

May 2008
Vol. 29 No.5

Monthly Communicator

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Produced by DHS Office of Publications

June 14, 2008

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Six Flags Great Adventure

See Page 8 to purchase your tickets and support a New Jersey Deaf and hard of hearing organization.



Director's Corner

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



The DDHH staff continually participates in professional development activities offered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, which enables us to upgrade our skills and knowledge to better address the human services needs of persons who are Deaf and hard of hearing. In this month's column, let me share with you a training program recently attended by DDHH Field Representative, Traci Burton.

On March 10 and 11, Ms. Burton participated in the "Train-the-Trainer" program for the "Unheard Voice: Violence Against Women With Disabilities" project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Jersey Health Initiatives. This three year initiative is directed by the NJ Division of Disability Services, and will be carried out through two statewide training programs. One program is designed to give health care providers useful tools and information that may help them recognize violence and other abuse perpetrated against women with disabilities; and, the other program is designed to give women with disabilities the skills and knowledge necessary to respond in a safe manner to threats of violence. Ms. Burton joins a select group of individuals participating as instructors in each of the statewide training programs.

The skills Ms. Burton acquired, through participating in the professional development activity, enhances the ability of DDHH to be a resource to health care providers, as well as women with hearing loss who are victims of violence. This is an important resource for the Deaf and hard of hearing community, since research indicates that women with disabilities (vision and hearing) have an increased risk for being abused. Ms. Burton can be reached at 609-984-7281.

Upcoming training programs for the "Unheard Voice: Violence Against Women With Disabilities" project are currently being organized, and dates will be posted in future editions of the Monthly Communicator. For additional training information, please contact one of the Regional Training Coordinators: Kathryn Blisard, 609-818-9309 (Mercer and South Jersey) or Colleen Roche, 973-809-9357 (North Jersey).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

Reminder:

The deadline for the combined July/August 2008 issue is June 1, 2008. The deadline for the June issue is May 1, 2008.

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

Photos that accompany submissions are encouraged. For instructions on how to submit photos, contact the editor at the above e-mail address.

Newsletter Subscription:

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

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Deadline for submissions:

First of the month for the following month's edition.

Hearing Loss Association Of America Names New Executive Director

Reprinted from HLAA www.hearingloss.org

March 3, 2008, Bethesda, Maryland: Brenda Battat, M.A., of Bethesda, Maryland, has been named executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's largest organization for people with hearing loss. She officially assumed the title and duties on March 3, 2008, having been unanimously chosen for the position by the HLAA Board of Trustees at their February 29 - March 2 meeting in Bethesda.

Ms. Battat brings a wealth of experience to the position having joined the HLAA national staff in 1989. She has been deputy executive director and served as acting executive director on three interim occasions. She brings this experience to the position as well as her personal exposure to hearing loss as a user of a cochlear implant and a hearing aid.

Ms. Battat is well known among her peers in the field of hearing loss, disability access, and key industry, government, and hearing health professions. Her collaborative approach to advocacy and finding common ground among consumers, industry, and government is well known and respected. Among her most noted accomplishments at HLAA is her work on hearing-aid-compatible mobile and cordless phones and Internet captioned telephone.

Her skills as a leader are well recognized by her colleagues, national staff, and HLAA leaders and members who trust her judgment and avidly seek her advice. As a leader with a unique intelligent common-sense approach, plus a faculty for teamwork, she is a proven strength of the organization.

Battat says after a successful tenure with HLAA:

"I am ready to take on the challenge of leading this great organization in a changing world where hearing loss is burgeoning, technology exploding, and social networking a way of life. Nothing in today's society is business as usual, with the exception of the stigma of using hearing aids and we have to change that."

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Rocky Stone as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, Walk4Hearing, hosts online learning with the Hearing Loss Academy, and more. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations.

Information can be found at www.hearingloss.org. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814, Phone: 301-657-2248 (Voice and TTY).

Ms. Battat holds a bachelor's degree in physical therapy with 15 years working in the field in Europe and North America. She holds a master's degree in counseling from Indiana University. She is married to Joe Battat and lives in Bethesda. They have two grown children Anna and James.

Anne T. Pope, president of the HLAA Board of Trustees commented: "The Board of Trustees is delighted that Brenda Battat has agreed to become the next executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Brenda is unequalled as an advocate for people with hearing loss. For almost 20 years, she has been a key leader in securing federal legislation and regulation to accommodate our challenges, and has taught thousands of our members how to work for accessibility at the state and local levels.

"Millions of people with hearing loss have benefited from her efforts. In the short time that she has been acting executive director, we have seen the same creativity, skill, and energy in her executive leadership that has made her such an effective advocate. We cannot imagine a better person to lead the organization in educating the general public about hearing loss and its challenges."

About the Hearing Loss Association of America
The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Rocky Stone as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, Walk4Hearing, hosts online learning with the Hearing Loss Academy, and more. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations.

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Morris County School Of Technology Pays \$175,000 and Agrees to Enter Into a Settlement Agreement for Failure to Provide Accommodations to Deaf Student

Submitted by the Office of Clara R. Smit, Esq.

In one of the few cases of its kind in New Jersey and across the nation, Morris County School of Technology has entered into an agreement to pay monetary damages and change their policy with regards to Deaf students at their school. Alexander Veman, a profoundly Deaf individual who communicates primarily in American Sign Language, filed a complaint in Federal Court for the failure to provide interpreters during his classes at Morris County School of Technology. Veman was a student in the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) Program at Morris County School of Technology.

The school will utilize certain protocol to ensure that reasonable accommodations such as qualified sign language interpreters will be provided to future Deaf students under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. This settlement agreement is believed to be among the most comprehensive agreement entered into with Morris County School of Technology and will hopefully result in important changes in the adult schools in New Jersey.

After experiencing the frustration and emotional anguish of having to sit through two and a half months of classes, which included lectures, class instruction, reading and writing in a workbook (with question and answer sessions), without any understanding as to what took place, Veman decided to sue the Morris County School of Technology so this would not happen to other Deaf students. Veman requested a sign language interpreter prior to classes commencing, and repeatedly during this time period. However, an interpreter was not provided to Veman until November 16, 2005, nearly two and a half months after his classes began. Even after the school finally provided an interpreter to Veman, they only provided the interpreter from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., although the school did not end officially until 2:00 p.m., thereby precluding plaintiff from full participation in the HVAC program.

Following Veman's graduation from Morris County School of Technology, he still needed to retake the elec-

trical component of the program which he did on his own at the Morris County College. He had to retake the electrical portion due to Morris County School of Technology's failure to provide an interpreter during the first two and a half months of his HVAC program. Mr. Veman felt he had to re-take this part of the program at another college before he was able to secure a job in his field, which he currently holds.

After a year of litigation, the Morris County School of Technology has agreed to settle the case with payment of \$175,000 for monetary damages, attorneys' fees and injunctive relief in the form of a settlement agreement. Mr. Veman was represented in the case by Clara R. Smit, attorney in East Brunswick who specializes in serving the Deaf and hard of hearing. Ms. Smit and Alexander Veman are extremely pleased and excited with this settlement, and hope to see major changes in school systems across the country, in their policies and practices.

This settlement agreement provides for signage to be posted throughout the school to alert Deaf students and staff alike to the school's responsibility to provide interpreters to Deaf students who require same for effective communication. In addition the settlement agreement mandates that the school follow several steps to ensure all possible efforts are made to obtain an interpreter or accommodations whenever required for classes. Training and policy changes to implement the Settlement Agreement will also become part of the school's administrative policy as required as part of the Agreement.

Although the ADA, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the Rehabilitation Act, specifically requires that a school provide reasonable accommodation, such as interpreters for its Deaf students, it is only recently that Deaf people have begun to feel empowered to start bringing these lawsuits. Communication difficulties in the past created extremely limited access to the legal community and the school system in general for Deaf individuals. Thus, Clara R. Smit, who is fluent in American Sign Language and whose parents were Deaf, seeks to make change and bring awareness through the bringing of these lawsuits.

Don't Drive and Talk (or Text)

Submitted by Jason Weiland

Effective March 1, 2008, New Jersey law made using a hand-held communications device a primary offense. Authorities issue a \$100 fine to any driver caught violating this law, although no points are issued to the license. Although it is discouraged, drivers may use a hands-free device

if it does not interfere with standard safety equipment. "Use" of a wireless phone and any other hand-held communication device includes, but is not limited to, talking or listening to another person, texting, or sending and receiving electronic messages.

A hand-held phone may be used for an emergency only and the driver must keep one hand on the wheel at all times. In an effort to increase safety on the roads, this

law will be enforced. According to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, it is estimated that 25 percent of all police-reported traffic accidents are accountable to driving distraction from all sources, including cell phones.



TALKING ON A HAND-HELD DEVICE WHILE DRIVING IS PROHIBITED



USE HANDS-FREE DEVICES SPARINGLY.



TEXTING WHILE DRIVING IS PROHIBITED

Congratulations and Farewell to Angie!!



The Monthly Communicator staff bids farewell to Angie TeBeest, from the publications division of the Department of Human Services. Angie was key in maintaining the high quality of the DDHH Newsletter with her tireless, creative efforts. Many thanks to you Angie for all of your wonderful hard work. Congratulations to you on the new opportunity in the private sector.

PSAD Executive Registers Complaint about Quality of Comcast's Closed Captioning Services

The following letter was sent to executives of Comcast Corporation by Gary M. Bootay, Acting Executive Director and Corresponding Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf:

Dear Messrs. Roberts, Burke and Shell:

At a recent meeting of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf, a non-profit advocacy, service and educational organization for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens, an unanimous motion was made to write a letter of complaint to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding poor quality closed captioning of digital TV programs by Comcast Cable Corporation.

Upon research, it was discovered that the FCC requires the complaint be addressed first to Comcast, the distributor of the affected TV programming. Depending on your response, or lack thereof, we will decide whether to forward the complaint to the FCC for remedial action and penalties.

To clearly understand this serious problem, please place two television sets side-by-side. Turn on one set showing "Men in Trees," "Boston Legal" or "Lost," as an example, on the analog channel and the other set on the corresponding digital channel. You will find the captions on the analog station to be perfectly synchronized with the spoken word. The captions on the digital station have either a 4-5 second delay, which places captions under the face of the wrong person speaking or the captions appear only for a split second which makes it impossible to read. The digital caption synchronization and/or split second appearance is in violation of the FCC "functional equivalency" rule in that access to captions should be as easy as access to sounds for the hearing.

Sincerely,
Gary M. Bootay
PSAD Acting Executive Director and Corresponding Secretary

New Club Serves Tri-State Area

Submitted by Joe Williamson

A new club has been introduced to the New Jersey, New York, and PA areas, called the "Tri State Deaf Club." Meetings are held the last Saturday of every month at the Flemington United Methodist Church in Flemington, NJ. The website is www.tristatedeafclub.com. The upcoming schedule of events is May 31, June 28 and July 26. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with games starting at 7:30 pm. General admission is free to everyone. Cost for playing Bingo is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Bingo is played at all events. A monthly events schedule will be available soon. On June 7, there is a special event for families scheduled which is open to everyone "Night at the Ballpark." For this event, the picnic area at the Commerce Bank Ballpark is being reserved in order to watch the Somerset Patriots and the Maryland Blue Crabs. Game starts at 7:05 p.m. and the picnic starts at 6:05 p.m. Fireworks will immediately follow the game. Tickets cost \$25, payable to the Tri State Deaf Club and include the cost of entry plus food and soda and can be mailed c/o Joe Williamson 98 Mine St., Flemington, NJ 08822. Tickets are limited to the first 100. For more information 908-782-3712 (VP) or 908-397-2329 (Cell). Due to limited space, sign up early.

Support Organizations Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in New Jersey

[Purchase Six Flags Awareness Day Tickets from Participating Organizations for June 14 Event](#)

Many people ask how they can help Deaf and hard of hearing people who live in the state of New Jersey. Here's one way, by purchasing tickets to this year's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day event held at Six Flags Great Adventure on Saturday June 14. When you purchase tickets for this year's event from any of the organizations listed below, you are helping these not-for-profit organizations in a number of ways including the provision of communication access, activities for seniors, families and children, scholarships, and of course NJDAW's biennial Deaf Fest. Please contact one of these organizations (or more) and purchase your tickets in advance for this year's event. Thank you.

Association of Late-Deafened Adults-GS

P.O. Box 145
Freehold, NJ 07728-0145
TTY: 732-761-9809
yupyup4@juno.com

Bruce Street School for the Deaf

333 Clinton Place
Newark, NJ 07112
Day: 973-705-3952
MJMansbach@aol.com

Deaf Golf Association, Inc.

420 North Union Ave.
Crandford, NJ 07016
TTY/VP: 908-272-3939
RHSARK@aol.com

Eastern Deaf Ladies Golf Association

264 Swinnerton Street
Staten Island, NY 10307-1641
TTY: 718-605-9403
Sourpeas@aol.com

New Jersey American Sign Language Teacher Association

32 Fairway Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052
V: 800-973-1501
NJASLTA@aol.com

New Jersey Association of the Deaf

25 Hampton Court
Washington, NJ 07676
201-358-8573 (VP)
Joshuabeckman87@gmail.com

New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind

24K Worlds Fair Drive
Somerset, New Jersey 08873
TTY/V: 732-805-1912
Kgalindez@njabd.org

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.

27 Elberta Road
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Zup14@aol.com

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.

26 N. Shore Blvd.
Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233
VP: 732-521-3098
NJDeafSportsInc@aol.com

New Jersey Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf

517 Farley Avenue
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
TTY: 908-490-1123
Plt311@comcast.net

New Jersey Registry Interpreters for the Deaf

83 Hawkins Road
Tabernacle, New Jersey 08088
V: 609-980-8037
Meg.ellis@comcast.net

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf

21 Patton Drive, Apt. D
Bloomfield, NJ 07003-5283
H: 973-724-3230 (VP)
ACEPOKER12@aol.com

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

52 Heritage Court
Towaco, New Jersey 07082
W: 973-326-5720 (TTY)
Tmontemo@att.com

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf

2222 Vauxhall Road
Union, NJ 07083
V: 908-686-3965
Gracelu4u@yahoo.com

Signs of Sobriety, Inc.

100 Scotch Road
Ewing, New Jersey 08628
W: 609-882-7677 V
W: 609-882-7177 TTY/VP
Info@signsofsobriety.org

NJSD/MKSD Alumni Association

320 Sullivan Way
West Trenton, NJ 08628-3405
TTY: 609-698-7310
BORG3283@aol.com



Say What Club hosts Tenth Annual Convention This Summer

The SayWhatClub invites you to attend their Tenth Annual Convention, July 9 - 12, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Holiday Inn in the historic district, for four days of fun and workshops, meeting friends (old & new) and touring the birthplace of America's independence!

Early bird registration (before April 15) is \$100 for SayWhatClub members and \$125 for non-members with special rates for spouses. Hotel rates are \$139 per night with a limit of four persons to a suite. Room rates are applicable for stays up to two days before and two days after the convention. For more information, visit www.saywhatclub.com/events/pacon/ or contact pacon@saywhatclub.com.



Great Adventure Ticket Price Information

Ticket Prices:

Before June 14

Theme/Safari: \$30

Hurricane Harbor: \$27

Theme Season Pass: \$85

Hurricane Harbor Season Pass: \$85

June 14, Day of the Event

Theme/Safari: \$35

Hurricane Harbor: \$30

Note: Tickets can be used any day of the year of 2008.

For information, contact Lauren Lercher: GATickets@aol.com

732-613-8172 (TTY/VP)

Voice callers use relay service.

To buy your tickets, see Page 7 for list of New Jersey based organizations.

Celebrity Read

Submitted by Mary-Jo Mansbach

“2008” marks the 18th year of the Celebrity Read Program. This program, started by the United Way of Essex and East Hudson as a way to celebrate Black History month, brings male, black leaders and/or celebrities into the schools to serve as role models. During the past 17 years, school demographics have changed and Celebrity Read now embraces all genders, ethnicities and cultures.

Children can be inspired by those reading to them, to become life-long readers. Every day we want to instill in our children the direc-



tive that through hard work they can achieve their dreams. Celebrity Read can help bring that message to our Deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Bruce Street School for the Deaf -

- and, what better way to bring that message to them than to have Deaf role models read to our students?



On Friday, February 8, Bruce Street School for the Deaf in Newark, NJ was honored to receive two Celebrity Readers.

We were honored that Dr. David Alexander, Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing for the State of New Jersey, came all the way from Trenton to read to our students. Jason Weiland, Field Representative, NJ Division



of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, with his hearing dog, Macy, accompanied Dr. Alexander to also read to our students.



Dr. Alexander read “Where the Wild Things Are,” and students sat fascinated and immersed in the exciting story. Then, Mr. Weiland read “A Place for Grace”, a story about a hearing dog. All the students and Macy were so excited to hear that story. After the readings, Dr. Alexander answered many questions from our students. The questions covered a number of topics of interest to the children. Our students enjoyed speaking, meeting, with, and being read to by Dr. Alexander and Mr. Weiland. The students enjoyed meeting Macy, and learning more about literacy and the importance of a good education. For more information about the program, visit www.uweh.org/celebread.html.

Lake Drive School Program

Submitted by Nora Rodriguez, MS, LCSW

Community Service: Hands of Peace

The act of serving a meal can be commonplace, even mundane, experience for some. When the meal is the lone one for many, the setting a soup kitchen and the servers are 8th grade students who happen to be Deaf, it takes on a different perspective. As part of the school's focus on character



education, the 8th grade students from the Lake Drive Program at Briarcliff Middle School in Mountain Lakes are involved in a year of community service and gaining insights into vulnerable populations and situations; they have named the project "Hands Of Peace."

Their first venture was the Community Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Morristown. Divided into two groups, the 8th graders spent November 11 and December 10, respectively, assisting in preparing for and serving the



midday meal, as well as cleaning up and leaving the site ready for the next day's meal. The CSK averages 160 guests per day. Assisted by the group's facilitators, Beth Bachmann,

LCSW, and Nora Rodriguez, LCSW, the group was guided through the day by the kitchen's coordinator, Dolly, and a small army of volunteers through a consortium of houses of worship in the area. The visit was anticipated by a series of discussions regarding homelessness, unemployment and other social realities that could bring a person to a soup kitchen. The students found the day a rewarding experience and expressed wanting to return to help out again.



The group continued in the theme of giving by collecting key items for the CSK and donating these for the kitchen's guests during the holidays. Some of the students did a holiday card writing campaign for soldiers serving overseas. The cards were sent through Operation Gratitude, who confirmed that their greetings reached their intended recipients.

The students have come to know that no act is commonplace when it is intended to bring comfort, hope and tenderness. It is a lesson to be practiced for a lifetime.



Red Grammer's Visit to the Lake Drive School

The Lake Drive Program had the pleasure of presenting Red Grammer for two shows on February 4, 2008. With songs that provide



messages of friendship, camaraderie and hope, Red enraptured the student body, especially with his opening song and his spontaneous use of sign. Amid waving hands and applause, his interactive performer and use of

audience participation delighted children and adults alike. Accompanying Red on stage were interpreters, teachers and related services staff; their depiction brought Red's words to life for all to understand and enjoy. Some songs spoke to the value of each person,



as in "On The Day That You Were Born," which, when interpreted, became a tender and touching portrayal of that special day. Other

songs used humor to promote teamwork and unity, such as the highly amusing and unpredictable,

"Rattlin' Bog." Still others validated feelings and reaffirmed positive attitudes.

Red Grammer is a Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter whose early roots were in central New Jersey before his life's journey resettled him in northern California. As Red shared, along the way, he became attracted to sign language. He has worked with interpreters in his shows and has picked up signs to accompany his songs. No one had ever given him a sign name until he came to our show; our Deaf staff gave him one: an "R" strumming a guitar. Red has taken his show to international spots, such as China. As a result, he is a student of Mandarin Chinese, a burgeoning skill that he brings to his performances. Red is married and has two sons.



Red's performances were part of the school's Character Education Committee's year-long effort to embed teachable moments in fun and memorable activities. This performance was a kick-off to the Lake Drive Program's Weeks of Kindness, which recognized random acts of kindness. The acts were recorded on paper hearts that decorated a themed bulletin board. The latter became a visual reminder of the simple yet profound points that Red so melodically speaks to: love, friendship and kindness.

American Sign Language Story Hour

Submitted by Christine Olsen

The New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped (LBH), held its monthly Children's American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour on March 4, 2008. Michelle (Miki) Rogers, a Deaf storyteller, signed Moses Goes to a Concert by Isaac Millman. The book is a story about Moses, a Deaf child, and a field trip to see a concert with his Deaf classmates. The students are excited to learn that one of the percussionist musicians is Deaf. The students noticed that the Deaf musician didn't wear shoes on stage and their teacher explained that she



Deaf Storyteller Michelle Rogers signs the alphabet to the audience.

follows the orchestra through the vibrations of the music on the floor. Each child is then given a balloon to hold so they can experience and feel the music through the vibrations. After the concert the children are invited back stage to meet with the Deaf musician and learn how she works. Ms. Rogers was wonderfully descriptive storyteller explaining the instruments described in the book and even shared her own experiences of feeling music through the vibrations with balloons and through the floor.

After Ms. Rogers' presentation, Mr. Ken Galipeau, a well-known children's musician, performed 4 of his songs, Some Houses, Little Blue Top, Suzy and the Alligator and Old St. Helen, using a guitar and drums. Balloons were distributed to the children to hold so that the children could feel the music's vibrations through the balloon and the floor, just like Moses and his classmates in the story. The audience had a wonderful time singing and signing along with Mr. Galipeau's songs. During Suzy and the Alligator, several students and adults even joined Mr. Galipeau up front to sign the part of the alligator. Mr. Galipeau's songs are silly and fun but always have a message to them. The message from this month's story and educational segment was to remind the students that they can do and be anything if they set their mind to it.

After Mr. Galipeau's performance, Pete Campione, from Kindred Souls in Howell, NJ, spoke to the children. Pete and his volunteers bring their therapy dogs to play and interact with the children for each Story Hour. Pete collected essays from the MKSD students for a contest he is doing with the children. The students were asked to write about the different therapy dogs that have come to visit them and what makes each dog special.

Pete will share the results in a future Story Hour.

Attending the story hour were students in grades two through five from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) and students with multiple disabilities from the Hunterdon County ESC School in Lambertville.

Also joining the Story Hour were local community families and interpreting students from Trenton College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and Union County College (UCC). Sixty-three people attended.



MKSD students and ESC students practice the alphabet with Ms. Rogers.

This story hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation illustrating each page along with the storyteller. The Story Hour promotes English literacy skills for the Deaf and hard of hearing by enabling them to enjoy simultaneously ASL and English versions of books.



Students and adults join well-known children's musician, Mr. Galipeau, to sign the part of the alligator for the song "Suzy and the Alligator."

Workshops and events such as the story hour are scheduled by Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped. NJLBH is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton. For more information about the DHHAP program and story hours, contact Christine at 877-882-5593 TTY or colsen@njstatelib.org. The future ASL Story Hour at NJLBH will be on May 13 and June 3 at 10:00 am. For information about NJLBH and its programs call Anne McArthur at 609-530-3242.

Petway Elementary School

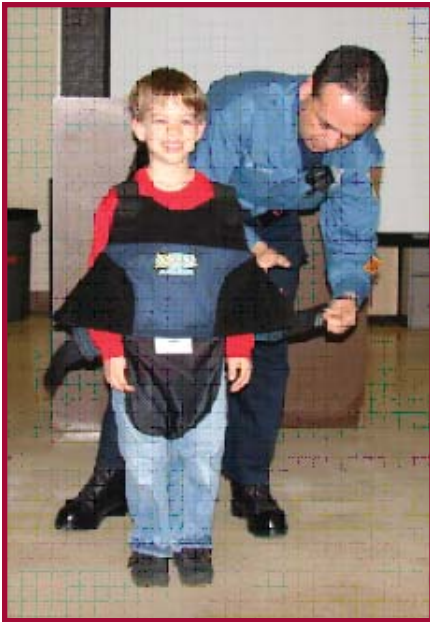
Submitted by Tara McMenamini

Students Visit Vineland Police Station

Thanks to Vineland Police Officers Cathy Stant and Albert Vargas, the Deaf Education students from Petway Elementary School had the opportunity to see first-hand what it's like to be an actual police officer. The students visited the Vineland Police Station on Friday, March 7 as part of the

Community Outings Program created by teachers Tara McMenamini and Jennifer Lilla. The students had the opportunity to tour the facility and try on some of the police equipment the officers use on a daily basis. The students were amazed as to the weight and the amount of equipment that the officers have to carry with them daily! The tour allowed the students to visit the area in which the police officers take mug shots and finger-

prints, store stolen bicycles, keep forensic evidence and interview potential witnesses. They also got an opportunity to see an actual jail cell. The highlight of the trip though was getting to see Audrey, Vineland's existing police dog and her handler Officer Fulcher, on duty. We were told two more canines are in the academy and will soon be joining Audrey on the force. She is a Petway favorite and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing students look forward to seeing her again.



Students Visit Salon Fabrojae

The Deaf Education students from Petway Elementary School enjoyed a morning of beauty and pampering when they visited Salon Fabrojae in Vineland, NJ on Tuesday, March



18. Each student received one of many services that the salon has to offer. Students were able to choose from a manicure, pedicure, wash and blow dry, hair cut, up-do, or make-up application.

The goal of the day's trip was to teach the students what to expect and how to interact with hearing employees in a salon, all without the use of an interpreter.

A few days prior to the trip, the students engaged in a number of activities and scenarios within the



classroom to better prepare them for the salon. The students turned the classroom into a mock-salon and took turns acting

out the different roles of the shop. When the day of the trip came, the students were ready and extremely excited to go!

Upon entering Salon Fabrojae, the students had to introduce themselves to the receptionist, as they had

practiced in their speech class. After introducing themselves, the students sat in the waiting area for their stylist and were soon taken to the back to be "spoiled."

For some students, like 3rd grader Alexis Holland, this was the first time she had received a manicure. "The best part was the hand mas-



sage. The lotion smelled really good!", Alexis said. While other students, like Ethan Herscher, 2nd grade, just sat in the chair and smiled from ear to ear as he received his wash and blow dry.

When they were done, the students were asked to use classroom money to pay for their services and had to calculate a 20 per cent gratuity to tip their stylist. The trip concluded with a tour of the salon and a lesson on skin care.



Lesllie Perez, a 4th grade student, helped to demonstrate proper skin care techniques to the class by receiving a mini-facial. The students left the salon talking excitedly to each other about their experience and would like to return again soon.

Summer Programs for Deaf Children

New Jersey School For The Deaf
Katzenbach Campus announces

Summer Programs

for students ages 3 to 21
July 7 through August 15, 2008

Extended School Year Program for Pre-School through 5th grade

Focusing on Reading, Writing and Math
Speech services available
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Two Themed-Week Enrichment Programs/Extended School Year
for middle and high school students

Special programming for MD students
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Residential option

Come for six weeks or just choose those of interest!

For more information, go to the school website at www.mksd.org and click on Summer Programs for more information and rates: Contact Margaret Provost, Enrollment Coordinator 609-530-3156 V/TTY; Margie_Provost@mksd.state.nj.us

Happy Hands Summer Day Camp Moves!

Happy Hands Camp, a four week summer day camp for Deaf and hard of hearing children and children of Deaf adults, is moving to the Gloucester County Institute of Technology in Sewell, NJ.

July 7 – August 3

For more details and information contact:
Mary Hilley 856-415-7530 ext. 6468 or charris@gcsssd.org

A letter to all who have supported, participated or worked with or had involvement with Happy Hands Summer Day Camp . . .

I would like to take this time to express my gratitude for having had the opportunity of coordinating Happy Hands Summer Day Camp these many years. It has truly been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of my life.

It is exciting to see Happy Hands Camp move under the care of Mary Hilley and the fantastic people at Gloucester County Institute of Technology in Sewell, NJ. I am sure this is just the beginning of many more years of summer fun and friendships for HHDC and its amazing campers.

With Deepest Gratitude,
Kathy Earp



New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
and
ASL Interpreter Referral Services
proudly presents:

Finger Spelling and ASL Semantics Workshops

Presenter: Jacqueline Frechette

June 7

Toms River Quality Inn

815 Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ ,08755

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided.

Finger Spelling in ASL is one of the most challenging tasks an Interpreter faces daily. The workshop will develop expressive and receptive skills with finger spelling exercises; develop knowledge of lexicalized spelling; develop knowledge of finger spelling rules; and give participants better understanding through hands on practice and group work. ASL Semantics is the study of word meaning. In this workshop, participants will expand sign vocabulary by analyzing meaning and phrases; determine English equivalencies; produce signs naturally, accurately and clearly; practice and develop receptive and expressive skills; and gain a better understanding through hands on practice and group work.

NJRID Member \$45 Non-Member \$65

Deadline for registration: June 1

For registration and information, contact:

Paula La Valle-Butler, NJRID PDC Co-Chair, 11 Sextant Drive, Barnegat, NJ 08005

(pnj1215@aol.com)

These workshop will be given in ASL, interpreters will not be provided.

Payment via Paypal is not available for this event.

Sorry No Refunds!

0.6 CEUs available in Professional Studies, Content knowledge – Some



Marie Katzenbach School For The Deaf

Sign Language Classes

Summer 2008

Sponsored by Katzenbach Parent and Staff Organization
and
Katzenbach Parent and Staff Education Foundation, Inc.
at
Marie Katzenbach School For The Deaf
320 Sullivan Way
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

Tuesday and Thursday evenings
7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
July 8 through July 31

\$70 (Walk-in registration is \$80)
Registration deadline June 30.

**Note: No refunds after the third class,
checks will be deposited after the third session.**

Classes Offered:

Beginner One: For people with little or no knowledge of SIGN; concentration on fingerspelling and vocabulary using English word order with some ASL features.

Beginner Two: For those who have completed Beginner One satisfactorily and have a working knowledge of the Manual Alphabet and over 200 basic signs. Course continues vocabulary development using English word order with some ASL features.

Conversation One Or Two: For people who have taken two or more sign language courses, are competent in the use of the Manual Alphabet, have a working knowledge of over 600 signs and want to practice expressive and receptive skills. Some vocabulary and grammatical lessons will be included, but the emphasis is on becoming more fluent. Conversation Two is more non-voiced.

Children's ASL: A children's class may be offered if enough pre-register.

Note: Classes may be split by ability/experience depending on enrollment. Students enrolling may change classes at the beginning to fit their needs.

For more information, call Rebecca Woodward, Program Coordinator, 609-530-3131 or 530-3130 or Rebecca_Woodward@MKSD.state.nj.us

No confirmation of registration will be sent. You will be contacted only if there is a problem with the class. Classes are flexible. You may switch levels as needed.

Spring 2008 Interpreted 12 Step Meetings in New Jersey

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - A Twelve Step meeting for people to share their experience, strength, and hope in an effort to overcome their misuse of alcohol. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement to attend is a desire to stop drinking.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - A Twelve Step meeting for people to share their experience, strength and hope in an effort to overcome their misuse of drugs. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement to attend is a desire to stop using drugs.

Twelve Step Meeting (12 SM) - A 12 Step Meeting using the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address the problems of addictive behavior. There are 12 Step Meetings for addiction to alcohol, specific drugs, gambling, compulsive shopping, overeating, etc.

Al-anon meetings are 12 Step Meetings for people who are effected by a loved ones addictive behavior.
12 Step Meeting Access for Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened

There is a FM Loop System available at the-Al-an Club, Cass St. Trenton, NJ for all 12 step meetings. SOS has a FM system available to loan recovering persons or meeting places. Call SOS office to request other communication access services.

North Jersey Area

Monday 7:30 p.m.

Plainfield Connection
First Unitarian Church
724 Park Ave.
Plainfield, NJ
NA: I, O, SP, BB

Wednesday 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Boonton, NJ
10:00 AM
St. Claire's/Riverside Hosp
130 Powerville Road
Al-Anon: Closed, D NS

Central Jersey Area

Sunday 6:30 pm

Monmouth Medical Center
2nd Avenue, 323
Long Branch, NJ
NA: D, I, O, SP

Tuesday 6:45 a.m.

Attitude Adjustment
Al-An Club
761 Cass Street
2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ
AA: I, O

(Central NJ Continued)

Wednesday 6:15 p.m.

DEAF MEETING – no interpreter
Silent Serenity
Al-An Club
761 Cass Street
2nd Floor
Trenton, NJ

Thursday 6:45 a.m.

Attitude Adjustment
Al-An Club
761 Cass Street
2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ
AA: I, O

Thursday 8:00 p.m.

St. Paul United Church of Christ
62 South Main Street
(School Bldg Behind The Church)
Milltown, NJ
(732-828-0020)
AA: I, O, SP, NS, W

South Jersey Area

Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Lighthouse Counseling
Route 9
Manahawkin, NJ

South Jersey Area

Friday 7:30 p.m.

Southern Ocean County Hospital
Route 72
Manahawkin, NJ
AA: I, O, D

Tuesday 8:00 p.m.

DEAF MEETING – no interpreter
Circle of Hands- Closed Meeting,
Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church
224 Gowan St. & Ardleigh St.
Philadelphia, PA
Al-Anon: SP, D, Closed

Tuesday 8:00 p.m.

DEAF MEETING – no interpreter
HANDS OF HOPE
Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church
224 Gowan St. & Ardleigh St.
Philadelphia, PA
AA: I, C, SP, D

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

DEAF MEETING – no interpreter
Center for Family Services
108 Somerdale Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043

*Last Updated 3/31/08

Abbreviations:

O - Open (Everyone Welcome) C - Closed (For Alcoholics/Addicts only)

I - Interpreter provided for Deaf members ASL - mtg. conducted in American Sign Language D - Discussion, SP - Speaker, ST - Step, TP - Topic, B - Big Book or Beginner, NS - No Smoking, WC - Wheelchair Accessible

This 12 Step Meeting list was updated 3/07. If you have any questions, notice mistakes, or are aware of other 12 Step Support Groups that provide special communication access for the Deaf and hard of hearing in the New Jersey area please notify Signs of Sobriety, Inc. If you plan to travel or are interested in 12 Step Meetings in other states please call SOS office at 609-882-7177. For more information visit our website at www.signsofsobriety.org.

To arrange interpreters or any communication access services at a 12 Step meeting in your area, email Lisette Weiland at: communication@signsofsobriety.org or call 609-882-7177 -TTY

Center For Family Services

Vision, Hope and Strength for a Better Life
www.centerffs.org

Recovery Network Provides Statewide Substance Abuse Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals

CAMDEN, NJ – Center For Family Services’ Recovery Network for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program has expanded their substance abuse treatment services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing Loss communities statewide. Funds received from the New Jersey Division of Addiction Services allow this program to provide more services to individuals identified as Deaf or hard of hearing, including standard outpatient programs, mobile counseling, case management and communication access to substance abuse treatment services.



The communication access includes sign language, oral, tactile interpreters, CART or Cprint, Assistive Listening Devices (ALDS), and Braille along with other means of communication for detoxification, residential and other substance abuse treatment facilities admitting Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing Loss individuals.

The Recovery Network for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program is currently located in Voorhees and offers treatment, education, and support to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol. By establishing a Substance Abuse Outpatient Program in Newark, the program will expand its services to include the Northern Region of the state as well.

“The expansion of services will give us the ability to coordinate the delivery of interpretation services to substance abuse treatment facilities statewide” said Julie Doerrmann, Program Coordinator/Counselor Recovery Network for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. “By providing access to statewide interpreter services, we will be able to break down barriers that prevent Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing Loss individuals from receiving the substance abuse treatment that they need.”

In addition to outpatient treatment and counseling services, the Recovery Network Program also includes Mobile Substance Abuse Counseling and Case Management services that offer assessment and individual sessions, support and advocacy services for people transitioning into or out of substance abuse treatment. All Recovery Network staff are fluent in ASL and provide culturally sensitive counseling when Deaf and Hard of Hearing people are placed in a hearing treatment setting. Program Coordinator is Julie Doerrman, 856 428-8373 TTY; 856-428-0949 FAX; 856-111-1111 VP; 877-695-4392 Voice jdoerrmann@centerffs.org.

The Recovery Network is a program offered by the Center For Family Services. The Center For Family Services is a non profit human social services agency with over 85 years of experience helping build strong families and healthy communities. With over 40 programs, the Center provides an array of services to individuals, children, and families at every stage of life. By educating the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community about the influence of addiction and empowering recovery, the Recovery Network fulfills the Centers’ mission to support and empower individuals, families and communities to achieve a better life through vision, hope, and strength.



Headquarters: 584 Benson St
Camden, NJ 08103
Phone: 856.964.1990 Fax: 856.964.0242



College of New Jersey Hosts Deaf-Blind Orientation

Mitch Shapiro, Founder of Foundation for Sight and Sound, Trains CNJ Audience

On Wednesday, February 27, almost one hundred students and faculty members at The College of New Jersey gathered in a lecture hall, did the Hokey Pokey and tried to return to their seats, all while wearing blindfolds and earplugs. No, this is not what parents' and taxpayers' money is being used for. The



students were participating in a challenge issued by guest speaker Mitch Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro, founder and CEO of The Foundation for Sight and Sound, was brought to The College by the Deaf-Hearing Connection (DHC) and the Deaf-Blind-Family and Community Educational Supports program (DBFACES) to speak about his experiences as a Deaf-blind individual. Shapiro was diagnosed with Usher's syndrome, a condition that causes progressive vision and hearing losses. DHC vice president and organizer of the event thought that Shapiro would be "the perfect person" to inform the audience about a topic to which they do not usually have much exposure.

The presentation began with a brief video that provided background information about Mr. Shapiro's life and work before he spoke directly to the students and showed off his self-described "corny" personality. Shapiro spoke about his initial reaction to his diagnosis, one of denial and disbelief. He began to feel sorry for himself and refused to accept his newfound challenges. However,

after attending a seminar and hearing the speaker say, "Your greatest weakness is your greatest strength." It was then that Shapiro realized he, not his condition, was in control of his life. He now believes that he was given a gift and has found a way to use that gift to help others. The Foundation for Sight and Sound is an organization that is "dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people with visual and auditory challenges." When he is not running his foundation, Mr. Shapiro is traveling the country and speaking to audiences of all ages, encouraging them to overcome their own obstacles through determination, a positive outlook, and most importantly, a good sense of humor.

The audience members were very receptive to Shapiro's message as well as those of his partner, Joan, and friend Ralph who spoke about their relationships with Mr. Shapiro and how he functions on a day-to-day basis. The audience was also very interested and asked several questions about Mr. Shapiro's foundation and work as a motivational speaker. Overall, the presentation was received extremely well and Shapiro's message of, "If you're not willing to make change, you won't survive," came across loud and clear.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SUBSTITUTE INTERPRETER positions needed for Bergen County Special Services at Union Street School for the Deaf and the new Hackensack High School Program f/t Deaf, Hackensack. Positions are needed for the remainder of this year and the following school year. If interested in substitute interpreting in this dynamic school district for Deaf and hard of hearing students, please contact: Candi Mascia Reed, Supervisor, Total Communication Programs for the Deaf and hard of hearing at 201-343-6000 ext. 6400;

canree@bergen.org.



RELIGIOUS ACCESS

Pentecostals of Dover, Delaware

host

Deaf Retreat

June 6, 7, and 8

4462 W. Denneys Road, Dover DE

Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Classes 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hearing beginner ASL class and advance class; Deaf Class with Deaf Minister Ernie Murrillo

Deaf Social: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: Sunday School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 10:00 a.m.

Contact Lori Sabean (302) 678-3837 for hotel information

Directions available at www.podd.org

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

of Jackson is expanding its Ministry to the Deaf. In addition to the 9:30 interpreted worship service, we are discussing ways to help Deaf people with housing alternatives. We welcome Deaf people and suggestions on how we can best work with foundations and agencies to provide better housing for those who are Deaf.

As a new church, we meet at the Lucy Holman Elementary School,
125 Manhattan Street, Jackson. Please visit us or call our pastor, Dr. Rob Morrison, (732) 928-2424.

Our web page is www.CornerstonePCUSA.com.

Robbinsville Seventh-Day Adventist Church,

2290 Route 33, Robbinsville NJ 08691

Sabbath School Class - 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:55 a.m.

Interpreter on May 3 and 17 (Potluck on May 17)

All Deaf, hard of hearing, hearing people are welcome to attend.

Contact Carolyn Voorhees (609) 324-9551 VP

Signing Interpreter At Shabbat Services

Temple Sholom at 385 Howland Avenue in River Edge is a welcoming reform synagogue.

We provide a signing interpreter at our Family Shabbat services on Friday nights.

The next services is May 8.

Services begin at 7:30 p.m., and are followed by a delicious Oneg Shabbat.

Open to the public. For more information, call (201) 489-2463, ext. 201,

administrator@tsholom.net, www.tsholom.net.

Community Baptist Church in Garfield, NJ is looking for a sign language interpreter to provide services at our 11:00 a.m. worship service. Call the church office if interested at (973) 471-0404.

Communicator Signboard

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

hosts

Dingo

Saturday, May 17, 2008

7:00 p.m.

VFW, 601 N. Dorset Avenue; Ventnor, NJ

\$1,000 in Giveaways (Based on 100 people)

Bank Night, 50/50 Chances, Door Prizes

Refreshment available for sale

Members \$8; Non-Members \$12.

Chairperson: Russell Jobes

NWJAD (Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.)

hosts

Wallyball & Swim Fun Night!

Saturday, June 7, 2008

6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Spa 23 & Racquetball Club, 381 Rt. 23 South, Pompton Plains, NJ

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration, and sign in and entry pool opens at 7:00 p.m.

For participants (Pay at door only)

Adults 19 years and older: Wallyball, racquetball & swimming - \$10

Teens 13 to 18 years: Wallyball, Racquetball & Swimming - \$5

Children 12 years and under: Swimming only - Free

For spectators and fans (Pay at door only)

Observe games and no swimming. \$5

Pool hours: 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. with lifeguard and interpreter.

For directions and info, www.nwjad.org or www.spa23.com

Communicator Signboard

American Deaf Exposition
Basketball Tournament

postponed from March 26 - 29
to

May 7, 8, 9 & 10

Parsippany, New Jersey

www.njdeafexposition.com

(See January 2008 issue of Monthly Communicator (page 19) for full page ad.

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/publications_08.html)

Perth Amboy Senior Citizen Deaf Club
announces reopening of the club

Sunday May 25 and Sunday June 29

12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Holy Spirit Church Basement
580 Hazel & Brace Avenues, Perth Amboy, N.J.

Bingo; 50/50; Lucky game
\$10 Bingo and Food

All Welcome! Bring Your Friends!

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week Fundraising Event
ASL Film (no voice/no captions)

“Wrong Game”

Saturday, May 17, 2008

2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$5.

NJSD Middle School Auditorium, 320 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ 08628

www.mksd.org

To purchase tickets in advance, send a check (on/before May 7) payable to:
NJDAW, Debbie Greenspan, 1131 Front Street, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Tickets can be picked up on the day of the show and/or purchased at the door.
Any questions: Kim Arrigo at Exhibit2007@aol.com Sponsored By Sprint

Calendar of Events 2008

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday July 18

East Brunswick Public Library

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:

609-984-7281 V/TTY

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Awareness Day

24th Annual

Saturday, June 14

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ

Ticket Info: Lauren Lercher

GATickets@aol.com

NJSD/MKSD 125th Anniversary and NJSD/MKSD Alumni Assoc.

80th Anniversary

October 10, 11 and 12

Columbus Weekend

Check www.mkzd.org for more information:

PhySparks70@aol.com

856-374-1043 FAX

Garden State Walk4Hearing

Saturday, October 18

Mercer County Park, West Picnic Area

To participate or for more information, contact:

Lois Walker, Chair

walk4hearing@hearingloss-nj.org

or visit www.hearingloss-nj.org

DDHH Office - Days Closed

Memorial Day (May 26); Independence Day (July 4)

Regular Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

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