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Monthly Communicator

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*Produced by DHS
Office of Publications*

How To Buy A Cell Phone When You Have A Hearing Loss

by Janice Schacter

Purchasing a cell when you have a hearing loss can be a daunting task. *How do consumers know which cell phones work for their hearing needs? Why do some cell phones work for some people with a hearing loss but not others?*

The 'Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Fact Sheet on Hearing Aid Compatibility for Wireless Telephones' provides an excellent overview of this topic: http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/hac_wireless.html.

The ATIS Hearing Aid Compatibility Incubator and CTIA-The Wireless Association Brochure on Hearing Aid Compatibility for Wireless Telephones and Services is another resource: <http://www.accesswireless.org/files/pdf/HACBrochure.pdf>.

Notwithstanding these resources, consumers are still confused by the process. Our family found the choices overwhelming and the terminology baffling when we went to purchase a cell phone for our daughter who has a hearing loss.

I was surprised since I am on the FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee and have access to people such as Brenda Battat (who is now Executive Director of Hearing Loss Association of America) and Linda Kozma-Spytek (Research Audiologist at Gallaudet University). During our family's quest, I developed the following decision tree.

1. What do the ratings mean?

Effective September 16, 2006, the FCC mandated that cell phone providers must offer at least two handset models that have a minimum M3/T3 rating.

The M rating (M3 or 4) represents microphone interference potential to a hearing aid from the cell phone and the T rating (T3 or 4) represents the telecoil coupling capability of the cell phone. The higher the rating, the more likely the cell phone will be compatible with the hearing aid.

The minimum number of compliant handset models will soon be increasing. Service providers will have to meet an M3 rating for 50 percent of their models or 8 models per air interface, whichever is less, and a T3 rating for one



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Director's Corner

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



We receive many inquiries related to communication access within judicial courts for persons with hearing loss. Due to this topic's importance, two guest speakers from the Administrative Office of the Courts were invited to address our Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) Advisory Council this past July to discuss how people who are Deaf and hard of hearing may request accommodations in the courts. I am devoting my entire column to this serious matter.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, and other related laws, the judiciary is required to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. Each courthouse has an ADA coordinator responsible for arranging accommodations. If you would like to obtain a listing of ADA coordinators for New Jersey, visit the following Web site for references:

www.judiciary.state.nj.us/services/coordlist_for_brochure.pdf.

Foremost, it is of utmost importance that the court receives advance notice of any need for accommodations. In general, the ADA coordinator should be notified of your needs at least two weeks in advance for court sessions and hearings. For emergencies or urgent requests, the responsible ADA coordinator should be notified immediately.

Court accommodations can include infrared listening systems, interpretive devices, captioning as well as sign language interpreter services. The ADA coordinator will give primary consideration to the accommodation choice expressed by the person with a hearing loss. The notification of the accommodation to be provided is usually sent in writing by the ADA coordinator, unless the short lead time of a request precludes written notice.

It has been brought to the attention of DDHH, that some individuals with hearing loss experienced problems when requesting courtroom accommodations. I want to bring to your attention the below contacts that may be a resource for assistance in resolving such problems:

For technology accommodations in the courts, contact Jeff Newman at jeff.newman@judiciary.state.nj.us.

For sign language interpreter assistance, contact Linda Lamitola at linda.lamitola@judiciary.state.nj.us.

As the Director of DDHH, I also serve on the Judiciary ADA Council. Please bring to my attention your concerns regarding accommodations in the courts so that I may in turn, directly share such issues with the ADA Council. I can be reached by e-mail at david.alexander@dhs.state.nj.us.



Reminder:

The deadline for the November issue is October 1.
The deadline for the October issue was September 1.

Send e-mail submissions to the editor:
Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us. Submissions should be "text only," in a standard word document (no pdf files).

Photos, that accompany submissions are encouraged.

Newsletter Subscription:

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

Monthly Communicator

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

third of their models or three models per air interface, whichever is less.

An M4/T4 rating is available only for cell phones using Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology and carried by Sprint and Verizon. M4/T4 ratings are not available in phones using Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) technology and carried by AT&T and T-Mobile. GSM can only achieve M3/T3 as its highest rating.

2. What is my hearing aid's Radio Frequency (RF) immunity level to the interference caused by cell phones?

Your audiologist can provide this information, which is important to know prior to purchasing a cell phone. Immunity refers to how well your hearing aid is protected from the interference that may be caused by cell phones. The "M" ratings of the hearing aid and the cell phone need to be added together to have a sum of five or more or an M5 rating. The higher the sum of the two ratings, the more likely the cell phone will not interfere with your hearing aid when it is used on its main program (M).

A hearing aid needs to have a minimum immunity rating of at least an M2 since compatible cell phones will be rated either an M3 or an M4. Most current hearing aids have a rating of an M2 or better. The hearing aid immunity rating varies by company and product. A higher M rating is likely to perform better than one with a lower M rating. A higher phone rating is needed if the hearing aids have a lower M rating such as for older hearing aids.

Ratings for a hearing aid's telecoil immunity to interference are, currently, not offered. This rating will, hopefully, be available from the hearing aid industry in the near future. For now, this rating does not provide much insight.

3. What type of hearing aid do I have?

In-the-ear (ITE) hearing aids may provide less interference than Behind-The-Ear (BTE) hearing aids. ITE hearing aids have a greater distance between the microphone on the hearing aid and the antenna on the cell phone that can create unnecessary interference for the user.

Switching hearing aid styles may allow the user to purchase a cell phone with a lower M rating that may not have previously been an option. Keep in mind that sometimes repositioning the cell phone over the ear or hearing aid can also help.

My daughter was able to purchase a Blackberry with a lower M rating in a GSM transmission technology

because she switched from a BTE to an ITE aid. She previously was unable to use this phone in the GSM transmission technology when she wore a BTE aid. Not all hearing aid styles are appropriate for all levels of hearing loss but it is worth investigating. Starkey produces a custom made ITE aid for people with a severe to profound hearing loss that is available only in Minneapolis.

4. What type of cell phone coverage do I need?

It is important to determine whether domestic or international coverage is needed. There are four transmission technologies worldwide. In this country, there are essentially two transmission technologies, CDMA and GSM with four tier one carriers that provide coverage across the U.S. Sprint and Verizon use the CDMA transmission technology and AT&T and T-Mobile use GSM. Different transmission technologies provide different coverage. In addition, the dominance of GSM and CDMA technologies differs internationally. Some phones can now operate using either CDMA or GSM technology. The following Website provides coverage maps for the CDMA and GSM transmission technologies:

<http://www.cdg.org/worldwide/index.asp>;

<http://www.gsmworld.com/index.shtml>.

Cell phones in the CDMA transmission technology are rated either M3 or M4, but the cell phones in the GSM transmission technology are only rated an M3. Weighing GSM coverage versus an M4 rating is a personal decision.

5. What is the cell phone rated?

Researching the cell phones prior to entering the store will save you a tremendous amount of time and frustration. Look on the carrier's Web site prior to visiting the store. The four major carriers are AT&T (Ratings are not available on the Web site), Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon (each cell phone is individually rated but there is no comprehensive list of all the HAC cell phones offered by Verizon.) A Web site that provides information on most of the cell phones currently available is

<http://www.phonescoop.com/phones/finder.php>.

Every cell phone store should provide documentation for cell phones rated as hearing aid compatible. The information should be on the placard by the cell phones and on the box. Sometimes the information on the placard is really tiny so look carefully.

6. Can I do an in-store cell phone test?

Only carrier stores are required to allow consumers to test the phones rated as hearing aid compatible prior to purchase. It is important to test the phone in a noisy as well as a quiet setting. Make sure there is room to adjust the volume control of the phone when testing the phone in a noisy setting.

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Cochlear Implants: *When Considering One*

By Paul Arabas

PAUL ARABAS is a retired engineer and tax accountant. He is a member of HLAA, ALDA and Say What Club. He wears two hearing aids and enjoys writing about his knowledge and experience with hearing loss. He is also an avid New York Yankee and Buffalo Bills fan.

People with normal hearing may have very little if any knowledge about cochlear implants. To find out if this statement is true, ask someone with normal hearing two simple questions: “What is a cochlear Implant?” and, if they do know, ask “How does a cochlear implant differ from a hearing aid?” A common response to the first question might be that a cochlear implant is something inserted into the ear to help a person hear again. To the second question, one might respond by saying a hearing aid increases volume so a person with hearing loss can hear better. This article is intended to assist individuals unfamiliar with cochlear implants to have a better understanding of what one is and how it works.

The first single-channel cochlear implant (CI) surgery was performed by Dr. William House in 1961. The technology has undergone vast improvements from 6 to 22 channel cochlear implants, to the latest that have virtual channels that provides the majority of CI recipients - regardless of age - improved access to verbal communications and environmental sounds, and for many, ability to converse on the telephone.

In 2003, there were about 25,000 people in the United States with cochlear implants and 60,000 people worldwide. In 2006, about 49,000 people including 15,500 children in the United States and 112,000 people worldwide had received implants.

A cochlear implant consists of an external portion that sits behind the ear and an internal portion that is surgically implanted under the skin into the bone behind the ear with an electrode array threaded into the cochlear to stimulate remaining nerve fibers within the inner ear. It is advanced technology that taps the potential of the hearing pathway by enabling it to respond to sound by bypassing damaged hair cells to directly activate the auditory nerve fibers. It is not a cure nor does it restore

hearing to normal. Instead it gives the person a useful representation of sounds in the environment, helps to understand speech and in most cases enjoy a conversation in person or on the telephone.

An implant has four components, an external microphone, the external speech processor, the transmitter, and the actual (internal) implant. The external microphone picks up sound and sends it to the speech processor. The (external) speech processor uses a microchip to select and amplify incoming sounds from the microphone that are useful for understanding speech. Current models use virtual channels to send several independent streams

of information to separate electrodes in the internal implant. The speech processor along with the battery is the size of a small calculator or large BTE (behind-the-ear) hearing aid. The transmitter, a quarter-sized disc that sits on the scalp just behind the ear receives signals from the processor. This disc is held magnetically to the internal receiver/stimulator embedded beneath the skin and receives digital signals from the transmitter via radio waves.



The receiver/stimulator converts incoming signals to electrical impulses which it relays to the electrodes of the internal implant. The (internal) implant itself is a group of electrodes that are typically arrayed along an Inch-long piece of fine, flexible tubing. Inserted into the cochlea, the electrodes receive an electrical signal and pass it along to nearby nerve fibers, bypassing damaged hair cells and stimulating the nerve fibers to relay the message to the brain, so one hears sound. Mimicking the ear's natural pattern, electrodes placed deepest in the cochlea convey low sounds while those closest to the entry convey high tones.

A cochlear implant is very different from a hearing aid because a hearing aid simply amplifies sound detected by the damaged ear. Cochlear implants bypass damaged portions of the cochlea in the inner ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve. Signals generated by the implant are sent by way of the auditory nerve to the brain, which recognizes the signals as sound. Hearing through a cochlear implant is different from normal hearing and takes time to learn or relearn. The time it takes for someone to adapt

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to the cochlear implant varies with one's history. Those who once had normal hearing would be likely to adapt faster. The implant allows many people to recognize warning signals, understand other sounds in the environment and possibly enjoy a conversation in person or by telephone.

The clinical aspects of a cochlear implant consist of several factors that include surgery, preceded by detailed evaluation and followed by months of training and rehabilitation. Its success provides a unique opportunity to understand speech and to hear sounds in the environment as well as music

Candidacy

The first factor has to do with who is a candidate for such surgery. Cochlear implants are designed for persons who are severely or profoundly deaf. Even with powerful hearing aids, these people cannot understand speech. In most cases it is the result of sensorineural hearing loss due to faulty hair cells. The auditory nerve usually remains intact and can respond to incoming electrical signals from an implant and relay them to the hearing center in the brain.

Implant Team and Locations

Another factor is the implant team and location for surgery. Cochlear implants are performed at about 250 specialty clinics across the country, including about 20 major medical institutions. These clinics bring together a variety of experts: otologist/surgeons or ENT/ear, nose & throat doctors, audiologists and speech-language pathologists. Special trainings provide surgeon/audiologist teams detailed knowledge in the techniques of implant surgery and implant evaluation. Others on the team may include psychologists, educators, social workers, and sometimes, computer scientists and engineers who usually work for the cochlear implant manufacturers.

Preoperative Evaluation/Testing

Implant teams use a variety of measures and tests to select candidates. A person has to be healthy enough to withstand the operation and anesthesia, possess normal intelligence and be psychologically stable. The ear doctor checks for infection and trauma as well as presence of working neurons for nerve stimulation. A CAT scan assures the inner ear is free of infection and trauma. An audiologist evaluates a candidate's hearing, with and without hearing aids, and the speech-language pathologist tests the candidate's speech and language skills. Motivation is a key to success and a person's cooperation during evaluation and reliability in keeping appointments are very important. The support of family and friends is paramount to help with emotional ups and downs and to provide feedback and reinforcement when learning to

hear with the implant. Realistic expectations are required because the implant does not restore normal hearing, but can help most wearers to communicate more easily and feel more connected to the world around them.

Surgery

This is performed under general anesthesia, is relatively pain free, takes two to three hours and complications are rare. The surgeon makes a two-inch long incision behind the ear and raises the skin flap to expose the mastoid bone. He drills a small hole and depression in the bone to hold the receiver/coil in place. The cochlear implant is placed under the skin with stimulating arrays consisting of electrical contacts inserted into the cochlea through a small opening near the round window. The skin flap is sutured and healing takes about 3-4 weeks.

Complications & Side Effects

Like any surgery, cochlear implant surgery carries the risk of wound infection. The protocol now is to routinely give antibiotics after surgery to avoid infection. There may be pain after the surgery, but it is easily treated first with pain medication and acetaminophen. Because the facial nerve runs near the area of surgery, surgeons are very careful to monitor that during the implantation process. Another possible after effect of surgery is dizziness. It can last from hours to weeks, but usually clears up without treatment. Infrequently, infections and non-healing of the scalp occur. Rarely, the electrodes slip out of the cochlea and sometimes the device fails. Re-implantation surgery remedies these problems.

Activation & Mapping

About a month after the operation, after the incision has had time to heal, the CI user is fitted with the external parts - microphone, transmitter, speech processor - and then the implant is activated. The transmitter coil is set in place atop the receiver beneath the scalp and the processor is hooked up to the computer. One by one the electrodes are tuned up or down. The goal is to produce sounds that are neither unpleasant or uncomfortably loud or soft. This programming process, known as "creating a map" is frequent at the beginning - every few weeks at first - then fewer as the months go by, allowing fine-tuning of the device to accommodate changes in the CI user's perception of sounds.

Outcomes

The goal of every cochlear implant is to allow the user to hear and understand speech relying on the implant alone without any visual clues/speech-reading. About half achieve this goal. Implant users do better understanding words in sentences, where the context provides mere clues, than with isolated words. Some even pass the ultimate test, talking readily on the telephone. Many more

7. Am I able to test the cell phone at home?

Every vendor has a different return policy so read it carefully and ask if there are any early termination fees. Save all the packaging. Stores will not take back merchandise without all the packaging and a receipt.

8. Is there too much magnetic noise in the background when the volume is adjusted?

The backlight, typically, turns on every time the volume control is adjusted. Manufacturers are not required to test the interference potential of the backlighting on the phone but it can create interference for consumers who use their telecoil for listening. Telecoil users should assess whether they can hear interference when the backlight is lit when trying a phone.

Technology is constantly changing, so keep this in mind when selecting a contract length especially if you have a fluctuating or diminishing hearing loss. A carrier may not allow early termination of a contract if your hearing loss changes.

There is no perfect phone for every person with hearing loss. It is a matter of trial and error. Answering the above questions can assist in narrowing your options when buying a cell phone.



Janice Schacter is the executive director of the Deafness Research Foundation and a former attorney whose 11-year old daughter is hard of hearing. She is also the Chair of the Hearing Access Program, a collaborative effort between the Alexander Graham

Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, The League for the Hard of Hearing/a.b.c. and Hearing Loss Association of America (f/k/a Self Help for the Hard of Hearing).

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can use the phone speaking to people they know and confining the conversations to questions with simple answers. Another basic benefit is improved speech-reading. Almost from the onset, many implant wearers enjoy a sense of connection to the world around them. They feel less isolated, more independent and more social.

Training

When the implant is activated, the wearer is introduced to a variety of sounds, including speech. At first the sounds strike the user as mechanical or distorted. Learning to interpret these signals is similar to learning a new language. It takes time and practice. Gradually the brain assigns meaning to these impulses. Over a period of months the user will return to the clinic for a series of formal training sessions with audiologists and speech-language pathologists for auditory training and speech-reading. Many people find reinforcement in local and national support groups. Rehabilitation and education programs are more intense for children who must learn to associate meaning with unfamiliar sounds.

Costs

Implants used to cost \$50,000-60,000. The costs have been coming down slowly although some may still cost about \$50,000. This includes evaluation, surgery, hospital costs, fitting the device and communications training. Many health insurance carriers, including Medicare in some states provide partial or full coverage for cochlear implant devices. If you think you are a candidate talk to an ENT (ear, nose & throat) doctor who may refer you to a specialist in this field.

Binaural hearing with both ears can make it easier to hear speech and other sounds and identify the location of speech. With two implants it may also be easier for cochlear implant recipients to determine the source of warning signals allowing them to feel safer in their everyday environment. A second implant may improve a child's hearing in difficult listening situations including classroom and other settings. In addition, people with one cochlear implant and a hearing aid in the other ear may find it helpful with the "stereo" effect and speech recognition. There are about 4000 bilateral cochlear recipients in the world today. Additional information about bilateral cochlear implants can be found at the web site mentioned under references

As a prospective cochlear implant candidate, I wish to thank a few cochlear implant user friends, including Arlene Romoff and Carol Granaldi who reviewed and provided assistance with this article. Comments on this article as well as references for the information within it can be obtained by contacting me at pfarabas@yahoo.com.

Registration open for OCC English Course

Ocean County College's Continuing Education Department
is offering a 10-week course:

“Improving English Skills of Deaf Adults”

Course Number - CEED-332-01

Thursdays, September 18 through November 20

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Ocean County College Off - Campus Facility 150 Brick Blvd., Brick, NJ Room Cape 121.
Instructor: Kathleen Fabian, graduate of Ocean County College's interpreter training program.

English is a second language for most of those who are profoundly Deaf.
This course will teach and review basic skills with the goal of improving reading and writing english.
It will include letter writing, reading comprehension, and effective use of reference resources.
This class will be taught in American Sign Language. Total cost is \$109.

Register online at www.ocean.edu/cpe.htm or 732-255-0404 Voice

Mailing address:

Ocean County College
Continuing & Professional Education
P.O. Box 2001
Toms River, NJ 07854-2001

Walk-in registration also welcome.

For more info contact Kathleen Fabian at kathyssp@aol.com.

At the Advisory Council Meeting on July 18.



Steven Hess, ASL interpreter



Arlene Romoff,
DDHH Advisory Council member



Jeff Newman, Administrative Office of the
Courts, guest speaker

HLA-NJ Announces 08' Inaugural Garden State Walk4Hearing

The Hearing Loss Association of NJ, the state affiliate of the national organization Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is pleased to announce their inaugural Garden State Walk4Hearing to be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the picturesque Mercer County Park in West Windsor, NJ.

The Walk4Hearing campaign is a nationally coordinated effort sponsored by HLAA. Its purpose is to increase awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss and to raise funds



to provide information and support for people with hearing loss. The Hearing Loss Association of America depends on generous volunteers and sponsors to raise funds and awareness at each of the Walk4Hearing sites.

The Hearing Loss Association of NJ is excited to join the list of HLAA state associations and national chapters that have hosted Walk4Hearing events. Past events helped fund HLAA advocacy efforts on national, state and local levels, including expanded Medicare eligibility for seniors and ensuring cell phone compatibility with hearing aids. In addition, these funds helped to support advocacy efforts with other allied organizations such as the restoration of funding for the Newborn Infant Hearing Screening program.

The excitement is building! Walk teams are being formed, sponsorships are being sought, and you are invited to join

in all the fun starting with the Garden State Walk4Hearing Kickoff Celebration!

Join HLA-NJ for the kickoff on Sunday, September 7 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Montclair State University's fabulous conference center overlooking the beautiful NYC skyline. The MSU Conference Center is located at 1 Normal Avenue, University Hall, 7th Floor, Montclair, NJ. There is no charge to attend this event. Anyone interested in learning about the Walk is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. In order to plan accordingly, please RSVP to Lois Walker at Lois.Walker@HearingLoss-NJ.org or call 732-222-5546.

Sponsors are currently being sought for the Garden State Walk4Hearing. Sponsorships range from as little as \$100 up to \$5,000 or more. To join the growing list of state and local sponsors, including our major sponsor Sprint Relay, or to learn more about the benefits of sponsorship, please contact Carol Granaldi at Carol.Granaldi@HearingLoss-NJ.org.

To be a Garden State Walk4Hearing Walker and/or Team Captain or for more information, contact Lois Walker at Lois.Walker@HearingLoss-NJ.org.

"Help make hearing loss an issue of national concern."- Rocky Stone, Founder

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's foremost consumer organization representing people with hearing loss. HLAA impacts accessibility, public policy, research, public awareness, and service delivery related to hearing loss on a national and global level. HLAA's national support network includes an office in the Washington D.C. area, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. The HLAA mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support.

HLAA provides cutting edge information to consumers, policy makers, business professionals and family members through our dynamic Web site (www.hearingloss.org); an award-winning publication; Hearing Loss, an online newsletter; ENews and message boards. In addition, we bring consumers and policy makers together to learn about hearing accessibility issues at our national and regional conventions.



Are You Register Ready For Disasters?

In preparation for 2008 Hurricane season as well as any potential emergency event, the counties of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem, in partnership with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, have created New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters, a free, voluntary and confidential program designed to assist people with special needs who may find it difficult to get to safety in the event of an emergency. "The time to get ready is now," said Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police and Director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. Make an evacuation plan for yourself, your family, and your pets. Prepare a readiness kit of things you'll need to have with you if you must evacuate or shelter in place for an extended period of time. Talk now to friends and family who can help you get to safety when a crisis hits," Colonel Fuentes added. "New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters is designed to help those who may have difficulty during an evacuation because of physical or other limitations, or lack of transportation," New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Richard Canas explained. "Signing up with the New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters program will help first responders make the best use of limited time and resources by planning to help those with limited options for evacuation during an emergency."



People with special needs (or caregivers on their behalf) are encouraged to register electronically, if possible, by accessing www.registerready.nj.gov. Alternatively, they can call New Jersey's toll-free 2-1-1 telephone service. This service will register people, offer free translation, and provide TTY services for the hearing-impaired. Paper registration forms are also available from the above mentioned county offices of emergency management, by contacting one of the following phone numbers or addresses:

Atlantic County OEM

Anthony Canale Training Center
5033 English Creek Avenue
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Phone: (609) 407-6742

Cape May County OEM

30 West Mechanic Street
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
Phone: (609) 463-6570

Cumberland County OEM

637 Bridgeton Avenue
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
(856) 455-8770

Monmouth County OEM

300 Halls Mills Road
Freehold, NJ 07728
(732) 431-7400

Ocean County OEM

PO Box 2191
120 Hopper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753
Phone: (732) 341-3551

Salem County OEM

135 cemetery Road
Woodstown, NJ 08098
Phone: 856-769-2900

Numerous community, civic, faith-based, medical, and non-profit organizations are also helping to register people with special needs. "Don't wait until after hurricane season, a fire, or any other disaster to sign up on New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters," Colonel Fuentes said. "Today – and any day before a disaster strikes – is the perfect time to get ready," added Director Canas.

New Jersey Theatre Alliance Open Caption Series 2008/2009

Bergen County

Franklin Lakes
Sunday, October 12 2:00 p.m.
Skyline Theatre Company *They're Playing our Song*

Cape May County

Cape May
Sunday, October 26 8:00 p.m.
Cape May Stage *Rounding Third*

Essex County

South Orange
Sunday, November 9 2:00 p.m.
Dreamcatcher Rep *Dave Mathews is a Good Man*

Essex County

Millburn
Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:30 p.m.
Paper Mill Playhouse
The Importance of Being Earnest

Montclair
Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:00 p.m.
Luna Stage *After Adam*

Hudson County

Hoboken
Saturday, February 1, 2009 8:00 p.m.
The Theatre Co. at DeBaun, *The Who's Tommy*

Mercer County

Trenton
Sunday, November 16 3:00 p.m.
Passage Theatre *A Summer House*

Princeton
Sunday, December 21 5:30 p.m.
McCarter Theatre *A Christmas Carol*

Middlesex County

New Brunswick
Saturday, May 9, 2009 2:00 p.m.
George St. Playhouse *New Year's Eve*

Morris County

Morristown
Friday, May 29, 2009 8:00 p.m.
The Bickford Theatre *The Grass is Greener*

Monmouth County

Long Branch
Thursday, March 5, 2009 8:00 p.m.
New Jersey Rep *Sick*

Red Bank
Saturday, May 30, 2009 3:00 p.m.
Two River Theatre *Private Lives*

Morris County

Netcong
Friday, December 12 7:30 p.m.
The Growing Stage *Frosty the Snowman*

Madison
Friday, March 13, 2009 8:00 p.m.
12 Miles West *True West*

Madison
Sunday, April 26, 2009 3:00 p.m.
Playwrights Theatre *Our Dad is in Atlantis*

Salem County

Touring to Appel Farm Elmer, NJ
Saturday, March 28, 2009 2:00 p.m.
Pushcart Players *Happily Ever After,*
A Cinderella Tale

Union County

Union
Sunday, September 21 3:00 p.m.
Premiere Stages *Rabbit Hole*

Warren County

Hackettstown
Sunday, March 1, 2009 2:30 p.m.
Centenary Stage *You may Go Now*

New Jersey Theatre Alliance's open caption series is funded by the
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
For more information, go to www.njtheatrealliance.org or www.njArtsTix.org

NJADB Presents Award to Ellen Williams

On Friday June 26, 2008, the New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind presented the Josephine Taylor award to Ellen Williams, a



Deaf woman with Usher's Syndrome who lives in Jersey City.

The award is given to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional effort in the areas of advocacy, employment, peer support, communication, independence, socialization, education and community involvement.

Josephine Taylor for whom the award was named, was a dedicated employee of the Commission for the Blind and

Visually Impaired during the rubella epidemic of the 1960s. She was a pioneer in establishing services for people who are Deaf-Blind.

This year's recipient, Ellen Williams is a tremendous advocate for herself and members of the Deaf-Blind community. Through her tireless efforts, particularly in the area of advocacy, Ellen has been effective in educating the public about Deaf-Blindness



and the needs of Deaf-Blind individuals as well as engaging with Deaf, blind, and Deaf-Blind community in pursuing leadership roles in organizations serving these individuals.

Notes from Senior Housing Committee Meeting

The Executive Board for the NJ Deaf Senior Citizen Housing Committee met on March 29 at the East Brunswick Library. At the meeting, it was clear that a senior housing building in NJ is getting more interest and support from the community.

Donations are coming in for many of the items needed. A contract with Cardinal Capital is coordinating funding needed for buying the land and designing and building the residence. Donations to New Jersey Association of the Deaf, for the Senior Housing project, are for items needed to make our seniors comfortable and maintain contact with the community. A series of fund raisers such as spaghetti dinners are being planned for the fall and winter. A community forum will be held on Sunday, October 12th during the NJSD/MKSD 125th Anniversary weekend. Erich Schwenker from CCM will present the plans for NJ and progress at the forum. Wouldn't it be great to have a beautiful Deaf Senior Housing, (or more) here in NJ, as exists in Wisconsin, New England and Arizona?

A second meeting was held with state agencies in New Jersey. The agencies, Cardinal Capital Management (CCM) and representatives from the NJ Senior group had discussions about funding available for the project. Cardinal Capital is expecting the final financial plans for the Arizona community to be done in about 60 days. For the Deaf Arizona community, CCM has already purchased land and designs are done for community buildings that will have a mix of low, mid and higher apartments and condos. Some retail space will also be included. Deaf professionals designed and manage the buildings. CCM estimates it will take about four or five more years to complete the first planned building in NJ.

Remember, more information on prospective residents' income is needed. This information will be completely confidential and known only to CCM in Wisconsin. The income levels are needed to figure out how many low, mid and high units should be built in NJ. The goal is to have an appropriate balance of varying types of housing for a New Jersey project which would not necessarily parallel those in the other states where CCM has done similar work.

Donations to this project are tax deductible and will help support our Deaf Seniors in NJ.

NJAD Senior Secretary, Jane Cyran, Ph.D.

Community Forum

Future NJ Deaf Senior Housing

Please Come and Support

For: Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Hard of Hearing
and Late-deafened

When: Sunday, October 12, 2008
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Where: NJSD/MKSD
Middle School Auditorium
Sullivan Way
West Trenton, NJ

Why: Lila Taylor, Chair of NJAD Senior
Citizen Executive Committee will introduce
our guest speaker, Erich Schwenker.

Who: Erich Schwenker is the President
of Cardinal Capital Management in
Wisconsin and has been helping us
learn how to work on our project.

Interpreters and CART
will be provided.
Sponsored by
NJ Division of the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing

More info: Contact
Lila Taylor
ltaylor09@aol.com
or
Lucinda Brooks
LBrooks4@comcast.net

Registration &
BBQ Luncheon

\$10.00 per person

Please make **MONEY ORDER**
payable to:

NJSD/MKSD 2008 Events
(no cash or checks)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Number of people attending _____ Total \$ _____

Mail to: NJSD/MKSD 2008 Events, P.O. Box 5442, Deptford NJ 08096-0442

New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
and
The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
present

“Interpreting in Law Enforcement Settings”

September 13, 2008

Toms River Quality Inn

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Presenters Tara Potterveld CI, CT, SC:L & Denise M. Brown

Participants will learn what to do when called into a police station to interpret because a Deaf person has been taken into custody. Participants will explore the need for Deaf and hearing interpreting teams to ensure accuracy and how to justify the team concept to law enforcement agencies. Participants will learn about the legal and constitutional rights of a Deaf person in police custody and how those apply to the Miranda warning.

At the conclusion of this workshop, the participants should be able to:

- Prepare a written analysis of the Miranda warning for meaning.
- Practice explaining the need for interpreters and CDIs for interpreting in law enforcement settings.
- Demonstrate understanding of correct procedure for interpreting in legal settings through questions and answers.

Toms River Quality Inn is located at 815 Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ ,08755

NJRID Members \$50; Non-Members \$70 (sorry no refunds)

Deadline for registration September 4, 2008.

0.6 CEUs available in Professional Studies.

For more information and directions go to www.njrid.org

Captioning, ALD's and Sign Language Interpreters provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

One-to-one instructional assistant needed for student with multiple disabilities. One-year experience working with non-verbal children, familiarity with ASL, ability to follow toilet training, feeding and behavior protocols required. Please send resume with attention to Anne Guteski at Harbor School, Eatontown, NJ 732-544-0245 FAX.

Expanding Opportunities!

The Center for Collegiate Deaf Education (CCDE) at Bergen Community College is seeking certified and qualified part-time interpreters and c-print captionists to work in the higher education setting with competitive pay rates.

Please send or e-mail a letter of interest and your resume to:

Bergen Community College
c/o The Center for Collegiate Deaf Education
400 Paramus Rd
Paramus, NJ 07652
CCDE@bergen.edu



St. John's Church Signed Mass and Social starting September 7 Every Sunday 1:00 p.m.

St. John's Church 22, Mulberry Street, Newark, NJ
(Entrance on McCarter Highway, Route 21, near Performing Arts Center.

Archdiocese of Newark Pastoral Ministry with the Deaf
Deacon Thomas M. Smith, CSW, smiththo@rcan.org
973-497-4311 TTY; 973-497-4312 Voice; 973-497-4317 FAX.
Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., P.O. Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104-0500

by Deacon Thomas M. Smith

Starting Sunday, September 7, 2008 and every Sunday thereafter, the Catholic Deaf Community of the Archdiocese of Newark will gather at Old St. John's (built 1826) on Mulberry St. in downtown Newark to participate in Mass. This Sunday service contains all the beliefs of the faith we share. Msgr. John Hourihan began Deaf Ministry in this Church many years ago and now we will come "full circle" and gather as a "Family of Faith" for worship and fellowship (coffee, cake, socializing, etc.) at his old home, near the new Performing Arts Center. St. John's is right on all the bus and train lines, a few blocks from Penn Station, right off Route 21 (McCarter Highway) near Raymond Blvd. The area has very light traffic on Sunday afternoons. It's easy to reach by car and has 30 parking spots that are always empty on Sundays.

A recent article by the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf noted that "interpreted services in hearing churches rarely show growth in numbers of Deaf people. The primary language in an interpreted service is spoken and sung English. Sometimes the hymns and readings are presented in Latin or another language, effectively shutting out participation of Deaf people! American Sign Language is thus made secondary to the spoken or sung word. Responses are made not to the priest, but to and through the interpreter. This models a cultural superiority of the majority and leads to a feeling of disconnectedness or submission. Churches of other denominations emphasize signed services and fellowship opportunities, and these churches are growing."

Until now, we were scattered throughout the four counties, mainstreamed with hearing congregations. For the many years of gracious hosting by these parishes we are most grateful, and many will continue to offer interpreted Masses for their Deaf parishioners. Although this a creative solution to the problem of linguistic barriers, Deaf people still receive somewhat "second-hand information" from the interpreters in these venues. They cannot completely focus on the actions and words of the priest because they are trying to see the ASL translation of his spoken words at the same time by glancing continually over towards the interpreter.

Our new services will be signed entirely in ASL by the presiding priest and/or the assisting deacon and Deaf Catholics will sign all the readings and lead all the responses. This will facilitate everyone's "full, conscious participation." Our religious services and socials will celebrate Deaf Culture and Catholic Culture together for the first time in our area.

RELIGIOUS ACCESS



Temple Sholom

A Reform Jewish Congregation announces sign language interpreted services open to the public.

2008

Sept 12, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 12

2009

Jan 9, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 8, Jun 5

In addition, the following High Holy Day services are open to the public and sign interpreted (only these dates are open to the public and a photo I.D. is required). There will be no parking on temple property during the high holy days. Parking will be available on surrounding streets and in Van Saun Park.

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah Wednesday, October 1, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur afternoon (including memorial service)

Thursday, October 8, 2008

3:00 p.m.

Temple Sholom

385 Howland Ave., River Edge, NJ 07652

(Bergen County)

director@tsholom.net

201-489-2463 ext. 203 Voice

Sign language interpreter services have been made possible by a grant from the Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired Council.

Deaf Youth Confirmation Classes Offered

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf,

meeting and worshiping at Grace Lutheran Church, 2222 Vauxhall Road, Union, is offering confirmation classes for Deaf youth in Grades 7 and 8. Starting September 14, the classes will be held on Sundays from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The basic teachings of the Christian faith, preparing the youth to receive Holy Communion, will be shared. There is a \$25 fee to cover the cost of books and materials. To register, or for more information, contact the church office at 908-686-3965 Voice, 908-851-2004 TTY, 908-686-5111 FAX or gracelu4u@yahoo.com.



RELIGIOUS ACCESS

The Catholic Community of
St. Matthias Ministry with People with Disabilities

Cordially invites you to worship with us as we celebrate

Disabilities Awareness Month

Sunday, October 14, 2008

12:00 Mass

St. Matthias Church
168 JFK Blvd, Somerset, NJ

Reception will follow the Mass in the
accessible parish meeting room

All are welcome!



For other accessible accommodations or further information, call the parish office at 732-828-1400 Voice.

Diocese of Metuchen Catholic Deaf Apostolate

Sunday Interpreted Mass Schedule

Immaculate Conception Church

18 South Street
Spotswood, NJ 08884
12:00 Noon Every Sunday

Sunday September 21

Diocese of Metuchen Catholic Deaf Apostolate Coffee Hour
Following the 12:00 Noon Mass
Cafeteria

St. Peter the Apostle Church

94 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
11:00 a.m. First Sunday of the Month

Saint Ambrose Church

96 Throckmorton Lane
Old Bridge, NJ 08851
12:00 Noon Second and Fourth Sunday of the Month

For more information, contact Tevis Thompson, Program Coordinator
deaf1@comcast.net 302-529-7088 V/TTY/FAX.



Communicator Signboard



Pennsylvania Renaissance Fairein Manheim, PA

Saturday, September 27, 2008

11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

ASL Interpreted Performance

Don't miss the traditions, dances, and food of the Germanic Nations!

For tickets, directions, & information www.parenfaire.com.

(Click on 'PA Renaissance Faire'. Select 'Themes & Schedules')

List of ASL selected show can be picked up at the gate.

Also 'Pyrate Invasion' ASL interpreted performance. October 11, 2008

Get hooked on the Pirate Adventure!

Manheim, PA is located 15 miles north of Lancaster and 14 miles east of Hershey Park.

For questions about this announcement only, e-mail ClarkThursday@aol.com.

All others, contact the Pa Renaissance Faire directly.

Bridge Players Theatre Company
proudly presents

GODSPELL



The pop musical by Tony Award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz.

Performances on October 5 & 17 will be shadow interpreted.

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) will be available upon request on October 3, 4 and 5.

Program by Audio is also available upon request (please contact us two weeks in advance).

For more information visit www.BridgePlayersTheatre.com.

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State,
a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the

Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders,

Department of Resource Conservation,

Division of Cultural Affairs & Tourism.

Communicator Signboard

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.
proudly hosts

“The Price Is Right Affair”

Saturday October 18, 2008

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus, 39 Washington Street, Lodi, NJ

Game starts at 6:00 p.m. (on time)

In advance prices - members \$20, non-members \$25.

At door - member \$22 , non-members \$28.

Must be at least 21 years of age to play.

Limit of 200 people (first come..first served) Great Gifts -
It's fun to play.

John Rivera, Jr. Committees Chair

Refreshments on Sale, 50/50 Chances, NJCCD Bank Nite

Please send check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc.
and mail to John Rivera, Jr.,

21 Patton Dr., Apt. D, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Deadline for receipt of order - October 12.



East Brunswick NJ The Summit Playhouse

10 New England Avenue, Summit NJ 07901

BABY The Musical

Book by Sybille Pearson

Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.

Music by David Shire

Based upon a story developed with Susan Yankowitz

Directed by Vicki Tripodo

Musical direction by Mary Beth McFall

Choreography by Kelly Mott-Sacks



October 31, November 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, at 8:00 p.m.

November 9 2:00 p.m. matinee

Signed interpreted performance.

\$20 Adults, \$15 Students.

Loop-compatible assistive listening device is
available at all performances.

Audio-Description available with two weeks advance notice.

The Summit Playhouse is wheelchair accessible.

For reservations 908-273-2192. or directions and additional information visit www.summitplayhouse.org.

*Funding has been made possible in part through a capital preservation grant from
The NJ Cultural Trust, administered through the NJ Historic Trust.*

“Celebrating Advanced Communication Technology for New Jerseyans with Hearing Loss”

2nd Annual Taste of Technology Mini-Conference

Thursday, October 2, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Trenton Marriott Hotel,
1 West Lafayette Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Sponsored by
NJ Relay Service & NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Come to this free conference and learn about telecommunications equipment, technology advancements, and telecommunication relay services for New Jersey residents with hearing loss. Lunch will be provided! This is a great opportunity for professionals working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to learn about updates with technology and issues related to hearing loss.

RSVPs are on a first come, first serve basis.

Registration deadline is September 15, 2008.

Welcome - Jennifer Velez, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Keynote Speaker - Damara Paris, Sprint CapTel Branch Manager

Featured Workshops:

Video, Internet, and Wireless Relay, WebCapTel and Captioned Telephone,

Relay Conference Captioning,

**Emergency Preparedness for New Jerseyans with hearing loss - Lise Hamilton,
Hearing Loss Association of America**

Yes, I will attend the second annual Taste of Technology mini-conference! I understand that RSVP's will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Name: _____ E-mail : _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Fax number: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

I am: ___ Deaf; ___ Hard of Hearing; ___ Late-Deafened; ___ Deaf-Blind; ___ Hearing; ___ Speech Disabled

Special Requests (i.e.; vegetarian meals, ALD, tactile interpreting)

ASL Interpreters, CART (captioning), and Assistive Listening Devices will be provided.

Send registration form to NJ Relay Service: *Melissa.Huber@sprint.com* or

913-523-1137 FAX, www.njrelay.com

Registration and special requests after September 15, 2008 may not be honored.

Calendar of Events 2008

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

New Date: Friday, October 24

East Brunswick Public Library
2 Civic Blvd., East Brunswick NJ

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:
609-984-7281 V/TTY

NJSD/MKSD 125th Anniversary and NJSD/MKSD Alumni Association

80th Anniversary
October 10, 11 and 12
Columbus Weekend

Check www.mkdsd.org for more information:
PhySparks70@aol.com
856-374-1043 FAX

Garden State Walk4Hearing Saturday, October 18

Mercer County Park, West Picnic Area
To participate or for more information, contact:

Lois Walker, Chair
walk4hearing@hearingloss-nj.org
or visit www.hearingloss-nj.org

November 7, 8 and 9 NJRID 2008 Biennial Conference

Crowne Plaza, 390 Forsgate Drive
Jamesburg, NJ 08821

Go to www.njrid.org for information updates.

DDHH Office - Days Closed

Labor Day (September 1), Columbus Day (October 13)

Regular Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

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