

January 2009

Monthly Communicator

Vol. 30 No. 1

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Attracts 4,500*

*Produced by DHS
Office of Publications*

Katzenbach Celebrates 125 Years

On October 10-12, the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD), also known as the NJ School for the Deaf (NJSD), celebrated its 125th anniversary. School Superintendent Dennis Russell provided remarks during the opening ceremony. Representatives from the NJ Department of Education, NJ Lottery, NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), and other NJ state offices, along with current NJSD/MKSD students, alumni and their families, were in attendance. The activities included an academic bowl competition, high school volleyball game, and a middle school soccer game. Many alumni roamed the campus reliving memories of being students and browsed the hundreds of pictures and artifacts at the NJSD/MKSD Museum.



MKSD, which won last year's National Deaf Soccer title, treated fans to an exciting soccer game. Former students were recognized for their outstanding skills at The Hall of Fame, Wall of Fame. Visitors also toured the Brian C. Shomo Assistive Device Demonstration Center that is operated by DDHH. In the high school, exhibitors displayed their wares and offered resources, along with the opportunity to purchase unique items. The banquet ceremony, held at Angeloni's Cedar Garden, occurred during the evening hours.



On the final day of the celebration, the NJ Deaf Senior Housing Committee held a community forum to discuss future plans for deaf senior housing in New Jersey. Residents interested in learning about the project listened as representatives discussed their plans for the future. Later, the Lions Club coordinated the annual Katzenbach Parent Staff Organization picnic. Exhibitors were also present. Parents, children, and alumni saw a NJ State Police helicopter, trooper car and demonstrations by police dogs conducting search and rescue missions.

In all, more than 500 visitors attended the events held during the weekend. People came together to reminisce on the accomplishments of the school over the past 125 years.

Director's Corner

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

This past November, I had the honor of attending a tribute to one of New Jersey's leading advocates, Ms. Arlene Romoff, president of Hearing Loss Association of America. Ms. Romoff is the recipient of the Theatre Resources Unlimited 2008 Humanitarian Award.

This award was presented to Ms. Romoff's for her pioneering work and advocacy in encouraging theatres to use captioning technology, to enable live performances to become communication accessible for people with hearing loss. At her tribute, the audience was composed of friends, as well as producers and theatre personnel.

In Ms. Romoff's acceptance speech, she took the opportunity to educate the audience about hearing loss and provided a brief history of the development of captioned theatre. Ms. Romoff has generously provided DDHH with a copy of her acceptance speech and the permission to publish it for readers of the Monthly Communicator (see speech on page 9).

DDHH extends congratulations to Ms. Romoff for being selected as the recipient of this prestigious award and in appreciation for her efforts advocating for captioned theatre in New Jersey. Because of her efforts, and those of others, New Jersey is a leader nationwide in providing captioned theatre that is accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing.

DDHH actively supports the efforts of New Jersey theatres to make performances communication accessible to the Deaf and hard of hearing. With respect to captioned theatre, DDHH is a partner with the NJ Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance to support awareness among the theatre community of the communication access needs of people with hearing loss. Through this collaboration, theatres who are members of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, have agreed to provide a total of 32 captioned theatre performances throughout New Jersey during the year.

A list of sites and dates of captioned performances (New Jersey Theatre Alliance Open Caption Series 2008-2009) is included in this edition (see page 11). I encourage Deaf and hard of hearing and their families to take advantage of these efforts and experience the joy of live theatre.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Alexander".

Reminder:

The deadline for the March 2009 issue is February first. The deadline for the February issue was January first.

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.
For a style sheet, contact the editor.

Newsletter Subscription:

If you would like to subscribe to the Monthly Communicator, send your request to the editor (e-mail address above).
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Deadline for submissions:
First of the month for the following month's edition.

Second Taste of Technology Conference in Trenton

Submitted by Melissa Huber

New Jersey Relay and New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing proudly hosted the second annual Taste of Technology mini-conference in Trenton, NJ. This year's special theme was "Celebrating Advanced Communication Technology for New Jerseyans with hearing

loss." Technology has advanced so much these days that the conference was the perfect time to highlight the latest updates and educate professionals working within the Deaf and hard of hearing communities. They in turn could share this information with their colleagues and peers.

The conference was held at the Trenton Marriott on October 2nd, located conveniently in downtown Trenton. Approximately 125 attendees enjoyed a full and informative schedule.

We were honored to have Deputy Commissioner, James Smith of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, kick off the event by welcoming the audience. The schedule featured Lise Hamlin, on behalf of the Hearing Loss Association of America. She came from Maryland to educate the audience

on emergency preparedness and how the Deaf and hard of hearing can prepare in times of emergencies.

Participants were able to learn the latest technological advancements,

including use of the Internet; Relay service is available through Internet Relay. People that have relied on CapTel are now able to use WebCapTel, the newest service provided by Sprint Relay. Sprint WebCapTel is a Web-based service that allows a person to use voice, to obtain a text record of their

call on the Internet during the call, while at the same time hearing the other person using any telephone.

Participants were able to experience Relay Conference Captioning (RCC) during a live demonstration.

RCC is beneficial for all Deaf and hard of hearing people who wish to participate in meetings, phone calls, etc. This technology enables a person to receive real-time captioning streamed to a computer that is connected to the Internet with high speed connection. For more information on any of the services above, go to www.njrelay.com.

NJ DDHH also shared the latest with their Equipment Distribution Program, which provides assistive devices to low income families with hearing loss and speech disabilities. For more information on obtaining these devices and eligibility, go to www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/.

During coffee breaks, attendees also had the opportunity to view booths as well as do some professional networking. A delicious lunch was catered by the Trenton Marriott. At the end of the conference, positive feedback was received from the participants, who stated that the information was essential and beneficial.

We want to thank everyone who attended, and look forward to seeing you at future conferences. We hope that those who attended will report back to their organizations/agencies, empowering them with valuable information.



Bergen County Deaf Senior Group's Concerns Heard by DDHH

The Deaf Senior Citizens Group hosted a unique luncheon at their home base at Northwest Bergen Senior Center in Midland Park. Dr. David Alexander, Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, was the honored guest at a program named, "A Conversation between Dr. Alexander and the Deaf Seniors" on Thursday, October 23. He was accompanied by DDHH Field Representative Jason

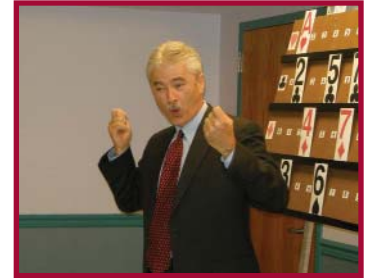


Weiland and ASL interpreter Steve Toth. The group saluted their member, Don Fields who's instrumental in assisting the Deaf seniors obtain their regular meeting place at the Northwest Bergen Senior Center. Social Worker Sheila Brogan detailed the many group and individual services and programs offered to the Deaf.



Dr. Alexander described the services and programs offered by DDHH. He then led an intense discussion with the seniors, who pointed out experiences where services were denied to friends who needed them.

Members also noted that a recently deceased member had been offered interpreter services in intensive care facilities but had been refused this accommodation in hospice care. The need for ongoing advocacy and education of professionals was stressed. The American with Disabilities Act and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination was discussed as well as the need to file complaints when communication access services are denied.



Mr. Weiland used the analogy of the Deaf senior group filing complaints for refusal of Ellis Island to provide sign language interpreters for their tours. That case took four years and a great deal of energy, but finally a verdict was decided in favor of the Deaf seniors. As a result, Ellis Island now provides sign language interpreters for its tours.



Other issues were also raised, such as the need for specialized assisted living and nursing home care. Some seniors expressed concerns about new technology, such as remote video interpreting, in place of on-site interpreters.



NJ Library For The Blind And Handicapped Welcomes New Regional Resource Centers

Monmouth County Library, Shrewsbury and Sussex County Library added to growing list

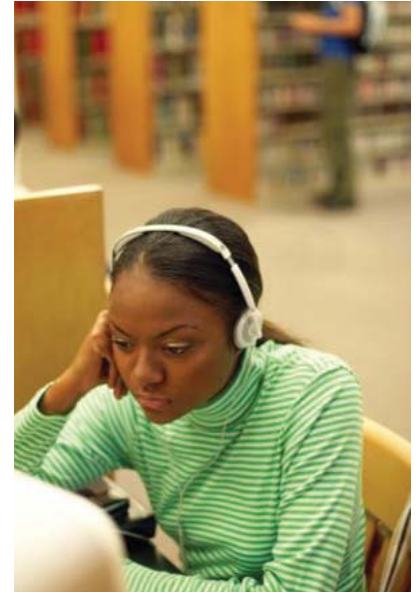
Christine Olsen, the Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (LBH), is delighted to announce that effective December 1, 2008, Monmouth County Library, Shrewsbury, and Sussex County Library, Newton, are new Regional Resource Centers (RRCs) for the Deaf and hard of hearing.

The two new libraries are committed to serving the entire community, including Deaf and hard of hearing residents and they offer closed-captioned videos, books and materials on deafness and hearing loss for parents, teachers, and interested individuals. Many new programs are in store for everyone in those communities. Residents should contact the libraries for all upcoming events.

LBH will provide the two libraries with various support services including specialized training for staff on how to serve and interact with Deaf and hard of hearing customers, as well as how to access interpreter services, thanks to a literacy program grant from the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The libraries plus existing RRC Newark Public Library, will provide an Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program that enables hard of hearing individuals to borrow Personal Listening Devices to enhance hearing. In addition, they will have unrestricted access to the Library for the Blind and Handicapped's many resources.

"I am anxious to provide programs of interest to the Deaf and hard of hearing community," said Olsen. "A future workshop is in store for all librarians, in order to inform them of the special needs of our community. I would also like to have a clinic for educators, focusing on literacy among the Deaf and hard of hearing."

For more information, questions or comments, contact Christine Olsen at 877-882-5593 TTY/VP, 888-671-6983 Voice/VP, 609-530-6384 Fax, or at colsen@njstatelib.org.



DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

January 30, 2009

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

East Brunswick Library
2 Jean Walling Civic Center
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529

Guest Presentation by Adam Bucon, NJ Division of Addiction Services

The public is invited to attend.

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

All DDHH Advisory Council meetings are fully accessible with sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices (ALDs) and CART (open captioning).

DeafNation Expo Attracts 4,500 to the Meadowlands

By Jason Weiland, DDHH Field Representative

It was a beautiful day on November 1 at the Meadowlands Convention Center in Secaucus, NJ where more than 4,500 people packed the center as video relay service company, service



providers, arts and craft vendors, and other technology providers demonstrated their wares for consumers to peruse and buy. It was the last stop of a 14 city tour for the DeafNation team of Joel and Jed Barish.

Attendees to the free event were also treated to entertainment that included The John Maucere Show, which is the Deaf version of the The Tonight Show with Jay



Leno. 'Accept or Accept Not' was another game inspired by 'Deal or No Deal'. It was a full house as many consumers

were standing as the crowd took in the performances.

An expo is not complete without the massive video technology on display by the video relay service favorites such as

Hands on VRS, Sorenson VRS, Viable VRS, CSD VRS, and Sprint. The Big Five lit up the middle of the floor with their hot VRS products as consumers considered their options among the different providers. Purple

Communications also featured an autograph and photo session with UFC fighter Matt Hammill, who is Deaf and hails from Utica, NY where he has his own gym.

Secaucus was the last stop on the DeafNation tour for 2008. However, the 2009 schedule announced by DeafNation and is now available on their Web site:

www.deafnation.com. In addition to DeafNation Expo, you can find "No Barriers with Joel Barish" which is an international road trip on video. DeafNation will return to Secaucus on September 26, 2009.



Workplace Woes When You Can't Hear Well On The Job

By Carol Granaldi

Although it's been more than 50 years since I entered the workplace as then a severely hard of hearing person, some of you who do not hear well may be facing the same obstacles that I encountered. I'd like to think that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the 21st century has opened the doors to jobs for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Even today, it can still be a struggle to function well in the workplace. Some of you who read this "that was then, and this is now" account may have similar experiences with job accommodation, coworker interaction, and being valued as a productive employee.

When I graduated from high school in the mid-1950's, I was loathe to continue my education because the classroom was so intimidating to me as a severely hard of hearing student. Although I wore one hearing aid in my good ear, the classroom's bad acoustics, high noise level, and teacher's speech during lectures were extremely difficult obstacles to overcome. A hearing aid in those days was merely amplification, and amplify it did. I had to struggle to listen to the classroom dialogue over the din of voices, books slamming, shoes shuffling, noises in the hallway outside and perpetual echo reverberating in and outside the room. At the end of the school day, I'd go home and take off my hearing aid and rest my brain, which was so weary from sorting out the relevant from the irrelevant. I was a good student, however, due to my early exposure to the written words in books; and I gravitated greatly toward reading rather than listening, because what I could hear was cacophony, but what I could read was pure and clear. As a student, I excelled in literature, composition, English usage, and what one would call a liberal arts orientation. Unfortunately, despite being an honor roll student, there was no mentoring in those days of a student who couldn't hear well, nor guidance into a field that suited my abilities and my inability to hear

well. Although I was tested at the school for the Deaf when in the 7th grade, it was determined that I wasn't Deaf enough for this school; and because my spoken English language and writing were above average, it was decided to give me a hearing aid and send me back to my original school. This was my life in 1950.

In those days, higher education was reserved for those who were planning to enter college, go on to careers in professions such as medicine, the sciences, law, teaching, etc. And, of course among these students, those with normal hearing greatly predominated. If you were hard of hearing or Deaf, these goals were almost unattainable for those with disabilities or/and coming from an impoverished, ill educated, dysfunctional, distressed family environment, as I did. Without higher education, without mentoring, without family support and without a goal, a person with poor hearing had very little chance to acquire a good paying job.



So, I entered the workplace at the lowest level of the job chain, which was clerical office work. Once again, I encountered the same difficulties formerly of the classroom, of trying to function, hearing poorly, struggling to understand what was being said to me by my boss and coworkers; struggling mightily to be like the others, and answer the phone or deal with customers at the counter. Office work didn't suit me, but it provided a needed paycheck. So for a dozen years, I endured the slings and barbs of being borderline effective in the workplace. I encountered coworker hostility and non-cooperation due to my inability to effectively understand what was being said, and needing repeats and reinforcement often when being given instructions to perform a task. Meetings with management were almost impossible in a group situation, and I would sit mute while others would interact and discuss. In the company cafeteria, with its enormous clatter of dishes and many voices, I

Cont'd on page 8

couldn't join my coworkers at the dining table and hear their conversation, and usually, subsequently, I sat alone eating my lunch and reading a book. Needless to say, I was the office pariah. When I finally left for another job, almost no one stopped at my desk to wish me good luck.

I gravitated to data processing, which was at that time quite new. In those days, we operated a keyboard which was called a key punch, and data transcription became my new "career." Of course, it was a lowly job, but at least I could sit for hours and not need to converse with my coworkers. The downside of working in that environment was the great clatter and roar of the machinery - both the key punches and sorting machines, and the computers which were at that time the size of a room. In fact the computer was "housed" in its own room about 8 x 10 feet, and had a loud hum. Everybody in the data room needed to shout at one another, so I was less at a disadvantage there than in my previous job.

Once, while working as a key punch operator, our manager told us that a new key puncher would be working with us soon. He told us she was a Deaf student at the school for the Deaf, and he would try to train her in this kind of work. When she arrived, we learned that we couldn't converse with her, because she was reliant on sign language, and none of us knew signs. The group supervisor was given the task of training this young girl and immediately realized that she couldn't grasp the concept of reading printed information, and then keying the numbers and letters into the keypunch to record on the cards. The young girl sat there looking from the paper to the supervisor to the keypunch and very hesitantly attempted to use the keys. A full day went by, and none of the punched cards were useable, so the next day the young girl didn't come to work. We were told her mother called, said that her daughter was upset and distraught at trying to work with normal hearing people, and wanted to stay in the school where she could at least understand what her classmates and teachers were signing to her. I never forgot this experience, and I recall how grateful I was that I, also a Deaf person, had somehow managed to retain my speech and hearing well enough to be employed. I wondered what kind of work the Deaf students from the school would ultimately perform in order to earn a living. This was during the early 1970's before Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I've often said, that I was born 50 years too soon because today, in the 21st century, there are many more opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing people to acquire a good education and a job than when I was in school. At this time, a newborn baby's hearing is tested only a few days after birth. By the time a child enters school, a watchful parent and pediatrician will be alert to language development and signs of hearing loss. When entering school, a hard of hearing student will often be fitted with hearing aids or cochlear implants, and the classroom may have FM listening or sound field systems. During a student's school years, school guidance counselors will follow the progress and steer a hard of hearing student towards higher education for a career suitable for him or her. More importantly, today's telecommunications and computer technology allow one to be productive without a lot of verbal contact through text messages and Internet Relay.

Many Deaf or hard of hearing workers are home-based entrepreneurs. I recall reading about a young Deaf man who applied for a job with a graphics company. He was asked via email to demonstrate his abilities in a file containing his artistry. He was hired, and when he emailed his prospective employer that he was Deaf, the reply was: "Doesn't matter." He had a skill that they needed. Despite his deafness, his education and training paid off.

If today I were to enter the 21st century workplace, which differs so greatly from the mid-20th century workplace, I'd first be sure that I used all available assistive technology such as sophisticated hearing aids, FM/IR listening equipment, captioning, etc. to acquire as much education as I needed for my vocation. This can only be accomplished by attending schools that provide supportive environments for students with hearing loss.

Armed with the necessary certification and enabling tools, I'd approach any prospective employers by being aware of my needs and capabilities and then communicate this during the job interview. I'd first have to display a "can do" attitude and self confidence about my usefulness to an employer. As a person with a disability, I'd be expected to show independence, self reliance and cooperation. I'd openly disclose my needs for communication on the job site, such as use of FM systems at meetings, or one on one.

Humanitarian Award Speech by Arlene Romoff

The following is the acceptance speech text given by Arlene Romoff, for the Theatre Resources Unlimited (TRU) award that she received on Sunday, November 9, 2008 for her work to promote captioned services at live theatre performances. The ceremony hosted by TRU was held at Carolines on Broadway in New York City.

I'd like to thank Bob Ost, and Theatre Resources Unlimited for this honor, and offer my congratulations to Ken



Davenport on his award as well. I'd also like to thank all my friends and family, and colleagues, for coming today to share this exciting honor with me. As many of you know, advocating for open captioning of live theatre performances has been my "passion" for many years – driven by the simple reality

that as my hearing declined, I didn't want to lose yet another of life's pleasures – going to the theatre.

But many of you probably don't know my story – or even much about hearing loss, so this looks like a good time to give you the five minute short course.

Hearing loss is probably the most complex and misunderstood of all disabilities. I should tell you right now that I'm totally Deaf, and I'm hearing you through the miracle of my cochlear implants. Left side for 11 years, right side – one month! I was born with normal hearing and didn't start to lose my hearing until my early adult years. Each year, though, I lost more and more hearing, until 25 years later, I had virtually none at all.

As my hearing declined, I began to use the assistive listening devices in the theatre, but by the 1980's, that wasn't sufficient, so my husband (who has normal hearing) and I stopped going to Broadway shows. We still kept our subscription to the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ - since we always went with other couples, and it was a social thing to do. Paper Mill would seat me front row, so I could lip read better, and then they would send me scripts, to read in advance. I was holding on by a thread – but it was becoming too tedious to keep this up. And it certainly wasn't a pleasant theatre going experience.

Paper Mill ran sign language interpreted performances.

But I didn't know sign language, and neither did anyone I knew. Like the vast majority of people with hearing loss, I relied on my residual hearing, hearing aids, assistive devices, and captioning. There's a pervasive myth that most people with hearing loss use sign language and need interpreters, but the reality is that only about 2% of the population with hearing loss actually uses sign language. So there were a lot of people like me out there whose needs were not being accommodated.

It seemed to me that if Paper Mill could provide interpreters in front of a section of the orchestra, then they could certainly provide the text on an LED screen. So in 1995, I asked the court reporter who had been doing real-time captioning for me at meetings – and who happens to be doing the captioning now the following question: "Don, do you think you could load an entire script in your computer and display it line by line in synch with a live performance?"

The rest, as they would say, is history. But it took what I call my "hearing angels" to get this done. And many of them are right here in this room! Paper Mill started open captioning in 1996, and the Theatre Development Fund (TDF) started arranging open captioned performances in 1997, debuting on Broadway with Christopher Plummer in "Barrymore." I got my first cochlear implant right after that.

Three years later, in 2000, the League for the Hard of Hearing paired up with TDF and arranged a theatre tour of London, and open captioning made its debut on the West End. At the end of that comedy, my British colleague commented that we were all able to "LOFF" together! He founded the organization, STAGETEXT, the next year, also dedicated to captioned live theatre performances.

My friends with hearing loss have asked me to emphasize that without captioning, we don't just struggle with theatre, we stay home, along with our family and friends. While you would never think to exclude someone with a wheelchair, and actively seek to provide ramps for people with hearing loss, captioning is our ramp! Without it, we are as excluded as that person in a wheelchair at the base of a staircase.

Cont'd on page 10

So essentially, we are a rather large untapped audience. Since TDF started arranging open captioned performances, they've sold over 36,000 tickets to Broadway and off-Broadway shows. More regional theatres have started providing captioned performances. I've been to the Kravis Center, the Broward Center, the Kennedy Center, the Guthrie Theatre, Westport Country Playhouse, Yale Rep, to name a few.

I know from my networking as the NJ state leader of the Hearing Loss Association of America, that my counterparts all over the country want to know how they, too, can get captioning started in their theatres and performing arts centers in places like Atlanta, Denver, Lancaster, Seattle, Tampa, Jacksonville, and on and on. They are staying home, but would love to be able to attend live theatre performances, knowing that they won't miss a word.

And there still aren't regularly scheduled captioned performances in New York, just the selected offerings provided by TDF.

I should mention, too, that the baby boomers are coming of age and they were raised on rock concerts and are getting their first hearing aids. Open captioning is "universal access". It helps everyone because it is just "there"! I also might mention my husband's comment after seeing MISS SAIGON with captions at Paper Mill – "so that's what they were singing about!" And don't even ask me about CATS!

So now you know what the open captioned live theatre agenda is all about, just a lot of people with hearing loss wanting to experience the joy of live theatre.

My heartfelt thanks to TRU once again. Working with you to make this event accessible to my friends and to me has been wonderful and memorable.

Award inscription:
2008
TRU HUMANITARIAN AWARD
to pioneer and advocate
Arlene Romoff
for breaking the sound barrier in live theatre,
and making it accessible to so many

Workplace Woes

(cont'd from page 8)

Understand, however, that most employers need to be educated about a hard of hearing employee's needs and the financial costs associated with accommodations for him/her. If you live in a state with a commission for the Deaf and/or hard of hearing, this agency can be contacted and can steer employers to the appropriate place for such information. Better yet, your state may have a demonstration center for assistive technology for hard of hearing or Deaf persons. Such a site would have alerting devices, communication tools such as ALDs and telecommunication technology demonstrations.

Once hired, there would be a trial period during which we'd work out a strategy for effective communication, such as written instructions or via email or text messaging with Blackberries or other devices. In the case of group meetings, appropriate communication access would be provided, and this can be a learning experience for the employer as well as fellow workers. I'd be more open and honest about my hearing loss, my use of hearing equipment and willingness to teach others about all this. It is also helpful to network with other hard of hearing or late-deafened mentors through organizations like the Association for Late Deafened Adults (ALDA) or the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Exchange ideas, tips and pointers with others like yourself.

It takes effort to accomplish successful employment when we don't hear well in the workplace. It is not an easy path to walk to overcome a disability in a workplace which is far more demanding today than a half century ago. Communication is vital between employers, employees and consumers, even more now than ever. Most workplaces are not equipped to handle persons with hearing loss despite the ADA mandates. The workplace can be intimidating to someone who does not hear well, but if you develop self confidence by being prepared educationally, vocationally, and with a sense of determination, you are the master of your own fate.

New Jersey Theatre Alliance Open Caption Series 2008-2009

Bergen County

Teaneck
Thursday, February 19 8:00 p.m.
Meester Amerika
The Garage Theatre, Teaneck
Becton Theatre at Farleigh Dickinson University
960 River Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
201-569-7710
201-569-7710 FAX
www.garagetheatre.org/
Michael Bias, Artistic Producing Director (Tech Contact)

Essex County

Montclair
Sunday, February 22 2:00 p.m.
After Adam
Luna Stage, Montclair
695 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042
973-744-3309
973-509-2388 FAX
www.lunastage.org

Millburn
Sunday, February 15 7:30 p.m.
The Importance of Being Earnest
Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn
Brookside Drive
Millburn, NJ 07041
973-379-3636
973-376-0825 FAX
www.papermill.org

Hudson County

Hoboken
Saturday, February 1 8:00 p.m.
The Who's Tommy
The Theatre Co. at DeBaun, Hoboken
DeBaun Auditorium
Edwin A. Stevens Hall
5th Street off of Hudson Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
201-216-8937
www.debaun.org

Middlesex County

New Brunswick
Friday, May 1 8:00 p.m.

Sheila's Day
Crossroads Theatre Company, New Brunswick
7 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-545-8100
www.CrossroadsTheatreCompany.org
Marshall Jones, Executive Director (Tech Contact)

New Brunswick
Saturday, May 9 2:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve
George Street Playhouse
9 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-846-2895
732-247-9151 FAX
www.gsponline.org

Monmouth County

Long Branch
Thursday, March 5 8:00 p.m.
Sick
New Jersey Rep, Long Branch
At the Lumia Theatre
179 Broadway
Long Branch, NJ 07740
732-229-3166
732-229-3167 FAX
www.njrep.org

Asbury Park
Thursday April 23 8:00 p.m.
Kingdom (Tentative title)
ReVision Theatre, Asbury Park
PO Box 973
Asbury Park, NJ 07712-0973
732-455-3059
www.revisiontheatre.org
David E. Leidholdt, Producing Artistic Director (Any of these three are tech contact)
Thomas Morrissey, Producing Artistic Director
Stephen Bishop Seely, Producing Artistic Director

Red Bank
Saturday, May 30 3:00 p.m.
Private Lives
Monmouth County
Two River Theatre, Red Bank
21 Bridge Avenue
Red Bank, NJ 07701

732-345-1400
732-345-1414 FAX
www.trtc.org

Morris County

Madison
Sunday, April 26 3:00 p.m.
Our Dad is in Atlantis
Playwrights Theatre, Madison
33 Green Village Road
Madison, NJ 07940
973-514-1787
973-514-2060 FAX
www.ptnj.org

Madison
Friday, March 13 8:00 p.m.
True West
12 Miles West, Madison
In residence at Playwrights Theatre
33 Green Village Road
Madison, NJ 07940
973-259-9187
973-259-9188 FAX
www.12mileswest.org

Morristown
Friday, May 29 8:00 p.m.
The Grass is Greener
The Bickford Theatre, Morristown
6 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-971-3706
973-538-7945 FAX
www.morrimuseum.org

Lake Hiawatha
Sunday, June 7 3:00 p.m.
Secrets of a Soccer Mom
Women's Theatre Company
The Parsippany Playhouse at the Parsippany Arts Center
1130 Knoll Road
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034
973-316-3033
www.womenstheatre.org
Barbara Krajkowski, Artistic Director

Ocean County

Beach Haven
Thursday, June 25 2:00 p.m.
Ragtime
Surflight Theatre, Beach Haven
Engleside and Beach Avenues

Beach Haven, NJ 08008
609-492-9477
609-492-4469 FAX
www.surflight.org
Steve Steiner, Artistic Director

Salem County

Elmer
Saturday, March 28 2:00 p.m.
Happily Ever After, A Cinderella Tale
Pushcart Players (Touring to Appel Farm Elmer, NJ)
457 Shirley Road
Elmer, NJ 08318
800-394-8478 • 856-358-2472
www.appelfarm.org

Union County

Rahway
Saturday, January 17 8:00 p.m.
A Few Good Men
Alliance Rep, Union
in residence at the Union County Performing Arts Center
1601 Irving Street
Rahway, NJ 07065
732-499-8226
www.alliancerep.org
Michael J. Driscoll, Artistic Director (Tech Contact)

Sunday, April 5 3:00 p.m.
Play TBD
The Theatre Project, Cranford
Union County College
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016
908-659-5189
973-367-7262 FAX
www.thetheatreproject.org
Mark Spina, Artistic Director (Tech Contact)

Warren County

Hackettstown
Sunday, March 1 2:30 p.m.
You May Go Now
Centenary Stage, Hackettstown
In residence at Centenary College
400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-979-0900
908-979-4297 FAX
www.centenarystageco.org
Production Contact: Mona Hennessy 973-744-3309 x202

New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Holds Biennial Conference

By Mariann Jacobson, Kymme Van Cleef

On November 7, 8 & 9 NJRID held its Biennial Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Jamesburg, NJ. The conference was co-sponsored by the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The title of



NJRID Biennial Conference Committee

the Deaf/Interpreting communities can work together towards a better future. To that end, the opening ceremony featured two members that represented each of the facets in our logo. One veteran and one newer to the field. The panel included representatives from the following: interpreters, certified Deaf interpreters, educational, multi-lingual interpreters, codas, students, and trainers. The emphasis of the panel's comments was that our work is geared towards the Deaf community.



Robert DeMayo on a "roller coaster" of emotions during his one-man show, *Me Hear None*

Friday's pre-conference was very well attended. There was a heavy focus on Educational Interpreting K-12 presented by Amie Seiberlich. Powerful Voicing, by Stephanie Feyne, was also offered to a more general audience.

The evening closed with a fantastic performance of "RID-The Musical" by Maria Ruiz-Williams and Amie Seiberlich. The presentation is a musical depiction of RID's history which is short but very rich presented by Lou Fant in his manuscript "Silver Threads-A Personal Look at the First Twenty-five years of the RID." It was an enlightening performance, both entertaining and informative.

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The conference continued on Saturday with a wide range of workshops from which to choose. Workshop titles included - Interpreting Statewide Assessments, WARNING: Explicit Content!, They Have Guns, Visual Music 101, So You Think You are Ready for an Interpreting Referral Agency, Nouns to Nonce, The Business of Being an Interpreter, Academic ASL and The Open Process Model. Interpreters from every specialty area at every level of skill and experience could find something to pique their interest. There was also an exhibit hall promoting various products, services and merchandise.

The Saturday evening banquet was enjoyed by all. After the Silent Auction was completed the 59 winners eagerly collected

their prizes. There was also a live auction featuring Kathy Ferejohn as the auctioneer. A significant amount of money was collected as she kept the bidding going, particularly for The Biennial 2008 Quilt, Study Buddy preparation materials for the RID test and two tickets to the Giants game.

Sunday continued with more workshops in the morning. An entire session for CDI's, ASL Conceptual Blending Using Visual Media and Ethical Decision Making for Beginning Interpreters.

The conference concluded with a forum on the work of the national level organization's committee - Strategic Challenges/By-Laws Review Task Force which addressed proposed changes in category membership in light of new certifications and credentials which the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has or is considering recognizing. Present at this forum were committee chair Margaret Cobb, RID President Cheryl Moose, and Region 1 Representative Rebekah Berkowitz.

The conference committee co-chairs are very grateful to our generous sponsors, supporters and boosters. We never could have done such a successful conference without them. Lastly, we'd like to thank our entire committee who worked tirelessly to make sure all the details we accounted for. To see a list of all involved, please visit our Web site at www.njrid.org.



Mariann L. Jacobson and Kymme Van Cleef, Conference Co-chairs

Deaf Fireman at Children's Story Hour

Bert C. Rypkema, Deaf "Fireman of the Year" with the Waretown Fire Company, was this month's special guest at the New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped's Children's American Sign Language Story Hour on November 18.

Mr. Rypkema signed Fireman Small by Wong Herbert Yee to students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission School and the public.

Mr. Rypkema spoke about being a firefighter, and proving that he can do anything except hear. He encouraged the children to grow up to be whatever they wanted. He also displayed his video of fire stations and fire trucks. To the audience's delight, several children tried on his heavy fire gear and helmets. Then Mr. Rypkema distributed Firefighter helmets, rulers, pencils, and ICI stickers that let firefighters know where to locate the children/infants/animals at home.

Pete Campione of Kindred Souls also attended the Story Hour with his dogs. Students held a hoop while his therapy dog, Toby, leapt through it.

The Story Hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

The Story Hour is part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program offered by LBH, located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton. For more information about the DHHAP program, contact Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the DHHAP Program, at 877-882-5593 TTY or colsen@njstatelib.org. The next ASL Story Hour will be at NJLBH on January 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.



Notice of Meeting Time Change

Trenton Silent Club

Monthly meetings are now the
third Saturday of every month

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

320 Scully Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08610

Come enjoy treasure hunt, games and more.

Save the Date

Famous Deaf Deacon Patrick Graybill

New Jersey's First Catholic
Deaf Weekend Retreat

April 24 - 26

Sacred Heart Spirituality Center
Newton, NJ

Communicator Signboard

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NWJAD)
hosts

General Meeting and Election Night Saturday, January 10, 2009

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
215 Boulevard
Mountain Lakes, NJ

Door opens at 7:00 p.m.

Admission: Members-Free Non-members - \$5
Sign language students are welcome
Refreshments and cake will be provided after oath
Visit: www.nwjad.org for more details.

Save The Date!
UCC Sign Club

Annual ASL Festival April 25, 2009

Union County College
1033 Springfield Ave.
Cranford, NJ 07016

Vendors and entertainment.
Don't Miss it.
More details to come.

For more information: uccsignclub@gmail.com

Calendar of Events 2009

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

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

Friday, January 30, 2009

East Brunswick Public Library
Guest Presentation by
NJ Division of Addiction Services
RSVP 609-984-7281 V/TTY

Family Learning Conference
(For families with children who are
Deaf and hard of hearing)

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Atlantic Cape Community College
Mays Landing, NJ
609-984-7281 V/TTY
609-943-4271 VP

Saturday, June 13, 2009

**DDHH 25th Annual
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Awareness Day**

Six Flags Great Adventure
Jackson, NJ

Regular Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30

DDHH Office - Days Closed

New Year's (January 1), Martin Luther King Day (January 19)

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

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