

Monthly Communicator

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
David C. Alexander, Director



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Director's Corner

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

Parents of children with hearing loss often find it challenging to acquire information to support and advocate for their child's needs. Resources that provide guidance to parents in dealing with the dynamics of hearing loss on family life and in education are scarce.

In an effort to assist parents with acquiring the information they need, DDHH in collaboration with the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network is planning a 2011 Family Learning Conference. The event will occur on Saturday April 16, 2011 in Freehold, NJ at the modern conference facilities of the CentraState Healthcare System. The conference will bring together exhibits and topical workshops, as well as provide parents with opportunities for networking.

The conference's parent-friendly workshops will be presented by nationally recognized speakers from the Clerc Center at Gallaudet University. The key workshops include: "Fine Tuning Your Family: Family Dynamics Training for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children." Parents also will not want to miss the workshop, "We Are Equal Partners: Recommended Practices for Involving Families in Their Child's Educational Program."

The conference is unique in that parents are encouraged to bring their children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Supervised child care is available, with age appropriate activities for all children. A popular event for parents is a student panel representing diverse communication modes and educational placements. Students will reflect on their personal life experiences as children with hearing loss. New this year, there will be a workshop for middle and high school aged students. Under a facilitator's guidance, deaf and hard of hearing teens and their siblings will engage in open discussion of family and educational factors that have contributed to their positive student growth.

I have mentioned only a sampling of some key resources available for parents at this year's conference. For additional information or to receive a registration form, please contact Ms. Traci Burton at 609-984-7281 or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us. We look forward to your participation and contributions to this endeavor.

REMINDER

The deadline for the
May 2011 issue is **April 1.**

The deadline for the
April 2011 issue was **March 1, 2011.**

Send e-mail submissions to our new address:
monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us.

Submissions should be "text only," in a standard word document (no pdf files). Photos, that accompany submissions are encouraged. For a style sheet, contact the editor.

Newsletter Subscription

If you would like to subscribe to **Monthly Communicator**, send your request to the e-mail address above.

Subscription is free of charge.

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

Justice Department Reaches Settlement with H&R Block

Reprinted From Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs
Monday, January 31, 2011

WASHINGTON - The Justice Department announced a comprehensive settlement agreement under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with HRB Tax Group Inc., H&R Block Tax Services LLC and HRB Advance LLC (H&R Block) to ensure effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in the provision of income tax preparation services and courses at more than 11,000 owned and franchised offices nationwide.

The settlement agreement, which resolves an ADA complaint filed by an individual who is deaf, requires, among other things, that H&R Block furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services, including sign language interpreter services, when necessary to afford a person who is deaf or hard of hearing equal access to the goods, services and accommodations made available to others.

"By signing this agreement, H&R Block has affirmed its commitment to providing effective communication with people who are deaf and hard of hearing not only at their tax preparation offices in San Antonio, where the complaint originated, but at their locations across the country," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "The agreement will ensure that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have equal access to tax preparation services at more than 11,000 offices nationwide."

The agreement requires that H&R Block:

- Provide auxiliary aids and services, including qualified sign language interpreters, to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing when necessary to ensure effective communication of its tax preparation services, programs and courses;
- Adopt and enforce a policy on effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing for all H&R Block offices nationwide, post the policy on its Web sites and in its employee manuals, and

distribute the policy to current and new employees and contractors;

- Establish and maintain a list of sign language interpreter providers;
- Post and maintain in a conspicuous location in all reception areas of H&R Block offices a notice stating that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have a right under the ADA to request a sign language or oral interpreter or other form of auxiliary aid or service if needed;
- Provide staff training on the ADA and H&R Block's obligations to provide effective communication to individuals with disabilities;
- Monitor franchisees' compliance with this requirement consistent with monitoring of compliance with the franchise agreements and other requirements of federal, state or local laws; and
- Pay \$5,000 damages to the individual who filed an ADA complaint and a \$20,000 civil penalty.

The ADA prohibits discrimination against customers with disabilities by businesses that serve the public. Among other things, the ADA requires tax preparation services, accountants, lawyers, doctors and other businesses to provide equal access to customers who are deaf or hard of hearing. When services such as tax preparation involve important, lengthy or complex oral communications with customers, businesses are generally required to provide qualified sign language

interpreters and other auxiliary aids, free of charge, to individuals who are deaf, are hard of hearing or have speech disabilities. Other auxiliary aids may include the use of relay services for telephone communication, exchanging notes for brief and uncomplicated communications, providing assistive listening systems and receivers in classes for attendees who are hard of hearing, and providing captioned videos. The appropriate auxiliary aid to be provided depends on a variety of factors including the nature, length and importance of the communication; the communication skills and knowledge of the individual who is deaf or hard of hearing; and the individual's stated need for a particular type of auxiliary aid.

Auxiliary aids must also be provided for individuals who are blind or have low vision, such as materials in Braille, large print or accessible electronic formats such as e-mail or HTML, qualified readers and assistance in filling out forms.

Those interested in finding out more about this agreement or businesses' effective communication obligations under the ADA may call the Justice Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TDD), or access its ADA website at www.ada.gov. ADA complaints may be filed by e-mail to ada.complaint@usdoj.gov.





Extended Wear Hearing Aids

The Good, The Bad and The Not-So-Ugly

by Granville Y. Brady, Jr., Au.D., F.A.A.A.

In the past three years, at least two companies have introduced extended wear hearing aids. Extended wear devices are essentially disposable hearing instruments that have a useful life of up to four months. They are placed deep into the patient's ear canal and are worn 24/7. When the device runs out of power, the audiologist simply removes it and inserts a replacement. Instead of purchasing hearing aids that last for four or five years, the patient purchases a yearly subscription that allows replacement of the instruments when needed.

The Good - The sound quality is generally superior to other types of hearing instruments. By placing the microphone and receiver so close to the eardrum, the extended wear devices take advantage of the natural acoustics of the outer ear. The closeness to the eardrum allows for far less power to achieve good sound quality. This is comparable to the use of contact lenses, which are directly placed on the eyeball. Extended wear instruments are programmed just like most other hearing aids. They can be controlled using a small magnetic pencil-like device to turn them down for sleeping and increase or decrease the loudness as needed.

When properly fitted, they can be worn comfortably all the time. There is no contraindication regarding their use while showering, exercising or even swimming. The patient can remove the devices, but only a trained professional can re-insert them.

The Bad - It is estimated that only about 50 percent of all patients can use extended wear devices at the present time. The most obvious contraindication to use is the size and shape of the ear canals. Small, narrow and very short canals cannot accommodate the size of the device. Although some initial discomfort may be present when the devices are inserted, prolonged pain or discomfort is not acceptable. Patients interested in trying these devices should be given a trial period to adjust to them to determine if pain or discomfort persists. The extended wear devices are generally not useful for someone with a severe hearing loss; and they are useful for patients with mild to moderate losses. Many other symptoms contraindicate their use. These include: untreated diabetes, severe TMJ, recent chemotherapy or radiation therapy to the head or neck, chronic ear drainage and other health issues. Patients should consult with their audiologist before considering using these devices.

The Not-So-Ugly - Extended wear devices are completely invisible to the naked eye. By fitting them deep into the ear canal - 4 mm from the eardrum, there is no visible sign that the patient is wearing a hearing aid. This appeals to many hearing impaired people who still have the notion that using hearing aids is a sign of age. Baby Boomers are especially sensitive to anything that labels them as "getting old". If the evolution of hearing aids follows past trends, the cosmetic appeal of the extended wear hearing devices will drive the future market to greater acceptance (and flexibility) of these instruments. Hearing aids are viewed by many people as consumer products, not unlike other electronics. Although the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) consider them medical devices, most insurance plans do not cover their cost. This results in a consumer driven market. Whether it is the cosmetic appeal of extended wear hearing devices or their sound quality, it looks like they are here to stay.

Dr. Granville Brady is a licensed audiologist in NJ. He is a former member of the Audiology and Speech-Language Advisory Committee of the Division of Consumer Affairs and past president/commissioner of the N.J. Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee.

How to Find Captioned Movies?



It's simple! Just go to
www.captionfish.com
and enter your location!

Nation's Capital To Host Convention On Hearing Loss

We Hope to See You There - Washington, DC June 16 - 19, 2011



Monthly Communicator readers are invited to join people, from across the United States, who care about hearing loss at Convention 2011, which is being sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America. This year's gathering, especially convenient for New Jersey residents, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington Virginia, just a few miles from the Capitol and Washington, D.C.

One of the country's largest gatherings devoted to people who are deaf and hard of hearing, the convention offers first-rate speakers who will share their expertise. There will be helpful exhibits and a captioned performance of *Wicked* at The Kennedy Center. There will be lots of time to meet people who live with hearing loss themselves, or are caring for young children or aged relatives with hearing loss.

"The energy at these conventions is amazing," says Arlene Romoff, president of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey and a regular participant. "For four days, people with hearing loss gather in one place to learn, to socialize, relax and have fun."

A special "plus" this year is the second international conference on hearing loop technology will also take place at the Hyatt Regency from June 18 - 20.

Major events include the following:

Keynote Speech Christopher J. Artinian, CEO and President of Morton's Restaurants, will relate the extraordinary story of his family's struggle to come to terms with their children's deafness. The Artinian family is the subject of the Oscar-nominated film, *Sound and Fury*.

Captioned Performance of *Wicked* Seats are available for convention-goers at the world-famous Kennedy Center for a captioned performance of this Grammy and Tony award-winning musical on June 17 at 7:30 p.m.

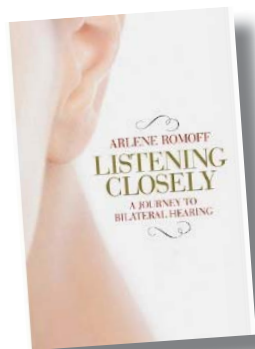
Workshops You can explore topics such as hearing technology, medical issues, advocacy and government affairs, young adults, and handling relationships with family, friends and your employer.

Demonstration Room and Exhibits Companies from across the country will showcase the latest in products and services of interest to people with hearing loss.

Hearing Loop Conference Exhibits and workshops will explain loop technology from a user's perspective. Learn more about the helpful but sometimes complex world of loop technology and FM and infrared systems.

To learn more, or to register for either conference, go to www.hlaa.org, and click on the link to the convention page. Then click on the link marked reservations.

On the convention page, just click on the link called reservations for information on how to register by e-mail, fax or phone. You can register there for both the HLA Convention 2011 and the Hearing Loop Conference.



Reminder - New Book On Hearing Loss

HLA-NJ President Romoff's new book is now available. Titled *Listening Closely: A Journey to Bilateral Hearing*, it is available from Charlesbridge Publishing (www.charlesbridge.com), www.amazon.com and bookstores. Her previous work, *Hear Again—Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant* is available from Amazon.com. Make sure your friends with hearing loss know about these important resources.

A great way to get involved with the Hearing Loss of New Jersey is by attending chapter meetings. We have three chapters, serving Bergen, Middlesex and Ocean/Monmouth counties. Information is available from info@hearingloss-nj.org, or at www.hearingloss-nj.org.



Want to Prevent Hearing Loss? Listen to Your Heart!

By DDHH Field Representative Traci Burton

When discussing the topic of hearing protection, the usual tips include turning down the music, limit the time in a noisy environment, and wearing earplugs. However, have we ever listened to our hearts when it comes to protecting our hearing? Carolyn Smaka Au.D. Associate Editor, Healthy Hearing has explored this issue and presented the following submission in the February 22, 2010 edition of Healthy Hearing:

It is not exactly breaking news that cardiovascular disease (CVD), which impacts heart and/or blood vessels, is a very dangerous affliction. In fact, American Heart Association (AHA) says CVD is the No. 1 killer in the United States, accounting for more than a third of all deaths every year. Healthy heart, arteries and veins are crucial to good overall health and longevity. And, research shows, they also have a positive impact on hearing.

The cochlea is a snail-shaped, fluid-filled tube in each of our inner ears and contains millions of tiny receptor hair cells. It plays a very important role in our hearing because it translates sound into nerve impulses that are sent to the brain. However, trauma to a cochlea's blood vessels can cause nerve deafness. If the cochlea becomes damaged – for example, by a degenerative disease – our hearing capacity can be greatly diminished or lost altogether.

This is not just hearsay; it has been proven by various research, including the Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study (EHLS), carried out in 2002 in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. As part of that research, cochlear function was tested in about 1,600 people ages 52 to 97. Researchers found that participants with a history of cardiovascular disease were on average 54 percent more likely to have



impaired cochlear function (hearing loss) than those without CVD. Additionally, hearing loss appeared in nearly 80 percent of those who had myocardial infarction – damage or destruction of heart tissue caused by obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.

Since we know that blood flow is directly related to the vascular pattern of the cochlea, common sense dictates that we should be proactive in keeping our circulation – and thus the entire cardiovascular system – in top shape. The good news coming out of the ASHA study is that cardiovascular fitness can protect our hearing by having a beneficial effect on the vascular pattern of the cochlea and, consequently, on hearing loss prevention.

The AHA suggests these seven steps: get active, eat better, lose weight, stop smoking, control cholesterol, manage blood pressure, and reduce blood sugar (risk of diabetes).

What exactly does it mean? If you have high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes, don't wait for a heart attack to take action. If you can't lower your risk factors with a low-fat, healthy nutrition, your doctor might prescribe medications to help

you get on the right track.

As far as smoking is concerned, it is not only bad for your heart (and health in general) but for your hearing as well – smoking and hearing loss studies have shown that smokers are nearly 70 percent more likely than non-smokers to suffer hearing loss.

In regards to reducing blood sugar, this can improve your hearing outlook even further by preventing diabetes. Studies have demonstrated diabetics are at risk for developing hearing loss. By preventing diabetes you are also helping to prevent hearing loss.

And getting active is easy too. You don't need an expensive gym membership, a personal trainer or high-impact fitness routine to see positive results. The AHA says that even low-to-moderate intensity activities, when done for as little as 30 minutes a day, bring benefits. These activities include pleasure walking, climbing stairs, gardening, moderate-to-heavy housework, dancing and home exercise.

See, taking proactive steps to prevent both CVD and hearing loss is easy. As the saying goes: "Just do it!"

Traci Burton, field representative can be reached at 609-984-7281 or at traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.

Sign Language Courses Increase in Popularity

Students sign on to boost resumé, fulfill language requirements

(Reprinted with permission from Rutgers Focus, January 7, 2011)

By Lisa Intrabartola

Rutgers students Britany Martin and Chris Fay studied sign language over winter session.

Chris Fay is not deaf. Until a few weeks ago, he hadn't met anyone who was. So, why would a fourth-year economics major with no hearing-impaired friends or family or intentions of becoming an interpreter take Beginning American Sign Language? "It just jumped out at me," the 21-year-old Maplewood resident said of the winter course he recently completed. Fay is far from the first college student to satisfy a curiosity about sign language.

Enrollment in American Sign Language (ASL) on the college level increased 16 percent between 2006 and 2009 according to a recent report by the Modern Language Association. This represents a marked uptick in comparison with enrollment in the country's three most popular foreign languages: Spanish, French, and German. Enrollment in those traditional foreign languages, which grew by 12.9 percent from 2002 to 2006, only experienced a 6.6 percent increase between 2006 and 2009.

These statistics don't surprise Fay, who considers signing a valuable skill and resumé booster in a world economy shrunk by globalization.

"It's more of a human language. It is something that's pan-cultural, not just a matter of country of origin," he said. "I think the reason it's gotten more popular is because you can use it in France, in Spain, in Germany, wherever."

Charlotte Karras, who was left partially deaf after a childhood illness, requires students to attend at least one public event for the deaf. Fay's professor, Charlotte Karras, an adjunct instructor in Rutgers' School of Communication and Information, said she has witnessed a growing interest among students at the university in signing. During most of her 20-year tenure at Rutgers, Karras taught four ASL courses: two beginning ASL classes during the first summer session and one beginning ASL class and an Intermediate ASL class in the second session. Though each class regularly filled to capacity with 22 to 25 students, Karras was skeptical when asked three years ago to add an additional beginner class during winter the session.

"I didn't think anyone would sign up for it," Karras said. But they did, enough to fill her class. "I was shocked. This year, same thing."

In this brutal job market, Karras doesn't doubt that ASL skills could give some graduates – especially those with education and nursing degrees – an edge over their



Photo Credit: Nick Romanenko

competition. She's had plenty of students majoring in both on her rosters.

ASL also may appeal to students struggling to satisfy their foreign language requirement. Many colleges and universities, Rutgers included, accept ASL credits toward that end. That makes sense to Karras who said students with learning disabilities or trouble latching onto traditional foreign languages tend to excel in ASL

because of its visual orientation.

Karras's own introduction to ASL stemmed from necessity. Illness and a high fever left Karras hard of hearing when she was 4. She didn't learn to sign until age 10 when she left her small Alabama farming community to attend a school for the deaf. Karras went on to graduate from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

The myriad reasons her students give for taking her classes never fail to surprise Karras. Britany Martin, of Newark, became interested in nonverbal communication

'Students with learning disabilities or trouble latching onto traditional foreign languages tend to excel in ASL because of its visual orientation.'

– ASL instructor Charlotte Karras

as a child singing in her church's signing choir. "I wasn't taught (signing) as far as being able to communicate it with others. We didn't learn the break down of the words (to the songs)," said Martin, 21, of her past stint signing. "When I found out they offered the class at Rutgers, I was very interested in taking it."

Martin, a fourth-year political science and criminal justice major at Rutgers-Newark, foresees not only continuing to study ASL on her own with free YouTube lessons, but also the possibility of putting her signing skills to use in a future law career. "I may run into a deaf person as a client," Martin said. "If I am a lawyer, I can handle that person instead of having an interpreter or sending them somewhere else to get the services they need."

It's a situation Martin and Fay may not have considered before Karras's class, which requires students to get out of the classroom and into at least one public event for the deaf. Both said the assignment, which led them to a deaf game night at a North Brunswick church, opened their eyes to a deaf culture and sizeable hearing-impaired community that they didn't realize exists. "I went into ASL thinking being hearing impaired stops you from accomplishing certain things," said Martin, who adds she knows otherwise now. "I learned a lot more than signing. I learned about the whole deaf community."

“The Business Aspect of Being an Interpreter”

with Kathleen D. Taylor, MA, CI/CT, NAD

Monday, April 11, 2011

5:30 – 9:00 PM

LaGuardia Community College

29-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101

Room TBA

Fee: \$60



Explore various business practices associated with being a professional sign language interpreter to complement your knowledge of the bicultural-bilingual aspects of your work. Review topics such as billing, ethics, self-promotion, communication skills and other tools to help you build and run your business.

Kathleen D. Taylor has an MA Degree from New York University in Rehabilitation Counseling, specializing in Deafness. She is a nationally certified interpreter; former President of the NYC Chapter and former Eastern Regional Representative of the National Alliance of Black Interpreters; and a former board member of NYC Metro Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). She has worked in the field of deafness for more than 21 years and as a professional freelance sign language interpreter for 19 years. Her experience includes working with noted political, religious and social personalities as well as interpreting on/off Broadway, and she was one of the original class members of the theatrical interpreting program at The Juilliard School.

RID Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP)/ Associate Continuing Education Tracking (ACET) The CUNY Interpreter Education Project has been approved by the RID CMP/ACET to sponsor Continuing Education Activities. This program is offering .35 CEU's in Professional studies and has an instructional level of intermediate. For cancellation and accessibility policy, please call (718) 482-5313.

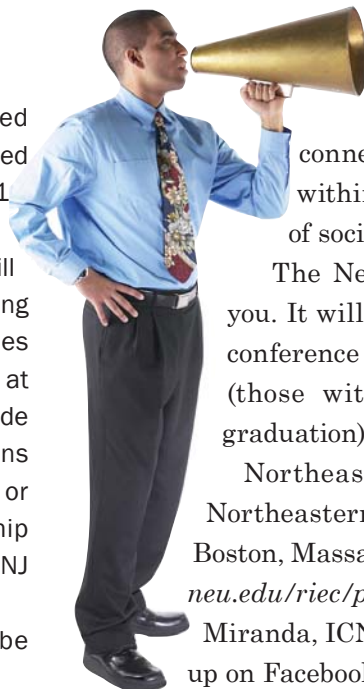
For more information or to register for “The Business Aspect of Being an Interpreter,” please contact Ashley Graham at (718) 482-5313 or Agraham@lagcc.cuny.edu

Seating is limited and registration deadline is: Thursday, April 1, 2011.

Apply for ALDA-GS Scholarship

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Garden State (ALDA-GS) is pleased to announce the availability of the 2011 Barnhart Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2000. This scholarship will be awarded to a deaf or hard of hearing high school student or adult who resides in New Jersey and has been accepted at an accredited college, university or trade school for the year 2011. Applications available online at www.alda-gs.org or contact: Dianne Fannell, Scholarship Chair, 413 Valley View, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444; aldafann@hotmail.com

Completed applications must be returned by May 1, 2011.



Calling All Interpreting Students and Novice Interpreters

There is a new network called, *Student & Novice Interpreter Network*. The goal of the Network is to connect students and novice interpreters to one another within and across state lines in our region for the purpose of social and professional support and networking.

The Network is having a conference and we are inviting you. It will be held: Thursday, March 31 - Friday, April 1. The conference is for interpreting student and novice interpreters (those with three or less years of work experience post graduation) only.

Northeastern University and the Interpreting Club at Northeastern University (ICNU) will be hosting this event in Boston, Massachusetts. For more information please go to: www.asl.neu.edu/riec/projects_activities/student_novice/ or contact Kristina Miranda, ICNU President at interpretingclub@gmail.com. Look us up on Facebook at: Student & Novice Interpreter Network.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Cards and Clothes

submitted by Bob Markovic

Fuzzy Wuzzy Design is the brainchild of Christian S. Markovic. He is a remarkable young man who is daily challenging his physical limitations by using his artistic and creative talent as well as his amazing spirit. At the age of two Christian was completely deaf, at thirteen he began to lose his sight and by age twenty he was legally blind. At the same time Christian developed a neurological disorder which left him mobility impaired.

Nonetheless, Christian became the first deaf graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design with a BA in Fine Arts. His work has been



shown at the Credit Suisse Gallery in New York City, the Pierro Galley in South Orange, New Jersey as well as being an artist in residence at Arts Unbound in Orange, New Jersey. Some of Christian's corporate customers are Harlem Day Charter

School, Bright Horizons Day Care Centers, and the United Way Foundation.

Christian works on a Macintosh computer using a zoom program that enlarges his work 10 times. He uses a CCATV which enables him to read.

Due to Christian's disabilities, finding work after graduating college was virtually impossible, so he decided to start his own business.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Designs began eight years ago with a unique line of greeting cards designed and created by Christian. Due to its overwhelming success he decided to expand his business into clothing.

Please feel free to visit our Web site at: Fuzzywuzzydesign.com.

Deaf Dogs for Adoption

Animal Friends for Education & Welfare, Inc. (A.F.E.W) has two wonderful deaf dogs up for adoption. Below is a write up and their pictures. If you are looking for a dog and are willing to help him learn sign language than perhaps you will like Cody or Brady. Both dogs are neutered and up to date with vaccinations.

Please contact Marilyn at 609-209-9327 or via e-mail: afew_pets@comcast.net for more information or to meet these guys.



Cody

Hi, my name's Cody and I'm a very sweet Staffi boy about 1.5 yrs old ! I'm white with black patches and black down my back legs like pants! I have one brown eye and one blue eye so I'm pretty handsome if I do say so myself! I'm also deaf! But I act just like any other dog and can do anything a hearing dog can do. I'm very smart and I already know come, sit, down and roll over with a hand signal. I also LOVE to play with other dogs and I get along

well with cats too. I am currently being boarded at a kennel and am patiently waiting a new forever home. Please consider adopting this guy who wants nothing more than to cuddle and love you in his new home.



Brady

Brady is a sweet boy who in spite of his previous owner, loves people. He is happy to have anyone pay attention to him and delighted to be pet instead of hit. Only thing is he is deaf. We were told his owner hit him so hard one time he knocked him out. Why? No reason is good enough as far as AFEW s concerned. He seeks nothing but love. If you have the love to give him please contact us.

For additional info: www.afewpets.org

Millburn School for the Deaf 40 Years and More Celebration

Friday, April 1

6:00 to 10:00 PM

Cardinal McCarrick High School

310 Augusta Street, South

Amboy, NJ 08879

Millburn will be providing light refreshment, dessert, juice, water, soda, hot tea and coffee.

Admission:

\$7 adults (bring a dessert)

\$10 if you don't bring food at the door.

\$3 for 3 - 12 year old

■ **LCR Dices games or King Power (\$3 to play)**

■ **Poker Card Games (\$20 to play)**

■ **50/50 raffles tickets.**

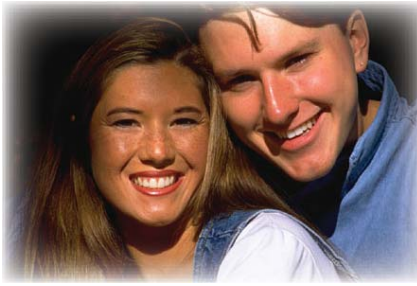
Wear green clothes for best contest and for a raffle ticket

Info: Millburnschool@yahoo.com

Fundraiser Chairperson: Miss Cartwright

Addressing the Need for Housing for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in New Jersey

By Jason Weiland, DDHH Field Representative



As a field representative with NJ DDHH, I'm often in touch with consumers that have a variety of needs.

One of the most common needs among the deaf and hard of hearing population in New Jersey is housing. The need for affordable and accessible housing in New Jersey has never been at a higher demand than today. Videophone calls and e-mails paint a dire face on the community that often has no where to go but stay with relatives, friends, and sometimes even strangers. In the end, many are evicted and become homeless with limited options on where to go for support and assistance. Waiting lists for housing assistance are often two years long in some parts of New Jersey. The larger issue facing those who do find housing - the unit lacks the necessary technology such as doorbell flashers, phone strobes, fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, internet access for videophones, CapTel phones for the hard of hearing and late-deafened along with other types of assistive devices that allows a person with hearing loss to be truly independent.

For the past few months, NJ DDHH has made strides in coming up with new ideas to address the need for accessible low income housing in addition to the need for affordable housing for the community. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey (SHA-NJ) statewide meeting held in Trenton with our division director, Dr. David C. Alexander. Sitting with a member of the deaf-blind community and community providers that serve the deaf and hard of hearing, we addressed a room full of supportive housing providers, housing developers, and other key players in the housing community. It is through these connections that we are starting to make headway in learning how to effectively address the housing needs of deaf and hard of hearing consumers. In addition to working with SHA-NJ, we also reached out to Project Freedom which is a non-profit organization that develops and operates barrier-

free housing to enable people with disabilities to live independently. In January, a group of deaf and hard of hearing community members joined us at Project Freedom to share more about the technology and accessible needs of this population.

I have also been involved with the NJ Senior Housing Committee for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NJSHC) which is a collaborative between Cardinal Capital Management (CCM), an affordable and supportive housing developer in Wisconsin and New Jersey Association for the Deaf. NJSHC has been working closely with CCM in making senior housing for the deaf and hard of hearing a reality in New Jersey. CCM completed their first senior housing project called Water Tower View in Wisconsin. During the Summer of 2011, CCM expects to complete work on Apache ASL Trails which is located in Tempe, Arizona. Next in line for senior housing development is New Jersey. While details have yet to be worked out, there has been discussion about

Morris County being an ideal location for the first senior housing for the deaf and hard of hearing in New Jersey. It is hoped that a second location will be considered after completion and growth of the first. Morris County was considered because of close proximity to public transportation, shopping centers, and hospitals that are well known for providing communication access to the deaf and hard of hearing in addition to being centrally located between Pennsylvania and New York. The area is also home to a number of deaf and hard of hearing organizations and services.

Recently, the Bergen County Deaf Senior Citizen's Center (BCDSCC) was recognized in a December event by the NJ Senior Housing Committee for their outstanding support of the NJSHC and Deaf senior community in Bergen County. The center which shares space with the Bergen County Senior Center in Midland Park is the only Deaf Senior Center of its kind in the state. Other parts of New Jersey support deaf senior gatherings such as the Deaf Senior Citizens of Highland Park. However, the BCDSCC has shown that a deaf senior center can be successfully run and operated even in the current economic climate. Bergen County has been generous in supporting the deaf senior population there.

In the upcoming issues of the MC, more information will be provided about affordable housing and senior housing when details are worked out.



Induction Loops Are Taking New York City by Storm

The Hearing Access Program announced that induction loops are being installed all over New York City. The installations include subway information booths/call boxes, museums, gardens or taxis so that people who are hard of hearing can hear better. Induction loops allow a person with a t-coil in their hearing aid to hear sound such as through an information booth, at museum information desk or even a video in a noisy museum.

An induction loop system utilizes an electromagnetic coil to create a magnetic field. Hearing aids or cochlear implants with T-coils receive the sound signal directly via their T-coil when the hearing aid is switched from the microphone to T-setting. The hearing aid regulates the volume and the T-coil blocks out the background sound.



"New York City is the first city in the United States to offer induction loops in so many different settings", said Janice Schacter, the founder and chair of the Hearing Access Program. "The goal is for New York to be the model for access for people with hearing loss."

Induction loops can be found at places such as the Soho Apple Store, American Museum of Natural History, Citi Field, Ellis Island, El Museo del Barrio, The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The New York Botanical Garden, The New-York Historical Society, is being installed in NYC Transit Subway Information Booths/

Call Boxes, in about 13 taxis and Yankee Stadium.

For more information, contact Janice at Jschacter@nyc.rr.com. More information on induction loops can be found at www.hearingloop.org.

Communicator Signboard

The Deaf-Blind League of New Jersey

Annual Spring Lunch Event



**March 19, 2011
1 to 4:30 PM**

**Old Man Rafferty's
106 Albany Street
New Brunswick**

\$25 members; \$30 non-members

For more information, e-mail: mmfried@comcast.net

The Hearing Society

Located in the
First Baptist Church of Westfield
170 Elm Street
Westfield, NJ 07090



Currently holding an informal class in
speech reading under the direction of
Dr. Anne Michelle Puglisi, Audiologist

Thursday mornings through

**May 26, 2011
10:30 - 11:45 AM**

The class provides instruction in strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for improved communication. It also serves as a support group for people coping with the problems associated with hearing loss. People in the greater Union County area are welcome.

Information about the Society and the classes may be obtained by calling:

Kay Schmitt, 908-232-6546 Voice

or

Alice Knecht, 908-688-8241 Voice

Communicator Signboard



ASL Social Hamilton Mall Mays Landing, NJ 2nd floor, food court (near FootLocker) 6:30 - 9:30 PM First Friday of every month

Open to all Deaf, HH, CODAs, SODAs, interpreters, students or anyone who signs.
Join us for a time of making new friends, chatting with old friends; food and fun.

For more information, contact:

Nancy Palmer

suepal70@comcast.net

412-1130 (text)

Kimberly Tweedle

kbtweet930@comcast.net

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



BINGO

St. John's Lutheran Church

810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ 07013

Saturday, March 12

Doors open at 3:00 PM

Refreshments on sale

Donation in Advance: Member - \$ 8, Non-member - \$ 10, Student with ID - \$8

At Door on March 12: Member - \$13, Non-Member - \$15, Student with ID - \$10

**To order tickets in advance, make check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc. and mail to NJCCD,
7 Patchbox Court, Boonton, NJ 07005 by the deadline of March 7**

Chairman Leonard Amato and the Committees

Information or directions to St. John's Lutheran Church, please visit

www.njccdsite.org or www.njccdsite.org/bingo311.pdf

Communicator Signboard



Open Captioned
Performance



Two River Theater Co.
21 Bridge Avenue
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Candida

Saturday April 9, 2011 at 3 PM

By **George Bernard Shaw**

Candida is spirited, capable, loving, and married to Morell, an eloquent preacher. But poet Marchbanks loves her too. Who will win her heart?

**Tickets are \$15 per person
for those using this service.**

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



Governor Livingston High School's D/HH Enrichment Organization

Proudly Hosts

Free Deaf Yoga Night

Friday, April 29 – 6:00 to 9:00 PM

**Learn the history of yoga, its five points and
participate in a Hatha yoga class...all in ASL**

Educational Workshop and Yoga Class

**Presented by DeafYoga Foundation founder and veteran teacher,
*Lila Lolling.***

**All New Jersey Deaf and ASL-fluent community members welcome.
Open to everyone aged 12 and above, regardless of experience.**

Bring yoga mat, if possible.

**For more information, e-mail: ldemarco@bhpsnj.org
175 Watchung Boulevard, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
www.njdeafprogram.com**



Communicator Signboard



Deaf Blind League of New Jersey

The Deaf-Blind League of New Jersey will host many exciting events this year. Listed here are some of them:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ■ March 19: | Luncheon at Old Man Rafferty's in New Brunswick | ■ September 17: | Bus trip to Warren County Winery |
| ■ April 16: | Bus trip to the Museum of Natural History in NYC | ■ October 15: | Walk4Hearing |
| ■ May 21: | Meeting at JKRC with guest speakers to discuss Deaf housing and SSP's | ■ November 19: | Meeting at JKRC in New Brunswick |
| ■ June 18: | BBQ | ■ December: | Volunteer gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble |

Please join us for any or all events!

Members attend at a discounted price.

For more information on time and location, e-mail: mmfried@comcast.net

Interpreters are sponsored by DDHH and CBVI

5th Anniversary NJSD/MKSD Museum and Hall of Fame Ceremony

**May 21, 2011
9 AM to 5 PM
NJSD/MKSD
300 Sullivan Way
West Trenton, NJ 08625**

**For more information, contact:
NJSDMuseum2011@gmail.com**

Co-chairpersons:

**Heidi Schumacher and Denis Munn
Look out for more details next month**

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament Saturday, April 2 3:00 PM

**at St. John's Lutheran Church
810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ 07013**

Doors open at 3:00 PM for registration. Buffet dinner at 3:30 PM. Tournament game starts at 5:00 PM sharp.

\$70 per player and \$15 per fan advance purchase by mail before the deadline of April 1. \$80 per player and \$20 per fan at door. Cost includes dinner, prizes and expenses for players only. Limit - 100 people

We provide LCR games for fans to play for their enjoyment.
Information, directions or ticket orders,
visit www.njccdsite.org.
Chairman Leonard Amato and the committees

Religious Access



קהילת בית התקווה

CONGREGATION BETH HATIKVAH

A Place for All: Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities



Saturday Night at the Movies Saturday, March 12 at 7:00 PM

For a Pot Luck Dinner and DVD
Sponsored by CBH's Inclusion Committee

7:00 PM Dairy Pot Luck

7:30 PM DVD

8:30 PM Brief discussion and dessert



This documentary explores the courageous stories of persons with disabilities as they create inclusive faith communities. This film reminds us that we are all created in the image of G-d. Rabbi Darby Jared Leigh, of MetroWest's Congregation B'nai Keshet, is featured in the film, sharing his experiences as one of the few deaf rabbis in the world (57 minutes).

RSVP: Sandy Spekman; sspekman@gmail.com

Congregation Beth Hatikvah, 36 Chatham Road, Summit, NJ 07901-1314

908-277-1314

www.bethhatikvah.org

Grace Bible Chapel of the Deaf

100 Oakdale Road, Chester, NJ 07930

May 14

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Justin D. Vollmar

from Maryland

Revival: The Spiritual Weekend

\$10 includes: Registration, Breakfast and Lunch

Payment will not be accepted at the door

RSVP by May 6

Make a check payable to: **Grace Bible Chapel**

Mail to: Roy Siskind

288 Janine Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Info: e-mail Roy Siskind, Rojogolfer@hotmail.com or

Michael Sarsfield MS1262@aol.com

Breakfast: Bagels, cream cheese, donuts, coffee, tea,
and orange juice

Lunch: Subs (trays, platters)

Purim

with ASL-Interpreted Megillah Reading and Fun For All

March 19

Want something different to do on a cold, wintry Saturday night? Come on in to where it's nice and warm for an evening of fun no matter how old you are or how young you really feel.

New York's Tifereth Israel-Town & Village (T&V) Synagogue (www.tandv.org) invites you to join us on **Purim Night, Saturday, March 19**, for an ASL-interpreted Service, full reading of Megillat Esther.

For those so inclined, costumes are heartily encouraged, too!

Services will be held from **6:30 PM - 9:30 PM** at 334 East 14th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues in Manhattan, followed by refreshments including hamantashen!

Our team of Deaf and hearing interpreters will again include Jessica Ames, Cathy Markland and Christopher Tester, and their work will be underwritten thanks to UJA-Federation of New York's Jewish Community Deaf Interpreter Fund.

For additional information, please contact Bram Weiser at bramweiser@usa.net or (212) 677-0368 Voice.

Additional dates for more monthly ASL-interpreted Services and events at T&V are being planned now, so keep your eyes peeled for future announcements! ASL interpreters are available at T&V when requests are made in advance. Please contact Bram Weiser (bramweiser@usa.net) for more information.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
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Dated Material Please Rush

Calendar of Events 2011

■ **Saturday, April 16**

Family Learning Conference
Freehold, NJ
Info: DDHH 609-984-7281

■ **Friday, April 29**

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
East Brunswick Public Library
2 Civic Blvd.
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529
Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:
609-984-7281 V/TTY

■ **Saturday, April 30**

ASL Festival
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Union County College, Cranford Campus
1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford
uccsignclub@gmail.com

■ **Saturday, June 11**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day
Six Flags Great Adventure
Jackson, NJ
For ticket info., contact Lauren at
GATickets@aol.com

■ **July 17-22**

RID National Conference
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, GA
Info: www.rid.org

■ **October 15-16**

The Real ASL Weekend
NJ Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and
NJ Association of the Deaf
Crowne Plaza Hotel
360 Forsgate Drive
Monroe Twp. NJ

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

DDHH Office – Days Closed:

■ Good Friday – Friday, April 22