

DDHH

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PeopleFIRST
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New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
GOVERNOR

GWENDOLYN L. HARRIS
COMMISSIONER

BRIAN C. SHOMO
DIRECTOR

DDHH Advisory Council

On April 25, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing held its quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Trenton. Theresa Sheehan and David Alexander, from the Department of Education, gave a presentation about the new interpreter guidelines. Thereafter, DDHH logo winner Karrie Hontz received her prizes from the Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Association of Late Deafened Adults-Garden State, The NJ Grange and AT&T Relay Services.



DDHH logo winner Karrie Hontz, second from right, receives prizes from NWJAD representative Bonnie Thomas, left, ALDA-GS Nancy Kingsley, Ira C. Hock, (presenting on behalf of AT&T), and NJ State Grange representative Mr. Johnson.

Did You Know That . . .

If a telemarketer calls, be sure you know what company they represent. If you are not interested, just interrupt and say so. After all, it's your phone and your time. You may also ask to have information mailed to you so you can review it at your convenience. If you don't want any more calls from that company, ask the caller to take your name off their list. If you want to get fewer telephone sales calls from national companies, write to: DMA Telephone Preference Service, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512.



Baby Alert System



The NJ DDHH continues to distribute devices in the First Annual Baby Alert System Program. Parents with hearing loss may request an application by calling the Division at 800-792-8339 V/TTY.

New Bills

A3387 Tucker, Donald and Roberts, Joseph J. are primary sponsors. On 2/27/03, it was introduced and referred to the Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee. There are 26 co-sponsors. The Bill requires health insurers, State Health Benefits Program and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for hearing aids for covered persons 12 years of age and under. For full text, go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillView.asp> and enter bill number.

MC Deadlines

If anyone would like to submit information to be published in the Monthly Communicator, it should be e-mailed to ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us, adhering to the following deadlines: If the event occurs in the beginning of a month it is preferable to advertise one month, in advance.

For July/August combined issue, the deadline is June first. For September issue, the deadline is August first. For October, the deadline is September first.

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

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

OOH, My Back

by Mark Drolsbaugh



Quick, tense your shoulders. Lift them an inch or two higher than normal. Hold this tension for about 15 seconds, then let go. Ahhhh, nice, isn't it? Now tense them again. This time, stick your head forward at an awkward angle and squint. Hold this position for, say, 35 years. Welcome to the world of the hard of hearing.

I never realized being hard of hearing was so exhausting. As a culturally deaf person, I've had the luxury of understanding my signing friends and relatives with minimal effort. Likewise, there are countless hearing people who can easily hold a conversation without even looking at each other. But for the hard of hearing, it can be an entirely different story; one I'd completely forgotten.

Yes, there once was a time when I was not quite hearing and not quite deaf. Spoken English was my language of choice for many years -- but that was so long ago. It wasn't until a mental health professionals' workshop last spring when someone took me back to those lost years of "eh? whazzat?"

Dr. Samuel Trychin, hard of hearing himself, gave a fascinating keynote address. He shared several anecdotes about the hard of hearing experience, including a few hilarious misunderstandings that had everyone chuckling. But as Dr. Trychin pointed out, it was not entirely a laughing matter.

Included in the daily grind of being hard of hearing are some not so funny physical and emotional symptoms. The mental stress of constantly trying to keep up with what people are saying can bring forth some very real problems such as muscle tension, fatigue, high blood pressure, anxiety, irritability, and much more.

As I soaked up all of this information, suddenly I recalled those dreaded days when I had to sit up front, read lips, wear my hearing aid, and still make a fool out of myself with misunderstandings galore. "Holy smokes," I said to a friend sitting next to me. "I'm a recovering HoH!" We laughed but didn't think much about it afterwards.

And then...three months later, I blew out my back lifting heavy furniture. To my relief, an MRI indicated it was not a severe injury. A follow-up evaluation with a physical therapist revealed unusual tightness in the muscles supporting my back. This, more than the heavy furniture, was what caused the trouble. It was like a tight rubber band just about ready to snap, an accident waiting to happen. The heavy lifting simply pushed it over the edge.

Soon afterwards, I came across an intriguing book called Healing Back Pain, by Dr. John Sarno. He insists that a great majority of back problems, save for the rare few serious conditions, are a result of being under too much stress. He even has a name for it: Tension Myositis Syndrome. It often occurs between the ages of 30 and 60, also known as the years of responsibility.

In a nutshell, stubborn morons like me are too proud to admit we're overwhelmed. Instead, it is much easier to go "ooh, my back!" and chill out on the Barcalounger. In my house, "ooh, my back!" can often be heard around 1:00 p.m. on any given Sunday, just in time for the opening kickoff.

Seriously, Dr. Sarno's book clearly demonstrates how a lot of our emotional stress is suppressed and, consequently, emerges in other ways - namely, back pain. Among the symptoms of TMS are muscle tension, fatigue, high blood pressure, anxiety, irritability, and ...wait a minute! Where have we heard this before?

Upon reading Dr. Sarno's findings, I immediately dug up an old transcript of Dr. Trychin's presentation. The physical symptoms of being hard of hearing and of Tension Myositis Syndrome were practically identical. Eureka! I think I just discovered Hard of Hearing Tension Myositis Syndrome.

It makes sense, it really does. Dr. Sarno says our daily stress is a factor in back pain; Dr. Trychin indicates "chronic muscle tension" comes with the territory for the hard of hearing. Dr. Sarno reveals that the "try to please everyone" personality type tends to get TMS, while Dr. Trychin describes some hard of hearing people as "over

(continued on page 4)

The Inclusion of Students with Cochlear Implants in Regular Education Programs

June 23 - 25, 2003

The cochlear implant is an electronic device which is designed to improve the communication of children and adults with severe to profound hearing loss. The cochlear implant includes a surgically implanted internal component and an external speech processor. The College of New Jersey in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, is offering an introductory institute on cochlear implants targeted for regular education teachers, teachers of the deaf, special education child study team members and speech and language specialists.

Summer Institute Topics

The components of the cochlear implant and how they function
The surgical process, mapping and post surgical considerations
The different types of cochlear implants
Aural (Re) habilitation and auditory training curricula
Acoustical modifications for classroom environments
FM systems and assistive technology for students with cochlear implants
Collaboration strategies between implant teams, regular education and special education personnel
Effective classroom strategies for students with cochlear implants
Auditory training and speech curricula for elementary and secondary students
Development of IEP goals and objectives



The cost is \$325 for the three days. The daily schedule is 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Lunch and morning coffee is provided at no additional cost.
16.5 NJ Professional Development Hours are available.

For more information: <http://www.tcnj.edu/~educat/pdsn/summer2.pdf> or call Ms. Brown at (609) 771-2408 Voice or (609) 637- 5117 Fax.

Sign language interpreters will be available upon request. This request should be made along with your registration for the institute.

OOH, My Back (continued from page 3)

functioning” and feeling “totally responsible for communication.” The parallel between these two guys is uncanny.

So, if you are hard of hearing and you have some kind of back or neck pain, I strongly suggest reading up on both Dr. Trychin and Dr. Sarno. And, as both of them suggest, you could benefit from an attitude overhaul.

Face it, you are who you are. If other people have a problem with it, tough cookies. As Dr. Trychin pointed out, a lot of hard of hearing people place the burden on themselves. The truth is, communication is a two-way street. Understand this, and don't kick yourself in the butt when Mr. Walrus Mustache mumbles something you can't understand. Other people need to meet you halfway - and if they don't, they're not worth your time.

And while the focus of this article is on the hard of hearing, I don't think the culturally deaf are immune to

Hard of Hearing Tension Myostitis Syndrome, either. Many deaf people have grown up in families where few or no people sign. Many have been pressured into accepting a communication method that is not comfortable for them.

Either way, deaf or hard of hearing, it's time you start being nice to yourself. Loosen up and get yourself to the gym or a health spa (note: as with any exercise program, check with your doctor before you start). Get a massage, jump in the hot tub, or burn off stress by hitting the weights. Any form of exercise and relaxation training will do you good.

Well, I'm cured now. I never knew that my school days of sitting up front, hunching my shoulders, reading lips, and trying to fit in with the hearing folks would cause my back to go kablooy several years later. But again, I'm fine. Wish I could stay, but here comes the wife asking me to get off the computer and throw out the trash.

Jobs Available

Ocean County College seeks a full-time faculty member to teach in the college's Interpreter Training Program which begins its second year in fall, 2003. Courses include: ASL (all levels); ASL Syntax and Grammar; Finger spelling; American Deaf Culture and History; Introduction to Interpreting; Sign to Voice; Voice to Sign; and Interpreting Lab/Practicum. The anticipated starting date is September, 2003. Master's degree is preferred from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning in the field of specialization plus two years teaching experience, preferably at the community college level. Required teaching load of 15 credit hours each semester, plus scheduled office hours. Advise and recruit students. Participate on college committees. Teach courses assigned and participate in curriculum development. The application deadline is June 19, 2003. Send application/resume, transcripts and three letters of reference to: Ocean County College, Human Resources Department, P.O.B. 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754 - 2001, e-mail; Lmorrocco@ocean.edu, 732-255-0516 Fax



ASL students - ITP or Deaf Studies, Volunteers Wanted - The New Brunswick Public Schools Adult Learning Center is looking for volunteers to assist the teacher and aide in the Deaf Adult Basic Skills (DBS) class. The class is designed to assist those in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities who are looking to enhance their English reading and writing skills as well as improving their proficiency in basic math. Please contact Anna Trudeau-Smith at hapsmith@peoplepc.com or Leslie Kriff at lskriff@aol.com for further information and directions. Volunteers for the class should be enrolled in or have completed an ITP/Deaf Studies program (2nd year or better) and/or have good signing skills. The class meets every Monday and Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Center is located at 268 Baldwin Street, 2nd Floor, New Brunswick.

New York Society for the Deaf Has the Following Vacancies

All positions At NYSD require fluency in American Sign Language. Send letter of intent and resume to: New York Society for the Deaf, Human Resources Department, 161 William Street, 11th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10038. Fax: (212) 777-5740, lsivigny@nysd.org.

Project liberty staff interpreter: A special project position willing to commit to 21 hours a week on a flex schedule, responsible for interpreting in various settings as part of outreach efforts by Deaf staff. Traveling required throughout the Metro NYC area. Seeking someone with at least three years of professional interpreting and NAD level 5 of American Sign Language skills. RID certified preferred. Position includes medical and dental benefits.

Residential Supervisor: A full-time position, responsible for providing supervision to Residential Counselors in the Tanya Towers Treatment Apartment program which provides psychiatric residential treatment to individuals. BA degree required; two years experience in mental health/deafness setting and some supervisory experience.

HUD Service Coordinator: A full-time position, responsible for coordinating services for tenants who reside in the Tanya Towers Building. Responsible for monitoring the Kosher Lunch Program and provide supervision to volunteers. BA required in the human services field. One year of work experience and possess knowledge in providing case management services to adults who are Deaf/Deaf Blind, Seniors, HIV+ or living with Aids, Substance Abuse, Developmentally Disabled, and/or Mentally ill.

Substance Abuse Counselor: A part-time position. Counselor would be responsible for providing individual, group sessions, and case management services. CASAC and MA preferred but will accept BA in human services with one + years of experience of counseling, intakes, assessment, referrals, record maintenance, and outreach services related to substance abuse.

Office Manager: A part-time position, responsible for maintaining and trouble shooting the office computers, telephones and TTYs and other office equipment, as well as ordering supplies. Ideal candidate would be someone who has IT experience, proficiency in computer technology, excellent time management skills. Must also be organized and detailed-oriented to handle multiple projects at one time.

CPR Training Workshop

On March 29, 2003, the Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, (NWJAD) and the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

(DDHH) proudly co-sponsored their first CPR Training Workshop for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This was held at the Lakeland

Hills YMCA in Mountain Lakes, NJ. Participants were divided up and put into different classrooms so that it would be easier to learn with a small group in each class.



DDHH generously provided two interpreters for each group. The training included Adult, Child and Infant CPR. It was a good opportunity for people with hearing loss to take this important training to learn how to save lives. This class was taught by the American Red Cross Certified Instructors. It was an amazing learning experience. NWJAD is very grateful to the DDHH Staff for their support, for making possible this important workshop!



ASL Stories at CCC

On Thursday, March 13, students from the Deaf Culture Club (DCC) at Camden County College's Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presented ASL Stories to Deaf and hard of hearing children from two local elementary schools. The students, many of whom are DCC officers, invited third and fourth graders from the Gloucester County Special Services School and pre-schoolers and elementary students from Moorestown Baker Elementary School. There were 25 children and 35 adults, including teachers, teachers' aides, college students and parents in attendance.

The young children were spellbound as stories came to life in characteristic ASL animation. The audience was immersed in versions of "Goldie Locks and the Three Bears," "Little Red Riding Hood," "The Three Pigs," and some original creations.

Many deaf and hard of hearing children who attend mainstream school programs don't have an opportunity to see stories in pure American Sign Language. Dianne Falvo, assistant professor and co-advisor for the Deaf Culture Club, and Rachel McGarry, a teacher for the Gloucester County Special School district, worked together to set up this activity. It was a perfect opportunity for the members of DCC to provide a community service by bringing ASL stories to deaf and hard of hearing children. Deaf Culture Club members were excited to have the opportunity to share their culture with young children.

After the stories, club officers and members played games with the children. Teachers from both schools and DCC members hope that ASL Stories will become an annual event! The storytellers were: Christopher Rippert, Deaf Culture Club President, Suzy Colon, Vice President, Roberto Davila, Student Council Representative, Jessica Weiner, Treasurer, Kadijatu Conteh, Mark Marquez and Brandon Beltran, DCC members.



UCC – SIGNS Club Host ASL FEST!

Using the theme “Deafway II,” the Union County College SIGNS Club hosted its annual ASL Festival on April 5th at the Cranford campus. More than 30 exhibits and vendors were present while hundreds of deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing patrons crowded the county college’s lobby from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. People attending the event were able to find information about NJ DDHH, Sprint Video Relay, AT&T Relay, Columbia University, Union County College, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and other programs that serve the deaf and hard of hearing. People also were able to try the unique flavors of the Asian Deaf Club’s popular cui-



Sam Trychin Workshop Draws Many Listeners

On Saturday April 26, 2003, DDHH sponsored Sam Trychin who presented a three-hour version of his famous *Living with Hearing Loss* workshop at the NJ Library for the Blind and Handicapped in West Trenton. The event was well attended by 50 hard of hearing, deaf, family members, DVR counselors, teachers, interpreters and other service providers who filled the room and heard Sam discuss helpful and positive methods by which to cope with hearing loss. Though the focus was on the individual who is hard of hearing or deaf, Sam's hints also included how the hearing can better cope with the hearing loss.



DDHH Co-Sponsors First Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Day at NJ State Museum

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing co-sponsored the first Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Day at the NJ State Museum. Thanks to the wonderful people at the museum, adults and children with hearing loss were able to enjoy gallery tours, kids programs, a laser show, and a planetarium show. The Division provided CART, Interpreters, and ALDS throughout the day. In this day and age, such learning is invaluable and total communication access allows for this to happen. The NJ State Museum and NJ DDHH look to sponsor another Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Day in October. Details are still being ironed out but will be posted in a future issue of the Monthly Communicator.



Chairman Powell Names Members of FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee; *Agenda and Schedule Announced*

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has named the 35 members of the FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) and has named Shirley Rooker, President of Call for Action, to be the Chair. The first meeting was scheduled for April 25. The predecessor advisory committee was the Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee (C/DTAC), which had been operating for two years. The Committee was rechartered as the Consumer Advisory Committee to reflect the broader scope of its responsibilities.

During the CAC's two-year term, the Committee will address a number of topics including: consumer protection and education (e.g., cramming, slamming, consumer friendly billing, detariffing, bundling of services, Lifeline/Linkup programs, customer service, privacy, telemarketing abuses, and outreach to underserved populations, such as American Indians and persons living in rural areas); access by people with disabilities (e.g., telecommunications relay services, closed captioning, accessible billing, and access to telecommunications products and services); impact upon consumers of new and emerging technologies (e.g., availability of broadband, digital television, cable, satellite, low power FM, and the convergence of these and emerging technologies); and implementation of Commission rules and consumer participation in the FCC rulemaking process.

The Commission received more than 100 applications for Committee membership from 28 states and the District of Columbia. After a careful review of these applications, 35 members were appointed to the Committee (30 organizational members and five individual members). This group is representative of the FCC's many constituencies and the expertise and diversity of those selected will provide a balanced point of view as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Future meetings of the Committee during calendar year 2003 will take place on Friday, July 11, and Thursday, November 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Commission's Headquarters Building, Room TW-C305, 445, 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554. Meetings are broadcast on the Internet in Real Audio/Real Video format with captioning at www.fcc.gov/cgb/cac. Meetings are sign language interpreted with real-time transcription and assistive listening devices are available. Meeting agendas and handout materials are provided in accessible formats.

The members of the Committee are:

1. AARP, Jeff Kramer, Senior Legislative Representative;
2. Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians Economic Development Corp., Cheryl Johnson, and Tribal Telephone Outreach Coordinator;
3. Alliance for Public Technology, Matthew D. Bennett, Public Policy Director;
4. American Council of the Blind, David Poehlman, Technology Access Consultant;
5. AT&T Corp., Michael F. Del Casino, Regulatory Director;
6. BellSouth, Cindy Cox, Senior Director-Regulatory & External Affairs, Retail Markets;
7. Brugger Consulting, David Brugger, President & CEO;
8. Call For Action, Shirley L. Rooker, President (CAC Chair);
9. Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, Andrea Williams, Assistant General Counsel;
10. Cingular Wireless, Susan Palmer, Director, Federal Regulatory Affairs;
11. Consumer Policy Consulting, Debra Berlyn, President;
12. Consumers First, Inc., Jim Conran, President;
13. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Action Network, Claude Stout;
14. Mike Duke (representing interests of blind or visually impaired persons, licensed radio amateur operators, and management of audio information services for the blind);
15. Fight Back Foundation for Consumer Education, David Horowitz, and Chairman;
16. Stephen Gregory (representing interests of persons with hearing loss and small business owners);
17. Hamilton Telephone Company, dba Hamilton Relay Service, Dixie Ziegler, Director of Relay;
18. Hometown Online, subsidiary of Warwick Valley Telephone Company, Donald Snoop, Managing Director;
19. Rebecca Ladew (representing the interests of users of speech-to-speech technology);
20. League for the Hard of Hearing, Joseph Gordon, Chair, Telecommunications Committee;
21. LTC Consulting/Teletruth, Thomas Allibone, President and Director of Auditing;
22. MCI, Annette Cleckner, Senior Manager, Consumer Affairs;
23. Media Access Group, WGBH, Larry Goldberg, Director;
24. National Association of Broadcasters, Karen Kirsch, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs;
25. National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, Ronald Mallard, Director, Fairfax County Department of Cable Communications & Consumer Protection;
26. National Association of State Relay Administration, Brenda Kelly-Frey, TRS Administrator-State of Maryland;
27. National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, Joy M. Ragsdale, Assistant People's Counsel, Washington, D.C.;
28. National Consumers League, Susan Grant, Vice President for Public Policy;
29. National Translator Association, Byron W. St. Clair, President;
30. National Urban League, Milton J. Little, Jr., Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer;
31. Mark Pranger, (representing the interests of academia and consumers concerned with telecommunication service in rural America);
32. San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utility, Inc., Vernon R. James, General Manager;
33. Telecommunications Industry Association, Eugene Seagriff, Product Accessibility Manager, Product Safety & Compliance Division, Panasonic Technologies, Inc.;
34. Verizon Communications, Richard T. Ellis, Director, Federal Regulatory Advocacy; and
35. Linda West (representing the interests of the Native American community and other consumers concerned with telecommunication services in rural America)

NJ Relay Service

The telephone service
keeping New Jersey's deaf
and hard-of-hearing connected.



Whether online or using a TTY (text telephone), NJ Relay Service connects you to an AT&T relay operator who places your call and relays your communications to family, friends and businesses.

To make a call using NJ Relay Service:

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- Fast, reliable operator connections
- Availability in English and Spanish
- Equipped with personal user settings

Or call

TTY Users: Dial 711

- Free relay service throughout NJ
- Fast, reliable operator connections
- Availability in English and Spanish

Get in touch with NJ Relay Service and see for yourself!

DIAL 711
click att.com/relay/nj

New Jersey Relay Service

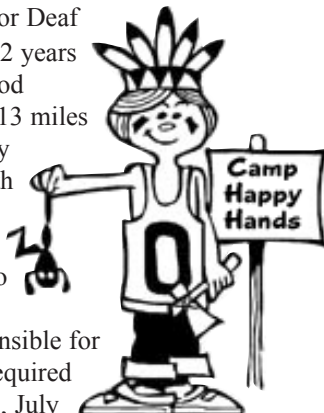
The phone service keeping NJ's deaf and hard-of-hearing in touch with New Jersey



AT&T Consumer

Events Around the Towns . . .

Happy Hands offers a 4-week Day Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children between 5 and 12 years of age. The camp will be held on the Blackwood Campus of Camden County College. Located 13 miles from Camden, the 320-acre campus is centrally located for students living throughout the South Jersey area. Happy Hands Camp is staffed with fully qualified individuals who have years of experience working with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Camp will provide snacks and beverages. Campers are responsible for bringing their own lunches. A \$10 deposit is required (non-refundable). **Dates:** July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1 **Times:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday; **Cost:** \$100 per week - Children may enroll for two or four weeks. **Activities:** Swimming, sports, computers, arts and crafts, language development, field trips, and much more. Info: Kathy Earp at (856) 227-7200 ext. 4255 Voice, (856) 374-4855 TTY, 856-374-5003 Fax or kearp@camdencc.edu.



Here is the Deaf Golf Association League Schedule for 2003. If interested in receiving a flyer on any of these events, please contact the League Chairperson at RickRadNJ@AOL.com
June 8 - Farmstead,
July 13 - Beaver Brook,
August 17 - Spooky Brook,
September 14 - High Bridge,
October 12 - TBA.



Access to Religious Events

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Newark, NJ c/o Grace Lutheran Church and School, 2222 Vauxhall Road Union, NJ 07083. Every Sunday there is Sunday School for children, both hearing and deaf, at 9:15 a.m. with an interpreter. Following, there is a church service at 10:30 a.m. for both hearing and deaf with an interpreter. Grace Lutheran Church will have its annual picnic on June 22 following the 9:30 a.m. worship service (summer schedule) at Rapkin Park in Union. The charge is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. For summer only, the workshop service at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. from June 22 to after Labor Day will be regular time as stated above. The pastor is Rev. Donald L. Brand. For information, contact the office at (908) 686-3965 Voice, (908) 686-5111 Fax or the parsonage at (908) 686-4269 Voice. Dial-A-Meditation every evening at (908) 686-3965 Voice or gracelu4u@yahoo.com.



Events promoted by Creative Access, 100 S. Broad Street, Suite 1515, Philadelphia, PA 19110 include the following. For additional information, contact (215) 569-8311 V/TTY or craccess@aol.com. For complete details, please go to www.creativeaccess.org.

June 20 - "A Picasso"
 Philadelphia Theater Company - captioned
June 26 - 29 - National Association of Black Interpreters (NABI) Conference
 Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia.
June 29 - July 5 - International Catholic Deaf Association U.S. Conference Camp Overbook
 'In Sign' 2003 - A summer day camp for Deaf/hard of hearing children.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

National Immunization Information Hotline

The CDC National Immunization Information Hotline (NIIH) provides toll-free information services, publications, and referrals about vaccine-preventable diseases in English, Spanish, and TTY. Health Communication Specialists are available to answer individual questions from callers throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Information Services - Parents, providers, and the general public can call NIIH to: learn more about vaccine preventable disease; ask about vaccine recommendations and schedules for children, adolescents and adults; learn more about the immunization resources available; and obtain information about possible vaccine side effects and vaccine safety.

Referrals - The referral database can help you locate county health departments, migrant health centers, low cost or free immunization resources, community-based organizations, coalitions, regional and national groups, minority health organizations, and other toll-free telephone services.

Publications - Call and order free educational materials at various reading levels, and in other languages, publications for parents, publications for providers, videos for education and training, posters for clinics and offices.

Contact: Edgar Villanueva, Health Promotions Coordinator at (919) 361-4851 Voice for more information or www.vaccines.ashastd.org or call the hotline at 800-243-7889 TTY, 800-232-2522 Voice English, 800-232-0233 Voice Spanish Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Belonging . . .

By MaryAnne Kowalczyk,
The Communication Connection, Clifton, NJ

To parents, guardians, caregivers who have children with a hearing loss and the professionals who provide services to them:

As you begin your journey with your child attempting to do the best that you can with the information you gather, please take note that many children with a hearing loss usually find themselves associating with those in the Deaf community when they become adults. This is not a terrible thing. It is the one place where they find social contact that is not strained, communication that is not impeded by the limits of technology, patience when they need additional clarification, and a sense of belonging.

Before you make any long-term decisions, please read a short book titled, *A Place of Their Own: Creating the Deaf Community in America* by John Vickrey Van Cleave and Barry A. Crouch, written in 1989. It's a fascinating history of this unique community. It provides views of the Deaf from centuries ago, the attempts at Deaf education prior to the establishment of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford in 1817, Alexander Graham Bell's efforts to eradicate deafness through U.S. legislation, and the history through to 1988.

Many hearing parents, as well as those formerly hearing, who lose their hearing later, really don't know much about Deaf people and life within the Deaf community.

Do you know . . .

the Bollings of Virginia?

John Braidwood whose family administered the Braidwood Academy in England where American children who were Deaf were sent for education?

Laurent Clerc, a deaf teacher who was French, and was brought to the U.S. by Thomas Gallaudet to the American School for the Deaf in Connecticut in 1817?

about other Deaf schools that were started in North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and many other states by graduates of ASD?

John J. Flournoy who wanted to establish a Deaf Nation?

Abraham Lincoln who signed the proclamation for Gallaudet College (now Gallaudet University)?

the *American Annals of the Deaf*, a publication from the 1800s that is still published today?

the National Association of the Deaf founded in the 1800s?

the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (still in existence today) founded because life insurance companies believed the Deaf were too much of a risk to insure?

the Milan Congress? George Veditz? Douglas Tilden? I. King Jordan.?

This is a rich history that describes a culture and a community to which the young child of today may belong in the future.

This request is tendered because of meeting so many young Deaf and hard of hearing adults during my past 12 years of advocacy work. These are individuals who were raised oral, still speak when necessary, and employ signs for ease in communication and in discussion with them. However, they know nothing of this rich heritage. What a loss!

In today's world, there is the movement toward understanding ethnic diversity and encouragement for learning about the accompanying cultural differences of each group.

Many parents, who have been blessed with having a child who is deaf or hard of hearing as part of their family, know nothing about the culture to which they and/or their child may someday turn for comfort and socialization; the comfort and socialization that the child with a hearing loss, of any degree, in the hearing world, misses each day they live their life in a hearing world.

Consider this a positive experience. You may be truly amazed at what you discover. You may have a completely different perspective about deafness after reading this small book. There is nothing to fear when trying to learn about that which we do not know.

ASL & Music - Perfect Together!

By Gail Tornquist, Union County College; student extern for DDHH

The floor was vibrating and the audience was spellbound as Mark Mitchum used “Sign Art” to convey the meaning of songs heard with the ears, seen with the eyes, and ultimately heard by the heart. Mark, who is Deaf, and his co-presenter, Melanie Bell, who is hearing, presented an all-day “Signed Music Workshop” at Evangel Church, in Scotch Plains, NJ on Saturday, March 15th. The 180-member audience consisted of interpreters, students, people who are Deaf, pastors for the Deaf, people interested in sign language, and members of The Deaf Ministry of Evangel Church who worked diligently to make this weekend happen. The evening ended with a concert where Mark performed several songs before an enthusiastic audience.

I took this opportunity to interview both Mark and Melanie, who currently live in Texas, so that we, in New Jersey, could become better acquainted.

Mark Mitchum was born Deaf to a hearing family, consisting of his mom, dad, older sister and older brother. Doctors were never able to determine the cause of his deafness. He began his education in an oral school in Fort Worth, Texas, transferring later to public schools for junior high and high school in Arlington. Mark felt a calling from God to make music meaningful to people who understand American Sign Language. He began by starting a group called Deaf Opportunity Outreach (D.O.O.R.), and later branched out on his own in 1991, creating what is now known as Heartland Ministries. With his hearing aids, Mark can hear the low, bass notes of music. Of course, the stronger the bass, the better!

If you were to view videos that Mark has made over the years, you will see a very tall and hefty man creating this music. Today, you will see a very tall, slim man who, one would never believe, is the same man. Since January 2002 Mark has lost 256 pounds. The beginning of this weight loss was not very pleasant, as in February of ‘02 he had major surgery. After the surgery, he lost a lot of weight because he just couldn’t eat much. This gave him the confidence he needed to continue to lose weight. He joined a gym, started working out, and watching what he ate.

What began as a two-hour workshop has developed into an eight-hour workshop, during which Mark demonstrates how to clarify meaning, use space, movement, expressions, and rhythm to interpret English music into ASL. He gives the audience a brief overview of Deaf Culture and how it affects music interpretation. He recommends that after a person interprets a song, he or she should turn off the music and watch him or herself signing to determine fluidity and clarity of the interpretation. At the end of the workshop, Mark then performs a full concert of a variety of songs, many of which appear on his videos. Mark’s ministry, workshops, and performances are now nationally and internationally known. Melanie Bell grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana. When she was 10 years old, she watched the Miss America pageant and saw a contestant performing a song in sign language. At that moment, her heart was touched and she told her parents that, “God wants me to be involved with Deaf people.” Her mother gave her the book, Talk to the Deaf by Lottie Riekehof (which is now called The Joy of Signing), which she clung to for many years. She made the effort to learn as

much as she could from the book, but never had contact with a Deaf person until she was 15 years old.

She attended an all-night youth lock-in with her youth group in Shreveport. She saw a girl sitting off to the side and decided to introduce herself. The girl indicated that she could not hear. Melanie was flabbergasted - her first encounter with someone who was Deaf, and a very brave young girl she was. The two girls spent the entire night communicating as much as possible. That was the last she saw of that girl, but her heart was drawn even more to people who are Deaf and their language.



When Melanie was 18 years old, she had a summer job at the Internal Revenue Service. One day in the break room, she saw hands moving by a couple of people. They moved so quickly, she couldn’t understand what they were saying, but she swallowed hard, got up the courage to introduce herself. The co-workers who were Deaf signed ASL and with customary patience, they spoke with Melanie daily, inviting her into their conversations. Through those women, Melanie learned much about Deaf Culture.

Subsequently, Melanie joined a church for the Deaf. At a church youth camp, she saw a nice-looking young man who was Deaf, introduced herself, and she is still married to the man she met that day.

She left her family, friends, church, and hometown to join his family, friends, church, and hometown. She got a job right away working for a man who was Deaf. He demanded Exact English signs in the office, her husband signed ASL, and her in-laws did not sign at all. Melanie felt like a puppet on a string, not knowing what was expected of her in each situation. She was a full-time interpreter wherever she went. She felt that she had lost her identity as a hearing person. She was always apologizing for being hearing. She became resentful, and one day, when invited to an event, she purposely wore wild, brightly colored clothes, so that she would not be asked to interpret.

One night, she interpreted at a meeting held by Mark Mitchum. She had a bitter spirit, but was interested in the fact that this Deaf man brought along a tape recorder. She cannot explain what happened that night, but when she saw Mark sign the song, “In Heaven’s Eyes,” her heart broke open and her bitterness was released. She felt God telling her that He had called her to work with people who are Deaf, not for them. As she sat alone praying and healing, Mark Mitchum came up to her and said, “God wanted me to tell you that you have the gift of music in you.” That was in 1989. In 1994, Melanie and her husband moved to Texas to work with Mark.

Melanie now works full-time as an interpreter in a high school and her husband is an import/export agent for Lufthansa Airlines. They have two children, a son who is working full-time, and a daughter attending high school. Besides her interpreting job, Melanie serves as co-presenter and booking manager with Mark Mitchum. She is a Level 2 Interpreter for the State of Texas.

Further information, photos, and contact information can be found at www.markmitchum.com. March 15th was an awesome day of education, laughter, and music that touched the hearts of everyone who attended.

Dawn, INC and St. Clare s Hospital Open House Paves Way for Deaf Seniors

Through the efforts of Lila Taylor (outreach specialist for Dawn, INC) and Bob Queenan, a dream is finally becoming a reality. A place where deaf people can live together in a nursing home that serves and understands them was the dream. The open house sponsored by St. Clare s hospital on April 16th in Dover, NJ, marked the start of a new era. The site s nursing home facility will now accept deaf senior citizens and arrange for them to stay together at the center. To honor the opening of such services at St. Clare s, the North Jersey Community Center for the Deaf, INC (NJCCD) and a NJ resident each donated a TTY to the facility. Currently, there are no deaf residents, but the door has been open for such individuals seeking this type of care. Jack Deniz, an administrator at St. Clare s, looks forward to seeing the deaf population in his center grow. There will be a workshop in June to explain how seeking nursing home care can apply to Medicare and Medicaid benefits. For more information, check out future MC issues.



Communicator Signboard

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN TO DO THIS SUMMER? *COME ONE, COME ALL:*

**The American Association for Deaf-Blind (AADB)
is having their 22nd National Conference
July 12 - 18, 2003 at San Diego State University**

Socialize with Deaf-Blind from all over the COUNTRY,
we have more than 17 workshops, tours to ten attractions,
evening socials, banquets and more . . .

For additional info: <http://www.aadb.org> and click on the conference link.

If you are interested in being a Support Service Provider (SSP) to assist deaf-blind delegates participate fully, send in the same conference registration form from our website.

We have sections on the registration for SSPs to fill out.

We would love to have you! AADB information or donations can be directed to Jamie McNamara, the AADB Executive Director at mail to: info@aadb.org.

Get ready for

CueSign Camp!

July 6 - 11 at Gallaudet

for deaf, hard of hearing and hearing adults, youth and children!

CueSign Camp strives to provide equal knowledge of:

- Cued Language and American Sign Language
- both cultures, in order to achieve a well-rounded environment and the maximum potential academically and socially in the camp setting and beyond.

Cued English classes in the morning; ASL classes in the afternoon, plus a general workshop mid day. Recreation; dorm accommodations; meals included with lodging fee.

Details at <http://www.cuesigncamp.com>

Communicator Signboard

**DAWN Inc. is sponsoring a monthly social meeting for all
Deaf Senior Citizens of Northwest Jersey.**

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saint Clare's Hospital - Dover, 400 W. Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ, 1st Floor, Cafeteria

**Speaker: Ms. Eleanor Gray, MSN, APRN, BC, Supervising Program Support Specialist,
Division of Aging and Community Services, Office of Long Term Care Options, Trenton, NJ**

Topic: Medicaid Eligibility Criteria for Nursing Facility Care

**Following the presentation, there will be a short group tour of the
Nursing Home facilities for those who missed the tour on April 16th.**

ASL interpreter will be provided. Refreshments will be served.

Parking is available in the visitor parking lot. Non-Seniors are welcome.

**Info: Lila Taylor/Deaf Outreach Specialist, DAWN, Inc., 400 South Main Street, Suite #3, Wharton, NJ 07885
or (973) 361-5666 Voice, (973) 361-7086 Fax, (973) 361-6032 TTY**

It's the First Annual Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association

COOKOUT

Come join the fun and taste the best foods!

Saturday, June 21, 2003

Liberty State Park, Morris Pesin Drive, Jersey City, NJ

11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. FREE Parking

For directions to Liberty State Park: www.libertystatepark.com/directio.htm

Member: \$10, Non-member: \$12

\$5 for children over 8 years old, FREE for children under 7 years old

All Proceeds to Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association FUND

make check payable to "Jennifer A. Cho" write on the memo:

"MADA Cookout on June 21" on check.

And mail to MADA, attn: Jennifer A. Cho, 63 Marine Street, Massapequa, NY 11758

Info: Jennifer Cho at jacho1970@tmail.com or John Sala at jsala@tmail.com

Activities include: Volleyball/Badminton, Playground for Kids

***Bring: Lawn chairs, Umbrellas, Games, Kites, Rollerblades, Bicycles and etc.**

Communicator Signboard

NJCCD Board of North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc. Proudly Hosts

Summer Picnic

(rain or shine)

Saturday, June 28, 2003

1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

St John's Lutheran Church, 810 Broad Street, Clifton, New Jersey
great food, drinks, fun. Meet people including our honorable guest,
Brian C. Shomo, Director of New Jersey
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,

Ticket cost in advance: members - \$16,

Non-members - \$18, Children under age 12 - free

Tickets can be ordered in mail by check or money order with names through Timothy Golden, 26
Thomas Street, Clifton, New Jersey 07013. Deadline is June 23, 2003. Same day tickets
can be bought at \$18. per person on picnic day. Bring your own lawn chairs.

Proceeds to NJCCD treasury fund

If you need info or directions, please fax your message to Timothy Golden at (973) 881-9235



N W J A D

(Northwest Jersey Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.)

Back By Very POPULAR Demand!

D&B s (DAVE & BUSTER S)

Saturday, June 28, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.

HUGE 50,000 Square Feet,

MANY AMAZING High-Tech Games / Activities, Pool Tables,
Shuffleboard, Turbo Ride Theater, Hi-Tech 18-Hole Golf Course,
Bars & Restaurants, and MUCH, MUCH more!!

F R E E - Admission & Parking - F R E E!

(If you arrive after 10:00 p.m., \$3 Cover Charge)

(Must Be Over 21 - Bring ID)

Chairpersons: Kevin Mona & Bonnie Thomas

Palisades Center Mall, 4th Floor, W. Nyack, NY

Directions: Rt. 287 North or GSP North to New York Thruway South
(Rt. 87 South/287 East) To Exit 12 - West Nyack - Palisades Center Drive

For Info: Check NWJAD Web Site: <http://nwjad.tripod.com/> Or Email NWJAD at:

NWJADeaf@aol.com

Communicator Signboard

Deaf Sunday in Ocean Grove, NJ
A Family Day at the Beach
June 29



TABERNACLE

Communion is celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

Great Auditorium

W orship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Speaker: Bishop George W. Bashore
Thornley Chapel

Children s Hour from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

beach passes available for \$3 at the beachfront office!

Tell them you are participating in Deaf Sunday

Directions: Garden State Parkway, either North or South and exit at 100B for Ocean Grove. Get on Rt. 33 East. At end of Rt. 33, you will come to a T intersection with traffic light. That is Rt. 71.

Turn left At the next traffic light, turn right for the main entrance into Ocean Grove.

Follow the signs for the Great Auditorium.

Ocean Deaf Club Inc.

19th Annual Outing & Picnic

Saturday, August 16, 2003 Rain or Shine

12 Noon to 6 p.m.

Lacey Elks Lodge Pavilion, Forked River NJ

Member - \$15, Non-member \$17, Children under 12 - \$6, Children under 3 - Free
\$5 additional charge after deadline date

Lunch - BBQ Chicken, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans,
Potato Salad, Corn on the Cob, Iced Tea, Coffee

Cash Bar - alcohol beverages, sodas, bottles of water

Games for adults & children, Horseshoe Tourney

Theme Baskets Drawing

Note: If you bring homemade dessert, you will receive 5 extra door tickets

Make your reservation before August 1, 2003.

Chairperson: Wayne Smith, Co-chairperson: Beverly Anderson

Make a check or money order, payable to Ocean Deaf Club, Inc. and mail to: Ocean Deaf Club, Inc.

Attn: Picnic, PO Box 34, Lakehurst NJ 08733-0034

Info: ODCVicePresident@aol.com

Calendar of Events 2003

Saturday, June 14
DDHH 19th Annual
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Awareness Day

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson NJ
Tickets: GreatAdventure@NJAD.org

June 26 - 29
SHHH 18th Annual
International Convention

Atlanta, Georgia
Info: (301) 657-2248 V/TTY

Friday, July 25,
9:30 a.m. - noon
DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

E. Brunswick Public Library
Public is invited, please call
800-792-8339 V/TTY

September 21
Deaf Fest 2003
Solberg Airport
www.njdaw.org

October 17, 18, 19
NJRID & NJAD
REAL ASL WEEKEND

Ramada Inn, Flemington, NJ
To volunteer: e-mail: ASLWknd2003@aol.com

October 29 - November 2
ALDAcon 2003

Las Vegas, Nevada
www.alda.org
aldacon2003pr@comcast.net

OFFICE CLOSED:
July 4TH

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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