

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

June 2013

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

Vol. 34 No. 6

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Family Learning Conference Draws Record Attendance



On Saturday, May 4 the biennial Family Learning Conference for Families with Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing was held at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey. More than 150 family members attended.

Dr. Angel M. Ramos, superintendent of the *Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf* was the keynote speaker. Presentations for the day included a medical panel, preparation for the IEP, an educational panel, topped off by the popular student panel, during which children of varying degrees of hearing loss express their unique experiences. *The Brian C. Shomo*

Parent Leadership Awards were presented to Sharon Ferraro, Susan Soto-Taylor, and Robin Godshalk. Chaired by Malia Corde, The *2013 New Jersey Family Learning Conference* is a collaborative event sponsored by the NJ Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program/NJ Department of Health; the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/NJ Department of Human Services; NJ Statewide Parent to Parent/Statewide Parent Advocacy Network; Bergen Community College and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The event is held at different locations in New Jersey, the next one is scheduled for spring, 2015. [?](#)



✓ The next issue of the **Monthly Communicator** is combined for July and August. The submission deadline for this summer issue is June 1. The deadline for the September issue is August 1.

✓ The **29th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Great Adventure** is Saturday June 8. Discounted tickets can be purchased at the special ticket booth to the left before you enter the park.





Director's Corner


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

Saturday, June 8 is the 29th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day event hosted by the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and New Jersey Relay. The event will take place at Six Flags Great Escape theme park located in Jackson, New Jersey. I hope you have 'saved the date' on your calendar.

The event is planned to achieve two primary objectives. Foremost, activities throughout the park are designed to enhance the public's awareness of hearing loss. This event reaches out to thousands of people in attendance at the park. Assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters will be available at performances, guest relations and first aid buildings. These services expose the general public to different forms of communication access while also enabling people with hearing loss to participate in all that the park has to offer.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day is also a fund raiser for numerous organizations that serve people with hearing loss. A portion of each ticket purchased from a sanctioned organization or from the Six Flags' Web site, goes to the organization to support their programs and services. See the April issue of the Monthly Communicator for a list of organizations participating in ticket sales or instructions for purchasing tickets from the Six Flags' Web site.

I hope that you and your family will plan to join us for this annual awareness event. It is a unique opportunity for your family to have a fun-filled day at Six Flags. Please stop by the DDHH exhibit table at the entrance to the park to meet the staff of our division.

See you on June 8! 

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the summer issue is June 1 and should be e-mailed to: 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
- 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

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

Director: David C. Alexander

Editor: Ira Hock

PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

609-984-7281 V/TTY

800-792-8339 V/TTY

609-503-4862 VP

www.state.nj.us/human_services/ddhh

The Monthly Communicator is published by the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a state agency. DDHH provides information, referral, and advocacy to service recipients. Information or articles provided by others does not imply endorsement by DDHH or the State of New Jersey. There currently are 8,800 copies of the MC distributed monthly.

Math Counts! Family Fun Day with Math

Submitted by Dr. Candi Mascia Reed, Supervisor, Total Communication Programs for the Deaf, Hackensack, Bergen County Special Services

Elementary students from the Union Street School for the Deaf, Bergen County Special Services in Hackensack, once again held its annual MATH COUNTS: FAMILY FUN DAY event in March. This event utilizes materials and concepts adapted from The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, Families Count Math Kit. Teachers and staff at Union Street School adapt materials, concepts, and units from the kit to fit the needs of their students. This year, the theme 'Measurement', incorporated concepts in estimation, tallying, and the metric system.

Parents are invited for this fun and informative day and refreshments are served after a hard afternoon of measuring long jumps, using calculators, and estimating how many candies are in the M&M jar! Prior to the math activities, students and parents watched a videotape, prepared by The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, demonstrating math concepts related to 'measurement' in American Sign Language. Students and parents were then divided into rotating teams and played math games and activities. Older middle school students were assigned to assist elementary students and were teamed in a "buddy" system as elementary students rotated among the several math stations.

The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center developed and produced a Families Count Kit to provide other K-8 schools and programs with activities that address a range of mathematical concepts. Students and families use math-based activities to practice using numbers, number operations, geometry, time, fractions, and measurement. Parents learn math ASL signs, rules, and practices in order to better prepare them to help their children with math homework and concepts. The kit includes math manipulatives, ASL videotapes demonstrating math concepts, orientation video for staff, directions for all units, CD-ROM with master files, accompanying math related storybooks, and follow-up worksheets.

Several years ago, Union Street School invited The Laurent Clerc Center to present a staff workshop on their Families Count program and accompanying kit. Union Street School staff then met to plan out the first of many events we call Math Counts:

Family Fun Day!

This event has been a huge success among students, families, and staff. Of course, the most anticipated event is the winner of the M&M jar.

For more information, Google The Laurent Clerc Center: Families Counts. 



Dear NJ Relay



Dear NJ Relay & CapTel,

Last summer, I was making a long drive home from a friend's house late at night. My car had a flat tire, and I had no telephone access. After being stuck on the highway for about two hours, a Good Samaritan came along and helped me by calling a towing company. It was one of the most frightening experiences, especially sitting there in the dark and not knowing if the stranger was safe. This summer, I will be going to that friend's house again—but I want to be proactive in case the same thing happens again. What are my options?

- Learned My Lesson

Dear Learned My Lesson,

That certainly must have been a frustrating experience. Fortunately, there are several options for you through Sprint Relay. You can now use the Sprint IP Mobile app to make calls directly from your iPhone or Android device. And the best part is that it is available at no charge to you.

The Sprint Mobile IP app is available for Deaf, hard of hearing, and people with speech disabilities to communicate using text on mobile wireless devices, and its features include:

- Contact list
- Call history
- Access to live customer service
- Ability to save conversations
- Ability to make Spanish relay calls
- Font size and color choices
- 911 emergency call ability

Available on Android™ powered devices running on OS 2.2 or higher and iPhones running iOS 4.3 or higher, the app will work on 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi networks.

For more information, check http://www.sprintrelay.com/sprint_relay_services/mobileip.php.

Safe travels!

Regards,
- NJ Relay & CapTel



Summertime Sounds: Hearing Protection Devices



chain saw, lawn mower, or other gas-powered yard equipment. They offer comfort and adequate protection, no matter your ear size or shape.

Parents can protect their children's hearing from loud, noisy environments at home or while traveling by making hearing protection part of any busy family routine.

For serious concert-goers and musicians, consider custom hearing protection such as custom-made musician earplugs, made to fit your ears precisely with specialized filters that will not distort the quality of the music. You can also choose the level of noise reduction you require. Visit a local hearing center to have impressions made of your ears and order these custom ear plugs.

For a lower cost option that still helps preserve the sound quality of your music, check out high-fidelity non-custom earplugs, such as these from Etymotic. They reduce most noise to safe levels while preserving the clarity of speech and the richness of music. ETY•Plugs are configured

to replicate the natural response of the ear canal so that when sound enters the earplug, it is reproduced unchanged,

While we are outside enjoying our favorite summertime activities, we may not be aware that we are also causing some damage to our hearing. There are some simple ways in which we can protect our hearing in a price range to fit every budget. *Healthyhearing.com* discusses these options in their June 28, 2011 news emission.

While you may not associate summer fun with hearing loss, many sounds we encounter during summertime activities have the potential to damage our hearing. For weekend warriors, powering up the lawn mower or chainsaw means an increased risk of hearing loss.

According to the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA), the average level of a power lawnmower is 95 dB and a chainsaw is 100 dB. If you enjoy summer concerts outdoors, keep in mind that they can get as loud as 110 dB - loud enough to cause hearing damage in as little as 30 minutes.

Fortunately, you can help prevent hearing loss by using hearing protection whenever you'll be exposed to loud noises. There are all kinds of hearing protection devices available, from affordable foam ear plugs to custom-fitted hearing protection designed for musicians.

Let's start at the most basic tool for hearing protection - the foam ear plug. Visit your local pharmacy and pick up a pair of moldable foam ear plugs. They are inexpensive, but their value is incalculable when it comes to protecting the ears. They are also small, light-weight, and fit easily into any pocket. The upside to this kind of protection is cost - only a few dollars for a package. The downside? They block out all sound - even the sounds you want to hear, such as the conversations of those around you. Furthermore, if not inserted properly, they may not protect adequately.

So, move up the price ladder and consider ear muffs for hearing protection. Put these on each time you fire up the




You can help prevent hearing loss by using hearing protection like the inexpensive foam ear plugs up to the high-end noise-cancellation headphones.

exactly the same as the ear would hear it, only quieter.

For those with earbuds in their ears constantly, consider the purchase of hearing protection headphones, such as noise-cancellation headphones that come in on-the-ear and over-the-ear varieties.

These headphones reduce the potential for hearing loss by reducing the environmental noise around you- you won't have to turn your music up quite as loud in order to hear it. This not only improves listening quality, but also reduces the likelihood that you will listen to your music at dangerous levels.

Noise induced hearing loss is preventable by simply wearing hearing protection. You may not notice immediate damage; but remember that exposure is cumulative through the years - so start protecting your hearing now. 

Traci Burton, Field Representative can be reached at 800-792-8339 or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.



Students follow the beat at GLHS

Debora Thedinga, *Educational Interpreter*

Throughout history, drums have been used as a means of communication, ritual and entertainment. Students at Governor Livingston High School's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program recently learned firsthand about this ancient form of expression during a workshop and drum circle given by percussionist and middle school music teacher, Chris Colaneri.

Mr. Colaneri opened the workshop by teaching the students about Evelyn Glennie, a famous drummer who became deaf at the age of 12. He explained that her love of music has never been inhibited by her deafness; she often plays barefoot during her performances in order to feel the music through vibrations on the floor. "Evelyn Glennie is able to identify specific notes by where she feels them vibrate through a hard surface onto her fingers and hands," Mr. Colaneri told the students. As a test to this, he had them place their hands on the music stands while he introduced various percussion instruments. Students were intrigued to find that each instrument vibrated differently through the surface of the metal on the music stand. The timpani, snare, base and drum set were the hands-down favorites, with students enthusiastically volunteering to try the instruments themselves.

For the second half of the workshop, students moved onto the stage of the auditorium where Congas, African Djembe and buckets were arranged in a semi-circle. Any hesitation about participation was readily replaced with excitement as the students took their places behind the drums. The first

exercise was a simple call and response pattern; Mr. Colaneri established a beat and the students answered back with their own drums. Another exercise was for students to drum along with a ball as it was bounced by student volunteers. To illustrate the expressive aspect of drumming, Mr. Colaneri had pairs of students drum "conversations" to each other that conveyed emotions such as anger, forgiveness and love. Smiles and laughter followed as he taught the group more complicated rhythms and beats, which also allowed them to experience how musicians follow a conductor during a performance.

The workshop was an obvious success. Students left the auditorium feeling energized and exhilarated. "I didn't expect this to be so much fun," exclaimed one student at the end of the day. "We should definitely do this again next year!"



LaGuardia Community College EIPA

Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment® (EIPA) is a tool designed to evaluate the voice-to-sign and sign-to-voice interpreting skills of interpreters who work in the elementary and secondary school classroom setting. The EIPA evaluates the ability to expressively interpret classroom content and discourse and the ability to receptively interpret student or teen sign language. It is not limited to any one sign language or system. EIPA is used to evaluate interpreters who work with students and teenagers who use predominately American Sign Language (ASL), Manually-Coded English (MCE) and Pidgin Sign English (PSE). Performance exams are offered Monday and Wednesdays.

\$310 EIPA Testing Fee and \$75 LaGuardia Registration Fee

For more information visit www.laguardia.edu/aeip.


To schedule an assessment call (718) 482-5313 or email aeip@lagcc.cuny.edu.



HUD presents at DDHH Advisory Council

On Friday, April 26 the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing met at the Rahway Public Library. Wanda Nieves and Brenda Edmondson from the Federal HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity gave a presentation which included an overview of the Fair Housing Act. The following groups are protected under the Fair Housing Act: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability. The law protects citizens, documented immigrants, and undocumented immigrants. The law can be enforced for publicly funded housing; private housing that receives no federal funds is exempt. The most frequent complaints that the office receives are from individuals with disabilities for landlords' refusal of reasonable accommodations and/or modifications. Both speakers emphasized that their office is aware that a great deal of discrimination occurs against people with hearing loss, and they stressed the need for people to make their office



aware of unfair treatment. Although everyone preferred the Rahway library location, it was unavailable for the next meeting. Consequently, the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the East Brunswick Public Library. 




Building Leadership Skills at Hackensack High School Program for the Deaf

Submitted by Dianne Fannell, *Educational Interpreter, Hackensack High School Program for the Deaf, Bergen County Special Services*

On Friday, March 15, 2013 the junior and freshmen classes from the Hackensack High School Program for the Deaf, Bergen County Special Services, went to the Bergen County Special Services Rockleigh Campus for a day of peer bonding and leadership activities.

The students participated in several exercises culminating in the ever-popular zip cord!

The students began their day with a team building exercise of putting various items into four separate milk crates suspended from the ceiling. This led them to working as a team climbing the rope ladder. One of our interpreters even joined in on the fun! The best was saved for last: zip cording from one end of the gym to the other.

While some of the students were hesitant, everyone encouraged each other in a very positive, supportive way! 



Fun and Games

Junior and freshmen classes from the Hackensack High School Program for the Deaf, Bergen County Special Services, enjoyed a day of team building and the always popular 'zip cord.'



Beyond Academics: Examining the Social Needs of Deaf Students

Submitted by Alicia Cristiani, NJDeaf, Inc. Promotions Coordinator

Undoubtedly, education encompasses much more than just lesson plans, arithmetic, and grading policies. Any teacher would agree that the social aspects of students' lives are just as important to their education as the academics. When considering Deaf or hard of hearing students, numerous factors impact their social development, and it is crucial to examine this in the classroom and other school-based activities. *New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, Inc.* (NJDeaf, Inc.) designed their most recent conference around this topic. On March 16, 2013, more than 70 professionals congregated at the *Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission* (MRESC) to participate in *Beyond Academics: Examining the Social Needs of Deaf Students*, and the conference was a great success.

The morning began with Dr. Candi Mascia Reed addressing the audience with a short welcome speech, a thank-you to the *Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH)* for providing communication access, an expression of gratitude to MRESC for their unfaltering hospitality, and an introduction of the NJDeaf, Inc. committee members. Dr. Mascia Reed is co-founder of NJDeaf, Inc. along with Ms. Melanie Phillips.

Participants remained in the gym for a presentation by the keynote speaker, Ms. Cindi Sternfeld, a licensed professional counselor. During her presentation titled *Fostering Social Competencies in Deaf Children: Helping Children to Survive and Thrive in the Social Landscape*, a plethora of information was provided about social-emotional learning, emotional intelligence, and language competence as they are related to the Deaf or hard of hearing student. Immediately following, Mr. Mark DeBenedictis, an adaptive computer specialist with the Bergen County Special Services School District, gave insight into the behavior of students on technological devices and the Internet with his presentation called *The Internet, the New Playground: Who's Really Watching?* The audience learned of the many risks associated with this behavior. The presentations from Ms. Sternfeld and Mr. DeBenedictis sparked outstanding and thought-provoking questions from the participants which led to additional discussions about the social needs of Deaf and hard of hearing students.

After lunch, participants joined one of two focus groups. Ms. Celeste Bonfanti, a Teacher of the Deaf for Gloucester

County Special Services, moderated the focus group titled Promoting Social Activities. Participants learned about one teacher's experience in meeting the social needs of her students as Ms. Bonfanti talked about the creation of *Hands That Talk*, a group that organizes social activities for Deaf and hard of hearing students. Events such as these are critical in the social development of Deaf and hard of hearing children,



as they create opportunities for the children to use *American Sign Language* and create bonds with other Deaf and hard of hearing friends. Ms. Bonfanti offered tips on how to coordinate and maintain a group like hers in other school districts. The second focus group was led by Dr. Cindy Williams, the coordinator of the Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center and Assistant Professor at Union County College, and it was titled *Interpreting Social Situations*. Dr. Williams and the group discussed topics such as the comparison between interpreting in the classroom and in social situations, ethics while



interpreting social interactions, promoting autonomy of the Deaf or hard of hearing student, and making school projects and activities "Deaf friendly." The two groups reconvened in the gym for any final comments or questions regarding all topics discussed during the day's presentations, and raffle prizes were awarded.

Dr. Candi Mascia Reed, Ms. Melanie Phillips, and the NJDeaf, Inc. committee were thrilled with the turnout of participants at the conference, and all were delighted that they could provide a forum for discussion of such an important topic in the field of Deaf education. Again, NJDeaf, Inc. would like to extend the utmost gratitude to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and all of the speakers and presenters who were crucial to the 2013 spring conference. For more information on *New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, Inc.* and their events, please visit www.njdeaf.com, or search for NJDeaf, Inc. on Facebook.



NJ Hearing Loss Association of Ocean-Monmouth Counties



The next chapter meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Center for Healthy Living, 198 Prospect St., Lakewood, NJ.

Traci Burton, from The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will speak about nursing home advocates.

The Hearing Loss Association is a national organization created to aid individuals with deafness and late hearing loss to cope with their problems and learn ways to help to hear and understand every day events in life.

Besides the Ocean-Monmouth chapter, there are Middlesex, Morristown and South Jersey chapters in New Jersey. Meetings are open to everyone and are a rewarding way to spend a few hours socializing with other hard-of-hearing individuals who share your problems and concerns. As always, light refreshments will be served.

Feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share. Future meetings are September 8 and December 1. For additional information e-mail: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com.



HLAA - South Jersey Shore Chapter Hard of Hearing Support Group

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

Next meeting:

June 19

Presentation:

Ivette Guillermo-McGahee:
*"Self-Empowerment Strategies
and Mindful Based Stress Reduction"*

Ivette is a multilingual licensed clinical professional counselor based in Hammonton, NJ. She was raised by Deaf parents. She is fluent in ASL and is sensitive to the Deaf and hard of hearing lifestyle. Join us in welcoming Ivette and learn about her therapeutic work.

Save the dates: July 17, August 21, and September 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For additional information
please contact
sjhardofhearing@gmail.com
or call 609-463-4043



Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre Proudly Presents a Special Event:

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Discrimination & Employment Issues



Laura Carlin Mattiacci was named to the "Pennsylvania Rising Star" list by *Philadelphia Magazine* and the *Philadelphia Super Lawyer Magazine* (2006-2012).



JUNE 6, 2013

6:30-9PM

It's hard to fight unlawful discrimination when you don't know your rights. DHCC will host Laura Carlin Mattiacci, a senior attorney at Console Law Offices, LLC., as she presents a workshop about unlawful discrimination in employment and job interviews. She will lead Deaf and hard of hearing participants through a discussion about their rights and enable them to decide whether certain situations could be unlawful discrimination. There will be a discussion and question/answer period at the end of the presentation.

Light refreshments, ASL interpreters, and CART will be provided.

For more information contact PJ Mattiacci: pj@dhcc.org

ABINGTON FREE LIBRARY
1030 OLD YORK ROAD
ABINGTON, PA 19001



Landscape and Design Students Visit Philadelphia Flower Show

By Harry Kriger, *Instructor 1, Landscape and Design*

The Landscape and Design classes and interested freshmen students went to the Philadelphia Flower Show on Thursday March 7th. The trip had been planned since the beginning of school year. Every year Philadelphia hosts the Flower exhibit at the Convention Center located at 12th and Arch streets in downtown Philadelphia. Katzenbach students from the late 1980's went to the flower show at the old Civic Center. In fact, one of our staff, Mark Thorn, was a student who went on that trip. Technology has changed since that time and many displays were computer generated with fascinating graphics and pictures.

Every year they have a different theme. This year, 2013, the theme was


Britain and the clock, Big Ben. We saw many huge clocks and every hour they displayed beautiful flowers and loud British music that even our students could hear and/or feel the vibrations. Pictures included The Beatles and other famous British musicians. There was so much to see and not enough time to view all the flowers and landscape displays. This gave our students in The Landscape and Design program ideas. In fact, several high schools had plant/landscape projects on display at the show, including deaf students at Lincoln High school. Maybe next year the students at Katzenbach can display some of the work they do in the greenhouse and on the campus grounds.

Special thanks to Joan Cohen, Interpreter and Tour Guide. Mrs. Cohen is a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and goes to the Flower Show every year. Her experience attending the show was valuable to the students because she knew where to go to see and learn about pertinent concepts related to greenhouse/nursery occupations. She also interpreted a workshop about



transferring potted plants into large containers, known as container gardening. The experts in the field explained to the audience how to properly transplant flowers and the correct location (sun/shade) best for the container.

Katzenbach students were introduced to the crowd by their instructor, Harry Kriger. The teacher explained the different crops of plants grown at NJSD greenhouses. All year long something new is growing there. In the Summer/Fall: The Chrysanthemums, Fall/Winter: Poinsettias, Winter/Spring: annual plants such as Geraniums, Petunias, and many others.

It is important to note that Katzenbach students are one of only three deaf schools in USA to grow flowers all year long. This trip will most likely be a yearly trip with the Greenhouse class every March. Students are looking forward the trip next year and hopefully they can stay all day to enjoy the beauty of The Philadelphia Flower Show. 



Congratulations to

The Ivy Nursery Program at Lake Drive School
New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2013 Program of the Year



The Ivy Nursery Program was honored on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the annual NJSHA Convention in Long Branch, New Jersey.

The Ivy Nursery Program at Lake Drive School serves toddlers from age 18 to 36 months. This early language enriched academic program provides guided opportunities for toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing to learn and interact with typically developing peers from the Mountain Lakes community.

In order to support these services the Lake Drive Foundation was established by community volunteers with the sole purpose to raise money for The Sound Start Program. It is through the dedication of individuals from this Foundation that money has been raised to provide direct services to babies and toddlers from eleven counties in New Jersey.

The Lake Drive Program in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, services Deaf and Hard of Hearing children from Early Intervention through High School Graduation. For more information, please visit our website: www.lakedrive.org



INTERPRETER CHAT

A Night Out at Panera Bread

Rt 130, Hamilton, NJ

3rd Wednesday of every month

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Very informal, all are welcome.

Come join the chat!

Questions: grace_samis@mac.com

or trogfamily@comcast.net



Bergen County Deaf Seniors Activities

Submitted By Tricia Arslanian, Center Director

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.

Our calendar of events for the **Summer of 2013 for June, July and August** follows:

June 6: Social Worker Sheila Brogan with ASL Interpreter by appt. Bingo at 1 p.m.

- Strawberry Festival by Alice Soll at 1 p.m.

June 13: Social Worker Sheila Brogan with ASL Interpreter by appt. from 10 a.m. to noon.

- Silent Academy Award Winning Movie "The Artist" at 1 p.m.

June 20: Dingo at 1 p.m. and Birthday Party at 3 p.m.

June 27: Local museum trip TBA. Social Worker Sheila Brogan with ASL Interpreter

- Enjoy LCR games at 2 p.m.

July 4: Senior Center closed for holiday.

July 11: Patriotic Festival at noon. Bingo at 1 p.m.

July 18: Dingo at 1 PM and Birthday Party at 3 p.m.

July 25: Social Worker Sheila Brogan with ASL Interpreter by appt. TBA program at 1 p.m.

August 1: Bingo at 1 p.m.

August 8: Informative talk by NJ Relay Manager Aparna Lele about new service by the NJ Relay at 12:30 p.m.

August 15: Dingo at 1 p.m. and Birthday Party at 3 p.m.

August 22: Deaf seniors welcome but many members plan to attend Deaf Seniors of America conference in Baltimore.

August 29: End of summer Ice Cream Social at 1 p.m.

RSVP to arslantant@optonline.net or rosevin52@aol.com.

Deaf seniors coming to the center can sign-up for lunch on Thursdays. Lunch is available for a donation of \$1.25 and must be ordered no later than Wednesday by noon. There is also a social worker with an ASL interpreter available once a month on Thursdays to provide information on services and referrals for deaf seniors. Our social worker, Sheila Brogan, will be here on June 27 and July 25.

For more information about the Deaf Senior Programs at the Northwest Senior Center call 201-445-5690 or e-mail arslantant@optonline.net or stop in any Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM and check us out.

Jobs Available



Coming soon– NEW PROGRAM!

ACCESS Services of St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center would like to announce that a new program will be opened in the next few months. The ACCESS Deaf Youth Program will be located on the campus of the Katzenbach/NJ School for the Deaf in West Trenton. This group home-type setting is designated for 5 adolescents ages 13 – 21 years of age.

We will be looking to fill positions, including:

Manager – requires either a master's degree in social work, counseling, psychology or related + 3 years experience or a bachelor's degree in the previously mentioned disciplines + 4 years experience (2 in a supervisory capacity). The main responsibility of the position will be the overall management and operation of the home.

Clinician – LSW or LCSW license required. Major responsibilities include the provision of individual and group therapies, treatment planning and contact with families and schools.

Child Care Staff – requires high school diploma + 1 year experience working with children, or unrelated associate's/bachelor's degree + 6 months experience with children or associate's/bachelor's degree in social work/psychology/counseling or related field with no experience.

Contact **ACCESS** Director,
Carol Uckar, at uckarc@sjhmc.org.

More information to come...



Substance Abuse Counselor

Education Qualifications: Associates or Bachelor's Degree Level

Program: Recovery Network for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Loss

Job Status: Full Time

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm,
Friday 9a-4p

Location: Voorhees, NJ

Travel Requirements: Up to 50% of local travel

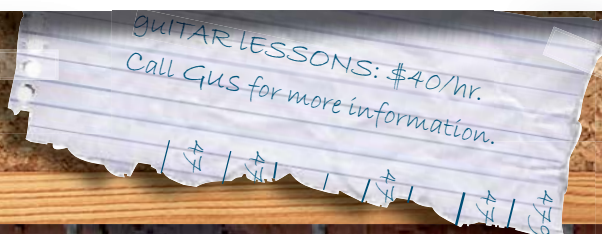
Job Requirements:

- Bachelors in HS or related field required
- Masters in SW/counseling preferred
- CADC required
- LCADC preferred
- 1 year in substance abuse field required
- 2 years experience in substance abuse preferred

Job Description

Substance abuse counselor needed: must be fluent in American Sign Language to provide assessments, group and individual counseling to Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients.

All interested candidates must submit a resume and cover letter, indicating desired position(s) and salary requirements to the hiring supervisor via jdoerrmann@centerffs.org or fax to 856-428-0949.



Auditions for “Big River”

Pennington Players announce unique production based on 2003 Deaf West Staging of Huck Finn musical adaptation



The Pennington Players are excited to announce upcoming auditions for the musical *Big River*, Roger Miller and William Hauptman’s Tony Award-winning adaptation of Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. This production will be based on the 2003 Broadway staging by the *Roundabout Theatre Company* and the *American Deaf West Theatre*, and will blend American Sign Language (ASL) with traditional choreography and staging, affording a unique opportunity for deaf and hearing actors to work in collaboration and providing accessibility to a wide range of audiences. Roles are open for both deaf and hearing actors; the specific available roles and audition requirements are presented below. In total, we are seeking approximately 20 actors (as described below). Actors of all ethnicities are encouraged to audition.

Preliminary auditions for hearing actors will be held on Tuesday, June 25 (7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) and Saturday, June 29 (1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Preliminary auditions for deaf actors will be held on Thursday, June 27 (7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) and Saturday, June 29 (11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.). Callbacks for all roles will be held on Sunday, June 30 (time TBD). Audition appointments are very strongly recommended for all actors; to make an audition appointment, contact Frank Ferrara; ferrarafc@comcast.net, 609.439.6597 V. If you are interested in auditioning but unable to attend one of the scheduled audition date, please contact us with your availability and we will attempt to make alternate arrangements. *Big River* will run for six performances at the Kelsey Theatre, on campus at Mercer County Community College (October 4-6 and 11-13, with Friday and Saturday performances at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday performances at 2:00 p.m.).

This production of *Big River* is produced by the Pennington Players, a Mercer County-based community theatre organization with more than 60 years’ experience. The production team includes Jennifer Gregg (producer), Frank Ferrara (director), Shannon Ferrara (musical director), Alison McMullen (Assistant Director), Rachel Tovar (choreography), and Lynn Baskin (Associate Director and Principal ASL Coordinator).

Roles for Hearing Actors

Hearing actors are asked to prepare one complete song. Songs in the style of the show (traditional Broadway mixed with American folk/country; think of Roger Miller, because he wrote it) are helpful but not required. Songs from the show are fine. Please come prepared to dance. All hearing actors will be required to perform some amount of sign interpretation during the show; accordingly, auditioners will also be taught a small amount of sign as a part of the choreography audition.

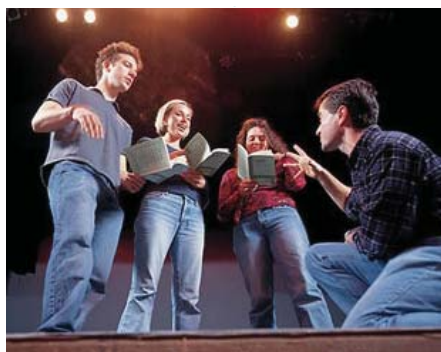
Mark Twain (male, age around 30 years, tenor): As the narrator, Mark Twain will provide the speaking and singing voice for the principal role of Huck Finn, as well as for multiple other roles throughout the show. Need an excellent actor with a good sense of humor, a strong singing voice (and plenty of endurance), who can transition quickly and effectively among a number of very different characters. No dancing required for this role, but the ability to play guitar would be a plus.

Jim (male, age 30+, baritone): An escaped slave who becomes Huck’s best friend, Jim has spent his life restraining and hiding powerful emotions. Need an actor with good vocal range who is comfortable learning a large amount of ASL choreography as well. No dancing required for this role.

The Duke (male, age 35+, baritone): A traveling actor and grifter, he is petty, mean, and not particularly bright – but

possesses a native cleverness and extraordinary gift for showmanship that keeps him mostly afloat. This actor will also provide the singing and speaking voice for Pap, Huck’s dangerously unhinged and alcoholic father.

Tom Sawyer (male, age 15-20, tenor): Huck’s boyhood friend, he is impulsive and believes himself to be a great rebel, though in reality he is a good deal more conventional than Huck. Need an energetic actor who moves well.



Mary Jane Wilkes (female, age 18-24, mezzo-soprano with strong medium belt): A young and innocent heiress, wide-eyed and good-hearted; in Huck’s eyes she represents everything that is good and worth protecting.

The Widow Douglas (female, age 40+, mezzo-soprano): Huck’s adopted caretaker, she is regular and decent in all her ways; she is kind enough but may possibly be going a bit mad as she ages.

Alice’s Daughter (female, age 20+, belter): A maid, mostly quiet and devoted to her mother. Sings two gospel-style solos.

Ensemble (male & female, ages 15+): In addition to the roles described above, we are seeking approximately four additional actors to play a number of smaller roles throughout the show, including members of Tom Sawyer’s gang, townsfolk, the singing/speaking voice for the King (see below), Sherriff Bell, Judge Thatcher, and others.

Continued on page 13

Auditions...continued



disgusting specimen – unkempt, undignified, and none too bright. He is fairly adaptable, though, and can have moments of brilliance from time to time.

Pap (male, 50+): Huck's father, Pap is a certified madman: ignorant, paranoid, and prone to fits of violence exacerbated by a nearly constant state of drunkenness.

Roles for Deaf Actors

Deaf actors are asked to prepare a short (2-3 minute) story (traditional folk stories, fairy tales, and fables are a good place to start), and to be prepared to present this in sign language. In addition, a brief choreography combination will be taught at the preliminary audition.

Huck Finn (male, reads 15-20 years of age): The hero of our story, Huck is earnest, eager, emotional, and stubborn. He is uneducated but not ignorant or disinterested; in fact, learning about the world around him is his greatest passion. Need an extremely expressive actor capable of covering a very wide range of emotion.

The King (male, 35+): A traveling con artist and grafter, he is a thoroughly

Miss Watson (female, age 40+): Along with the Widow Douglas, Miss Watson helps care for Huck Finn in his adopted hometown of St. Petersburg. She is tall, reedy, and severe; she misplaced her sense of humor decades ago and has little interest in locating it now.

Ensemble (male & female, ages 15+): In addition to the roles described above, we are seeking approximately four additional actors to play a number of smaller roles throughout the show, including members of Tom Sawyer's gang, townsfolk, an ASL stand-in for Mary Jane Wilkes (see above), Alice, and others.

For more information, contact: Frank Ferrara; ferraraafc@comcast.net, 609.439.6597 V

Win FREE Baseball Tickets!

July 4th, 5 p.m.
at the Arm & Hammer Park,
Trenton, NJ

To enter to win tickets, all you need to do is three things:

- 1) LIKE us on Facebook (New Jersey Relay & CapTel)
- 2) SHARE this post on your Facebook wall
- 3) SEND an e-mail to njrelayoutreach@sprint.com with number of tickets you would like.

- * Free All You Can Eat Buffet!
- * Fireworks!
- * Brief Presentation!
- * FUN!

NJrelay.com



TWO RIVER THEATER co. 21 Bridge Avenue Red Bank, NJ 07701

Open Captioned Performance
Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 3 p.m.

PRESENT LAUGHTER

Written by Noel Coward Directed by David Lee

This sparkling, sophisticated comedy follows the debonair matinee idol Garry Essendine, the center of a vortex of friends, lovers, producers, and playwrights—all of whom invade his glamorous, 1930s art-deco style London home, demanding his attention.

Tickets are \$25 per person for those using this service.

For more information, contact Michele Klinsky at:
mklinsky@trtc.org or (732) 345-1400, x1808 (v)



More Pictures from the Family Learning Conference Saturday, May 4, 2013



Panel of medical experts discuss hearing loss issues and support services available to parents: Malia Corde, Dr. Beth Pletcher, Dr. Jed Kwartler, Nancy Schneider (at podium) and Interpreter Dena Hazen.



In a panel moderated by Dr. Angel Ramos, students with varying degrees of hearing loss respond to questions and share their personal experiences with the audience.



Parents listen to presenters sharing helpful information related to services and resources available to them and their children.



Students have an opportunity to spend time with other Deaf and hard of hearing children from across the state.



Students with hearing loss enjoy playing a game outside while their parents attend the presentations.

The Communicator Signboard

New Jersey Deaf Golf Association, Inc
24th Annual Tournament
Berkshire Valley Golf Course, Jefferson Twp, NJ 07438

Two Day Golf Tournament

July 13, 2013 Tee Time: 12:00 Noon

July 14, 2013 Tee Time: 9:00 AM

For more information about the annual two day golf tournament at Berkshire Valley golf course, please contact the Chairperson, Richard Sarkisian at VP (908) 418-4523 or e-mail at rhsark@aol.com

Trenton Silent Club, Inc. is proud to host

70th Anniversary

Sunday, November 17, 2013

Noon to 4 p.m.

at the Hamilton Manor

30 Route 156 (off Route 130)

Hamilton Township NJ 08620

Entree Choice:

■ Char-Grilled Slice Sirloin ■ Chicken Marsala
includes appetizer, salad, vegetables, coffee, tea, soda and dessert - plus 1 free 50-50 ticket

Member \$45 Non-member \$50

We accept 2-4 month payments

Pay in full by October 30, 2013

Door Prizes - 50/50 Drawings

Non-refundable; No blue jeans/sneakers allowed;
No Walk-ins

For more info or questions, contact Laura Schultz, Chair:

TSCBanquet@comcast.net or

Sue George, co-chair: Sag64Molly@yahoo.com

Save the Date!

New Jersey Relay Presents....

2013 Fall Taste of Technology in the Workplace

Saturday October 5, 2013

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

Hilton Woodbridge

120 Wood Avenue South

Iselin, NJ 08830

This event is for everyone who is interested in learning about technology and employment. Free lunch and ASL/Voice interpretation will be provided.

Workshops Include:

- NJ Relay and CapTel: Communication Access in the Workplace
- Technology and Employment Panel: Employee's Success with Work Performance Using Effective Communication Strategies, Tools and Resources
- The Best Kept Secret in NJ: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Social Media and Employment

Check www.njrelay.com and our Facebook (NJ Relay & CapTel) for updates on registration for this event. If you are interested in attending, please send your email address to njrelayoutreach@sprint.com.



Schalick High School, 718 Centerton Rd., Elmer, NJ

Sunday Morning:

Continental Breakfast: 10:30-11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. Service (Interpreted for the Deaf)

For more information: www.victoryaog.org

Contact Connie 856-358-8313 Voice

Upcoming Events:

June 23, 2013- Church Picnic - 1:30 p.m.

317 Harding Highway, Route 40, Pittsgrove, NJ 08318

Grace Bible Chapel of the Deaf

Grace Bible Chapel, 100 Oakdale Road, Chester, NJ 07930

July 20, 2013 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Pastor Nancy Tonnessen

Food will be provided as well as a swimming pool!

Women should wear a one piece swimsuit for pool.

Contact Information-Roy Siskind: rojogolfer@hotmail.com

Mike Sarsfield ms1262@aol.com

Mail to:

Roy Siskind, 288 Janine Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Creation Festival 2013 is an ASL Interpreted Event!

June 26 - June 29

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

How many persons will attend the picnic ? _____

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

VP Number _____ Email _____

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR - June 2013



NJ Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT No. 21

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Rush

Calendar of Events 2013

Saturday, June 8
**29th Annual Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Day**
Six Flags
Great Adventure
Jackson, NJ

June 28 - 30
Biennial Conference
"40 Years NJRID Strong"
The Sheraton Eatontown Hotel
For more informatio, contact
Sharon Ferraro at:
sharonferraro@comcast.net
(908) 755-6616

Friday, July 26
**DDHH Advisory Council
Meeting**
East Brunswick Public Library
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Presenter TBD

Sunday, Sept. 22
Deaf Fest 2013
Middlesex County
Fairgrounds
East Brunswick, NJ



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