

December 2009

Monthly Communicator

Vol. 30 No. 11

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David C. Alexander, Director



Garden State NJ Walk4Hearing

Second Time Around - WE DID IT!

Our Garden State NJ Walk4Hearing took place Saturday, October 17 as planned for rain or shine. It was raining outside and pretty cold; but there was plenty of sunshine and warmth among all participants under the picnic shed at the Mercer County Park.

The less than ideal weather conditions did not stop the 100 walkers as they converged on the picnic shed, ready for the second annual Garden State Walk4Hearing. The walkers were greeted by the news that this year's effort surpassed the fundraising goal, with a tally of more than \$40,000 while more donations were forthcoming.



Mickey Yarosh leads the NJ Walk4Hearing in spite of inclement weather.

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Monthly Communicator wins best official New Jersey Publication Award

(2009 New Jersey State Document of the Year award)

The DDHH newsletter, Monthly Communicator, captured this year's New Jersey State Document of the Year award - the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ) award for reporting especially useful and resourceful

information. The newsletter received several nominations for contributing to the expansion of knowledge, innovation in presentation, and demonstrating a creative approach in its coverage of technical and topical issues.



Alan Champion, David Alexander, Ira Hock, Deirdra Picou and Enrique Berdecia with the DANJ plaque and an edition of the Monthly Communicator.

The newsletter was honored for having relevance for New Jerseyans; enhancing the quality of life for New Jerseyans;

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Produced by DHS Office of Publications

Director's Corner

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



I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the HLAA-NJ and to deliver the welcoming remarks. My address focused on the role of assistive technology devices in reducing the communication barriers people with hearing loss face in their daily lives.

In fact, one of the most basic rights for a person with hearing loss may be having access to assistive technology that enables them to communicate effectively. Today, there is a wide range of equipment available to address the diversity of communication strategies used by people with hearing loss. From amplified phones, to CapTel, to videophones, to Internet based WebCapTel and relay conference captioning, there has never been more options for people with hearing loss.

Unfortunately, the range of technology devices is not always well known by the general public or for that matter by people with hearing loss. Our challenge is to conduct effective outreach programs and marketing efforts so that this information is available to those who need such services.

Sprint Relay hosted a successful outreach program with the "Taste of Technology" conference this past October. I congratulate the Sprint Relay team for their efforts. I am also proud of the steps taken by DDHH to promote the use of assistive technology in the fields of employment, education and entertainment.

However, we can not be complacent with our current efforts. I encourage all organizations for the Deaf and hard of hearing, as well as service agencies, to work together with the goal of advancing the use of assistive technology to improve communications and the quality of lives of people with hearing loss.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Reminder:

The deadline for the February 2010 issue is January 1. The deadline for the January issue was December 1.

E-mail submissions to the editor:
Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us.

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

Newsletter Subscription:

If you would like to subscribe to the [Monthly Communicator](#), send your request to the editor (e-mail address above).
Subscription is free of charge.

Monthly Communicator

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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.

Call for Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children interested in starting a Parent Group

On May 2, 2009, the New Jersey Family Learning Conference Planning Committee held its third biennial conference for Families with Children Who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing at Atlantic Cape Community College. As in previous Family Learning Conferences (2005: The Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf and 2007: The Lake Drive Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students), this was a very successful event that gave parents an opportunity to obtain information, resources, and share their experiences with other parents of children with hearing loss.

One of the many positive offshoots of the 2009 conference was the need to establish parent support groups throughout New Jersey. A list of names of interested parents is now being collected to initiate this program. If you are interested in participating in this parent support group, please e-mail your name and address along with "support group" in the comment section to Malia Corde (SPAN/NJ P2P) at: maliac@comcast.net, or write: Malia Corde, SPAN/NJ Parent to Parent, 35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102. If you are also interested in leading one of these support groups, indicate this in your correspondence.

Note: We are pleased to inform you that plans are underway for our next statewide conference for spring, 2011.

The New Jersey Family Learning Conference Planning Committee is composed of representatives from the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, New Jersey Statewide Parent Advocacy Network-New Jersey Statewide Parent to Parent and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program.

CORRECTIONS:

JVS Goodwill Career Center staff would like to thank the DDHH for mentioning our Career Center in the October Monthly Communicator. We would also like to remind people that in addition to the Harrison location, which has the Technology Center, there is a second location in East Orange, where intakes, evaluations, job placement and other services are provided. For further information, please visit www.jvsgoodwillcenter.org.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Friday, January 29, 2010 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

East Brunswick Public Library
2 Jean Walling Civic Center, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529
The public is invited to attend.

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance: 609-984-7281 V/TTY

All DDHH advisory council meetings are fully accessible with sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices (ALDs) and CART (open captioning).

VSA of New Jersey seeks Applications for Arts Achievement Award and Dare to Imagine Award Programs

January 11, 2010 Deadline

Very Special Arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2010 Arts Achievement Awards and 5th Annual Dare to Imagine Awards. VSA/NJ is a part of the international VSA arts network, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

The deadline for applications is January 11, 2010. Selections will be announced in March 2010, and awards recipients will be honored at a ceremony in April 2010.

About the Arts Achievement Awards

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 New Jersey Governor's Awards in Arts Education. The application deadline for these awards is January 11, 2010.

Arts Achievement Awards:

Presented to students with disabilities who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form; presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students.

About the Dare to Imagine Awards

Through the Dare to Imagine Awards, VSA/NJ recognizes adults who have made a positive difference in the life of a person or persons with disabilities. Awards candidates must have made an impact that relates to one or more of the following focus areas: corporate and organizational responsibility; education, training and enrichment opportunities; accessibility; and personal commitment; and volunteerism. Individuals whose contributions are related to the arts are especially encouraged to apply. The deadline for nominations is January 11, 2010.

Dare to Imagine Awards:

Presented to adults who have made a positive difference in the life of a person or persons with disabilities.

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

Funding for VSA/NJ is provided in part by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, 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, and the central office of VSA arts, under an award from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily reflect the policy of the U.S. Department of Education and endorsement should not be assumed.



AHEAD and PEPNet to Co-convene in 2010

at the Sheraton Hotel Downtown in Denver, Colorado on July 12 - 17, 2010 for the first time. The Association on Higher Education And Disability (AHEAD) and The Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) will join together. This co-convened event will combine AHEAD's 33rd annual international conference and PEPNet's 7th biennial conference; providing one seamlessly integrated place and time for attendees from across the disability and education communities to come together for an unparalleled professional conference.

The conference will offer full educational programming that each organization has become noted for providing, while expanding the opportunities for diversity of learning opportunities for all attendees. Additionally, the event will feature nationally and internationally recognized presenters, a 25,000 square foot exhibition hall; ample opportunities for formal and informal networking; and an increased diversity of professional attendance to further enhance the event.

Funded since 1996 through the OSERS Office of Special Education Programs, PEPNet provides resources and expertise that enhance educational opportunities for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, including those with co-occurring disabilities. PEPNet's national outreach is coordinated through its four regional centers.

PEPNet offers consultation, training, professional development, cutting edge technical assistance, and other resources to educational institutions, including, but not limited to: two and four year colleges, universities, secondary education programs, community rehabilitation programs, continuing education programs, adult basic education programs, and vocational and technical training programs.

AHEAD is the premiere professional membership organization for individuals involved in the development of policy and in the provision of quality services to meet the needs of persons with disabilities involved in all areas of higher education. AHEAD is fortunate to have formal partnerships with 32 regional affiliates and numerous other professional organizations working to advance equity in higher education for people with disabilities.

AHEAD is actively involved in all facets of promoting full and equal participation by individuals with disabilities in higher education; and supporting the systems, institutions, professions, and professionals who attend to the fulfillment of this important mission.

Preliminary event information is available at www.ahead.org. more complete event information will be made available March 12, 2010. AHEAD and PEPNet look forward to welcoming hundreds of interested professionals from across the country and around the world to Denver in 2010 for this unprecedented groundbreaking event.

Contacts:

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contributing to the understanding of federal, state, or local government processes or functions; achieving its intended purpose, and formatting appropriate to its contents; stories written in a lucid style comprehensible to non-specialists; providing reference use; and being printed on recycled/permanent paper. The newsletter won on its title reflecting actual content and on its ability to be generally and pleasantly browsed through, due to physical appearance, printing, binding, use of color, or ease of use.

DDHH staff member Alan Champion (editor) was present at the November DANJ meeting for the formal award presentation at Princeton University in the new Lewis Library. In an acceptance speech, Champion acknowledged that the publication is an excellent example of representative government, of, for and by the people. The Monthly Communicator exemplifies DDHH's unique public commitment of getting information from the community it serves, enhancing it with current local and national topical and legislative issues, to provide information that benefits the community.



Deborah Mercer of DANJ presents plaque to Alan Champion.

Champion also acknowledged DDHH Director David Alexander and Executive Assistant Ira Hock for their significant contributions to the publication, as well as the Department of Human Services Office of Publications Director, Deirdra Picou (managing editor), and her staff (Enrique Berdecia, Elizabeth Braun-Folmer and Kaylin Van Doren) for all their fine work in the beautiful presentation and monthly production of the newsletter.

The DDHH newsletter, which is the first DHS publication to receive such an award, joins an impressive group for best state publication (i.e., 2008 - Hospital Performance Report: A Consumer Report, New Jersey Dept. Health; 2007 - Giant Hogweed, New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture; 2006 - Comparative Education Spending, New Jersey Dept. Education; 2005 - New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office; and others too numerous to mention).

Ms. Deborah Mercer, DANJ interest group chair, made the award presentation. Mercer also presented DANJ's annual award for Best Web design, which went to New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. The goal of DANJ is to promote the use of and access to government information in libraries throughout the New Jersey area.

DANJ's objectives include providing a forum for discussion of problems and concerns, and for the exchange of ideas by librarians working with government information, including providing a force for initiating and supporting programs that promote access to, use, and bibliographic control of documents. DANJ strives to increase communication among documents personnel and other library personnel, while contributing to the continuing education and training of librarians working with government information. DANJ meeting and program announcements are posted on the DOX_NJ listserv, a forum for New Jersey librarians and others to communicate about government information.



Alan Champion making acceptance speech.

Center For Hearing & Communication Launches “Ask The Experts”

Online Resource Gives Consumers Greater Access to Hearing Health Professionals

People whose lives have been touched by hearing loss are hungry for answers to questions that constantly run through their mind. How do I find the resources I need? Who can help me advocate for my child? Which amplified phone is right for me? These questions and many more can sometimes go unanswered while an individual waits to meet with his or her hearing health-care professional. Or worse, the questions go unanswered because the person does not live in proximity to a clinician with the necessary expertise and experience. Addressing this need for increased access to hearing healthcare professionals, the Center for Hearing and Communication (CHC) announces the launch of “Ask the Experts.”

“Ask the Experts” is an online resource that puts consumers directly in touch with CHC clinicians and other staff members with the appropriate expertise to answer their questions and direct them to the resources they’re looking for. The information is exchanged typically within 24 hours via an online Q&A forum housed on www.chchearing.org. Questions and answers that pertain to a topic of universal interest are posted on the site for all visitors to read. The privacy of individuals submitting questions is carefully protected.

“Ask the Experts” is just one of the innovative features on the Center for Hearing and Communication’s new Web site at www.chchearing.org. The site functions as both an information resource and a marketing tool (promoting CHC’s wide array of hearing and communication services) for people of all ages with hearing loss. Says Laurie Hanin, CHC’s executive director, “Our new site is an interactive resource addressing the needs not only of the one million people with hearing loss in New York City, but also the 38 million people across the country who now have access to our renowned team of clinicians. We recognize the importance of giving people with hearing loss the ability to communicate with us online because communication over the phone can often be a challenge.”

“Ask the Experts” is a service of the Family Resource Center at CHC that is made possible by the generous support of The Bodman Foundation, the J. C. Kellogg Foundation, the Milbank Foundation for Rehabilitation, the Morgan Stanley Foundation/VIP Program, and The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation.

The Center for Hearing and Communication, formerly League for the Hard of Hearing, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for infants, children and adults with all degrees of hearing loss. Established in 1910, CHC accomplishes its mission by providing hearing rehabilitation and human services for people who are hard of hearing or deaf, and their families, regardless of age, ability to pay, or mode of communication, and by striving to empower consumers to achieve their potential.

New Jersey's Finest Rehabilitation Center



Leisure Chateau

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COMPLETELY RENOVATED
REHABILITATION CENTER



Deaf friendly medical services
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Member of NJAD

Growing to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

- 24-hour Professional Registered Nurses
- IV Therapy Certified Nurses
- Wound Care Nurse Specialist
- 7 Days a Week Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Strokes, Hip Replacements & Knee Replacements
- Cardiac Rehab
- Respite Care
- Short-Term Rehabilitation
- Long-Term Care



Dr. Allen Lempel, CMD *Medical Director*
Dr. A. Khademi, MD *Physiatrist,*
Medical Director, SHORE REHAB INSTITUTE, BRICK, NJ
Dr. James Morales, MD *Sports Medicine*

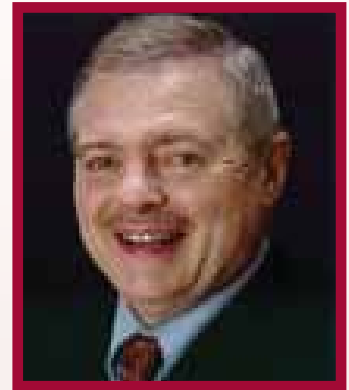
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Three Ways to Guarantee Success with Hearing Aids

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

The title of this article is meant to draw attention to what a hearing aid wearer can do to achieve success with amplification. Obviously, there are no absolute “guarantees” for success, but there are some steps that can be taken to make the adjustment to hearing aids more effortless.

The first series of steps is to make sure that the person fitting hearing aids has taken an accurate impression of the ears and adjusts the aids appropriately. A comfortable fit is arguably the most important initial step that can be taken in the process of fitting hearing aids. Poorly fitted hearing aids that cause discomfort will never be used, no matter how well they sound.



Dr. Granville Y. Brady

The next step is to verify the fitting based upon the audiometric results taken in a sound treated booth. This is called an “evidenced-based” approach that is used by some audiologists and hearing instrument specialists as an example of best practices. In a recent article in Consumer Reports, researchers reported that hearing aids fitted using an evidenced based approach such as Real Ear Measures were more likely to be accepted than when no verification measures were employed.

The method used to verify the fitting is called “speech mapping”. By inserting a tiny microphone into the ear canal and testing the hearing aid while it is actually worn, speech-mapping results determines the amount of improvement that is gained by comparing unaided hearing with aided hearing. Speech mapping sets targets for improvement and scores how well a hearing aid is doing its job. Although most hearing aids meet specifications at the manufacturer, some are not set properly. Speech mapping is a scientifically reliable objective way that can tell if a hearing aid is performing to specifications.

The third strategy that a hearing aid wearer needs to employ to achieve satisfaction is continued daily use of amplification. Unlike reading glasses that are used in specific instances, hearing is needed all the time. A patient who wants to use her hearing aids “only when I’m at my bridge game” will never acclimate to their use. Hearing aids need to be worn during waking hours to get the best possible performance from them.

To summarize, hearing aids work best when they are set properly and fit comfortably. Patient satisfaction is greatest when an evidenced based approach to fitting them using Real Ear Measures such as Speech Mapping to verify the targets set for them. And they work best when worn. Hearing aids that are not worn cannot help. Patients with a hearing loss who follow these steps are going a long way to achieve success with their hearing aids.

Dr. Granville Brady is a licensed audiologist in New Jersey and is a member of the Audiology and Speech-Language Advisory Committee of the state Division of Consumer Affairs.

Ridgewood, NJ Inaugurates Awareness Week

By Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative

On Friday October 2, Ridgewood, NJ kicked off its first awareness weekend with a series of presentations from representatives of Ridgewood's YMCA, Parks and Recreation; and Valley Hospital. Greg Papazian, director of the state Division of Aging and Community Services and Traci Burton, field representative from the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing also made presentations. Friday's event focused on senior citizens, and the weekend activities included accessible entertainment from local residents (i.e., going to the movies). The week concluded with an interfaith service Sunday evening.

If you are interested in the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing becoming a part of your event, please contact 609-984-7281 or write to the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, PO Box 074, Trenton, NJ 08625-0074.

You Could Be - Miss Deaf New Jersey 2009-2011

Don't miss out. We are looking for Deaf and hard of hearing women between ages of 17 and 29 who will be judged on platform presentation, artistic expression and presence and poise/on-stage interview as well as an off-stage interview. Prize package is valued at more than \$2000. The winner will go to Miss Deaf America Ambassadorship Program 2010 to be held in Philadelphia in July 2010. Applications are still being accepted. Please send your name, contact information (e-mail address and videophone number) and age.



Contact Carrie Pogue, Miss Deaf New Jersey State Director of Ambassadors, at ECEMPOG@aol.com and/or reach her at 609-616-3493.

Gloucester County Giving Out Smoke Detectors and Batteries

By Jessica Beym

The Gloucester County Fire Marshall's Office has smoke detectors and batteries to give to seniors, people with hearing loss and low-income citizens. The supply includes 200 smoke detectors, 24 smoke detectors designed for people with hearing loss, and 288 replacement batteries. A portion of the supply of smoke detectors available are designed to give off a strobe light along with a loud alarm, and are best for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Both the smoke detectors and the batteries will be dispersed on as needed basis for as long as supplies last. The equipment and supplies are limited, hence items are distributed on a first come, first served basis. Please call 856-307-7100 for more details.

Gallaudet Announces T. Alan Hurwitz As Tenth President

Reprinted from my.gallaudet.edu



Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz has been appointed by the board of trustees as Gallaudet University's tenth president. The announcement was made by Dr. Benjamin Soukup, chair of the board of trustees, on October 18 before an overflowing crowd in the university's Swindells Auditorium.

Hurwitz currently serves as president of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), one of eight colleges within the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and vice president and dean of RIT. He has worked at NTID/RIT since 1970, first as an instructor in RIT's College of Engineering and, subsequently, as an NTID professor, department chair, dean, and the college's president. Throughout his career, he has been active in a variety of professional organizations, including serving as president of both the National Association of the Deaf and the World Organization of Jewish Deaf.

"In Dr. Alan Hurwitz the board of trustees has chosen a leader for Gallaudet who possesses an extensive and distinguished track record in the field of higher education for deaf and hard of hearing persons," said Soukup. "This expertise, along with his commitment to Gallaudet's unique mission and strategic plan, ensures that he is the right person to lead the University as it seeks to attract and educate students from a variety of educational and communication backgrounds." Dr. Soukup introduced Dr. Hurwitz and Gallaudet's new first lady, Vicki Hurwitz, to the exuberant crowd that had assembled for the announcement. Hurwitz called the occasion "a very emotional time, as well as an exciting time for me and my wife, Vicki." He thanked the Board of Trustees and the Gallaudet community "for their support and confidence in my selection," he said. "I enthusiastically accept the appointment."

Hurwitz, who will take office in January, succeeds Dr. Robert Davila, the University's president since 2007. Hurwitz said, "I'm humbled to follow in Dr. Robert Davila's footsteps," and he praised the other finalists for the position, Dr. Roslyn Rosen, Dr. Ronald Stern, and Dr. Stephen Weiner, as "outstanding individuals. ... I love all three of them." Hurwitz said he looked forward to working closely with all the University's constituents in pursuing Gallaudet's mission and strategic goals.

Davila, who joined Hurwitz on the stage, remarked, "I'm confident he'll do well," and added that Gallaudet will be fortunate to benefit from "his wealth of skill and knowledge." Noting that Hurwitz was wearing a Gallaudet jacket, Davila commented "one thing is missing," and went over to the new president to attach a "Team Gallaudet" pin to his jacket.

In closing, Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA) Board President Alyce Slater Reynolds congratulated Hurwitz on behalf of GUAA's 17,000 members, and said, "We look forward to joining you on the journey we're taking."

NJRID

NJRID Workshop: ASL Translation in Theatre and Concert

By Regina Flanagan

Camille Jeter-Lorello arrived at the East Brunswick Public Library ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work as she presented "ASL Translation in Theater and Concert," the most recent workshop offered by NJRID on November 7. She brought her love of live performance and her experience as both a professional actor and long time educator to share with the 40 participants.



The workshop introduced some of the challenges and demands of interpreting in theatrical and musical settings. Ms. Jeter-Lorello shared information on various approaches for interpreter placement and preparing for the assignment. The workshop included some hands up/hands on practical work. Participants had the opportunity to work in small groups to analyze and discuss possible interpretations using the national anthem's familiar yet challenging lyrics. Participant Shire Ketterer, a student from Camden County College, noted, "Each group getting to work together, hands on, doing the interpretation for the Star Spangled Banner was very informative."

The open discussion at the end of this three-hour workshop gave the participants a chance to further the conversation on how theatrical interpreting techniques can be applied in many settings, from artistic to educational. The challenges of funding and access were raised. The positive effects of successful, skilled interpretation on the appreciation of theater, arts and literacy were explored. The questions of how to increase the number of qualified interpreters as well as where to find additional training fostered the sharing of resources and the hope for a program dedicated to expanding this specialized skill.

As Eileen Forestal summed it up at the close of this workshop, "Fantabulous. You missed a good one."

"What the (censored) Does That Mean??? Interpreting Jury Instructions"

By Meg Ellis CI, CT

I admit it, I'm a word nerd. I always have been. On October 24 at The College of New Jersey, NJRID held a workshop that fed my etymological spirit: "What the (censored) does that Mean??? Interpreting Jury Instructions". LeWana Clark CSC, CI/CT, SC:L and Natalie Atlas, CI/CT, SC:L, the presenters, established strict criteria for workshop attendance. Certification with CSC or CI/CT or NIC (any level) and a minimum of five years experience in the field was required to attend. As a result, a small, but discerning group of colleagues, with a similar passion for the lexicon, had the opportunity to delve into a standard text of jury instructions in search of semantic intent and target message equivalences. Nirvana, to me.

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And, by the way, yes, that's New Jersey's own Natalie Atlas. Anyone who's been around the interpreter scene in New Jersey for any length of time knows her and her reputation as a consummate professional. LaWana Clark is from Colorado and holds her CSC, CI/CT, SC:L. Initially, Natalie and LaWana detailed the ramifications of our interpretation of jury instructions on all of the potential consumers, i.e. Deaf juror, Deaf defendant, Deaf witness, Deaf attorney, and even hearing jurors. As a stakeholder in the proceedings, each depends on our interpretation to be complete, accurate and impartial.

The remainder of the workshop was a serious work session for us. With copies of Black's Law Dictionary in hand, we were divided into groups to analyze a portion of our sample jury instructions. We spent hours defining words and considering contexts before even considering how to represent the concepts in American Sign Language. There were so many words with powerful legal implications that we just assumed we knew, simply because we've heard them so often on "Law and Order." Finally, at the end of the day, we each presented our interpretation of our part to the rest of the group; shared positive, constructive feedback; and went home with a renewed sense of the enormity of our daily work.

NJ Relay Holds its 3rd Taste of Technology

By Grace Samis

On October 28, 2009, Sprint New Jersey Relay offered us a 'taste' of past, present and future technology and its relationship with the Deaf and hard of hearing ... and it was good.



Greg Hlibok from the FCC Disability Rights Office is a Senior Attorney Advisor for the Disability Rights Office at the Federal Communications Commission and works at evaluating technology and communication access. Mr. Hlibok's presentation called to mind how technology (though often is positive) can in fact sometimes increase the gap of equal access between Deaf and hearing worlds. The example given was when the silent movies (which were equal access) were brought into the hearing world with voice components (unequal access). The gap widened. Another example was when AG Bell decided to create a device to 'help' the Deaf use their voices and instead invented the telephone. The gap widened again.



Hlibok knows that technology is here to stay and welcomes it, but feels that "technology is developed without thinking about disabilities... people with disabilities need to be thought of during the first stages of technological development." If early in the stages of new development, care could be taken to include the group the product was focusing on, we would all win in the end.

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ADA laws were discussed with Title I, II, III and especially Title IV being highlighted. Title IV requires a relay system to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to name just one component. Hlibok joked that he 'grew up with ADA' and is proud of being a real part of working to ensure equal access to all people.

Todd Bader is CapTel's marketing manager for the east coast. His 'Mobile Technical Solutions for CapTel Users' presentation included information on CapTel, Web CapTel, and the CapTel 800i which runs through the Internet so captioning is faster. He also instructed us on how to run complicated wires, routers, and power plugs with easy to follow video clips.

After lunch, the audience was treated to a discussion with five consumer panelists. Each participant explained which communication technology was their personal favorite and why. Julius Buratti's favorite was 'TTY/7-1-1' and Robert Robinson's was 'Internet Relay'. Arlene Romoff responded that her favorite was 'Relay Conference Captioning' while Bev Sudler preferred CapTel. And Jason Weiland, the final panelist, mentioned that his favorite was Video Relay. In their answers to why – the responses were varied. One answer was as simple as "I can call a plumber" where another answer was "I can communicate in my own native language".

Karl Ewan, account executive for the Sprint Relay Store, stated "We are a mobile society; we can't live without mobility." And so, in answer to questions about the how, what, when and why of WiFi, Mr. Ewan presented an easily understandable Power Point lecture on wireless communication options with 4-G.

The day extremely informative and beneficial for those who attended. Thanks to both Aparna Lele and Kelly Lange from NJ Relay and Sprint for this workshop. For more information, visit www.sprintrelay.com, www.njrelay.com and www.njcaptel.com. And a word to the wise - attend next year's conference.



LaGuardia Community College Program for Deaf Adults



ASL-English Interpretation Program

Advanced ASL I
with
Carmen King

For serious ASL students who have been intently studying ASL for at least the past two years and who have been actively involved in the Deaf community.

January 6 - March 10

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

For more about the course, instructor or other information or to register for this course, please contact:

Ashley Graham or Rob Hills at 718-482-5313 V/TTY or
Agraham@lagcc.cuny.edu or Roberth@lagcc.cuny.edu
www.lagcc.cuny.edu/IEP

Registration deadline: December 21

Refund policy:

Refunds are issued if a signed written request is received, according to the following schedule:

100% if received three days prior to the first class.

75% if received prior to completion of 10% of class hours.

50% if received prior to completion of 20% of class hours

continued from top of page 1

Along with plenty of hot dogs, popcorn, beverages, and other munchies contributing to this festive event, faces among the crowd were painted with magnificent artistry.

The www.walk4hearing.org Web site (click on the West Windsor walk) will remain in place through mid-December for those interesting in supporting the efforts of the 22 Walk4Hearing teams. There is still time to make a donation.

Walk4Hearing planning committee and volunteers, headed by Lois Walker, helped set up exhibit, refreshment, and registration tables. Teams of families, kids and seniors arrived on time and ready to walk, as well as enjoy the beautiful fall vistas from our protective covering.

Thanks are due to everyone for making our Walk4Hearing such a success. Our objective of heightening awareness of hearing loss was achieved. Now, we get down to the serious business of putting those funds to good use. Your input and suggestions are welcome. Until next year . . .



Religious Access

Cornerstone welcomes you for the holidays.

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church of Jackson NJ announces worship opportunities for those who are Deaf and their families. Each Sunday at the 9:30 AM worship service, Cornerstone has a trained interpreter who signs the complete service. There is also a large screen projection of the words, hymns, and prayers. Our congregation welcomes all those who are Deaf.

Cornerstone also has a Ministry with the Deaf that goes beyond Sunday morning. We are there for people throughout the week and have helped the deaf with housing and job placement. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Rob Morrison at 732-928-2424 Voice. Cornerstone worships at the Lucy Holman Elementary School of Jackson, 125 Manhattan Street, Jackson, NJ. www.CornerstonePCUSA.com.

First Assembly of God

11:00 AM - Worship service interpreted for the Deaf.
27 Douglas Road
Rockaway, NJ 07866
973-627-0239
www.rockawayag.org



Temple Shalom is now
Temple Avodat Shalom.

Same address: 385 Howland Ave, River Edge, NJ.

Schedule of services for 09/10 season

2009

Dec. 11

2010

Jan. 8

Feb. 5

Mar. 5

April 9

May 7

June 4



No ticket is required but please bring photo I.D.
For more information, contact Stella Teger,
Executive Director, 201-489-2463 ext. 203 Voice

Job Opportunities



Do you need help finding a job?
Do you need support at your current job?
Do you know what types of equipment are available to individuals who have a hearing loss
If you answer yes to any of these questions, the Career Development Center can help you.

Vocational assessment– Testing to find out what career is best for you.
Training – Help you discover your skills and apply them to employment.
Job placement – Finding the appropriate job match that is suitable for you.
Job coaching - We provide short and long term job coaching and additional employment support as needed. Establishing accommodations with employers to help you accelerate to your full potential.

Assistive technology demonstrations are also available by appointment only at the center through DDHH.

If you are interested in these services, please contact Alyse Betso
908-685-1444 Ext 284 Voice or at Abetso@alternativesinc.org.
600 First Avenue, Raritan, New Jersey, 08869
www.bridgestoemployment.com

Hire Disability Solutions is offering a free training program to prepare Deaf and hard of hearing people for the skills needed to work as a Customer Service Representative. You will not be paid for this training program. After successful completion of the program, HDS will help you find a job working as a customer service representative. The program will continue into December and will begin on the first Monday of every month.

We need serious candidates that have their own computer, high speed internet, and an Ojo video phone. If you do not have an Ojo video phone, we will provide one for you at no cost, and is yours to keep. You must be available Mondays to Thursdays, 9AM to 4PM.

You must be fluent in ASL and be able to read English. Attendance is required. Please contact us if you are interested in a career as a Customer Service Representative.

Our goal is to empower individuals with disabilities to reach their goals by providing them with the tools to succeed. We present information and resources for individuals to connect with employers, build their skills, and discover the feeling of accomplishment.



Christopher Intromasso, Recruiter, 732-719-7877 VP, xerxesCJI@comcast.net.
Mary C. Malkowski, Recruiter, 201-340-6268 VP, macata7782@hotmail.com.

Communicator Signboard

New Jersey School for the Deaf
13th Annual Basketball Tip Off Tournament
Hosted on the Katzenbach Campus

Friday, December 11

- 4:00 PM Girls' Varsity
- 5:30 PM Boys Varsity Scranton School vs Lexington SD
- 7:00 PM Girls' Varsity
- 8:30 PM Boys Varsity New Jersey SD vs. New York SD

Saturday, December 12

- 8:30 AM Girls Varsity
- 10:00 AM Boys Varsity Consolation Game
- 11:30 AM Girls Varsity
- 1:00 PM Boys Varsity Championship Game
- 2:15 PM Trophy Presentation



Adults: \$5 per day; Students (with ID): \$3 per day; Children under 6: Free.

Martha Fowler, director of athletics, New Jersey School for the Deaf, Katzenbach Campus
Martha_Fower@mkzd.state.nj.us

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Post Holiday Party

Saturday, January 23
7:00 – 11:00 PM

Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Ave, East Hanover, NJ 07936
For directions, visit www.thehanovermanor.com
DJ Music: Matthew Saindon

Hot delicious buffet, cash bar

Members: \$40; Non-members: \$45
All tickets sales in advance.
No admission at the door.

Deadline January 9.
Sorry, no refunds.

Please make check payable to: NWJAD, Inc. Mail to: NWJAD, Inc., PO Box 533, Gladstone, NJ 07934

Communicator Signboard

New Jersey Black Deaf Advocates
Kwanzaa Celebration

December 12, 2009
1:00 to 4:00 PM

\$7 per person

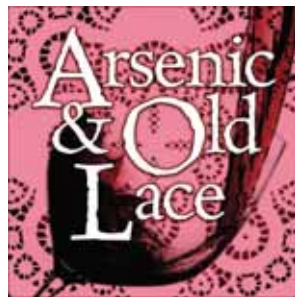
At the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf
Boys Dormitory Building #30, Community Room
320 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ 08625

For more information, contact:

John Lewis - tmo.blackberry.net or Debra Fuller - dfuller27@tmail.com.



presents
Two ASL Performances of



showing at the historic Ritz Theatre, 915 White Horse Pike, Arts District, Haddon Township, NJ

March 23 at 10:00 AM

April 3 at 2:00 PM

ASL interpreted matinee tickets are \$20 - \$25.

Call Susan Dewey for group rates: 856-858-5230 ext. 207.

Assistive listening devices available, handicapped accessible. All seats reserved.

Advanced reservations:

Ritz 24 hour ticket hotline 856-858-5230, Voice.

Order online: www.ritztheatreco.org.

Regular "Arsenic and Old Lace" performances are March 4 - April 3.

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

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Calendar of Events 2010

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 29, 2010

9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

East Brunswick Public Library

2 Civic Blvd., East Brunswick, NJ

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:

609-984-7281 V/TTY

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

DDHH Office – Days Closed

Christmas Day, Friday December 25

New Year's Day, Friday January 1; Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 18