

June 2009

Monthly Communicator

Vol. 30 No. 6

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*Produced by DHS
Office of Publications*

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Star in Family Learning Conference

Submitted by Ira Hock, conference chair

The third biennial Family Learning Conference entitled, "Empowering Families with Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing," occurred May 2 on a Saturday. These conferences have become more popular and successful each year. This one was no exception!

This year's conference, held at the Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing, New Jersey, was particularly convenient for consumers who live in the southern region of New Jersey. More than 150 people attended the conference.



Keynote speaker Dennis Jones (left) receives token of gratitude for his efforts from Ira Hock, committee chairperson.

The keynote speaker, Dennis Jones, gave an inspirational and insightful presentation, which included his experiences of growing up with hearing loss. He gave tips to parents: "Encourage your Deaf or hard of hearing children to have high goals, and do not permit their hearing loss to be an impediment" (while pleading for us to not use the term 'hearing impaired'). Mr. Jones also mentioned how the writing of his book, Tarnished Halos and Crooked Fences: A Journey into the World of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, turned into a catharsis for him.

A special presentation was made to four parents who advocated for the passage of Grace's Law,

which mandates partial insurance coverage for hearing aids for children under 16 years old. In recognition of their advocacy, the Brian C. Shomo Leadership Award was presented to Kim Cherichello, Pamela D'Alessio, Mary Katherine Weatherby, and in absentia, Lynne Whitenight.

Three concurrent workshops were presented: "Advocating for Your Children's Rights," by Disability Rights New Jersey staff attorney Robert A. Robinson; "Communications and Families," by ACCESS' Caseworkers Mallory Murphy and Danielle Bowler; and "Transitions in Education," by Statewide Parent Advocacy Network's (SPAN) Carolyn Hayer. The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Field Representatives, Traci Burton and Jason Weiland, also spoke on "Technology and Family: Building Better Relationships."

The conference day concluded with a fabulous afternoon student's panel discussion, comprised of twins Tyler and Kaitlyn Weatherby, Sara Beth J. Sullivan, Alexander Sklaroff Van Hook, Jessica Lauren Fennel, and Jason Weidner, which provided a lively dialogue.



Committee Member Malia Corde with Leadership Award recipients

Continued on page 4

Director's Corner

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



DDHH promotes and actively participates in many activities to enhance public awareness of hearing loss. Among the many requests we receive, particularly over the past several months, are schools requesting our participation in their disability awareness events. Our field representatives have spoken to many school-aged children and teachers about hearing loss. It is extremely important that children and school personnel receive this type of sensitivity training.

Recently on May 2, DDHH in collaboration with the Department of Health and Senior Services, along with Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, conducted the third biennial "Family Learning Conference" for families with children who are Deaf and hard of hearing at the Atlantic Cape Community College. The cover story of this issue of *Monthly Communicator* reports on the event. An outcome of the conference was a strong desire by parents to see the formation of new parent support groups for families with children who have hearing loss. DDHH will work with parents to facilitate this effort.

DDHH will be hosting several other public awareness events during the upcoming months, including the annual "Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day" on June 13 at the Six Flags/Great Adventure Theme Park located in Jackson, NJ. We are anticipating a large public turnout this year in celebration of the 25th anniversary of this event.

Of special note, DDHH will partner with Comcast Cable Vision to host a "Digital Caption Demonstration" during the regularly scheduled Advisory Council meeting on July 24, which will be held in Voorhees, NJ. This is one of the first demonstrations of its type to be held in New Jersey. The goal of this event is to prepare people who are Deaf and hard of hearing with the information they need to successfully receive captions on their television after the June 12 transition to digital broadcasting. Please read more information about the "Digital Caption Demonstration" in this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Alexander".

Reminder:

The deadline for the September 2009 issue is August 1. The deadline for the combined July/August issue was June 1.

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

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

Newsletter Subscription:

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

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

First Digital Captioning Demonstration in NJ: *a partnership between DDHH and Comcast Cable Vision*

The US Congress has acted on the recommendation of the Obama Administration to delay the national transition to digital television until June 12, 2009. This was done because of concerns that the nation was unprepared for the February transition date. DDHH, as well as other state and national organizations, has been educating people who are Deaf and hard of hearing about the need to receive captions on their televisions related to this nation-wide transition to digital broadcasting. DDHH, in partnership with Comcast Cable Vision, will host a "Digital Caption Demonstration" to provide information about the many new features available with digital captioning during the July 24 DDHH Advisory Council meeting. We believe this is one of the first such demonstration's to be held in New Jersey.

Comcast has generously offered their facilities in Voorhees for the captioning demonstration. Their facility is located at 401 White Horse Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043. The captioning demonstration will emphasize how cable stations will work with consumers to resolve any problem with receiving digital captions. Additionally, actual demonstrations will occur of the traditional closed captioning and its limitations, as contrasted with the new high definition advanced captioning capabilities.

Due to the anticipated large turnout for the demonstration and information, two digital demonstrations are currently planned. The first demonstration will occur at 10:15 AM and the second at 2:15 PM. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Please RSVP by calling the DDHH office at 609 984-7283 V/TTY.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Special presentation in Voorhees, NJ

on

Friday, July 24

Hosted by Comcast Cable
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Comcast Cable
401 White Horse Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043 (enter near ramp)

**Lunch provided by Comcast Limited seating – RSVP required
609-984-7281 V/TTY**

Family Learning Conference (con't from page 1)

Moderated by DDHH staff Alan Champion, each panelist began with a brief biographical sketch of their lives that included anecdotes about aspects of their varying degrees of hearing loss among family and friends in the home, at school and other places. The students spoke about the various means of communication utilized in these varying contexts, and they informed as well as entertained the audience with their unique stories. Their humor, warmth and honesty were refreshing,



Vendors at the Family Learning Conference

and an excellent way to bring a close to the day.

One of the bi-products of this conference was a call to create an association or support group for parents of children with hearing loss. Many parents signed a list providing their contact information so that this important initiative can get started. If anyone has interest in

participating in this group, please contact DDHH at 609-984-7281 V/TTY to provide your name, phone number and e-mail address.



Student panelists share their own communication experiences

Sponsors, along with the planning committee's efforts, included NJ Sprint Relay; NJ Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Sorensen Communications; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpretive Services Inc.; and Communication Service for the Deaf Video Relay Service, LLC.

The River of Cherry Hill was most gracious in providing volunteers and materials in coordinating the children's activities for the day.

The Family Learning Conference Committee is comprised of SPAN's Statewide Parent to Parent, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, Communication Access Coordinator



Spanish interpretation services were provided.

and representatives from DDHH. There was such an overwhelming response to this conference that individuals inquiring after/past the deadline had to be turned away. Plans for the fourth biennial conference will soon begin.

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Equipment Distribution Program - Suspended For Remainder of FY 2009

Due to severe New Jersey state budget restrictions and the current government freeze on spending for the remainder of the 2009 fiscal year, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equipment Distribution Program (EDP) has been suspended. Through this program, which began in 1993, the division has distributed assistive technology to qualified Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-blind New Jersey residents, as well as those with a serious speech impediment, to assist people that want to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency in their daily lives. The equipment in the EDP includes, Text Telephones (TTY), Amplified and Voice Carry Over (VCO), and Hearing Carry Over (HCO) telephones, Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Baby Cry Alert Systems, and Artificial Larynx Devices (ALD). Please call DDHH after July 1, 2009 to check the status of the EDP program.

Frank Vespa-Papaleo, Esq. Receives Jack Mulligan Memorial Award HLA-NJ Bergen County Chapter Honors NJ Civil Rights Attorney

During the April 22 meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey's Bergen County Chapter (HLA-NJ), noted civil rights attorney Frank Vespa-Papaleo was presented with the Jack Mulligan Memorial Award in recognition of his outstanding service to people with hearing loss.

Chapter Co-Coordination, Arlene Romoff and Rosemarie Kasper, presented this award named for the chapter's dedicated leader for 18 years. The award states:

*JACK MULLIGAN MEMORIAL AWARD
honors with profound gratitude
FRANK VESPA-PAPALEO
Esteemed civil rights attorney,
For his longstanding and dedicated efforts on behalf of people with hearing loss:
Captioned movies, hospital access, employment and housing rights,
and numerous outreach accomplishments
Improving the quality of life for so many.*

Kasper also noted that having a dual disability (lifelong use of a wheelchair and now profound hearing loss) has caused her to fully realize that given the choice, she would prefer hearing rather than walking. Most places are now wheelchair-accessible, but communication access is still not widely available, and makes attendance useless if not provided. An intense extemporaneous dialogue covering a broad range of topics followed the presentation.

As a former director of the NJ Division on Civil Rights who now serves as Senior Counsel to the New Jersey Public Advocate, Frank Vespa-Papaleo said that an organization such as the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey is important for its efforts to educate and share information. He emphasized that Romoff has been an invaluable resource on hearing loss and technology issues, and Kasper as an advocacy activist.



Rose-Marie Kasper, HLA-NJ, congratulates Frank and adds some of her perspectives.

Distinguished guests attending the presentation included, Dr. David Alexander, Director, NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Nancy Yarosh, NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Jim Thebery, Director, Bergen County Office on Disability Services; and Marie Nordling, Chair of the HLA-NJ Middlesex County Chapter. Several of the honoree's former colleagues from the Division on Civil Rights attended the tribute as well.

Both Romoff and Kasper stated that the extensive accomplishments by the honoree were invaluable to people with hearing loss. Having captioned movies, for example, added to the enjoyment of life; and being assured of hospital access was vital as well.

Vespa-Papaleo noted that it is important to speak up about one's access requirements, and pointed out that each hospital has a patient representative who should be contacted regarding special needs.

In explaining the advocacy process, Vespa-Papaleo said that if a problem is encountered in trying to access a hospital, doctor's office, movie theater, public library, school or other public venue, the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights should be called upon. "It is very important in advocacy to be heard," he commented. "The legislature gives money, your tax dollars, to groups they hear about and this is based on statistics. If the numbers show that not many people with disabilities are filing complaints, legislators will think not many people with disabilities need help." The meeting concluded with a lively question and answer session, with attendees promising to follow up on access issues of particular importance to them.

Support for Education Must Go Beyond Words

By Dennis Jones

Deaf education is a depressing topic. Let me rephrase that. Deaf education is a topic guaranteed to elevate my blood pressure and make me sigh. There are enough books and articles written about how Deaf education is in crisis and that it's obvious (or at least it should be) that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark and something needs to be done. In my more cynical moments, I've wondered if writing about the shortcomings of Deaf education hasn't become a literary "cottage industry" for researchers and anyone else with an interest in the subject.

I can't tell you how many times I've started this particular article. A partial list of some of the sentences I've started include, "Deaf education is in crisis", "Deaf education seems to have stagnated," "Deaf education is not making sufficient progress."

Can I be blamed for dwelling on the negative? There is certainly enough information out there on the topic such as: Approximately half of all 18-year old Deaf students graduate high school with a third-grade reading level; Upwards of 75 percent (some studies place it even higher) of Deaf students leave college before completing their programs of study; Deaf individuals earn significantly less than their hearing peers in the workplace. These were the statistics on my mind when I stated that Deaf education is a depressing topic. So bring on the bleak moods and sighs of desperation. But . . .

I direct the following comments at myself as well as the readers. To focus solely on the negative wouldn't be fair. There are too many people who have dedicated their personal and professional lives towards improving the quality of education (an, quite honestly, life) of Deaf students. It's all too easy to find fault with the current state of Deaf education. It's even easier to forget there are others who, while they may share the feelings that something is wrong, are doing what they can to shed light on the topic and do something about it. It is through their efforts we can feel positive about the future, after decades of gloom-and-doom pronouncements to have hope that things are improving. This is a debt that cannot be repaid.

Thanks to the efforts of those who dream and act, it is not a delusion to say optimism about the future of Deaf education is not misplaced. There is more information available today than there was even ten years ago about the factors that figure into personal and academic success for Deaf students. For examples, consider that we know each Deaf student is unique and one size fits all instructional methodologies do not work. We also know about the importance of providing Deaf students with experientially based learning rather than focusing solely on classroom instruction. And, we know that the learning potential of Deaf and hearing students is virtually indistinguishable. Yes, we have come a long way.

This information did not fall out of the sky nor was it a gift from the gods. It was collected over the years in the schools and classrooms serving Deaf students. One topic I have often pondered and debated with my family, friends, and colleagues is whether it is possible to turn Deaf education around and reverse the trend of substandard education and underachievement. It is possible. But not without implementing the type of programmatic changes that support this goal. Success in education depends on a number of factors that must come together to make real, lasting change not just a possibility, but a reality. This holds true whether we're talking about specialized Deaf education or modification of the "regular" classroom.

It's an ugly truth that one of the top obstacles facing Deaf education is financial. Deafness is an expensive condition. Additional services, equipment, and personnel need to be utilized. This is a reality that cannot be avoided or denied. This is also why institutional commitment is crucial to the success of a program. If more information regarding Deafness and best educational practices are obtained, there needs to be a place for it to be collected. The number one place is a classroom.

It is no secret our country is facing an economic crisis. Educational programs are being scaled back in an effort to save money. I would argue the opposite needs to occur. Money needs to be invested into education so our students can acquire the skills needed to produce those goods and services necessary for a strong economy. Cutting services is a short-term measure. Education needs to be viewed as a long-term investment that will pay great dividends in the future.

The support must be more than verbal. It must be backed by commitments of time, space, personnel, and money. To do any less would be to sabotage the efforts of the staff and cheat the students out of an education that will equip them for a productive life beyond program walls.



Dennis Jones, author of [*Tarnished Halos and Crooked Fences: A Journey into the World of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*](#)

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

[Purchase Six Flags Awareness Day Tickets from Participating Organizations for June 13 Event](#)

New Jersey Association of the Deaf is responsible for coordinating ticket sales through the following participating organizations serving people with hearing loss:

Bruce Street School for the Deaf

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

Burlington County College's ASL Club

1338 New Rodgers Road
Levittown, PA 19057
V: 908-303-3797
Rachy41@yahoo.com

Deaf Golf Association, Inc.

420 North Union Avenue
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
W: 862-279-7483 (VP)
NJASLTA@aol.com

New Jersey Association of the Deaf

President@NJADeaf.org
www.njadeaf.org/contact.html

New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind

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

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.

9 Vessel Road
Waretown, NJ 08758
VP: 609-242-0240
Carlina@aol.com

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.

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

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

803 Rellim Drive
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
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

NYC Deaf & Hard of Hearing Parents Association

PO Box 20293
Brooklyn, NY 11202-0293
VP: 347-227-0630
V: 917-403-3406
NYCDeafHHParents@aol.com

Sign of Sobriety, Inc.

100 Scotch Road
Ewing, NJ 08628
V: 609-369-1985
Communication@signsofsobriety.org

South River High School

11 Montgomery Street.
South River, NJ 08882
V: 732-809-0547
acobb@srivernj.org

**Ticket prices when purchased, in advance, through participating
Deaf and hard of hearing organizations**



Theme Park: \$30

(includes additional ticket for Safari)

Hurricane Harbor: \$20

Theme Season Pass: \$90

3-Park Season Pass: \$120

New this year!

Parking Voucher: \$12 (save \$3)

**Ticket prices the day of event
on June 13,
at Deaf Awareness booth,
front entrance:**

Theme Park: \$35

Hurricane Harbor: \$25

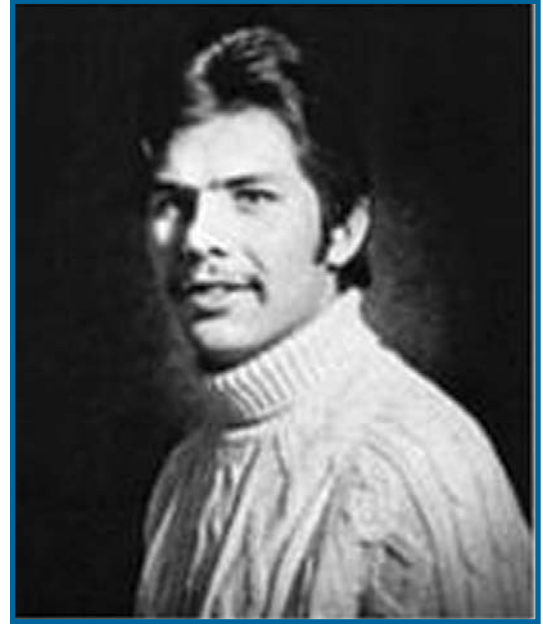
**For more information, contact Lauren Lercher at
GATickets@aol.com**

Alan R. Barwiolek Papers & Artifacts

Donated to Gallaudet University's Archives

Gallaudet University's Archives has been made the recipient of the personal and professional papers, photographs, videotapes, materials and memorabilia of Alan R. Barwiolek (1952-1996) who was known as "AIB" within the Deaf Community.

Included in the collection are 12 linear feet of correspondence, documents, play scripts, newspaper clippings, awards, posters, souvenir journals and scrapbooks, 1,189 photographs, 43 videotapes, and artifacts of Mr. Barwiolek's childhood in Jeannette, PA; as a student at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf; an undergraduate Theatre Major at Gallaudet University (Class '75); a graduate student at New York University; a student with National Theatre of the Deaf; a solo performer and workshop facilitator; a founding member of the New York Deaf Theatre; and his careers as a Deaf-Blind Counselor; a teacher of American Sign Language; a professor of Deaf Studies-ASL at Union County College, NJ; and a Deaf advocate. Also included in the collection are documents, awards, reviews, and theatrical props and costumes of CHALB Productions, the two-man performance company founded in 1980 by Mr. Barwiolek and J. Charlie McKinney (1940-1998), that performed their original satirical plays about Deaf Culture throughout the United States, and in Europe and Asia until 1994.



The Archives will prepare to process the papers of Alan R. Barwiolek, according to the archival standard. Once processed, the collection will be open to the public with a detailed inventory. Mr. Ulf Hedberg, Director Gallaudet's Archives, stated, "these documents and objects will be significant tools to aid researchers who wish to study the incredible life of Mr. Alan R. Barwiolek."

The collection was donated by Tony Allicino, Executor of Mr. Barwiolek's Estate and Literary Executor of CHALB Productions. For information about the collection, contact archives@gallaudet.edu.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Deaf child David listens with his hand on the banjo while his big brother plays him to sleep.

Children's American Sign Language Story Hour Karate Story at the Library!

Submitted by Christine Olsen

DARLENE SARNOUSKI, DEAF STORYTELLER, was the special guest at the New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped's Children's American Sign Language Story Hour held on April 21.



Darlène Sarnouski donated her autography book to MKSD teacher, Ms. Jennifer.

Ms. Sarnouski signed Karate Girl by Mary Leary, to students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission School, and the public. This story, illustrated with bright artwork, is about Mary who wants to protect her

younger brother from bullies. She takes karate lessons, thinking this will be a good way to protect him. Mary soon realizes that karate is more than just self defense - it is

about strength and self-confidence. Following Story Hour, the students helped the earth by picking up litter.

The Story Hour was interpreted into ASL, thanks to support from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, New Jersey Department of Human Services. The Story Hour is part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program (DHHAP) offered by LBH, which is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton, NJ. For more information, contact Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the DHHAP Program, at 877-882-5593 TTY or colsen@njstatelib.org. The last ASL Story Hour (at NJLBH) for this school year will be on June 9 at 10:00 AM.



Darlène Sarnouski signing the word "Practice" from the story, Karate Girl.



MKSD students show off their "Be Green" frog shirts to celebrate Earth Day!



“Bring Back The Old Signs”

ASL Interpretation Gloss:
“Sign sign sign, long-long-ago, KEEP!”

This workshop is an opportunity to see some of our most treasured resources ~ Deaf people who themselves were raised by Deaf parents, traveling through the past on an archaeological dig to recover signs and phrases rarely or not seen in today’s ASL lexicon. Deaf panelists will share prepared lists of old signs, remember them through their discussions and entertain suggestions by participants in attendance at this workshop. Honoring, celebrating and learning are among the goals of this unique opportunity. Saturday, August 1 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Philadelphia Downtown Marriott (conference hotel) Room 407 This is a pre-conference of the RID national conference.



Registration and payment fee of \$25. Deadline June 30, 2009. Include name and e-mail address and mail to: Laura Jones Hartness, 9041 Newport Way, Livonia, MI 48150 Make check payable to: Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf, (In memo note: IDP Member Section) No refunds for cancellations after July 15. CEU’s available for this workshop.



In Memoriam

Kathleen Sciarabba, a sign language interpreter who was listed with the DDHH interpreter referral service, died Wednesday April 25 at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Manhattan. Both of her parents James and Dora LaSala are Deaf, and she learned to sign before she could talk. As a Coda, or Child of a Deaf Adult, she was from an era when it was common to serve as interpreter for your parents and this was certainly true for Ms. Sciarabba. She graduated from Brooklyn’s New Utrecht High School and from the Seymour Joseph Institute of American Sign Language. She was certified through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and maintained her membership with the National and Metro Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She was also membership chairwoman of the New Jersey RID. Mrs. Sciarabba had worked for the past four years as a video relay interpreter for



Sorenson Communications in Edison, NJ. She also taught interpreting at the Seymour Joseph Institute in Huguenot. “She was a teacher, trainer, mentor and nurturer. She was beloved by all her students,” said her colleague, Mary Bacheller. “She was like a sister to me.” There was a mass in the morning on Tuesday, April 29 at Holy Child Roman Catholic Church, Eltingville and a memorial service in the evening at Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Huguenot with close to 400 family, friends, fellow interpreters, Deaf and hearing people in attendance. In addition to her parents and her husband, Peter, she has a son Frank Sciarabba, a daughter, Doreen Sciarabba, and a brother, Jim LaSala. She was a friend to many. She was kind and generous and she always had a smile. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, friend and mentor. She will be missed in our community.

June 30 Deadline for Registration with Video Relay Provider

FCC releases American Sign Language Video explaining new Ten-Digit Numbering and Emergency Call

All Video Relay Service and IP Relay users must register with a default provider before June 30, 2009 for your own ten-digit telephone number and provider location information. This registration is required in order to place all VRS or IP Relay calls (unless it is an emergency call).

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has produced a video in American Sign Language to explain the new ten-digit numbering requirements and emergency call handling procedures for Internet-based telecommunications relay services. The video is available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/numbering_and_e911_for_vrs_ip.html.

Since December 31, 2008, persons with hearing and speech disabilities using Video Relay Service (VRS) or Internet Protocol Relay (IP Relay) – two forms of Internet-based Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) – have been able to obtain ten-digit geographic telephone numbers that permit access to enhanced 911 (E911) service, as well as facilitate the placing and receiving of IP-based TRS calls.

Registered VRS and IP Relay users with the new ten-digit telephone numbers are able to make emergency calls through their primary (“default”) provider and have the call, along with their ten-digit number and registered location information, automatically routed to the appropriate public safety answering point, the same E911 call center used by voice telephone users. In addition, all 911 emergency calls made through VRS or IP Relay must receive priority attention so that they will be answered by the first available communications assistant ahead of all other non-emergency calls.

Further, with a ten-digit number, voice telephone users calling someone using VRS or IP Relay will simply dial the user’s assigned ten-digit telephone number, rather than the VRS or IP Relay provider’s access number and the user’s IP address or proxy telephone number.



ALERT! **Sprint Relay**

Get Your Sprint Relay Call Now Number Today!

Pick Sprint Relay... as YOUR provider for your 10-digit numbers. Communication will be fast, smooth and easy.

Video Relay Service (VRS), Internet Relay (IP), and Instant Messenger (IM) users must register by June 30, 2009 for a default provider. Registration is required. After June 30, you will not be able to make or receive your non-emergency relay calls through VRS, IP or IM.

For Sprint VRS:

- Go to www.sprintvrs.com
- View instructions online: www.sprintrelaynews.com/callnow/sprintvrs/

For Sprint Relay IP and IM:

- Go to www.mysprintrelay.com
- View instructions online: www.sprintrelaynews.com/callnow/sprintip/

For more information on Sprint Relay Call Now 10-Digit Local Numbers, go to www.sprintrelay.com/callnow

Although Sprint IP, Sprint IP using AIM, Sprint VRS, Sprint WebCaption, Fed IP, and Fed VRS can be used for emergency calling, such emergency calling may not function the same as traditional 911 / E911 services. By using Sprint IP, Sprint IP using AIM, Sprint VRS, Sprint WebCaption, Fed IP, and Fed VRS for emergency calling you agree that Sprint including Sprint's suppliers of emergency services are not responsible for any damages resulting from errors, delays, malfunctions, interruptions or failures in accessing or attempting to access emergency services through Sprint IP, Sprint IP using AIM, Sprint VRS, Sprint WebCaption, Fed IP, and Fed VRS whether caused by the negligence of Sprint or otherwise. ©2009 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. Call now tracks the accuracy of their respective content.

NJRID Hosts Gangs Workshop for Interpreters

By LeTishia Whitney-Rindaris, CI/CT

On April 20, NJRID sponsored an all day workshop on "Gangs in New Jersey." For the morning, New Jersey gang expert Eddie Torres gave a crash course in the gang activity present in NJ, touching on three of the several gangs in existence here. The two dozen or so interpreters present saw examples of "G Stacking," which is a complicated system of hand signals generally used to show your gang affiliation, much along the lines of a "secret handshake."

Eddie went on to tell us of some gang statistics, such as there are approximately 700 gangs in New Jersey; the members range in age from 15 to late 20's (although they can be older or younger, in the extreme); there are more than 30,000 gang members in New Jersey with the fastest growing demographic being young females. The most concentrated gang activity is found in Newark, Camden, Jersey City and Asbury Park. We learned that being a member of a gang is not illegal in New Jersey. It's the illegal activity in which they participate that leads to arrests.

One topic that Eddie spoke of related to "flagging," which could be anything from a blatant display of gang colors with bandanas or hats, to more subtle indicators like shoelaces or professional sports jerseys. The three groups he focused on were the Bloods (whose gang colors are red and black), the Crips (blue), and the Latin Kings (gold and black).

Eddie also addressed gang recruitment. One of the most successful mechanisms for recruiting new gang members is through the memorials after the death of a gang member. The potential recruit sees an outpouring of love and connection and is lulled into the gang. There is also recruitment occurring through the military, My Space, schools and children born into gangs.

Eddie stressed that it was important to remember that anyone could be in a gang, citing that gang member are Jewish, affluent, Caucasian, college graduates, and more. Eddie shared a lot of his wealth of experience and expertise with us, emphasizing that it is always important to be aware of where you are and to keep your own safety as a priority. That said, it's also important to know when to be afraid, and when to just be aware.

Unfortunately, due to an unexpected illness, the "Deaf Viewpoint" presenter was unable to attend for the afternoon portion of this workshop. The slotted time provided an opportunity to partici-

pate in an open dialogue between and among colleagues, one we rarely are fortunate enough to experience. While there was little discussion with Eddie

about the potential for an interpreter to find him/herself in a gang situation, what he shared led to many questions in the afternoon session. Discussion included what an interpreter would do if in a job assignment in which one came to the realization that a gang member is present.

Ultimately, the consensus was that, while your well-being should always be in your mind, use your senses when deciding when it is still possible to safely do your job. The likelihood that we would ever actually be put into a situation where we were interpreting in a gang situation is slim to none. We would more likely find ourselves on some fringe, never truly in the fray. In spite of the unfortunate circumstances of the cancellation of the afternoon guest speaker, interpreters demonstrated how resilient they can be in making any available time productive for our professional growth.



Happy 25th Birthday, UCC ASL Festival

By Kristina Miranda, S.I.G.N Club Co-President

Words are insufficient to express the beauty and joy of UCC's celebration of ASL Festival's 25th Birthday. On Saturday April 25th, the event began with a dedication to program coordinator and Professor Eileen Forestal, for her tireless work, dedication, and passion over the years. Her work has resulted in making the ASL, Deaf Studies and ASL-English interpreting program as one of the best programs on the east coast, and nationwide.

On our stage, performances began with the third-year students in the ASL-English interpreting program, Heidi Olsen, Dana Fuller, Kristina Miranda, and Ardella Smith, interpreting a song in ASL. This was followed by a time-honored tradition in the Deaf community-ASL Storytelling. Storytellers included Jason Norman, Eric Sarnouski, Joey Garth, and Debra Fuller, among others.

The program continued with an awards ceremony to honor individuals involved in the Deaf community as follows:

- The AIB award for an organization who has supported UCC students and program went to ASLBA (American Sign Language Bowling Association);
- The Interpreter's Award given to an interpreter who has demonstrated supported to UCC students by being involved in activities and events and actively involved in the Deaf community went to Kathleen Taylor;
- The Alumni Award recognizing a graduate from the program and who has continued their involvement in the Deaf community, their support of UCC students, and who has hosted events, and worked within the community went to Guy LiMato;
- The Claudia Parsons award that honors an individual who has gone above and beyond the service to our students went to Joey Garth who has been a tremendous support to our students and program and is active within the Deaf community (Joey was also recognized by Professors Eileen Forestal and Cindy Williams with the Bonnie Thomas Service Award for his love and passion and "hands-on" involvement with the Deaf community).

The co-presidents of S.I.G.N Club also recognized two students, Heidi Olsen and Jeanette Lebron, who have done the most over the past year through their participation, diligence and preparation for all of the year's events. Lastly, Coordinator and Professor Eileen Forestal was recognized and honored with the Founder's Award. It was acknowledged that if it were not for Professor Forestal, there would be no ASL Festival, no programs for our ASL, Deaf Studies, or interpreting students.

After the awards ceremony, the amazing Wild Zappers performed. They continue to draw the hearing and Deaf com-

munity closer with their brilliant skill, incomparable talent, and timeless art of dance and ASL. Before the day ended, the talented entertainer Robert DeMayo graced the stage with his unmatched humor and wit through his improv skits, stories, music, and comedy. The presidents of S.I.G.N Club would like to recognize the involvement of all of UCC students, their diligence and hard work in preparing for the day as well as their unceasing efforts and participation throughout the ASL Festival. Our sincerest appreciation extends to all of you - Thank you! We would like to express our thanks to the ASL-English interpreters who interpreted for our shows: Jackie Davidson, Steve Hess, Natalie Atlas, and Marci Friedman. Sincere thanks and gratitude to our faculty professors: David Rivera, Darlene Sarnouski, Cindy Williams, and Eileen Forestal. Each of you continues to be an inspiration for us all, thank you!

Note from the author: Lastly, I'd like to personally thank the S.I.G.N Club board, Dana Fuller, Heidi Olsen, Nicole Franey, and Meagan Powell, and my co-president, Daniel Amend. It's been a true honor to work alongside with each of you. You each have touched my heart with your willingness and support of our events and the program as a whole. For that, I love and thank you all.



Bergen Community College Celebrates Deaf Culture Day with I. King Jordan as Guest Speaker

Submitted by Maria Bohn

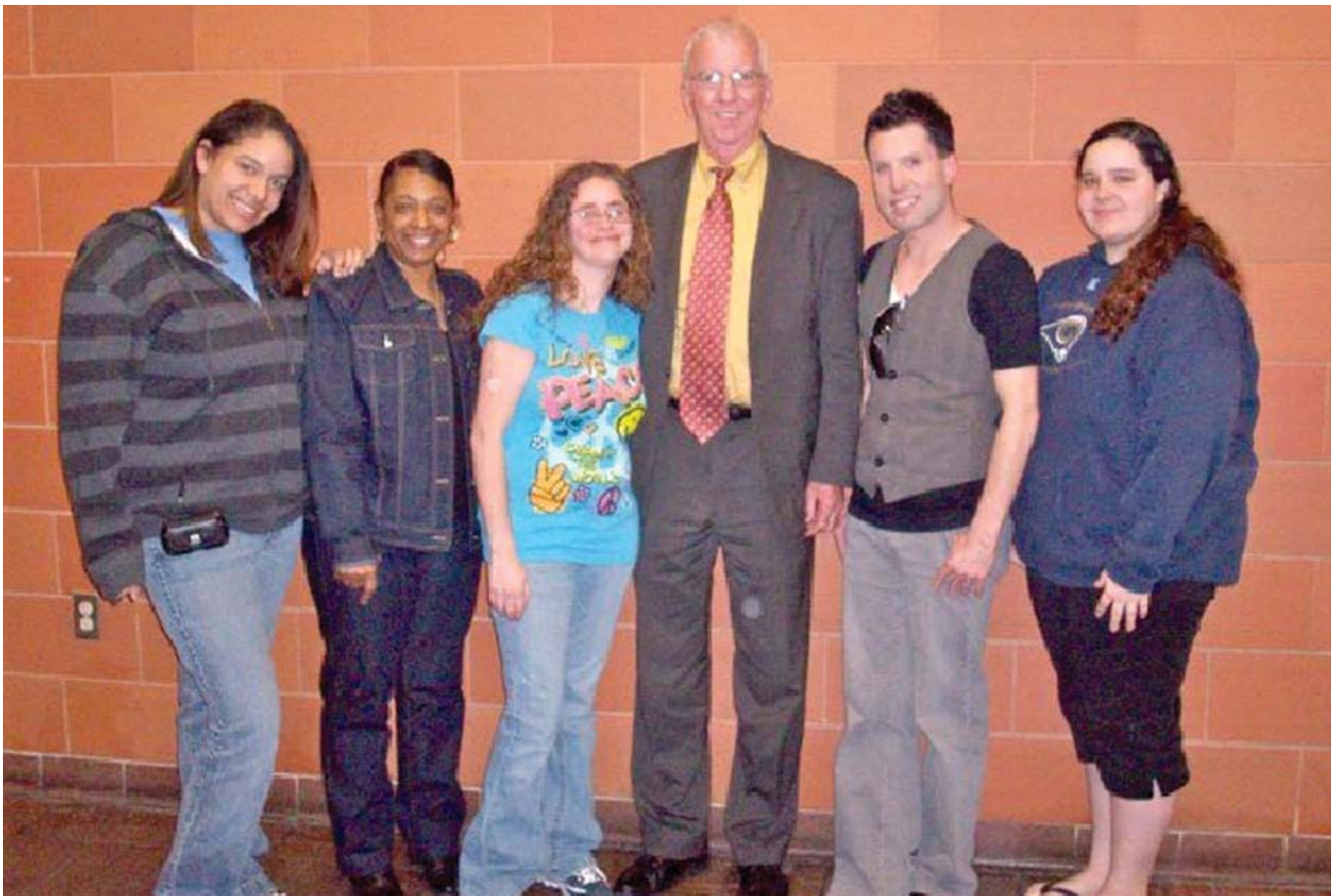
On April 24, the Center for Collegiate Deaf Education (CCDE) at Bergen Community College celebrated Deaf Culture Day. The events planned were specifically geared to highlight the cultural aspects and perspective of the Deaf community. These events were part of the celebration of Diversity Week on campus and the 20 year anniversary of the CCDE.

Dr. I. King Jordan, the guest speaker for the day, fostered support and awareness for all students with hearing loss, regardless of their communication style. He spoke of the biggest barriers Deaf people face – “Communication and Attitude” as well as the increasing technology he has seen through the years to benefit all people with hearing loss. We are much honored to have had the opportunity to have Dr. Jordan speak to us, the college and surrounding communities. He is a true advocate for ALL.

In the afternoon, a panel of CCDE students answered questions posed by the college community on their perspectives of the Deaf and hearing communities and their experiences at Bergen Community College.

Vendors were present from several companies throughout the day to foster awareness of Deaf Culture, and technologies and services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

The college is very committed to building an inclusive community through celebrating its diversity. If you attended Deaf Culture Day at Bergen Community College, please visit us at www.bergen.edu/ccde and fill out a short survey so we may improve this event in the future.



Tee Time

NEW JERSEY DEAF GOLF ASSOCIATION

A, B, & C Flight Championship

Golfer's Package: \$185

Includes Green Fees (2 days), Carts (required), Membership Fees,
Prizes (Low Gross, Low Net, Flights),
Closest to Pin and Long Drive Contest, and Dinner

Non-Golfer's Package:

Dinner \$35

Saturday and Sunday

July 25 & 26

Tee Times: Sat. 11:00 AM

Sun. 11:00 AM

(Dinner at Sky View GC after completing Saturday's round)

Be there at 10:00 AM for general meeting!

Sky View Golf Club, 226 Lafayette Road, Sparta, NJ 07871, 973-726-4653

For more details on the golf course, visit www.skyviewgolf.com

For more information, contact Jimmy Libman, Chairperson
973-846-4171, jimlibman@comcast.com

Registration forms will be sent by mail.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Educational Interpreter Position

Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne, NJ is seeking full-time Educational Interpreters for the 2009 - 2010 school year. A new salary schedule is in effect as well as great health benefits. Please contact Candice Chaleff, Director of Special Education, for more information or an interview: cchaleff@pcti.tec.nj.us or 973-389-4197.



RELIGIOUS ACCESS

Jacksonville Chapel in Lincoln Park offers, upon request, ASL interpreted services for the 10:15 AM service. Contact Kelley Nelson at KLHNelson@tmo.blackberry.net to make your request. Jacksonville Chapel is a nondenominational church. Please visit us at www.jacksonvillechapel.org to learn more about our family.

MINISTRY WITH THE DEAF OF SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER #138 OF ICDA

JUNE



SATURDAY, JUNE 13

6:00 PM TO 10:30 PM

No early birds. Please arrive after 6:00 PM and before 7:00 PM
St. Gregory's Church (basement), 340 E. Evesham Avenue, Magnolia, New Jersey 08049

\$10 per person (cash only) Must be 21 to play. No children, please. Pay at the door.

Refreshments (meatball sandwiches) & 50/50 tickets will be sold.

Bring desserts, get 3 free 50/50 tickets (limit 3 tickets per person).

Special Father's Day drawing (for fathers only)

For more information, please contact Betty Ann mwdbak@yahoo.com.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

sponsors

DEAF AWARENESS NIGHT at the annual carnival

June 18

The carnival opens at 6:00 PM



All members of the Deaf Community and their families are welcome.

Check in at the "All are Welcome" Deaf Club Booth to receive a free T-Shirt and tickets for a free hot dog and soda.

The Silent Choir will be performing at 7:00 PM. There will be rides, a gaming midway and lots of great food.

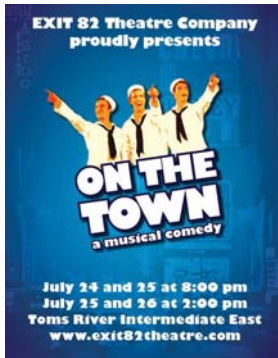
Church of the Immaculate Conception

18 South Street

Spotswood, NJ 08884

For more information, contact Tevis Thompson
(Program Coordinator, Deaf Apostolate Diocese of Metuchen) at deaf1@comcast.net

Communicator Signboard



EXIT 82 THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS ON THE TOWN

Toms River Intermediate East Auditorium,
1519 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ

Sign Language Interpretation on Saturday,
July 25, 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$10 Adult, \$7 Senior Citizen (65 and over), \$5 Child (12 and under)

To order tickets, call 732-506-6693 or you may mail a check for the correct amount (made out to Exit 82 Theatre Company) to Exit 82 Tickets, 1020 Crystal Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753.

Please indicate seating preference for July 25 interpreted performance. All seats are reserved.

Questions? - E-mail exit82tickets@gmail.com

More information about the show can be found online at www.exit82theatre.com

DEAF/BLIND LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY

PICNIC

June 20

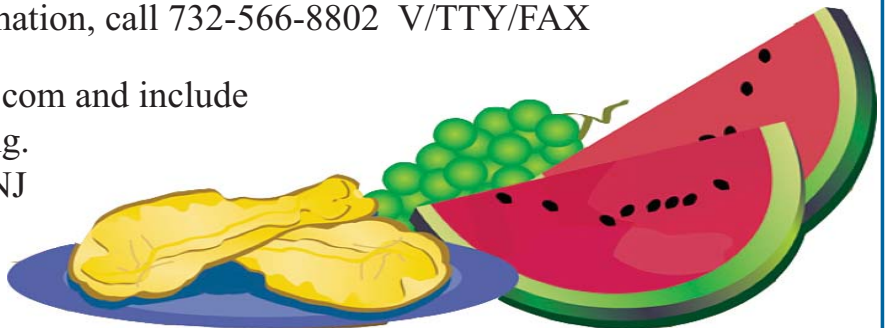
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Come celebrate Melvin Bell's 90th Birthday!

Brady's home, 38 Essie Drive, Matawan, NJ 07747-2706

For more information, call 732-566-8802 V/TTY/FAX

Send RSVP to dvsbrady@aol.com and include the pot luck dish you will bring. In the subject line, type DBLNJ



Communicator Signboard



Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

Hosts

MATCH GAME

VFW 601 N. Dorset Avenue Ventnor, NJ

Saturday, June 20 7:00 PM

Hawaii Costume Contest, Bank Nite, 50/50 Chances

Admission: Members - \$6, Non- members - \$8

Refreshment on sale.



NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, INC. AN ADVOCACY AND SERVICE ORGANIZATION

21st Biennial State Conference

“Our Future is Our Destiny”

Saturday, August 29

Holiday Inn – Hasbrouck Heights/Meadowlands

The day's program includes keynote speakers from both the state and national organizations, celebration of NJAD's 41 years with recognition of surviving founders, and members and business meeting that will include the election of officers. Exhibits will be open throughout the day and video relay services will provide mini-workshops throughout the day. For the evening, there will be a buffet style dinner, and the program will introduce Miss Deaf New Jersey, include inauguration of officers, an awards presentation and entertainment.

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Early Bird Combo due by June 15, 2009	\$60	\$ 85
Combo Ticket (Day & Evening) due August 15, 2009	\$80	\$105
Day Conference Ticket by August 15, 2009	\$30	\$ 55
Evening Dinner Show Ticket only by August 15, 2009	\$40	\$ 65
At Door (Cash only) No Lunch No Dinner Show	\$20	\$ 25

Limited seating, first come first serve. Send in your registration early.

Registration contact person is Max at njadsc2009@gmail.com.

For information and to become a member, visit www.NJADeaf.org.

Click on “State Conference” - all information included

The New Jersey Association of the Deaf, a non-profit organization, is the focal point of all cooperating agencies within the state in promoting the welfare of the Deaf in educational measures, in employment, in legislation, and in any other field pertaining to or affecting the Deaf of New Jersey their pursuit of economic, security equality and all their just rights and privileges as citizens.

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

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Calendar of Events 2009

Saturday, June 13

DDHH 25th Annual

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Six Flags Great Adventure

Jackson, NJ

For ticket information, contact

Lauren Lercher at GATickets@aol.com.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, July 24

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

At Comcast Cable, 401 White Horse Road,

Voorhees, NJ 08043

RSVP DDHH 609-984-7281 V/TTY

**New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.
(DAW)**

Deaf Fest 2009

Sunday September 13

Middlesex County Fairgrounds

East Brunswick, NJ

www.njdaw.org

GARDEN STATE

WALK4HEARING - 2009

October 17, 2009

Mercer County Park West,

Hughes Drive, West Windsor, NJ.

www.hearingloss-nj.org

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

DDHH Office Dates Closed

New Jersey Mandatory furlough date for state employees - June 19