

December 2008

Monthly Communicator

Vol. 29 No. 11

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David C. Alexander, Director



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Director's Corner

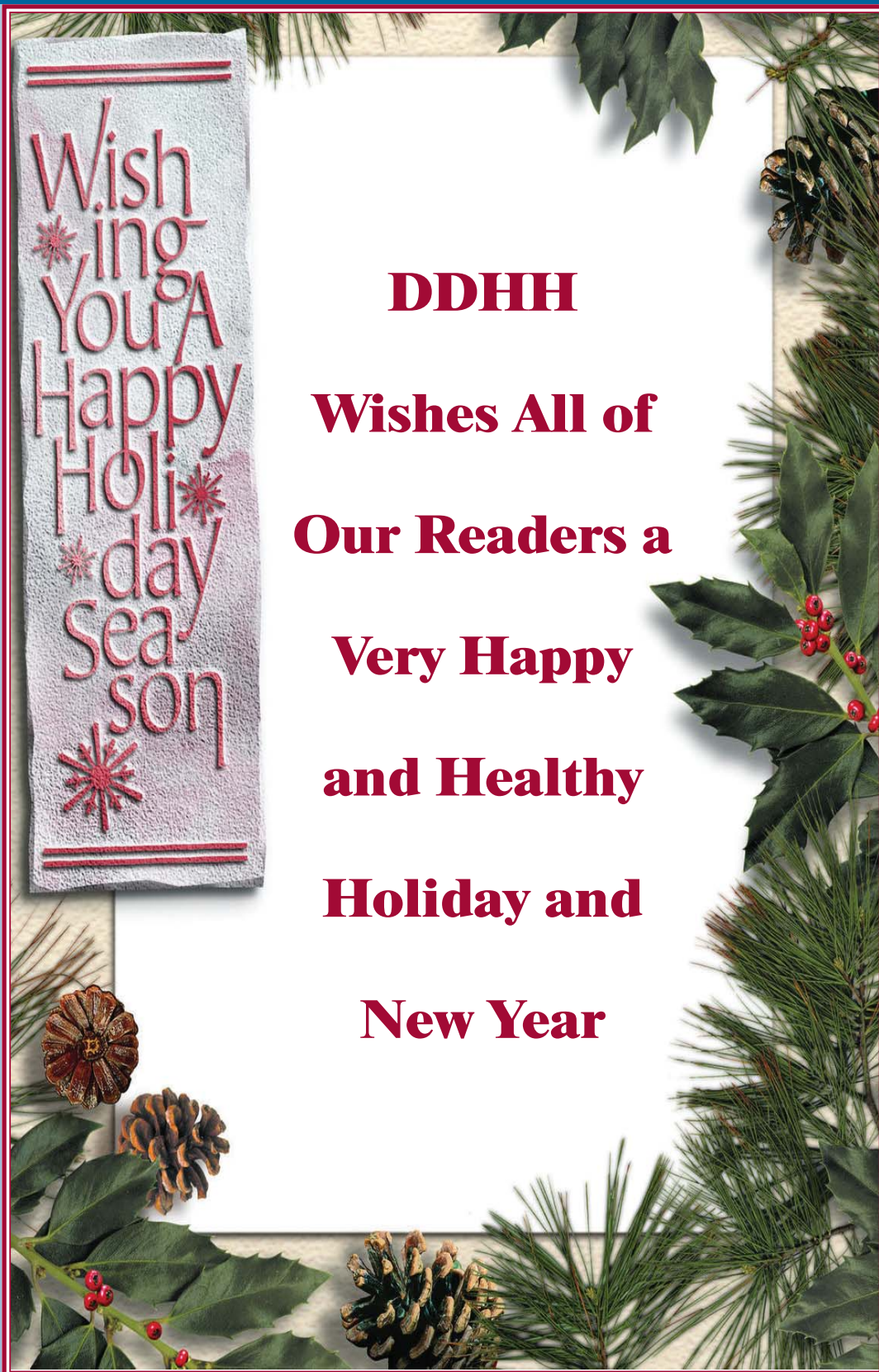
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Day*

*Produced by DHS
Office of Publications*



DDHH

**Wishes All of
Our Readers a
Very Happy
and Healthy
Holiday and
New Year**

Director's Corner

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



The Bergen County Deaf Senior Citizens (BCDSC) recently invited Jason Weiland, DDHH staff, and myself to learn about their organization and discuss issues of importance to them. The Bergen County Freeholder Vernon Waldon and County Executive Dennis McNerney also attended this October meeting. Approximately 60 Deaf senior citizens were participants.

Listening to the members talk about their organization, I realize the BCDSC are a very active group, not only as a social club, but as advocates for their own needs. In the past, the BCDSC did not have a place to meet. However, they successfully collaborated with county officials, educating them of their needs, which resulted in acquiring a meeting space within the Bergen County Senior Citizens Center. These seniors, as a result, now enjoy social and educational events in a state of the art facility. A social worker from the center and an interpreter are also available for weekly meetings, as needed.

Furthermore, the BCDSC have a successful history of advocating for communication access at public facilities. On two separate occasions they filed complaints against public facilities that offered tours, yet denied the seniors request for a sign language interpreter. The first occasion involved a tour of Ellis Island and the second involved a tour of the United Nations. In both complaint cases, decisions were rendered favorably. Such advocacy, along with their willingness to file complaints, will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy accessible tours at these historical, national landmarks.

I commend the accomplishments of the BCDSC, who provide a model for others of what can be achieved by pursuing one's legal rights to communication access. Even though it took time and strong leadership, their perseverance paid off for so many people in the end.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David C. Alexander".

Reminder:

The deadline for the January 2009 issue is December 1. The deadline for the December issue was November 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.

Monthly Communicator

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Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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The Monthly Communicator is published by the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a state agency. DDHH provides information, referral, and advocacy to service recipients. Information or articles provided by others does not imply endorsement by DDHH or the State of New Jersey. There are currently 8,700 copies of the MC distributed monthly.

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

Community Speaks at DHS Budget Forum

On Tuesday, October 21, the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) held the second of three budget forums. These events, an



annual tradition for the department, give the community an opportunity to provide input for the future departmental budget. The DHS accounts for approximately \$10 billion of the state's \$33 plus billion budget, and comprises roughly 14,000 dedicated workers. While this may sound like a lot, the DHS also



serves more than one (1) million of the state's most vulnerable citizens, or about one of every eight New Jersey residents.

The second budget forum took place in Hamilton, NJ, and for three hours many speakers from the community

(scheduled) presented their heartfelt issues, which ran the human services gamut -- including advocacy for those who are developmentally disabled, mentally ill, physically disabled, and those who lack health care insurance.

Carol Granaldi, pictured below right presented the needs for people with hearing loss, pointing out that there are 800,000 people with hearing loss in New Jersey and there is a DDHH budget of about one dollar per person. Mrs. Granaldi, always an active member in the community, serves on the DDHH Advisory Council and the Hearing Loss Association of America, New Jersey Chapter.



NJSD Offers Workshops to Parents

The New Jersey School for the Deaf (NJSD) kicked off its Parent Workshop Series with wonderful programs during September and October. The workshop series was developed to afford parents, of NJSD students, access to a community of people who share their hopes, concerns, and desire to learn more about education and support mechanisms for their children. On the third Thursday of each month, parents come together to share a light meal, to learn important information and to connect socially. In our second year, the series will host presenters from local, state and community agencies as well as NJSD staff.

The September workshop featured Mary Elizabeth Kilkenney-Bielsa, Educational Audiologist, who provided information about hearing loss, what audiograms tell us and amplification options. October's workshop focused on ASL and English and how these two very important languages can be utilized to maximize language success for Deaf children. Three NJSD staff members, Sherri Anderson, Kim Arrigo and Barbara Poling, brought their expertise and insight to this fascinating topic.

Upcoming workshops include topics on technology and assistive devices, transition, cyber-bullying, raising drug-free kids and language strengthening strategies for the home; and a great line-up of presenters including Jason Weiland of the DDHH, attorney Robert Robinson of Disability Rights New Jersey (NJSD), NJSD parent and advocate assistant Susan VanHook and more. The workshop series will conclude in May, with a panel of Deaf and hard of hearing adults that work in a variety of fields, who will share their experiences and insights with parents. For more information about this exciting program, email your questions to njsdparents@gmail.com or call Cindi Sternfeld, Director of Campus Life, at (609)530-3197.

Halloween at the Library

Submitted by Christine Olsen



Robert Biastre, retired head of Youth Services for the Plainfield Library, was October's special guest at the New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped's (LBH)



Students and staff enjoy creating Halloween pumpkin crafts.

monthly Children's American Sign Language Story Hour. Mr. Biastre was the storyteller on October 21, when he read "The Wizard, the Fairy, and the Magic Chicken," by Helen Lester, to students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission School and the public.

After Mr. Biastre's presentation, Pete Campione and Mari Coderre of Kindred Souls introduced their therapy dogs, Toby and Valentine. Valentine is legally Deaf and blind. To the audience's great delight, while Valentine lay on the floor, Toby leaped over her. After story hour, everyone enjoyed snacks and Halloween pumpkin crafts and snacks.

October's story hour was interpreted into American Sign Language through interpreters provided by

the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a division of the New Jersey Department of Human

Services. The story hour is part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program offered by LBH, which is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton, NJ.

For more information about the DHHAP program, contact Christine Olsen, coordinator of the DHHAP Program, at 877-882-5593 TTY

or colsen@njstatelib.org. The next Story Hour at NJLBH is scheduled for December 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.



Valentine jumps over his owner, Mari Coderre, while Pete Campione and his dog look on.



Robert Biastre reads story to students while Kathy Ferejohn interprets.

Lake Drive School Walkathon 2008

Submitted by Nora Rodriguez, MS, LCSW

Fall has come; and is quickly going. New York has its marathon and fans have their football. And, with tradition, Lake Drive School has its annual walkathon that kicked off this year's Character



Education theme at Lake Drive School, "Building a Better Us," which takes last year's theme to the next level. After a year of focusing on the traits that make us all friendlier, better citizens and more

mindful of others, the impetus is to put those traits into action by helping others in a variety of settings, including home and school.

The walkathon was preceded by a pep rally where the students participated in a special cheer created



for this campaign, accompanied by the middle school students beating drums to set the rhythm. In addition, to initiate the

next in the series of Character Education activities for the year, each class presented a large cardboard box decorated in accordance with the theme and sported buttons with this year's theme logo. The empty boxes, which were stacked at the pep rally to symbolize the process of building, went to their re-

spective classrooms to be filled over the next weeks until Thanksgiving, when the boxes will all be delivered to the Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown, NJ.

Families will be encouraged to capture their children's acts of helping outside of school by sending in photos. These will gradually fill one of the large bulletin boards in the school as a Hall of Fame for helping.

In addition, other ideas are being finalized to recognize the children's efforts and encourage a long-term desire to continue helping others and practicing service to the community.



Children often display an innate sense of empathy and a natural bend towards kindness. Through the years, Lake Drive students have seen their share of accolades in sportsmanship and in other areas where virtues were displayed. Having a schoolful of eager and giving hearts, practicing those virtues is to be celebrated; it is only the beginning of one of Life's most important "construction projects."

New Jersey Protection and Advocacy (NJP&A) Announces Name Change

New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (NJP&A) officially announced its new name, Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) that was effective October 1, 2008. As the state's designated protection and advocacy agency for persons with disabilities, DRNJ will continue its mission to advocate and advance the human, civil and legal rights of persons with disabilities.

"Our new name reflects our identity as part of the disability rights movement" according to DRNJ Acting Executive Director, Joseph B. Young. "It is part of a growing trend among the protection and advocacy agencies represented in all 50 states and the US territories."

The US Congress established protection and advocacy agencies in the 1970s, in response to Geraldo Rivera's expose of Willowbrook Developmental Center, a public institution for people with developmental disabilities. He found appalling conditions of abuse and neglect, and public outcry demanded that systems be put in place to protect and advocate for people in our society who are among the most vulnerable. Over the last 30 years, protection and advocacy systems have grown to encompass more issues of concern to people with disabilities, such as discrimination, accessibility, special education, voter rights, access to health-care, public benefits and entitlements and assistive technology.

DRNJ currently administers ten programs statewide, offering individual and systems legal and non-legal advocacy, outreach, education and training, and information and referral services, at minimal or no cost. DRNJ's staff of 41, governing board and advisory committees reflects a model that ensures people with disabilities -- as well as racial, ethnic and cultural minorities -- are visible and important contributors to our work. When asked the single most important reason for working at DRNJ, the reply is invariably "the sense of satisfaction I receive in helping a person who lives in a society that presents challenges and barriers each day, and breaking down those barriers."

For additional information about DRNJ, please call 800-922-7233 Voice (in New Jersey only), 609-292-9742 Voice, 609-633-7106 Voice, or visit us at www.drnj.org.

Disability Mentoring Day

On October 14, the Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) kickoff was coordinated by Allies and hosted by The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf on their campus. With participation that day coming from the Department of Human Services, Department of Labor, Department of Education, Mercer County Freeholders Ann Cannon, Pat Colavita, Lucy Walter, Anthony Carabelli and Dan Benson, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, New Jersey State Senator Bill Baroni, PSE&G, WaWa, Lawrence Toyota, and students, DMD got off to a great start! The next day over seven hundred students from sixty-six school districts were matched with fifty employers throughout the state for a day of mentoring.



DMD promotes career development for students with disabilities through career awareness activities such as the touring of community businesses, job-shadowing at these businesses, and speaking with potential employers. DMD is officially commemorated on the third Wednesday of October each year and is implemented in locations around the United States and internationally. It benefits from the creativity of state coordinators, with each community within the state planning activities that best suit the interests and abilities of its students and employers. In New Jersey, we match students individually or in small groups with companies that lie within their vocational interests. Company participation is developed specifically to meet these interests. A student's day may include a tour and overview presentation of the company as well as an introduction to different employees and their job functions. Students also have the opportunity to interview and shadow these employees.

Allies would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all those who helped make this day, of vision building for our youth, possible!

VSA Arts of New Jersey Honors Outstanding Educators and Student Artists

Very Special Arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2009 Arts Achievement Awards and Art Par Excellence statewide touring exhibit. VSA/NJ is a part of the international VSA arts network, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. VSA arts is designated by Congress and the national coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities.

About the Arts Achievement Awards

The annual VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards include the Student Arts Excellence Awards, presented to students with disabilities who are classified (mainstreamed, inclusion, self-contained classes or activities), fourteen - twenty-one years old, not to exceed twelfth grade level, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form; and the Education in the Arts Awards, presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students. The awards also recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for classified students. Award recipients become candidates for the distinguished New Jersey Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Application deadline is January 7, 2009.

About Art Par Excellence

In addition, VSA/NJ is accepting applications for the tenth Art Par Excellence statewide touring art exhibit featuring original two dimensional artwork by students through age 21 with disabilities. All schools in the state are invited to submit two works. Selected artists will have their work professionally displayed in prestigious locations throughout the state. The artists will be recognized at an opening reception with their families, teachers and school administrators as invited guests. Application deadline is January 30, 2009.

For applications and registration information, please contact Vanessa Young at VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, 732-745-3885 Voice, 745-5935 Voice, 745-3913 TTY, 745-4524 FAX or info@vsanj.org. Also visit us at www.vsanj.org.



DDHH Advisory Council Meeting January 30, 2009 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

East Brunswick Library
2 Jean Walling Civic Center
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529

The public is invited to attend.

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:
609-984-7281 V/TTY

All DDHH Advisory Council meetings are fully accessible with sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices (ALDs) and CART (open captioning).

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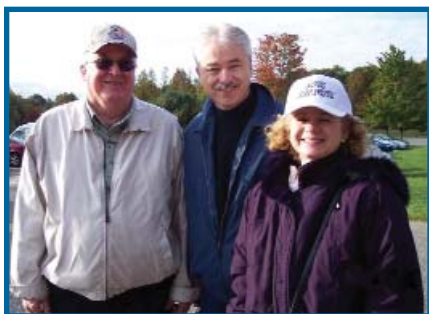
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HLA-NJ Taking Steps Towards Awareness

Submitted by Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey (HLA-NJ) hosted its inaugural Garden State Walk4Hearing on the morning of Saturday October 18 at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, NJ. There were two hundred and twenty-six



walkers, both young and the young at heart, registered that came from as far away as Pennsylvania, Staten Island and Virginia.

After the welcome and opening remarks from HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff and Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh of West Windsor, NJ, the walkers traversed the 5K course from the Western Picnic Area to the



Eastern Area and returned back. Of the twenty-five plus teams represented, Grace's Law was probably the largest with seventy-four members! Other teams included: Team Lexi,

Brett's Brigade, Hear Ye! Hear Ye! ALDABest, Monroe Mavens, Rav's Gamma and the Audiology Doctoral Students of Montclair State University.

The Walk4Hearing campaign is a nationally coordinated effort sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), a



non-profit organization. The purpose of the campaign is to increase awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss and to raise funds to

provide information and support for people with hearing loss. Proceeds from this event will be used to continue the mission of HLA

which is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. The teams of the Garden State Walk4Hearing

raised over \$56,000, more than double its goal of \$25,000!



Communication access (CART and interpreters) was provided by the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Other sponsors include Sprint/New Jersey Relay, Montclair State University, Aetna, Advanced Bionics, T-Mobile, Phonak, SIPRelay with VCO, HearX, JFK Audiology, Oticon, Starkey, Widex, ASL Interpreter Referral Service, Boardroom and Northeastern Technologies Group.



Bravo to Lois Walker, Garden State Walk4Hearing Chair, and her committee who spent the past several months planning the event. Their hard work and dedication really showed. For more information on the Walk4Hearing, visit www.walk4hearing.org and click on the Garden State, NJ link.



Communicator Signboard

ASL-English Interpretation Program

Advanced ASL I

with Jason Norman

For serious ASL students who - for at least the past two (2) years, have been intently studying ASL and who have been actively involved in the Deaf community.

Tuesdays, January 6 - March 10, 2009

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Room: TBA)

\$440 (\$425 course fee + \$15 non-refundable registration fee)

Course Code: A16INTOO1

Registration Deadline: December 23, 2008

For further information or to register for this course, please contact:

Cassandra Worko or Rob Hills at 718-482-5313 Voice/TTY or

Cworko@lagcc.cuny.edu or *Roberth@lagcc.cuny.edu*

You can also browse our Web site: www.lagcc.cuny.edu/IEP

Refund Policy:

Refunds (minus registration fee) are issued if a signed written request is received according to the following schedule:

100% if received three(3) days prior to the first class.

75% if received prior to completion of 10% of class hours.

50% if received prior to completion of 20% of class hours.

ALDA-GS

(Association of Late Deafened Adults-Garden State)

Presents its

Fall Workshop

December 6, 2008

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

at the East Brunswick Public Library

2 Jean Walling Civic Center, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Morning - Jeffrey Newman, Deputy Clerk,

Appellate Division Superior Court of NJ will speak on court access for those with hearing loss.

Free lunch will be served.

Afternoon - Thomas Lesnick, Manager of Client Services, PhoneTag will demonstrate PhoneTag service.

CART, assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters will be available, courtesy of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



12th Annual Christmas Dinner

**Saturday, December 6
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Choice of ham or lemon chicken breast
and assorted side dishes.

Admission:

13 years old and up - \$10;
12 years old and under - \$5;
Infants 3 years old and under - FREE

Optional Pollyanna sign up: amount \$10
Contact GCCC Deaf Ministry to participate

Gloucester County Community Church
359 Chapel Heights Road
Sewell, NJ 08080

Check payable to:

GCCC, Memo: Deaf Ministry
Include number of adults and
children and amount enclosed.



Ministry With the Deaf
International Catholic Deaf Association

Christmas Social

Sunday, December 14, 2008

Mass - 11:00 a.m.

Social - 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Gregory's Church/Hall, 340 E. Evesham Avenue, Magnolia, New Jersey 08049

Ziti Pasta, Meatballs, Ham, Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls,
Desserts, Hot & Cold Beverages.

Please bring a dessert.

Chances, 50/50, door prizes and more.

Win a handcrafted nativity set made in Italy.

Christmas Play by CCD Children.

Please bring one (1) gift for each of your children for Santa Claus to give out.

Do not forget to put your child's name on the gift.

If you do not have a child, your donation of a gift would be appreciated.

In Advance:

\$10 per person (13 years old & up); \$6 per child (4-12 years old);
\$25 per family; Children 3 years and under - FREE

At the door (Cash only):

\$12 per person (13 years old & up); \$8 per child (4-12 years old);
\$30 per family; Children 3 years and under - FREE

Please buy your tickets in advance.

Deadline December 7 - NO REFUNDS

To buy tickets, see Gracemarie Newman or mail a check made payable to
the Ministry With the Deaf to 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Include name and number of adults, children and total cost.

For more information, call 856-795-6481 TTY/Voice;

856-482-5657 FAX;

deafministrynj@yahoo.com

Communicator Signboard

Tri State Deaf Club



Saturday December 13, 2008

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Game starts 7:00 p.m.

Raritan Township Fire Company, 303 South Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822.

\$10 charge for everyone to play BINGO

Christmas Celebration night. Admission, food and drink is Free.

2009 memberships are now being accepted. One year membership is \$10.

For more information please contact Tammy Williamson - President at 908-782-3712 VP or visit www.tristatedeafclub.com.

Watch for more information, about our Texas Hold 'em Tournament in January.

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.
presents

Christmas & Hanukkah Holiday Dinner Party **December 13, 2008**

5:30 p.m.

The Excelsior, 190 Route 46 East, Saddle Brook, NJ

**Sit-down family style dinner including unlimited
soda and wine. Cash bar.**

Door prizes and \$1,000 in Christmas gifts given away.

Members \$45; Non-members \$50.

Make check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc. mail to
Beverly Golden, 26 Thomas Street, Clifton, NJ 07013

Deadline November 30, 2008

Limited-120 people (first come, first served).

Order your tickets now so you won't miss the holiday fun with us.

Chairman Phil Esposito and Co-Chairman Jerry Perdue

For more information about this holiday event, please visit www.njccdsite.org.



Communicator Signboard

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf
hosts
Annual Christmas Dinner

VFW, 601 N. Dorest Avenue, Ventnor, New Jersey 08406

Saturday, December 20, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Buffet Style by Tasty Buds Catering -
Hot Roast Beef, Meatballs,
Baked Ziti, Chicken Parm, Rolls,
Tossed Salad with Dressing, Sheet Cake, Coffee & Wine

Bank night giveaway, Merry Christmas
Money in Envelope, 50/50, More PRIZES

Party Dress-Up (No Jeans) Adults Only

Donation: Members \$20; Non-members \$25 No Refunds.

Reservations Only. No Tickets Sold at Door.

Deadline for reservations is December 13.

Mail payment to

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

c/o Christmas Dinner

PO Box, 3088, Margate, NJ 08402

Make money order/check payable to: A.C.S.D.

For questions, contact ACSD66@aol.com

Chairpersons Kathy Reese & Carol Hangstorfer

Calendar of Events 2009

**DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, January 30, 2009**

East Brunswick Public Library
2 Civic Blvd., East Brunswick NJ

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

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:
609-984-7281 V/TTY

**New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.
Deaf Fest 2009**

Middlesex County Fairgrounds
East Brunswick, NJ

Sunday, September 13

www.njdaw.org

DDHH Office Closed: Christmas Day (December 25) and New Years Day (January 1, 2009)
Regular Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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