

## MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

JANUARY 2012

Vol. 33 No. 1

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

## HLA-NJ Annual Meeting a Terrific Success, Providing Information and Support



Keynote speaker Linda Kessler, Assistant Director of Communication at the Center for Hearing and Communication, offers tips on speechreading.

### The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey (HLA-NJ) drew nearly 60 people who gathered to learn and celebrate the successes of 2011 and to look ahead to plans for 2012.

Arlene Romoff, a co-founder of HLA-NJ and the outgoing president, began the meeting by reporting the official tally for October's NJ Walk4Hearing, \$52,000, which will benefit programs and services for people with hearing loss in New Jersey and nationally. Since the first Walk4Hearing was held in New Jersey in 2008, a grand total of almost \$200,000 has been raised, according to Ms. Romoff. She recognized, by name, 25 people who have actively worked on projects and tasks this past year – significant to HLA-NJ's strength as an organization.

In recognition of Ms. Romoff's dedication, hard work and

commitment to helping people with hearing loss, president-elect Linda Schaab presented her with a plaque, a gift and a bouquet of flowers.

Ira Hock, Executive Assistant for the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, welcomed those who attended. The division provided invaluable communications assistance for the meeting, including real-time captioning (CART), an infrared assistive listening system and interpreters.

The new president of HLA-NJ Linda Schaab, was elected president at the November meeting, has extensive experience with hearing loss. She was born with normal hearing but when

### HLA-NJ News and Views A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey

By Peter Yerkes, Trustee, HLA-NJ

she was 16 months old, she contracted spinal meningitis, which resulted in profound deafness by age three.

Ms. Schaab got her first hearing aid at age five and has been wearing two hearing aids since junior high school. She received speech and lip reading training at the League for the Hard of Hearing in New York, now known as the Center for Hearing and Communication. At age ten, she was photographed there with former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The late Mrs. Roosevelt also had hearing loss, and was a strong supporter of the League.

Ms. Schaab's involvement with HLA-NJ began when she attended a chapter meeting in East Brunswick. For 15 years, she and her husband, Marvin, have been very involved with the group's Board of Directors and have attended several national conventions held by the Hearing Loss Association of America.

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# Director's Corner

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

**T**he New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) receives numerous inquiries from constituents about the Medicare program. In response to these inquiries, our office has recruited a guest speaker from the Social Security Administration who will present on Medicare at the upcoming DDHH Advisory Council Meeting to be held on January 27, 2012 at the East Brunswick Public Library. The public is invited to attend this presentation and encouraged to bring their questions and concerns.

Information about Medicare is also available to our constituents from a new educational video titled, "Medicare Basics in American Sign Language." This video produced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides important information about the Medicare program and is fully accessible through sound, American Sign Language and captioning.

The video consists of an overview of the Medicare program, including what Medicare is, who qualifies, the four parts of Medicare (A, B, C, and D), new preventive services under the Affordable Care Act, and help paying Medicare costs.

The video is available on Medicare.gov, cms.gov and the CMS YouTube channel. To access go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eskZVAg7v0o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eskZVAg7v0o). To download, go to <http://downloads.cms.gov/media/video/ASLOverview.mp4>.

I commend the CMS for their sensitivity and awareness of the diverse communication needs of people with hearing loss and their efforts to produce accessible media.

## We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Submissions should be e-mailed to: [monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us).

The deadline for the **February 2012** issue is **January 1**. The deadline for the **March 2012** issue is **February 1**.

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

- Should be less than two pages
- Plain font, such as NY Times #11 or similar
- Type flush left, no tabs
- No art imbedded within
- Send as Word attachment or an e-mail itself, no PDF
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Submissions are not normally repeated
- Content should be of interest to readers, events should be accessible to people with hearing loss, no direct selling products, but educational info about new technology acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter

## Monthly Communicator

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Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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# The Risks of Buying Hearing Aids Online or Over the Counter

Better Hearing Institute Warns on Do-it-yourself Hearing Care

By Traci Burton, *Field Representative*

**T**he current economic climate has people searching for ways to obtain what they need without spending a lot, including hearing aids. To avoid doing damage to any residual hearing, amongst other possible outcomes, one may want to really reconsider getting more economically appealing hearing aids. The following is reprinted from [www.healthyhearing.com](http://www.healthyhearing.com) from their Monday October 24, 2011 news post.

Washington, DC.: **The Better Hearing Institute (BHI)** is warning consumers of the inherent risks associated with purchasing over-the-counter, one-size-fits-all hearing aids instead of consulting a hearing healthcare professional. Hearing loss is sometimes the symptom of a serious underlying medical problem. All 50 states require that consumers use a credentialed hearing care professional to purchase hearing aids.

BHI also points out that hearing devices that are purchased over-the-counter or Internet without the consultation of a hearing healthcare professional may result in the devices not being accurately customized to the specific hearing needs of the individual.

“Today’s state-of-the-art hearing aids should be programmed to the individual’s specific hearing loss requirements in order to provide good levels of benefit and customer satisfaction,” says Sergei Kochkin, BHI’s Executive Director. “The process requires a complete in-person hearing assessment in a sound booth; the training and skills of a credentialed hearing healthcare professional in order to prescriptively fit the hearing aids using sophisticated computer programs; and appropriate in-person follow-up and counseling. This is not possible when consumers purchase one-size-fits-all hearing aids over the Internet or elsewhere.”

Extensive research shows that individualized hearing health assessments and fittings programmed specific to the needs of the hearing aid user provide the best chance for optimal hearing enhancement and customer satisfaction.

“The best advice BHI can give anyone purchasing a hearing aid is to find a state credentialed hearing healthcare professional and to communicate openly during the evaluation, fitting and trial period to



increase the likelihood that you are receiving the best possible benefit from your hearing aids,” says Kochkin. “It will make a tremendous difference in your ability to hear and in your quality of life.”

BHI has published a comprehensive consumer guide entitled, “Your Guide to Buying Hearing Aids.” (See [www.betterhearing.org](http://www.betterhearing.org) under hearing loss treatment.) The guidelines give confidence to first-time hearing aid buyers by providing a detailed, step-by-step explanation of what to expect,

ask, and look for when selecting and visiting a hearing healthcare professional and purchasing a hearing aid.

BHI also has published, “Your Guide to Financial Assistance for Hearing Aids,” the first comprehensive guide on how people can obtain financial assistance to purchase hearing aids.

Read more about buying hearing aids online and watch Healthy Hearing’s video about internet hearing aid purchases at [www.healthyhearing.com](http://www.healthyhearing.com).

## Sign Language Classes Offered

Raritan Valley Community College’s Continuing Education division will be offering two sign language courses this Spring 2012 semester.



**Sign Language Basic** will develop vocabulary and practical conversational skills. The course will be on Wednesdays, February 1 through April 4. The cost per participant is \$152.

**Sign Language Intermediate** will build upon the grammar and vocabulary skills learned from the Sign Language Basic. The course will be Wednesdays, February 1 through April 4. The cost per participant is \$152.

To register or for more information, call Continuing Education at (908) 218-8871 or visit [www.raritanval.edu/ce](http://www.raritanval.edu/ce)

RVCC’s main campus is located at 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg, NJ. Serving Somerset and Hunterdon County residents for over 40 years, the College offers more than 90 associate degrees and certificates. RVCC at Bridgewater, located at 14 Vogt Drive, offers technical, trade, credit and non-credit courses.

# HLA-NJ Annual Meeting...continued



- (1) Lori Timney demonstrates CapTel products.
- (2) Keynote speaker Linda Kessler addresses the conference.
- (3) HLA-NJ President-elect Linda Schaab presents a plaque to Arlene Romoff, past president, HLA-NJ for her leadership, dedication, and advocacy efforts for people with hearing loss.

As a result of her advocacy, the N.J. Health Information Management Association purchased an FM system for their meetings and workshops. She has been nominated to serve the Advisory Council for the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Her appointment is pending approval by Governor Christie.

Other officers elected include Janet Rosen - Vice President, Dr. Jeff Liebman -Treasurer, Wayne Roorda - Recording Secretary, Carolyn Lance - Corresponding Secretary, and Trustees Dr. David Cooper, Anne Marie De Pierro, Marvin Schaab, and Amy Mogland.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Linda Kessler, Assistant Director of Communication at the Center for Hearing and Communication. She explained the subject of speechreading—one of the most valuable tools for people with hearing loss. Topics included “*The Hows, Whys and Secrets*” of speechreading, why certain words are difficult to speechread and communication strategies for a person with hearing loss.

Following the meeting, visitors had an opportunity to speak with some of the many exhibitors. They included representatives of Sprint CapTel and CaptionCall – both demonstrating captioned telephone services.

Representatives of the N. J. Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the N. J. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and PepNet explained the services and resources they offer. Dr. David Cooper, an audiologist, was present to answer questions, and HLA-NJ members with cochlear implants were available to provide information and support. EmCom, an inductive looping company, had a new portable device to try out. Also represented was the Hearing Loss Association of America, offering information on how to become a member, as well as informative brochures.

*To learn more about HLA-NJ and our scholarship program and new ALD Demo Center at Monclair State University, please contact Arlene Romoff at [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org). We also invite you to visit [www.hearingloss-nj.org](http://www.hearingloss-nj.org), or to attend one of our local chapter meetings in Bergen, Monmouth/Ocean or Middlesex County, and our newest Morris County chapter. Dates, places and times for chapter meetings are available from [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org).*

## Hard of Hearing Support Group

**Cape Regional Medical Center  
Garden State Parkway, Exit 10  
2 Stone Harbor Blvd  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210**

**January 18 February 22 March 21**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
CART Services will be provided**



**For additional information please contact [sjhardofhearing@gmail.com](mailto:sjhardofhearing@gmail.com)**

# Putting Hearing Loops in Public Spaces

by Mark Zuckerman,  
*Emcom Systems*

**W**e at Emcom Systems are encouraged by the uptick in interest about our hearing loop systems. Hopefully, this indicates a general push to install loop technology in public spaces to better accommodate people with hearing loss. “Get in the Hearing Loop,” the joint educational campaign by the Hearing Loss Association of America and the American Academy of Audiology, and articles like the one in The New York Times this October (“A Hearing Aid That Cuts Out All the Clatter”) have helped raise public awareness both about the need for hearing-assistive systems in public settings and the aptness of hearing loops to fit that need.

The principle behind hearing loop technology is elegantly simple. It relies on the laws of electromagnetism taught in high school science and exploited in everyday things from electric motors, transformers, and generators to audio speakers. Basically, an audio signal is transmitted electromagnetically directly into hearing aids and cochlear implants (HA/CI). The transmitter is a wire loop (called an “induction loop”) its size, composition, and input signal strength determine the size and shape of its electromagnetic field. The receiver is a small wire coil (“induction coil”) that picks up the signal when it is within the induction loop’s electromagnetic field. Induction coils are more commonly known as “telecoils” or “T-Coils” because telephones were among its earliest applications. “Hearing Loop” has come to mean the combination of induction loop/induction coil technology used in hearing-assistive systems.

By contrast, the standard audio connection in HA/CIs is acoustic, through a microphone that picks up all the sound in its vicinity. A



**HEARING LOOP INSTALLED**  
Switch hearing aid to T-coil



microphone cannot differentiate between the sounds that are important and those that aren't, like background noise, so most HA/CIs are equipped with filters that approximate the differentiation. The most sophisticated devices have varieties of filters for use in different situations, but all of them have weaknesses. HA/CIs with T-Coils either switch between the microphone and the T-Coil or blend the two inputs.

To illustrate the difference: suppose you were in an auditorium trying to listen through a HA/CI to someone speaking at a podium. In acoustic mode, the sound you want most to hear has to travel the distance between the speaker and the microphone in your HA/CI. It will lose volume along the way, and may get distorted because of room characteristics. Joining this sound in your microphone may be other, distracting sounds, perhaps emanating from your neighbors or from the room itself. Your HA/CI's filters work on the signal to try to straighten things out for you, with mixed results. On the other hand, in a hearing loop environment, the speaker's podium microphone is connected directly to the induction loop transmitter, which, in turn, is received directly by your HA/CI's T-Coil. It's as if the speaker is talking right in your ear – no distance distortion, no distracting sounds from your neighbors, no ambient noise – just true hearing.

About 60% of hearing aids made in the U. S. are equipped with T-Coils. However, the T-Coil setting on many hearing aids is identified simply as the “Telephone” program, with no mention of the T-Coil or its potential use with hearing loops. That's because until recently, the main use for T-Coils in

HA/CIs was with telephones, taking advantage of the electromagnetic field generated by the voice coil induction loop in the telephone receiver. Some hearing aids switch automatically from microphone to T-Coil when they detect a telephone receiver. These may be problematic with hearing loops, since the hearing loop may not be able to trigger the automatic switchover. Other hearing aids allow the wearer to change the program from microphone to T-Coil. Hopefully, the Get in the Hearing Loop campaign will help persuade hearing aid makers to provide easier access to hearing loops.

Public space hearing environments essentially fall into two different categories: passive, as in the circumstance described above (a single sound source reaching an audience), and active, as with face-to-face conversations and consultations. In some passive hearing environments, the entire space needs to be covered by a single electromagnetic field. In others, and in active hearing environments, the electromagnetic fields are localized, allowing several independent hearing loops within the same space.

With these environments in mind, there are three basic ways of integrating a hearing loop into a public space: as a built-in, as a fixture, and as an appliance. Built-in hearing loop systems are most useful for large passive hearing environments, like auditoriums and houses of worship. They are designed uniquely for each space and become part of the building's structure. They typically require specialist consultants and specialized construction. Modifying

*Continued on page 6*

# NJRID Meeting and Workshop



**O**n Saturday, November 19, 2011, NJRID held their General Meeting at the East Brunswick Library. The meeting was called to order and started with reports from various committees. The fund-raising committee mentioned the need for new ideas since the Great Adventure ticket sales have been declining.

One possibility was to have a 'JUST FOR FUN' Beach Party this summer. The Mentoring Chair asked experienced interpreters who were interested in being part of the mentoring program to commit to three training sessions for themselves. The Professional Development Committee announced plans for 2012 events. NJRID members can look forward to Legal Workshops sometime in February or March and Drug and Alcohol Vocabulary Workshops in April and May.

Hopefully the Deaf Consumer Panel workshop from last year and the well-received Toastmaster Programs also will be returning. The Membership Chair reported that NJRID now has 231 members. Due to a printer glitch, she was not able to bring completed directories to the meeting; however, they will be mailed out in the future. Diane Lynch had previously announced to President Cheryl Vail that she would be stepping down from her position as

Newsletter Editor. A new appointment was made to Grace Samis and accepted. The Nominating Committee Chair announced that Julie Troger had won the Jan Niedermaier Distinguished Service Award.

After lunch, the STATE OF THE STATE Workshop introduced us to four top professionals in the field of interpreting who were there to answer questions on different topics.

Cheryl Vail, Cathy Grehlinger, Joan Cohen and Eileen Forestal (via modern technology and video clips) were the panelists. Lauren Kafka moderated the panel. Each panelist introduced herself and responded to pre-arranged questions. Questions touched on trends (old and new) within the interpreting field, common complaints DDHH receives from the Deaf community, how interpreting classes have changed throughout the years and how NJRID deals with unethical interpreting behavior. After these questions were answered, other questions were taken from the audience. One final question asked was "what changes can the membership look forward to seeing in NJRID?"

Cheryl Vail (now ex-president and current vice-president) responded by saying that she feels NJRID is now even more 'member-driven' and she hopes that the members will continue to feel welcome and involved.



## Hearing Loops...continued

the original space may require reinstalling the hearing loop.

Emcom Systems' focus is on hearing loop fixtures and appliances, both of which are considerably less expensive than built-ins. A hearing loop fixture attaches to the ceiling, much like a lighting fixture, and creates an electromagnetic field of controlled diameter below the fixture. Although wiring may be necessary to supply power and connect to an audio source, installation requires no special expertise and can be performed by maintenance staff. Although attached to the structure, a fixture may also be removed and attached to a different location when the needs of the space change, as in museum exhibits. Our hearing loop fixtures have been

installed in passive hearing environments of the Museum of Natural History in New York City and the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C., as well as in active hearing environments at service desks in public agencies.

A hearing loop appliance is an unattached, self-contained unit that needs no installation. The induction coil is in a mat or carpet that sits on the floor. Like a fixture, the electromagnetic field generated above the floor piece has a controlled diameter, which in hearing loop appliances can be made large enough to encompass rooms of modest size. The simplest hearing loop appliance includes a microphone integrated with a special amplifier and requires



only a nearby AC outlet and a path to run a cable from the floor piece to the amplifier. More sophisticated units employ wireless microphones and use battery power, making them portable. Hearing loop appliances are designed for both passive and active hearing environments, but are particularly apt for consultation settings where comprehension is critical, as in medical, legal, and financial dealings.

Mark Zuckerman can be reached by email at [MarkZuckerman@emcomsys.com](mailto:MarkZuckerman@emcomsys.com).

# Student, Model, Deaf, and Proud

By Stephanie Noguera

I am a twenty-two year old American model of Puerto Rican descent. Though born Deaf, I have lived my life knowing nothing would stop me. Many people encouraged me to be a model for a career because of my photogenic and natural abilities. I finally had enough self-esteem and started modeling during the second year at college with student photographers. My modeling experience is progressing very well. With my portfolio expanding and my opportunities increasing, my motivation rose even higher. Last year I received a huge boost by a celebrity stylist/photographer in Philadelphia for Laurentius Salon.

**“ I never allow my deafness to overcome seeking success. ”**

The photographs were stunning and beautiful. I have faced my share of rejection and obstacles and more than my share of “no’s”, but I continue to persevere. Since I am Deaf and petite (5’1”), which are double challenges, it affects my life dramatically. I am often rejected and discriminated based on my deafness in this business but I always have faith in myself. For three years I have modeled for many college students who are studying photography. I never allow my deafness to overcome seeking success.

I have been interviewed by the authors, Isobella Jade, Ann Laurens of Bella Petite magazine, Rocco Golgi of Fashion News, and Jay Swagg of Celebrity Entertainment News. I also became a Deafinit Model, Management by Sheree Devereaux. I won Bella Petite cover girl magazine 2011. In the summer 2011, I appeared on Shadow Play Entertainment & Conversations Magazine and appeared on a cover page and layout in an international magazine called “Germany Life Insight”, a deaf lifestyle news magazine.

## Q & A with Stephanie



photo credit: Ricardo Rodz-Rivera

### Q. Where were you raised in NJ?

A. I grew up in Pine Hill, South Jersey

### Q. Where did you attend school growing up?

A. I have two homes, one is in Pine Hill, NJ and Frederick, MD. I attended Maryland School for the Deaf.

### Q. Where do you attend school now?

A. I just graduated from National Technology Institute for the Deaf (NTID). Now I attend class in Camden County for taking certification and license in addiction counseling.

### Q. Why are you interested in addiction counseling?

A. I always loved helping people. It's one of my passions.

### Q. What type of accommodations have you used or do you use now? Such as sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, hearing aids, realtime captioning? Do you use any of these in the classroom?

A. I only use interpreters and note taking in the classroom.

My long-term goals are to finish my certification and license in addiction counseling, continue my career in modeling. I hope to become good Deaf role model that others may appreciate. Raising awareness and respect in the hearing community is one of my long term goals. Lastly, I am fundraising for the Deaf school in Puerto Rico.

## Job Opportunity

### The Lake Drive Program

### - Principal -



*“Individual Child, Individual Potential”* New Jersey's premier educational program for students with hearing loss seeks a dynamic, child centered administrator to lead our program beginning in the spring of 2012. Proven strengths in special education, community building and emerging technologies preferred. Classroom teaching and administrative experience required. Learn more about our program at [www.mtlakes.org/ld](http://www.mtlakes.org/ld).

NJ Principal certificate of eligibility required. Salary and benefits highly competitive.

Please submit resume as soon as possible.

#### Attention:

Dr. Anne Mucci  
Superintendent of Schools  
Mountain Lakes Board of Education  
400 Boulevard  
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046  
Equal Opportunity Employer

# Bankruptcy and the Deaf Community



By Robert Braverman, Esquire  
[www.bravermanlaw.com](http://www.bravermanlaw.com)  
[robert@bravermanlaw.com](mailto:robert@bravermanlaw.com)  
(856) 348-0115

I think everyone agrees that we are in the midst of difficult economic times. More and more people are compelled to consider options such as bankruptcy. However, because of underrepresentation in the legal community, bankruptcy may not be viewed as a viable option by the deaf community.

Last week I was attending a bankruptcy hearing with a deaf couple I was representing. The Bankruptcy Trustee and the Court appointed sign interpreter noted that the Trustee had never held a hearing

“...until recently, I have had few deaf clients contact me regarding bankruptcy.”

with a sign interpreter before. This surprised me because he has been a Chapter 7 Trustee for over 20 years. Perhaps it shouldn't have surprised me. At a hearing six months earlier with another deaf couple that I represented, I advised the Trustee prior to the hearing that we needed a sign interpreter. In situations where a language interpreter is needed, the Trustee places a telephone call from the Meeting of Creditors to a central service in order to utilize an interpreter over a speaker phone for whichever language is needed. When we appeared at the hearing the Trustee was apparently thinking he could do the same thing, not realizing that we needed a sign interpreter to appear in person at the Meeting of Creditors. Of course the hearing had to be rescheduled.

In addition, until recently, I have had few deaf clients contact me regarding bankruptcy. I suppose after the initial couple contacted me the others followed by word of mouth. I do know some basic sign language but bring in an American Sign Language interpreter for my meeting with deaf clients after initially communicating via email or video relay. My wife's grandparents and Aunt and Uncle all were deaf. In fact, her Aunt and Uncle lived with us a few years back while her Aunt recovered from a broken hip. That of course provided me an opportunity to practice signing on a more regular basis.

From what I can tell the deaf community is underrepresented in many areas of law, including my area of law, bankruptcy. I have encouraged other attorneys in other areas of law to also represent the deaf community.



## Deaf and Hearing Walk Together for School in Nicaragua

By Pastor Nancy Tonnessen

On October 1, 2011, approximately 30 people, both Deaf and hearing, joined in a walkathon to raise funds for the Nicaragua Christian School for the Deaf, Coffee House Outreach Center. The school serves 122 Deaf students. The walkathon was sponsored by Evangel Church Deaf Ministries of Scotch Plains, NJ.

The most pressing goal for the school was to complete the construction of a coffee house. At the coffee house Deaf people will be able to relax, chat, eat, drink coffee, watch videos and build a community of Christian Deaf. Construction of the

roof and two outside walls have been completed, but funds were needed to complete the building and purchase materials, including computers for a cyber café.

The financial goal of \$5,000 was surpassed as a result of generous sponsors, and a lot of walking! We are sure that all involved with the Nicaragua Christian School for the Deaf are appreciative of the physical and monetary donations for this outreach center. If you would like to contribute or would like more information about this school, please contact Pastor Nancy Tonnessen at [pastornancy@evangelchurch.com](mailto:pastornancy@evangelchurch.com).

# The Benefits of Preplanning

**T**here are two main reasons to preplan memorial property. The first is emotional and the second is financial. There is always a right way or a wrong way of doing anything. Clearly the wrong way is to have loved ones shopping on what is surely the worst day of their lives. The right way is to preplan.

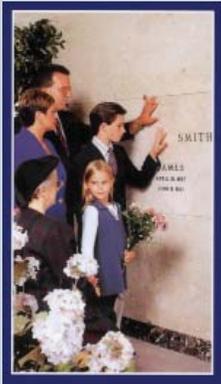
Generally, memorial property doubles in price every seven to ten years, so that the earlier you preplan, the more money you save.

The three options for memorial property are; in the ground burial, cremation, and above the ground mausoleum entombment. Most people are familiar with in ground burial.

We have all been to cemeteries for funerals at one time or another and we have had the frightful experience of a loved one lowered into the grave.

On the other hand above ground entombment in a mausoleum is a choice that many people have heard of but are unfamiliar with because they have not experienced it, or have not investigated it because they think that the cost is prohibitive. The remainder of this article will be devoted to explaining the benefits of mausoleum entombment.

By Lester Kerschner  
*Cedar Park-Beth El Cemeteries,  
Garden of Memories,  
Sanctuary of Abraham & Sarah*



## Facts You Should Know About Mausoleum Property

Mausoleum entombment is above ground burial in a place of worship, a sanctuary. Mausoleums are strong permanent structures containing private compartments known as crypts. Crypts were built to endure through the ages. They are clean, dry and completely sheltered in this protected environment. Made of concrete and steel, marble or granite, they are handsome, rich looking, each having the inscription for your loved one. Family members can choose crypts so that they can be next to each other.

### **I Mausoleum Entombment has All the Advantages Over In Ground Burial**

Completely protected against the elements, (both above and in the ground), crypt entombment is a loving and lasting tribute to those you love. There is a feeling of warmth, closeness, and dignity. Mausoleums provide a clean, majestic shrine to those you love.

### **I Mausoleum Entombment Costs Less Than In Ground Burial**

A crypt is a one time cost. There are no hidden or added expenses such as plots, vaults, planting, monuments, headstones or footstones. No annual cost, no annual upkeep.

### **I Mausoleum Entombment Fights Inflation**

As the cost of living goes up, so does the cost of care, labor and building materials. Since crypts are a one time cost, you avoid the rising cost of care, planting and monuments.

### **I Mausoleum Entombment is Becoming the Choice of More and More People Today**

Crypt burial dates back to biblical times. Many people of different faiths, social and economic backgrounds are preferring above ground burial for all the reasons you've read here.

### **I Not Only for the Wealthy**

Thanks to easy terms, a one-time cost, cost less than in ground burial, families of modest means can now afford entombment space.



ASL interpreter will be provided upon request.  
For additional information please  
contact: [info@nj-cem.com](mailto:info@nj-cem.com)

# For Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in New Jersey

By Annmarie Buraczeski,  
Cape May County,  
Insurance Processor

**A**s a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Emergency Preparedness Coordinator of New Jersey Association of the Deaf and certified member of the Community Emergency Response Team, I proudly welcome eight new deaf and hard of hearing residents including, myself, of Atlantic and Cape May Counties to be the first deaf and hard of hearing residents of New Jersey to become certified CERT members. The CERT training class will be provided by your city or county office of emergency management. The class will be free along with the materials, and usually lasts about 10-12 weeks. An interpreter can also be provided if we have enough deaf



and hard of hearing residents of each county. During the class, you'll learn a lot about the disaster preparedness, fire suppression, disaster medical operations (Part 1 & Part 2 including

CPR & AED), light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology and team organization. Please contact me if you're interested in joining the CERT training class which is coming soon in your area. Anyone can join. I feel that I can help deaf and hard of hearing residents and tourists who often visit our South Jersey Shore area in any event of disaster.

Dan Crisham of Atlantic County,

Case Worker: "I'm proud to be a CERT member to make our communities safe and help people in need!"

Danny Hangstorfer of Atlantic County, Municipal Water Department Foreman: "I really enjoy the CERT class. Learn a lot about CPR, AED, etc., so I can help a lot of people in both hearing and deaf communities as well as my work."

Joseph Marriner of Cape May County, Handyman and Missionary Volunteer: "I learned a lot about safety for storm, electric, flood, etc., so I can help people be safe."

Kathleen Reese of Cape May County, Animal Rescue Volunteer: "CERT training class was informative, fun and a great learning experience. The training I received will enable me to better help the community and my family."

Mike Anderson of Cape May County, Plumber: "It's a great experience for me to help the others in case of emergency."

Mike Pluguez of Atlantic County, Fire Safety Officer & Handyman: "The CERT class is excellent! CERT is good for everybody to know about safety."

Steve Klinger of Atlantic County, Casino Worker and President of Atlantic Society of the Deaf: "I learn a lot about how to survive through the disaster. I now have confidence to help people at the casino where I work."

## We Are the Champions



*New Jersey Deaf Soccer's tournament championship wins in Washington D.C. this past November.*

# NJDEAF Holds Conferences

By Alicia Cristiani, NJDEAF, Inc. Promotions Coordinator, Fall 2011 Conference

In March 2011, New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, Inc. (NJDEAF, Inc.) held their annual conference, *Professional Learning Communities in Deaf Education: A Blueprint for Collaboration, Part I*. After such high attendance, feedback from conference participants, and great interest in a follow-up conference, NJDEAF, Inc. quickly began preparation for Part II. A date and location were decided, the keynote and guest speakers were locked in, and co-chairpersons Dr. Candi Mascia Reed and Ms. Melanie Phillips led their colleagues through the process of planning the next event.

On September 24, 2011, NJDEAF, Inc. welcomed a diverse group of professionals who work with students who are deaf and hard of hearing from across the state of New Jersey to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) for their fall conference entitled *Professional Learning Communities in Deaf Education: A Blueprint for Collaboration, Part II*. MRESC continues to graciously offer their facilities as the site of NJDEAF, Inc. conferences. The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and Therese Sheehan of the Office of Programs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing collaborated with NJDEAF, Inc. once again for Part II. The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) provided the communication services throughout the day.

Conference participants included teachers of the deaf, educational sign language interpreters, program coordinators, and school administrators who were eager to discuss Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as they relate to students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The morning session began as Dr. Mascia Reed showed videos of successful PLCs in action. Following Dr. Mascia Reed, NJDEAF, Inc. was honored to have the keynote speaker, Carol Albritton, Teacher Quality Coordinator from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education, return for Part II. She offered her expertise and topics for discussion in her presentation entitled Cornerstones



of a Highly Functioning Professional Learning Community. The three characteristics of an effective PLC are strong leadership, team collaboration, and the use of student data to inform PLC teams.

Part II also welcomed a guest speaker, Joan Cohen, a representative from the New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NJRID). Her presentation was entitled *The Educational Interpreter as a Member of the Collaborative Team*, and it highlighted the various educational team members who must work closely with educational sign language interpreters while educating the deaf or hard of hearing student. Each of these professional interactions is unique and should take place on a regular basis. Ms. Cohen also stressed that the interpreter must be knowledgeable of federal and state laws, as well as district, school, and classroom requirements. NJDEAF, Inc. was honored to have Ms. Cohen as a guest speaker for Part II.

During the afternoon session, conference participants were first divided into three groups to discuss leadership, collaborative learning teams, and the use of data in connection to PLCs already taking place in their schools and programs. They offered information on what is currently working well in their PLCs and how the execution of effective

PLCs is contributing to the education of students who are deaf and hard of hearing. In addition, participants brainstormed steps that can be taken to address the challenges of creating PLCs with strong leadership, teams of collaborating professionals, and the use of student data. Ms. Albritton and Ms. Cohen circulated through the groups. Toward the end of the afternoon session, participants reconvened as moderators and scribes presented their groups' discussions. Dr. Mascia Reed offered some closing statements, and Ms. Phillips announced that the annual spring NJDEAF, Inc. conference topic will relate to technology in the deaf education classroom.

NJDEAF, Inc. would like to extend a great thank you to the DDHH for their communication services. In addition, NJDEAF, Inc. would like to thank the MRESC for their continued hospitality. Both organizations have shown tremendous amounts of support and generosity to NJDEAF, Inc.

To be a part of the NJDEAF Committee or to join the NJDEAF Coordinator Team for the Spring 2012 conference, please contact either Ms. Melanie Phillips at [melmark59@gmail.com](mailto:melmark59@gmail.com), or Dr. Candi Mascia Reed at [canree@bergen.org](mailto:canree@bergen.org).

For more information on NJDEAF, Inc. and our upcoming conference, please visit [www.njdeaf.com](http://www.njdeaf.com).

# DHS Budget Forum Draws Many Speakers

**O**n Friday, December 9, 2011 in Hamilton the NJ Department of Human Services held its annual budget forum. This event offers the community to provide input on the department's budget planning for State Fiscal Year 2013 which begins on July 1 2012. The commissioner of the department, Jennifer Velez, along with other administration officials listened carefully to the many constituents who presented their views on which programs they supported. Some of these presenters advocated for family members with addiction



*Michelle Cline, LCSW, presents on behalf of the New Jersey Association of the Deaf.*



*DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez, center, and other key staff take notes on input from the community.*



*Linda Schaab, nominated member of the DDHH Advisory Council, speaks on behalf of the Hearing Loss Association of NJ.*

problems, gambling compulsions, those who have developmental issues, mental illness, homelessness, et. al. Linda Schaab, president-elect for the Hearing Loss Association of NJ and Michelle Cline, President of the New Jersey Association Deaf testified that they work very closely with the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in providing services to those with hearing loss in New Jersey.



*American Sign Language Interpreter Monica Ayer, and Realtime Court Reporter Jeanette Voight provide communication access.*

## Budget by the Numbers

The ***New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH)*** is the principal state agency established by New Jersey Law (PL 1977, C. 166) on behalf of people of all ages who are deaf and hard of hearing. The division provides education, advocacy and direct services to eliminate barriers and promote increased accessibility to programs, services, and information routinely available to the state's general population. There are about 850,000 New Jersey residents with varying degrees of hearing loss ranging from mild to profound. This includes individuals who are born deaf and people who encounter late-stage hearing loss. DDHH maintains up-to-date and constructive resources on hearing loss including communication access referral services, technical assistance, equipment distribution, stakeholder communications and advocacy.

**DIVISION BUDGET: \$1,000,000**  
**(state funds)**

**DIVISION STAFF: 9**

# Communicator Signboard

New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. presents



## Cupcake Wars Contest

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**  
Snow date, Saturday, February 11, 2012

East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center (off Ryders Lane)  
East Brunswick NJ 08816

Contest at 1 p.m.

To Enter the Cupcake Wars Contest:  
Send your email, name, and name of recipe to  
**Annmarie Burazczeski at burazeski@juno.com with**  
"Subject: Cupcake Wars" before January 29, 2012

### Cupcake Wars Contest Rules:

- a) Make 2 dozen cupcakes  
b) Appearance    c) Creative    d) Taste

Arrive at the library at 12:30 p.m. to prepare yourself on the table, you will be called to present to the judges. The judges' moderator will announce the winner and the winner will receive a generous gift. All cupcakes will be on sale for the public to help with NJAD Fundraising.

## Roundtable Meeting

All organization's leaders such as President,  
Vice President are invited.  
(Invitation should be received by your organization)  
**Saturday, February 4, 2012**  
Snow date: Saturday, February 11, 2012

Door opens at 9:30 a.m.  
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
at the East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center (off Ryders Lane)  
East Brunswick NJ 08816

More info: Contact Michelle Cline  
at [president@njdeaf.org](mailto:president@njdeaf.org)

NJAD General Meeting  
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NJAD members and guests are invited. You can bring your lunch and beverage to the meeting. Lunch will also be available for purchase.

*What is the purpose of the Roundtable Discussion?*  
It is to help identify issues that deaf and hard of hearing individuals are experiencing and establishing priorities for NJAD to address for the next two years.

## 2nd Annual Day School 14 hour Deaf Fishing Trip For Cod Fish March 24, 2012 3 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Jamaica II 800 Ashley Ave. Brielle, NJ  
Our first time deaf group on a party boat charter.  
Regular price: **\$85** Capt. Joe's discount: **\$75**  
Includes rented fishing pole;

add \$10 for pool who will win the biggest fish.  
You may bring, your own fishing pole, food, and drink with cooler. Bring another cooler or totes for fish and warmer clothes.

RSVP Deadline: **March 11, 2012**

Att: Send a check for \$75 dollars, no cash please, to:  
Att: Fishing Trip - Richard Kish,  
15 Ethel Pl., Metuchen NJ 08840

Info; [WHITEMOOSE60@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WHITEMOOSE60@GMAIL.COM) or VP 866-957-1016  
Welcome family, older kids, women, retired, and interpreters.  
Capt. Joe needs 40 to 60 people. Hosted by Richard Kish

Diverse Deaf Club of New Jersey, Inc.  
host

## 2012 Super Bowl Party & Dingo

at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church  
1740 Route 130, North Brunswick NJ  
Saturday, February 4, 2012

If snowstorm/icy weather, we will close.

Door Opens at 5 p.m.  
Member \$10 Non-Member \$12  
**Don't forget to pay your membership dues.**

### SUPER BOWL

Vote which team will win the 2012 Super Bowl!  
Pizza Menu at 5:30 p.m.

Plain slice \$2.00 Pepperoni slice \$2.50

Desserts are **FREE**

Hot/Cold Beverage & 50-50 Donation on Sale

**DINGO at 7 p.m.**

Any questions, contact President Jackie at  
[DDCNJPres@optonline.net](mailto:DDCNJPres@optonline.net)

# Communicator Signboard

## America Sign Language Bowling Association

Proudly hosts

### 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, Jan 28, 2012

4:30 p.m.

310 Augusta Street  
South Amboy, NJ



Our own delicious meal will start at 4 p.m.

We will be serving ziti, meatballs, sausages, salad, garlic bread, soda, coffee, tea and desserts

**\$10 adult      \$ 5 per child (under age 12)**  
**FREE (under age 5)**

Game and prizes for adults and children

L.C.R. & King Power Game

Chairperson: Kevin Fennessy

VP: 732-707-0378

T.H.E. Poker Tournament

(any questions – call Kevin at number above)

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 at 7 p.m.

\$50 buy in, 7,500 chips

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

([www.njccdsite.org](http://www.njccdsite.org))

proudly presents

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

## Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament and Wingo Affair

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Park VFW - 6 Veterans Place

Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407

Doors Open 5:00 p.m.- Registration

Wingo Game starts at 5:30 p.m. sharp

Player Registration Form - \$60 dollars with 10,000 chips

Notice: \$10 dollars proceed to Bowling Fund and \$50 dollars for poker prizes. Re-buy chips before Level 4. Notice that additional cash will go to bowling fund, not included in the poker prizes.

2,500 chips for \$25 dollars      1,000 chips for \$10 dollars  
2,000 chips for \$20 dollars      500 chips for \$5 dollars  
1,500 chips for \$15 dollars

Refreshments will be provided

Chairman - John Rivera, Leonard Amato and The Committees

Admission: \$10 dollars

Info: John at 732-707-0384 or [Acepoker12@aol.com](mailto:Acepoker12@aol.com)

## New Jersey Black Deaf Advocates is proudly hosting 4th Biennial Eastern Regional Black Deaf Advocates Conference



### “Our Future is in Our Hands”

July 13-15, 2012

Holiday Inn

701 Stelton Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Welcome Reception      Free Breakfast      Entertainment  
Exhibition Booth      Workshops      Dinner  
and More!

#### Early Bird Combo

Deadline: February 29, 2012

Member \$65

Senior Citizen (55+) /Student \$55

Non-Member \$75

Senior Citizen (55+) /Student \$65

#### Regular Combo

Deadline: April 30, 2012

Member \$75

Senior Citizen (55+) /Student \$65

Non-Member \$85

Senior Citizen (55+) /Student \$75

#### Late Combo

Deadline: July 5, 2012

Member \$85

Senior Citizen (55+) /Student \$75

Non-Member \$95

Senior Citizen (55+) /Student \$85

For more information, please contact us: Registration Coordinators - Ivy Fowler & Roxann Richards E-mail: [erc12.reg@gmail.com](mailto:erc12.reg@gmail.com)

# Religious Access

## 2<sup>Nd</sup> Annual Catholic DEAFEST

March 24, 2012  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free Admission

The St. John Neumann  
Conference and Banquet Center  
146 Metlars Lane  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

■ Workshops, Exhibits and Mass

■ Continental Breakfast & Lunch Provided  
(No Cost)

*Registration is a must so we can order your food.*

### Exhibit Information:

Contact Betty Ann Krumm at  
[mwdbak@yahoo.com](mailto:mwdbak@yahoo.com)

### Advertising in Program:

Contact Kathy Kady-Hopkins at  
[kathykadyhopkins@aol.com](mailto:kathykadyhopkins@aol.com)

### Transportation from NJ Transit Train Station Edison:

Contact Deacon Tom Smith at  
[smiththo@rcan.com](mailto:smiththo@rcan.com)

*Hosted by Newark, Paterson, Trenton, Metuchen and  
Camden Ministries with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Accommodations (Check off)

Interpreter:

CART:

ALD:

Tactile:

Email registration to: [CatholicDeafest@aol.com](mailto:CatholicDeafest@aol.com)  
For all other questions: [deafcatholicnj@gmail.com](mailto:deafcatholicnj@gmail.com)  
To get updates go on [www.deafcatholicnj.net](http://www.deafcatholicnj.net)

Religious services will be interpreted for the Deaf at

**Grace Lutheran Church and  
St Matthew's Church for the Deaf**  
2222 Vauxhall Road, Union NJ.



### January Schedule:

**Sunday, January 8 - Interpreted Bible Study following 10:30  
a.m. worship service. Lunch is not provided; therefore please  
bring your own.**

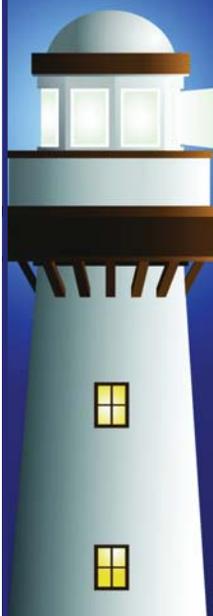
We also have our regular worship services interpreted for the Deaf  
at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday, with Communion service on the first and  
third Sunday's of the month.

This month St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf will be celebrating  
their 75th anniversary. We are still finalizing the date, so please check  
[www.gracelutherannj.org](http://www.gracelutherannj.org) for more detailed information. We would like  
to see as many people as possible help us celebrate this wonderful  
event. If you or someone you know used to worship with St. Matthew's  
when they first began in Newark or during their time in Clifton, please  
share this news with them.

You may contact us at 908-686-3965 Voice; 908-851-2004 TTY; or  
[gracelu4u@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelu4u@yahoo.com). Please visit us at [www.gracelutherannj.org](http://www.gracelutherannj.org)  
for upcoming events such as our next interpreted dinner theatre.

## The Lighthouse Church of Cape May Court House invites you to start the New Year in a new way!

Plug in to the electric worship going on in  
God's house! Church service at 10:45 a.m.  
is interpreted into ASL every Sunday.



1248 Route 9 South, Cape May Court  
House, NJ. Come earlier for a cup of  
coffee from our new "*He Brews*" cafe and  
enjoy conversation with friends. KODAS and  
CODAS are encouraged to come too. We  
have youth programs, Sunday school for kids  
and nursery services available.

For more information, you can contact the  
church office at 609-465-6690 Voice or  
[tlccma@comcast.net](mailto:tlccma@comcast.net), or [www.tlccma.org](http://www.tlccma.org)



NJ Department of Human Services  
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
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Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

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**Dated Material Please Rush**

## *Calendar of Events 2012*

**Friday, January 27, 2012**

**DDHH Advisory Council Meeting**

**Presentation on Medicare**

**9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**East Brunswick Public Library**

**Public is Invited**

**Communication Access Provided**



# Happy New Year

**from the staff at the  
Division of the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing**



**DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Days Closed:**

■ **Monday, January 2 - New Year's Day**

■ **Monday, January 16 - Martin Luther King's Birthday**