

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

December 2013

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

Vol. 34 No.11

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Walk4Hearing Surges Past Its Targeted Funding Goals Church Group Sends Valued Assistance to Aid Walkers

By Joel Strasser, APR,
Fellow PRSA, Trustee, Public Information Officer, Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey

More than 820 members and supporters of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey and their families walked Sunday, October 20, 2013 at the Sixth Annual Garden State Walk4Hearing at Mercer County Park West in West Windsor as they collectively raised both awareness and record-level funds for hearing loss prevention and education programs. At last report, the Garden State Walk4Hearing had raised nearly \$87,000, significantly more than originally targeted, according to Walk chairman Wayne Roorda, and Northeast Regional Coordinator Suzanne D'Amico.

HLA-NJ and the Walk4Hearing organizers want to publicly thank and credit the success of this year's walk to the efforts of many. According to Ms. D'Amico, "the top five fundraisers for the 2013 walk were Rachel Root, Maxx Wortman, Jared Ceitlin, Ruth Smith



Team Abby were just part of the over 800 participants for the Sixth Annual Walk4Hearing event at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, NJ.

and Jared Root." In addition, said Roorda, "we want to thank leaders and walkers in the top 10 Alliance Teams, including Team Zachy, Noa's Team, Summit Speech School, Team Maxx Man, Team Gabriel, Team Lexi, Team Ceitlin, the Toms River Piggies, Ava's Voice and Team Stavac."

HLA-NJ organizes awareness and

advocacy campaigns and provides services for individuals with hearing loss throughout the state of New Jersey. It already has five functioning chapters in Bergen, Middlesex, Ocean/Monmouth and Morris Counties and the South Jersey Shore. At the local level, monies the organization raises

Continued on pages 8 and 9

Collecting Used Hearing Aids

If you have a used hearing aid and wish to donate it, we have the place. In the future, these aids will be reconditioned and dispensed to others in need in New Jersey.

Please send in a padded envelope or box, or unlabeled prescription container to:

**New Jersey Hearing Aid Project
Montclair State University
1515 Broad St., Bldg. B
Bloomfield, NJ 07003**



Thank you to everyone who already has sent old hearing aids to the NJ Hearing Aid Project. We greatly appreciate your donations.

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Director's Corner

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

During the month of November, I had an opportunity to attend events sponsored by the New Jersey Association of the Deaf (NJAD) and the Hearing Loss Association of America-NJ (HLAA-NJ). NJAD hosted its 2013 Biennial Conference and the HLAA-NJ conducted its Annual Meeting. I had an opportunity to address the HLAA participants and to make opening remarks.

Both associations held elections. I would like to congratulate the new officers. Michelle Cline was re-elected as President of NJAD for a second term and Linda Schaab was elected to her second term as President of HLAA-NJ. I look forward to working with each president and collaborating with their respective associations as we continue to work together to advance the rights of people with hearing loss in our state.

I also would like to acknowledge the excellent outreach efforts from NJAD and HLAA to incorporate within their events opportunities to empower their members and enhance awareness of hearing loss resources. I was impressed with the diverse workshops, speakers and exhibits each association presented.

I wish you and your families a happy holiday season.

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

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director
New Jersey Division of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 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

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Ring in the New Year without Ringing in Your Ears

By Traci Burton, *DDHH Field Representative*



Prices for earmuffs begin at \$10 and reduce noise levels by as much as 30 dB. If your hearing aid center doesn't sell them, look for them in better department stores or online.

“To avoid experiencing tinnitus as a result of exposure to loud noises this New Year's Eve, consider investing in a set of inexpensive foam earplugs...”

There have been many articles published here about hearing protection: the causes of hearing loss/ringing in the ears, various styles of earplugs and earmuffs, and scenarios in which we need to be careful. The December 27, 2012 news emission on www.healthyhearing.com reminds us that there are situations outside of concerts and operating loud machinery during which we need to be careful. As we prepare to ring in 2014, let us celebrate a happy and healthy New Year with conscious efforts towards our hearing health.

If your New Year's Eve plans include attending a celebration, make sure the ringing you hear at the party doesn't follow you home as the result of exposure to loud noises.

Prolonged exposure to noise levels above 85 decibels (dB) can result in permanent hearing loss or tinnitus, a noticeable ringing, roaring, clicking or hissing sound in your ears. Many of the sounds associated with end-of-year parties register decibel levels far beyond those considered safe, so it's important to take extra precautions this time of year.

Fireworks and firecrackers register noise levels of 162 dB and 150 dB respectively. Attending a band or rock concert? That music emits levels between 110-120 dB. Marching bands trumpet sounds of 100 dB. And those noise makers everyone likes to blow at midnight? They can measure 140 dB - more than twice the safe limit.

To avoid experiencing tinnitus as a result of exposure to loud noises this New Year's Eve, consider investing in a set of inexpensive foam earplugs, available at your local drugstore. These can reduce noise by as much as 30 dB. If you'll be attending a rock or band concert, choose a seat at a safe distance from the speakers and, if possible, choose an outside venue or facility with good acoustics where sound can dissipate easily.

If you're a hearing aid user, adjust your memory settings for noise reduction. If your instrument doesn't have this feature, invest in a pair of noise reducing earmuffs. Hearing aids amplify sound, so it's important to protect your remaining hearing, especially when you know you'll be spending time in a noisy environment.

If children are joining you at New Year's celebrations, make hearing protection a family affair by talking to them about the importance of wearing hearing protection. Studies indicate noise-induced hearing loss is becoming more common in today's youth, due in part to the popularity of personal entertainment devices such as iPods. Special noise reducing earmuffs are available in children's sizes beginning at \$20.

These precautions should help prevent you from damaging your hearing or developing a temporary case of tinnitus; however, if ringing in your ears is chronic, see your family doctor. Other causes of tinnitus include hearing loss, excessive ear wax, and certain medications. The condition may also be an indicator of other health problems like allergies, high or low blood pressure, tumors or heart-related problems.

Traci Burton, field representative can be reached at 609-588-2648 or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.



Computer Designed for Computer-Phobic and HOH is both User-Friendly and Talkative

By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA

We've all seen the ads, and even some TV commercials, for a new computer that is supposed to be user friendly, or at least, designed especially for those senior citizens of the world who grew up and grew old(er) without full knowledge of such things as hard drives and gigabytes. Though it comes with both keyboard and mouse, you can literally do just about anything by using just your finger on the computer's touch-activated screen. Plus, it also helps you hear better during telephone conversations. So this reviewer, who also grew older along with such tekky gadgets and speedy machines as HP, Toshiba, IBM and Dell, decided to bring one home for a tryout to report on what makes it ideal and attractive for hearing-challenged seniors.

Well, folks, you no longer have an excuse to avoid computers, or to leave them exclusively to your grandkids. There's now a computer that skips all the language and jargon of all the technologies, and essentially levels the playing field between the computer-phobic and the tekky whiz-kids. It's also equipped with Sprint's CapTel captioning, which makes it a must-have if you're missing out on anything in life. There's so much out there online, among conveniences and cost savings that some may be missing out on, especially in this day and age when timely and personal information is so important.

Though not sold or demonstrated in any store, the computer – offered under various names including Telikin, Wow, and others – arrives by UPS or FedEx well packaged in a protective shipping box that opens easily. Once out of the box, the one-piece unit's total setup takes just seconds to plug in to any standard 110-volt AC wall outlet, and another minute to attach only the keyboard, mouse and Internet plugs to the marked receptacles on back of the screen. That's it – Now you are in business. If you feel more comfortable following illustrated written directions, the unit comes with a 14-page quick start-up guide at the front of its

▲ From the "home" screen, above, complete and total operation of all functions on the computer can be activated simply by using the forefinger to touch the various words and graphical icons on the computer's touch-screen display.

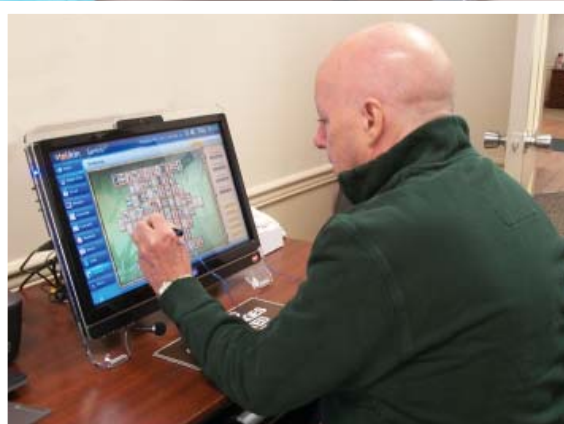
120-page instruction manual.

To take full advantage of the power and capabilities of this (or any) computer, the user also should arrange to have access to a high-speed Internet connection, generally available through any telephone, cable TV or communications provider, as well as an e-mail address, which most get free from numerous sources including AOL, Hotmail, Gmail and others. Such features as e-mail, photo sharing, web browsing, video chat, news and weather are easily accessed through a user's Internet connection.

Yes, I did say it was a computer, but it's also a video telephone, with or without CapTel captioned text if you or your housemate(s) have any difficulty hearing normal telephone conversations. Though it comes fully equipped with full keyboard and mouse, its many features and capabilities also are activated with the user's fingertips by simply touching on-screen buttons and prompts on the



The Telikin computer has been designed specifically for senior citizens and includes captioning features that enable even people who are hard of hearing to fully understand telephone conversations. 50% or all Americans over age 75 have some degree of hearing loss.



full-color screen in front of the user. If touch-screen activation is the user's preference, there's also an on-screen keyboard that can be brought up for display, in addition to the industry-standard tactile keyboard and mouse.

When the unit is turned on, the opening screen displays a single column of eleven onscreen "buttons" for such functions as *Home, Video Chat, Email, Photos, Calendar, Contacts, Weather, News, Web, Games* and *More*. Pressing any one of these "buttons," i.e. simply touching those words or icons on the screen, brings the user directly into the application, and once there, many or most are self-explanatory. In addition to the 11 on-screen function "buttons," the opening screen automatically displays one photo, space for notes, the day's weather, a few news headlines, and a choice of pithy quotes or trivia. Whatever happens next depends on what the user decides to touch on the screen.

Starting with the last first, the *More* "button" opens up the user's universe to many more applications not covered by the first ten "buttons." Included in the *More* section are useful functions such

as *Backup and Restore*, separate CD and DVD players to help users listen to music or watch feature films, *Calculator*, *Conversion enabler* and *File Manager*, a *Kindle Reader* which allows the user to read eBooks or to listen to audio books, a *Media Player* that allows the playback or audi9o and video files, a *Sprint CapTel* app for captioning telephone conversations, *PDF Viewer*, a *Photo Loader*, a *Scanner*, *Slideshow Viewer*, *Spreadsheets*, *Stopwatch*, *Timer* and *Writing function* or *Microsoft-compatible Word Processor*. *CapTel* is a free web-based service for individuals with hearing loss to read word-for-word captions of their phone calls on their computer. Users speak to the other person through any telephone, including cordless, landline or cell phones AND read, on their computer, what the other person is saying. There is no other special equipment required. Though the service is totally free, users must register just once to use the service indefinitely.

The *Home Screen* is the logical place to begin. It is always displayed when the computer is initially turned on, and provides a quick overview of the

user's universe. It enables log-on to the user's account, and enables the user to access all features on the computer and view important notices. From the *Home* screen, the user can see calendar reminders, e-mail notices and new photo reminder on the notices board.

Video Chat enables the user to send and receive free video and audio calls to friends and family around the world over the Internet via *Skype*. Three clicks will connect the user for a face to face chat with a *Skype* friend anywhere in the world.

Email, or electronic mail, permits the user to send and receive *Email* over the Internet, and to compose and read *Emails* at any time.

Photos lets the user view, manage and upload digital photos via the Internet, to organize them into albums, and to review thumbnail images of collections of photos. Photo sharing is especially easy with *Telikin's Facebook* integration. People who share photos through *Facebook* receive their friends' photos streamed into the *Telikin* photo application. At the same time, without going into the *Facebook* wall, photos can also be received as email attachments.

By touching the *Calendar* button, for example, the user opens the current calendar and can input any number of important dates for such occasions as relative's birthdays, holidays, future doctors' visits, etc. The calendar page is accompanied by a reminder list of that week's notable things to do.

The *Contacts* option provides an address book similar to one the average person might keep at home. Users can manage their contacts easily by storing addresses, telephone numbers and other important information, and from here, easily email any or all of the contacts in your address book.

The *Weather* application button lets the user view weather conditions for that day and the five-day forecast for week ahead in any desired Zip code, as well as a detailed *Doppler* map. Customized news and weather are easily accessed from the news and weather buttons.

The *News* tab lets the user view updated news headlines with mini summaries from a variety of different news distribution sources on the Internet.

The *Web* button lets the user view various desired web sites with the unit's built-in browser. Because the most popular websites are organized into *Quick Links* for easy access for users less familiar with the sites, the option provides a large variety of more popular website

Continued on page 6

User-Friendly Computer continued

icons that the user can touch onscreen to gain immediate entry without the need to type in site names. Graphic icons at favorite sites, which can also be bookmarked, include several general interest, social media, news sources, shopping sites, health-related sites, e-mail, sports, finance and travel, to suggest a few.

The Games key brings the user into a wide variety of graphic icons for countless games and puzzles, all within a finger's touch of learning and playing.

The unit also has a "Tech Buddy" application through which trusted friends and family members can remotely access the Telikin from their own PC or Mac and see the Telikin screens to assist in answering questions or remotely add items to the Telikin user's calendar.

Telikin is an easy to use, all in one, touch screen computer designed specifically for seniors, and is additionally well-equipped for those with hearing loss. Some seniors have never become familiar with computer technology and may be intimidated by computers and/or are reluctant to use one. Some may have physical disabilities or limitations that making use of a traditional computer with keyboard and mouse difficult.

In today's increasingly technological world, this leaves a significant segment of our population behind. And, with many families being geographically separated, the ability to keep more closely connected via video chat, email, and photo sharing can reduce the social isolation that is sometimes associated with aging, in a world where an estimated 50% of seniors over 75 have some form of hearing loss. Internet use keeps people mentally stimulated and can offer them independence through online shopping and access to social media, such as Facebook, to connect with others.

Telikin has taken the most popular features people use for personal computing and built it on a Unix platform, making it extremely virus resistant. The Telikin interface is easy to see and navigate, and applications are accessible with a single finger touch or click. Telikin is Wi-Fi ready, and software updates are free and automatic. Because the Telikin is virus-free, there is never a need to purchase additionally expensive anti-virus, malware or spyware protection.

Without question, it seems that Telikin's designers seemingly thought of everything, and the unit is at once a solid long-term

center for a huge variety of useful functions. This reviewer purposely put it through its paces to see how it pays bills, permits access to news and investment information, makes phone and video calls to relatives (with full captioning from CapTel), and fills time with such amusements as watching full-length feature films, newscasts, electronic jig saw puzzles, and a wide variety of gaming options from many sources.

Some critics have balked at the unit's seemingly higher selling prices, but since one pays for what one gets, in addition to being simpler for seniors to operate, it also includes a lot that does not come with the average store-bought computer. The purchaser would have to pay for additional software to add many of these capabilities to most commercially available computers. With the Telikin, there is never a need to add software of any kind, since all capabilities are included, and the unit can never suffer from viruses or other expensive and common computer maladies.

Having looked at other reviewers comments generally posted online, some have surmised that other more positive reviews have seemingly been prepared by the computer manufacturer's marketing department. While I've no way to question, dispute or verify another writer's comments, I can state that this reviewer receives no compensation from and has no financial connection to any of the parties marketing or selling these products. As part of my personal background, I have spent many of my earlier adult years introducing other new technologies to the general public. It has always been my personal objective to familiarize general consumers with technologies that will greatly simplify and improve their quality of life at all levels.

The Telikin was developed by principals at Venture 3 Systems LLC in the Philadelphia, PA area in response to a familiar problem -- the CEO's mother was disabled in part by a stroke at age 45 and in need of an effective means of communication when she moved into assisted-living in her 80s.

The Telikin is available in 3 different screen sizes - 18, 20, and 22 inches, priced from \$699 to \$1249, directly from Telikin, with additional discount available for Sprint CapTel customers. FirstStreet for Boomers and Beyond also sells select models such as the WOW! Computer. For more information, please visit www.telikin.com or call 1-800-230-3881.

Hearing Loss Association of America Ocean-Monmouth Counties Chapter

The next Chapter Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 1, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.** in the **Center for Healthy Living, 198 Prospect St., Lakewood, NJ.**

This meeting will be our holiday party. Join us for a pleasant afternoon. Please RSVP if you will attend to e-mail address below.

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.

For more information: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com



Clara Smit Presents at DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

On Friday, October 25 2013, Clara Smit spoke at the division's quarterly advisory council meeting which was held in East Brunswick New Jersey. Ms. Smit, who has practiced law for more than 25 years discussed accommodations and "effective communication" which is included in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Smit, who is also fluent in American Sign Language has advocated for people who are Deaf through many lawsuits and settlements which have involved physicians, the NJ court system, and other venues.

The next advisory council will occur on Friday, January 31 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m. The location will be the East Brunswick Public Library. Meetings are fully communications accessible with sign language interpreters, realtime captioning, and assistive listening devices. The public is invited to attend.



Dear NJ Relay



Dear NJ Relay,

I am the manager at a pizza delivery place. We often receive relay calls from customers. Although our employees have received relay calls before, they still misunderstand such calls as being from telemarketers or pranksters. How can I ensure that every employee is educated on the importance of accepting relay calls? Another challenge is that we have a high turnover among employees, so it can be difficult to train them over and over.

Worried Manager

Dear Worried Manager,

First, kudos to you for recognizing such a valuable customer market and wanting to be as inclusive as possible. This is the most important step. Although it is understandable why people hang up on relay calls for any number of reasons, it is important to be educated about such calls.

Relay calls are made by people who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability. In order to provide equal telecommunications access, New Jersey Relay offers a variety of services, including TTY relay services, Deaf-Blind TTY relay, Spanish TTY relay, and many more.

To help expand awareness, New Jersey Relay has a "Don't Hang Up" campaign for businesses to recognize that people who call via New Jersey Relay are valuable customers, not prank callers or telemarketers. When a business hangs up on a relay call, this may mean the loss of business and bad customer relations. Part of this campaign includes a free business kit, which includes information such as who customers are, how calls should be handled, and how to become a New Jersey Relay partner.

New Jersey Relay helps keep businesses connected to their customers, and is an outstanding opportunity for greater inclusiveness and additional business. For more, visit www.njrelay.com/dont-hang-up and njrelay.com/relay-partner-business-kit, where you can watch a video and also download the business kit at no charge.



"Watch the "Don't Hang Up" video at <http://njrelay.com/dont-hang-up>"



Walk4Hearing Surges Past Its Targeted Funding Goals



Church Group Sends Valued Assistance to Aid Walkers



Bitty's Buddies were eager to walk.



The World Mission Society Church of God "yellow shirts" were everywhere!



Team Ceitlin takes time to pose for a picture.



The Jay Walkers had it made in the shade.



Face painting was popular with the kids.



Noa's Team looked pretty in pink!

Walk4Hearing... continued from page 1

from the Walk help fund support group meetings, assistive listening and hearing assistance products, and college scholarships for high school students with hearing loss.

In addition to participating members and their families, HLA-NJ and the Walk4Hearing Committee want to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the leaders and members of the estimated 100 volunteers from the World Mission Society Church of God who turned out to help. Church of God members

wearing their characteristic yellow shirts were seen in every corner of the park cheering for the more than 800 walkers, cooking and serving food, overseeing children's games and activities, and even maintaining restroom facilities throughout the day.

As part of their ongoing Smile Campaign, Church of God volunteers were eager to support HLAA as they strive to raise awareness for an issue that affects nearly 850,000 New Jersey residents with some form of hearing impairment. Their volunteers traveled as far as two hours from four different branch churches and worked from early morning to late afternoon to encourage

and provide assistance to the hundreds of walkers, and to the event itself.

"Hearing loss is widely misunderstood," says Roorda. "Many people think it only affects people over 55 years of age and older. It has many different causes and affects many different age groups. Walks like this provide a chance to display and showcase different technology products and personal support services that are available to help people with hearing loss to lead independent and productive lives."

"It's important to us as the leading consumer advocacy group for the hearing impaired to highlight the

newest technologies that are available to help people," D'Amico added.

"Forty-eight million Americans have hearing loss," she continued, "but many people are embarrassed and don't like to talk about it," D'Amico said. "It's up to us to try to make it more mainstream. Another goal of these walks is to show there is no need to stigmatize people with hearing loss."

"Some 30 of every 1,000 school-aged children experience hearing loss, while nearly one-half of all seniors over age 75 are affected by this seemingly invisible loss of hearing, making it the third most common public health issue after heart disease

and arthritis," she says.

Ruth Smith, one of the leading fundraisers for this year's walk, said, "I enjoyed doing the fundraising and next year I plan to do better. This year was harder because of the economic situation, but I still kept going. I'm also planning on going out to different places next year because I still feel that many folks are not aware of the extent of hearing loss."

People with hearing loss cannot enjoy a dinner in a noisy restaurant. Ordinary smoke alarms will not awaken them. And, with thousands of U.S. armed forces now and soon returning from service in Iraq and

Afghanistan with hearing loss, more and more people will need help than ever before.



For more information about HLA-NJ, please write to joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org

Amber Court of Elizabeth

- a Safe and Welcoming Place for Deaf Seniors



By Deacon Thomas M. Smith, CSW
*Catholic Charities' Pastoral
Ministry with the Deaf, Newark NJ*

Mrs. P arrived at Amber Court Assisted Living in Elizabeth, NJ six years ago. Mr. S arrived two years ago. Miss R last April. Even though I assisted with these placements, I just realized what a blessing it is. They were all signing with each other, sharing stories about birthdays and family histories. The hearing residents sat mostly alone and silent, staring at the TV or at the floor. But these Deaf residents were connecting with each other, smiling and laughing.

I love irony. Usually, when I visit isolated Deaf seniors, they are the only ones not participating in social activities. But on this day in Elizabeth, they seemed to be the ONLY ones who were happy! This was proof that what we are trying to achieve with NJ Deaf Senior Housing Committee is worthwhile and needed. For once, the Deaf residents were connecting, participating freely in the everyday interactions and relationships that make life meaningful. I didn't have

to interpret. I just sat there smiling and watched them exchange personal stories about where and when they were born and grew up, where they went to school, and who their friends were.

When Mrs. P first arrived in 2007, I thought I'd face the same resistance we experienced before - when we approached management about setting up visual signaling systems or hiring ASL interpreters for medical

appointments. But the owners and staff at Amber Court were very accommodating from the start. Now, our Deaf seniors all have flashing doorbells in their apartments and high-speed internet is available for videophones. Many of the staff have learned some ASL on their own and have come to special trainings on Deaf Cultural Awareness. They are comfortable communicating with the Deaf seniors in a more visual and manual way, even setting up special Bingo games with visible cues so they can participate more easily. The medical staff is very careful to make sure the Deaf residents fully understand doctors' instructions and are able to express their concerns clearly to attending physicians. They inform service providers (like hospitals) about their obligation under the ADA to provide interpreters when necessary. Deaf residents also are more comfortable knowing that their sensory difference does not exclude them from recreational activities or from letting the food servers know their preferences when meals are served. Miss R even teaches crocheting and knitting to some of the other residents. Her handiwork was given special recognition last month with

a Certificate of Appreciation from the Activity Department.

Our Catholic Deaf Ministry volunteers, some of whom are interpreting students, visit our folks at Amber Court regularly. Their presence provides basic companionship, conversation in ASL, as well as the opportunity for these visitors to improve their receptive and expressive signing skills. It is a "win-win" arrangement. Of course, they are all screened for appropriate placement beforehand and trained to refer to certified interpreters when emotional or medical conditions warrant.

Transitioning to an assisted living or long-term care facility can be devastating for Deaf seniors. Just like hearing seniors, their world is turned upside-down. They are forced to give up the security and familiarity of their home due to emerging health challenges. Some suffer from severe depression and/or increased physical ailments due to the social isolation they face in their new environment. Deafness itself doesn't necessarily cause these emotional and medical problems. Hearing seniors also have a difficult time adjusting to the loss of autonomy. The lack of accommodation to one's Deafness in a hearing environment can magnify adjustment problems. But in Elizabeth, the warmth, hospitality and understanding of Amber Court's staff and the generosity of our volunteers assure that Deaf seniors transition smoothly and live there as comfortably, safely and well-cared-for as all the other residents.

Miss R now has her daily medications administered by a nurse, help with daily hygiene, her own TV/VP, flashing doorbell and people she can communicate with. She can share her feelings and ideas and concerns without struggling to be understood. She is acknowledged and greeted in her own language every day. Isn't this what we all want?

Education Workshop Topics Survey

The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is planning a series of education workshops for the Deaf and hard of hearing community. We ask that you help us develop workshop topics by completing this brief survey. Workshops will be free of charge and communication access will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Catherine Purrazzella at (609) 503-4862 (VP/V).

1. Which workshop topics related to federal/state government programs and services most interest you? Please select just ONE topic for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice.

Topics	First Choice (Pick One)	Second Choice (Pick One)	Third Choice (Pick One)
Advocating for Communication Access			
Assistive Technology for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing			
Benefit Programs (Social Security, SSI, SSDI, etc.)			
Educational Issues (K-12)			
Employment Discrimination			
Health and Wellness			
Health Insurance and Health Care Reform			
Housing			
Immigration			
Mental Health			
Substance Abuse			
Transportation			

Other topics: _____

2. When are the best times of the week for you to attend a workshop? (Choose ONE)

- Weekdays only Weekends only Either is okay

3. What times of the day are convenient for you to attend workshops? (Check all that apply)

- Mornings Afternoons Evenings

4. Are you: Deaf Hard of Hearing Family/Friend/Significant Other

- Deaf-Blind Late-Deafened Other (please specify) _____

5. What county do you live in? (For example, Ocean, Essex, Burlington, etc.)

COUNTY: _____

6. What is your age?

- Under 18 years 18 to 34 years 35 to 64 years 65+ years

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

Please mail your survey back to:

**New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton, NJ 08625-0074
Or Fax to 609-588-2528.**

The survey can also be accessed and completed online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NJ_DDHH_SURVEY

Jobs Available



■ **Educational Interpreter**, Bergen County Special Services, Part Time Position maximum of 24 hours per week. New Jersey Educational Services certificate with Educational Interpreter-Sign Language Interpreting endorsement or eligible for New Jersey certification. Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment (E.I.P.A.) score of 3.0 or more. New Jersey residency within one (1) year from date of hire. Applicants for this position are asked to submit a letter of interest with a current resume and copy of certification to:

Dr. Candi Mascia Reed

Supervisor Total Communication Programs for the Deaf

Union Street School

334 Union Street

Hackensack, NJ 07601

canree@bergen.org or FAX: 201.343.7794

■ **Job Coach/Job Developer**

Lexington Vocational Services Center, part of the largest organization serving the deaf and hard of hearing communities in New Jersey and New York, and places hundreds of deaf workers in jobs throughout these areas, provides a full range of training and on-the-job support. With a special expertise in engaging companies to hire deaf workers, Lexington staff support deaf employees as they integrate into the workplace. Lexington Vocational Services Center is anticipating openings for Job Coaches/Developers in Camden and Burlington Counties. Applicants must have a vehicle and a valid NJ driver's license.

Essential functions of the job include:

- Meeting with deaf and hard of hearing consumers on job sites
- Working with consumers and their employers in maintaining employment
- Working with the business community to develop employment opportunities

Essential job qualifications:

- American Sign Language fluency (minimum rating - Intermediate Level/SLCE or SLPI)
- Holds a valid NJ driver's license, registered automobile, and a minimum of liability insurance coverage for said automobile
- Excellent writing skills for documenting activities

To apply, please contact:

Larry Feldman, Director

lfeldman@lexnyc.org

(908) 451-9935

■ **Teacher of the Deaf - Full Time Maternity Leave Itinerant**

Teaching Position

1/2/14 - 4/21/14 Mountain Lakes School District Lake Drive Program

2013 - 2014 School Year

Must have New Jersey Teacher of the Deaf Certification

Substitute Sign Language Interpreters and Sign Language Interpreters for After-School Activities at Mountain Lakes High School. Must be EIPA Certified.

Please send resume to:

Julie Lazeration

Lake Drive Program

10 Lake Drive

Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

jlazeration@mtlakes.org or fax to: 973-299-9405 or call 973-299-0166

■ **New Residential Program for Deaf Youth**

ACCESS, of St. Joseph's Healthcare System in Paterson, is proud to announce the addition of a new residential program, through the NJ Department of Children & Families, which will serve five Deaf/hard of hearing youth, ages 12-21, located on the grounds of the New Jersey School for the Deaf/Katzenbach in West Trenton, NJ.

Our team of professionals will incorporate an integrated approach to work toward the goal of returning adolescents to their homes, staying in school and out of trouble. Staff will provide an array of services in a culturally affirmative environment that supports Deaf Culture as well as the culture of the child's family. Through a variety of activities youth of the program will explore social, recreational, and vocational opportunities via linkages with community service providers, which will also include close collaboration with Katzenbach. Families will also be engaged in support services and therapeutic activities designed for the goal of a successful return home of their child.

The efforts of the team are expected to result in improved coping/problem-solving strategies, emotional stability, educational performance and improved social competence in each adolescent.

We are now beginning to conduct interviews for the following positions:

Clinician – NJ LSW or LCSW license required. Major responsibilities include the provision of clinical assessment and treatment services, individual/group therapies, coordination of services, working closely with families and schools. Full-time position.

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. Supervise and provide students with positive learning experiences in a variety of environments, e.g. classroom, group home, community. Full and part-time positions available. All shifts.

Psychiatrist or APN – Consultant basis.

Registered Nurse – several hours per week, for assessments, participating in treatment team.

Allied Therapists – art, music, movement, recreational, occupational therapists for weekly groups. Consultant basis.

We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. For immediate consideration please send resumes to:

Eileen Kimbell-Meaney, HR Recruiter at *kimbelle@sjhmc.org* or

fax 973-754-4511.

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

www.stjosephshealth.org

Accessibility at Two River Theater



By Lori Timney, a Passionate Patron

Have you heard about Two River Theater in the town of Red Bank? There are many wonderful plays in this beautiful, ultramodern theater now in its 20th anniversary season. Some shows are hilarious, some are romantic, and some are thought provoking. Here is one that is specially planned for the month of December and it is entitled *A Wind in the Willows Christmas*. It's a sweet, tuneful musical about the adventures of Mole, Rat, Mr. Toad, and all of their furry friends. Plus, it's ideal for family audiences.

The best part of this theater is that it's accessible to all! How is that so? Let me count the ways:

- 1) American Sign Language interpretation
- 2) Open captioning
- 3) Assistive listening devices
- 4) Barrier-free access for wheelchair and walker users
- 5) Large-print programs
- 6) Audio description

The interpreted services are available on certain dates. The theater has its own parking lot on-site and easily accessible.

Great news! Two River Theater will have an American Sign Language interpretation of ***A Wind in the Willows Christmas*** on Thursday Dec. 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. There will be three interpreters for this entire musical! Everyone is sure to have a fun experience at the theater. But wait, there's even better news. Tickets for those using this service cost only \$25. That's a huge discount compared to the regular tickets, which can range from \$45 to \$65 per person. You can even purchase the \$25 tickets for your friends and family to join, regardless if they are deaf or hard of hearing.

One more thing - Red Bank is famous for its many restaurants and bars. In fact, there are

even a few restaurants located just around the corner and across the street from the theater and that makes it possible for a relaxing evening of dinner and play combined.

If you have special requests or would like more information, please contact Adam Haratz, Access Coordinator, at aharatz@trtc.org or (732) 345-1400, x1815. Two River Theater is considering expanding the number of sign interpreted shows this season. I highly recommend you visit the theater's web site, www.tworivertheater.org. You will find additional information including descriptions of the plays and the dates of the interpreted or open captioned performances.

Two River Theater sincerely thanks Lori Timney for writing this glowing (and unsolicited!) testimonial of the theater. Our goal is to create an audience that will learn to cherish the experience of theater as an intimate one that is enriched and deepened to the extent it is shared with a community of others from varying backgrounds, experience, and needs. At Two River we are dedicated to providing equal access to all its constituencies, no matter what their special needs may be.

Phila/Haddonfield Cochlear Implant Support Group Meets

By Diane Pacello

On October 23 at 6:00 p.m., 25 members of the Phila/Haddonfield Cochlear Implant Support Group met at Villa Rosa in Haddonfield. They were eating pizza and greeting friends. This social was underwritten by Cochlear Americas. Sam Silberman, Cochlear Americas representative, was available to answer questions from our group which were specific to the Cochlear N6.

Shortly before 7 p.m., we adjourned down Kings Highway, to Grace Episcopal Church. Wayne Roorda, WalkChair for the Garden State-NJWalk4 Hearing, announced this walk was held by the Hearing Loss Association of America on Sunday, October 20. The 5 K walk surpassed its goal of \$75,000 by raising \$87,000. He urged all to consider joining this fine group.

Dr. Gregory Artz, Assistant Professor, Department of Otolaryngology, at Jefferson Medical College, was our evening's speaker. It was a wide ranging discussion providing such a plethora of facts, we interrupted him frequently to ask questions. His replies were informative, professional, and good natured. The topics included basic hearing and auditory anatomy, hearing aids, other assisted hearing devices, and cochlear implant and criteria for implantation. He freely expounded on these topics.

The group thanked the DDHH for providing CART and interpreter services, and Grace Episcopal for the use of their hall.

The next meeting will be in January, 2014. Additional details will follow.



The Communicator Signboard

Bridge Players Theatre Company Proudly Presents



By Rob Frankel Directed by Marissa DiPilla

"Dear Santa" presents vignettes ranging from the hilarious to the moving, focusing on children in many stages of belief – and disbelief – in Santa Claus. Santa and his helpers also are on hand to shed light on many of the mysteries surrounding the Big Guy himself. They will explain how sometimes being Santa isn't all milk and cookies – especially when your helpers fight over who is best, or if you're arrested for shoplifting by those of little faith. But in the end it is belief that sustains Santa just as it has since time immemorial.

December 1, 3 p.m.

December 6, 7:30 p.m. - sign interpreted.

December 7, 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Broad Street Methodist Church

36 E. Broad St.

Burlington, NJ 08016



Ticket price \$10.

Group rates available for groups of 15 or more

Info/ tickets call 856-303-7620 or visit

www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc
proudly hosts



Our First Annual New Jersey Wild One Invitational Basketball Tournament



Upper School Gymnasium of
Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf
320 Sullivan Way in West Trenton, New Jersey
on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 8 a.m. to ?

Admission Prices for Fans - \$ 15 and
Senior Citizens - \$ 10

Food and Beverages will be sold in the Upper School cafeteria.

There will be a raffle drawing of \$3,000 in prize
giveaways to 10 winners of \$ 300 each at 4 p.m.

Bring your friends to watch and support your teams. What a
perfect place to meet your old friends and make new friends!

More information can be found at
www.njccdsite.org/2013bbtournament.pdf



Deaf-Blind League Annual Holiday Party

Welcome friends and family

December 14, 2013

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Woodbridge Hilton

120 Wood Avenue South

Iselin, New Jersey 08830

(2 blocks from Metro Park train station)

Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$30

Please make checks payable to:

DBLNJ, 15 Tudor Lane, Colonia NJ 07067

Deadline: Dec. 7, 2013

Questions? Contact Marci (732) 690-2837

Friedm2160@yahoo.com

More information: DBLNJ.org



Softball Teams of
North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.
proudly host

Poker Tournament - Games - Social Night

VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)

222 River Road, North Arlington, NJ 07031

Saturday, December 14, 2013

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Ticket Cost for Members - \$ 10
and Non-Members - \$ 13

* Poker Games * Pool Tables * Darts * TVs *
* Cash Bar * Food & Beverages on Sale *
Christmas is coming so join us in wearing
ugly sweaters or Christmas spirits.

Chairperson Jorge Soto, Sr.

Co-Chairperson - Mel Bowman

For more information, visit www.njccdsite.org

The Communicator Signboard



ASL Interpreted Performance
"A Christmas Carol"
By Charles Dickens

Adapted by David Thompson
Directed by Michael Unger



Saturday
December 14
at 2 p.m.

For ticket info:

Visit www.mccarter.org or call 609.258.2787



NJDEAF, Inc. Conference
New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates
Saturday, March 22, 2014
 Middlesex Regional Education School District
 Piscataway, NJ

8:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Registration
 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Conference

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students with Additional Disabilities
 Intellectual • Behavioral • Learning • Deaf-Blind
 • Autism • Physical Disabilities

AM Session Please join us as we listen to an array of guest speakers with special guest speaker from FUZZY WUZZY DESIGNS, Morristown:
 Mr. Christian Markovic

PM Session Parent Panel: HANDS and VOICES- Classroom Instructional Strategies

Vendors • Breakfast/Lunch

Our forthcoming registration brochure will include more details. If you would like to be added to our "registration list" please contact: Juliann Toone at Juliann.toone@gmail.com

Religious Access

OCEAN COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Ocean County Baptist Church 1380 Old Freehold Road | Toms River, NJ 08753 | Phone: 732-341-5005 | Fax: 732-240-5039

A Place Where You Belong!

John 3:16
 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Faithfully Proclaiming God's Word

Welcome!

All Deaf and Hard of Hearing Believers in God to attend our church,
Ocean County Baptist Church
1380 Old Freehold Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
 Pastor Michael Weigel – 732-341-5005
 Sunday Worship Service - 8:30 a.m.
 Call Bob Burns, Christian
 732-298-6030 for information

VICTORY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sunday December 1
 11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Theatrical Drama (Shadow Interpreted)

Sunday December 8
 9:30 a.m. Christmas Breakfast
 Buffet style: Scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries, pancakes, fruit and more
 11:00 a.m. Service (Interpreted for the Deaf)

Tuesday December 24
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service: Interpreted for the Deaf

All events will be at:
 Schalick High School 718 Centerton Rd. Elmer NJ 08318

For more info: www.victoryaog.org or
 Contact Connie at 856-358-8313 Voice

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR - December 2013



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Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

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Dated Material Please Rush

Calendar of Events 2014

Friday, Jan. 31, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

East Brunswick Public Library

2 Civic Center Dr., E. Brunswick, NJ

Presenter- Alice Hunnicutt,

Director, NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Happy Holidays

from the staff at DDHH and the Monthly Communicator

DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Office Closed: Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas