

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

FEBRUARY 2012

Vol. 33 No. 2

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Dr. Oz Meets with Deaf Seniors



Top: Dr. Oz with deaf senior Alfred Noll.

Left: In the first five rows of the audience, deaf seniors attend the Dr. Oz event.

Seniors who meet Thursdays at the Northwest Bergen Senior Center attended an “invitation only” event with television celebrity Dr. Oz on Monday, November 28. Commissioner Mary O’Dowd from NJ’s Department of Health and Seniors Services spoke first. Sign Language Interpreters Jamie Steinberg and Lauren Kafka signed

for this “Dr. Oz” event. Their presence highlighted the importance of signing to the deaf as the senior center hosted the event. Dr. Oz spoke about the importance to seniors of good nutrition, making exercise part of your life, and learning to manage stress and relax as part of a healthy life.

Advantages of Hearing Loops in Face-to-Face Situations

by Mark Zuckerman
Emcom Systems

In the last Monthly Communicator, I described using hearing loops to send audio signals to the hearing-impaired through the T-Coil in their listening equipment (hearing aids or cochlear implants). There are three approaches to incorporating hearing loops in public spaces:

- As built-ins, which are designed uniquely for each space by specialist consultants and become part of the building’s structure. These are most common in large passive hearing environments, like auditoriums, theaters, concert halls, and houses of worship.
- As fixtures, which are attached to the ceiling and create individual

hearing loop environments directly underneath each unit. A hearing loop fixture is installed much like a lighting fixture and can be removed and reinstalled elsewhere as the needs of the space change. These are used primarily in museum exhibits and at public agency service desks.

- As appliances, which are mats or carpets placed on the floor that create individual hearing loop environments for people standing on or sitting above the floor piece. These require no installation and are designed principally for consultation environments.

As Emcom Systems has learned from more than a decade’s experience designing and building critical communications systems,

the best solution for deploying any communications technology puts human factors considerations at the forefront. This means tailoring a system design that

Continued on page 4

i n s i d e

- 2 Director’s Corner**
- 3 Noise: Convertibles Cause Hearing Damage**
- 6 HLA-NJ News: Ask Arlene**
- 9 Deaf Senior Housing Opens in Arizona**



Director's Corner

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

One of the important services provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) is that of an "Information and Referral Center." Our staff provides information to connect people who are deaf and hard of hearing with service providers and resources in their communities. Additionally, many of the families that contact DDHH are seeking information about housing, healthcare, addiction, mental health and food assistance.

In the last several months, the Department of Human services has developed some important resource materials to enhance the awareness of the many entitlement and service programs offered. These resources can be viewed at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/publications/. There are informational flyers that describe many of the services that our department and other agencies across state government benefit working families. One such flyer "**Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund**" is included in this issue on page eight. I encourage readers of the "**Monthly Communicator**" to forward and share the above link and/or flyers with people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

Thank You.

Correction:

The January MC page 14 printed the wrong address for the Eastern Regional Black Deaf Advocates Conference on July 13-15, 2012. It should be Holiday Inn, 4701 Stelton Rd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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 **March 2012** issue is **February 1**. The deadline for the **April 2012** issue is **March 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 an 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

www.state.nj.us/human_services/ddhh

The Monthly Communicator is published by the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a state agency. DDHH provides information, referral, and advocacy to service recipients. Information or articles provided by others does not imply endorsement by DDHH or the State of New Jersey. There are currently 8,800 copies of the MC distributed monthly.



Noise: Convertibles Cause Hearing Damage

By Traci Burton, *Field Representative*

The cold may make us think of warmer times and the activities one enjoys in the sun. For some that is taking long drives in a convertible. Did you know that riding in a convertible could cause hearing loss? As we plan for our warm weather activities, let's keep in mind what www.healthyhearing.com published in their Monday February 7, 2011 news emission.



We all know that loud noises can harm our ears and even cause irreversible hearing loss. This is especially true when we are exposed to loud noises over an extended period of time.

So, it should be no surprise that new research conducted by the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and The Ear Institute of Texas has confirmed as much – that prolonged exposure to road noise and wind buffeting while riding in top-down convertibles can cause hearing damage.

The study, published in the *Journal of Laryngology & Otology*, found that opening the top of a convertible boosted the noise level by up to 14.6 decibels (dB), and into the range harmful to hearing. Testing concluded that driving at 55 mph or higher with the top down resulted in noise above 85 dB, which the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has determined to be the level at which hearing loss may occur with prolonged exposure.

Several factors play a part in these results, but none may be more important than the type of convertible you choose to take for a spin. Of the vehicles tested, the Saturn Sky produced the most top-down noise: 91 dB at 55 mph. That's more than 20 dB louder than the Saab Aero, the quietest in the test group.

This difference in noise levels is significant, because our perception of noise is an interesting thing. Something that is 20 dB louder than something else sounds about four times louder. And, that's pretty loud. It is also pretty tricky. Add to that the fact that sometimes our ears are not able to tell us when something is too loud. For example, riding in a Saturn Sky at 55 mph can be compared to standing 200 feet away from a passing subway train - a train that keeps passing and passing for the duration of your time in the car.



But, it's hard to hear how loud it is when you're also being buffeted by wind, not to mention the distraction of having a great time while riding in a convertible. Plus, if you already have hearing loss, you may have even more trouble perceiving just how loud - and damaging - the noise is.

Fortunately, there is help for you if you've spent many a mile on the open road with the top down. If you think you may have hearing loss due to noise exposure, be it from cruising

Route 66, from your work environment, or from any other source, you should visit your local hearing center for a professional evaluation.

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

Switched at Birth Begins Second Year

Switched at Birth is an American television drama series that centers around two girls – Bay Kennish and Daphne Vasquez – who learn that they were switched at birth. The Kennish family struggle with the fact that their biological daughter is

deaf from having meningitis as a child. Bay Kennish attempts to find out how her life would have been if she hadn't been switched at birth.

The show began its second year on Tuesday, January 3 2012 at 8 p.m. on ABC.



Hearing Loops in Face-to-Face Situations...continued

meets two objectives: addressing the listening experience in the environment at hand and realizing the desired outcome from each contact scenario. It is important to recognize that the most successful listening experience may result from a combination of complementary auditory and visual aids – for instance, listening equipment combined with speechreading (previously called “lip reading”) or text displays. The best design is based on an analysis of each contact scenario to determine the effect of each aid.



For example, our hearing loop fixture product, Hearing Point, is an outgrowth of a project for New York City Transit. The goal was to make our passenger assistance telephones more supportive of the hearing-impaired. These phones are housed in identifiable kiosks on subway platforms, an environment replete with background noise and without any supportive visual language cues. Each kiosk contains a call button and a microphone/loudspeaker combination positioned at the average adult head level. The desired outcome is allowing subway passengers to ask questions or report emergencies and to hear and understand responses, which could include critical instructions. Because there's no visual component, this has to be accomplished entirely through auditory means.

The most effective way to serve hearing-impaired passengers was by using a hearing loop. With a hearing loop, the response signal is transmitted directly to the T-Coil in listening equipment many of these passengers are wearing already. This effectively puts a clear response signal, without any background noise, right into their ear – true hearing. The design arrived at involves sending the response signal both to the loudspeaker and to a hearing loop fixture, mounted within the kiosk, which maintains a hearing loop field roughly the size of one person – the passenger using the phone. In addition to auditory clarity, the Hearing Point design has these advantages: the fixtures are easy to manufacture in quantity, are readily adaptable to different locations, and don't interfere with other hearing loops that might exist in the vicinity,

like other passenger assistance telephones or token booths.

Many face-to-face consultation scenarios – especially those with expert professionals, like doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, and financial advisors – present their own set of subtle challenges. In these contact scenarios, the professional needs to communicate a wealth of complex, detailed technical information efficiently to one or more clients. Facilitating this is a challenge in itself, but is insufficient to realize the desired outcome. To achieve success, hearing-impaired clients have a role to play. The solution m u s t



provide a supportive environment that encourages them to participate in the first place and helps them make the best use of their listening equipment.

On the surface, it would seem that since all participants in face-to-face consultations are visible to each other, speechreading could serve as an effective complement to their listening equipment. This is not so clear-cut. Linda Kessler, from the Shelley and Steven Einhorn Communication Center for Hearing and Communication in New York City, gave an excellent presentation on speechreading at the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey annual meeting last November at the East Brunswick Public Library. In it, she identified a number of language elements that make speechreading difficult. These include long or uncommon words, proper nouns, and numbers – all of which are likely

to occur in abundance in face-to-face professional consultations. Also, in these scenarios, the topic is likely to be unfamiliar, the import of the discussion is liable to increase anxiety, and the conversation might be in the client's second language. All of these factors tend to reduce the effectiveness of speechreading. Since we cannot rely on an effective contribution from speechreading, the best solution is to provide the

clearest possible auditory experience and inspire clients to take full advantage.

Our answer is the True Hearing appliance, an unattached, self-contained unit that needs no installation. A hearing loop field is generated from a mat or carpet on the floor. This field can be made small enough for one client or large enough to encompass entire rooms of modest size. The basic True Hearing appliance includes a microphone integrated with a special amplifier and requires only a nearby AC outlet and a path to run a cable from the floor piece to the amplifier. More sophisticated versions employ wireless microphones and use battery power. What the professional says into the microphone is transmitted directly to the ears of clients standing on or sitting above the floor piece, through the T-Coil in their listening equipment.

True Hearing appliances can be placed in almost every consultation environment. They can be fixed to the floor or laid down without attachment. Portable units can be carried from place to place. All units set up in a few minutes. To promote their use to clients, most units have integrated literature holders and come with a supply of hearing loop orientation cards and informational brochures. In addition, our testing has shown that clients find the presence of the mat reassuring in itself: tangible evidence of the hearing loop's existence, a concrete sign of reaching out by the professional.

Mark Zuckerman can be reached by e-mail at MarkZuckerman@emcomsys.com. More information about the True Hearing appliance is at www.TrueHearing.com.

Winter Blues... What to do?

by Jason Weiland, DDHH Field Representative

New Jersey has a number of exciting venues ready for people to visit as does nearby New York City and Philadelphia. So shake the winter blues and head out to one of the 60 movie screens in NJ that feature Rear Window Captioning (RWC) or Open Captioning (OC). With locations scattered all over the state, be sure to check out www.captionfish.com for a theatre location close to your home. Loew's, AMC, Clearview Cinemas, National Amusements, and Regal Cinemas all provide captioning. The Cinemark 16 Somerdale located in Somerdale now provides captioning as a result of a federal lawsuit. The Somerdale location has all 16 of its screens available with captions. Be sure to check out the Captionfish Web site for more information on NJ sites in addition to locations all over the United States.

Support one of many theatres that provide ASL-interpreted performances. Many of these performing arts venues also provide assistive listening devices (ALDS) and open captioning (OC). Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, McCarter Theatre in Princeton, George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, and Two River Theatre Company in Red Bank are just examples of the wonderful theatres in NJ. For more information on performance dates, check out www.culturalaccessnetwork.org. Some of these locations offer reduced price tickets to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or individuals with a disability.

Do you love music? Consider checking out music venues such as the Izod Center in Secaucus, Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton, and the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank. Many venues offer reasonable accommodations including sign language interpreters with advance notice by contacting their disability or accessibility office. For example, one can request sign language interpreters from the Prudential Center in Newark (www.prucenter.com) for a concert by contacting Guest Services at (973) 757-6500 with at least two weeks notice.

Feel like heading out of the Garden State for an all day trip? Check out the Museum of Modern Art in New York City (**MoMA** - www.moma.org/visit/plan/accessibility) which provides assistive listening devices, ASL interpreters, and open captioning services with advance notice. In addition, the MoMa posts monthly ASL-interpreted tours. The Intrepid Museum in NYC (www.intrepidmuseum.org/access.aspx) also offers ASL-Led/Voice Interpreted tours which are free to the Deaf and hard of hearing and their guests. One can arrange for private tours by contacting the information on the Web site. Want to experience theatre on Broadway? The Theatre Development Fund (**TDF** - www.tdf.org/TDF_SupportPage.aspx?id=92) provides accessibility to theatre and dance productions on Broadway in NYC. Another site to check out for theatre



is the non-profit organization Hands On (www.handson.org) which provides accessibility to off and on Broadway productions to the Deaf and hard of hearing community. Thinking about driving to Philadelphia? The Philadelphia Museum of Art (www.philamuseum.org/visit/56-305-89.html) offers accessible tours as does The Franklin Institute (www2.fi.edu/visitor-guide/ada.php).

If you are looking for social events in the Philadelphia, New Jersey, and NYC areas, be sure to check out the following which post community information: Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (**PSD** - www.psd.org/page.cfm?p=509), Deaf Times (www.deaftimes.com), and Deaf NYC (www.deafnyc.com). As always, the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's Monthly Communicator continues to be at forefront of providing information about events, workshops, and other items of interest. Be sure to check us out at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/communicator/current/.

For more information about resources available in New Jersey, you can contact me directly at Jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us or (609) 498-7006.

Deaf-Hearing Connection Hosts ASL Chat

Submitted by SallyAnn Marchi
Vice President, DHC



The Deaf-Hearing Connection at The College of New Jersey (in Ewing, New Jersey) is hosting its first-ever "ASL Chat" on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We will create a casual atmosphere designed to support social interaction and communication. Refreshments will be served. This event is FREE and open to both proficient signers and those just learning ASL! To reserve a spot and obtain detailed info, please RSVP via email: deafhc@tcnj.edu by February 15, 2012.

Ask Arlene:

An interview with author and advocate, Arlene Romoff



Arlene Romoff, HLA-NJ president for the past five years, author of two books on hearing loss, and ardent advocate for people with hearing loss, has extensive knowledge on hearing loss and related issues. She gets so many inquiries; she admits she could probably fill an on-going "Ask Arlene" column. I had the privilege to interview her with my own questions.

How did you get started in this "Ask Arlene" role?

I was involved with advocacy in both New York and New Jersey for many years, so I became known for my expertise on hearing aids, cochlear implants, and assistive listening devices (ALDs). People also got to know me from my first book, *Hear Again: Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant* and through my involvement with the DDHH Advisory Council, HLA-NJ, and the Center for Hearing and Communication. Speaking engagements and book signings for my second book, *Listening Closely: A Journey to Bilateral Hearing*, gave me an even wider audience.

Has it evolved with the Internet and social media as well?

Yes - definitely! With the HLA-NJ website (www.hearingloss-nj.org), my own website (www.arleneromoff.com) and blog - and now through Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, I get communications from all over the world. I'm easy to find (aromoff@aol.com) and get inquiries just about every day.



What are the most frequent questions you get?

Locally, inquiries about hearing aids, about elderly parents who can't hear the phone or doorbell, and questions about cochlear implants, their benefit and how to get them. Also, I refer people to the DDHH when they are

the appropriate agency to handle an issue.

Was there one inquiry that stands out as being especially sad or disturbing?

Yes - from a woman who wanted to know how to optimize communication with her dying mother who was deafened from the drugs used to treat her. I discussed possible solutions with her, and three weeks later, she contacted me that her mother had just passed away, and my help had made all the difference.



What are the hardest problems facing people with hearing loss?

Hearing loss is the most misunderstood of disabilities, is often considered "no big deal" until it is experienced firsthand, and impacts virtually every aspect of daily living. The result is a lack of insurance coverage for hearing aids. Also, people are not aware of the assistive devices that can enable them to remain active socially and in the workplace. And there's a behavioral trait not to call attention to their hearing loss or communication needs, even if it means not understanding what's going on.

Do you think it's hard to get information about hearing loss?

Most people tend to think that hearing aids are all that can be done for hearing loss, even though hearing



aids are just the start. Doctors and audiologists don't usually focus on practical life aspects of functioning with a hearing loss. Also, the general public still doesn't know much about cochlear implants, which are medical miracles for people with severe to profound hearing loss. I wrote my books to educate about these devices.

How can a person with hearing loss learn the best ways to cope with a hearing loss?

Join the Hearing Loss Assn. of America at www.hearingloss.org to become a member of the NJ affiliate, HLA-NJ. Attend chapter meetings and events, if possible. Ask to be put on the HLA-NJ email contact list at info@hearingloss-nj.org for the latest information. And, of course, if you have any other questions, don't hesitate to "Ask Arlene"!

Thanks for your help with this, and for all your hard work to keep people informed. We also invite readers to visit our Web site at www.hearingloss-nj.org, or to attend one of our local chapter meetings in Bergen, Monmouth/Ocean or Middlesex County, and our newest Morris County chapter. Dates, places and times for chapter meetings are available from info@hearingloss-nj.org.

NW Bergen Senior Center Hosts Holiday Party



From left to right, Co-chairperson Louise Sahatjian, Volunteer Brian Keys, Chairperson Charlotte Cole, Volunteers Jeff Ferrance and Frances Hearne.

The NW Bergen Senior Center in Midland Park had a great holiday party on Thursday December 15. More than one hundred seniors attended the event. At this beautiful and well organized event, seniors enjoyed excellent food and celebrated together with many gifts and prizes. Charlotte Cole was the chairperson and she was ably assisted by Co-chairperson Louise Sahatjian. Volunteers assisted in serving dinner and deserts.

Hearing Loss Association of Ocean/Monmouth Counties



The next chapter meeting will be held on
Sunday, February 5, 2012
at 1:00 p.m.
in the
Center for Healthy Living
198 Prospect St.
Lakewood, NJ.

Start the New Year meeting people who can help you and/or your family in a rewarding way. Meetings are open to everyone and are a rewarding way to spend a few hours socializing with other hard-of-hearing individuals who share your problems and concerns. As always, light refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share.

For additional information e-mail:
oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com

Governor Livingston's HS Holiday Boutique: A Good Time for All

by Debora Thedinga



Holiday shopping and crafts, along with a visit from Signing Santa, made the Children's Holiday Boutique at Governor Livingston High School the place to be this holiday season. The boutique offered a wide selection of affordable gifts, which made it easy for children to shop for their family, friends and even the family pet. Shopping was only part of the fun the day had to offer. There was a craft area where children could color and decorate holiday cards, pictures, gift tags and bags. Children were also able to watch the movie "Happy Feet" while enjoying cookies with hot chocolate or juice.

There were plenty of Santa's helpers on hand too, to make sure a good time was had by all. The day wasn't only for the young, but also for the young at heart. Adults, whether they came alone or with their children, were able to catch up with old friends in an atmosphere that was sure to put everyone in the holiday spirit. The Children's Holiday Boutique was sponsored by GL's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Enrichment Organization. Governor Livingston High School's D/HH Program has been in existence for over 30 years and is New Jersey's oldest mainstream program for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

For more information, visit www.NJDeafProgram.com.



There is a cure for Catastrophic Medical Bills

Sometimes your child's medical expenses cost more than you can afford—even if you have health insurance. That's why there's the **Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund**.

Through the Fund, all New Jersey families may be eligible to receive financial support to help pay for uncovered medical bills, prescriptions, and other health expenses. For more information and an application, call or visit our website.

1-800-335-FUND

www.njcatastrophicfund.org



Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund
When medical problems become financial problems.



Produced by DHS Office of Publications 09/11

Deaf Senior Housing Opens in Arizona

New Jersey hopes to follow prototype



Left: Lauren Kafka, Interpreter, Vincent Pizzo, Guest, Rose Pizzo, Liaison for Bergen County Deaf Senior, Lila Taylor, Chairperson, Joey DeLusant, Graphic Designer, Susan Mooney, Guest, Jason Weiland, NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Government Liaison, Jane Cyran, Ph.D., Secretary, Lori Adams, Interpreter and Lucinda Brooks, Co-Chair. Excused with absence, Charlotte Karras, Financial Coordinator, Asha Wilkens, Public Relations Representative, Charlotte Cole, Liaison for Bergen County Deaf Senior, Deacon Thomas Smith, Pastoral Social worker, Debra Fuller, NJAD VP and Liaison.

The NJ Deaf Senior Housing Committee met on December 8 at the Lake Valhalla Club in Montville, Morris County. The lake view made the holiday luncheon prior to the meeting a pleasant way to start the last meeting of the year. The committee is very appreciative for the two interpreters for the meeting provided by DDHH.

Lila Taylor discussed the Grand Opening of the Arizona Deaf Senior Apache Trails in Tempe, Arizona in November. Jane Cyran and Susan Mooney also attended the Grand Opening to represent NJ. The main point learned from the Arizona project was to keep working towards the goal of building a Senior Project and never give up. Arizona went through some very serious setbacks before their final success. Cardinal Capital Management purchased land for the building and had enough tax credits to build a 75 unit building for low income Deaf Seniors. However, the financial collapse of 2008 almost ended the project. CCM and the Arizona Committee kept searching and finally found bankers that would fund the project. Groundbreaking occurred in summer 2010 and within one year the beautiful large building was ready for the first Deaf Seniors to move in. Thirty days before opening,

people learned that HUD charged Apache Trails with discrimination since it was only accepting Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing. HUD said this was discrimination against low income hearing people. To avoid HUD closing the entire building, it was agreed to accept five hearing into the 75 unit building. Apache Trails does



Department of Aging, Disability and Veterans. A small group from the NJ Senior Housing Committee is meeting with the Director of this Morris County Department in January to get some help to work with the NJ HUD office. The committee intends to keep working towards the goal of low income housing for NJ Seniors. It is possible that the first project in NJ for Deaf Seniors would be a market rate building.



not have Section 8 help for low income without HUD. CCM needs to have a final decision that HUD will not charge discrimination before moving forward with the NJ project. CCM had to spend large amounts of money for lawyers and caused much work for the company. It is much too dangerous to risk all of the work and money for land and the building until NJ has an agreement with HUD.

The committee is discussing how a large property could be bought that would have enough space for both a market rate building and a low income project once the HUD issue is solved. It is very important that the first building for Deaf NJ Seniors be a financial and community success. All donations would be reserved for the low income building as that is the most critical need in NJ.

Sheila Shuford from the NJ Senior Housing Committee is also a board member of the Morris County

The committee is planning an

Continued on page 10



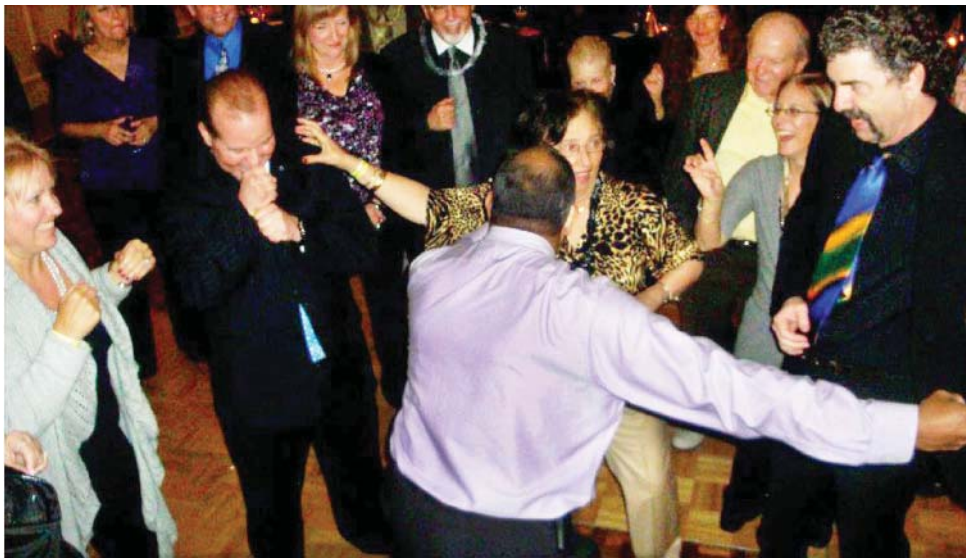
NWJAD News

Upcoming events on www.nwjad.org



Congratulations to the 2012-2014 New Board of Trustees - From left: Vice President Kevin Mona, President Joey Garth, Board of Trustee Peter Wall, Board of Trustee Lynne Jacob, and Treasurer Tom Montemorano

■ NWJAD's New Year Eve Party 2011 We had a Blast!



Deaf Senior Housing Opens...continued



active year for fund raising in 2012. Please look for fund raising events in 2012 that will be fun and help support our seniors. New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing Committee just appointed a Public Relations Representative, Asha Wilkens, who is responsible for grants requests, fundraising events, and gathering ideas for charities. If you have any ideas, please contact her by email: ashajwilkens@gmail.com.

If you wish to make a donation, please make a check or money order payable to **NJAD-NJ Deaf Senior Housing** and mail it to:

Charlotte Karras
Financial Coordinator
2104 Cedar Village Blvd.
East Brunswick, NJ
08816-1340

This is a tax deductible gift. We want you to know that we will use these donations for furniture, equipment, technology and other necessities for the office, lobby, etc. for the low income housing in NJ.

Jane Cyran, Ph.D.
Secretary
NJ Deaf Senior Housing
Committee

Lila Taylor
NJ Deaf Senior Housing Chair

Open Captioned and Sign Language Interpreted Performances Available During NJ Theatre Alliance's Annual Stages Festival in March



The New Jersey Theatre Alliance's annual Stages Festival was designed to give everyone in the state an opportunity to enjoy the inspiring, creative and delightful work of our state's diverse professional theatres with special performances and events. All events are offered for free, or at deeply discounted prices, and include classes, workshops, theatre open-houses and more for theatre lovers of all ages. Events are held at member theatres, but also in local libraries, schools, hospitals and senior centers.



The Theatre Alliance and its professional member theatres are committed to making their programs and services fully accessible to the public; this year, a Sign Language Interpreted and Open Captioned performance will each be offered on March 3 at the Bickford Theatre in Morristown for two separate performances of Pushcart Players' **Happily Ever After – A Cinderella Tale**.

Based on the beloved classic tale of Cinderella, **Happily Ever After** takes audiences on that sometimes happy, sometimes sad, but always compelling journey – fueled by inner beauty, courage and kindness as they triumph over greed, arrogance and bully behavior. The play is suitable for all ages.



The Open Captioned performance will take place at 12:30 PM, and the Sign Language Interpreted performance follows at 2:30 PM. Performances are free, but reservations are recommended.



The Bickford Theatre is located at the Morris Museum in Morristown at 6 Normandy

Heights Road. For more information, or to reserve tickets for either of the performances, email info@bickfordtheatre.org.

For more information about The Stages Festival, visit stagesfestival.org. And for more information on

accessible performances and cultural offerings in New Jersey, visit New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Cultural Access Network Project website: culturalaccessnetwork.org.

The Stages Festival is sponsored by Bank of America, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and numerous other foundation and corporate partners. Its mission is to give all residents of New Jersey the opportunity to experience the diversity of our professional theatres by offering affordable, exciting and educational programming at member theatres and in non-traditional venues throughout the state.

The Cultural Access Network is a co-sponsored project of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

Interpreter Linda Himmelstein Will Be Missed

Linda Himmelstein of West Orange, a freelance interpreter for 30 years, passed away on January 3rd.

Linda was a person who always followed her own path, not always a conventional one. She was a private person who once she befriended you could always be counted on to be loyal, considerate and supportive. Those of us lucky enough to get close to her enjoyed her wry sense of humor. She was well read, impressively articulate and always keenly aware of current affairs.

She was passionate about family, friends, exercise, knitting, her profession and the Deaf community. She began interpreting because her husband was hard of hearing and she would often be called upon to act as an oral interpreter for him. That sparked her interest in sign language interpreting and she became one of the first graduates of the ITP program at Union County College.

Although she worked in many different settings, her specialty was college and medical settings.

Everything that Linda did both personally and professionally came from a place of integrity and respect.

Linda will be sorely missed and never forgotten by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Her kindness and compassion will be remembered and she will remain in our hearts forever.

Submitted with love and respect from Cindy Piana, Shari Walton and Shelley Bartush.



Hard of Hearing Support Group

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

■ February 22 ■ March 21

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

CART Services provided by NJ DDHH

For additional information please contact:
jhardofhearing@gmail.com



Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association is proud to host its 9th Dinner in celebration of

Asian New Year 2012 - Year of the Dragon

and welcome you to join us at the New World.

Saturday, February 4, 2012

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Grand Restaurant

40-21 Main Street, 3rd Fl.

Flushing, NY 11354

Individual: \$45 Kids:\$15

Please RSVP by January 30, 2012

For more information, contact: Michelle Zheng-Ma at crazybabegirl79@hotmail.com
or call Wee Gong, VP: 718 289 4024

Make payable to: **MADA** and write- **MADA 9th 1/29/12** on the check.

✂-----
Send check to: **Wai L. Gong PO Box 737253 Elmhurst, NY 11373 ATTN: MADA**

Name: _____

Number of People Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Communicator Signboard

Bridge Players Theatre Company proudly presents their annual dessert theater featuring Neil Simon's popular show - *Lost in Yonkers*
Written by Neil Simon Directed by Susan Jami Paschkes



This coming-of-age tale is set in Yonkers in the summer of 1942. The comedy-drama about a Jewish American family focuses on the difficulties faced by two young brothers forced to live with a group of eccentric relatives. Winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award.

February 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 *, 18, 24 and 25 at 8 PM
February 5 and 19 at 3 PM

Broad Street Methodist Church, 36 E. Broad Street, Burlington, New Jersey

Ticket price of \$20 includes dessert and beverages served during intermission.

Group rates available for groups of 20 or more.

Dinner theater package available for \$45 a person includes dinner at Café Gallery restaurant.

For tickets or more information please call (856) 303-7620
or visit: www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com

* The performance on Friday, February 17 will be sign interpreted. Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) will be available upon request February 17, 18 & 19. Program by audio will be available upon request for all performances. Persons in need of special accommodations are requested to give two weeks advance notification.

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



St. Patrick's Party and Dingo

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church
1740 Route 130, North Brunswick NJ
Door Opens at 5 p.m.

Members: \$10 Non Members: \$12

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Corned beef on rye, cole slaw and one drink: \$6

Corned beef on rye and one drink: \$5

Dessert with Coffee or Tea: \$1

Bring a dessert and get five 50-50 tickets

Hot/Cold Beverages on sale

Dingo at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact:

President Jackie at: DDCNJPres@optonline.net

2012 NJSD/MKSD Alumni Game

Wednesday, February 29

Katzenbach's High School Gym

Girls 6:30 p.m. Boys 7:30 p.m.

Varsity teams vs. Alumni Teams

Admission

Adults: \$5 Students: \$3 Under 7: Free

Varsity Athletic Club will sell hot dogs,
soda, snacks and water

For more information, contact:

Martha Fowler, Athletic Director

Martha_Fowler@mkzd.state.nj.us

Communicator Signboard

Open Captioned Performance

JITNEY

by August Wilson

Saturday, February 18, 2012 - 3 p.m.

1977 Pittsburgh - In a makeshift storefront depot for gypsy cab drivers, the men share stories and gossip, two young lovers fight for their future, and the station owner confronts his long-estranged son.

Two River Theater
21 Bridge Avenue
Red Bank, NJ 07701



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

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

Black Deaf Forum

February 25, 2012 - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Reception to follow

Main Lecture Hall

Union County College - Cranford Campus

Union County College's Sign Club proudly announces Claudia Gordon, the first Deaf African-American lawyer from Washington D.C. as the presenter.

All students, interpreters, Deaf members of the community, and anyone of interest are welcome to attend this forum.

Don't miss it ! Come and support us!

Look for additional announcements in UCC Sign Club in Facebook or www.about.me/uccsignclub

For contact: aslsignclub@gmail.com

For directions to Cranford: www.ucc.edu/Directions/d

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc. proudly hosts: 9th Annual NJ Warriors Men's & Women's Classic Basketball Invitational Tournament

Team Entry Fee: \$150

February 18, 2012

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Deadline is February 11, 2012

NJ School for the Deaf - Katzenbach Campus

320 Sullivan Way

West Trenton, NJ 08628-3405

Write a check to "NJDS, Inc"
and mail to:

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.
26 North Shore Blvd.
Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233

Cash Prizes (base 8 teams)

1st Place = \$600

2nd Place = \$400

3rd Place = \$200

For more information:

NJDeafSportsInc@gmail.com

Chairperson: Chuck Wallace -
WallSchu@gmail.com

USSSA, EAAD, and USADB Sanction

Players/Coaches/Fans Admission Fee: \$10 Senior Citizens & Students w/ID: \$5 Children under 12: Free

Religious Access



Sunday Catholic Masses Interpreted For The Deaf

Headed by Delfim Fragueiro

Silvia Coelho, Interpreter

10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

2012 Schedule is the
2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

Contact Delfim Fragueiro at:

delfimfragueiro708@hotmail.com

valedelobo@live.com

1-866-928-1936 VP

Our Lady of Fatima Church

403 Spring Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Waretown
United Methodist Church

27 Bryant Rd. Waretown, New Jersey 08758

(4 miles east of exit 69 on the Garden State Parkway)

www.waretownumc.org



Deaf Community Gathering

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Starting at 1 p.m.

The afternoon will include:

- Healthy Heart Discussion
by Carol Stevens (RN, ASL interpreter)
- Refreshments
- Warm, safe, place to stay
- Childcare available, only with prior notice



For more information, contact: Carl Anderson-CARLNA@aol.com
Derrick L. Doherty-pastordoherty@verizon.net

Proudly hosted by the *Waretown United Methodist Church*



NJ Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Rush

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

Calendar of Events 2012

July 20, 2012

NJSD/MKSD Alumni Assoc.

Trenton Thunder Baseball

7:05 p.m.

**For more information: Contact Heidi
at H22Schumacher@gmail.com**



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

Days Closed:

■ **Monday, February 20 - President's Day**