

Monthly Communicator

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

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

DEAF FEST Draws Thousands



by Lauren Lercher and
Charlotte Karras

A beautiful, cool and sunny day started The Biennial DEAF FEST held on September 18, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds in East Brunswick, NJ and was hosted by New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.

There were approximately 2,000 people and more than 40 vendors, four of which provided food including fried oreos, along with an opening program and entertainers. Kiddie Korner, sponsored by Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, was a big hit especially with a new addition of a video game bus and three bouncing rides as well as face painting, jugglers

and a fantastic balloonist. All the kids enjoyed watching their performance and participating in the activities.

Almost all the Video Relay Service sponsors attended: New Jersey Relay/Sprint Relay, Purple VRS, Z4 VRS, and Sorenson Communications. NJAD was also one of the sponsors. NJDAW is grateful to the many donors who contributed their time and energy and without whose help DEAF FEST would not be possible.

Additionally, a special thank you to the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for providing communication access (interpreters and CART) during the event.

NJDAW, Inc wants everyone to know that there will be a DEAF FEST 2013. Be sure to check the web

site periodically for updates to other activities we will be hosting in the next two years.

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Director's Corner

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

Recently, the Commissioner of Human Services, Jennifer Velez, Esq. authored an article that was published in the MDAdvisor: A Journal for the New Jersey Medical Community. This journal is widely read by the medical community in our state. The title of the article was, "Awareness Improves Health Providers Ability to Accommodate Deaf and Hard of Hearing."

This was a timely article as the provision of effective communication access by healthcare providers continues to be an issue of dominant concern among people with hearing loss. Effective communication is central to receiving quality healthcare. Yet, DDHH continues to be notified of hospitals and physicians who refuse to provide appropriate accommodations for people with hearing loss.

In her article, Commissioner Velez indicates that the ADA enforcement and method of accommodation can be varied among the states' healthcare providers. She refers to the importance of awareness to avert potential misunderstandings and, at worst, litigation against providers who resist properly implementing ADA rules. A number of excellent guidelines and resources for healthcare providers were also shared. The DDHH is mentioned as a starting place for providers to connect with basic ADA information. This excellent article can be referenced at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/news/VelezArticle.pdf.



Jennifer Velez, Esq.

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 December issue was November 1. The deadline for the January 2012 issue is December 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

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

Director: David C. Alexander
Editor: Ira Hock

PO Box 074
Trenton, NJ 08625-0074
609-984-7281 V/TTY
800-792-8339 V/TTY

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



Hearing Loss and the Holidays

by Traci Burton, *Field Representative*

The holiday season is once again upon us which means there will be much socializing and festivities that include singing, ambient music, laughing, chatter and lots of wonderful food - with the flatware clanging on plates. Background noise distracts our brain's ability to focus on what the person you are trying to listen to is saying because it is subjected to the competing noises. People with normal hearing can experience difficulty in these circumstances, so someone living with hearing loss will certainly be frustrated. In an effort to include all in the fun, below are some tips and pointers to help make that happen.

Be realistic, honest and open with yourself and others about what you are able to hear.

If the party is in a restaurant, choose one that is quieter, as opposed to the noisy atmosphere of a sports bar. Also choose a table away from the kitchen, wait service station, bar, etc.

Whether the party is in a restaurant or in a home, the individual with hearing loss should sit with their back to the window so the lighting is behind them and on the speaker's face. If possible, have the curtains/shades drawn.

Ask to have the music turned down if it is too loud. Loud music not only makes it difficult to hear, it is harmful to all.

If you are trying to converse with an individual with hearing loss, face them, speak clearly, enunciate your words, and try to speak into their better ear. Best of all, ask them how to best communicate with them.

Instead of using the silver and fine china, opt for the quieter selection of plastic wear and holiday themed paper plates. This will cut down on the clatter of silverware hitting glass/porcelain.

If you or a loved one may benefit from an assistive listening device, such as a personal FM system, they are available for loan through the



library system. These can be used with, or in some cases instead of, hearing aids.

Give yourself a break! Listening in these situations is a lot of work so take a moment and step outside, help in the kitchen or find a place away from the activity.

The above list is just a springboard

to better communication as we gather with loved ones at this time of year. It's important to remember that hearing loss is as individual as the person who has it and that communication is a two-way street. May these suggestions be of use and wishing you all a wonderful, safe and inclusive holiday season!

Improving Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Inmates



DDHH is working with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to improve the services for the inmates who are deaf and hard of hearing. The DOC initially reached out to DDHH at the beginning of August seeking advice and feedback regarding some Web sites they had found on voice-to-text and voice-to-sign technology while researching various modes of communication. This sparked many discussions between several divisions within the DOC and members of the DDHH staff during which the Assistive Device Demonstration Centers were mentioned.

On Friday August 19, I met with five individuals from the DOC representing the education, social services, legal and OIT departments within corrections. We met at the Brian C. Shomo Assistive Device Demonstration Center on the campus of the NJ School for the Deaf. Together we reviewed technology available for the deaf and hard of hearing in terms of the different face-to-face scenarios an inmate will encounter while in the correctional system,

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Where Are The Deaf People?

by Jason Weiland
DDHH Field Representative

There I was on a gorgeous day with blue skies, perfect end of September weather as I stepped off the bus. Before my eyes were thousands of people, families with children and group of friends converging on the farm grounds for a day of games, activities, and music. It was an incredible sight of laughter, happiness, and enjoyment as I watched people compete in potato sack races, seed spitting competitions, and other fun stuff. Ten thousand people were in attendance. The festival also hosted several musicians on three different stages including a kid's stage that had toddlers and their parents dancing all day long. By far, the biggest thing of the day was the very fact that the event provided ASL interpreters ALL DAY long at every performance, every stage, and at many activities. The music was incredible but even more so, the interpreters were phenomenal. The "Life is Good Festival" was truly... good.

As I stood there in front of the stage, the biggest thought came to mind. With such a well-planned event and so many amazing things to do... WHERE ARE THE DEAF PEOPLE? Can you believe that only five deaf people showed up at this two day event? That's three people on Saturday and two people on Sunday. The interpreter team clearly outnumbered the deaf attendees at least two to one. Mind you, I had a great time and truly enjoyed myself. Many of the interpreters at the event, I had never met before and gave me a greater appreciation for interpreting in the field of music and entertainment. They were truly talented at what they do. For that, I feel lucky to have had the chance to attend. The speakers were up front next to the interpreters and front of stage seating area, so I had no problem flowing with the vibes and grooves of the bands.

As much as I love attending events, I'll be the first to admit, I don't like attending them alone. So what's the deal here? Although the festival was



“ Can you believe that only five deaf people showed up at this two day event? ”

held in another state, it was 15 miles south of Boston, Massachusetts which is home to the largest deaf population in the New England not to mention one of the younger populations with many families. So where are they? Was it advertising? Does the deaf community not enjoy events such as these? One thing I realize as I was walking the grounds, "Life Is Good" was not only about "music." It was about family. Bringing people together for a time of enjoyment and bonding. This kind of event would have been amazing for families with deaf children whose parents are hearing. This day would have allowed deaf parents to bring their hearing children and to watch and enjoy music through sign language interpreters while their children listen. It is events like these that allow families to bond, communicate, and develop new ways to enjoy all the community has to offer. Did I happen to mention that "Life is Good" festival is also a fundraising event and you get to give back?

Why don't they offer events like this in New Jersey, you are probably thinking. They do. In fact, NJ offers a

large number of events complete with interpreters in theater, concerts, and festivals. I have attended a number of those events and have found the same that happened at "Life is Good". Where are the Deaf people? Recently, I attended a wonderful show that had a great team of interpreters. I peeked around the audience and saw that there were just two other deaf in the audience. Yes, it is true the Deaf community likes to congregate within their own. You only have to look at Deaf Fest in East Brunswick or Deaf Nation in NYC to see that. At the same time, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Great Adventure is a mainstream event with interpreters everywhere and attended by thousands. Broadway in NYC which has always been a mecca for ASL-interpreted shows has enjoyed deaf audiences with more than 75 people at some shows.

The truth is the deaf community clamors for more diverse offerings complete with ASL interpreters. The fact is they are out there but not being taken advantage of. Organizations and companies that host these types of events are often paying a lot of money in times of a weak economy to "do the right thing". Pretty soon, these types of events could be a thing of the past if no one attends. I understand the benefits of such events and opportunity. I have two children, ages four and seven. I have seen

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Local Soccer Player Heading for Pan American Games for the Deaf

Butler native James Rummo (No. 9) will soon be on his way to the 2011 Pan American Games for the Deaf in Uberlandia, Brazil after he was recently selected to the 18-man roster of the U.S. Deaf National Soccer team. Rummo is currently a forward on Gallaudet University's men's soccer team and got his start playing soccer in Butler at age 9.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
by Tara Kolton, Staff Writer, Suburban Trends
Reprinted with permission



Years of practice and dedication have paid off in a major way for a Butler native who got his start playing soccer in the borough. James Rummo, currently a junior at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., was recently selected as one of 18 players onto the U.S. Men's Deaf National Soccer team that will soon be on its way to compete at the 2011 Pan American Games for the Deaf in Uberlandia, Brazil from Nov. 19 to 27.

Butler native James Rummo (No. 9) will soon be on his way to the 2011 Pan American Games for the Deaf in Uberlandia, Brazil after he was recently selected to the 18-man roster of the U.S. Deaf National Soccer team. Rummo is currently a forward on Gallaudet University's men's soccer team and got his start playing soccer in Butler at age 9. While making it to the team is a thrilling time for Rummo, 20, all players have been told that they can expect to be challenged mentally, physically, as well as financially, as they are required to each raise a minimum of \$3,000 by Oct. 15, with \$2,000 of that raised by Oct. 1. Rummo says he is "more than excited" to head to the games in Brazil, as it will be his first experience competing internationally. Faced with this essential fund-raising, Rummo, an accounting major and finance minor at Gallaudet, wants to rise to the challenge of gaining local corporate sponsorship, seeing the process as a good chance for a business learning experience.

In the meantime, he has been mailing out fund-raising letters to family and friends, but feels that potential corporate sponsorship would not only aid him greatly, but also allow these businesses to share in the honor of representing the United States in international tournaments. If the U.S. men's team takes one of the top two spots at the Pan American Games, it could be heading off next to the 2012 World Championship in Turkey, and the Deaflympics in 2013.

Rummo is a forward on Gallaudet's soccer team (North Eastern Athletic Conference, Division III), and said he most enjoys scoring goals and producing assists.

"Beating a defender is a particularly satisfying experience," he added. He got his start playing soccer at age 9 in Butler with the encouragement of his father, Greg

Rummo, who served as the team's coach.

"My experience growing up in Butler was something that I will never forget," said Rummo. "Playing under my father as a coach and sign language interpreter was the best thing that happened to me."

Rummo recalled losing the Tri-Boro in-town championship game in the fall of 2000, but four years later making a triumphant finish when his team won the championship game, the year before he entered high school. He attended Mountain Lakes High School, due to its advanced deaf-ed program, where he continued to play soccer all four years.

Playing on the soccer field presents a special set of challenges for the deaf and hard of hearing, as Rummo, who is profoundly deaf, attested to. He said his greatest challenge as a soccer player is knowing who is around him. "It's difficult for me because I can't hear when a player is coming at me from the behind. To avoid that, I have to take a look who's behind me before receiving the ball," explained Rummo. "It takes a lot of dedication to reach the international level. Playing at the NCAA level here in college is an excellent way for me to prepare for the international level."

Rummo plans to graduate in 2013 with a major in accounting and a minor in finance, with the ultimate goal of working for the federal government. But wherever his studies will take him in the future, Rummo describes soccer as his "true passion," and fully plans to continue his soccer career, setting his sights next on the World Championships and Deaflympics.

The \$3,000 each player must raise goes toward travel, accommodation, training facilities, training, as well as other costs. Those interested in sponsoring Rummo can contact him at james.rummo@gallaudet.edu for more information and sponsorship forms.

All donations must be sent in the form of a check made payable to the USA Deaf Soccer Association, with "Pan American Games: James Rummo" written on the memo line; and mailed to: USA Deaf Soccer Association, c/o 2011 Pan American Deaf Team, 3711 S. State Route 157, Glen Carbon, IL 62034 USA.

HLA-NJ Awards \$1,000 College Scholarships To Three Outstanding Students With Hearing Loss



HLA-NJ's college scholarship winners have fascinating stories to tell, about coping with serious hearing loss, succeeding in high school and winning admission to top colleges. The three are Christina Rizzetta of Egg Harbor, David Manis of Long Valley and Amy Schwartz of East Windsor. Their courage, and the support they received from family members and their school system inspired me. I think you may feel the same.

■ Christina Rizzetta, 18 Egg Harbor Twp., NJ

Christina Rizzetta overcame many challenges on her way to graduating at the top of her class from high school and earning a place in the freshman class at York College in York, Pa. Not being able to hear teachers and classmates was just the beginning. "The hardest of all was being stigmatized as 'the deaf kid,'" she says.

Determined not to let the naysayers grind her down, she graduated with a grade point average above 92 percent, near the top of a large and competitive class of 633 students. She was elected to the National Honor Society despite a course load studded with Advanced Placement and College Preparatory courses. Perhaps because she had cochlear implant surgery at 15 months, she focused on courses such as anatomy and physiology. At York College in York, Pa., she plans to study nursing, with a specialty in nurse anesthesia. "I let my hearing loss be a teaching lesson in my life," she says. "It is a part of who I am, but not to be mistaken for just who I am."

■ David Manis, 19 Long Valley, NJ

David Manis paints a vivid picture of his life until the age of 8. "Imagine a dark room with no sound. Now

place everyone you know in this room. They are communicating: speaking, laughing and interacting with each other. You, of course, want to join in, but you can't." It was quite a journey from that silent room to Tufts University, where he plans to study public policy focusing on diversity. There were hearing aids he says were ineffective, then sign language that opened a door to learning. At the local library he sometimes checked out a dozen books at a time. At age 14 he had to learn yet another way to communicate, by using a cochlear implant. Finally he could absorb the best his teachers had to offer. "They ignited a fire within me I never knew existed," he says.

He got straight A's and B's for all four years at Mountain Lakes High School, and was elected to the National Honor Society. "I hope never to stop learning and lose my inner passion," he says.

■ Amy Schwartz, 19 East Windsor, NJ

Soon after Amy Schwartz was born, doctors told her parents that she was profoundly deaf and unlikely to hear or to speak intelligibly. Her parents tried first hearing aids, then cochlear implants. Within a few years,

specialists at the Center for Hearing and Communication in New York were introducing her to parents of children newly diagnosed with serious hearing loss, to show what could be done. At Hightstown High School, she carried a heavy load of honors classes and volunteered with her local emergency rescue squad. In 2009, she was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. When she wasn't saving lives or studying, she played on the varsity golf team.

Admitted to the College of New Jersey in Ewing Township, she plans to study critical care nursing and devote her career to helping others. "Some people think of my deafness as being a disability," she says. "I consider it a great life challenge; one that I have faced and conquered."

To learn more about HLA-NJ and our scholarship program, please contact HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff at info@hearingloss-nj.org. We also invite you to visit our 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.

Where are the Deaf people? *continued from page 4*

Imagination Movers, The Wiggles, and a number of others with Jason and Catellina. It wasn't for my benefit but for theirs and I'll be the first to tell you, I enjoyed myself beyond words watching the two of them singing, dancing, and signing as any proud father would. It gave me an opportunity to bond with them just like going to open-captioned movies at the local theatre. It fosters growth and togetherness.

To parents of deaf children and the deaf community wanting new opportunities to get out and experience new things: open your eyes and take advantage of what's there. If you don't see it available, create it knowing that it will not only become a chance for you but for others in the deaf community to attend. With that said, I heard "Life is Good 2012" is supposed to be BIG...

Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington Settles EEOC Disability Discrimination Suit

Hearing-Impaired Assistant Teacher to Receive \$100,000

(from an August 2011 press release www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/release/8-3-11.cfm)

BALTIMORE – One of the largest metropolitan Jewish community centers in the country will pay \$100,000 and provide other relief to settle a disability discrimination lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the agency announced. The EEOC had charged that the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington (JCCGW) in Rockville, Md., violated the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) when it demoted and fired an assistant teacher because of her hearing impairment.

In its suit (AW 8:10-cv-1965), filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Greenbelt Division, the EEOC said that Carole Schulman satisfactorily performed her job duties as a nursery school assistant teacher at JCCGW. The EEOC believes that Schulman was able to fulfill every aspect of her job safely, with no threat to anyone. Schulman was denied an accommodation, demoted to a lower-paying position as a mail room clerk and ultimately removed from the preschool altogether because of her hearing impairment.

The ADA prohibits discrimination based on disability and requires an employer to provide a reasonable accommodation unless it imposes an undue hardship. The consent decree settling the suit provides \$100,000 in back pay, compensatory damages and attorney's fees to Schulman. The EEOC filed suit after first attempting to reach a voluntary settlement.

In addition to the monetary relief, the consent decree resolving the case requires that JCCGW provide mandatory training for all employees and managers on the ADA with special emphasis on reasonable accommodation, the employer's duty to engage in the interactive process and direct threat considerations. JCCGW will also post notices at its facilities affirming its commitment to



complying with the ADA, be enjoined from further discriminating on the basis of disability and be monitored by EEOC for ADA compliance.

“We are pleased that the company agreed to resolve the case by providing substantial monetary relief to Ms. Schulman – and agreeing to other terms that will help protect other employees from disability discrimination,” said EEOC Regional Attorney Debra M. Lawrence.

During fiscal year 2010, disability discrimination charges filed with the EEOC reached a record level of 25,165.

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the agency is available at its web site at www.eeoc.gov. www.eeoc.gov. Further information about the EEOC is available on its web site at www.eeoc.gov.

Improving Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Inmates

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telecommunications, as well as safety alerting devices. We also spoke about the equipment distribution program from which qualified inmates may take advantage when they return to civilian life.

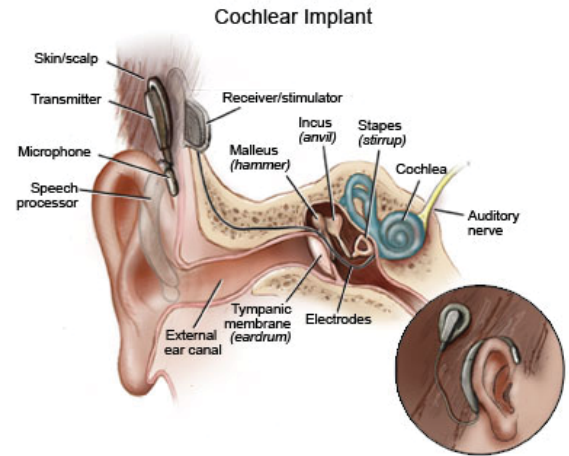
Currently there are approximately 64 inmates classified as having a hearing loss and six of which are signing deaf.

The majority of the population is hard of hearing. A high percentage of our meeting was in relation to communication access during classes, meetings, interviews, etc. Not only were interpreter and captioning services discussed, but so were assistive listening devices such as infrared systems and personal amplifiers. Possible emergency communication options were also talked about.

The departments brought their particular perspectives to the conversation and left with great ideas on how to better serve their population living with hearing loss. We have only just begun this collaboration with the DOC and I am looking forward to continuing the relationship.

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

Cochlear Americas Presents at Support Group



**Submitted by
Pat Engel and Kathie Simcox**

Villa Rosa Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria was the setting for the September 15 meeting of the Cochlear Implant Support Group of Haddonfield/Philadelphia Area. Our pizza social was hosted by Cochlear Americas. It was, as always, an enjoyable time to reconnect with familiar faces from past meetings, meet new ones and share ideas. The timing for this particular meeting, that had been planned many months ago, worked out well given the recent announcement involving the recall of the Nucleus C1500 series cochlear implant.

Sam Silberman, Area Manager for Cochlear Americas, was our presenter. He calmly and graciously accepted our many questions, answered what he could and listened to our concerns at the social and then throughout his presentation at Grace Church. We were also provided with information if we had further questions after the meeting.

Cochlear has set up a dedicated phone line weekdays (Monday - Friday) from 6 a.m.- 6 p.m. MDT at 1-800-216-9178. The latest information regarding the announcement involving the recall of the Nucleus® CI500 series unimplanted cochlear implant. For details and a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), visit: <http://cochlearcares.com/>

Sam, a cochlear implant user himself, also discussed the benefits of

**“Once you are bilateral,
you will never be happy
with just one implant.”**

bilateral implants.

Bilateral implants are especially important for children as they are learning directional hearing and localization. Their language abilities quickly improve and that gives them higher academic possibilities. Adult implant wearers find that there is less fatigue from concentrating on catching spoken language. One can actually participate in a conversation rather than just “catch up” and listening in daily activities is easier. Music is fuller and more balanced. One member in attendance said that she has more confidence now that she has bilateral implants because she does not miss pieces of a conversation. Another member said, “Once you are bilateral, you will never be happy with just one implant.”

The current generation of cochlear implants are water resistant. The company also provides a small remote control device to change the cochlear processor from one setting to another when in different acoustical

situations. The wearer does not have to remove the processor for manual setting changes. The remote control also advises the wearer of battery life and any problems. Sam said, “If you don’t exercise your implant, you won’t get any better.” Cochlear America’s website has listening exercises that anyone can access to improve word and speech recognition to the end of more fully communicating with people.

During the question and answer session, one member said, “We have to teach people what we, as deaf people, need. Our problem is invisible.” Discussion developed around airplanes and how the constant noise on a flight quickly depletes implant battery energy. Also cruise ships may have unclear microphones and make it difficult to discern announcements. One member related that going through customs in South America proved to be a problem. Sam said that, as a global company, Cochlear America can provide written help in various languages to present at airports.

We enjoyed and appreciated Sam’s presentation. The meeting was interpreted in sign language and CART which were made possible by the generosity of NJ DDHH. We are grateful to them and also to Grace Church Haddonfield for donating the use of the Parish Hall.



Going to the Hospital? Bring a Hospital Kit With You

by Carol Granaldi

If you have any form of hearing loss and need to be sure that appropriate communication is available for you during your stay, here a few pointers:

1. In advance of surgery or procedure, contact the hospital's patient representative or patient advocate who should know what you need and want. He/she must follow your instructions for appropriate communication such as:
 - a. use of a sign language interpreter if you use sign language
 - b. use of appropriate assistive hearing devices if you use them
 - c. safeguard your hearing aids and cochlear implant processors and return them as soon as possible after surgery or your procedure.
 - d. Instruct the medical staff about your needs, by identifying yourself as either a Deaf person or hard of hearing patient. It is helpful to wear a medical alert bracelet with information that you are a D/deaf or hard of hearing person needing an interpreter, have a CI, or use hearing aids, in case of an emergency such as an accident or sudden illness.
2. Bring a Hospital Kit with you when you confer with the patient representative/advocate. Hospital Kits are now available through the HLAA Ocean-Monmouth Chapter. These are helpful to both the patient and staff.

The kits consist of:

- Dry erase board and pen for written communication
- Signage for above your bed – “Deaf” on one side, “Hard of Hearing” on the other side.
- Brochure: “KNOW YOUR HOSPITAL RIGHTS.”
- Printed form indicating the value of your hearing aid or processors, and that the hospital is responsible for its safekeeping.
- Printed request for an appropriate container for your hearing equipment with ID label.
- Picture chart so you can point to the image of your request such as “water, bedpan,” etc.
- “FACE ME” button to affix to your garment so medical staff will provide eye contact.

These **Hospital Kits** cost \$7 each, includes shipping cost and are available by emailing the Ocean-Monmouth HLAA chapter at: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com or use form below.

Please return this form and make a check payable to: **Ocean-Monmouth HLA.**
Mail to: **OC-Mon HLA Hospital Kits 714 Cedar St Lakehurst NJ 08733**

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/Zip Code: _____

North Jersey Community Center
of the Deaf, Inc.

Happy Thanksgiving Social



Sunday, November 20, 2011
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Elmwood Park V.F.W. Post 5084
6 Veterans Place
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

*Hosted by NJCCD Board and
the committees.*

Exciting home and personal goods including GPS, iPad 2, Digital Camera, Two TVs, Dark Horses, 50 **Shop Rite** gift cards given away, refreshments for sale, 50/50 Chances, NJCCD Affair Banknote and more.

Donations in advance:

Members - \$13
Non-members - \$ 16
Student with ID provided - \$ 12

At door:

Members - \$ 16
Non-members - \$ 20
Student with ID provided - \$ 13.

Advance tickets can be purchased through www.njccdsite.org and print the ticket coupon with your payment to NJCCD, Inc. and mail it to Ronald Rozynski, 76 Hoffman Avenue, Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034 by the deadline November 16, 2011

For more information, e-mail Mike Drury at:
mikedrury46@gmail.com

AUDITIONS

Circle Players, Piscataway, NJ
Announces Auditions for



Sunday, November 20, 2011
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Circle Players is pleased to announce casting for the roles of James and Sarah for their April, 2012 production of Children of a Lesser God by Mark Medoff. Scenes from the play will be provided. Although this is not a professional production, we are committed to the author's directive that Sarah should be played a signing actress who is Deaf. Sign skills are preferred for those auditioning for James. Prior acting experience is not required. Other roles will be auditioned at a later date. The rehearsal schedule will be discussed at auditions.

Circle Players (www.circleplayers.com) is located at 416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway, NJ. Questions should be directed to: circleplayersnj@gmail.com. This is an unpaid, non-Equity opportunity.



Cape May Awareness Day

Cape May County will celebrate Community Disabilities Awareness Day on November 12th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Center in Avalon (3001 Avalon Avenue, Avalon NJ). This event is designed as a day of information, food, music and fun not only for people with disabilities but for all who are interested in the agencies and organizations that serve the citizens of Cape May County.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. The event site is fully handicapped accessible. A sign language interpreter will be onsite. Fare Free Transportation can be arranged for county residents. A Kids Corner is planned, with activities to entertain the children so their parents can speak with and collect disability-related information from the 50+ exhibitors expected. The Cape May County String Band will entertain.

Cape Regional Medical Center's Parish Nurse Program will be offering free blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar screenings and other health information at the event, and there will be an opportunity to sign up on the Special Needs Registry for Emergency Evacuation help.

Exhibitors will include representatives from local and state service agencies, civic organizations, support groups, and commercial vendors specializing in products and services of particular interest to people with disabilities, their families and caregivers. The theme of the event summarizes its purpose: Opening doors and dialogue . . . so that all are welcome in the Cape May County community.

This community event has been planned by representatives from the CMC Office of Disability Services, the CMC Department on Aging, the CMC Human Services Advisory Council, the ARC of Cape May and several community disabilities advocates. For more information, contact Paulann Pierson at the Cape May County Office of Disability Services: 609-465-4117 Ext. 28.



NJSD/MKSD
Class of 1979



We may plan to have a class reunion again. Do you want to attend? Please e-mail me your name, address and email. My email address is bearyhugs5@comcast.net. The 1978 and 1980 and non-graduates of 1979 are more than welcome to attend. Let me know.

Thanks!
Theresa Mochi

Job Available

Hackettstown Public Schools
2011 - 2012
SCHOOL YEAR

HATCHERY HILL

Full Time
Sign Language Interpreter

The following certification is required-
**Educational Interpreter:
Sign Language Interpreting**

Please send original signed letter of interest, resume, copies of original certificate, and three letters of reference to:

Ms. Barbara Onnen
Administrative Assistant to the
Assistant Superintendent
Hackettstown BOE District Office

Hearing Loss Association of Ocean Monmouth Counties

The next chapter meeting will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 1:30 P.M. in the Center for Healthy Living, 198 Prospect St., Lakewood, NJ. Meetings are open to everyone and are a rewarding way to spend a few hours socializing with other hard of hearing individuals who share your problems and concerns. We will be nominating a new slate of officers for the year 2012. As always, light refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share. For additional information e-mail: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com December 4 is the following scheduled meeting date.

A Successful Great Adventure Tickets Fundraising Event

by Lauren Lercher, Great Adventure Ticket Coordinator

In 2011, thirteen organizations participated in selling tickets. Despite the economy, we have sold more than 2500 tickets. Of these, 190 tickets were sold online through our promocode. This is the second year we used this feature. Last year, 110 tickets were sold online. Hurricane Harbor was popular this year. We sold almost 400, twice as many as last year.

On June 11, more than 550 tickets were sold at the gate at the 27th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Great Adventure. The ten organizations/clubs who participated at the window sales made a few hundred dollars additional income.

Thank you to all the volunteers who put their time and effort to help us with this endeavor. After 10 years as Great Adventure Ticket Coordinator, I personally want to thank the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NJAD and NJDAW for their continued support in working with me. I also want to thank all of you very much for showing your support of this special event by purchasing Great Adventure tickets through our participating organizations.

The proceeds of these sales all help the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.



ESDAA Volleyball Tournament

Eastern States Deaf Athletic Association Division 2

Hosted at the Katzenbach School for the Deaf
New Jersey School for the Deaf
Friday November 4 and Saturday November 5

*Friday November 4

2:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Round robin games

*Saturday November 5

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Round robin games continue

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Bracketed tournament play

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Seed play

2:00 p.m.

Consolation game

3:00 p.m.

Championship game

Admission

Adults - \$5 Student with ID - \$3 Children 6 and younger - Free

Participating Teams - New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, St. Mary's (Buffalo), Rochester, West Virginia, Delaware

*These are approximate times for each of the phases of the tournament.
For information please e-mail martha_fowler@mkdsd.state.nj.us.



15th Annual NJSD/MKSD Tip Off Basketball Tournament

Friday December 9 and Saturday December 10

Katzenbach School
New Jersey School for the Deaf
320 Sullivan Way
Trenton, NJ 08625

Friday, December 9

3:30 p.m.	Girls' Varsity	New York SD vs Lexington SD
5:00 p.m.	Boys Varsity	New York SD vs Lexington SD
6:30 p.m.	Girls' Varsity	New Jersey SD vs. Rhode Island SD
8:00 p.m.	Boys Varsity	New Jersey SD vs. Rhode Island SD

Saturday, December 10

8:30 a.m.	Girls Varsity	Consolation Game
10:00 a.m.	Boys Varsity	Consolation Game
11:30 a.m.	Girls Varsity	Championship Game
1:00 p.m.	Boys Varsity	Championship Game
2:15 p.m.	Trophy Presentation	

Admission:

Children under 6 free Students with ID \$3 per day Adults \$5 per day

Atlantic and Cape May County Hard of Hearing Support Group

will meet at the
Ocean City Library
1735 Simpson Ave.
Ocean City, NJ 08226
on
November 16, 2011
from
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CART Services will be provided.

For additional information
please contact
sjhardofhearing@gmail.com

DBL to Meet

Deaf Blind League of New Jersey

will have an open meeting on
November 19, 2011 at the
Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation
Center 130 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ.

The meeting will be held from
10 a.m. to noon.
Everyone is welcome!

Info: mmfried@comcast.net

MAD Dash 5K

**Making a Difference (M.A.D.)
- One Step at a Time
5K Run/Walk
Sunday, November 13, 2011
10 AM**

Johnson Park, Piscataway, N.J.

*Commemorative T-Shirt
Finish Line Reception, Refreshments, Raffles*

**\$25 if you register by Nov. 12; \$30 on race day
Rain or Shine-No Refunds.**

**The MAD Dash 5K benefits the
NJ School for the Deaf, Johnson Park, Piscataway, N.J.**

The Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund is a non-profit organization. Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund, C/O Rosemary Ardolina, P.O. Box 282, Ephraim, UT 84627. Please make donation check payable to OOPHF: www.oliveosmond.com

Together, we can bring music to the ears of many hearing impaired children, around the world. The MAD Dash 5K is a USATF certified course and sanctioned race on scenic Tpark roads. For more info: www.hearingmaders.org or call Rosemary Ardolina at 732-821-0201 and Jill Deluca at 732-447-4747.

Communicator Signboard

The Association of Late-Deafened Adults - Garden State

Annual Fall Workshop

Saturday, November 12, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

2 Jean Walling Civic Center

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Want the latest information on what's new with CapTel?

Have questions about Wireless CapTel?

Join us for a presentation by *Sprint*,

followed by lunch and socializing.

❖ Free Admission ❖ Public Invited ❖ Lunch Included

visit us at www.ALDA-GS.org

CART and Sign Language Interpreting services provided
courtesy of NJDDHH. ALD's available.

NWJAD, Inc.

18th Annual ASL Storytelling Contest and Meeting and Election

Saturday, November 12, 2011

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

215 Boulevard

Mountain Lakes, NJ

Door opens at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting/Election start at 7:00 p.m. sharp
ASL storytelling contest start at 7:45 p.m.

Come and share your favorite Deaf Culture "What if...?"
story/joke individually or form a group (up to four people).
Five Minute Limit. Chairperson – Victoria Murphy

1st Prize: \$150 2nd Prize: \$100 3rd Prize: \$75

4th Prize: \$ 50 5th Prize: \$ 25

Admission: PAY AT DOOR ONLY! \$8 per person

Sign up on Same Day as Contest!

No Advance Registration Necessary!

Deaf, HH & CODA only may enter the contest

Refreshments Will Be Sold (Alcohol Is Not Served)

For directions or more info: www.nwjad.org or

E-mail: nwjad2011@nwjad.org

Open Captioned Performances



Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England

By Madeleine George

Saturday November 12, 2011 at 3 p.m.

An "academic romantic comedy" about life in a small university town. Dean Wreen's college is in dire financial straits, and a plan to close its on-campus natural history museum is sending unexpected shock waves in every direction – just as the Dean's ex-girlfriend has come back into her life.



No Child...

Written and performed by Nilaja Sun

Saturday November 19, 2011 at 3 p.m.

A tour-de-force solo performance based on Nilaja Sun's experiences as a teaching artist in New York public schools. With tenderness, insight, and rapid-fire humor, Sun transforms herself into an entire classroom of students, as well as their teachers and family members, the principal, a janitor, and a security guard.



Two River Theater
21 Bridge Avenue
Red Bank, NJ 07701

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

Info: Michele Klinsky at mklinsky@trtc.org or

(732) 345-1400, x1808 (v)

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf celebrates their 45th Anniversary

VFW 601 N. Dorset Avenue Ventnor, NJ
Saturday, November 19, 2011

Spaghetti Dinner will be served free to all members.

Non-members: \$5.

We will have general meeting and election of
new officers for 2012-2014 term.

Dingo Game Bank Night 50/50 chances

Member - \$8 Non-member - \$10

Come and celebrate our 45th Anniversary with us

Membership dues start now - \$5 per person for one year - Anyone is
welcome to join! Send your check/money order payable to ACSD and
mail it to P.O. Box 3088, Margate, NJ 08402.

We thank you very much for your support!

Communicator Signboard



GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON *High School*

175 Watchung Blvd • Berkeley Heights • NJ • 07922



Governor Livingston High School
presents a

Video Game Tournament November 18, 2011

Registration Begins: 5:00 p.m.
Tournament Hours: 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Gamestop® gift certificates awarded to
1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winners



Games:

- Super Smash Brothers
- Super Smash Brothers Melee
- Mario Kart 64 and
- Mario Kart Double Dash



Participants can choose: One Smash Brothers tournament and/or
one Mario Kart tournament

Admission: \$10 One Tournament;
\$20 Two Tournaments

For more information or early registration, please contact:

ggioussios@bhpsnj.org
NJDeafProgram.com



Governor Livingston's
D/HH Enrichment Organization

A Santa Social

Saturday, December 10, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Santa, who is fluent in ASL, arrives at 10:30 a.m.
Affordable items available to help children purchase
the perfect holiday gifts for their friends and family.

- 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



N W J A D - Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Join us for a

Spectacular New Year's Eve "Party"

Saturday, December 31, 2011

8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Marriott Saddle Brook Hotel

138 New Pehle Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

(near I-80 & GS Parkway)

Casual Dress – NO Jeans or Sneakers



Dancing with Deaf DJ Lee
Hot and Cold Hors D'oeuvres
Free Soft Drinks, Juices and
Bottled Water

Beer, Wine and Cocktails
Comedy Show:
Alan Marcus, Entertainer
Games and Door Prizes

ADMISSION COST: Nov. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011 - \$80 per person Dec. 1 to Dec. 17, 2011 - \$85 per person

For Marriot Hotel Room Reservation: – Go online to make your reservation: www.marriott.com/ewrsb Type the arrival date 12/31/11 and number of rooms and people. Click the box for "Special Rates and Awards" and in the Group Code box type: **NADNADA** and click **FIND**. You will see the rate for "NW JERSEY ASSN DEAF" Click that rate and follow directions to complete your reservation!



Make check/money order payable to: NWJAD, Inc. and mail to: Tom Montemorano, Treasurer 52 Heritage Ct., Towaco, NJ 07082
Please Print Clearly

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: (will send a confirmation) _____

Sorry, NO Refunds

Questions or Concerns? Please email us at: cochairs2011@nwjad.org *Let's Spread the News and Bring Your Friends!*

Religious Access

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH



We welcome our family and friends who are deaf or hard of hearing to celebrate the noon Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, 18 So. Street, Spotswood, NJ.

We are a Catholic Church offering "interpreted mass" services. IMC is an active, strong community minded parish in Central Jersey (Middlesex County) that offers classes and courses to teach creative skills through ICU. Please join us for faith and fellowship on Sunday at noon.

Our Pastor, Father Joe Curry is fluent in sign and supported by various international clergy here. We would like this branch of our parish community to grow and to find ways in which our hard of hearing friends may better socialize. Visit www.chicspotswood.com.



Deaf Souls Christmas Banquet

Saturday, December 17, 2011

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Evangel Church

1251 Terrill Rd, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Cost: \$10 per person

(includes hot buffet lunch)

Come out and you'll enjoy a great time fellowship together, games and meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends!

Special Speaker: Dr. JoAnn Smith

Director of NEW Deaf Program at

Valley Forge Christian College, Phoenixville, PA.

You won't want to miss the exciting things she has to share.

Send your payment/check made payable with form to: Evangel Church, 1251 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 – Attn: Pastor Nancy Tonnessen

Deadline to register: Thursday, December 8

For more information, contact: Pastor Nancy Tonnessen at pastornancy@evangelchurch.com, VP 908-312-4343 or Voice 908-322-9300 ext 11



Christmas Dinner

Grace Bible Chapel of the Deaf

December 3, 2011

Grace Bible Church

100 Oakdale Road, Chester, NJ 07930

12 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Guest Speaker : Rev. P. Henry Goldberg
San Antonio, Texas (Deaf Jewish)

Cost : Adult \$15 with Registration and Dinner
Children 6-12 years old: \$5
Children under 5: Free

RSVP by: November 25, 2011

Payment will not be accepted at the door

Make a check payable to: **Grace Bible Chapel** and mail to: Roy Siskind, 288 Janine Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

For more information, contact: Roy Siskind - Rojogolfer@hotmail.com or Michael Sarsfield, Ms1262@aol.com

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

Proudly presents

Christmas & Hanukkah Holiday Dinner Party

Saturday, December 17, 2011

Noon - 5 p.m.

Buttonwood Manor

845 Route 34, Matawan, NJ 07747



Sit down, reservation: \$50 per person.
Your ticket(s) will be picked up at the door:
same price for all. No last-minute admission at door.

Door prizes, cash bar, Christmas gifts given away.

Chairman Wayne Borngesser

Co-Chairman Kevin Fennessy and Committees

www.njccdsite.org



Name _____

London Broil Breast of Chicken Francaise Tilapia

Please make check or money order payable to NJCCD and mail to:
Wayne Borngesser, P.O. Box 10162, New Brunswick, NJ 08906

No refunds. **Deadline December 5, 2011.**

Info: Wayne (732) 662-2237 VP.



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

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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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

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

Public is Invited

Communication Access Provided

**Have a
Happy Thanksgiving
from the staff
at
DDHH**



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

DDHH Office – Days Closed:

■ Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Election Day ■ Friday, Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day ■ Thursday Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving