

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

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Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

New Federal Program to Distribute Communications Technology to People With Vision and Hearing Loss



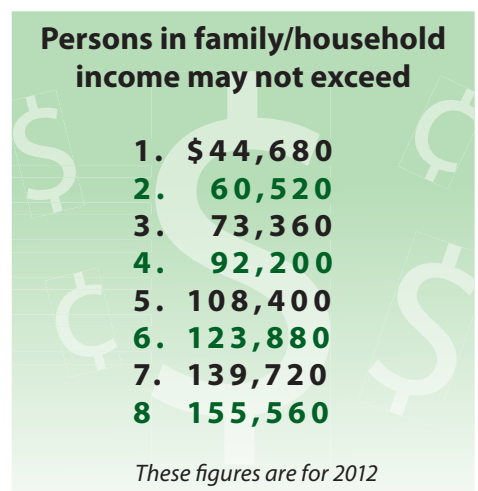
iCanConnect
The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

New Jersey residents who have a combined loss of hearing and vision soon may find it easier to connect with family, friends, and their community thanks to the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been mandated by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act to establish this new program, which provides support for the local distribution of an array of accessible communications technologies. The Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard and Hard of Hearing, The College of New Jersey, and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired are working in partnership with the FCC to implement this program in New Jersey.

The program, tagged **iCanConnect/NJ** will distribute telecommunications equipment to eligible Deaf-Blind individuals that will help them manage their lives, access their communities, participate in civic affairs and reduce barriers to seeking employment. To be eligible, the individual must have combined loss of vision and hearing as defined by the Helen Keller National Act and their income may not exceed 400

percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Please see the chart that accompanies this article for more information on income levels.

Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements will meet with a technology specialist, who will conduct an assessment of the person's needs and technology skills, and make recommendations on appropriate equipment to purchase. Once the equipment is received and installed, the recipient will be provided training in the use of the device(s). For more information about the program, including eligibility questions and how to apply for



equipment, please call Allen Repose at the Center for Sensory & Complex Disabilities at The College of New Jersey. The center's phone number is (609)771-3083. You also can email Allen at ragunan@tcnj.edu. The project's website will be launched in early October.

Information about the new national equipment distribution program is also available online at www.iCanConnect.org. Additional information is available through the FCC at www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/national-deaf-blind-equipment-distribution-program.



The NJOEM Offers Different Ways of Severe Weather Info

Submitted By
Anmarie Buraczeski,
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Community Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator
New Jersey Association
of the Deaf
Certified Community Emergency
Response Team (CERT)

The NJOEM offers a number of ways to maintain situational awareness about severe weather events:

Use credible Web sites to get information about natural hazards and emergency preparedness. The NJOEM works closely with the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center regarding storm predictions and forecasts.

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Director's Corner

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

October is National Disability Employment Month. The official theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" The theme promotes the benefits of a diverse workforce.

Building an inclusive workforce depends on many factors. One critical factor is the company's culture, values, norms, policies and practices. The policies and practices of the company affect the attitudes of employers, supervisors and coworkers and can facilitate or hinder the employment of people with disabilities.

Employers should ensure that inclusive workplace policies and practices are part of their company's culture. Inclusive policies contain guidelines that support the full integration of ALL employees, including people with hearing loss, and other disabilities into the workplace. By implementing a plan across areas such as recruitment and hiring, employee relations, peer support, and policies specifically related to accommodations, a more comprehensive approach to inclusion can be realized.

The DHS Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offers programs that can support an employer in developing a culture in which a diverse workforce is respected, and people who are Deaf and hard of hearing are recognized for their abilities, talents and contributions. Programs include sensitivity training workshops, which serve to breakdown stereotypical assumptions about the capabilities, independence, and skill sets of people with hearing loss. Such training can positively impact the attitudes and perception employers have of people with hearing loss thus facilitating their inclusion in the workforce. For more information about the division's awareness programs, as well as, other resources for employers, please contact us at 609-984-7281.

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the December issue is November 1 and should be e-mailed to: monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us.

The deadline for the Monthly Communicator is the first of the month for the next month.

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

- Should be less than two pages
- Plain font, such as NY Times #11 or similar
- Type flush left, no tabs
- No art imbedded within
- Send as Word attachment or an e-mail itself, no PDF
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Submissions are not normally repeated
- Content should be of interest to readers, events should be accessible to people with hearing loss, no direct selling products, but educational info about new technology acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter

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Musicians, Music Lovers and Military Maintain Greatest Risk for Tinnitus

By Traci Burton, *Field Representative*

Tinnitus is one of the common concerns often expressed when I speak with our constituency. Though there are no known cures, understanding at-risk situations can help in preventing, or further contributing, to the condition. The following is reprinted from www.healthyhearing.com from their Friday June 15, 2012 news post.

The prevalence of tinnitus is no secret in today's society, with – according to the American Tinnitus Association – more than 50 million people in the United States living with the condition.

At the same time, accurately diagnosing tinnitus can be challenging, says Curtis Amann, vice president of marketing and sales for Neuromonics, Inc. Described as ringing in the ears when no external sounds are present, tinnitus symptoms are different for each person, Amann said, and can include ringing, buzzing, humming, roaring, or whistling sounds.

Understanding the populations that are at greatest risk for tinnitus can help individuals determine whether they may have the condition. At-risk individuals also can try and lessen exposure to the conditions that may have caused, or are contributing to, their tinnitus.

Military – Usually brought on by exposure to loud noise, tinnitus is especially significant in the military. More than 34 percent of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan with the condition, now the No. 1 service-connected disability for veterans from all periods of service. Since 2005, the number of veterans receiving service-connected disability for tinnitus has increased by at least 15 percent each year, according to the American Tinnitus Association. The total number of veterans awarded disability compensation for tinnitus at the end of 2010 surpassed 744,000.



Musicians and music lovers – Any kind of music, ranging from classical to heavy metal, can be too loud. Performers, audio engineers and listeners of all types of music are at risk for noise-induced tinnitus. As technology helps weave music into almost every facet of life, the danger of music that is too loud continues to increase. Individuals will not begin to suffer from tinnitus in the short run; the condition arises as a cumulative effect of noise over a period of years.

Individuals who work near loud equipment – People who work, or who have previously worked, with aircraft, or loud machinery or other equipment constitute another significant at-risk group. Despite better regulations to control noise levels in the workplace, and hearing protection devices, continual exposure over time to noisy environments may contribute to the incidence of tinnitus.



Seniors – Tinnitus is prevalent as one of many age-related hearing problems in the older population. Causes likely include the cumulative effect of loud noises and general noise pollution over the years.

“We live in an extraordinarily noisy world that is getting noisier by the day,” says Amann. “Tinnitus can strike anyone, at any time, but for individuals particularly at risk, it is important to be aware of the condition, and to take precautions to mitigate levels of noise exposure.”

Today, there is greater hope for tinnitus sufferers, with more effective treatments on the market, explains Amann. Professional audiologists can help at-risk individuals determining whether or not they have tinnitus, and if so, what level, and what treatments are best-suited for them.

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

NJOEM *continued*

- **National Weather Service** - www.erh.noaa.gov/er/phi/
- **National Hurricane Center** - www.nhc.noaa.gov/
- **New Jersey Office of Emergency Management** - www.ready.nj.gov

Social media and other advanced communications technologies are frequently used by emergency managers statewide. Find out if your community has a reverse 9-1-1 system or if you can opt-in for email updates from municipal officials. LIKE the NJOEM on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (**NJOEM2010**), or subscribe to the NJ State Police (NJSP) on Nixle Connect.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/READYNEWJERSEY Twitter: [@NJOEM2010](https://twitter.com/NJOEM2010)

New Jersey residents can register to receive messages by sending a text message with their zip code to 888777 (data rates may apply depending on your plan). Online registration also is available at www.nixle.com. Also- www.njsp.org/news/pr031912.html - this is the press release regarding the Nixle system and how to sign up.

NJ Alert is a free, voluntary and confidential emergency alerting system that allows NJ Office of Emergency Management officials to send E-mail or text messages to cell phones, and other email enabled devices during an emergency event. Sign up for NJ Alert by logging on to: www.njalert.gov.

NOAA Weather Radio - is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service Office. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NOAA Weather Radios are typically inexpensive, easily available in stores and can often be programmed for your specific area. NOAA Weather Radio is accessible for persons who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing.

The **Weather Channel** also will send text messages and alerts: www.weather.com

Hearing Loops and Hearing Health



by Mark Zuckerman
Emcom Systems

Anyone with even the slightest doubts about the importance of hearing health would have had them dispelled at the Hearing Loss Association of America annual meeting in Providence this past June. As part of a symposium on *How The Brain Makes Sense of the World of Sound*, given by members of the Johns Hopkins department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, Dr. Frank Lin presented some attention-grabbing statistics in his talk on Hearing Loss and Aging. He quoted research that measured the impact of hearing loss on conditions associated with advancing age, including:

- People with hearing loss experience cognitive decline at a rate 1/3 faster than people with normal hearing.
- For people suffering dementia, there is a correlation between hearing loss and the severity of their dementia.
- The effect of a 25 dB hearing loss is equivalent to 7 years of aging.

In addition:

- 2/3 of Americans over 70 have some form of hearing loss.
- Only about 20% of people with hearing loss use hearing aids. This figure has remained constant over the past 3 decades and is the same in the U.K. (where hearing aids are dispensed by the National Health Service) and the U.S. (where they aren't).

Audiologists, charged with monitoring and improving their patients' hearing health, are the nexus of the hearing health system.

Dr. Brad Ingrao addressed their importance and responsibilities in his session on hearing loops. Dr. Ingrao, an audiologist himself, serves as a consultant for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement at Gallaudet University and publishes articles on hearing health on his website, docotoblock.com.

Dr. Ingrao is a strong advocate for hearing loops as an important component of maintaining hearing health. A hearing loop encodes an audio signal in an electromagnetic field that can be decoded by a small, inexpensive coil of wire (T-Coil) installed in most hearing aids. Dr. Ingrao favors hearing loops as assistive listening devices because:

- With a hearing loop there's no background noise or reverberation.
- A hearing loop delivers maximal signal-to-noise ratio—in other words, the cleanest possible signal.
- The hearing loop/T-Coil is a universal connection.

Part of this means equipping all hearing aids with T-Coils, which are available in most behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids. Dr. Ingrao maintains that T-Coils also can be retrofitted to most existing hearing aids at a cost of no more than \$50. These T-Coils can be passive or pre-amplified (which produces a higher quality signal). With proper demand, it also would be a simple matter to make a battery-powered T-Coil accessory with a 3.5 mm plug that goes into the hearing aid's audio input jack.

To use a hearing loop effectively, merely having a T-Coil in a hearing aid is insufficient. For the best

results, the T-Coil should be oriented perpendicular to the electromagnetic field. This means that hearing aids with T-Coils configured for use with telephones may not be oriented to make best use of a hearing loop. Also, T-Coils should be calibrated differently for telephones and hearing loops.

All of this rests on audiologists. Because he encourages everyone getting a hearing aid to have it configured properly for hearing loops, Dr. Ingrao outlined what such patients should expect from their audiologists:

- The audiologist should program the T-Coil for hearing loops and test it.
- If possible with your hearing aid, get two programs: one with just the T-Coil and one that mixes the T-Coil and microphone.
- Get one program that lets you select the T-Coil manually. Many hearing aid programs for telephone use sense the fixed magnet in the telephone receiver and switch to the T-Coil automatically. This won't work with hearing loops.
- Get in-office verification that the T-Coil programs work with hearing loops. This means the audiologist should have a loop system in the office for you to use.

If an audiologist can't provide these, Dr. Ingrao suggests finding another.

Mark Zuckerman can be reached by email at MarkZuckerman@emcomsys.com. More information about Emcom Systems' hearing loop systems are at www.True-Hearing.com and www.emcomsys.com.



HLA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

By Peter Yerkes, *Trustee, HLA-NJ*

Advocates Needed! Speak Out For People With Hearing Loss

The drowsy days of summer are ending. As I write this, just before Labor Day, there is a buzz in the air as members of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey put final touches on this year's Walk4Hearing. It's a fun, high-energy, back-to-school kind of feeling. It also made me start to think about why so many busy people find time in jam-packed schedules for Walk4Hearing and other programs to help people with hearing loss. What makes people volunteer to give time and money and become an advocate for people with hearing loss?

(It's not too late, by the way, for you to form a team to take part in this year's Walk, on Saturday, October 13, at Mercer County Park West in West Windsor, NJ. Join a team, Walk with them, or write a check to support the Walk and other activities of HLA-NJ. As a reminder, registration starts at 9 a.m. on October 13 and the Walk begins at 10 a.m. To learn more about the Walk, or to find details of how to register or join a team, visit www.walk4hearing.org. While you are on the site, make sure you don't miss a great new video about the national Walk4Hearing program across the nation.)

In search of an answer, I decided to ask an HLA-NJ member named Karen Cartier. Like a lot of people with hearing loss, she had a problem with movies. Specifically, with the quality and consistency of captioned movies shown at her local movie theater in Bergen County. But then she took the next step, and decided to do something about it. She opened communications with the theater manager, and got others from her chapter to join her on this project. She became an advocate.

Q. Why did you decide to become an advocate?

A. Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to help others with hearing loss. As an individual with hearing loss, you get so much help from your parents, speech therapists, tutors, teachers and others. It's no fun to be on the receiving end all the time.

Q. Why do you find advocacy satisfying?

A. First of all advocacy makes me tick. It gets my adrenaline going. Second, I like working with different people, especially other individuals with hearing loss, because we have a common goal. Third, advocacy is hard work requiring small steps. It's so thrilling once you achieve these small steps.



Q. Why would you recommend advocacy to others?

A. You can make a difference to others. You make life easier or the quality of life better, for the next person with hearing loss. It's also an exciting road to conquer.

Karen could be speaking for me. Like her, I benefited from an enormous amount of help. Some of it was professional, from people at the Center for Hearing and Communication in New York (formerly the League for the Hard of Hearing) and others. But as I searched the Web for other sources of help and information, I discovered the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey. It was – and is—a wonderful source of information and support, and a way to meet others with hearing loss.



Like Karen, though, I didn't like the feeling that I was always a taker. I wanted to try, even in a small way, to help others with hearing loss.

Taking on the role of an advocate wasn't easy. I'm no expert on hearing loss, for one thing. In addition, like a lot of people with hearing loss, I also felt uncomfortable asking for anything that seemed like special treatment. Shouldn't people with hearing loss just keep a stiff upper lip and make the best of it? A couple of things changed that attitude. I grew increasingly angry that people know so little about hearing loss and how serious it is. Second, I realized how many people with hearing loss are not getting support and information they need. They don't know about technological advances like digital hearing aids and cochlear implants, or potential life-savers such as captioned telephones. On my own, I can't do much about this. But by joining a group such as HLA-NJ and by supporting organizations such as the Center for Hearing and Communication in New York, I can do a lot. Third, like Karen, I discovered I liked getting to know other people with hearing loss, people I could get to know through HLA-NJ. So, in my own small way, I became an advocate. I spent most of my life as a reporter and editor and writing skills,

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NWJAD Holds First KODA Camp

Submitted by
NWJAD President Joey Garth
and the NWJAD Board of Trustees

NWJAD (Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf) held their first KODA (Kids of Deaf Adults) Camp August 7 to August 9, 2012 at MT. KOA in East Stroudsburg, PA. We had an incredible time! Various activities were held including a magic show, face painting, storytelling around a bonfire, swimming in the campground pool, and a trip to Camel Beach Waterpark. The goal was to allow families to meet, interact, and share the experiences of diversity in our families with one another. Everyone involved had a blast! We want to say thank you to NJ Relay, Sorenson and ZVRS for their sponsorship of our first and hopefully annual KODA camping. We also received donations from individuals and we are very grateful for that support. And a special thank you to Dena Hazen and Linda Regec who are both members of the adult CODA organization and came to our KODA camp to share their experiences with the families. We had a wonderful group of people who generously donated their time and energy to make the event a success.

We hope to host a second KODA camp next summer for five days at the same location and to again include a variety adventures, meals, etc. Campers will participate in leadership and team building skills as well as many other fun activities. NWJAD will be planning this as our biggest event for next year, and the goal is to keep the camp cost low. If your child or children are interested in attending our NWJAD KODA Camp next August 2013, contact us at KODANWJ@nwjad.org.



Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, Inc. Seeks Executive Director

Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre (DHCC) is an innovative, non-profit organization with a mission to promote equal communication accessibility and cultural awareness for Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals through our highly respected and much utilized sign language interpreting services. In addition, we provide CART services, sign language classes, workshops, sensitivity training and advocacy. We are located near Philadelphia and serve southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and northern Delaware.



DHCC is searching for a charismatic and dynamic leader to manage our sustainability and growth. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring day-to-day operations including human resources and financial management, fundraising, public relations and community development. The successful candidate will possess exemplary skills in organizational, business and program development. Furthermore, this person must be a skilled communicator with a passion for DHCC's mission who can build partnerships with key stakeholders including Board of Directors, staff, consumers and interpreters. For more information about the job qualifications, the detailed job description and information about DHCC visit www.dhcc.org

Application Deadline: October 31, 2012 or until filled.

Send resume and cover letter, including salary requirements to: Mr. Larry Brick, Chair of Search Committee, Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre (DHCC), 630 Fairview Road, Suite 100, Swarthmore, PA 19081; Fax: 610 604-0456 Email: resumes@dhcc.org

HLA-NJ News *continued*

I discovered, are always in demand by groups such as HLA-NJ. I think it's safe to say that anyone reading this column has useful skills of some sort. Volunteers are always needed. Becoming an advocate for people with hearing loss may sound impossibly ambitious, but it's not.

Ask Karen Cartier. Like her, you just have to be open to trying something new. Like her, you probably will find you like it. Do you have a story about advocacy you'd like to share? I'd be very interested in hearing about what led you to advocacy, or about any other aspect of hearing loss. Please contact me at p.yerkes@comcast.net. To learn more about HLA-NJ, please contact Arlene Romoff at info@hearingloss-nj.org. We also invite you to visit www.hearingloss-nj.org, or to attend one of our local chapter meetings in Bergen, Monmouth/Ocean or Middlesex County, and our newest Morris County chapter. Dates, places and times for chapter meetings are available from info@hearingloss-nj.org.

Hitting Close to Home



By Jason Weiland

Field Representative, NJ DDHH

It feels like yesterday when I start to think about it. That day, my pager buzzed and my eyes stared at the message. “Mom went into a coma... You need to come home.” It was a numb feeling as I cast aside all other thoughts and started to make my way through an eight hour drive to a hospital in Erie, PA. As the miles passed, the wonders of technology kept me updated on the prognosis of my mom’s health.

In the Weiland family, I am the oldest of three children. My brother is nine years younger and my sister and I are ten years apart. I grew up in a college town called Edinboro which is 15 minutes south of Erie, Pennsylvania. As a child I attended public school. The Deaf community in the area is quite small and the nearest school for the Deaf is in Pittsburgh, PA. Everyone knew each other but services to the Deaf were limited.

Although this happened over a year ago, I feel compelled to share this story with our readers as I work with various hospitals in New Jersey. Recently, my experience with the lack of communication access in hospitals and through health care providers prompted me to share with Deaf and hard of hearing community members an issue that is growing. The resolution lies in the decision of the consumer. As you read on, I encourage you to continue with an open mind.

Just before I arrived at the hospital at 10 in the morning, my brother and sister had contacted the patient advocate office to make arrangements for an ASL Interpreter to be present when I arrived at my mom’s room. The hospital informed them that they only had Video Remote Interpreters (VRI) available and do not provide live interpreters. Before one jumps to rallying the troops and picket the hospital’s front doors, consider this; within a 75 mile radius of Erie, there are just two RID certified ASL interpreters. Erie County has only two certified ASL interpreters to serve the needs of the Deaf and hard of hearing signing community. That is a drastic difference compared to New Jersey which has more than 100 certified ASL interpreters.

Walking into the room, I spotted the VRI equipment immediately with the patient advocate readily available to help with the setup and connect to the VRI service. The atmosphere was serious as my brother, sister, and I had met to discuss our mom’s health status. I wasn’t a patient. Yet, I am Deaf and it became my responsibility to make informed health decisions for my mom. For thirty minutes, I watched the patient advocate as she struggled to connect the videophone to the interpreting service. As with any technology, there is no one perfect solution. Yet, without the option of having live interpreters present, it

was the only option. I politely asked if I could take a look at the remote. In less than a minute, I connected to the service and an interpreter appeared on the screen. Surely such a struggle would be viewed as an outrage and as much as it was, I was more concerned with spending time with my mom and embracing my siblings in this moment of silence. The key here was staying calm and composed. In the end, we found a way to make the system work.

On June 10, 2011 at 4 p.m., my mom passed away. I was grateful for the opportunity to be with my family, to participate in a medical discussion through VRI in learning difficult news about what laid ahead that day. While I admit VRI was not perfect, it served a significant purpose even if its use was short. I would have preferred and even demanded a live interpreter be hired. Knowing the area and resources, I knew that wasn’t possible.

New Jersey is lucky enough to have a far more developed corps of sign language interpreters. One could live in any county and have access

“New Jersey is lucky enough to have a far more developed corps of sign language interpreters.”

to a large number of interpreters within 60 miles. The only exceptions would be southern parts of the state like

Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties along with the northwestern section in Sussex County. Yet, some hospitals do not provide interpreters for the Deaf and hard of hearing when requested. Of the general hospitals in New Jersey, 40% of them utilize video remote interpreting. While VRI has made progress in the interpreting field, it often fails in being able to provide a reasonable accommodation that a live sign language interpreter usually does. Much of this is related to equipment failure, difference of ASL signs since VRI interpreters are from other states and not New Jersey, and lack of oversight in whether interpreters are RID certified or not. Further, VRI wouldn’t be appropriate in situations

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Uncle Bill and Aunt Mary - Lives Affected by Late-Deafness



By Carol Granaldi

When I was 10 years old back in the 1940's I had an uncle and aunt whose lives were affected by his late deafness. Uncle Bill was a WWI veteran, and in those days, suffered from what was called "shell shock" which damaged his hearing while firing artillery rounds. Back then, soldiers didn't protect their ears during warfare, and many returned from the military service with damaged hearing.

My Uncle Bill wore a large, black hearing aid with a black harness which used two D size batteries which must have been uncomfortable to wear, and didn't help him much, either. It would lie on his end table next to his chair most of the time, and he wore it only occasionally when visitors came to see him and Aunt Mary. He was largely uncommunicative, didn't engage much in conversation, and would putter around the house and yard in silence.

Aunt Mary, by contrast, had normal hearing, was a social butterfly in her young years, and spent many hours on the telephone gossiping with friends. Sometimes she'd ask Uncle Bill to come to the phone and talk to her friends and family members, but he always declined,

shouting "Hello, hello, hello," then walk away. He was so introverted because of his deafness, and she was as extroverted as a gadfly, and this difference affected their relationship considerably.

At 10 years old, I related well to him, because I wasn't hearing too well either, although I was not as deaf as he was. I always felt sympathetic toward Uncle Bill because my Aunt Mary was so cross with him when he didn't hear or understand when she spoke to him. She had a shrill, high-pitched voice, spoke very rapidly, and didn't project her voice well, either. Neither did she address him by name first to get his attention.

I always had trouble understanding her, but by then I had begun to speechread, so I fared a little better than he did when talking with her. He wouldn't use eye contact when we spoke to him, so he didn't know how to speechread. Often, when people become late-deafened, they don't acquire speechreading skills when they are adults or seniors, because their once normally-hearing habit of listening without looking at people is hard to break. In my case, as a child I adapted to speechreading to compensate for my hearing loss, so I fared a little better than he in

understanding her speech.

Aunt Mary would often call him from another room, saying his name in 2 syllables: "BI IL BI IL, BI IL", and since her voice and pitch didn't carry very far, he often didn't hear her. Often, exasperated when he didn't respond, she would storm up to him while his back was turned and go: 'WOOOO WOOOO WOOOO!' This would startle him and me, too. I hated for her to do that because it seemed sadistic. Once she saw me watching her do this, and said self-righteously: "I HAVE to do that! He doesn't LISTEN to me! That's the only way I can GET his attention!" I wished that she would approach him, touch his shoulder so he could turn around and be able to hear and listen to her better. But Aunt Mary didn't have much sympathy for his deafness, and was irritated because of the inconvenience to her. Sometime during the 1950's Uncle Bill underwent an ear surgery called a "fenestration." It was hoped that by opening a "window" in his ear he'd be able to hear better. Unfortunately, his hearing was not improved. Uncle Bill bitterly said that the doctors took his money, but shouldn't have been paid because the surgery was not successful.

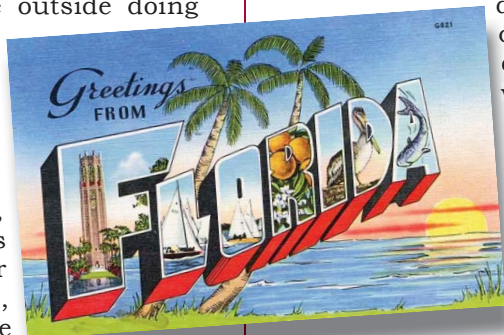
In 1957, now both in their sixties, they sold their New Jersey home, and moved to Florida, so I didn't have as much opportunity to spend time with them during summer vacations and holidays. I did travel a few times to visit them, and I sadly noticed that his withdrawn behavior had gotten worse. He rarely engaged in conversation with Aunt Mary, and almost never started a conversation with others. It was so hard to reach him through the wall of silence that hemmed him in. He didn't wear his hearing aid while outside doing the yard work, and kept its batteries in a jar in the refrigerator, supposedly to extend their use.

By this time, Aunt Mary was starved for companionship, and when there were visitors she was so relieved to have someone to talk to, that she became rather garrulous. Uncle Bill's deafness was not only his handicap, but it became hers as well. If only she understood what his life without sound was like! If only she had some sympathy for his inability to interact with others with spoken words. She instead remarked that she and he did not have any social life together, and didn't even socialize with each other at home.

I think that all the stresses, sorrow, and isolation of deafness took its toll on Uncle Bill's health, because by age 70, he became ill with heart disease. His last days were spent dying in a hospital, suffering with

pulmonary edema, and so frightened at not being able to hear the doctors or nurses talking to him. Aunt Mary later said that he was afraid to close his eyes and not see anyone, because he couldn't hear anyone, and this probably killed him. He was buried in the family plot alongside his sister and parents. Uncle Bill's marker was etched with his name, birth date and "VETERAN WWI, US ARMY."

Aunt Mary reached age 93, outliving him by more than 20 years. In her old age, she, too, became deaf, and had to confront the same disconnectedness which bedeviled Uncle Bill for all of their married lives together. Although she was given a hearing aid, she complained that it did her no



good. She no longer could converse with others in the nursing home, nor over the telephone, and she, too, became isolated just like Uncle Bill. She was sullen and withdrawn and didn't join in the social activities provided in the nursing home.

She died alone and was brought back to New Jersey to be buried alongside him. It was my task to carry out the burial arrangements and order the gravestone for her. I had it made up exactly like Uncle Bill's with her name and birth date, too. I needed to balance the third line with an inscription which matched Uncle Bill's WWI VETERAN, so I had it inscribed: **TOGETHER FOREVER. Poor Uncle Bill!**

Close to Home...

continued

where Deaf-Blind individuals need tactile interpreting or people with visual impairments.

NJ DDHH has taken an active role throughout the years to improve hospital access to the Deaf and hard of hearing by collaborating with the NJ Office of the Attorney General, NJ Division on Civil Rights, NJ Hospital Association and most recently by providing training to the NJ Health Care Advocates, an organization of members advocates from various hospitals around the state. In addition, our division continues to provide sensitivity training to these facilities. We also take consumer complaints and contact patient advocates directly from the appropriate hospital to help resolve those issues.

Becoming familiar and knowledgeable in how to request communication access in a hospital is key to hospitals learning what types of services they need to provide to the Deaf and hard of hearing and improving their accessibility services. Equally important is the willingness to make a complaint to the patient advocate office. On a side note, my mom was legally blind and became late deafened. Obviously, a sign language interpreter wouldn't have benefited her but the use of other technology such as an assistive listening device would have made communication with her less hectic and more comfortable.

Deaf and hard of hearing consumers have different needs. Hospitals need to learn the needs of each individual. Once you are discharged from the hospital, it is important to provide feedback to the patient advocate of your experience. This is the only way they can learn and improve services.

To learn more about sensitivity training provided through the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, email jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us or call (609) 498-7006.

The Newark Public Library Special Services Program American Sign Language Classes Beginners Level I & II

Saturdays, October 13 – December 15, 2012
(No class on Saturday, November 24)

Level I: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Level II: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Main Library, 3rd Floor Special Services Room
5 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey

Textbooks (Optional)

Level I: *Signing for Kids by Mickey Flodin* (ISBN 9780399533204)

Level II: *Signing illustrated: 'The Complete Learning Guide by Mickey Flodin*
(ISBN 9780399530418)

REGISTRATION IS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS, October 13, 2012.

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**For More information: Lolata Greggs (866) 977-6858 VP,
Margaret George (973) 733-5412 Voice**



Bergen County Deaf Seniors Meet



The Bergen County Deaf Seniors meet at the Northwest Bergen Senior Activity Center 46-50 Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432 every Thursday from 10a.m. to 4 p.m. All area seniors 60 and over are welcome to join us for games, parties, and special events. The Northwest Bergen Senior Activity Center is operated by the County of Bergen.

Our Calendar of Events for October

- October 4:** Deaf Exercise with Andree at 11:30 a.m. - Bingo at 1:00 p.m.
- October 11:** Deaf Exercise on video at 11:30 a.m. - Movie "Through Deaf Eyes" at 1:00 p.m.
- October 18:** Deaf Exercise at 11:30 a.m. - Dingo at 1:00 p.m.
- October 25:** Exercise with Andree at 11:30 a.m. - LCR games at 1 p.m.

Coming Attractions

November 1 and 29, the Deaf group will receive advice on protecting your joints from a physical therapist with ASL interpreter. Social Worker Sheila will be available before and after this event. Hearing seniors are welcome to attend.

Deaf Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at the Bonfire Restaurant. Plans will be announced next month.

Info: arslaniant@optonline.net or rosevin52@aol.com.

THE HEARING SOCIETY

Located in the First Baptist Church of Westfield
170 Elm Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090



The Hearing Society is pleased to announce that as of September 13, 2012 its weekly informal classes in speech (lip) reading have resumed, meeting on Thursday mornings, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

These classes will continue through May 2013 unless otherwise announced. Under the direction of Dr. Anne Michele Puglisi, audiologist, the classes provide instruction in strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for improved communication.

The sessions also serve as a support group for people experiencing the problems of hearing loss. People in the greater Union County area who are interested in improving their lip reading skills are invited to attend.

For more information about the Hearing Society and its classes, please contact Alice Knecht, 908-688-8241 or alirobkn@aol.com.

JOB OPENING



County College of Morris

American Sign Language adjunct faculty position

To Apply:

<https://jobs.ccm.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1345225108937>

Job Duties

Adjunct faculty responsibilities include teaching assigned courses fair grading and following the course description and course outline established by the department. Teaching schedules may include day/evening courses and online/hybrid instruction and other instructional modalities. In accordance with the Adjunct Faculty collective bargaining agreement (CBA), additional activities may include participation in departmental initiatives, evidence of academic achievements, recognition by professional and community organizations, and other duties.

Qualifications

Education - Master's Degree from an accredited institution in appropriate discipline. A doctorate and/or licensure in a specific discipline preferred. Priority also given to deaf instructors or instructors with a very strong command of grammar and syntax in ASL.

Experience - Prior college or university teaching experience preferred.

Skills - Demonstrated knowledge of discipline including current developments and technologies in related fields of specialization. Ability to teach and work with diverse groups of students. Strong verbal and written communication skills desirable.

Special Instructions to Applicants - The number of adjunct instructors hired varies from semester to semester, depending upon the needs of the department. Your application will be maintained in this adjunct pool for 12 months. You may check your status at any time by logging into County College of Morris Online Employment Site with your username and password. Should an interview be granted a letter of recommendation will be required.

For More Information: Vicky Stauffer, Department Administrative Assistant, Department of Languages and ESL, County College of Morris; Phone: 973-328-5420 Fax: 973-328-5424 Email: vstauffer@ccm.edu www.ccm.edu/languages

Diverse Deaf Club of NJ, Inc.

Holiday Luncheon and Dingo

Saturday, December 1, 2012

Luncheon: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

at Sir John's Restaurant

230 Washington Place

North Brunswick NJ 08902

Gifts, give aways, drawings

Dingo: 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church

1740 Route 130

North Brunswick NJ 08902

No jeans/sneakers allowed - no walk-in - non-refundable

\$60 member \$65 non-member

We accept 2 months payments - Pay in full by November 20, 2012

Info: Michelle Busanic at busanic2@aol.com



ASL Course Offered in NYC

By popular demand, we're thrilled to announce a repeat offering of a mini-course that'll give you, your family, your friends, and even your colleagues a strong foundation in American Sign Language (ASL), and we hope that you can join us!

We offered this in the spring and got a great turnout, so we wanted to give those who missed the first opportunity a chance to register for it before we proceed to the next level soon afterward.

WHAT: A 6-session American Sign Language (ASL) 1 "Mini-Course"

WHEN: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on six (6) consecutive Wednesdays, as follows (all dates are after the holidays): * **October 10, October 17, October 24, October 31, November 7, November 14**

WHERE: Town & Village (T&V) Synagogue (www.tandv.org), 334 East 14th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues in Manhattan

WHO: Joyce Hom, *Presenter*

COST: \$100 for members, \$125 for non-members, for the Course; or \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members for each Individual Session; students will also need to purchase a book on their own.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: "Learning American Sign Language: Levels I and II--Beginning & Intermediate (2nd Edition) [Spiral-Bound]" (book only) by Tom Humphries & Carol Padden - Amazon is one source:

www.amazon.com/Learning-American-Sign-Language-II-Beginning/dp/0205275532

- approx. \$50 and with free "Super Saver Shipping" - though you can purchase it anywhere you like, Barnes & Noble, etc. this same book is also usable for ASL 2

To register, please do one of the following:

- * Enroll via PayPal to: townandvillage@aol.com (Please specify "ASL 1 Mini-Course")
- * T&V members may use Chaverweb to donate to "Adult Ed", but please specify that it's for the "ASL 1 Mini-Course"
- * Send check payable to "**Town & Village Synagogue,**" money order or bring cash to:

**Town & Village Synagogue,
334 East 14th Street, New York, NY 10003**

Attn: Julie Baber/ASL 1 Mini-Course

Registration is first-come, first-served.

Note: ASL interpreters are available at T&V when requests are made in advance.

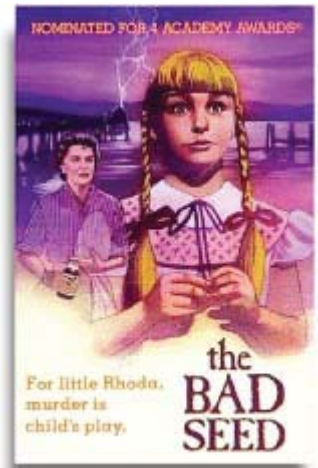
For additional information, please contact Bram Weiser at bramweiser@usa.net or (212) 677-0368.

Bridge Players Theatre Company

Proudly Presents

The Bad Seed

By Maxwell Anderson



**October 5, 6, 12, 13*, 19 and 20
8 p.m.**

**October 7, 14 and 21
3 p.m.**

**Bridge Players Theatre
on stage at
Broad Street Methodist Church
36 E. Broad Street
Burlington, New Jersey**

Ticket price \$18
Group rates available for groups of 15 or more
Dinner theater package available; includes dinner at Café Gallery restaurant



For tickets and info: (856) 303-7620 or www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com

* The performance on Saturday, October 13 will be sign interpreted.

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) will be available October 12, 13 and 14.

Program by audio will be available upon request for all performances.

Persons in need of special accommodations are requested to give two weeks advance notification.


Communicator Signboard



HOPE 4 HEARING 5K
OCTOBER 13
EWING, NJ

Jersey's Hope For Hearing Full Day Event benefiting Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf

5K Run
 Kids Fun Run
 Vendors & Awards Ceremony
 Games - Prizes - Activities - Petting Zoo and so much more
 Featuring Music from the Band:
OF THE SEA

Register Online:
www.jerseyshopeforhearing.com



October and November DINGO

Diverse Deaf Club of NJ, Inc.
 Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church
 1740 Route 130
 North Brunswick NJ 08902

 > **Saturday, October 6, 2012**
Door opens at 6 p.m.
Admission - \$10 member \$12 non-member
Dingo starts at 7:30 p.m.
Desserts/beverage on sale

> **Saturday, November 3, 2012**
Door opens at 3 p.m. for members only
General meeting and constitution/bylaws
Refreshment/beverage on sale
DINGO - Door opens at 6 p.m.
Admission - \$10 member \$12 non-member
Dingo starts at 7:30 p.m.

For more info: ddcnjpres@optonline.net or ddcnjevent@comcast.net



North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.
Happy Thanksgiving Social
Saturday, November 17, 2012 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

American Legion Post 147, 1 Legion Place (off Market Street), Elmwood Park, NJ 07407
 Refreshments on sale, exciting home & personal goods, dark horses, 50/50 chances, NJCCD Affair Banknite

50 Shop Rite gift cards given away / Come all and enjoy yourself

Donation in advance for member - \$13, non-member - \$ 16 and student with ID - \$12
 At door on November 17 - Member - \$ 16, Non-Member - \$20 and Student with ID - \$ 13
 To order tickets in advance before November 12, visit: www.njccdsite.org/thanks12r.pdf
 Hosted by NJCCD Board and the Committee



South Jersey Hard of Hearing Support Group

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



Save the Dates:
November 14
December 12
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 For additional information please contact
sjhardofhearing@gmail.com

October 17 - Guest Speaker: Andrew Rozynski / NJ/NY Deaf Rights Lawyer

Communicator Signboard

South Jersey Deaf Club, Inc.

Halloween Jingo Saturday, October 13, 2012

Doors open 5 p.m. - Jingo starts 7 p.m.
(Members-only general meeting during intermission)

Members: \$8 Non-members: \$12

Members age 62 and older: \$6
(Join SJDC annual membership - \$10)

Osbornville Baptist Church
366 Drum Point Rd.
Brick, NJ 08723

Costume Contest - Prizes for Best Costumes

Menu: Polish Sausage on rye w/sauerkraut - \$4
Bring dessert (homemade or store bought) - get 2 free tickets

Kids Club: includes snack; may include craft, story or movie
1 year membership = \$5 / no monthly fee

SJDC P.O. Box 4482 Brick, NJ 08723

Info: PresofSJDC@aol.com or thestiles4@aol.com

South Jersey Deaf Club, Inc.

NJAD's Beef N Beer Fundraiser

The purpose of this fundraising is to support future conferences (NJAD State Conference).

Saturday, November 10
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
King Pin Lanes
6622 Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-641-5117
www.kingpinbowlingnj.com

RSVP by Sunday, November 4
Admission: \$25 per person
(first come, first served).

Includes:

- Draft/domestic beers
- Roast beef and rolls
- Baked ziti
- Chicken wings
- Salad
- Soda and coffee
- Mini desserts
- 1 free bowling coupon for future redemption



Send check or money order payable to: **NJAD to Kamna Singh, 44 Bayside Drive, Bldg 4, Somers Point, NJ 08244**

Ocean /Monmouth Counties Hard of Hearing Support Group

The next chapter meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 7, 2012** at 1:00 p.m. in the **Center for Healthy Living, 198 Prospect St., Lakewood, NJ**. We will have an attorney for the deaf and hard of hearing speak. At this meeting, our chairperson will speak about our annual Walk4Hearing to be held in October.

The Hearing Loss Association is a national organization created to aid individuals with deafness, late hearing loss to cope with their problem and learn of ways to help to hear and understand every day events in life.

Meetings are open to everyone and are a rewarding way to spend a few hours socializing with other hard of hearing individuals who share your problems and concerns. As always, light refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share.

Info: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com **Future meetings: November 4, December 2.**

NJSD/MKSD Museum



NEW JERSEY/M. H. KATZENBACH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

NJSD/MKSD Museum hosts Memorabilia Day of NJSD/MKSD Boys and Girls Varsity Baseball and Softball Teams and ASL Film "Hard Man"

Saturday November 17, 2012

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

at **NJSD/MKSD Campus, 320 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ 08625**

Museum tour - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch will be sold at Elementary-Middle School dining room - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Tickets: 2 years old to adult - \$11
Please use money order or cashier's check
(no personal checks)

Payable to: **NJSD/MKSD**

Museum Deadline: November 10, 2012
After November 10, 2012 - pay cash at door



ASL Film "**HARD MAN**"

3:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.

www.aslfilms.com

(All deaf actors and actresses in the film)
At Elementary Middle School Auditorium

Tickets: 2 years old to adult - \$11 to attend ASL movie only



✂ **Mail to: Phil Dimaio 118 Lauren Lane North, Brick, NJ 08723**

First Name _____ Last Name: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State _____

Email Address _____ Text: _____

Religious Access



The CATHOLIC DIOCESE of TRENTON
PROCLAIMING CHRIST IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Diocese of Trenton Interprets Mass

On Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14, the Diocese of Trenton is hosting a Eucharistic Congress entitled: *"His Presence, Our Faith, Celebrate!"* All are welcome. Saturday there will be an interpreted Mass at noon followed by interpreted events for young adults (20's-30's) as well as families with children. Sunday there will be an interpreted Mass at 3:30 p.m. For more information and to see the full schedule, visit www.eucharisticcongress.net.



Ministry with the
Deaf/International Catholic Deaf Association # 138

Church of the Holy Saviour
McDaid Hall, 50 Emerald Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108

Harvest Social Saturday October 27, 2012 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$8 in advance (deadline October 23)
At door \$10 Children under 3 - Free

*Shepards pie, cranberry, potatoes tartar, meatballs,
salad, pumpkin pies and apple pies, ice cream, soda,
fruit punch and coffee*

Info: Penny West at Pennywest46@yahoo.com
Or facebook page under ICDA #138 of South Jersey
Church VP 856-942-1331 (Kate)
Check payable to: **ICDA #138 OF South Jersey** and mail
to: **ICDA #138, 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034**



Thanksgiving Social Sunday, November 4, 2012

ASL Mass: 10 a.m.
Social: 11a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Hot turkey sandwich, assorted lunch meats,
assorted salads, dessert, hot & cold beverages*

Buy tickets in advance!
(Tickets will be provided at the door)
Deadline: October 28 - NO REFUNDS
\$7 per person (13 years old & up)
\$5 per child (4-12 years old)
\$20 per family

Children 3 years old and under - FREE!
At door (cash only)

\$9 per person (13 years old & up)
\$6 per child (4-12 years old)
\$25 per family

Children 3 years old and under - FREE!
Please donate desserts!

*To buy tickets, see Betty Ann Krumm or Gracemarie Newman, or
mail a check made payable to: ICDA #138
Mail to: ICDA #138, 24 French Street, Pennsville, NJ 08070
Info: mwdbak@yahoo.com*

Gingo Nights

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

Second Saturday every month
\$10 admission

Refreshments, sandwiches, desserts,
hot/cold beverages will be sold

Info: Betty Ann Krumm at mwdbak@yahoo.com or
VP 856-942-1000 or VP 856-283-3962

Religious Access

South Jersey Deaf Senior Citizens Ministry with the Deaf **Annual Christmas Luncheon**

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Adelphia Restaurant

1750 Clements Bridge Road (Route 544)

Deptford, NJ 08096

Member \$30 Non-member \$35

Luncheon menu: Fresh baked bread, soup and garden salad
Choose One: Baked Crab Cake, Filet Mignon or Chicken Florentine
Ice Cream and Sheet Cake

Regular/Decaffeinated Tea or Coffee

RSVP by November 30, 2012



✂
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____ Vp: _____

Circle One: Baked Crab Cake Filet Mignon Chicken Florentine
Make a personal check or money order payable to: **South Jersey Deaf Senior Citizens**
Mail to: Arline Doerrmann 52 Skyline Circle Sewell, N.J. 08080
Email: **Arlinedoe@Comcast.Net** Fax: 856 468 6188 VP: 856 292 8520



Grace Bible Chapel of the Deaf
Grace Bible Chapel - 100 Oakdale Road - Chester, NJ 07930

Christmas Dinner

December 1, 2012

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Deaf Speaker: Rev. Robert Rhoads of Maryland

Registration and Dinner \$15

RSVP by November 18, 2012

✂
Make a check payable to: **Grace Bible Chapel** and mail to: **Roy Siskind, 288 Janine Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**
For more information: Roy Siskind at: **Rojogolfer@hotmail.com** or **Michael Sarsfiel: ms1262@aol.com** **No payments accepted at door!**

Number of adults: _____ X \$15 ea. = \$ _____
Number of children (6-12 ages) _____ X \$5 = \$ _____ (Children under 5 years old are free)
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
VP/Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Rush

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

Calendar of Events 2012

Friday, October 26

NJ DDHH Advisory Council (Note new location)

Friday, October 26

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Library Talking Book & Braille Center

2300 Stuyvesant Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08625-0501

Info: 609-984-7281

www.njsltbbc.org



Have a

Happy Halloween



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

Office Closed: Monday, October 8 – Columbus Day