

Monthly Communicator

Chris Christie, *Governor*
Kim Guadagno, *Lt. Governor*

Jennifer Velez, *Commissioner*
David C. Alexander, *Director*

FCC Overturns its Captioning Waiver Decision

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on October 20, 2011 overturned its 2006 decision that granted nearly 300 TV captioning waivers. This FCC decision is referred to as the “Angler’s Order.”

Prior to the 2006 Angler’s Order, the FCC granted only three, limited time exemptions from closed captioning when it was an “undue burden” (too difficult or too expensive). That process included public notices and an opportunity to comment.

However, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 required that by January 2006 a 100% television captioning benchmark be achieved. By that time, the FCC had received over 500 requests for exemption from the closed captioning rules. Without public notice or comment, the FCC granted almost 300 of those requests. The FCC, at that time, appeared to create a new exemption based on “hardship” and reasoned that non-profit status and assertions by petitioners of the non-commercial nature of their programming was sufficient for exemption from captioning of their TV programs. Further, the FCC shut out advocacy groups and consumers from the well-established waiver process.

The NAD, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDI), Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and others were outraged. This group of advocacy organizations pointed out that the administrative process had been violated because there were no public postings and processing of



“ This important FCC order of October 20, 2011 puts the industry on notice that they are expected to comply with the law and FCC regulations as written. ”

these exemption requests, and that the law had not been followed. These exemptions were granted without the requesting parties having to prove undue burden for each of their specific petitions.

The Order overturning the Anglers’ Order also opens a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (NPRM) seeking public comment on proposed amendments to FCC rules governing individual closed captioning exemption requests including the provisional interpretation of “economically burdensome.” NAD has committed to prepare comments in response to this NPRM and post information for deaf

and hard of hearing advocates.

“This important FCC order of October 20, 2011 puts the industry on notice that they are expected to comply with the law and FCC regulations as written. Consumers will not tolerate end-runs around the law or regulations. We appreciate the FCC’s commitment to defending our rights to captions,” said NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins.

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Director's Corner

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



As some of you may recall, the Monthly Communicator was voted as best resource from a state agency in 2009. Our agency is no doubt very proud of this achievement and DDHH works hard to maintain the level of excellence the community has come to expect. We also continue to seek ways to improve the newsletter by ensuring the articles reflect the diversity of our readers. This is no doubt a challenging task, given the variety of communication strategies and technological devices used by people with hearing loss.

Staff from DDHH contributes to the newsletter, but by and large, the newsletter primarily depends upon contributions and articles from the community. Submissions from the community enable us to publish a newsletter of value and interest to a wide range of people. We publish resources for people who are culturally deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deaf-blind and seniors. People with hearing loss are truly diverse and this should be reflected in our newsletter.

We currently are seeking to expand the number of, and diversity of regular contributors to the newsletter. If your agency, organization, or program would like to feature a regular article in the Monthly Communicator, please contact Ira Hock, editor, at monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us. With a distribution of 8,800, our newsletter is an excellent strategy for spreading awareness and informing people with hearing loss about your respective services, activities, and resources.

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The **Monthly Communicator** is published 11 times per year. Submissions should be e-mailed to: monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us. The deadline for the January 2012 issue was December 1. The deadline for the February 2012 issue is January 1.

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 on e-mail itself, no PDF
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Submissions are not normally repeated
- Content should be of interest to readers, events should be accessible to people with hearing loss, no direct selling products, but educational info about new technology acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter

Monthly Communicator

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Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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



Letters to the Editor



People with Disabilities Deserve a Chance

The article written by Jennifer Velez, commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services, appearing in the The Times' October 28, 2011 issue page A-9 about: "people with disabilities deserve a chance to work" is true to form for those disabilities which were mentioned.

If I may, I'd like to add a few lines regarding people who have hearing loss - the deaf, the hard of hearing, and the late deafened who seek employment, and are often bypassed by employers. It's not well known that there is a vast array of devices and technology which enable us to function in the workplace. These include assistive listening devices, sophisticated hearing aids and cochlear implants coupled with

telecoils, captioned voice telephones, video relay interpreter services, conference FM and infrared listening devices for meetings and conferences.

These can be supplied for the most part by employers, the expense can be a tax credit, and allows them to be in compliance of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Department of Human Services provides information and resources for anyone seeking information about the devices.

In addition, the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has a deaf and hard of hearing services coordinator whose job it is to retrain, and equip the hard of hearing/deaf to be productive employees. Employers should not assume that because a person can't hear they can't be productive.

I'm one of the co-founders of the Hearing Loss Association - New Jersey State Affiliate who provides full information about hearing loss: www.hearingloss-nj.org.

Carol M. Granaldi
Co-founder and past president
Hearing Loss Association
New Jersey State Affiliate

Email **Letters to the Editor** to: monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us.

Hello Fellow Monthly Communicator Readers

By Michelle Cline, President, NJAD

I'm delighted to announce that as a result of the discussion between New Jersey Association of the Deaf and Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NJAD will be offering monthly submissions to the Monthly Communicator. We hope to provide you with updates of things that are taking place in NJ that benefit deaf individuals from birth to any age.

NJAD is a state affiliation of the National Association for the Deaf with a mission to promote, protect, and preserve the right of American Sign Language. Currently the NAD 2020 Vision – Guiding Principles include two of the four principles below:

Language: We believe it is the right of every deaf and hard of hearing person to acquire and express themselves in ASL and English.

Attitude: We must change society's perception of people who use ASL to one that recognizes us as a unique community with our own language and culture.

As an organization, we believe the areas of Essential E's we need to focus on are: 1) Education, 2) Employment, 3) Enjoyment of Life, 4) Equal Services, 5) Enforcement, 6) Elections, and 7) Enlightenment are ways we can seek Equality for Everyone.

So I hope in the heart of collaboration with different organizations that all work with the goal of improving lives of deaf and hard of hearing in New Jersey, that we can join hand and become one loud voice that needs to be heard. As a new president of NJAD, I really look forward to making a difference for many deaf and hard of hearing individuals in NJ. NJAD extends open arms in this effort to ensure equality for every deaf and hard of hearing individual in NJ.

I can be reached at president@njadeaf.org.

Sign Language Teacher Wanted

We are seeking an experienced (ASL) teacher to instruct four or five hearing teenagers how to use sign language. They already have very basic knowledge of sign language. This would be held once a week for an hour in our Short Hills home preferably on a Sunday afternoon or evening but there is some flexibility. Please e-mail: Ginamilano13@gmail.com.



Ten Good Reasons NOT to Buy Hearing Aids on the Internet

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

Lately there has been a proliferation of companies offering hearing aids on the Internet by mail order. The latest is a health insurer that has partnered with AARP to offer these “services” to their insured’s to “cut out the middleman” according to their slick advertising. Even some members of the HLAA have advocated the self-help approach to amplification. Anyone who has hearing loss knows how difficult it is to find help. Modern digital hearing aids are a terrific improvement over the old fashioned analog models, but they still need the assistance of a trained professional to program and adjust them correctly.

Here are ten reasons why consumers should avoid the temptation to buy cheap hearing aids on the ‘net:

1 In spite of all the advertising, hearing aids are not consumer purchase items. They are a controlled medical device according to the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Before anyone is fitted with a hearing aid, the FDA strongly advises an examination by a physician (and a comprehensive audiological examination). The use of a ‘medical waiver’ is strongly discouraged by the FDA, yet Internet mail order companies routinely ask the purchaser to sign such a waiver.

2 Automated hearing tests that are self-administered by a patient have not been found to be valid and reliable in many elderly individuals, even when done in a physician’s office. A company that manufactured a computerized piece of equipment was used by some physicians in their offices. However, Medicare and Medicaid did not mandate reimbursement for the test due to the validity and reliability of self-administered hearing tests.

3 You cannot fit hearing aids accurately by only using pure tone thresholds. *There are several*

*First Name

*Last Name

*E-mail Address

*Daytime Phone

*State/Province

How Can We



hearing aid formulas or targets that audiologists use as a “starting point” to “first-fit” hearing aids. Audiologists put the pure tone thresholds of each ear for the patient into the manufacturers’ hearing aid fitting software of their computer, and the fitting software generates a frequency response in the hearing aid that the audiologist will then modify for the patient based on the patient’s complaints, wants and/or needs.

4 You need to understand physics, acoustics and psychoacoustics in fitting hearing aids. The pinna (outer ear) increases sounds in the 2000-5000 Hz region by 10-15 dB for most people. However, whenever you place an ear mold or dome into the ear canal, you will have an insertion loss. In other words, you will lose some volume and alter the frequency response of the sound that reaches the inner ear.

5 To make matters more complicated, if you need a custom ear mold since the person has a moderate hearing loss or greater, or a small, large or curved ear canal that can’t take stock earmolds or domes, you need to know acoustics and the exact hearing loss of the patient.

6 If you have been told that you can simply program a hearing aid based on a pure tone hearing test and just put it in the ear, the individual who told you this is either uneducated or not truthful. The average ear canal

volume is around 2cc with a hearing aid in it. However, if you have a small ear and you put an ear mold or dome into the ear canal and the ear canal volume now is only 1cc, then you double the sound pressure in the ear canal, and the hearing aid will sound very loud. Conversely, if you have a large ear canal and put an ear mold or dome into the ear and the ear canal volume is 3cc, then you halve the sound pressure in the ear canal, and the hearing aid will sound very soft. In physics, this phenomenon is referred to as the Inverse Square Law.

7 Hearing aids are not only adjusted for average sounds, they are also adjusted for soft sounds, and loud sounds. This requires Real Ear Measurements by the audiologist with the hearing aid in the patient’s ear measured at different intensity levels across all of the frequencies.

8 By the time a patient has a 35-40 dB hearing loss, most of the outer hair cells are missing and the patient is unable to hear soft sounds and speech. This is a major problem since 80% of the efferent nerve fibers from the brain go to the outer hair cells and help to reduce background noise. Once these outer hair cells are gone, the patient will have difficulty separating speech from background noise. Thus, the patient will need hearing aids with directional microphone technology.

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The ADA, Advocacy and Nursing Homes

by Traci Burton, *Field Representative*

Every now and again we have all found ourselves in the position of advocate, especially for an elderly loved one in a nursing home or assisted living facility. It is important to remember that the hard of hearing also are covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other laws. The accommodation may be as simple as providing an amplified phone or turning on the closed captioning on a shared public television. Other times the needs are more involved and one may feel that there is a resistance from the facility staff and stronger advocacy is needed. DDHH may be able to help in attaining communication necessities.

Self-advocacy is the best starting point. DDHH has materials, such as the Communication Access to Health Care in New Jersey for People with Hearing Loss brochure, that illustrate the appropriate sections of the ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the NJ Law Against Discrimination (NJ LAD). This brochure can be found at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/publications/brochures/. Additional handouts discussing the laws mentioned here, and titles under these laws, can be faxed or mailed upon request.

Should one still be met with resistance, DDHH may be able to assist. It is best to have the facility call us with any questions they may have. However, if the facility does not reach out to us and the resident's needs are still not being met, DDHH will contact the facility and suggest doing a site visit and/or conducting a sensitivity training to educate not only the staff, but also the residents of their rights, technology and services to meet the communication needs. Other appropriate referrals can be made, as well, for trainings or additional assistance.

If you know of anyone in a nursing home or assisted living facility whose needs are not being met, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 609-984-7281. We will help determine the best course of action and provide materials necessary to achieve the ultimate goal – successful communication access.

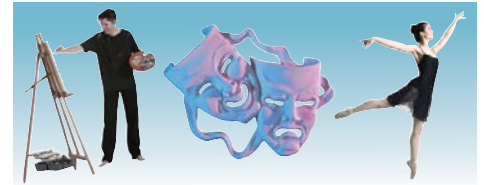
I can be reached at 609-984-7281 or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.



Ten Good Reasons ...continued

9 Acoustic feedback occurs when sound from the hearing aid speaker in the ear escapes from the ear and goes into the microphone of the hearing aid. Even a pin hole leakage of sound in the fit of an ear mold or dome can result in feedback. This causes that high pitch squeal that patients and everyone around them hate. The latest models of hearing aids have feedback management circuitry that reduces or eliminates acoustic feedback. However, the acoustic feedback system needs to be run with the hearing aid in the patient's ear-something that cannot be done over the Internet.

10 Elderly patients have difficulty with memory, dexterity, vision, etc. In my 35 years as an audiologist, I can tell you I spend an inordinate amount of time showing patients how to change the battery, put the aid in the ear, take it out of the ear, clean the aid, adjust volume, change programs for different listening environments, etc. I also spend a lot of time counseling patients about realistic expectations based on their wants, needs, degree of hearing loss, and maximum speech understanding in quiet and noise.



Seeking Nominations for Outstanding Students and Educators in the Arts

New Brunswick, NJ, November 2011 – VSA New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2012 Arts Achievement Awards. VSA/NJ is part of the international VSA network, part of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

The annual VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards include the *Student Arts Excellence Awards*, presented to students with disabilities who are classified (mainstreamed, inclusion, self-contained classes or activities), 14 - 21 years old, not to exceed twelfth grade level, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form; and the *Education In The Arts Awards* presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students. The awards also recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for classified students. Award recipients become candidates for the distinguished NJ Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Application deadline is January 16, 2012.

Funding for VSA/NJ is provided in part by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission and NJ State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For applications and registration information, please contact VSA New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, 732-745-3885, 745-3913 TTY, or info@vsanjanj.org

Wow, What a Walk! Walk4Hearing 2011 Sets Records-- 300 People Take Part; \$50,000 Raised for People with Hearing Loss

By any measure, the HLA-NJ 4th Annual Walk4Hearing was an off-the-charts hit. A record amount of money was raised to benefit people with hearing loss – reaching its \$50,000 goal. The turnout set another record – more than 300, up 50% from last year.

The best signs of success were the smiles and enthusiasm of people who turned out from all parts of the state, youngsters to senior citizens, and representatives of Montclair State University (MSU), the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA- Garden State), Summit Speech School, Deaf-Blind League of NJ (DBLNJ) and other groups. All gathered in Mercer County Park on a bright October day with one goal: helping people with hearing loss.

Janet Koehnke, Chair of Montclair State University's Dept of Communication Sciences and Disorders, commented, "This year's Walk was the best so far! Beautiful weather and a great opportunity for me and the other members of the MSU team to visit with all of our HLA-NJ friends and catch up on the latest news!"

Walk organizers also noted another key record-breaking statistic: number of hot dogs consumed.

"We ate through over 200 hot dogs, dozens of bags of chips and munchies - tons of popcorn and nachos – and gallons of water, coffee and other beverages" says HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff.

Dr. David Cooper, a licensed audiologist who has made a name for himself as the Walk4Hearing's "hot dog man," has a unique perspective. He has a chance to chat with almost everyone at the Walk, when they stop by to pick up a hot dog.

"Perhaps most heartwarming of all, several of this year's walkers



Just a small segment of the more than 300 HLA-NJ 4th Annual Walk4Hearing participants.

told me that the Garden State Walk4Hearing has become an annual family tradition for them," he says.

Jennifer Vistoso, one of the mothers who came with families, explains.

"The Walk4Hearing has become a beloved family tradition because it is one of the few times of the year that my hearing impaired children get to see other children who are like them! It helps them know that they are not alone," she says.

Young children figured in what HLA-NJ President Romoff describes as the funniest moment of the Walk.

Instead of the ribbon-cutting that normally signals the start of the Walk, the kids were given a key role.

"We did an imaginary ribbon made up of all the children holding hands. And at the count of three, I opened the chain of children to begin the Walk," she says. "The face-painting, Moon Bounce, and playground, are also Walk traditions that are popular with the children."

Every dollar raised goes to programs that provide education, advocacy or support for people with hearing loss. Alliance teams, such

as ALDA-GS, Summit Speech School and DBLNJ, retain a portion of the funds they raised – a wonderful opportunity for them as well.

In New Jersey that has meant support for advocacy issues such as captioned movies and live theater performances, scholarships to help students with hearing loss pay for college and a lobbying campaign in Trenton that paid off with Grace's Law, which mandated that health insurance cover hearing aid expenses for children 15 years old or younger. We also are proud of our support for assistive device demonstration centers of latest technology, hospital access and collaborative work with many state agencies and private organizations to address the needs of people with hearing loss.

Other funds go to HLA-NJ's parent, the Hearing Loss Association of America, which supports HLA-NJ and 200 other chapters across the country and many other programs and services. To learn more about HLAA, visit the website at www.hearingloss.org.

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Hitting the Road in October

by Jason Weiland, Field Representative

Contrary to popular belief, NJ DDHH staff do work some weekends. On October 15 and 16, I was asked to join a Deaf panel at the Real ASL Weekend event held in Jamesburg. A wonderful time was had by all. The first day was filled with interactive activities and fascinating workshops. I was fortunate enough to join a panel with Chris Tester, Darlene Sarnouski, and Tara Invidiato along with the moderator, Camille Jeter-Lorello during the “Clash of Cultures” session.

Next it was off to Newark where I joined Allison Brattner, a teacher at the Bruce Street School for the Deaf and her students to give a presentation on resources and self-advocacy with an emphasis on learning more about technology and accessible services.

Later that evening, Tara Invidiato joined me for the Kean University ASL Club’s Deaf Panel Discussion. In addition to the two of us, Fashade Afolabi, Lori Timney, Christina Bacino, and Paul Werner participated. There were about 60 students in attendance for the first Deaf event the ASL Club has sponsored at the school this year. The panel was an amazing and diverse group of individuals. The Kean ASL Club will have more exciting events in the future.

The Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf held a Senior Day on its campus and the result was nearly 100 Deaf seniors visiting the School’s Alumni Museum located in Building 30. The alumni also were treated to lunch at the Jochem Center and a presentation by Superintendent Dr. Angel Ramos.

Another event was held at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). Robert “Where” Demayo was the star of the stage as he mesmerized the audience with his ASL version of “Ice Age” and ABC stories with a Halloween Theme. He also invited the audience to the stage to join him on a “Roller



Coaster” ride which had the crowd roaring with laughter and tears. The auditorium hosted more than 200 people including 60 students from Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf. After the Robert “Where” performance, the movie, “See What I’m Saying” played. Demayo was joined by Hilary Scarl who moderated a question and answer session after the movie. With such a successful turn-out, a well-earned congratulation goes out to The Deaf-Hearing Connection, the ASL Club at TCNJ for organizing such a great event.

With October out of the way and the early snow melted – yes, I just had to remind ourselves that winter came early this year, November by no means is in slow-down mode with the holidays coming. Bergen Community College along with three other schools are on my agenda. If your school is interested in a presentation, please contact me at Jason.Weiland@dhs.state.nj.us or (609) 498-7006 for more information on how to set up a presentation.

Until next month ... keep warm!

Wow, What a Walk! ...continued



Special thanks go to Laura Lindson, the Walk chair; Wayne Roorda, in charge of logistics and activities on the day of the Walk; Karen Stavac who worked hard and successfully to line up sponsors; Joleen Marsillo, in charge of volunteers, and Linda Schaab, Judy Ginsberg and Karen Ratner who handled registration. Jeff Liebman handled the funds and Marvin Schaab oversaw dispensing of vast quantities of beverages. Top team fundraiser was Team Lexi and Lexi’s mother, Lauren Harman. And thanks to many others who contributed. Unfortunately, there’s not enough space to name everyone who deserves to be publicly thanked.

To learn more about HLA-NJ and our scholarship program and new ALD Demo Center at MSU, please contact HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff at info@hearingloss-nj.org. We also invite you to visit our website at www.hearingloss-nj.org, or to attend one of our local chapter meetings in Bergen, Monmouth/Ocean or Middlesex County, and our newest Morris County chapter. Dates, places and times for chapter meetings are available from info@hearingloss-nj.org

Taste of Technology at Adventure Aquarium was a Splashing Success!

by Lori Timney

Photos by

Amit Balchandani and Jason Weiland

On October 23, 2011, New Jersey Relay hosted the Fifth Annual Taste of Technology Mini Conference at the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ. Oh, what a splashing success it was!

The aquarium is located on beautiful waterfront property and provided ample parking just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. The Taste of Technology (TOT) mini conference was held in the private, reserved area inside the aquarium with a separate, easily accessible, entrance on the first floor.

The aquarium provided supervised activities for children allowing parents to be able to attend the presentations.

You're probably wondering exactly what this TOT mini conference is all about, correct? Well, it's about new telecommunication access and technology for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss. This year's TOT conference was geared toward Deaf users who use sign language. Last year's TOT conference, held at Montclair University, focused on the specific needs of people who are hard of hearing.

The morning presentations for this year's TOT conference were as follows:

- **“NJ Relay Updates”** by our own NJ Relay Account Manager, Aparna Lele.
- **“What’s New with Wireless Access for Deaf Users”** by Arthur Moore, Account Executive of the Sprint Relay Store.
- **“Mobile Relay Access on the Go”** by Susan Jones, Sprint Relay Outreach Specialist.

In the afternoon, Arthur Moore also gave a training workshop titled **“Learn How to Use the Android Phone”** which was helpful for people who recently purchased an

Android device or were seriously considering buying one.

The workshop and presentations were held in a large comfortable conference room. The length of one wall was made of extremely thick and durable plastic which was the only thing separating the slow-moving sharks and the human attendees! Believe it or not, this conference room is adjacent to the 760,000 gallon Ocean Realm exhibit which contains sharks, stingrays, hundreds of fish, and even a 500 pound Loggerhead Sea Turtle. It was a truly impressive display.

In addition to the presentations and training workshop, informational booths were held just outside the



conference room. The booths provided hands on demonstrations of service offerings. Both the NJ and Sprint Relay staff answered the attendees' questions at the following booths:

- NJ Relay/CapTel (Captioned Telephone) – staffed by Wayne Roorda
- Sprint Mobile IP (Internet Relay Service) – Lori Timney
- Sprint Mobile VRS (Video Relay Service) – Susan Jones
- Sprint Relay Store – Arthur Moore, Tony Maucere, and Jacqueline Recine

Approximately 190 people attended this year's TOT conference. Many of them mentioned how much they



enjoyed it, and how much they learned from the presentations and the hands on demonstrations. They also enjoyed partaking of the complementary lunch buffet, complete with yummy desserts. After the TOT conference, all the attendees were given wristbands for free admission to explore the rest of the Adventure Aquarium. This included the 40-foot suspended Shark Tunnel, Penguin Island, and even a visit to Mighty Mike; the 14-foot alligator!

Last but not least, New Jersey Relay is a free telecommunications service provided by Sprint and approved by the NJ Board of Public Utilities. With the contract between these two organizations, Sprint provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and/or have a speech disability.

In conclusion, this year's Taste of Technology mini conference was a success!

For information about the Taste of Technology mini conference or NJ Relay, please contact Aparna Lele at Aparna.Lele@Sprint.com or visit the NJ Relay at www.njrelay.com and the NJ CapTel at www.njcaptel.com.



Introducing CaptionCall®



by Judy Ginsburg

If you or someone you know has difficulty hearing on the telephone, check this out.

CaptionCall is a revolutionary new telephone and service for anyone with hearing loss. Similar to captioned television, **CaptionCall** uses technology and a fast transcription service to quickly provide written captions of what your callers say on a large, easy-to-read screen. **CaptionCall** lets you use the phone again with confidence!

With **CaptionCall**, you will enjoy:

- **Automatic captioning**—no need to dial additional numbers to use the captioning service.
- **Easy to use**—works like a regular phone. Make and receive calls just like you always have.
- **Easy-to-read screen**—a large 7" screen with adjustable text sizes and contrast settings and exceptionally smooth scrolling text for easy readability.
- **Location flexibility**—can be set up using a wired or wireless internet connection.
- **Sleek design**—an elegant, state-of-the-art touch screen phone, with touch technology similar to the latest smart phones.
- **Customizable audio**—easily adjust ringer and handset volume. Also customize frequency amplification to match your unique audiogram.
- **Touch to call**—make calls quickly and easily with a simple touch of the screen.
- **Photo phone book**—store phone numbers and caller ID photos for up to 200 people.
- **Hearing aid compatible**—use comfortably with hearing aids. Support for induction neckloop with mic.

To get started with **CaptionCall**, all you need is:

- High-speed internet connection
- Home phone line
- Ordinary power outlet

Every **CaptionCall** phone comes with a customer satisfaction guarantee, free delivery, free installation assistance if needed, and friendly ongoing customer support. The firmware is periodically upgraded with

new or improved features to provide the best captioned telephone experience possible. All this, combined with the free, FCC-funded service, enables people everywhere to get more from their phone conversations—and from life.

People are talking about **CaptionCall**:

"I have been on the phone most of the morning. This is the answer to my dreams! Till now, talking on the phone has been my worst nightmare. I have even put off calls because I just didn't feel up to the amount of concentration that it took for me to "make that call", even with amplification devices. CaptionCall is just too wonderful for words!"

Beth

"Guess what? I talked to my dad on the phone today! This is really a big deal. You see, I don't think I've ever talked to my dad on the phone. He has always had trouble hearing, and over the years his hearing has gotten worse. My mom just got dad a CaptionCall Phone that shows captions of what we say so he can read it and talk to us. Now I can talk to my dad on the phone anytime. It's super cool!"

Kristy

CaptionCall is another innovative solution from Sorenson Communications, the worldwide leader in telecommunication relay services. To learn more, call 877-557-2227 or visit www.CaptionCall.com.

Honor Given by Jewish Women International

Submitted by Bram Weiser



With great pride and humility, the Jewish Deaf Resource Center (JDRC, www.JDRC.org) is honored to announce that its President, Alexis Kashar, has been selected as one of Jewish Women International's **"2011 Women to Watch"**.

In addition to her work as JDRC President, Alexis is also president of the Board of Trustees for the New York School for the Deaf and the Public Policy Chair for the National Association for the Deaf (NAD).

The award will be given at a gala luncheon in Washington, DC, on December 5. A complete press release is available at www.jwi.org/Page.aspx?pid=3035 and a detailed article about the award is also available at www.jwi.org/Page.aspx?pid=2980.

Mazel Tov, Alexis, from all of your friends and colleagues at the Jewish Deaf Resource Center!



Real ASL Weekend Review

by Grace Samis

My hands are tired, my eyes are sore and I'm mentally exhausted, but oh my goodness, I did have fun at the 2011 Real ASL "Total Immersion into the Deaf World" Weekend held on October 15 and 16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jamesburg, NJ.

The two co-chairs for this event (Julie Troger and Meredith Devine) should be thanked for all the hard work they coordinated. The participants were treated to terrific meals, ASL activities, informative workshops that 'wow-ed' and great networking opportunities.

Saturday morning was great. The three different ASL 'games' and activities that helped warm us up were 'Sculptures' with Darlene Sarnouski, 'Who Am I' with Mary C. Malkowski and 'ABC Stories' with Vicki Joy Sullivan. It was so much fun! The workshops offered on Saturday afternoon were 'ASL Slang' by Rebecca Rainone-Panusky, 'Sexuality Signs A-Z' by Emily Claveau and 'International Sign Languages' by Camille Jeter-Lorello. ASL Slang was filled with beginner students who 'just wanted to learn how to sign like a Deaf person'. Sexuality Signs was held 'behind closed doors' (blush, blush) and the International Signs workshop had an interesting look at the communication that can happen between Deaf from different countries.

After the workshops and a movie, we all were treated to a delicious dinner of chicken piccata, braised beef tips and pasta. The 'Silent Auction' was a success with two of the

gifts being a hand-made quilted lap blanket and an original 'just for Real ASL Weekend' drawing depicting the 'Roots of ASL' by Deaf artist, Jazmin. There was an interactive entertaining game in a Jeopardy-style format called 'Deaf Culture Trivia' hosted by Joshua Beckman.



Sunday's workshop was entitled: "Clash of Cultures" with Camille Lorello as moderator. This interactive workshop opened with a few rules. Be respectful, remain open-minded, raise your hand (if you have questions) and wait to be called, and of course – in line with the weekend's theme... VOICES OFF!

I would like to thank the panelists (Tara Invidiato, Darlene Sarnouski,

Chris Tester and Jason Weiland) for giving their time and expertise. Though some of the questions seemed quite personal in nature, the answers were honest, straightforward and truly enlightening.

Here are just a few examples of the types of questions and answers:



- Why does it seem that Deaf clubs are dwindling? Technology, among other reasons.
- Where can ASL students meet the Deaf? Volunteer at Deaf events, form a relationship with a Deaf person and be willing to travel to areas not normally within your comfort zone.
- Is the entertainment industry portraying a realistic image of Deaf people? Kudos to the industry for finally filling Deaf roles with Deaf actors, but there is a long way to go.
- Should the interpreter of a CI student be responsible for teaching ASL? No. Bring additional resources to the table, but the responsibility is to match the client's signing style.
- How can sign students experience the Deafhood journey? It's as complicated and as simple as 'having a Deaf heart.'

There were two questions that were of extreme interest to me. One was a general question relating to the state of Deaf education and the other asked how to best balance work and fun in the Deaf community. The panelists agreed it is important to have a good relationship with the Department of Education and that we need to remember what is best for the child. We also should be utilizing many different resources (such as Deaf mentors and/or Certified Deaf Interpreters).

Continued on page 11

Cheaper Broadband, PCs Coming to Low-Income Families



Submitted By Steve Gregory, Chair

DDHH Advisory Council Communications Committee

Cable companies will offer high-speed Internet service to low-income families at around a fifth of the national average price, the top U.S. communications regulator announced on Wednesday November 9, 2011. Families who qualify for free school lunches will be able to sign up for \$9.95 a month high-speed Internet services from top cable providers. Further, families eligible for free or reduced school lunches will be able to buy low-cost computers from leading technology companies.

Specifically, households need at least one child that participates in the National School Lunch Program to be eligible for the reduced high-speed Internet service. The initiative is part of the Federal Communications Commission's effort to extend affordable broadband Internet access across the United States.

A third of Americans, some 100 million people, do not have high-speed Internet services in their homes, with cost being among the top barriers to broadband adoption. "We think we're going to move the needle on the broadband adoption gap," FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said of his hopes for the new commitments made to the "**Connect to Compete**" initiative launched last month.

DDHH Meeting



On October 28, DDHH met with its advisory council in a quarterly meeting at the East Brunswick Public Library. Two speakers from the Department of Human Services Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services presented information about Medicaid. It was a very informative session which helped explain some of the intricacies of this program.

The public is always invited to attend and participate. The next meeting will be held at the East Brunswick Public Library from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27 2012.

Real ASL Weekend Review...continued

As to the second question, we were told to 'know thyself'. Ask yourself the question, "will I benefit from this or am I setting up a 'sticky' situation in my future?"

This panel discussion with these four different professionals has helped me as an interpreter to think outside the box when doing my job or being part of the Deaf community. I walked away from this weekend (as I usually do from every workshop I go to) knowing that I still have so much to learn.

I think that everyone (Deaf and/or hearing) would have enjoyed all that was offered here. With a hope toward a better economy in two years, everyone is welcome. I suggest that Real ASL Weekend would be a great opportunity for members of the Deaf community as well as interpreters and interpreters-to-be to meet and form new bonds together.

FCC Ruling ...continued

In addition, the original 300 petitioners who were granted waivers through the Angler's Order must file a new petition for continued exemption from closed captioning within 90 days, with updated information to support a claim that providing closed captions on their television programming would be economically burdensome.

This report is provided by the Communications Committee of the Advisory Council of the New Jersey Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Comments are welcomed and may be addressed to the Committee c/o S.Gregory@Email.com.



Grant Awarded

The National Center on Deafness at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) has been chosen as the official recipient of the Postsecondary Education Center for Individuals Who are Deaf (CFDA 84.326D) grant award.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which formally funded four regional PEPNet centers, awarded the funds for one national center to CSUN. CSUN is charged with establishing a NATIONAL technical assistance, dissemination and personnel development center that will improve outcomes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The grant began October 1, 2011 and runs through September 30, 2016. CSUN's proposal involves researched based models and evaluations of the effectiveness needed to create systems change for increasing enrollment, academic and social readiness, retention and graduation rates of students who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have co-occurring disabilities.

17th Annual Just Us Girls Run

In the 17th annual run more than 1000 people participated in the Just Us Girls race to battle breast cancer in Monmouth and Ocean County. Breast



cancer survivor Diana O'Grady Meade and her daughter, Ashley, 12, of Wall won first place in the mother/daughter three mile race held October 22 at Sea Girt Army Camp. They ran in memory of Diana's sister Maureen O'Grady Hynes, who was Deaf. Diana and Maureen were on the track team at MKSD in the past.

PEPNet and ALD

Are you serving a consumer who uses an Assistive Listening Device (ALD) and not sure of the most current information? Or perhaps you're wondering how you can maximize your own use of an ALD. PEPNet has many resources that focus on hearing assistance technology - take a look at a few examples, and visit our webpage for more information!

- ***Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology: A Guide for Service Providers and Consumers:*** This book covers information on hearing aids, audiograms, cochlear implants and other auditory implantable devices, the definition of communication access, assistive listening devices, speech-to-text accommodations, alerting devices, and telecommunication options.
- ***Telecoils (Tipsheet):*** This tipsheet describes how telecoils, now available on both hearing aids and cochlear implants, can make a vast difference in the quality of sound for an individual with hearing loss.
- ***A Hearing Aid Primer:*** Addressing the basic types of hearing aids (analog, digitally programmable, and fully digital), this brochure includes definitions and explanations about the variety hearing aid technology available today.
- ***PEPNet Tipsheet: The Role of Assistive Listening Devices in the Classroom:*** Assistive Listening Devices have proven to be an effective teaching tool for students with hearing loss. This tipsheet summarizes various types of ALDs and strategies for using them.

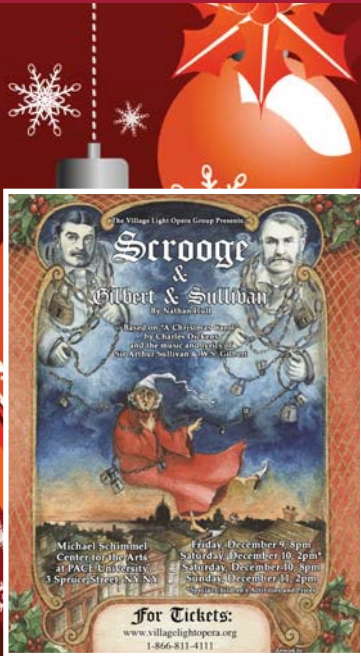
These featured resources are among dozens of other PEPNet resources that may be helpful in providing services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Go to the PEPNet website at www.pepnet.org, and click on "Resources" to use the online search tool. To find featured resources, type in the name of the resource and select "materials."

PEPNet



Communicator Signboard

Village Light Opera Group Rings In the Holiday Season with Scrooge and Gilbert and Sullivan



What would have happened if Gilbert and Sullivan met Charles Dickens while he was writing his famous Christmas story? Why, Scrooge & Gilbert & Sullivan of course! Enjoy the classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge told through the music of Gilbert and Sullivan with lyrics written by VLOG member, Nathan Hull.

Performance on **Saturday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m.** will be interpreted by Jana Owen and Dana Fuller.

"We want to bring the beauty of a live performance to as many people as we can," says cast member Gina Milano, who arranged the sign interpretation for the deaf community with the support of producers Marlene Berner and Stephanie Haring. Anyone with special needs will receive a 30% discount.

Additional performances will take place:

Friday December 9 @ 8:00 p.m.

Saturday December 10 @ 2:00 p.m.

Sunday December 11 @ 2:00 p.m.

**The Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts
3 Spruce Street
New York, NY 10038**

For more information see: www.vlog.org

For tickets to interpreted performance: Ginamilano13@gmail.com



St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center

Access

Mental Health Services for Individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing announces a support group for: People who are Deaf and Lesbian or Gay (LGBTQ) Please join us to share stories, challenges, and feelings in a safe, supportive environment.

Please call for more information and dates of group:

866-634-8984 VP

973-977-6690 Voice

Ask for Sari or Hilary



**Gloucester County Community Church
Deaf Ministry**

Christmas Social

Saturday, December 3

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

■ Baked Ham ■ Chicken Marsala
with assorted side dishes

Cost:

\$10 per person

Children 3 years or younger - Free

Send to:

**GCCC Deaf Ministry
359 Chapel Heights Road
Sewell, NJ 08080**



Communicator Signboard



Governor Livingston's
D/HH Enrichment Organization



A Children's Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 10, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Governor Livingston High School

175 Watchung Boulevard

Berkeley Heights, NJ

Santa, who is fluent in ASL, arrives at 10:30 a.m.

- Affordable Holiday gifts for sale.
- Photos with Santa.
- Free Holiday cards to color and decorate.
- Free gift bags to decorate.
- Free snacks and drinks.
- And more...

For more information, please contact:

dthedinga@bhpsnj.org

NJDeafProgram.com

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

Christmas Dinner

at Tuckahoe Inn Restaurant & Tavern

1 Harbor Road and Route 9

Beesley's Point, NJ (off Exit 25 on the GSP)

Saturday, December 10, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Deadline: December 5, 2011

NO REFUNDS!

Proper attire required (no jeans) Adults only

Appetizers, tossed salad, sliced prime rib, stuffed chicken breast, baby crab cakes served with potato and vegetable, rolls and butter, homemade dessert, coffee, tea or iced tea. Cash Bar.

Donation: Member - \$40 Non-Member - \$50

Make the money order/ check payable to ACSD and mail it to:

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

c/o Christmas Dinner

PO Box 3088

Margate, NJ 08402

◆ Chinese Auction ◆ Money Prizes ◆ Bank Nite Giveaway

Chairperson: John Werner and committee

www.TuckahoeInn.com

Bridge Players Theatre Company Proudly Announces Their Annual Family Holiday Show



YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

Written By Pat Cook Directed by John Hughes

Sign-interpreted performances:

December 2 - 7:30 p.m.

December 3 - 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

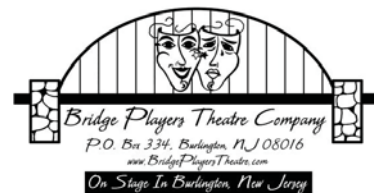
Broad St. United Methodist Church,

36 E. Broad St., Burlington, NJ.

Tickets \$8

To order tickets please call 856-303-7620

**For directions and more information,
visit www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com.**



Communicator Signboard



Middlesex County's Plays-in-the-Park
will offer American Sign Language Interpretation
at one performance of

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

at The State Theatre in New Brunswick.
Tuesday, December 27 at 8:00 p.m.



The State Theatre
15 Livingston Ave.

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ticket Office: 732-246-7469

All tickets \$7- Reserved Seating

UCC Sign Club - Interpreters Forum



***“Educational Interpreting:
What It Was and What It Is Now!”***

Saturday, December 3, 2011

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

with a reception to follow

Main Lecture Hall, UCC's Cranford Campus, 1022
Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ

Join us and learn more about this area of the interpreting
world...from current professionals in the field! This event
includes a panel discussion followed by a short reception.

Questions, or for more information, e-mail us at:
UCCSignClub@gmail.com

Hard of Hearing Support Group

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

❖ January 18, 2012

❖ February 22

❖ March 21

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CART services will be provided

For additional information
please contact
sjhardofhearing@gmail.com



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Rush

Calendar of Events 2011/2012

Saturday, December 31

NWJAD'S Spectacular

New Year's Eve Party

Information: www.nwjad.org

Friday, January 27, 2012

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Presentation on Medicare

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

Public is Invited

Communication Access Provided

Happy Holidays and All the Best in 2012



**from the staff at the
Division of the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing**



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

DDHH Office – Days Closed:

■ **Monday, December 26 - Christmas**