



## *in this issue...*

*LBH Adds 3*  
page 3

*Robinson Interview*  
page 4

*VRS, VRI, What?*  
page 8

*ALDAcon2003*  
page 10

**PeopleFIRST**  
NJ Department of Human Services

# Monthly Communicator

*New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*



May 2003

Vol. 24

No. 5

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY  
GOVERNOR

GWENDOLYN L. HARRIS  
COMMISSIONER

BRIAN C. SHOMO  
DIRECTOR

## *And the Winner is . . .*



The DDHH conducted a contest to find a new logo. The winning design, submitted by Karrie Hontz and pictured above, was selected by the Advisory Council.

## Jobs Available

### *American Sign Language (Part-time Adjunct)*

Fall 2003 Semester appointment required: Masters Degree in Teacher of American Sign Language or related field (Deaf Studies, Rehab. Counseling for the Deaf/Teacher for the Deaf) Three years as an ASL instructor; superior interpersonal and ASL communication skills, ASLTA Certification preferred. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Contact Beth Pincus, Senior Resource Accommodation Specialist, Center for Collegiate Deaf Education, Bergen Community College, (201) 447-7844 Voice, (201).612-5325 TTY, [bpincus@bergen.edu](mailto:bpincus@bergen.edu).

**Part-time, support person** with knowledge of sign language needed in Beachwood, NJ, near Toms River, Exit 80 off the Garden State Parkway. Support person to provide guidance, companionship and minimal assistance to a high functioning male with developmental disabilities who is Deaf. Candidate must have car, be familiar with and willing to attend activities within the Deaf community, be fluent in sign language and be able to communicate effectively with hearing family members. Assist with making social connections, attending Deaf social events, help with making doctor's appointments, learning bus routes and budgeting. Flexible day, evening and weekend hours are available. Approximately 12-15 hours per week, \$12 per hour. To apply, please call (732) 566-8802 V/TTY or e-mail letter of interest to [dvsbrady@aol.com](mailto:dvsbrady@aol.com). In subject line, please type in "Support Person."

**Interpreter** - St. Mary's Church in Barnegat is in need of an interpreter for Sunday morning Mass at the Parish Center in Barnegat. Our interpreter will be relocating in July. This is a great position for someone who is a student or intern. If interested, please contact Amy Stegman at (609) 698-2906 Voice or [Tayzacmacsmom@aol.com](mailto:Tayzacmacsmom@aol.com).

## MC Deadlines

If anyone would like to submit information to be published in the Monthly Communicator it should be e-mailed to [ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us) adhering to the following deadlines: ***If the event occurs in the beginning of a month, it is preferable to advertise one-month in advance.***

For July/August combined issue, the deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. For September issue, the deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## DDHH Upcoming Events Forum

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will sponsor the Fourth Community Forum on Wednesday, May 21, 2003 from 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. at the Ocean County Library in Toms River. It will be moderated by Steven Shevlin, MSW. Everyone is invited. Share your ideas, meet DDHH Director, Brian C. Shomo and his staff. Help us improve the quality of services to people with hearing loss. Light refreshments will be served. Interpreters, assistive listening devices, and captioning will be provided. For info, call DDHH at (609) 984-7281 V/TTY; (800) 792-8339 V/TTY

## Tea

The DDHH Spring Tea (this replaces the Holiday Tea which was cancelled due to weather) will occur on Friday, May 9, 2003 from 11 A.M.- 3 P.M. The guest speaker is Bob Isakower. Service providers, consumers, parents, people with hearing loss, interpreters, and friends are invited. The location is at the Library for the Blind and Handicapped, 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton, NJ. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or traditional dish (for 10 people). DDHH will provide beverages. RSVP before April 25 to DDHH Patricia Long at (800) 792-8339 V/TTY. Sign Language Interpreters, CART, and Assistive Listening Devices will be provided.

## MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

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Deadline for submissions:

First of the month for the  
following month's edition

## **Library for the Blind and Handicapped Welcomes The New Three Regional Resource Centers in New Jersey**

Christine Lam, the Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (LBH), is delighted to announce that effective April 1, 2003, the Camden County Library, Voorhees, Teaneck Public Library, Teaneck, and Vineland Public Library, Vineland are the new Regional Resource Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The three new libraries are committed to serving the entire community, including deaf and hard of hearing residents. They offer closed-captioned videos, books and materials on deafness and hearing loss for parents, teachers, and interested individuals. Many new programs are in store for everyone in the community. Contact the libraries for all upcoming events.

LBH will provide the three libraries with various support services including specialized training for staff on how to serve and interact with deaf and hard of hearing customers, as well as how to access interpreter services through a Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing literacy program grant. The libraries also will receive an Assistive Listening System that allows hard of hearing individuals to more easily participate in meetings and Personal Listening Devices that may be borrowed to enhance hearing in person-to-person communications. In addition, Vineland will have unrestricted access to the Library for the Blind and Handicapped's many resources.

"I am anxious to provide programs of interest to the deaf and hard of hearing community. A future workshop is in store for all librarians, in order to inform them of the special needs of our community. I also would like to have a clinic for educators, focusing on literacy among the deaf and hard of hearing," said Ms. Lam.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Christine Lam with any questions or comments. She can be reached at (877) 882-5593 TTY, (609) 530-6384 Fax, or by e-mail at [clam@njstatelib.org](mailto:clam@njstatelib.org). People who want to use Voice to contact her may use NJ Relay. NJ Relay can be accessed by dialing 711 from any telephone.

## ***Temporary Events Guide***

**T**he Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University has developed a wonderful booklet called, Accessible Temporary Events: A Planning Guide, which the Northeast ADA & IT Center are disseminating. The guide is an ideal tool for anyone involved in the planning or coordinating of activities such as street festivals, craft fairs, music events, state and county fairs, regattas, air shows, animal shows, home shows or parades and political rallies or, similar types of activities. The Guide covers issues from disability awareness to advance planning, access to the site, participating in the event, service and support facilities, as well as resources available in the community to assist with accessibility. For a limited time, these booklets are available free of charge. To obtain a copy of this document, call the Northeast ADA & IT Center at 1-800-949-4232 Voice or send an e-mail to [northeastada@cornell.edu](mailto:northeastada@cornell.edu)

## ***Religious Access***

A One Day Deaf Ministries Conference will be held at the Trinity Baptist Church in Montville, NJ at the corner of Changebridge and Horseneck Roads, on Saturday, May 10, 2003 from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Registration is required and there is a nominal registration fee. For more information or to register, please contact Mr. Leslie Bunn at (973) 252-9651 V/TTY or the church office at (973) 334-5045 Voice.

# Getting to Know...Robert A. Robinson

by Gail Tornquist, Union County College student extern for DDHH

**W**hen parents of children who are physically or mentally disabled realize that their school district is not providing services required by the

Individualized Education Plan

(I.E.P), who should they call for help? When a person who is physically disabled experiences employment discrimination, and all personal efforts fail, who can they depend on to act as an advocate? When a person who is Deaf or hard of hearing does not receive adequate communication access in the workplace, who can assist in providing what the law requires? The place to contact is New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (NJP&A) in

Trenton, NJ. Robert A. Robinson, a staff attorney at NJP&A, has a personal understanding of these issues because he is Deaf. The following interview with Mr. Robinson examines his role at NJP&A and his road to public interest advocacy.



takes, and not to quit. Practice was held after school every day and sometimes on Saturdays, even in terrible weather. This ethic has helped me with my current occupation when I occasionally have to work long hours, especially on weekends - anything to get the job done. I must admit though, I don't miss being blindsided by a 250-pound lineman on the football field.

**Q.** Where did you go after high school?

**A.** I attended Gallaudet University where I experienced immediate culture shock. I was not accustomed to being around so many people who signed. In

high school, I learned the rudiments of sign language, but my immersion in American Sign Language at Gallaudet enabled me to participate in this new mode of communication. I really grew so much as a person at Gallaudet, and Washington, D.C. was an exciting town.

**Q.** When did you realize that you wanted to become a lawyer?

**A.** After graduating from Gallaudet University, the school helped me find a job with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. as a legal assistant. My colleagues encouraged me to go to law school because they knew of my desire to want to help people who were disabled. They also felt that I could be a role model for many people, Deaf and hearing alike. Becoming a lawyer would be one way to prove that a person who is Deaf can do anything. The Department of Justice is a few blocks from the United States Supreme Court, and I could see the Supreme Court from my bedroom window. The view of this powerful institution, and the encouragement from my co-workers helped me decide to take the next step.

**Q.** Going to law school is a major investment. Which law school did you choose to attend and why?

**A.** I waited three years before I made the final decision. I wanted to be sure that being a lawyer was what I really wanted to do. There is much risk involved in choosing this profession. Law school is very expensive and requires a great deal of time and commitment. I finally decided to attend Temple University Law School in Philadelphia.

**Q.** Thank you for consenting to this interview. Would you share a little bit about your family and your environment as a young child?

**A.** Well, I am glad this is not a Barbara Walter's interview, and I'll be glad to answer your questions. I am an only child, and contribute much of my success as a result of the support I received from my parents. From day one, they encouraged AND supported my dreams. They told me over and over again that there is nothing I couldn't do as long as I put my heart and mind into it. They did laugh at me once though, when I told them I wanted to be a running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers. After I ran the 40-yard dash in 5.5 seconds in high school, I realized they had a good reason for laughing.

**Q.** Was communication ever an issue at home?

**A.** Not at all. I attended an oral, Deaf, Catholic school, The DePaul Institute in Pittsburgh. Sign language was forbidden. Therefore, I was taught to speak and read lips. I was grateful for the wonderful education I received at that school. Then, I attended a public high school where I relished my involvement in playing football. I played all kinds of sports growing up, but football, both in high school and at Gallaudet, helped my character development in many ways. The sport taught me the value of discipline, teamwork, persistence, accepting responsibility for my mis-



After researching several schools, I was very pleased with the support services Temple offered. I didn't want to add to the burden of attending law school by being forced to deal with inadequate support services. I was very pleased with the support I received at Temple. I highly recommend Temple University for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or disabled in any way. I am forever indebted to the director of the university's support services department, Dr. Dorothy Cebula, for providing access and support whenever it was needed.

**Q.** So your experience at Temple sounds quite positive.

**A.** Absolutely. I must admit that at first I had some qualms about attending law school. I was told that students hide books from other students, and don't support each other. Cutthroat competition was the atmosphere I was expecting at law school. I found the opposite to be true.

**Q.** Did you get involved in any other activities at Temple University?

**A.** I was an editor of "The Law Review." I also entered into an annual writing contest where at least 150 law students hoped to have their law review articles selected for publication. My article, which analyzed the complicated tension between the ADA and the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, was one of the few selected for publication. After my article was selected for publication, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to hear a case involving this tension. I sent a draft of my article to the Georgetown law professor who argued in favor of the ADA before the court. I went to observe the oral argument along with an interpreter. It was a great experience, although the court ultimately ruled that the Eleventh Amendment trumps the ADA. All in all, I had a lot of fun at Temple, and graduated in May 2001.

**Q.** After graduation, I assume you took the bar exam.

**A.** That was the worst summer of my life - the summer of 2001. I studied constantly, with the Jay Leno show on, in the background, as I studied late into the nights. Caffeine became my best friend. By the end of the summer, I passed the Pennsylvania and New Jersey bar exams.

**Q.** Now that you are working at NJ Protection & Advocacy, what types of cases do you work with, and what are your most common complaints?

**A.** I have a variety of cases dealing with employment discrimination, such as reasonable accommodations not

being provided for an employee, or an employee is dismissed because of his or her disability(ies). The most common complaints come from special education matters where I try to resolve issues with school districts regarding students' Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and locating appropriate placement for students. These issues make up approximately 70% of my caseload. Many schools expel students who are disabled without following due process rights afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) - this is quite common. Sometimes it is necessary to resolve issues through mediation or due process hearings. I also handle municipal accessibility (curb cut) matters. I frequently visit psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers through the State of New Jersey to make sure the patients are receiving appropriate treatment. I spend a lot of time with the Deaf unit at the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains.

**Q.** Speaking of New Jersey, has your transition from Pennsylvania to New Jersey been a smooth one?

**A.** I love New Jersey. It is a small, compact state where I can go anywhere within three hours, unlike Pennsylvania. It's great to have the agency in Trenton, the state capitol, where we can have the most influence. I am very impressed with the Deaf population of New Jersey. I am especially impressed with the Northwest Jersey Association for the Deaf. Its members are very diverse and quite brilliant. I am looking forward to getting to know more individuals who are Deaf in New Jersey and serve them any way I can. One more great thing about New Jersey - no matter how bad the weather, you don't have to pump your own gasoline!

**Q.** Have you been successful in your advocacy for the cases you have been involved with?

**A.** I have only been working here since September of 2002, but I have been able to solve many disputes over the phone with clients and case managers. NJP&A has experienced and committed attorneys, and we work together as advocates for people with disabilities throughout the State.

**Q.** Do these cases keep you busy?

**A.** There is much work to do, and sometimes it is overwhelming. Monotony is never an issue. There are many cases, and always something new. I learn new things every day. I receive calls from five to ten clients daily. Everyone here at the agency is very supportive of my work which makes my job much more manageable.

**Q.** I would imagine that it is very important for individuals who are Deaf, individuals with disabilities, and their families, to understand legal issues and their rights. How do you help them gain this understanding?

**A.** If a client calls, I explain their rights clearly over the phone. I try to empower clients as much as possible by giving advice on what they need to do. I provide workshops to students and Deaf parent support groups. I also give them an overview of NJP&A so they understand what this agency can do for them. NJP&A provides workshops to educate about the I.D.E.A., Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.), New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, as well as other anti-discrimination statutes. NJP&A also has an assistive technology team that informs the public about all the assistive technology that's available for individuals with disabilities. Anyone is welcome to contact me if they need me to provide workshops.

**Q.** Do you have any specific recommendations for individuals who are Deaf?

**A.** For children and adults, I strongly encourage them to have a good attitude at school and at work because attitude determines the altitude. Dress well and take good care of yourself because physical appearance is critically important. Before anyone goes for an interview, he or she should find out as much as possible about the employer - find out if they are sensitive to communication needs. Sometimes there is no way of knowing, but you should try. The same applies to school. I entered Temple University because I was confident that they would provide for my communication needs. We must work harder than everyone else because, unfortunately, Deaf people need to be twice as good to get half the chance in life. That's just reality.

**Q.** What would you say is your proudest accomplishment?

**A.** I believe I have been an inspiration to people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. When I entered high school, most of my hearing classmates knew nothing about Deaf Culture. I have learned since then that some of those classmates went on to become certified interpreters, speech pathologists, and teachers of the Deaf. I am very grateful that my life could have an impact on their career choices.

It was a pleasure meeting with Mr. Robinson, who is another example of individuals who are Deaf indeed doing anything they put their minds to. If anyone has need of his services, or the services of New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, you may call (800) 922-7233 Voice, (609) 292-3041 TTY, or [rrobinson@njpanda.org](mailto:rrobinson@njpanda.org).

## NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety Offers Basic Motorcycle Skills Course

**Course:** Basic Motorcycle Skills. Designed for the new or beginning rider. See [www.njsaferoads.com](http://www.njsaferoads.com) for course description.

The class runs for three days.

**Dates:** Wednesday, June 25, Thursday, June 26, Friday, June 27

**Times:** 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

**Accommodations:** ASL interpreters provided. Closed captioned videos will be used.

**Location:** Sea Girt Training Center, Sea Girt, NJ. See [www.njsaferoads.com](http://www.njsaferoads.com) for directions.

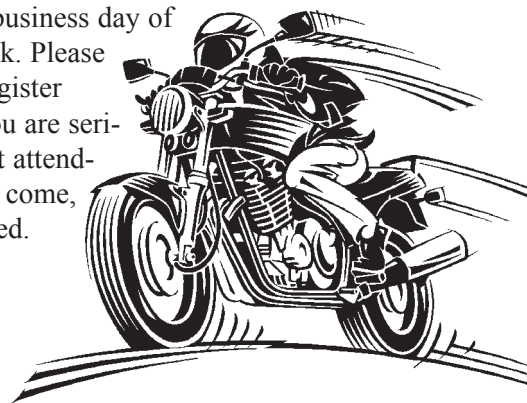
**Requirements:** See [www.njsaferoads.com](http://www.njsaferoads.com) for complete list. Click on motorcycle icon.

1. Possession of a validated NJ motorcycle permit or NJ motorcycle license at the time of the class.
2. Ability to balance a two-wheeled vehicle.
3. Ability to operate the motorcycle's controls.

**Cost:** Free; applicants may only register once per year.

**Contact:** Contact: Richard Frost, P.O. Box 048, Trenton, NJ 08625, or call (609) 633-9308 Voice or e-mail, [richard.frost@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:richard.frost@lps.state.nj.us)

Please be advised that Mr. Frost is only in the office the first business day of each week. Please do not register unless you are serious about attending. First come, first served.



# ***DDHH Funds Literacy Program***

**T**he Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students at Camden County College (CCC) received grant money from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) for a one-year literacy program that is housed at the Blackwood Campus, room 20 of Lincoln Hall. The program uti-



lizes The Rosetta Stone, computer software with varying levels of difficulty. Pictures and text are used to teach subjects such as reading, writ-

ing, grammar, punctuation, math, and geography, to name a few. The literacy program is free to Deaf and hard of hearing adults in the community who are interested in improving their overall literacy skills. Prior computer skills are not necessary for students who

come to the literacy lab. Assistants work with students in the lab and guide them through the lessons.

On Wednesday, March 19, 2003, the Center hosted an open house for vocational rehabilitation counselors and DDHH staff. Visitors came to the Blackwood lab and tried out the software.



The consensus was that the software is beneficial and easy to use.

Hours of operation for the literacy lab at CCC are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and Saturdays, from 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. For more information, contact the grant coordinator, Ms. Josie Durkow, at (856) 374-4855 TTY and (856) 227-7200 extension 4509 Voice or [jdurkow@camdencc.edu](mailto:jdurkow@camdencc.edu).

## **Happy Hands at Camden County College**

**H**appy Hands offers a 4-week Day Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children between 5 and 12 years of age. The camp will be held on the Blackwood Campus of Camden County College. Located 13 miles from Camden, the 320-acre campus is centrally located for students living throughout the South Jersey area. Happy Hands Camp is staffed with fully qualified individuals who have years of experience working with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Parents may send their children for two or four weeks. Camp will provide snacks and beverages. Campers are responsible to bring their lunches. A \$10 deposit is required (non-refundable).

**Dates: July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1**

**Times: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday - Friday**

**Cost: \$100 per week - Children may enroll for two or four weeks.**

**Activities: Swimming, sports, computers, arts and crafts, language development, field trips, and much more.**

Info: Kathy Earp (856) 227-7200 ext. 4255 Voice, (856) 374-4855 TTY, (856) 374-5003 Fax or [kearp@camdencc.edu](mailto:kearp@camdencc.edu).



# *What is the Difference between VRS and VRI?*

By Michael E. Feil, M.S.

**T**oday's Deaf world is filled with many different types of technology and equipment to make deaf people's lives a little easier. There are instant messaging, two-way pagers, and home notification systems available for doorbells, telephones, and even for when the baby cries. The field of interpreting is just starting to adapt to this new era in technology. We now have Video Relay Service (VRS) and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). Many people I speak with get the two confused, so let's see what each of these acronyms mean and explain the similarities and differences between them.

**Video Relay Service (VRS)** - A deaf person uses a video relay service over the Internet and is connected to an interpreter via a web cam. Once in contact with the interpreter, the deaf person will ask the interpreter to call the hearing person (eg., in a doctor's office, a bank or a family member), with whom he/she wishes to communicate. The deaf person then signs to the interpreter using the web cam and the interpreter voices what the deaf person signs to the hearing person over the phone.

**Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)** - A deaf person goes to a business (eg., hospital, bank, a meeting at their own place of employment,) that has a contract with a VRI company like "SignTalk America," and requests an interpreter. The business will bring a videoconferencing cart to the deaf person that is either leased or purchased from the VRI company. This cart includes a videoconferencing camera and a video monitor. Once everything is plugged into the appropriate outlets, the business places a call to the VRI company's call center and is connected to an interpreter, who can then be seen on the monitor. Using this videoconferencing equipment, the interpreter can hear what the business professional says and interpret everything for the deaf person, who can see the interpreter signing on the screen. The deaf person can then respond by signing into the camera that is on top of the monitor and the interpreter will voice everything the deaf person says for the business professional.

There are many advantages and some disadvantages to using either of these services. As opposed to when using the TTY relay service, deaf people can use their native language, American Sign Language, with VRS to communicate on the phone and not have to worry about the quality of their English skills. The ability to use their native language also makes using VRS much faster and easier for the deaf person than the TTY relay service.

However, in order to use VRS, a deaf person has to have a computer with a web cam and a high speed DSL or cable connection. These connections can be expensive, costing about \$50 per month (\$600 per year). Another drawback of VRS is that due to heavy internet traffic, the deaf person may encounter a slow connection to the VRS call center, which can make the signing look choppy. With VRI, one advantage is that the deaf person does not have to wait for the interpreter because most VRI companies have interpreters standing by 24 hours a day. Because of the VRI technology, interpreters do not have to drive to the place of business and risk being late because of traffic, bad weather, etc. VRI complies with the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and most VRI companies only charge interpreting on a per-minute basis. This is actually a cost savings to the businesses that use VRI. VRI, however, does not accommodate deaf people with vision problems. In a situation like this, it would be beneficial to have an interpreter go to the place of business. Also, when using the VRI service, there is the possibility of equipment failure, though this is unlikely.

VRS and VRI use either high speed Internet connections or ISDN lines. An ISDN line is basically a high speed phone line that is capable of video transmissions. ISDN lines are more stable than high speed Internet connections, because ISDN lines are dedicated and not affected by Internet traffic. So businesses that use VRI will have ISDN lines set up, and the deaf people who are utilizing VRS at home will have a high speed Internet connection. The monthly cost for either is about the same.

There are many elements to VRS and VRI, both similar and different. Both services are powerful tools available to help meet the communication needs of the Deaf community. Keep in mind that VRS and VRI will not eliminate the TTY relay service nor will they eliminate "in person" interpreters. VRS and VRI are just other ways of accessing information, interpreters and of communicating. If you would like more information on VRS and VRI please contact Michael E. Feil at (800) 445-4805 or [mfeil@signtalkamerica.com](mailto:mfeil@signtalkamerica.com).





# Brief History of Ocean Grove

**A National Historic Site, 7th Annual "DEAF SUNDAY", June 29th, 2003  
A Family Day at Ocean Grove**

**D**id you know that Ocean Grove, a quiet, peaceful little shore town in NJ has, for many years, offered Sunday Church Services that are interpreted for the Deaf? During the months of July and August they do, and it is a National historic site, too!

In the summer of 1869, ten families gathered for rest and religious fellowship on the land that is now known as Founders Park. After Dr. William Osborn had examined the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook to Cape May, he chose this square mile because it had the highest beach, the best grove of trees and was free from mosquitoes. He named it Ocean Grove. In December 1869, an organization was formed under the name "The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association." A charter was obtained from the New Jersey Legislature and the first camp meeting was held the next summer. Ocean Grove has approximately one-half mile of beachfront. Until 1977, there was no vehicular traffic of any kind on Sunday and Ocean Grove was well known for this quiet atmosphere of traffic-free streets.

Historical sites include the Great Auditorium, which seated 10,000 people and was erected in 1894 to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of Ocean Grove. The Great Auditorium was built in 92 days by about 36 men working on it everyday. In 1988, the Auditorium was restored

with the support of the State of New Jersey and contributions from friends. Today, the Great Auditorium is used for Sunday services and a wide variety of events. Centennial Cottage, now a museum, was originally built in 1874 by the Fels family of Philadelphia as their Ocean Grove summer home. Tent Life - Tenting is still a way of

life in Ocean Grove. Today, there are 114 tent structures still nestled around the Great Auditorium, which is the hub of the summer program activities. A treasured landmark is Beersheba's Well, the first artesian well driven in 1870 at Ocean Grove. Bishop Janes Tabernacle is the oldest building of continuous worship in Ocean Grove. It was dedicated July 14, 1877. Thornley Chapel constructed in 1889, is used mainly for children's services, Friday Evening Vespers and is a popular place for weddings. The Youth Temple was reconstructed

across from the Great Auditorium and houses the youth programs and offers plays during the year.

For 128 years, Ocean Grove has invited all denominations to share its uniqueness by enjoying the beach, participating in Bible studies and worship, attending popular performances and classical concerts in the Great Auditorium.

For the 2003 summer schedule of events, please call The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, (732) 775-0035 Voice or e-mail, [OGCMA@aol.com](mailto:OGCMA@aol.com). For interpreting services call (908) 361-9838 Voice or e-mail [CLWTERP@aol.com](mailto:CLWTERP@aol.com).



# ALDAcon 2003 ~ Las Vegas, Nevada

October 29 ~ November 2  
Alexis Park Resort and Spa



**T**he Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA, Inc.) warmly invites you to attend ALDAcon 2003. ALDA's 15th Annual International Conference, which will be held in Las Vegas, NV from October 29 - November 2 at the Alexis Park Resort and Spa.

The Alexis Park Resort and Spa is a serene, non-gaming enclave located moments from the Las Vegas strip. The resort offers personalized service, 500 beautifully appointed guest suites; award-winning dining; landscaped grounds; three swimming pools; as well as a European-style spa with a salon and an exercise facility.

Illuminated by the bright lights of Las Vegas and soothed by the comforts of the Alexis Park Resort, ALDAcon 2003 will seek to inspire confidence, hope, and improved quality of life. As the only conference designed specifically for late-deafened adults, it will provide a communication-accessible forum for sharing ideas, building friendships, and gathering information about deafness.

Conference participants will include people at varied stages of hearing loss, their families and friends, as well as professionals working in related fields. No matter how deafness touches your life, there will be an occasion to socialize and learn with people who share similar experiences.

To foster a sense of belonging and facilitate the exchange of information, all workshops and social

gatherings at the Alexis Park Resort will be interpreted in sign language and captioned with CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation). Assistive listening devices will also be available to those who benefit from them.

ALDAcon 2003 workshops will focus on a diverse assortment of themes, including: communication and coping strategies, sign language, relationships, technology, education, careers, access issues, leisure activities, and more! Hallmark social events will include a welcome reception on Wednesday evening, October 29th, the Karaoke Party on Saturday night, and the farewell brunch on Sunday, November 2nd.

In workshops and social gatherings alike, people describe the acceptance they find at the conference as a warmth unmatched by any other feeling. Plan to attend ALDAcon 2003 in Las Vegas, NV and you'll undoubtedly "Win BIG with ALDA!"

For more information, please visit ALDAcon 2003 online: [www.alda.org](http://www.alda.org) or e-mail: Lori Heir, Public Relations Chairperson, [aldacon2003pr@comcast.net](mailto:aldacon2003pr@comcast.net). Write to or call: Nancy Hammons, c/o DCARA, 568 Parrot Street, San Leandro, CA 94577, (510) 351-3190 TTY, (510) 351-5906 Fax.

# *DDHH Legal Workshop Draws A Crowd*

**O**n March 15, 2003, DDHH hosted a workshop entitled, "Interpreting in the Legal Setting: An Introduction." The famed Carla Mathers, Esq., CSC, SC:L (2000) presented this workshop at the Library for the Blind and Handicapped in Trenton. This workshop kicked off a series of workshops dealing with legal interpreting that DDHH will be hosting in the near future. With a record number of participants, this workshop has established a foundation for reaching DDHH's goal of increasing the number of interpreters who will be qualified to work in court. For information on future DDHH interpreter workshops, keep an eye on NJRID's Web page, [www.njrid.org](http://www.njrid.org), or send an e-mail to Todd R. Olsen, [todd.olsen@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:todd.olsen@dhs.state.nj.us)





# *Tips for Encouraging Self-Esteem in Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

by Paula Rosenthal, J.D.

1. Let the child speak. Let the child speak for himself as often as possible, even if his language is limited. Be patient and listen attentively. By doing this, you are validating that what the child wants or needs is important and that he is capable of communicating for himself. You will also be demonstrating important skills of attentiveness, listening and interacting.
2. Treat the child the same. Treat the deaf or hearing impaired child the same as you would a child with normal hearing. Children are very perceptive. Giving in to a child, pitying him or making things easier for him can all backfire later. Never use the child's hearing loss as an excuse for inappropriate behavior. Other children in the family or classroom may also become resentful for any "special" treatment that is given to a deaf or hearing impaired child. Or, they may learn by example and treat the child differently from their other friends and acquaintances.
3. Teach the child manners. Teach the child about manners and forming friendships as early as possible. As soon as your child is able, make sure he can properly introduce himself and be able to ask other children, "What's your name?" While younger peer friendships are often comprised more of physical activities than language interaction, children may be wary of approaching your child to play because he wears hearing aids, has a cochlear implant or doesn't speak as well as others. Help your child learn how to initiate contact with other children by role modeling and practicing often. By preparing your child, he will become comfortable making new friends. This is an important skill that will serve him well both personally and professionally throughout his lifetime.
4. Teach the child about hearing loss. When your child is able to understand, explain why he wears hearing aids or a cochlear implant and possibly an FM listening system and what these devices do for him. When a peer inservice is done for his class or camp group, include the hearing impaired child. Let him demonstrate the devices he uses to the other children. Your child should feel proud of what is a necessary part of his life. By participating in the demonstration with his peers, your child will be setting the tone for how he expects others to treat him.
5. Discover the child's interests and develop them. Introduce the child to a variety of activities and find the ones he enjoys. Help him cultivate his interests by signing him up for classes, joining clubs or doing the activities as frequently as possible. This can be athletics, music, dance, writing, photography, art, cooking, etc. A child's self-confidence will soar when he learns a new skill or hobby. Both you and your child will be proud of his accomplishments.
6. Avoid labeling. Do not use a child's hearing loss as a descriptive term unless it is necessary to the discussion. Some children and their parents may be offended by having them referred to by their physical challenge. Remember, the child is many things, not just deaf or hearing impaired.

7. Teach the child self-acceptance. Don't hide the hearing aids, cochlear implant or assistive listening device. Make these devices a natural part of the child's daily life. It is important for both his self-esteem, as well as his hearing benefit. If you try to protect the child by covering up his assistive devices, he will come to believe that they should always be kept hidden and that they are something to be ashamed of. A child who cannot accept his hearing loss will encounter difficult obstacles as life goes on.

8. Acknowledge both the child's successes and attempts at success. One of the best ways to boost your child's self-confidence is to acknowledge his academic and social efforts whether they are successful or not. By doing this, you are showing him that your love is unconditional and not based on the outcome of his efforts. Motivation to try should not be inspired by the possibility of a reward from the parent or teacher. Offer the child praise, not money or gifts, for both his efforts and his achievements. This way, the child will not feel that he deserves praise or love only when he accomplishes what he set out to do. Children with hearing loss often face many obstacles growing up. Early development of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-acceptance are instrumental to their success.

Use these tips at home and share them with the professionals who work with your child. Together, you can ensure a bright, confident future for your child.

Paula Rosenthal, J.D. is married and has two children. She, her husband and daughter are all hearing impaired. Her son has normal hearing. A law school graduate, Paula is the publisher of <http://www.HearingExchange.com>, an online community for people with hearing loss, parents of deaf and hard of hearing children and professionals. She also is a writer and speaker on hearing loss and related issues. To learn more about her, visit this page: <http://www.hearingexchange.com/aboutus.htm>. To contact her, send an e-mail to: [publisher@hearingexchange.com](mailto:publisher@hearingexchange.com). © 2002-2003 Paula Rosenthal and Taylor Rose, Inc. All rights reserved.

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** There will always be debates on the use of terms for the deaf and hard of hearing. Some people with residual hearing or who gain benefit from hearing aids don't refer to themselves as "deaf." Some don't like the term "hard of hearing," because they feel it is an antiquated term and implies that the person is older than they are (a problem for people online who are forging relationships of varying kinds). I have always referred to myself as 'hearing impaired,' because it refers to my hearing as being less than perfect. It does not refer to any other characteristic of my being. In general, I use all terms in my articles interchangeably, wherever appropriate in an effort to appease all factions. Personally, I feel that everyone should be able to determine how they are 'labeled' if they need to be. Remember, one of the tips in this article is not to refer to the child by their hearing loss unless it is necessary to the discussion.



# ADVENTUROUS ANDY'S CORNER

**D**o you hear what I see? Is that green grass, bees buzzing, butterflies fluttering, and little kids screaming down the pavement on bicycles? I see lilacs blooming, do you hear the grasshoppers? Grandma's apple pie tantalizes the crowds while moms and dads are battling over the t-ball, soccer, and swimming schedules. After a tough battle with Jack Frost and the crystallizing snowflakes, the good folks of New Jersey are happy to see SPRING! You may have noticed Andy's Corner had disappeared during the last two issues. No, Andy is here to stay. Contrary to rumors, I was not HIBERNATING, like some want to believe. Instead, I was everywhere and have a cool place to share in this issue.

I have learned a lot of things in my travels the past couple of months. One of which is, despite the advantage the BIG FIVE (Garden State Parkway, Turnpike, Highway 287, 80, and 78) may give you in traveling around New Jersey, there is nothing better than taking a winding back road through one of the many towns that's called the Garden State "home." Case in point, having gotten stuck in car, bumper-to-bumper traffic on the GSP, I decided to detour and ended up in Madison, NJ (Morris County). What a cool place with small stores and restaurants! I even spotted a couple of diners on the way. What's the big deal, you say? This is something different to do.

The small town of Lambertville (Hunterdon County) is another special place in New Jersey just off the Big Five. Located on Route 202, five miles south of Flemington, Lambertville is home to many historical buildings. Despite the fact that the folks here worship a fish every year (Shad Festival during the last Saturday and Sunday of the month of April), the shad is a reason for celebration here in town as it symbolizes the cleanliness of the Delaware River compared to more than 25 years ago,



when Lambertville was nothing more than a sleepy hollow with closed cotton mill factories. Today, the town is called the "Little Gem of the Delaware." Every weekend in the spring and summer, people from afar flock to sample the wonderful restaurants and antique shops in town. If you're feeling adventurous, you can walk five minutes across the bridge to Pennsylvania and visit New Hope. These sister towns provide visitors with many shopping options and opportunities to enjoy a nice quiet day with family and friends. For those of you who like Thai food, Siam's on South Main Street in Lambertville is the place to be. Reservations on Friday and Saturday are a must. If Italian food tickles your taste buds, Rick's on North Main Street has a never changing menu with sure picks to please even the pickiest eater. If you feel like a nice, quiet walk around town, be sure to stop at Bell's Tavern on Union Street for dinner.

This is just one of many small towns in New Jersey waiting for you to come and visit this spring and summer. In the upcoming stories of Adventurous Andy, look for other cool towns to get your engines in gear. Visiting these towns really have nothing to do with communication access but to learn more about New Jersey. On occasion, I will mention places I have gone where people have been extremely friendly and accommodating, despite the fact that I have hearing loss.

Before I go, those of you who have skipped ahead of spring and are thinking of summer, think about this: Have you ever wanted to learn how to ride a motorcycle? Are you adventurous and willing to try something different? The NJ Division of Highway Safety is offering a beginner motorcycle course on June 27, 28, and 29 for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. Did you know that in some states, deaf people are forbidden to get a motorcycle license? Here is your chance to get your motorcycle license. Check out the ad in this issue of the MC for more details or click on [www.njsaferoads.com](http://www.njsaferoads.com) on the Internet. Get your engines in gear, SPRING IS HERE!

# Communicator Signboard

## **The Hearing Society**

First Baptist Church of Westfield, PO Box 2534,  
Westfield, NJ 07091

Office hours from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon  
**on Thursdays only.**

**Classes in Basic Sign Language from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M.**

**Lip Reading from 10:45 to 11:45 A.M.**

Free to members of the Society.

The annual luncheon will be held in May. For more information,  
please call The Hearing Society at (908) 233-0266 V/TTY.

Classes will end for the summer on May 29th and will  
resume in September after Labor Day.

N W J A D

(Northwest Jersey Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.)

## **Meeting and Social Saturday, May 10**

Win door prizes!

Find out the latest news!

Help NWJAD Plan Future Events!

**Doors open at 8:00 p.m.**

**Members: Free Non-Members: \$2**

**Refreshments will be sold**

**(alcoholic beverages are not served)**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

215 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ

For Information: <http://nwjad.tripod.com/or> NWJADeaf@aol.com

# Communicator Signboard



NWJAD

(Northwest Jersey Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.)

Back By Very Popular Demand

**Wallyball & swim fun night!**

**For adults & kids!**

**Saturday, May 31**

**6:30 P.M. to 12 Midnight**

Spa 23 & Racquetball Club

381 RT. 23 South, Pompton Plains, NJ

**Pool Hours: 7 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. With a Lifeguard & Interpreter**

**Cost: per person - (pay at door only!)**

**\$10 - Adults - 19 yrs & up: Wallyball, Racquetball & Swimming**

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

**\$5 - Spectators (fans): Watch Games & No Swimming**

**\*FREE - 12 years and under: Swimming only**

Chairperson: Joey Garth

For Information, Directions: <http://nwjad.tripod.com/or> [NWJADeaf@aol.com](mailto:NWJADeaf@aol.com)

Ocean Deaf Club, Inc.

Proudly Presents

## **Growing Up Deaf - Issues of Communication in Hearing World**

Rose Pizzo will sign autographs and books will be for sale.

**When: Saturday, May 17, 2003**

**Time: 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. - Door Opens at 1 p.m.**

**Where: Presbyterian Church, 101 Orchard St., Lakehurst, NJ**

**All are invited. Admission is FREE**

**Children are welcome**

**Light refreshments will be on sale.**

**Information: Helen Corso, chairperson, (732) 849-9433 Fax/TTY**

**Dinner at 5 P.M. \$5 per person**

**Dingo Night Game starts at 7:00 P.M.**

**Member \$8 Non-member \$10**

**No children, please. If you bring homemade dessert,  
you will receive 5 extra door tickets.**

**Store brought, you will receive 1 extra door ticket.**

# Communicator Signboard

Educational Interpreter Workshop

May 17th, 2003 - 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Union County College, Cranford Campus

Presenter: Stephanie Feyne, CI/CT

## **“Contextual Analysis of Meaning”**

CEU's available - \$15 registration

Contact: Cindy Williams, CLWTERP@aol.com

## **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**

Cleveland SignStage Theater

Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ

**Sunday, May 18, 2003 3:00 P.M.**

**Family program: \$9 - adults; \$6 - students & children**

**Main Theater**

This adaptation is based on the now-classic book by Roald Dahl.

The entire performance is presented in both American Sign Language and spoken English by deaf and hearing performers. You'll see things you've never heard.

For advanced tickets sales, call the box office at (201) 447-7428 Voice

Visa and MasterCard accepted with \$15 minimum purchase. Service charge \$2.

Tickets available at the door.



# Communicator Signboard

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

## **Hosts Mother's Day Dingo**

at VFW, 601 N. Dorset Ave., Ventnor, NJ

**Saturday, May 17 7 p.m.**

**50/50, Bank Night, door prizes for mothers.**

**Admission for members is \$7 and Non-members is \$10.**

Info: rosefish12@aol.com, chairperson: John Werner.

**and**

**Saturday, June 7, Dingo - Wear Hawaiian clothes.**

**Same time and location, members: \$5, non-members**

**\$7, Chairperson: Henry Wohlers**

DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

Dawn, Inc. is sponsoring a monthly social meeting for all Deaf Senior Citizens of Northwest Jersey.

**Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

**1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

Saint Clare's Hospital- Dover, 400 W. Blackwell St., Dover, NJ  
1st Floor, Conference Rooms C & D

**Speaker: Detective Supervisor Carol Friedman,**

**Morris County Prosecutor's Office,**

**Crimes Against Retired and Elderly (CARE)**

**Topic: Crime Prevention**

**ASL interpreter will be provided.**

**Refreshments will be served.**

Parking is available in the Visitor Parking lot.

**NON SENIORS ARE WELCOME!**

Info; Lila Taylor/Deaf Outreach Specialist, DAWN, Inc., 400 South Main Street, Suite #3, Wharton, NJ  
07885, (973) 361-5666 Voice, (973) 361-7086 Fax, (973) 361-6032 TTY,  
ltaylor09@aol.com

# Communicator Signboard

Come To ALDA'S  
**“June Is Busting Out  
All Over” Party!**

Sunday, June 8 at 2 P.M..

Lori's House, West Orange, NJ

Bring food as indicated below according to the first letter of your last name:



A - G Dessert

H - N Side Dish

O - Z Main Dish

RSVP by June 1

Party info and directions:

ALDA-NJ - Nancy Kingsley

(201) 768-2552 TTY, 201-767-5460 Fax, Kingsnan@aol.com



North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc. proudly sponsors

## **bus trip to Atlantic City**

**Saturday, June 7, 2003**

members: \$22 per person/round trip

non-members: \$24 per person/round trip

Bus will leave at 10 A.M. (sharp) from  
St. John's Lutheran Church, 810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ  
arrive Atlantic City (approx. 12:15 p.m.)

Bus will leave at 6:30 P.M. (sharp) from casino  
Bus will arrive St. John's Church, around 8:45 p.m.  
NJCCD will serve each person coffee and donuts  
at church before you board the bus in morning.

Tickets can be ordered from Harry Sahatjian,  
21 Westerholt Avenue, West Paterson, NJ 07424. Checks payable to NJCCD, Inc.  
Deadline is May 27, 2003. Seats are limited.

Reserve your bus seat now! No refunds.

For information, directions or questions about bus/casino, please fax your message to Harry Sahatjian, chairman, at (973) 256-8493 Fax.



# Communicator Signboard

DEAF MINISTRY  
**GINGO NIGHT**

**Saturday, June 14, 2003  
6 P.M.- 12 A.M.**

**Game starts at 7:30 P.M. \$7 per person  
first come, first served!  
Limited to 200 people**

St. Gregory's Church (Basement), 340 East Evesham Ave., Magnolia, NJ 08049  
(corner of White Horse Pike/Rt. 30)

**Door will open at 6 P.M. - no early birds please!  
If paying at door, cash only.  
Food will be on sale until 7 P.M.**

**Desserts will be on sale during intermission.**

HOST - Richard Emore, info: (856) 627-0009 Voice/TTY, (856) 482-5657 Fax or deafministrynj@yahoo.com

Make check payable to DEAF MINISTRY and mail to: 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

**Please mail no later than June 7, 2003. Note: adults only (21 years old and up) no children! no refunds!**

## **COME CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY OF FAITH**

**Sunday, June 22nd, 2003**

**12:00 noon Mass**

## **Special Needs Sunday**

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
89 Ridge Street - Newark, NJ 07104  
(near Branch Brook Park and Rte. 280)

[www.cathedralbasilica.org](http://www.cathedralbasilica.org)

**Honoring the unique spiritual gifts of the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing,  
Late Deafened and People with Disabilities  
Wheelchair-accessible, C.A.R.T. and ASL Interpreted**

For directions or seating information, contact Deacon Thomas Smith -  
Catholic Community Services, Deaf Ministry, (973) 824-5568 TTY, (973) 596-5121 Voice

# Calendar of Events 2003

**May 28 - 31**  
**ADARA National Conference**

Sheraton Hotel, East Rutherford, NJ  
www.adara.org

**Saturday, June 14**  
**DDHH 19th Annual**  
**Deaf and Hard of Hearing**  
**Awareness Day**

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson NJ  
Tickets: GreatAdventure@NJAD.org

**June 26 - 29**  
**SHHH 18th Annual**  
**International Convention**

Atlanta, Georgia  
Info: (301) 657-2248 V/TTY

**Friday, July 25, 9:30 A.M. - noon**  
**DDHH Advisory Council Meeting**

E. Brunswick Public Library  
Public is invited, please call  
800-792-8339 V/TTY

**October 17, 18, 19**  
**REAL ASL WEEKEND**

Ramada Inn Hotel  
Flemington, NJ  
ASLWknd2003@aol.com

**October 29 - November 2**  
**ALDAcon 2003**

Las Vegas, Nevada  
www.alda.org  
aldacon2003pr@comcast.net

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

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