

# MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

June 2012

Vol. 33 No. 6

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

## Governor Christie Acts to Enhance Job Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities in New Jersey

### “Employment First” Initiative Encourages Competitive Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

**Trenton, NJ** – Furthering the Christie Administration’s commitment to expand life opportunities and job prospects for New Jerseyans with disabilities, Governor Chris Christie announced that New Jersey will become the 14th state to adopt an Employment First initiative. The initiative embraces a philosophy – implemented through policies, programs and services – to proactively promote competitive employment in the general workforce for people with any type of disability.

“Everyone should have the opportunity to be productive, earn a living, and feel a sense of personal fulfillment from employment,” said Governor Christie. “By adopting an Employment First policy, this Administration is firmly committed to creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities. That’s why we’re working cooperatively with the private sector to ensure that people with disabilities are a seamless part of New Jersey’s workforce, with the independence and sense of community that comes from relationships developed inside and outside of the workplace.”

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, as of March 2012, only 20.1% of people with disabilities participated in the labor force as compared to 69.3% of their peers without disabilities. In addition, the nationwide unemployment rate for people with disabilities was 15.2% compared to an 8.1% unemployment rate for people without disabilities.

As a result of the Administration adopting Employment First, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) will coordinate to deliver services that advance the goals of this initiative. That means assessing policies to ensure



*Chris Sullivan and DDHH Director David Alexander gather after the Employment First press conference.*

that the infrastructure of education, social services, transportation and workforce expectations support getting individuals with disabilities to work. It will also require all of state government to examine their respective policies and regulations to prevent barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities.

DHS supports numerous education and employment programs in its Divisions of Developmental Disabilities, Disability Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services as well as within its Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

“Employment First is about creating an expectation of individuals with disabilities, which ultimately empowers them with choices for their future,” said Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez. “Employment reduces poverty, shrinks enrollment in entitlement programs, eases demand on state and community based social service agencies and provides workers with a sense of achievement.”

#### Department of Labor and Workforce Development Promotes Employment First Initiative

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services within LWD solicits private non-profit and for-profit companies to facilitate work training, employment counseling, educational advancement, assistive technologies and job placement

*Continued on page 8*





# Director's Corner

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

**T**his past April, I had the opportunity to attend a press conference at the state house announcing a significant initiative for New Jersey. At this event, Governor Chris Christie declared New Jersey an Employment First state. This designation supports competitive, integrated employment for everyone, including people with disabilities. The governor stated, "Everyone should have the opportunity to be productive, earn a living, and feel a sense of personal fulfillment from employment."

Commissioner Jennifer Velez has stated that the implementation of this initiative will involve three phases. These include: raising awareness about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities; working closely with private industry to dispel myths associated with the cost of hiring individual with disabilities, and; transforming expectations in relation to what is achievable for people with disabilities.

Myths associated with the cost of hiring individual with disabilities, often hold back employers from hiring an applicant with a disability. This is especially true for people with hearing loss who require assistive technology devices to support their employment. The fact is, the cost of this technology is usually minimal and employers may deduct the cost of accommodations as a business expense and may even be eligible for special tax credits.

The DDHH, in collaboration with other organizations serving people with hearing loss, has made strides in enhancing awareness about the benefits of employing people with hearing loss and dispelling myths associated with deafness. We look forward to continuing this progress and working with our partners, and the business community to support implementation of the Employment First policy.



## We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

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

**The deadline for the Monthly Communicator is the first of the month for the next month.**

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

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

## Monthly Communicator

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# Editor's Note



**Please Note:**

We only publish one issue during the summer, a combined **July/August** edition. The deadline for this issue is **June first**. The deadline for the **September** issue is **August first**.

**Correction**

Incorrect information was submitted in the *May Monthly Communicator*, page 9 under “NJ Deaf Clubs and Meeting Locations.”

The following should have been listed:

- **South Jersey Deaf Club Inc.** is the correct name and is located in Brick.
- The contact name and number for **South Jersey Deaf Senior Club** is Arline Doerrmann at 856-292-8520 VP
- **The Trenton Silent Club** meets on the third Saturday.

## CapTel Offers New Model



The DDHH Equipment Distribution Program will include the new CapTel 840i which replaces the 800i. This change will not affect any existing CapTel 800i phones currently being used.

The CapTel 840i looks the same as the CapTel 800i but with a few added enhancements, such as a built-in answering machine, a larger display screen, Wi-Fi capability, and Spanish translated menu.

Those that already have received a CapTel from the DDHH Equipment Distribution Program are not eligible to exchange their phone for the newer model.



**The DDHH 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day is Saturday, June 9 at Six Flags Great Adventure Theme Park in Jackson NJ.**



**For ticket information: GATickets@aol.com or go to; www.sixflags.com/greatadventure and enter promo code: NJDAD. Tickets valid until October 14, 2012.**



# AARP and ASHA Release New Study on Hearing Loss

By Traci Burton, *Field Representative*



**I**f we are not feeling well, we go to the doctor. If we can't see as clearly as we once could, we get corrective lenses. But what if we are not hearing as well as we once could? A survey conducted amongst AARP membership shows a majority of respondents don't believe their hearing problems warrant treatment. The survey findings below were posted on [www.healthyhearing.com](http://www.healthyhearing.com) on Tuesday December 6, 2011 and illustrate that many older adults are still not giving hearing health the attention it deserves.

**Washington, DC** - Hearing health plays a key role in personal health and quality of life, but many people with hearing difficulties don't believe their problems warrant treatment. And, according to a new survey of AARP members, nearly half of survey respondents say their hearing is getting worse.

The survey, conducted by AARP and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) released [December 1, 2011], focuses on the state of hearing among Americans 50+older. It examines attitudes toward hearing, the needs and unmet needs that the population has for treating hearing issues and knowledge of where to go for help.

"Maintaining hearing health as one ages is a very important concern among our members," said AARP Vice President Nicole Duritz.

"While the survey results indicate that older Americans recognize the impact hearing difficulties can have on relationships with family and friends, people also are going without treatment, which can negatively impact quality of life and lead to safety issues."

Key findings from the survey include:

- 85 percent of members surveyed said that maintaining hearing health is of great importance to them personally. And 70 percent of respondents who said their hearing is excellent also said that they feel younger than their actual age.
- Over a five-year period, nearly half (46 percent) of members surveyed say their hearing is getting worse. And the same percentage (47 percent) reported

having untreated hearing health issues.

- During that same period in time, the vast majority of members surveyed reported either having a vision test or blood pressure monitoring (88 and 85 percent, respectively). In comparison, 43 percent of respondents reported having had a hearing test conducted.
- More than half (61 percent) of member respondents indicate that hearing difficulties make it hard to follow conversations in noisy situations. And members point to the impact hearing difficulties can have on relationships with friends and family (44 percent) or during family gatherings (43 percent).
- A majority (57 percent) of member respondents with untreated hearing difficulties don't believe their problems warrant treatment.
- Nearly two-thirds of poll respondents (63 percent) cite health insurance coverage limitations, concerns about cost, and lack of health insurance as reasons for not getting treatment for hearing difficulties.

"Untreated hearing loss is not a condition to be taken lightly or ignored," according to Paul R. Rao, Ph.D., President of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. "It can lead to social isolation and even depression. And it works against the desire of more and more Americans to stay in the work force. We sincerely hope that one result of our polling with AARP will be that people seek treatment."

The survey also found that more people will seek help for hearing issues if their issue is linked to their relationships. Nearly 70 percent would seek treatment if they felt their hearing issues were affecting their relationships with family and friends. Nearly as many would do so if someone they cared about asked them to seek treatment.

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# HLA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

By Peter Yerkes, *Trustee, HLA-NJ*

## David Myers to Deliver Keynote at HLA Convention in Providence, R.I. June 21-June 24, 2012

### HLAA Announces Convention Keynote Speaker



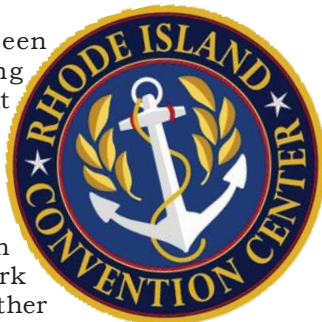
**D**avid Myers, a nationally known advocate for hearing loop technology, will be keynote speaker for the Hearing Loss Association of America's Convention 2012 in Providence, R.I., from June 21-June 24, according to HLAA officials.

Looping technology is a highly effective way to help people with hearing loss follow what's said in meeting rooms, houses of worship and other public places—and even get every word from their living room TV. Basically, a wire is installed circling the room or other space and connected to a sound source. All the user needs to do is set their hearing aid or cochlear implant to the telecoil setting. The result is clear, audible sound, with no background noise. The advantage over infrared is that you don't have to depend on borrowed headsets, which may or may not work well and which can take time to obtain and return.

HLA-NJ members have been impressed by new looping technologies available for use at the past two annual meetings. In New York, where HLA-NJ has joined other groups in advocating for loop technology, it is available at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New-York Historical Society and many other public places. More than 300 subway information booths have recently been looped, and Nissan has announced it will equip 13,500 new taxicabs with hearing loops.

At the HLAA Convention Dr. Myers, a professor of psychology at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, will explain how hearing loop technology works, how it can help people with hearing loss, and how to advocate to make this technology more widely available.

For more information on the HLAA Convention in Providence, RI, or to make reservations, visit the HLAA website at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). In addition to Dr. Myer's keynote, the convention will offer scores of presentations, an Exhibit Hall full of demonstrations of new technology, and chances to meet people from across the country who share your concern with hearing loss.



### ■ June 9 Social for College Scholarship Applicants

Come meet some remarkable college-bound young people with hearing loss at the HLA-NJ 2012 College Scholarship social. Anyone interested in the topic of hearing loss is welcome to attend and talk with high school seniors who applied for one of HLA-NJ's \$1,000 college scholarships, and their families. The event will be on Saturday, June 9, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Brunswick Public Library, 2 Jean Walling Center, East Brunswick NJ.

Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by June 1 to Sandy Spekman, Scholarship Chairperson, at [sspekman@gmail.com](mailto:sspekman@gmail.com). Your donations to the NJ Walk4Hearing have allowed HLA-NJ to sponsor this valuable scholarship program.

### ■ Find Us On Facebook

Join online conversations and catch up on news affecting people with hearing loss at HLA-NJ's Facebook page. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), type HLA-NJ in the search box, and you are there. You will find everything from a link to a blog by Arlene Romoff, past president of HLA-NJ, to a query from someone trying to find a theater with captioned showings of the mega-hit movie, "Hunger Games."

### ■ We'd Like to Hear From You

Members of HLA-NJ are grateful for the opportunity to have this column appear in the Monthly Communicator. But we need one thing that would make the column even better. We need feedback or material for future columns from you, our readers. Everyone who lives with hearing loss has a story to tell, a coping tip to pass on, or a question. We'd like to use some reader experiences in future columns, and follow up on suggestions. Please contact me, at [p.yerkes@comcast.net](mailto:p.yerkes@comcast.net), or e-mail HLA-NJ at [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org).

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

# DHS Commissioner Marks Better Hearing and Speech Month



*Jason Weiland explains how a device functions, as DDHH Director David Alexander and DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez listen. Dena B. Hazen, right, interprets.*

**Ewing Township** – Recognizing May as Better Hearing and Speech Month, Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez visited the campus of the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf to highlight the broad range of equipment and technology available to deaf and hard of hearing residents to support their work and home lives. The Ewing Township site is just one of the Department’s five regional demonstration centers.

“There have been incredible advances in technology that allow people with hearing loss to live safely and independently,” said Velez. “This equipment ensures that work and community living are achievable and sustainable, even for individuals who are profoundly Deaf. Last year, more than 700 residents received equipment through the Department’s Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH).”

Among the various devices, the Commissioner tested home safety mechanisms such as fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and baby cry alerts with built in strobe lights and visual flashers. Telecommunication instruments such as video phones, captioned phones and other assistive listening tools also were on display.

In New Jersey, it is estimated that more than 850,000 children and adults have some type of hearing loss. These statistics keep the Department, together with its national and community partner

organizations, working hard to promote hearing loss awareness, treatment and interventions. Ranging from slight to profound, hearing loss can change a person’s quality of life. A diagnosis during the early years of life might affect speech and language development, school performance and social interaction. Later in life, a loss of hearing could manifest in personal and professional obstacles. In some cases, it may place a person at risk for social isolation and depression.

“New Jersey mandates universal newborn hearing screenings because the detection of significant hearing loss would not be immediately obvious, otherwise,” said DDHH’s Director, David Alexander, who uses a cochlear implant and other hearing assistance technology at home and at work. “Regular screenings are essential to maintain hearing health. If, or when, any degree of hearing loss is determined, the Division

can provide extensive information, training and technical assistance to individuals and their families, schools and employers.”

Once considered a byproduct of aging, hearing loss is affecting many more people. Among the generations that grew up with Walkmans or digital music players, doctors are seeing an increased number of patients in their twenties with hearing damage.

Hearing loss can occur slowly over time and the onset may be difficult to detect. The following examples can be used to generally assess hearing loss symptoms:

- Frequently asking people to repeat themselves.
- Turning your ear toward a sound to hear it better.
- Having pain or ringing in your ears.
- Keeping the volume of your music or TV at a level that others say is too loud.

These warning signs indicate the need for a hearing test by a licensed audiologist. The assessment procedures for hearing loss are simple and painless. For people of all ages, the sooner hearing loss is detected, the more effectively it can be treated and intervention provided. Screenings should be done annually for children and periodically throughout adulthood.

For more information about hearing health and hearing loss, visit DHS’ website or call 800-792-8339 V/TTY toll free in New Jersey.



*DDHH Field Representative Jason Weiland demonstrates the videophone.*



## Technology: Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?

By Alicia Cristiani, NJDEAF, Inc. Promotions Coordinator, Spring 2012 Conference

**N**ew Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, Inc. proudly hosted its seventeenth event since its inception in 1998. Soon after the Fall 2011 conference concluded, NJDEAF, Inc. got to work on their Spring 2012 event under the guidance of co-chairpersons Dr. Candi Mascia Reed and Ms. Melanie Phillips. The conference, which took place at the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) on March 31, 2012, was entitled **Technology: Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?** Five outstanding presenters with years of experience in their respective fields offered their anecdotes and expertise related to technologies that are being utilized in programs for the deaf and hard of hearing. The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) provided the communication services throughout the day. Participants undoubtedly left the conference feeling filled to the brim with a wealth of techniques and information they could bring back to their colleagues and students.

The day began with introductions and a welcome by co-chairperson Dr. Reed. Following Dr. Reed was the first presentation, **How Technology Has Changed Over Four Generations**, given by Ms. Kim Arrigo. With pictures and personal stories, Ms. Arrigo, a High School ASL Literacy Instructor at the New Jersey School for the Deaf (NJSD), discussed the major developments in technologies for the deaf and hard of hearing that she and her family experienced since the 1930s. The presentation ranged from

TTYs to pagers, from video phones to smart phones, and everything in between.

The spotlight was next given to Ms. Grace Sylvester-Samis, an Educational Sign Language Interpreter from Hamilton Township. Her presentation, **Mentoring without a Mentor: Using Technology to Increase Your Skills**, highlighted the many ways that she prepares herself for interpreting situations, how she strives to improve her own skills each day, and how she learns from others. Some of her tips for interpreters were to connect with others in the field, be



knowledgeable of current events, and most importantly, take advantage of the multitude of resources available on the World Wide Web. The long list of websites, web materials, online ASL dictionaries, and videos will most certainly be visited not only by the interpreters in the audience, but by

all participants at the conference.

Professionals in the deaf education field know how important it is to prepare students for life after high school. Ms. Josie Durkow, Director of the ASL/IEP Program at Burlington County College, provided a technological approach to transition with her presentation entitled **Technology-Based Resources to Prepare Students for Transition**. She introduced a PEPNet online transition resource geared toward high school students who are deaf and hard of hearing called iTransition, which provides students with training in the areas of career interests, college orientation, working with disability services providers, and improving skills in time management, studying, and goal-setting. Ms. Durkow led the participants through a number of screen-shots of the website, giving detailed explanations of each available training. She also provided a short overview of Getting a Job, an online resource designed for students who are deaf and hard of hearing transitioning to work, as well as for the professionals who work with them. The website offers a series of topical videos accompanied by supporting documents, related materials, educators' guides, and role model videos. Conference participants will be able to utilize the resources back at their respective programs through the PEPNet website, **www.pepnet.org**. In addition, Ms. Durkow brought along a variety of resources as raffle

*Continued on page 9*

## Job Opportunities *continued*

services. Annually, 27,000 people with disabilities are serviced through LWD's Vocational Rehabilitation Services through its 34 One-Stop Career Centers.

"This month, our Department's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is celebrating its 93rd year of preparing people with disabilities for work through training and services that level the playing field. Each year my Department assists an average of 27,000 people with disabilities to achieve self-sufficiency, and we place about 4,000 annually into jobs. I've visited the employers, who range from national corporations to Ma-and-Pa shops, and witnessed first-hand the productivity these talented individuals bring to our New Jersey businesses," said Commissioner Harold J. Wirths.

Also, the Department of Education (DOE) utilizes the Vocational Profile as a framework that provides needed information for the customization of community employment opportunities, which enables students with disabilities to be successful.

Governor Christie is committed to creating employment opportunities for New Jerseyans with disabilities by:

- Protecting funding for Vocational Rehabilitation Services at the enhanced level provided in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, so that providers will have the resources necessary to offer enhanced work activities for a second year;
- Continuing NJ WorkAbility, a New Jersey Medicaid Buy-In Program which offers full health coverage to people with disabilities who are working, and whose earnings would otherwise make them ineligible for Medicaid. Currently, there are more than 9,200 participants in NJ WorkAbility;
- Contracting with supportive employment agencies through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Approximately 900 individuals have obtained competitive



employment through this process since January 2010;

- Contracting with supportive employment agencies through the partnership of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Approximately 900 individuals have obtained competitive employment through this process since January 2010;
- Continuing to provide job training and placement and assistive technology through the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired's vocational rehabilitation program to over 2,500 clients since January 2010.

In addition, building upon a public/private initiative called 'DiscoverAbility', the Departments of Human Services and Labor and Workforce Development, together with hundreds of businesses statewide, will intensify efforts to collaboratively provide the services and training necessary for individuals with disabilities to prepare for and find and retain employment.



## College Student Chosen for 2012 Summer Academy

Matthew Ballerini, a college freshman at Rochester Institute of Technology, has been chosen to attend the 2012 Summer Academy for Advancing Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Computing. Matthew is a New Jersey resident and a graduate of Moorestown High School.

The 2012 Summer Academy is located at the University of Washington in Seattle, home of America's software industry. UW is a Research 1 university; the Department of Computer Science and Engineering is ranked among the top ten programs for Computer Science in the nation.



The 2012 Summer Academy is an academically challenging program designed for deaf and hard of hearing students with skills in math and/or science, who are considering computing as a career, either in industry or academia, and are in college or ready to enter college. Admission is extremely competitive, and only 10 students are chosen for admission.

The Summer Academy is a 9 week program. Tuition, room/board and transportation to Seattle are provided at no cost. Students will take a computer programming course for college credit and a certificate course in Animation. They will meet successful deaf and hard of hearing professionals working in computing, from Amazon, DeafCode, IBM, Microsoft, salesforce.com and ZVRS, and also visit local computer companies such as Adobe, Cray, Google, Microsoft, and Valve.

Congratulations to Matthew for this achievement.

## DDHH Hosts Better Speech and Hearing Month Event

**M**ay is **Better Speech and Hearing Month** and in recognition of this, DDHH hosted an information table at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton on Tuesday May 8, 2012. Many state employees visited the table and learned about decibel levels, hearing protection and preservation, the importance of getting one's hearing checked, and general information on services available in the state for those living with hearing loss. There was also a sampling of technology demonstrating possible solutions for those experiencing hearing difficulties in certain situations. People who stopped learned about amplified and captioned telephones, personal amplifiers, as well as t-coils and neck loops.

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has compiled fact sheets about hearing protection, common environmental noise levels and personal stereo systems and headphones.

If you are interested in receiving copies of these fact sheets, please contact our office at 609-984-7281, or for electronic copies e-mail Traci Burton, Field Representative at [traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us).

You can also visit the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) and the Center for Hearing and Communication at [www.chchearing.org](http://www.chchearing.org) for more information.



### Technology... *continued*

prizes, which included Achieving Goals DVDs. They were distributed after her presentation to participants with winning tickets.

At the conclusion of lunch, participants reconvened in the media room for the final two presenters. First was Ms. Heather Osowski, a High School Teacher of the Deaf at NJSD, with her presentation entitled **Technology in the Classroom: Google Apps and More**. Ms. Osowski brought the techniques of her classroom to the conference. She demonstrated a LadiBug document camera, its features, and the many ways she uses one her classroom with deaf and hard of hearing students. She also demonstrated the variety of applications that Google offers. Ms. Osowski logged on to her own Google account to show participants the ways in which she uses Google Documents, Google Calendar, and Google Sites to increase learning in her classroom. Her students experience technology on a daily basis with Google applications. Participants were provided with "how-to" packets on each application presented by Ms. Osowski.

The last guest presenter of the day was Dr. Andrea McMahan, an Educational Audiologist at Bergen County Special Services, who presented **Trying to Keep Up With It All: A Brief Update on Hearing Technology**. Participants were shown pictures and given commentary on the newest assistive technologies for the deaf and hard of hearing and the most recent hearing aid and cochlear implant developments. Some of the information provided included frequency lowering, water resistant and waterproof hearing aids and implants, and an extensive list of personal FM

systems and classroom sound field systems and their most up-to-date features. Some of the information was so recent that Dr. McMahan had just learned about it herself in the days leading up to the event.

At the conclusion of each presentation, Ms. Phillips awarded each guest speaker with a certificate, thanking her for her support of NJDEAF, Inc. and for taking time to appear at the conference. Also throughout the day, a representative from Light Speed Technologies was set up at a table to provide information about the company's products. Dr. Reed concluded the day with some closing remarks, thanking all presenters, DDHH for their communication services, and all conference participants. Dr. Reed, Ms. Phillips, and the NJDEAF, Inc. team are excited to begin the planning of the 2013 conference. They look forward to seeing returning participants, as well as some new faces next spring.

NJDEAF, Inc. would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission. This is the fourth NJDEAF, Inc. conference hosted by the MRESC. Working with the staff there is always a pleasure, and their hospitality has been nothing less than extraordinary.

To be a part of the NJDEAF Committee or to join the NJDEAF Coordinator Team for the Spring 2013 conference, please contact either Ms. Melanie Phillips at [melmark59@gmail.com](mailto:melmark59@gmail.com) or Dr. Candi Mascia Reed at [canree@bergen.org](mailto:canree@bergen.org).

For more information on NJDEAF, Inc. and our upcoming conference, please visit our website at [www.NJDEAF.com](http://www.NJDEAF.com) or visit our Facebook page.

# Matlin Appears at TCNJ Deaf Awareness Day

By Beth Sweeney and Jessica Stranix

On Wednesday, April 4, 2012 the Deaf-Hearing Connection, along with several other student organizations at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), hosted their second annual Deaf Awareness Day. The day was filled with events that raised awareness and aimed to bridge the gap between the Deaf and hearing communities. The two key events of the day were a panel of students from Neptune High School and a presentation by Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin.

The first of these events included students and their teachers from the Deaf and hard of hearing program at Neptune High School providing insight into what it is like attending a public school program. Students shared the methods they used to communicate with their Deaf and hearing peers and identified their favorite classes, extracurricular activities, and future plans. They were all enthusiastic about their experience attending Neptune High School. Some students are aiming to further their education after graduation, while others are looking to secure a position in the work force. The teachers provided advice about becoming an educator of the Deaf and shared their most fond memories of being a teacher themselves. The panel was well attended, filling the entire TCNJ library auditorium, and proved to be incredibly informative.

In the evening, Academy Award winning actress and philanthropist Marlee Matlin gave an inspirational lecture encouraging all people to follow their dreams. Ms. Matlin explained that no matter who you are there will be obstacles to face; the key is to overcome them and continue to follow your dreams. She talked about some of the difficulties she has had both growing up Deaf even to this day. As a child, if other kids made fun of the way she spoke, her brothers defended her by telling the kids she had a mysterious accent because their parents are spies. Also, when signing on an airplane, a stewardess noticed and quickly brought Matlin a Braille menu. Matlin explained that she finds this ignorance more humorous than disheartening.

With the initial support of her family and later with the encouragement



(1) Ms. Matlin surrounded by students/fans. (2) The auditorium fills up. (3) Students and faculty from Neptune HS.

of her friend and mentor Henry Winkler, Marlee Matlin did indeed follow her dreams to become a successful actress. Matlin won a Best Actress Academy Award for her role in *Children of a Lesser God* and continued to guest star in many television programs such as *Blues Clues*, *The Celebrity Apprentice*, and *Switched at Birth*. In addition to acting with a multitude of talented people, she also added to her resume by becoming a producer.

Throughout her lecture, Matlin said motherhood was and will always be her number one job. She is a soccer mom, pretend math expert, and compares herself to Alice the maid from TV's once popular show *The Brady Bunch*. Matlin instills the same values and pride in her children as her parents strongly instilled in her. She makes certain that her children know they can be anything they want to be. It was refreshing to see such a famous name in Hollywood value family as highly as Ms. Matlin does.

In an interview after the lecture, Ms. Matlin reiterated the importance of family saying, "My absolute passion

in my life is my kids." She explained that she tried to keep a low profile for her family only dropping her kids into the Hollywood scene everyone once and a while, not spoiling them while teaching them the value of family.

Ms. Matlin also explained her plans for one of her next projects which will be a sign language app. This app will allow everyday people to have access to basic signs in order to have simple interactions with Deaf individuals.

The annual Deaf Awareness Day held at TCNJ, sponsored by The Deaf-Hearing Connection and other student groups, was a huge success, much of which is due to both the Neptune High School panel of students and teachers and Marlee Matlin's presence. Both events helped the TCNJ community come closer to their goal in bridging the gap between the Deaf and hearing cultures. The day was interactive and informative. Deaf Awareness Day can once again be ruled a success. (The Deaf-Hearing Connection can be contacted via email: [deafhc@tcnj.edu](mailto:deafhc@tcnj.edu))

# Students perform ASL poetry during “Deaf Jam” workshop

By Debora Thedinga

Nearly 300 high school and middle school students gathered for a day of ASL poetry at Governor Livingston High School on April 27. The event, which was hosted by GL’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program and funded, in part, by a grant from the Berkeley Heights Education Foundation included deaf and hard of hearing students from around New Jersey.

The day kicked off with students gathering in the auditorium to watch the 2011 documentary “Deaf Jam”. The film documents the true coming-of-age story of Aneta Brodski, a Deaf high school student who bravely enters the poetry slam scene in New York City. The award-winning film, which has been broadcast at events across the country as well as on PBS, focuses on Brodski as she participates in an ASL poetry workshop while attending Lexington School for the Deaf in New York. Director Judy Lieff and Aneta Brodski attended the event and spoke with the students after the film. As for her reason for wanting to make the documentary, Lieff said, “I was drawn to the physicality of ASL poetry. The rhymes are in space and hand shapes.” She said that she was intrigued by the art form.

Brodski’s vibrant personality energized the audience during the poetry workshop. Students were given magazine images and told to create a poem from the picture. Brodski urged students to use classifiers to express the natural movement and general shape of an object. “You have to be able to see it,” Brodski said. “I asked them to think about what does that hand shape do? If they get a photo of dance, I don’t want them to spell out ‘ballet.’ Show it to me with the shape of the shoe, the graceful motion of dance.”



After their poems were complete, students were given the opportunity to share them with the audience. Johnathan Dawes, 17 and a junior at Governor Livingston, said his photo, which showed two people standing under an umbrella, meant one thing to him. “When I got up there,” he said of his performance, “I was just trying to show what it’s like falling in love.”

As for the future role of these students with ASL poetry, Aneta said, “My hope is that today empowers all of these students. I hope they walk away feeling like they can roll their sleeves up and express themselves,” she said. “I hope they fall in love with poetry.”



# The Importance of Knowing Your Resources

By Tony Christopher, ACSW, LCSW

In 1982, I stood on the podium and watched what seemed like a million hands asking me questions. Coached by someone who had grown up with Deaf parents, I sorted through the questions about myself, did my best to be respectful, and nodded "Yes," when I did not understand.

The Hebrew Association of the Deaf welcomed me and were kind to me, as a hearing person at the beginning of my learning sign language, Deaf culture, and the value of a good story.

In the past 29 years, I've had the good fortune to work as a social worker and provide services to families in which there was a Deaf family member (children and adults). Some of the issues I learned from those families, with their multiple challenges, include:

- The frustration of services not being accessible with someone who signs or not being provided an interpreter
- Not enough local services, so that traveling is often required

- The challenges of raising a hearing child in a Deaf home
- The challenges of raising a Deaf child in a hearing home
- The challenges of growing up in a Deaf or hearing home



Being a parent is probably one of the most demanding jobs there is, and requires a consistency in thought and action that is difficult to always achieve. Adults make mistakes, kids make mistakes, and life goes forward; if communication between family members is not open and honest, serious problems can sometimes develop.

Throughout the years, Deaf and hearing parents have taught me that even if everyone in the family is fluent in sign language, there can still be "communication" problems between family members. As a result there can be considerable difficulty in really discussing with one another

what each person thinks and how they feel about the problem or concern. Developing a plan to solve a problem that everyone agrees on, can be difficult - but not impossible.

In my experience sometimes friends, neighbors, or other family members can be very helpful and a wonderful resource. Sometimes extra help is needed from outside the family. Social workers, clergy and school counselors are some of the resource people that are trained to be helpful and are available when families need them.

What I've learned and what I believe is that it is important for families to know the variety of assistance that is available to them, within and outside of their local community. The better informed families are, the better prepared they are when they decide to ask for help.

Office contact information:  
**Tony Christopher, ACSW, LCSW**  
**324 Raritan Avenue**  
**Highland Park, N J 08904**  
Voice: 732-572-0949  
Voice/text: 732-668-5088  
**mtonyc110@gmail.com**

## Bergen County Deaf Seniors

### June, July, and August Events

The Bergen County Deaf Seniors meet at the Northwest Bergen Senior Activity Center, 46-50 Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432 every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All area seniors 60 and over are welcome to join us for games, parties, and special events. The Northwest Bergen Senior Activity Center is operated by the County of Bergen, Kathleen Donovan, County Executive. Seniors who want to reserve lunch for \$1.25, should email two days before the Thursday date. A box lunch will be served after exercise. Reply to [arslaniant@optonline.net](mailto:arslaniant@optonline.net) or [rosevin52@aol.com](mailto:rosevin52@aol.com).

**TBA: Entertaining and informative events and trips are being planned.**

<b>June 7</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	Bingo at 1 p.m.
<b>June 14</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	1:00 p.m. TBA
<b>June 21</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	Dingo at 1 p.m.
<b>June 28</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise.	1:00 p.m. Social Worker Sheila Brogan with ASL interpreter
<b>July 5</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	Bingo at 1 p.m.
<b>July 12</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	1:00 p.m. TBA
<b>July 19</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	Dingo at 1 p.m.
<b>July 26</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	1:00 p.m. TBA
<b>August 2</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	Bingo at 1 p.m.
<b>August 9</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	1:00 p.m. TBA
<b>August 16</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	Dingo at 1 p.m.
<b>August 23</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	1:00 p.m. TBA
<b>August 30</b>	11:30 a.m.	Exercise for strength and balance.	1:00 p.m. TBA



# Employment First

**Employment First...means that competitive work is the first and preferred, post education activity for people with any type of disability.**

Employment provides a sense of purpose, personal accomplishment, financial strength and independence.

People with disabilities in the workforce promote diversity, increase productivity, expand the tax base and lower poverty rates.

NJ believes that with training, technology and support services, people with disabilities can get and keep competitive jobs.

NJ WorkAbility® provides Medicaid to qualified, working people with disabilities whose earnings would otherwise make them ineligible.

The Department of Human Services, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, is advancing this goal for individuals with disabilities throughout the state.



*"To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness."*

~ John Dewey ~

For more information about Employment First, please call the Division of Disability Services at 1-888-285-3036

Produced by DHS Office of Publications 1/12

## Ocean/Monmouth Counties Chapter, Hearing Loss Association



Our next meeting is  
**June 3, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.**

It will be held at the  
**Center for Healthy Living**  
**198 Prospect St., Lakewood NJ**

You may reach our chapter at:  
**[oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com)**

Upcoming meetings are July 1, August 5, September 9,  
October 7, November 4 and December 2, 2012.

All meetings commence at 1:00 p.m. and may include a speaker.

*Respectfully submitted by Jean Sutera, Publicity Chairperson*

## Senior Center Offers Exercise Class with Interpreter

The Northwest Bergen Regional Senior Center in Midland Park is offering an Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program with an ASL interpreter Thursdays at 11:40am until June 7. The class will continue without an interpreter on Thursday thereafter with Andree Cobb as the exercise instructor and an accompanying video with the sign language interpreter.

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise program is specially designed for people suffering from one of the many forms of arthritis. The program has strengthening exercises; cardiovascular endurance; balance and coordination; weight bearing; posture and body mechanics; and relaxation and breathing exercises.

Seniors age 60+ are welcome to join us for this class which was featured on the CBS news on April 26: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/video/7051467-study-new-jersey-residents-have-longest-life-expectancy-in-nation/>. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and proper footwear preferably sneakers. It is always a good idea to bring a bottle of water.

For more information, you may contact the Northwest Bergen Regional Senior Center at 201-445-5690, Fax 201-493-8911, or e-mail [andreecobb@optonline.net](mailto:andreecobb@optonline.net) or Rose Pizzo of the deaf group at [rosevin52@aol.com](mailto:rosevin52@aol.com).



# Communicator Signboard



The newly renovated fully accessible **Dennis Flyer Theatre**  
Lincoln Hall, Camden County College, 200 College Drive, Blackwood, NJ.

## PRESENTS



**Winnie the Pooh** – ASL interpreted performance presented by Mainstage Center for the Arts on Thursday, July 12, 10:30 a.m. Welcome to the Hundred Acre Wood, where the world’s most beloved bear, Winnie the Pooh, is once again in search of honey. Along the way, he shares adventures with pals Tigger, Piglet, Rabbit, Eeyore, Owl, and Christopher Robin. Based on the classic A.A. Milne stories, Winnie the Pooh is a favorite for all ages.



**Honk, Jr.** - ASL interpreted performance presented by Mainstage Center for the Arts on Thursday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. Meet Ugly, an odd-looking duckling rejected by everyone except his mother in Honk, Jr., This is a contemporary adaption of Hans Christian Anderson’s Ugly Duckling. Separated from his farm and pursued by Cat, Ugly must find his way, while his loving mother, Ida searches for him. Along the way, he encounters an array of characters who teach him important life lessons through delightful songs. Join Ugly on this journey.



**Mulan, Jr.** - ASL interpreted performance presented by Mainstage Center for the Arts on Thursday, July 26 10:30 a.m. Travel back to the legendary, story-telling days of ancient China in this action-packed stage adaptation of Disney’s Mulan. The Huns have invaded, and it is up to the misfit Mulan and her mischievous sidekick Mushu to save the Emperor! Mulan, Jr., includes favorite songs like “Reflection,” Honor to Us All,” and “I’ll Make a Man Out of You.”



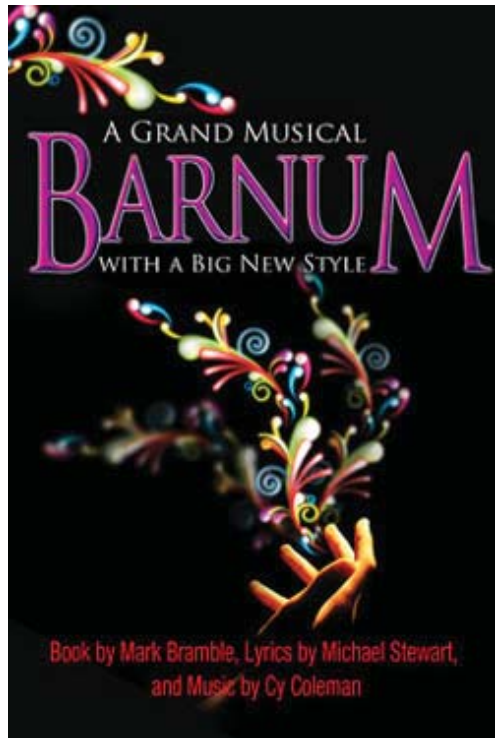
**Disney Heroes** - ASL interpreted performance presented by Mainstage Center for the Arts on Thursday, August 2, 10:30 a.m. From dwarfs to princes, to King of the Beasts, Disney’s favorite leading men take the stage, along with their leading ladies, in Disney Heroes, a fast-paced enchanting musical revue. This delightful production includes medleys from Snow White, Tarzan, Little Mermaid, Lion King and Newsies. Disney fans of all ages will enjoy Disney Heroes.

Ticket prices: \$9 students & seniors/\$10 adults

Purchase tickets on line in Section 3 at [www.mainstage.org](http://www.mainstage.org) or call (856) 227-3091 to request Section 3 seating for interpreted performance.

# Communicator Signboard

Philadelphia  
School of  
Circus Arts



## Free Theatre Performances

Ritz Theatre Company in association with the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, PNC Arts Alive and Art Reach Present ASL and Open Captioned Performances of the All American Musical BARNUM, at Wiggins Park, Waterfront Stage, Camden, NJ, on June 21, 22, 23 at 8 p.m. (Rain Date June 24, 8 p.m.)

### Special Barnum in the Park Performance Event!

The Saturday, June 23 performance of **Barnum**, with the partnership of Art Reach, will offer costumed ASL actors, Open Captioning, Audio Description, and a Sensory Workshop involving props and costumes that will be conducted at 7 p.m. in front of the stage prior to the performance. These elements make it possible for audience members to fully participate and enjoy this experience together.

For information call the Ritz Theatre Company  
856-858-5230

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

[sales@ritztheatreco.org](mailto:sales@ritztheatreco.org)

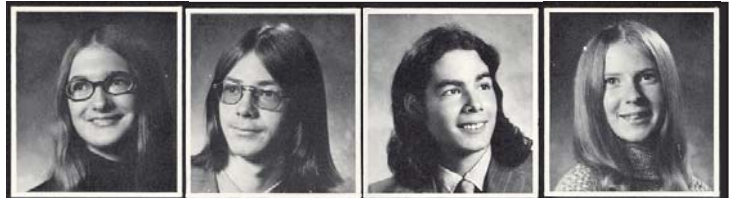


## South Jersey Hard of Hearing Support Group

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

Meetings:  
June 13  
July 18  
August 15  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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



## MKSD Reunion Classes of 1974-1977

Deadline for attending the 1974-1977  
Class Reunion Banquet is on  
**June 4, 2012.**

It will be held at the  
**Renaissance-Woodbridge Hotel**  
**Saturday, August 4, 2012**  
**7 p.m. to Midnight**

**Cost: \$60 per person**

*Includes buffet style dinner.*

**Anyone is welcome to join us!**

**For more info contact Deb Greenspan by VP at**

**732-451-6369 or email:**

**[njsdmksd7477@aol.com](mailto:njsdmksd7477@aol.com)**

# Communicator Signboard



Join Us at  
**Happy Hands Camp 2012**

The camp will be located at Gloucester County  
Institute of Technology (Sewell, NJ).

For children ages 4 to 12 who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing,  
CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults), and Siblings of Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing

**July 9 - August 9 (Monday-Thursday)**

**8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Registration Deadline: June 15**

Application Fee.....\$ 10 (must be included with registration)

Summer 2012 Daily Rate.....\$ 50/Day

Summer 2012 - 4 Days/Week.....\$138/Week

Summer 2012 - Full 5 Weeks.....\$653/Discounted

Info: Lorie Cross-Jones, Teacher of the Deaf at: [HappyHandsgcsssd@comcast.net](mailto:HappyHandsgcsssd@comcast.net)  
Program Administrators: Mary Hilley - [mhilley@gcsssd.org](mailto:mhilley@gcsssd.org)  
and Sandy Evans - [sevans@gcsssd.org](mailto:sevans@gcsssd.org)

## **AIKIDO School of Red Bank**

350 Highway 35 South  
in Middletown  
in the rear of the  
Gloria Nilson Realty  
building

Chief Instructor  
James Soviero,  
*5th Degree Black Belt*  
(1991)

Great for adults and kids.

Classes are:  
Mon - Fri 6:45 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.n.

[www.aikidoredbank.com](http://www.aikidoredbank.com)

Interpreting available upon request

For more info: [NFeibusch@comcast.net](mailto:NFeibusch@comcast.net)



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



VFW Post 3484, 44 Market Street,  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663  
Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 1 p.m.

First Game will begin at 2 p.m. (on time)  
up to 10 games of exciting prizes.

Admission in Advance for Members, Non-Members  
and Students - \$ 30 before August 31, 2012, \$ 35 before  
September 30, 2012. AT DOOR on October 13 for all -  
\$ 40 per person.

Cash Bar - 50/50 Drawings

For more information in ordering tickets or directions,  
please visit our NJCCD website at:

[www.njccdsite.org/priceisright1013r.pdf](http://www.njccdsite.org/priceisright1013r.pdf)

**Come on and join all the fun !**

Chairman Leonard Amato and the Committees

# Communicator Signboard



**Plays IN THE Park**  
50<sup>th</sup> Season 1963 • 2012

1 Pine Drive • Edison, NJ 08817



Beauty & The Beast

Middlesex County's **Plays-in-the-Park** will offer Sign Language Interpretation, Open Captioning and Audio Description at one performance of each of its 2012 summer productions.

**Stephen J. Capestro Theater (Plays-in-the-Park)**  
Pine Drive, Roosevelt Park, Edison, NJ 08817  
Phone – 732-548-2884

#### Tickets:

**General Admission - Adults \$7 Seniors - \$5 Children 12 & under - FREE**  
Box office opens at 5:30 p.m. on the day of performance – No advance ticket sales  
Patrons must bring their own low-back lawn chairs.

Contact Jackie Neill: 732-745-3936 or [Jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:Jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us)

#### SCHEDULE:



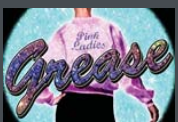
##### **MY FAIR LADY**

- Sign Language Interpreted Performance – Wednesday, June 27, Rain Date – Thursday, June 28 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Open Captioned Performance – Monday, June 25, Rain Date – Tuesday, June 26 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Audio Described performance – Friday, June 22, Rain Date – Saturday, June 23 8:30 pm – 10:30 p.m.
- Sensory Seminar – Friday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m.



##### **DAMN YANKEES**

- Sign Language Interpreted Performance – Wednesday, July 18, Rain Date – Thursday, July 19 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Open Captioned Performance – Monday, July 16, Rain Date – Tuesday, July 17 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Audio Described Performance – Friday, July 13, Rain Date – Saturday, July 14 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Sensory Seminar – Friday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.



##### **GREASE**

- Sign Language Interpreted Performance – Wednesday, August 3, Rain Date – Thursday, August 4 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Open Captioned Performance – Monday, August 6, Rain Date – Tuesday, August 7 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
- Audio Described performance – Friday, August 3, Rain Date, Saturday, August 4 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

# Religious Access

## Creation Festival 2012

is an ASL Interpreted Event

June 27-30

Agape Farm

Mount Union, PA

Free Camping, Concerts,  
Speakers, Workshops,  
Children's Programs, X-Games,  
Exhibits and more.

For more information visit  
[www.creationfest.com](http://www.creationfest.com)

## Finger Singers of Faith

presents a

### Sign Language Dance Concert

Saturday

September 15, 2012

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

771 Somerset St.

Somerset, NJ 08873

Free admission.

Refreshments will be served.

A free will offering will be collected  
and will be donated to the Deaf  
Haitian earthquake survivors.

For more information contact:

Valerie Williams at:

[vtwcansign@gmail.com](mailto:vtwcansign@gmail.com).

## Religious Services Interpreted for the Deaf at Grace Lutheran Church and St Matthew's Church for the Deaf 2222 Vauxhall Road, Union NJ.

### June Schedule:

- Sunday, June 3:** Interpreted Bible Study following 10:30 a.m. worship service. Lunch is not provided; therefore please bring your own.
- Sunday, June 17:** Father's Day Breakfast at 9:15 a.m.. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5-12. If attending, please contact the church office so we know how many people to prepare for. Our regular church service follows at 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, June 24:** Outdoor 9:30 a.m. service. Please come dressed for our annual outdoor service chair or chairs will be provided by the church for the service. The picnic will be June 24 at Rabkin Park, following the outdoor worship here at 9:30 a.m. It's \$5 a person which includes, hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, drink, rolls. Individuals are asked to bring a salad, snack or dessert.

**Please Note:** As of June 24, we will be switching to our summer church service hour of 9:30 a.m. for July and August. We also have our regular worship services interpreted for the Deaf at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday, with Communion service on the first and third Sunday's of the month.

All of our services are now videotaped. These services will be available to view two days after the church service is done. Log on to our church Web site; you will see Pastor and the interpreter on two separate pictures. Click on the video and the entire service is there for you to view.

Contact us at 908-686-3965 Voice; 908-851-2004 TTY; or [gracelu4u@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelu4u@yahoo.com).

Visit [www.gracelutherannj.org](http://www.gracelutherannj.org) for upcoming events such as our next interpreted dinner theatre!

# Religious Access

## CATHOLIC DEAF MINISTRY

- Celebrate Mass
- Share a Meal
- Join in a Discussion

Welcome All Deaf Community and Friends

Mass and Social Celebration

Free Food

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – Interpreted Mass with Fr. Bill Lago

Saturday, June 23, 2012

at

Holy Innocents Parish

3455 West Bangs Avenue,

Neptune, NJ 07754

[www.holyinnocentschurch.com](http://www.holyinnocentschurch.com)

RSVP: *Janis Bell* at [jbell@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:jbell@dioceseoftrenton.org)

*Invitation to the Deaf Community, Interpreters and Friends:* The Catholic Deaf Ministry in Cooperation with the Diocese of Trenton invites you to be a part of our Deaf Ministry program. We would like your ideas and feedback for future masses and socials for the Catholic Deaf Community in the Diocese of Trenton. After mass, in the school cafeteria, there will be a discussion called “St. John the Baptist and our Mission as Disciples” along with a social and a meal.

## 22nd Annual Deaf Picnic

Grace Bible Chapel  
of the Deaf

100 Oakdale Road  
Chester, NJ 07930

Saturday

July 21, 2012

12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Free parking!  
Swimming pool!  
(Women wear one piece  
bathing suits)

Food will be provided.  
An offering will be  
appreciated.

Guest Speaker: TBA

Contact information:

Roy Siskind - [Rojogolfer@hotmail.com](mailto:Rojogolfer@hotmail.com)

Mike Sarsfield - [MS1262@aol.com](mailto:MS1262@aol.com)

## Lost a loved one recently?



We invite you to join us for a series of eight sessions of information, mutual sharing and support in a spiritual, caring, strictly confidential setting.

Grief support group for deaf people.

Come and share your grief with those who truly understand.

A safe place to share your painful emotions with a Certified Deaf Bereavement Group Facilitator and a Signing Spiritual Director.

**ASL only and STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

To register or for more info: e-mail Lila Taylor,

Certified Facilitator; [LTaylor09@aol.com](mailto:LTaylor09@aol.com)

Eight weekly 2-hour sessions in North Jersey (Morris County) area

**Tuesday afternoons 1:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.**

Next start date to be announced when sufficient number registered.

**NOTE: Pre-registration Required. No drop-ins!**

**OUR MISSION IS:** to support spiritually and emotionally those who mourn to provide knowledge of the grieving process and resources for the journey

to offer a caring, compassionate and confidential

atmosphere for the sharing of experiences

Open to all faiths and free of charge

Sponsored by: Pastoral Ministry with the Deaf, Archdiocese of Newark

Deacon Thomas M. Smith, Director

V: 973-497-4312 VP: 862-279-7645



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Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
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## MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

# *Calendar of Events 2012*

**Saturday, June 9**

NJ Division of the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
28th Annual Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing  
Awareness Day  
Six Flags Great Adventure  
Jackson, New Jersey

Ticket info: [GATickets@aol.com](mailto:GATickets@aol.com)

**Friday, July 20**

NJSD/MKSD  
Alumni Association  
Trenton Thunder Baseball  
7:05 p.m.  
For more information:  
Contact Heidi at:  
[H22Schumacher@gmail.com](mailto:H22Schumacher@gmail.com)

**Saturday, Oct 27**

NJ School for the Deaf -  
Middle School Auditorium  
NJ Deaf Senior Housing  
Committee -  
Fundraising Event  
*Dancing with the Deaf Stars*  
Chairpersons:  
Debra Fleetwood and  
Joey Delusant



*Happy Father's Day*

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