

New Jersey Senior Citizen Housing Forum Spurs Interest in Prospect of New Jersey Facility

submitted by Lila Taylor

Just about 100 people attended a forum at St. Clare's Hospital (Dover, NJ) on the Senior Housing Project for the Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind in New Jersey on November 11, 2006. Lila Taylor, New Jersey Association of the Deaf's (NJAD) Senior Citizens Chairperson, welcomed

tributed to this initiative. Volunteers from the Southern New Jersey's senior citizens community are needed.

DAWN (Disabled Advocates Working for Northwest) Center for Independent Living has also been supportive. NJAD is

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Photos from December 2006 NJRID Business Meeting and Workshops



Lila Taylor addresses the housing forum attendees.

all and gave special thanks to DDHH for providing the interpreters, CART reporter, and C-Print captionist.

DDHH will also sponsor the 2007 forum for the executive committee on this project. The aim is to maintain the traditions of Deaf culture for senior citizens who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing and Deaf-Blind. Jane Cyran and Lucinda Brooks have been a tremendous help with communication access. Susan Bartose (Centers of Independent Living in Central Jersey) and Rose Pizzo (Bergen County Senior Citizens in Midland Park) have also con-

tributed to this initiative. Volunteers from the Southern New Jersey's senior citizens community are needed. DAWN (Disabled Advocates Working for Northwest) Center for Independent Living has also been supportive. NJAD is the sponsor for the Senior Citizen Housing and has signed a contract with Cardinal Capital Management. The guest speaker, Erich Schwenker, President, Cardinal Capital Management, told how building a network across the state is so important for the project and he discussed the Water Tower View for Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind located in Wisconsin. He showed us a video presentation along with Katie Voss, Cardinal Capital Management's Senior Housing Consultant, who also signed in the video. Katie, who grew up in a Deaf family in Columbus, Wisconsin, described how

Hi Jan!



At the December NJRID business meeting, members pose for a photo to greet long time NJRID member Jan Niedermaier. Her letter expressing regret at not being able to attend due to illness was read by former president Mariann Jacobson.

New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

"Preparing for the National Interpreter Certification Exam"



Carol Tipton, presenter

This workshop will help participants prepare for the National Interpreter Certification exam, including both the knowledge and skill components. The morning session will be devoted to an overview of the new test, how questions are created, the study materials recommended, and practice questions taken from a previous test. The afternoon session will cover the interview and skill portions of the test, giving participants an opportunity to explore the rubric used to score the interview and try their skills in a simulated group exam from the RID practice DVD.

February 24, 2007
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Woodbridge Library
1 George Fredrick Plaza
Woodbridge, New Jersey
For information, go to www.njrid.org

Reminder:

The deadline for submissions to the April issue of Monthly Communicator is March 1, 2007.

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

Photos which accompany submissions are encouraged.

For instructions on how to submit photos, contact the editor at the same address.

Monthly Communicator

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Deadline for submissions:

First of the month for the following month's edition

Born This Month In History

Theophilus Hope d'Estrella was a Hispanic American Deaf photographer, artist and teacher. Born Deaf in San Francisco, California on February 6, 1851 as Theophilus de Rutte (changing his surname in 1867), he was the first student at the California School for the Deaf (May 1, 1860) and the first Deaf student at the University of California, Berkeley (1873). After three years there, he went to the San Francisco Art Association's School of Design for five years, then became a teacher at the California School, doing photography on the side. He died at Berkeley October 8, 1929.



Laura Catherine Redden was a noted Deaf journalist and author of her time. She was born in Somerset County, Maryland on February 9, 1840, and her family moved to St. Louis, Missouri when she was very young. She was deafened at age 11 by meningitis, and graduated the Missouri School for the Deaf. She began a career as a reporter and an author of poems and essays in St. Louis, writing under the male pseudonym of "Howard Glyndon," though it was no secret that "Glyndon" was a woman. During the American Civil War, she went to Washington as a reporter for the St. Louis Republican newspaper, and interviewed President Abraham Lincoln via paper and pencil. She married a hearing man, Edward W. Searing of Sherwood, NY, in the 1870s, and in 1886, moved to Santa Cruz, California. She died in San Mateo, California, August 10, 1923. The town of Glyndon, Minnesota, is named in her honor.

Heather Whitestone McCallum born February 24, 1973 in Dothan, Alabama is a beauty queen who was the first Miss America title holder who is Deaf, having lost her hearing at the age of eighteen months. Whitestone represented Alabama at the Miss America 1995 pageant held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Despite being profoundly Deaf, she performed ballet en pointe to the song "Via Dolorosa" as her talent, winning the preliminary talent competition, as well as the preliminary swimsuit competition. When she was crowned Miss America 1995, she could not hear host Regis Philbin say her name, and it was not until the first runner-up gestured to her that she realized she had won.



Phyllis Frelich born February 29, 1944 in Devils Lake, North Dakota, is, one of the most noted Deaf U.S. actresses working in the entertainment industry since the late 20th century. Frelich was born in a small town in North Dakota, the eldest of nine children. She attended North Dakota School for the Deaf, graduating in 1962, and then went on to study at Gallaudet College (now known as Gallaudet University), a school for the Deaf and hard of hearing. Frelich originated the leading female role in the Broadway production of *Children of a Lesser God*, for which she won the 1980 Best Actress Tony Award.

BUYING A HEARING AID FOR THE FIRST-TIMER

by Carol M. Granaldi

Buying a hearing aid for the first time can be very confusing and baffling for most people. There are so many variables in types, brands, and prices that it is a daunting task for most first-time hearing aid purchasers. During our lifetimes, we may buy various familiar appliances such as refrigerators and computers often enough to be comfortable with the types, brands and prices, so we have some experience in making good decisions based on hindsight or purchase satisfaction. Here is some information which should help you with buying a hearing aid.

Your hearing aid dispenser should be provided with an audiogram taken by a qualified audiologist (CCC-A or higher) who uses a sound-

proof booth with calibrated testing equipment. Testing should minimally include, but not necessarily be limited to, an audiogram. An audiogram should include at least a pure tone test by air and bone conduction, speech reception and discrimination tests. The audiogram results determine the nature (origin) and degree of one's hearing loss. Some forms of hearing loss are medically correctible so a referral to an otolaryngologist (ENT) may be appropriate. However, for most cases of nerve (sensorineural) hearing loss, a hearing aid is the most appropriate form of help. From the audiometric testing, the audiologist should be able to make recommendations as to the type and style of hearing aid and degree of your hearing loss to provide you with the greatest remedy for your hearing loss. Lifestyle is also a consideration when choosing a hearing aid.

As an example, for many simpler mild to moderate hearing losses, one might be fitted adequately with an analog hearing aid, which is available in BTE (Behind The Ear), ITE (In The Ear), ITC (In The Canal) or CIC (Completely In The Canal) models. These analog hearing aids can be lower in cost than those which are digital, but then have fewer features. One may ask to try the analog hearing aid first, if an analog model matches the type of hearing loss and if the specific model is still being manufactured. Analog hearing aids should provide a T-Coil, and direct audio input (DAI) microphone capability. Now, however, there are more digital models being manufactured today than analog models.

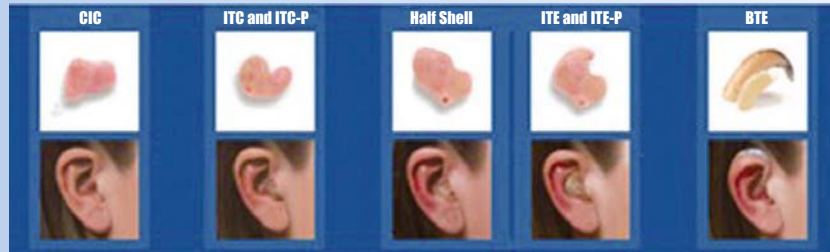
If one's hearing loss is more complex or more demanding, then perhaps a digital BTE, ITE, ITC, CIC or the newer OF (Open Fit) aid may be needed. These digital aids have a wider range of features, including being programmable for a number of listening situations, such as emphasis on higher or lower frequencies, noise suppression, and directional microphones which adjust to various noise environments. Digital models easily connect to accessories such as an FM assistive listening device (ALD), direct audio input (DAI) lapel mic, separate

remote control which is worn on the wrist, carried in a pocket, or even worn around the neck on a chain. Whenever technically possible a T-Coil (Telephone Coil)

should always be included, as part of the hearing aid's cost as well. More added features, and a higher degree of technological sophistication, of course, will correspond to a higher price. Prices will vary in affordability from manufacturer to manufacturer.

When cost is a factor, always try the lower cost hearing aid first. If not satisfactory, then work upwards over the trial period. A hearing aid dispenser's motivation should be to help you hear to the best of your ability with a hearing aid that has been thoughtfully chosen with the most appropriate and effective options best suited to your needs. That is, you should not be "oversold," nor "undersold." Beware of a dispenser who attempts to sell you a high-priced hearing aid. Insist upon a thorough explanation, in layperson's terms, as to why this instrument is best suited for you and your needs.

Especially in the beginning, it's important to spend time with a dispenser and to return for hearing aid adjustments and to compare different sound settings. You and your dispenser should work together to achieve the best hearing situation for you, instead of buying a pricey aid with no follow up. Remember, not all hearing aids can remediate every form of hearing loss. If your hearing loss requires a more powerful hearing aid, and a BTE is indicated, don't succumb to vanity with an ITE, or CIC hearing aid for cosmetic reasons. Also, remember that motivation on your part to adjust to newly-heard sound is important and takes time.



As part of your office visit, you should be provided with a copy of your hearing test taken by a Licensed Audiologist. Non-Audiologist dispensers may have a staff Audiologist (defined by the CCC-A or FAAA designation) who will test your hearing prior to fitting a hearing aid. If your hearing is tested at this dispenser's site, you should receive a copy of your audiogram. In recent years, the trend is towards a licensed dispenser/audiologist providing the total service, and many have acquired a FAAA and AuD certification. These credentials should be posted in a prominent manner on the office wall.

Be watchful of wording that "cost of audiogram is applied to the price of any hearing aid purchased in this office." This is not considered to be a desirable sales procedure. Sometimes a hearing test is medically recommended and might be paid for by your medical insurer. If you or your insurance pays for the Complete Audiologic Evaluation, you have a legal right to the audiogram. On the other hand, with bundled hearing tests, you do not have that legal right. With a copy of the hearing test in your possession, you may compare it with previous hearing tests or seek a second opinion.

An area which sometimes is overlooked is to ask your spouse, family member or significant other to accompany you if possible. Often times, when one does not hear well, or may have trouble remembering what was said, having another person with you to observe the proceedings may be beneficial. It's helpful to write down some notes about what is being said, or to assist with difficulties in understanding instructions. Hearing loss involves not only the person who cannot hear, but also one's spouse, significant other or family member.

Here is a short list of items you should consider or what I call the HEARING AID PURCHASE "PUNCH LIST":

1. STYLE OF AID - ITE (in the ear), BTE (behind the ear), ITC (In The Canal), CIC (Completely in Canal), or Open Fit? Price ranges vary for each style.
2. ANALOG - DIGITAL? - Are available in BTE, ITE, ITC, CIC and the newer Open Fit styles. (see paragraph 3 & 4 above).
3. DOES AID HAVE A T-COIL? Important for telephone use, and use of assistive listening equipment.
4. FITTING CHARGES? - Is the earmold included in the price?
5. BUNDLED SERVICES? - Follow-up visits, adjustments, consultations, educational material, included in the price?
6. POST FITTING VISITS? - How many visits, how many weeks/months period?

7. WARRANTY? - 1, 2, 3, years? Loss/damage of aid?
8. TRIAL PERIOD? - 30 to 60 days is preferable, not required by law, but competitive edge for dispensers to provide even longer.
9. FREE BATTERIES? - Dispensers which provide free batteries for a period of time is a competitive edge, so ask.
10. DEXTERITY ISSUES? - Can the aid be adjusted with easy-to-use buttons and dials? Can the aid be used with a remote attachment? This is important when there are dexterity, arthritis, nerve damage, finger rigidity, etc. issues.
11. BRAND NAME RECOGNITION? - Many large, popular brand names such as: Oticon, Phonak, Widex, Siemens, etc. are advertised in trade journals, and magazines oriented to deaf and hard of hearing people. These brands are often globally available and may provide repair or replacement services for those who are travelers. (mention of these names is not an endorsement).
12. RETURN POLICY FEE? - Some dispensers charge a return fee which could be as high as \$300 if the aid is returned because it's not satisfactory.
13. SALES CONTRACT? - Ask to see the sales contract to check for warranties, return policy fee, waivers, etc. etc. Watch for very small print.
14. LOANER AVAILABLE? - When hearing aids need to be repaired or sent back to the manufacturer for reprogramming or adjustments, will your dispenser have a loaner available for you? What is the loaner fee per day or week?
15. AUDIOGRAM COPY? - Important to proper fitting of the hearing aid.

If you have a complaint about your hearing aid dispenser's sales procedure or feel that his/her service was fraudulent, in New Jersey you may file your complaint to:

NEW JERSEY HEARING AID DISPENSING
COMMITTEE (HADEC)
124 HALSEY ST., NEWARK, NJ 07101,
Renee Clark, Executive Director
973-504-6331 Voice; 973- 648-3355 FAX
www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/medical.htm#bme5

This office oversees hearing aid dispensing complaints. It will furnish a list of dispensers which have been fined.

*Information about analog and digital hearing aids is excerpted from The Consumer's Guide To Hearing Aids, pages 6 and 10.

Thanks to Craig Barth, M.A., CCC-A, FAAA and Isidore Kirsh, PhD, FAAA for technical assistance in writing this article.

Water Tower View was created by Cardinal Capital Management to be an entirely new type of environment for deaf seniors. Water Tower View also provides good job opportunities for the Deaf community and financial opportunity for investors.

Water Tower View was designed by a Deaf architect, which was beneficial for addressing the needs of our special community. The walls of the facility are extra solid because Deaf people are very sensitive to vibration. Visitors are greeted at the entrance by a video phone. Contrasting colors help a signed conversation stand out to give support to those who need assistance with their vision. The beauty salon has a Deaf stylist. Apartments have an emergency light that flashes and a pull chain sends an emergency signal to a light in the hallway and manager's office. The manager wears a vibrating pager for a quick response. The stove has a light to signal when



the fan is running. Little things like these make living at Water Tower View extra comfortable for Deaf seniors.

Erich Schwenker told how Cardinal Capital put together all of the financing for Water Tower View. The sponsor of the project, Southern Wisconsin Deaf Senior Citizens, had only \$5,000 but did not need to use any of this money. Erich reassured the forum audience that no money from New Jersey seniors will be needed or put at risk. Cardinal Capital will find grants and tax credits to get the money to build the project. Mr. Schwenker said this will be at least a five year project. During the first year we will gather information from surveys about the needs and wishes of the New Jersey Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind community. Over the next four years, the group will look for a good property, seek funding, design and finally build the Senior Citizen Housing.

Mr. Schwenker mentioned that he has met with people from Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf who expressed support for this project. He says this initiative



was certainly not final and might be better for Philadelphia, not New Jersey. People in the audience had some ideas about places in Northern New Jersey and discussed income and age limits of people allowed into such a facility. Some people were interested in owning a townhouse, not renting.

The initiative's survey is important because it allows the people of New Jersey to have input on making these decisions, whether the age limit is 55 or 62, or whether a certain number of pets would be allowed, as examples. Grants or tax credits allow rents 25 percent below market for low income. The Section 8 vouchers will help very low income residents.

Mr. Schwenker was happy to see such a turnout by New Jersey's Deaf communities at the forum. Remember, we need support to continue the hard work still to come in order to make this dream come true here in New Jersey!

As stated in the above article, the New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NJAD) has signed a contract with Cardinal Capital Management, Inc. to develop new housing for Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind senior citizens in the State of New Jersey. Cardinal Capital Management, Inc. needs to get information about your needs. For this reason, Capital Management has asked that you fill out the survey form you will find on the next two pages. If you are over 50 years old and you have not yet filled out this form, please take the time to do so, tear it out and mail to the following address:

Cardinal Capital Management, Inc.
Attn: Katie Voss, Housing Consultant
4369 South Howell Avenue, Suite 203
Milwaukee, WI. 53207

New Jersey Senior Housing for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Project

Survey

All information provided in this survey will be kept confidential and will be shared only with Cardinal Capital Management. It's use is for the marketing study only.

1. Name: _____ Spouse: _____
2. One person in family must be 50 years of age or older to move in. Will this person be 50 or older to move in?
☐ Yes ☐ No (Check one.)
3. Mailing address: Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
4. Video, TTY or Phone number: _____ - _____ - _____
☐ TTY ☐ Voice ☐ VP ☐ VCO (Check one.)
5. Email address: _____
6. Do you currently rent a HUD (Housing Urban Development)? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Check one.)
7. Do you currently rent a Section 42 Housing? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Check one.)
8. Do you currently rent? Do you own your house? ☐ Rent ☐ Own (Check one.)
9. If you own the house, would you be willing to sell it to move to a new housing for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-blind? ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. Which of the following categories describes your total annual income in 2005?

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$8,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$8,000 to \$10,500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,501 to \$13,500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13,501 to \$16,500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$16,501 to \$19,500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19,501 to \$24,500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$24,501 to \$30,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,001 to \$35,500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35,501 to \$45,000	<input type="checkbox"/> More than \$45,500
11. What is your affordable range for monthly housing costs (mortgage or rent)?

<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 to \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$301 to \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> \$401 to \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$501 to \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$601 to \$700	<input type="checkbox"/> \$701 to \$800
<input type="checkbox"/> \$801 to \$900	<input type="checkbox"/> \$901 to \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$1,000



12. Describe the type of living that best meets the needs of your family

- ☐ Apartment ☐ Assisted-living facility ☐ Nursing home
☐ Townhouse ☐ Condominium ☐ Other: _____

13. Do you own a car? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Check one.)

14. What kind of service(s) would you need? (Please number in order of importance to you.)

1 being the most important, and **10** being the least important.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| ___ Transportation | ___ Grocery delivery |
| ___ Social programs | ___ Coffee shop |
| ___ Meals | ___ Beauty salon |
| ___ Medical services | ___ Other (your wish?) _____ |
| ___ Social services | |

15. When would you be ready to move?

- ☐ Right away ☐ Within 6 months ☐ Within a year ☐ Other: _____

16. How long have you lived in New Jersey? _____

17. If you have a second home, where is it located? _____

18. Please check the area you most would like to see Deaf/HH/DB located.

- ☐ North NJ ☐ Central NJ ☐ South NJ

19. Please check appropriate box:

- ☐ Culturally deaf ☐ Hard of hearing ☐ Hearing ☐ Late deafened
☐ Deaf and visually impaired ☐ Mobility impairment ☐ Other: _____

20. How would you like to be contacted?

- ☐ E-mail ☐ Postage mail ☐ TTY ☐ Fax (Check one.)

21. Would you like to be on the waiting list when the housing is ready? ☐ Yes ☐ No

22. Other comments or suggestions:

Please tear or cut this survey out of the newsletter, fold and mail to:

Cardinal Capital Management, Inc.
Attn: Katie Voss, Housing Consultant
4369 South Howell Avenue, Suite 203
Milwaukee, WI. 5320

Positions Wanted for NJ Deaf Senior Housing Executive Committee

Accountant:

Oversee the “NJ Deaf Senior Housing Fund” account held by NJ Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Publicity Relations:

Responsible for the media to have an understanding and/or goodwill toward this Deaf Senior Housing.

Fundraising:

Host events to raise money for the NJ Deaf Senior Housing. to purchase furniture, equipment such as computers, etc.

If you wish to make a donation of any amount, please make a check or money order payable to: NJAD, Inc. Be sure to mention “Deaf Senior Housing” on your check memo.

Mail to:

Charlotte Karras, Treasurer;
C/O NJAD Senior Fund
2104 Cedar Village Blvd
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

For those who make donations to NJ Deaf Senior Housing Fund, your name will be posted in NJAD Spotlight newsletter.

NJ Deaf Senior Housing - *Executive Committee*

Chair - *Lila Taylor*

Co-Chair - *Lucinda Brooks*

Secretary - *Jane Cyran*

Treasurer - *Charlotte Karras*

Grant Writer - *Jane Cyran*

Planning Chair - *Lucinda Brooks*

Advisor - *Sean Gerlis*

Recreation - *Rose Pizzo, Susan Bartose*

Ministries - *Tom Smith, Sheila Shuford*

Hospitality - *Charlotte Cole*

President of Cardinal Capital Management, Inc. - *Erich Schwenker*

Housing Consultant - *Katie Voss*



Rose Pizzo, Susan Bartose, Lucinda Brooks,
Jane Cyran, Lila Taylor, Erich Schwenker

New Jersey RID Convenes for Late Fall Meeting in Paramus

The New Jersey chapter of the Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. held its semi-annual business meeting in the morning of December 9, 2006 at Bergen County Community College. During the meeting a special service award was presented to Diane Lynch for her contributions to the organization. The meeting ended with a presentation by Michael Canale from Sorenson Video Relay who talked about the company and job opportunities within it. This was particularly timely with the impending opening of a new call center in Edison, the first one in the state of New Jersey. Michael fielded questions about the new center, job requirements and general questions about the current and future state of the industry of video relay. After the business meeting and a delicious lunch served by the organization, Molly Wilson gave the keynote for the mental health workshops which were held in the afternoon. There were two break out groups, an intermediate/advance level led by Molly and an introductory level led by Carol Uckar, director of ACCESS, NJ. The meeting was well attended as were the workshops which were co-sponsored by DDHH and the Division of Mental Health Services.



Diane Lynch
accepts distinguished
service award



NRJID business meeting



Michael Canale, Sorenson Video Relay



Molly Wilson,
keynote presenter



Mariann and Marianne interpreting the
keynote (Jacobson and Brown)



Carol Uckar,
workshop presenter

American Sign Language Story Hour

The New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (NJLBH), a division of the New Jersey State Library, held its monthly Children's American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour on December 12, 2006. Deaf Storyteller Darlene Sarnouski presented in sign language, a Christmas book, Pooch on the Loose: A Christmas Adventure by author Steven Kroll. Mrs.



Sarnouski was a creative and entertaining storyteller. Afterwards, she took time to answer some of the children's questions. She autographed and donated a copy of the book to the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) school library.

After Mrs. Sarnouski's presentation, Professor Scott Rawlins of Arcadia University gave a demonstration to the children, explaining the different types of animal teeth and skulls, illustrated with actual examples, including skulls of a human, mouse, ram, deer, cow, dog, beaver and shark's teeth. The children got to touch the sharp teeth, skulls and horns, and participated in a lively question-and-answer session afterwards.

Next, Pete Campione, owner of the Kindred Souls Canine Center, introduced Sophie, a therapy dog, and her owner Diane Koye, from the New Jersey State Library. Diane explained the history of Sophie's breed, the English Springer Spaniel. Ms. Koye also discussed the type of exercise needed and how the breed gets its name from springing to catch birds while hunting. After Diane's brief presentation, Pete surprised each student from MKSD with a gift – a framed picture of therapy dog Toby with his paw print and signature.



To celebrate the holidays, festive decorations and refreshments were set up in the cafeteria. Santa Claus,

portrayed by NJLBH staff member Jay Lau, made a stop at the library to give out bags of treats to all the children with a hearty "Ho Ho Ho" with voice and in sign language. Santa posed for pictures with the children and adults.

Attending the story hour were students in grades two through five from MKSD, home-schooled hearing children, and students with multiple disabilities from three classes at the Hunterdon County ESC School in Lambertville. Eighty-five people participated in the story hour.

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.



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@njs-tatelib.org. The scheduled March ASL Story Hour has been changed to March 6.

For information about NJLBH and its programs, call Anne McArthur at 609-530-3242.



Back In Action is Back

The Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc (NJP&A) announces the launch of an upgraded, online system for Back In Action, New Jersey's assistive device recycling exchange program. Since Back In Action started, the program has helped thousands of New Jersey residents find alternative homes for assistive technology. The Back In Action Web site provides an opportunity for individuals to list assistive technology devices they want to sell or donate, or post an inquiry about any they are interested in acquiring.

Access to the Back In Action site is easy. Individuals can visit the main NJP&A Web site at www.njpanda.org and click on the Back In Action logo (located at the bottom of the left hand column), where they will automatically be taken to the new Back In Action Web site. Individuals may also access the Back In Action Web site directly by typing in the Web address <http://backinaction.njpanda.org>

The Back In Action Web site includes several new features. Individuals can search for devices according to specific categories, such as computers, daily living, environmental adaptations, hearing, learning, cognitive, and developmental, mobility, seating and positioning, speech communication, vehicle modification, and vision. Users may also search for a device located within a set mile from their zip code, or identify that they only want to look for devices listed for free. There is even a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) button located at the top of the screen.

Anyone can search the Back In Action Web site as an "anonymous" viewer. This means that you do not need to set up a username or log-in. However, if you wish to list a device for sale or donation, or find out a seller's contact information, you will need to register a log-in (username and password). Setting up a log-in (username and password) is very simple to do. Simply click on the REGISTER button located at the top of your screen. You will be prompted to fill out a form with your contact information. You will also be asked to choose a unique username and password (both of which are case sensitive). Once you have registered, you will be asked to login by supplying your username and password. You will receive an email with your username and password (please keep this email for your records).

Individuals without computer access may contact ATAC at 800-922-7233 for assistance in navigating up-to-date Back In Action listings without a computer. For further assistance or to send comments, feel free to contact Back In Action at BackInAction@njpanda.org.



RELIGIOUS ACCESS

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church of Jackson

February is the month of leaders, especially our presidents Washington and Lincoln. Cornerstone takes special pride in developing leaders who are sensitive and active for those who are deaf and hard of hearing. We invite the public to worship with us and help our ministry to reach out to the wider community of those who are Deaf.

Cornerstone has a very friendly congregation and the service is interpreted into sign language as well as captioned which is projected onto a large screen. Services are held the Lucy Holman Elementary School of Jackson, on 125 Manhattan Street, Jackson, NJ. Join us for the 9:30 a.m. worship service with coffee and fellowship before and after the service.

For more information, or directions, call Dr. Rob Morrison, 732-928-2424.

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 140,
Jackson NJ, 08527
www.CornerstonePCUSA.com



Job Opportunities

Are you a high energy person? Fluent in American Sign Language? Have your own transportation? If so, the **Lexington Vocational Services Center, Inc.** has immediate openings for Job Coaches/ Developers in Essex, Union, Hudson, Bergen and Morris Counties. Flexible, part-time positions are available. All applicants must have a vehicle and a valid NJ driver's license; some evening and weekend work may be required.

Essential functions of the job may include:

- ❖ meeting with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing consumers on job sites;
- ❖ working with consumers and their employers in maintaining employment requiring the ability to communicate with hearing, non-signing employers in person and via telephone;
- ❖ working with the business community to develop employment opportunities for Deaf individuals; and,
- ❖ documenting coaching visits and job development activities in progress notes requiring excellent written English skills.

Applicants should have excellent American Sign Language skills. Applicants may be required to sit for the Sign Language Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) and if so, must achieve a minimum Intermediate level on the SCPI with an Advanced level preferred.

Interested parties should contact Larry Feldman, NJ Director, of our Supported Employment Program at 973-292-9491 Voice, 973-538-2291 TTY or lfeldman@lexnyc.org.

ACCESS, statewide mental health service provider in New Jersey for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, seeks qualified, energetic individuals to fill vacancies in several areas. If you are thinking of entering this field or are looking to gain valuable experience in counseling with deaf and hard of hearing individuals, send us your resume. Join our dedicated team of professionals!

Summary description of positions:

Outpatient Mental Health Clinician: Provide outpatient psychotherapy at several satellite offices in southern NJ; provide psychiatric emergency services, assisting screening centers to appropriately assess Deaf/hard of hearing patients; conduct trainings; participate in on-call rotation. MSW or MA/MS Counseling with appropriate licensure; fluency in ASL (SCPI-Advanced or better); Two year previous experience in mental health setting.

Partial Care Clinician: Team with another clinician to manage caseload of consumers who are deaf and have a diagnosed mental illness. Assist in development/enhancement of independent living skills; run psychoeducation groups on various topics; develop treatment plans; document progress toward goals; provide linkages to other community services; meds monitoring; provide crisis intervention. MA/MSW or BA/BSW, exp with deaf psychiatric population preferred, knowledge of developmentally disabled individual; proficiency in ASL (SCPI-Intermediate or better).

Independent Living Specialist: Supervise small caseload of consumers in activities of daily living. Supervise personal health care and grooming; train individuals to use public transportation; assist in meds monitoring; assist with budgeting skills; use of community resources; provide crisis intervention. BA/BS in related field, experience with deaf psychiatric population preferred, knowledge of developmentally disabled individual; intermediate or better proficiency in ASL.

ACCESS is based at Barnert Hospital in Paterson, NJ. Competitive salary, compensation for ASL proficiency, excellent benefits. Sign-on bonus available.

For more information contact:

Uckar, M.A., C.I.
 Director, ACCESS
CUckar@barnerthospital.org
www.barnerthospital.org

Communicator Signboard



NJ Deaf Sports Inc.

Hosts

**THE NJDS 2nd ANNUAL SKI TRIP AT BLUE MOUNTAIN, PALMERTON, PA 18071
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2007**

TIME: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

PLACE: UPPER LODGE

Contact: Heidi Schumacher or Chuck Wallace
NJDeafSportsInc@aol.com for directions, cost and information

Sunday mountain Hours: at Upper Lodge opens at 7:30 a.m.
Lifts operate from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Snowboarding - Skiing - Snowtubing



NWJAD, Inc.

(Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc)

Hold the Date!

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Fund Raiser Event To Be Announced

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

215 boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ

Doors Open: 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be sold (no alcohol) - Please donate desserts.

Hosts: Your friendly NWJAD Board

www.nwjad.org

nwjad@nwjad.org

We hope to see you at all our fun events this year!

Communicator Signboard



North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

proudly presents

Saint Patrick's WINGO Affair - Saturday, March 10, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus, 39 Washington St., Lodi, NJ

\$1,000 in cash given away based on 200 people attending - Games start to play at 8 p.m.

Cash Prizes for Most Irish Green Clothes - Contest will begin around 7:40 p.m.

Refreshments on Sale NJCCD Affair Banknite 50/50 Chances

Let's have fun and play with cards to win any \$ \$ \$

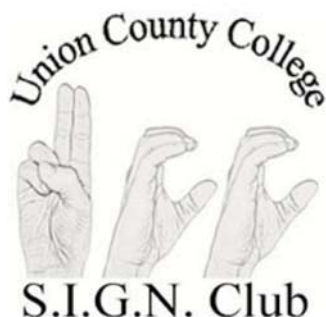
Admission \$10 each in advance - Members and Non-Members same price - At the door - \$12 each.

Chairperson - Beverly Golden

Committee - Matilda O'Clock and Karen Belisle

To order tickets in advance with names provided, please make a check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc. and mail to Beverly Golden, 26 Thomas Street, Clifton, NJ 07013. Deadline: March 4, 2007.

For more information, contact Beverly Golden at TBGolden0206@msn.com



Announces their 20th Anniversary ASL Festival

April 14, 2007

For more information and vendor table reservation please contact:

Rian Nataadiningrat, ASL Festival Chairperson

Email: uccaslfestival@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events 2007

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

April 27

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

Place TBA

RSVP to DDHH 800-792-8339 V/TTY

Open to the public

Next DDHH Advisory Council meeting

July 27

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Family Learning Day

Saturday May 19

Lake Drive School, Mountain Lakes

Details coming soon

23rd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Saturday, June 16, 2007

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ

Ticket Info: Lauren Lercher

GATickets@aol.com

Watch for more information!

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New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week (NJDAW)

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Deaf Fest 2007

Middlesex County Fairground

East Brunswick, NJ

Watch for more information

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

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