or sales calls" for which they are often confused.

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Director's Corner

by David Alexander, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) Director

On February 29th, the Division on Civil Rights (DCR) hosted a conference titled "5th Annual New Jersey Division on Civil Rights Disability Law Conference: *Protecting the Rights of People with Hearing Loss."* DDHH was a proud co-sponsor of this important conference. The event provided a forum to discuss where New Jersey stands today in making accommodations for people with hearing loss, what must be done to eradicate disability discrimination and to provide equal opportunities in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The Deaf and hard of hearing community is often set apart from the rest of the population in the workplace because of different language and communication barriers. Therefore, our issues are quite different from the general disability population. Tremendous strides have been made in increasing public awareness of accessibility issues as a result of the American with Disabilities Act. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done, especially in the area of equal rights to employment.

I applaud DCR for recognizing the need for a forum to focus exclusively on the needs of the Deaf and hard of hearing. This conference is very timely. In conclusion, DDHH looks forward to partnering with the Division on Civil Rights to promote equal opportunities for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

David C. Alexander

Reminder:

The deadline for the May 2008 issue is April 1, 2008. (The deadline for the April issue was March 1, 2008.)

Send e-mail submissions to the editor: *Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us.*

Photos that accompany submissions are encouraged. For instructions on how to submit photos, contact the editor at the above e-mail address.

Newsletter Subscription:

If you would like to subscribe to the Monthly Communicator, send your request to the editor (e-mail address above). *Subscription is free of charge.*

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Deadline for submissions:
First of the month for the following month's edition.

"Grace's Law" Passes Senate Commerce Committee

Reprinted from the NJ State Democrats, an online bulletin

Monday, January 28, 2008
The Senate Commerce Committee approved legislation today sponsored by Senator Barbara Buono that would mandate health care providers to cover hearing aids for people 15 years old and younger.

"Partial hearing loss is the number one birth defect in America. Fortunately, hearing aids can help to minimize the adverse affects of hearing loss when used at an early age," said Senator Buono, D-Middlesex. "No child should go without the benefits of a hearing aid because their parents' insurance refuses to pay."

The bill, named "Grace's Law" after Grace Gleba, a eight-year-old Washington Township (Warren County) girl with a severe hearing impairment, would require health insurers in New Jersey to provide coverage for medically necessary hearing aids for children 15 years old and younger. The coverage would be required every 24 months and be limited to $1,000 per hearing aid. The bill also would allow for families to select hearing aids priced higher than $1,000 as long as the families pays for the difference.

"If not treated at an early age, hearing loss can impede speech, language and cognitive development which can, in turn, lead to the need for costly special education services later on in life," added Senator Buono. "A thousand dollar hearing aid today can save hundreds of thousands of dollars down the road and help a hearing impaired child live a full and happy life."

Senator Buono noted that the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management reports that detecting and treating hearing loss at birth saves $400,000 per child in special education costs by the time that child graduates high school. She also noted that currently New Jersey law requires a hearing screening for all newborns, but has no mandates ensuring that treatment is also received. The bill passed the Committee by vote of 3-0 and now goes to the full Senate for approval.

Six Flags

"Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at *SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE*"

Saturday, June 14, 2008

In the upcoming April issue of the Monthly Communicator, make sure to look for a list of organizations and clubs that will be selling tickets to this year's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at ***SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE.*** Your purchase of tickets from any of these organizations not only gets you, your family and loved ones a special price for entry at this year's event. It also helps support the Deaf and/or hard of hearing organization from which your tickets were purchased.

Also, in the next two issues of the Monthly Communicator, look for more information about entertainment and other special events being planned for this year's special day.

Closed Captioning for Digital Television (DTV)

Reprinted from the FCC Consumer Advisory, online report

Overview:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is concerned that consumers may experience difficulty in receiving and/or viewing closed captioning on some digital television (DTV) programming, including high definition television (HDTV), provided by a subscription television provider, such as a cable company or a satellite television provider. These difficulties generally could arise from two causes: 1) the consumer's set-top box and/or DTV are not properly set to allow closed captions to be displayed; or 2) there are technical problems with the subscription television provider's system that prevent closed captions from being received and decoded by the set-top box and/or DTV.

What You Can Do:

If you have difficulties viewing closed captions on DTV programming, including HDTV, received from your subscription television provider, you should:

- consult any consumer information and manuals/guides on closed captions for DTV programming provided by your subscription television provider;
- ensure that the captioning function on your set-top box, if applicable, is turned on;
- ensure that the captioning function on your DTV is turned on.

If you are still unable to view closed captions on DTV programming, you should contact your subscription television provider for assistance.

Filing A Complaint with the FCC:

If your provider is unable to help, you can file a complaint with the FCC alleging a violation of the Television Decoder Circuitry Act and the FCC's implementing rules. There is no charge for filing a complaint. If your complaint concerns the inability of your consumer equipment (for example, your television or cable box) to deliver captions, you may complain directly to the FCC. If your complaint concerns the lack of captioning on a specific program or channel (i.e., you receive captions on some channels, but not others), you must first complain to the programming distributor (meaning your subscription television service provider). For more information on filing a complaint with your programming distributor and the information to include in such complaints, see the FCC's closed captioning consumer fact sheet at www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/closedcaption.html. If you are uncertain where to file your complaint, contact the FCC's Consumer Center using the contact information provided for filing a complaint with the FCC below.
You can file your complaint with the FCC using the on-line complaint Form 2000C found on the FCC Web site at www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html. You can also file your complaint with the FCC's Consumer Center by e-mailing fccinfo@fcc.gov; calling 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice, 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY; faxing 1-866-418-0232; or writing to:
Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554.

What to Include In Your Complaint to the FCC:

The best way to provide all the information the FCC needs to process your complaint is to complete fully the on-line complaint Form 2000C. If you do not use the on-line complaint Form 2000C, your complaint, at a minimum, should indicate:

- your name, address, email address, and phone number where you can be reached;
- whether you are filing a complaint on behalf of another party, and, if so, the party's name, address, e-mail address, day time phone number, and your relationship to the party;
- preferred format or method of response (letter, fax, voice phone call, e-mail, TRS, TTY, ASCII text, audio recording, or Braille);
- that your complaint is about closed captioning for DTV;
- the name, address, and telephone number (if known) of the company or companies involved with your complaint;
- the date and time or other details about timing of the lack of closed captioning for DTV;
- television station call sign (WZUE), TV channel (13), location (city/state), and program name involved; and
- a brief description of your complaint and the resolution you are seeking, and a full description of the equipment or service you are complaining about, including date of purchase, use, or attempt to use.

For More Information:

For more information about the digital television transition and HDTV, visit the FCC's Web site at www.dtv.gov and see the FCC's consumer fact sheet at www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/digitaltv.html. You can also contact the FCC's Consumer Center using the information provided for filing a complaint.

For this or any other consumer publication in an accessible format (electronic ASCII text, Braille, large print, or audio) please write or call us at the address or phone number below, or send an e-mail to FCC504@fcc.gov.

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11 Advocacy Tips for Parents

By Janice Schacter

It seemed as if appropriate access at cultural institutions was unpredictable wherever our family went. Our daughter who wears binaural hearing aids never knew if the access she needed would be available. When we started going to the theatre and museums with her, we found that hearing aid compatible (HAC) assistive listening devices (ALDs) that would enable her to hear an exhibit or program were often not available or didn't work and videos were not captioned. It seemed to us that she should be able to participate and enjoy exhibits and performances since technology is available to provide it and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 required it.

So, four years ago, I started the Hearing Access Program as collaboration with the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss Association of America and The League for the Hard of Hearing. The goal of The Program is to build on the advocacy efforts that had come before and to ensure that consistent access would be available for my daughter and others with hearing loss.

My goal was to implement access quickly so that my daughter and other children like her could benefit from important cultural and educational experiences while she was growing up. In this role, I developed some effective strategies.

1. Advocate for your child.

If you don't, who will? Advocating at cultural organizations on behalf of your child is part of your role as a parent and no different than advocating at your child's school. Your child will learn by your example that they can have an impact.

2. Use your network.

Janice Schacter

Using and building my network of people with hearing loss as advisers was critical to the program's success. It is quite a bit easier to resolve issues when you know the background of the institution, what has already been accomplished and who the helpful players are.

3. Complain and don't be afraid to ask for what you need.

Don't let an organization deter you when they tell you that no one else has ever complained or advocated for access. Access is used when the organization implements it and asked for when the organization promotes it.

Many people know what they need but won't ask for it because they are too embarrassed. What is the worst thing that can happen? All they can say is, "no." Many people are happy to help and only a small percentage of people won't.

Some visitors with hearing loss feel why bother advocating if they don't plan on returning to the institution. My philosophy is what goes around comes around. If I fix this site then maybe someone else will fix another site so it will be accessible to my daughter when we arrive. The more advocates, the more access will be implemented.

Sometimes it is not always convenient to fix the issue when you are there. So, contact the organization soon after your visit.

4. Tell the person what the issue is and how it can be solved.

Access typically isn't implemented because most organizations don't understand what people with hearing loss need. Every organization is under time and budgetary constraints so why expend limited resources if no one is asking for it?

Results tend to happen when I identify specific issues, why it is important and how it can be solved. A complaint without a solution can be perceived as a rant.

For example, my daughter needs both HAC ALDs and captioning when videos are shown. When it isn't available, I contact the Visitor Services Manager and nicely advise them what is needed, what the approximate costs are ($750 to caption a 15-minute video and $750 to install an induction loop for a video) and the companies' contact information that can provide the access. Problems are resolved when I use readily available solutions that are inexpensive and the process is as "turn-key" as possible.

5. Identify the "low hanging fruit".

Organizations are outcome driven and like starting with solutions that they can accomplish for little or no money. When visitors begin to use what is available, the success of the early work drives the organization to seek additional access services.

For example, there are two compa-

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nies that offer audioguides in museums. One audioguide is HAC and the other offers free neckloops. Both companies also offer free transcripts. The museum only needs to provide signage. That is usually easy for them to accomplish.

The museums can quickly see the results of accessible audioguides. Visitors will then seek other access once they know access is available at the museum.

The videos produced by The History Channel are another example. There is no need to pay to caption these videos since they already include captioning that just needs to be activated. This company will replace any video for FREE if the captioning is missing.

6. Remind the organization of the ADA if they are resistant to access.

Raising the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is my last resort because it can be perceived as confrontational. But, I do keep it in my "hip-pocket" if the organization does not seem to understand their obligation to provide "effective communication."

7. Go to the top of the organization.

When I can see my efforts are going nowhere, I go right to the organization's Director. When a solution is costly, it usually takes a decision from the top to make it happen. Once that hurdle is cleared, people are usually happy to implement the recommended solutions.

8. Keep a log.

A phone log is started as soon as I start working on an issue. I note the date, the person's name, their contact information, a summary of the conversation and what the next step is. I jot down a person's exact words if they say anything odd or interesting. The log allows me to track the process. Many times I am asked who I have already spoken with and on what dates. It is impossible for me to keep track of this information without a log.

The Assistant's name is also noted. Assistants are more likely to help you when you take the time to know their name.

The benefits of a log occurred recently with a television program's captioning was consistently misspelled. 50+ phone calls later, the issue was still not resolved. So,

> ***"Not only must we insist upon quality captioning, but the future is here with the growth of digital, wireless and Internet-based telecommunications. It is critical that we are not left behind in the shift toward these communication mediums."***

I e-mailed the phone log to the Chairman's Assistant to demonstrate why the network needed someone in charge of captioning.

The network agreed. They had no idea how bad the situation was until they read my log, saw the number of phone calls and read what transpired with each call. The success of the project rested solely on the help of a fabulous Assistant, the log and my persistence.

9. Follow-up and be persistent.

Most people just like to complain and never follow-up. People are surprised when I do follow-up on an issue. I am convinced that many organizations don't follow through with an issue until they are contacted again. There are too many complaints so only those that are critical receive attention.

Organizations also sometimes hope that the complainant will go away. Not only do I follow through but I also am persistent. The old adage, the squeaky wheel gets the oil is definitely true. Some issues are definitely resolved because someone just wants the problem to go away.

10. Know your legal rights and the process.

It is critical to know what your legal rights are and what the legal complaint process is. Otherwise, you can end up spinning your wheels unnecessarily.

For example, with U.S. government agencies like the National Park Service it is important to file a "504" complaint when there is not "effective communication." Otherwise, the complaint just sits in a pile until someone gets to it. A legislatively mandated timeline to address and resolve the complaint begins when the complaint is filed as a "504" complaint.

Appropriate access was not always available when our family visited various National Parks. Someone, thankfully, advised me that I needed to include the words, "this is a 504 complaint," in my letter to start the timeline process. My complaints would have languished if I had not included these key words. The National Park Service is now actively working to rectify access systemically.

11. Send a Thank-You Note.

Most letters organizations receive are sent via e-mail and are complaints. Therefore, a handwritten thank you note really stands out in the pile. Always say thank you when your request is implemented even if it was a tough battle. Let the person know how the access has helped. The

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person will remember the letter and will be more likely to help you in the future.

All these strategies are useless unless you begin the process by asking for the access your child needs when it isn't available. Remember, Alexander Graham Bell once said, "Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds."

Janice Schacter is the executive director of the Deafness Research Foundation and a former attorney whose 11-year old daughter is hard of hearing. She is also the Chair of the Hearing Access Program. The Hearing Access Program is a collaborative effort between the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, The League for the Hard of Hearing/abc communication and Hearing Loss Association of America (f/k/a Self Help for the Hard of Hearing.) Our goal is to assist entertainment venues, museums, theaters, amusement parks, cruise ships etc. achieve their goal of accessibility for the entire hard of hearing and deaf community. Our service is free unless technical assistance is needed. Some of our over 60 successes across the country include working with The American Museum of Natural History, Lincoln Center, National Park Service, The Museum of the City of New York, The New York Historical Society, Madison Square Garden, The Frick Collection, The Asia Society and Museum, The Jewish Museum, The Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYCity Center, American Girl Theater, The Biltmore Estate, Hillwood House and Garden, Ben and Jerry's, American Folk Art Museum, Bay Street Theater, Dahesh Museum of Art, The NYC Guggenheim, 92nd Street Y, Sylvia Kaye Playhouse, Town Hall, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Guild Hall, Clear Channel Entertainment, The Schubert Organization, Sound Associates, Ampertronics, The Morgan Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, MOMA, The Smithsonian, Antenna Audio, Accoustiguide, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Dan's Paper, Playbill and Cunard.

Schacter has testified before the Sub-Committee on National Parks in Congress, the New York City Council's budget hearings and presented to organizations such as The NYC Department of Education, Department of Interior/National Park Service and Sound Associates. In addition, we worked with Build-A-Bear Workshop to develop a hearing aid for their fuzzy friends that is now part of their product line. I was also a member of the FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee.

Schacter's work has been profiled on the front page of the Arts section of The New York Times (www.nytimes.com/2005/04/05/arts/05hear.html?ex=1138770000&en=febd72071149c750&ei=5070); AG Bell's Magazine, Volta Voices on several occasions; The Children's Hearing Institute's Newsletter, Echoes (www.childrenshearing.org/custom/news.html); Temple Emanu-El's Bulletin (www.emanuelnyc.org/bulletin77_35.pdf) and AG Bell's New York newsletter, Soundwaves. In addition, she has been quoted in The League for The Hard of Hearing's League Letter and interviewed on NBC's Today Show-Weekend Edition.

HEARING ACCESS PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote appropriate access to public entertainment venues for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing because such programs are basic to every person's intellectual, cultural and educational development.

We will accomplish our mission by reaching and educating the following core groups:

1. Audiologists and Speech Pathologists- To advise and educate them how they can assist their clients in gaining better access at public entertainment programs.

2. Individuals/Parents of People with Hearing Loss- To educate and teach people with hearing loss how they can self-advocate to obtain appropriate equipment and access for themselves or their children at public entertainment venues.

3. Venues- To become a resource center for venues by providing centralized information, technical support and assistance through training employees and periodic monitoring so that they can provide consistent appropriate accommodations to their consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Visit TDI's web site at www.tdi-online.org

United Nations Persuaded to Provide Interpreters for Deaf Seniors

by Rose Pizzo and Judy Jonas

True or false? The United Nations (U.N.) Web site used to say it does not provide sign language interpreted tours. Answer . . . True, that is until October 2007! Thanks to the help of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the U.N. removed that language and now provides interpreters for Deaf groups.

In November 2005, Rose Pizzo of the Northwest Bergen Senior Activity Center contacted the U.N. to arrange a spring tour for their Deaf seniors. The staff of the U.N. told Rose they had an interpreter but the date was not good because their interpreter would be on vacation. Rose suggested hiring an interpreter from one of the New York City (NYC) Interpreter Referral Agencies, but the U.N. refused to do so. In addition, Rose was told that her group would need to be divided into two smaller groups with one group waiting for the other to complete their tour.

After several more frustrating phone calls and letters, Rose contacted Marc Charmatz, lawyer at the NAD's Legal Department. Mr. Charmatz contacted the U.N. reminding them of their thirty year history of support for persons with disabilities. He encouraged them to make their New York headquarters accessible to these Deaf seniors.

Mr. Charmatz' efforts paid off. Rose sent the U.N. a list of agencies providing interpreters in NYC and twenty-six Deaf seniors toured the U.N. on October 11, 2007. The U.N. provided two interpreters and split the seniors into two sections, each small group with its own interpreter. The seniors learned about the U.N., its role in the United States as well as the world, and they were given the opportunity to ask many questions.

In addition, the U.N.'s Web site has removed the language about not providing sign language interpreters. You can contact the U.N. to arrange a tour, with an interpreter. Then thank Rose Pizzo and the NAD for their efforts. As a result, the U.N. will arrange an interpreter for your visit!

24th Annual Central Jersey Job Developers Association Job Fair

Thursday, March 20, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Rutgers Labor Education Center, Ryders Lane & Clifton Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ (behind Sears)

Sign Language Interpreters will be available.

For additional information, please go to www.cjjda.org

Petway Continues to Show Their Pearly Whites

Submitted by Tara McMenamin

Have you ever been afraid to go to the dentist? Imagine that fear compounded by the fact that you are unable to hear the hygienist or speak with the doctor. That is a common concern for Deaf people. For this reason, Petway Program teachers, Tara McMenamin and Jennifer Lilla, created a program for their elementary school students to help them address these fears.

On Thursday, January 24, 2008, the Deaf Education Department visited with Dr. Nicolas Bencie at Smile Creations on Brewster Road in Vineland, NJ as part of the Community Outings program (started by McMenamin and Lilla this school year). The purpose of this particular "outing" was to teach the children what is involved in a dental visit, so there would not be any confusion or unanswered questions the next time they make their own personal visits to the dentist.

The visit began with each student interacting with the receptionist and speech reading Mrs. Tina Disano, the dental hygienist, when she came into the waiting room to call their names. Dr. Bencie and Mrs. Disano continued by educating the students on the equipment, cleanliness, proper brushing and flossing.

When the children first arrived, they all seemed a little nervous. No one was courageous enough to volunteer to be the first patient. Luckily, Thalia Jimenez, a 5th grade student, overcame her fear and got into the chair. Mrs. Disano, along with the help of Thalia, explained what happens in an actual exam. As the students witnessed the process, each one went from being a little nervous to wanting to volunteer to be the next "patient." Even the teachers got involved. One of the highlights for the students was when Mrs. McMenamin sat in the chair for a polishing and dental check up with Dr. Bencie.

The students received toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste at the end of the visit. They left Dr. Bencie, with their beautiful white smiles, knowing that the dentist office is not a scary place at all!

American Sign Language Story Hour

Submitted by Christine Olsen

The New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped (LBH), held its monthly Children's American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour on January 15. Eddie Montanez, a Technological Services Specialist with the Management and Information Systems Unit of the New Jersey Department of Human Services Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, read Perkins Goes Out by Odds Bodkin. In Perkins story, Panda tells about his day's adventure with his blind friends, Earl the Squirrel and Sam, as they have a picnic in the park, journey through town on the way to the Library to hear some books on tape, and then on to the playground for some fun.

Eddie Montanez, Technological Services Specialist for NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, explains how he walks across the street with his cane Kathy Ferejohn interprets.

Mr. Montanez is legally blind and read the book from Braille. Throughout the story, Mr. Montanez shared his experiences being blind and how it related to the characters Earl and Sam. Mr. Montanez displayed his walking stick and explained how he walks across the street or through an intersection. After the story, the children had many questions to ask Mr. Montanez about his experiences. Mr. Montanez talked about how different blind people have different preferences for assistance. Some blind people prefer to use a cane, some prefer to use a guide dog and some prefer to use both cane and guide dog.

After Mr. Montanez's presentation, Ottilie Lucas, President of the Mercer County Association of the Blind, presented an educational segment, "A Day in the Life of a Blind Person." Ms. Lucas is a life coach for the blind and showed them the tools and skills which blind people need to live independent, safe lives. Ms. Lucas demonstrated to the children different examples of how blind people get around in everyday life. She explained some ideas that help her throughout her own day. As an example, Ms. Lucas puts safety pins in her clothes in different positions and locations so she knows what color she is wearing, she puts a rubber band around certain colors of her lipstick supply so she knows which one she wants to wear. She also uses a special watch to tell time. Ms. Lucas also brought in different assistive devices for the blind for the children to see and touch such as writing guides and medicine sorters. She also brought in her guide dog, Kory, and explained how he helps her to move around including crossing a street and going up and down stairs.

Mercer County Association of the Blind President, Ottilie Lucas explains how she differentiates between similar medicine bottles by using rubber bands placed around the bottle.

After Ms. Lucas' educational segment, Pete Campione, owner of Kindred Souls Canine Center in Howell, NJ, and his dog, Toby, met with the children and spoke about Therapy Dogs. Pete introduced the children to Renee and her two collie dogs, Misty and Destiny. Also on hand from Kindred Souls were Mari and her dog, Valentine, a deaf-blind Great Dane, to keep the children company during story hour. The children learned about a special surprise that is in the works; in March the children will submit a paper about their favorite Therapy Dog and then in April the children will find out about their surprise.

Attending the story hour were students in grades two through five from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) and students with multiple disabilities from three classes at the Hunterdon County ESC School in Lambertville, as well as students from Union County College and Thomas Edison State College. Sixty-seven people attended.

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The New Jersey Relay team is very excited to be working on these plans. We value the input we have received from the community and will continue to welcome your ideas and feedback about any of the above service offerings. We look forward to rolling out the marketing plan for 2008 and expect that you will see the results here and there throughout New Jersey. For more information about New Jersey Relay, please visit www.njrelay.com or if you would like to share comments, please email Aparna Lele, Sprint Relay Account Manager: Aparna.Lele@sprint.com.

* New Jersey Relay Service is a free service provided by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) ensuring equal communication access to telephone service for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled.

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This story hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation illustrating each page along with the storyteller. The Story Hour promotes English literacy skills for the Deaf and hard of hearing by enabling them to enjoy simultaneously ASL and English versions of books.

Workshops and events such as the story hour are scheduled by Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped. NJLBH is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton. For more information about the DHHAP program and story hours, contact Christine at 877-882-5593 TTY or colsen@njstatelib.org. The next ASL Story Hour at NJLBH will be on March 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. For information about NJLBH and its programs call Anne McArthur at 609-530-3242.

Colonomos Workshop a Success, Sponsored by DDHH

DDHH was pleased to recently host "Foundations for Deaf Interpreters, Part II." This workshop, presented by Betty M. Colonomos, MCSC, was held at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped from January 31 through February 2, 2008. Fourteen Deaf participants from the tri-state area attended the three-day workshop that served as the sequel to the February 2007 "Foundations for Deaf Interpreters" workshop hosted by DDHH.

The 2008 workshop continued to focus on expanding and applying the theoretical and conceptual base of the Integrated Model of Interpreting, or the Colonomos Model. Participants engaged in hands-on activities to aid in reinforcing material taught during the workshop. These activities, combined with feedback and relevant discussions from the presenter, were well-received and provided worthwhile experience for those in attendance.

The participants indicated an interest for more interpreter related workshops geared to Deaf people interested in learning how to interpret, including topics such as Deaf-hearing team interpreting, Deaf-blind interpreting, and legal interpreting as well as the use of Deaf interpreters.

Plan Now for 2008 Conventions

Jewish Deaf Congress Conference

The 2008 Jewish Deaf Conference will be held at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Princeton, New Jersey, August 13 - 17, 2008. Program includes tours, all-day training for Judaic ASL interpreters (CEU'S planned), hands-on workshops, Deaf rabbis roundtable, comedy evening and other entertainment, Sabbath Services, open forum/roundtable for all Jewish Deaf organizations to discuss JDC's future and delicious Glatt kosher meals will be provided. For details and registration on JDC's national conference, check www.jewishdeaf 2008.com. For more information, contact Marla Berkowitz, President, at president@jewishdeafcongress.org.

2008 NJRID Biennial Conference

November 7, 8 & 9, 2008
"Partners In Interpreting Reimaging Our Future - Think Of The Possibilities,"
Crowne Plaza, 390 Forsgate Drive, Jamesburg, NJ 08831
Growth, Diversity, Opportunity NJRID, Inc.; www.njrid.org

Beyond Disability: The Fe Fe Stories

"I want to know more. I want to do more. This disability cannot put me down!" —Terrah Payne

Women's History Film Discussion Series
Jackson Branch of the Ocean County Library
Saturday, March 8, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Interpreters will be provided and the film is captioned.
Refreshments will be served.
Seating is limited and registration required.
To register, please call, email, fax or visit our Web site.

Join us for Beyond Disability: The Fe Fe Stories, a film discussion about teens with disabilities and how they want the world to see them. Watch the film, discuss the issues, talk with students with disabilities and learn from local organizations who empower people with disabilities. Sponsored by Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, New Jersey Coalition on Women and Disabilities, Allies, Inc. and VSA arts of New Jersey with special guest Kelly Rouba, Ms. Wheelchair NJ 2007.

Jackson Branch of the Ocean County Library 2 Jackson Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527
732-928-4400 Voice; 732-833-0615 FAX
mtoohey@theoceancountylibrary.org; www.theoceancountylibrary.org,
At the Web site, click "Programs & News". Then, in the "Search by Keyword" box, type "Beyond Disability" to view the program description and to register online.
Contact Meagan Toohey for further information.

Sign Language Classes

Sign Language Basic
CRN 29567 (10 sessions)
Wednesday, February 27 - April 30 5:45 p.m. -7:35 p.m.

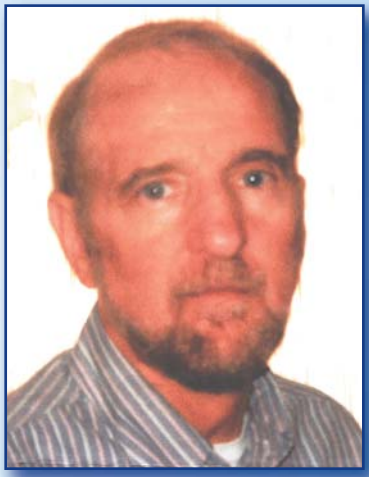
Sign Language Intermediate
CRN 29569 (10 sessions)
Wednesday, February 27 - April 30 5:45 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.
Total: $132

Sign Language Intensive Total Communication Weekend
Saturday, April 5 - Sunday, April 6
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Total: $180
CRN 29572 - Beginners
CRN 29573 - Intermediate
CRN 29574 - Advanced
Participate in a weekend-long immersion to study and promote the learning of American Sign Language in straight English word order (with voice).
This course is designed for beginners as well as advanced students.
An interactive workshop aims to promote cultural awareness, vocabulary development and improvement of conversational skills in Sign Language.

Call 908-218-8871 for additional information or visit www.raritanval.edu/cce

In Memoriam

On February 3, 2008, Jerry Barnhart passed away at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania with his devoted wife, Christine, at his side. Jerry was born in Columbia Falls, Montana. He lived there and graduated from high school in 1967. Jerry obtained both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degree from the University of Montana and worked as a school psychologist in Great Falls for 13 years. After Jerry became Deaf suddenly, he moved east, attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and obtained his doctorate in 1991. Jerry then moved to New Jersey and worked for the Neptune School District and Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf as a school psychologist. Jerry had been actively involved in Deaf related programs, helping to start a local chapter of the Association of Late-Deaf Adults. He was also appointed by the governor and served on the Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council. Jerry wrote numerous articles and gave presentations on a variety of Deaf and hard of hearing topics. He was a strong advocate for both communities and his commitment, compassion and sense of humor will be missed.



Jerry Barnhart

USADBO
USA Deaf Basketball Organization
www.usadbo.com

United States America Deaf Basketball Organization (USADBO)

Second Annual Men and Women Basketball Tournament

March 26, 27, 28 and 29

PAL Parsippany Police League, 33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.
2008 Eastern Athletic Association of the Deaf
hosts

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc
Founded 2005

63rd Annual Men's & 17th Annual Women's Basketball Regional Tournament

March 7-9, 2008
Randolph, New Jersey

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
Coaches' Meeting Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m.
Registration at County College of Morris (CCM) Randolph, New Jersey
Games at 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (2 basketball courts)
Social Night at Hanover Marriott or Morristown or Deaf Professional Happy Hour

EAAD Hall of Fame Breakfast
Sunday, March 9, 8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. at Hanover Marriott Restaurant
Registration at County College of Morris (CCM)
Games at 10:00 a.m. to Championship game; Awards after Championship game

TICKET SALES
($10 registration fee included.)

Early Bird Combo $35,
EAAD Hall of Fame Combo $20,
Saturday all day $30,
College Students/ID one day $20,
High School Students/ID one day $20,
Kids (under 12) one day $10,

At Door Combo $45.
Senior Citizen Combo $20.
Sunday all day $30.
College Students/ID combo $35.
High School Students/ID combo $30.
Kids (under 12) combo $20.

Make check or money order to "New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc." c/o EAAD Inc./NJDS Inc.
26 North Shore Blvd. Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233

Gym at County College of Morris, 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph, NJ 07869
Hotel: Hanover Marriott, 1401 Route 10 East Whippany, NJ 07981

Visit www.eaad.us for reservations; Contact Heidi Schumacher for more information NJDeafSportsInc@aol.com; 973-538-7577 or 800-242-8681

ASL FESTIVAL

Union County College

S.I.G.N. Club

Oldies but Goodies:

"Honoring Deaf people from the Golden Days"

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH 2008

Doors open: 10:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Reopen for evening performance: 7:00 p.m.

Our yearly ASL festival will be a fun ALL-DAY event filled with activities for children and adults. Our festival consists of a variety of vendors and performances by well-known entertainers in the Deaf Community. Come and enjoy the day!

Union County College
Cranford Campus
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016

For more information please contact:
Jason.kus@gmail.com or CJ1977@earthlink.net

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Deaf Services Center
Milestones Community Healthcare, Inc.

614 N. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038
215-884-9770 TTY/Voice; 215-884-9774 VP/FAX
Deaf Services Center (DSC) offers culturally competent, linguistically accessible treatment for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and in need of behavioral health services.

This is an opportunity for a motivated individual to join a dedicated group of professionals who give new meaning to the term teamwork. E.O.E.

Full & Part Time Employment Opportunities:
Staff Interpreter (Full time/part time position)
Case Manager: (Full time position)
Residential Counselor: (various positions available)
We are growing! Come be a part of our Professional TEAM!
Send your letter of intent and resumes to:
Linda Sivigny-Claypool, Office Manager/HR
Deaf Services Center
Milestones Community Healthcare, Inc.
614 N. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038
Email: lsivigny@salisb.com or 215-884-9774 FAX

New Jersey Relay Service is now accepting applications for CapTel Outreach Specialist positions in all parts of New Jersey.

This position is a part-time, on-contract basis with specific responsibilities. We look forward to working with you.

Responsibilities include:

* Explaining Traditional Relay Services
* Explaining Captioned Telephone Service (CapTel)
* Hosting events at clubs or meeting halls
* Providing presentations/Booths and/or workshops to promote CapTel.
* One-on-one training with customers/businesses on how to use CapTel.

Qualifications:

* Ability to communicate and interact with diverse population
* Excellent Customer Service Relations skills
* Ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment
* First-rate leadership in the Hard-of-Hearing and/or Deaf community is a plus.

Benefits:

* Flexible hours, excellent pay rate, and best of all...you make your own schedule!

If interested, please send an email to Aparna Lele, New Jersey Relay Account Manager, at Aparna.lele@sprint.com along with a resume copy or fax to 913-523-1137. Deadline is March 21, 2008.

RELIGIOUS ACCESS

Jewish Deaf Singles Registry (JDSR) hosts Matzah Baking

Calling all Jewish Deaf and hard of hearing singles including widowed and divorced.
Come to bake matzah together. Perfect time with Passover coming.
March 30, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Union Y in Union, New Jersey.
Have fun with activities and refreshments.
Member: $15, Non-member $20.
After March 20th, Member: $20 - Non-member: $23 RSVP by March 20th,
For more information, write Landau9@optonline.net.

Christian Deaf Chat

Burlington Center Mall Upstairs Food Court
2501 Mt. Holly Road, Burlington, NJ 08016-4803
Third Monday of each Month
7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Contact Teresa Killingsworth at tykillingsworth@yahoo.com
Joanne Rommer 609-859-2064 FAX

Calvary Tabernacle Deaf Ministry Deaf Fellowship Meetings for 2008 2nd Saturday of the Month

Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, Jun. 14, Aug. 9, Sep. 13, Dec. 13.
128 Georgetown-Wrightstown Rd., Wrightstown, NJ 08562

All Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people are welcome to attend!
Contact Joanne and Gary Romer - 609-859-2064 FAX
or Teresa Killingsworth-tykillingsworth@yahoo.com
This is a time to learn the word of God,
fellowship and enjoy good food!

Miss Deaf New Jersey Pageant

Wine and Cheese Tasting Fundraiser

Join us for a fun and educational evening of wine and cheese tasting with wine expert, Genie Bambach of Liquor Outlet, in Boonton, NJ (ASL interpreters will be provided). Proceeds will go to the Miss Deaf New Jersey Pageant Fund to help pay for our current Miss Deaf New Jersey, Jessica Malone, to compete in the Miss Deaf America Pageant in New Orleans this July. Come see old friends, make new ones, and have a wonderful night out! The wine and cheese tasting is our most popular fundraiser so it will fill up quickly. Please reserve your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

April 5, 2008
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall
55 Mountain View Boulevard,Wayne, NJ

Admission: $40 per person
Please make checks payable to:
Miss Deaf New Jersey Pageant
ATT: Roy Nunes, Treasurer
2214 Central Avenue
Aberdeen, NJ 07747

or visit www.njadeaf.org/mdnjp to pay by credit card or PayPal.

For more information, email MDNJP.BManager@gmail.com
Deadline is March 21, 2008
No one under 21 years of age will be admitted.

Communicator Signboard

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

presents

All You Can Eat Buffet and Brunch
Chinese, American, Japanese and Italian Delicious Foods

Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Majestic Restaurant and Buffet on 29 Route 23 South in Wayne, NJ
$20 per person for members and non-members
Guest Speaker - To Be Announced
Make reservations in advance by sending a check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc. with names provided to Elizabeth Rozynski, 76 Hoffman Avenue, Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034 by April 5 deadline date for mailing.
Limited to 120 people
Chairman - Ronald Rozynski, Co-Chairperson - Karen Belisle and Committees
For more information or directions, contact Ronald Rozynski at RERBOWL44@aol.com

Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association (MADA)

2008 General Meeting Schedules:
March 29, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
April 26, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
May 31, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
June 28, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
No meetings are scheduled in July & August

MADA's General Meeting will take place in Flushing Public Library at Queens Library
41-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
For further information, contact us at jacho1970@tmail.com

Summit Playhouse

presents

Cat On a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Willliams
Directed by Joann Scanlon

Joann Scanlon directs this high-powered drama with some superb comedy and some of American drama's most vital and fascinating characters.

Performance dates are April 25, 26, May 1, 2, 3, 9, 10 at 8:00 p.m. and May 2 at 2:00 p.m.
American Sign Language interpretation is available at the May 2 performance.
A loop-compatible assisted listening device is available for all performances at the Summit Playhouse. Audio-Description service - a live, concise translation of the visual action of the play for Blind and visually impaired theatre goers - requires a two week advance reservation for any performance.
Please call 908-273-2192 for a reservation.

Additional information, including directions to the Playhouse can be found on www.summitplayhouse.org

Calendar of Events 2008

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
Friday April 25
East Brunswick Public Library
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Call DDHH Office to confirm your attendance:
609-984-7281 V/TTY
Please Note:
The summer Advisory Council meeting has been changed to Friday July 18, same time same place.
Saturday, June 14, 2008
24th Annual

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day
Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ
Ticket Info: Lauren Lercher
GATickets@aol.com

NJSD/MKSD 125th Anniversary
and
NJSD/MKSDAlumni Association
80th Anniversary
October 10, 11 and 12, 2008
Columbus Weekend
Check www.mksd.org for more information:
Thomas Sparks, Jr., Chairman,
PhySparks70@aol.com
856-374-1043 FAX

DDHH Office - Closed Good Friday (3/21)
Regular Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
PO BOX 074
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0074

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