

June 2011 Vol. 32 No. 6

# Monthly Communicator

Chris Christie, Governor  
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Jennifer Velez, Commissioner  
David C. Alexander, Director

## Alan Champion Remembered *Interpreter, Monthly Communicator Editor, Singer*

**Alan passed away peacefully** on April 22, 2011 in Tulsa, Oklahoma after a long battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving sister Alice, brother-in-law Bob, nephews Clinton and Clark, niece Adrienne and husband R.J.

He was a CODA (Child of Deaf Parents), born in Tulsa and one of four siblings, Harold, Jerry, and Alice. Alan possessed a zest for life - he was lively, intelligent, polemical, vibrant, and tireless with a quick sense of humor. He loved meeting people and enjoyed traveling.

Alan worked for ten years in the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) as an American Sign Language interpreter specialist. He worked tirelessly to improve the profession of American Sign Language interpreting.

His expertise was sought both state wide and nationally. He represented the DDHH on numerous task forces and committees pertaining to the field of interpreting. Alan also played a critical role in developing the division's interpreter screening program, personally conducting the performance part of the assessment.

Many in the community will also remember Alan as the editor of the *Monthly Communicator* which under his leadership received state and national recognition. Alan spent many late nights and weekends in his office editing the newsletter to ensure it lived up to the high standards he established.

Alan was well respected and highly regarded by his peers and the Deaf community as one of the finest American Sign Language interpreters in the field. He was known for his work in theater, which included 30 years interpreting in theaters in New Jersey and Pennsylvania,



**Alan Albert Champion**  
July 8, 1955 - April 22, 2011

Broadway in New York City.

He maintained his roots as a freelance interpreter working late at night or very early morning interpreting for people who are Deaf. Alan's other genuine love was music. He was an accomplished singer in choirs and musical groups throughout New Jersey, Philadelphia and New York. Needless to say, he never tired.

He had a wonderful love and affection for animals - both domesticated and wild. He loved his cats, raising and nurturing many of them throughout the years. He knew every breed of dog by name and enjoyed his trips to Costa Rica where he felt he could be one with the wildlife and nature. He loved to get up-close to all living things, whether it was people, animals or flowers - rarely did he miss an opportunity to purchase colorful flowers from the street vendor on Thursdays. They would adorn his desk, through the mountain of paperwork, computer disks, and other material from various projects in which he participated.

Alan always wanted to help others enjoy their lives. If he knew you liked something special, don't be surprised if it was presented to you. He never hesitated to share, without expectation of receiving anything in return. To see your happiness, was reward enough for him.

We have all lost a dear friend much too early. He was one of a kind. Alan Champion will be deeply missed by the Division and everyone with whom he came in contact.

Donations in Alan's name (in order of his preference) may be made to:

- **All-star Therapy Group** - provides horseback riding to individuals with special needs. This organization is run by Alan's sister Alice and brother-in-law Bob at their ranch in Oklahoma. Your donations will support promoting the benefits of horseback riding for individuals with disabilities. Contact: All-star Therapy Group, Bob Burnett, 37500 US 75 Hwy., Ramona, OK 74061; phone (918) 397-8281

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## Director's Corner

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

**O**n page 3 of this edition, we have included a column listing the names and contact information for DDHH advisory council members. The council meets on a quarterly basis. Members represent the major organizations in New Jersey for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing as well as agencies that provide services to people with hearing loss. Members have the important role of representing the views and needs of their constituencies and to assist with planning programs and services. I encourage you to contact council members and request that they express your views about community resources to the advisory council and to the director of the DDHH. These members work for you!

**As you may be aware**, Alan Champion, 55, a longtime employee with the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing passed away in Oklahoma on Friday, April 22 after a prolonged battle with a rare form of cancer. The staff at DDHH extends its condolences to everyone who worked and interacted with Alan. This edition of the Monthly Communicator is dedicated to Alan for his numerous contributions to the division and to the profession of American Sign Language interpreting.

### We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The **Monthly Communicator** is published once for the summer, July/August. Therefore, submissions must be received before June first for this combined issue and e-mailed to: [monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us). Thereafter, August first is the deadline for the September issue.

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 on e-mail itself, no PDF
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Ads 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

### 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.

# Family Learning Conference at CentraState a Triumph

On Saturday, April 16 the fourth biennial Family Learning Conference for Families with Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing was held. More than 175 people attended this event that was planned to empower parents with resources to assist them address the impact of hearing loss on family life.

This conference was a family friendly event in that parents are accommodated by their children as well as extended family members. While parents attended workshops, supervised activities were available for children of all ages. Parent workshops included "Fine Tuning Your Family: Family Dynamics Training for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children" and "Advocating for Your Child's Education: What Parents Need to Know." The afternoon featured a concurrent workshop for the teens entitled "The Importance of Self-Advocacy Skills to Positive Student Growth

Sign language interpreters, real-time captioning, assistive listening devices, and Spanish interpreting were available for all workshops. In addition to the workshops, a number of panel discussions occurred. A professional panel comprised of an MD, a geneticist and an audiologist responded to questions from parents. A student panel was also conducted with students discussing their experiences growing up with a hearing loss. Two parent leadership awards were presented to recognize the efforts of parents who have successfully advocated for their children.

The conference was sponsored by the NJ Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network NJ Statewide Parent to Parent. Funding for the conference included a federal grant from the Center for Disease Control.



## New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council Members

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# Forum for Theatrical Interpreters, Theatres and Deaf Audience Members Calls Attention to the Desire and Need for More Opportunities in New Jersey

by Deb Cooperman



On Thursday, April 21, the Cultural Access Network (CAN) - in partnership with the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and NJRID - hosted a forum for theatrical interpreters and theatres. The event was made possible by the generous support of the Kessler Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Held at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison. The forum was attended by more than 65 people.

Inspired by two earlier forums that were hosted by CAN - one for performing artists with disabilities, and another for visual artists with disabilities - this event brought together interpreters and deaf audience members from the tri-state region in order to discuss the challenges and opportunities for deaf audiences, and the theatrical interpreters who serve them.

The event began by acknowledging the work of pioneer and committee member Alan Champion. During the years of his involvement with the Cultural Access Network, Champion dreamed of creating a way to connect New Jersey's interpreters. He hoped that by connecting these professionals, they would work together to create more opportunities for deaf audiences to see quality theatre with well trained theatrical interpreters. (*Champion passed away the day after the forum; he had been fighting appendix cancer for several years.*)

Keynote Speakers Candace Broecker-Penn and Beth Prevor were instrumental in moving forward with Alan's idea and worked with the Cultural Access Network to develop the program. Their inspirational address encouraged the community to band together, gain and share knowledge and improve the opportunities for more high quality interpreted performances for deaf audiences through networking, training and marketing.

A panel discussion took place and members Debra Fuller, Liza Offreda, Robin Offreda, Darlene Sarnouski, Vicky Joy Sullivan and Janna Sweeney shared stories of their theatre-going experiences with other forum participants. They spoke of the lack of options for their community, and saw this forum as a way to raise awareness of the desire for more high quality sign language interpreted

performances throughout the state. The panel said they hoped that the discussions would lead to more opportunities for training for theatrical interpreters, so that performances signed by skilled interpreters would become more readily available throughout the state.

The energy at the event was spirited and engaging; participants approached organizers from the Cultural Access Network expressing gratitude for the chance to meet, talk and brainstorm about future opportunities. CAN and the committee organizers are in discussion about holding a follow-up event soon. News of any upcoming forums for interpreters and deaf audiences will be shared

with the Monthly Communicator.

For more information about the programs and services of the Cultural Access Network, visit [www.CulturalAccessNetwork.org](http://www.CulturalAccessNetwork.org).

## Alan Champion...from page 1

- **Hands On Sign Interpreted Performances, Inc.** - Alan interpreted many shows for Hands On. He worked on several experimental and cutting edge theatrical interpreting performances. Donations to Hands On will go to establishing a fund in his name dedicated to continuing his legacy of sign language interpreted performances in NYC. Contact: Alan Champion Memorial Fund, Hands On Sign Interpreted Performances, Inc. 159-00 Riverside Drive West, Suite 7F, New York, NY 10032; [www.Handson.org](http://www.Handson.org)
- **Theater Development Fund (TDF)** - Through TDF, he interpreted more than 100 Broadway shows. He went on to co-create and co-teach in the TDF program - Interpreting for the Theatre at The Juilliard School which is a nationally recognized theatrical interpreting program that ran for 11 years. Make checks payable to "Theatre Development Fund" and note on memo section of the check that the donation is for the "Alan Champion Sign Language Interpreted Performances Fund." Contact: Alan Champion Sign Language Interpreted Performances Fund, TDF/TAP, 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 801, New York, NY 10018-6507.
- **The Princeton Singers** - is a small, professional, independent chamber choir. In recent years, it has earned a reputation as one of the nation's preeminent chamber choirs. Alan sang with the Princeton Singers for many years. Contact: The Princeton Singers, P.O. Box 344, Princeton, NJ 08542; phone 866-846-SING (7464) <http://princetonsingers.org>.

# More Than 500 Attend 27th Annual ASL Festival at UCC-Cranford Campus

By Jason Weiland, DDHH Field Representative

**On April 30**, more than 500 people converged on the Cranford campus of Union County College in celebration of the 27th Annual UCC S.I.G.N. Club ASL Festival which is organized by the UCC S.I.G.N. Club and their UCC faculty advisors (Eileen Forestal and Cindy Williams).

There was a record 54 exhibitors and vendors which included ZVRS, Sorenson VRS, Sprint Relay, NJ Relay, NJ DDHH, NJAD, NJ Black Deaf Advocates, Metro NYC Deaf Asian Association, Tri-State Deaf Latino Association, NJRID, Union County College and Interpreter Training Program (ITP). One could buy cool handbags and jewelry along with t-shirts and hoodies hand printed on the spot! People were also able to learn more about the latest technology such as smartphones, blackberries, videophones, alert systems, and other devices. One booth provided information about Just U Yoga which has become increasingly popular among the Deaf community. Other vendors provided information about health products, religious faiths, and NJ Deaf Senior Housing.

Professor Eileen Forestal began the morning with moments of silence for two community members who had recently passed, Alan Champion and Brian Doran. Alan Champion was a well-known Broadway theatre interpreter who had spent three decades providing ASL interpreting for theatre goers in New York City and Paper Mill Playhouse. Mr. Champion was also staff interpreter and editor of the Monthly Communicator at the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the past ten years. He was a familiar face at the UCC campus whether it was as part of the Interpreter Forum, ASL Festival, or mentoring interpreting students in the program. Brian Doran was a member of the Deaf community and Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. Mr. Doran was a strong



supporter of the UCC ASL Interpreter Training Program and often helped interpreting students with their ASL skills and encouraged them to attend various Deaf events in NJ. Alan and Brian will be sorely missed and their contributions to the Deaf community and UCC ASL ITP are greatly appreciated by all who had the opportunity to work with them.

With the "PIT" transformed into a performance stage, UCC students took the spotlight by showcasing their ASL skills through music. Roseanna Armswood, Jackie Chersevani, Monica Colucci, Dominick Hill, Danielle Lieberman, Andrea Arevalo, and Blake Shawver were the student performers who were selected by their classmates to lead the morning show. The capacity crowd cheered and hand-waved as all eyes were on the student stars. The audience left the commons area to crowd the exhibit tables. Children were seen at the face-painting booth and came away with ear to ear smiles. Just when people thought they would go hungry all day, the UCC Cafeteria opened to the cheers of hungry diners.

David Rivera, who is a professor in

the UCC ITP, introduced the afternoon's special guest performer. Michelle Banks, who is a Deaf African American performer, gave an astounding performance of her "Reflections of a Black Deaf Woman" show. Children crowded the front of the stage as Banks captivated the audience with the story about a special bonding relationship between a Deaf mother (Miz) and her Deaf daughter (Azealea) and how hardships have prevailed throughout their lives with a combination of drama and humor. The performer is an award winning actress, writer, director, producer, and teacher who has appeared on television in *Soul Food*, *Girlfriends*, and *Strong Medicine*. The community watched as Banks took the floor and floated between the two characters of her show.

Professor Forestal along with UCC S.I.G.N. Club Board President Jeannette Lebron, Vice President Shaneice Williams, Secretary Jackie Chersevani, and Treasurer Danielle Lieberman came on stage to give the performer a break and to announce the winners of this year's S.I.G.N. Club and Program awards.

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## HLA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ  
By Peter Yerkes, Trustee, HLA-NJ

### Hearing Loss Can Mean Social Isolation - Here's How to Fight Back

**M**ost people with hearing loss dread social isolation. Attending events such as the Hearing Loss Association of America's convention in Washington D.C. from June 16-19, 2011, is one positive step (learn more at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)). But thinking about the convention made me wonder what else can be done to maintain friendships and enjoy casual social contacts. So I did an informal poll of people likely to know – members of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey. Here are some of their ideas:

■ **Keep reaching out in ways that work for you.** Rosemarie Kasper serves on several community advisory boards that provide CART captioning, and takes part in awareness days for causes such as hearing loss and autism. In addition, she says, "I invite friends over to lunch or to help on volunteer projects. Just two or three friends at a time is generally best for optimum communication, and I try to keep pad and pencil handy."

■ **Join with others in volunteer projects.** For Marie Nordling, that meant joining a helping hands mission group organized by her church. Members crochet or knit items for people who are homeless, living in abused women's shelters or nursing homes, or homebound.

■ **Let people know about your "invisible disability."** Carol Granaldi was invited recently to join a group of elementary school classmates at a reunion luncheon. "Before we sat down, I stood and told them I wasn't the 12-year-old with the perfect hearing I had in the 1950s." She explained she would sometimes ask people to repeat or rephrase something. "The lesson I've learned is that unless I call attention to my inability to hear well, others will dismiss me," she says. But if she explains her needs, she says, "most people are accommodating."

■ **Become creative.** Linda Schaab had a problem at her local bakery, where she had to take a number and wait for it to be called. The problem was that the person behind the counter called numbers very quickly and moved on. So Linda took three numbers, giving her more time to react. "It works!" she reports proudly.

■ **Keep up with technology.** A few years ago Jean Sutera moved to an adult community. It offered many clubs, but her hearing loss kept her from enjoying them. Through HLA-NJ, she learned about assistive listening devices and other options, and ultimately got a cochlear implant. She said she learned an important lesson: "Each person should not give up. They should search out the availability of devices that are right for them, that will help them to hear and understand better."

■ **Become active in HLA-NJ.** Marie Nordling, like others, is glad

she did. "You'll find a lot of useful information, and friendly people who will help you cope with your hearing loss. It has done wonders for me." The Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey has three chapters, serving Bergen, Middlesex and Ocean/Monmouth counties. Information is available from [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org), or [www.hearingloss-nj.org](http://www.hearingloss-nj.org). To receive informative updates, ask to be put on our e-mail contact list or contact HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff at [ARomoff@aol.com](mailto:ARomoff@aol.com).

#### SAVE THE DATE

**August 28, 2011** - Garden State-NJ Walk4Hearing Kickoff Event – Montclair State University, Bloomfield, NJ

**October 15, 2011** - Garden State-NJ Walk4Hearing. Mercer County Park West, West Windsor NJ. Information at [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org)

#### ASL Festival...from page 5

This year's awardees were:

S.I.G.N. Club Awards:

Interpreter of the Year: Silvia Coehlo-Yi  
Claudia Parsons Award: Patricia Trowbridge  
Alan Barwiolek Award: Ocean Deaf Club  
S.I.G.N. Club President's Award: Kim-Marie Ferenc

Program Awards:

Bonnie Thomas Award: New Jersey Black Deaf Advocates  
Internship Service Award: Peggy Hannis

Michelle Banks continued with her amazing one-woman show after the awards ceremony. People were in awe as she continued with the story of mother and daughter in highlighting their life struggles and triumphs. With the story being told in ASL, sign language interpreters Dana Fuller, Craig Ridgway, and Cindy Williams providing voice interpreting for audience members

who are hearing and not fluent in ASL. The day allowed the deaf and hearing community to come together in a communication accessible environment where everyone could understand each other. With the UCC S.I.G.N. Club Board back on stage, faculty and staff members, Eileen Forestal, Cindy Williams, David Rivera, Darlene Sarnouski, and Silva Coehlo-Yi were awarded with gift bags for their everlasting dedication to the UCC Interpreter Education Program and their strong support to ASL Festival and the UCC S.I.G.N. Club in addition to the Deaf community which has come to enjoy such a wonderful event for the past 27 years. In closing, Professor Forestal said it best as she thanked everyone for coming and continuing to support ASL Festival with a resounding, "See you ALL next year!"



## Lake Drive Foundation Hosts Early Brain Development Symposium for 370 Parents and Professionals

Submitted By Sueanne Sylvester

- " Excellent information for parents"
- " All early intervention practitioners should attend this presentation"
- " Very important information to share with school administrators regarding the cost of effectiveness of providing preventative programs"
- " This lecture needs to be presented to state and national governmental representatives"

**T**hese comments were representative of the 370 parents and practitioners who attended neuroscientist Dr. Jill Stamm's presentation on early childhood brain development hosted on April 8 at The Bickford Theatre in Morristown by The Lake Drive Foundation.

Funded by a grant from Johnson & Johnson, The Lake Drive Foundation's first Sound Start Symposium was a meaningful educational outreach to those who impact the lives of young children during the most critical years of brain development. Attendees included early intervention professionals, speech and language therapists, physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, pediatricians, nurses, audiologists, school administrators, preschool directors and teachers, parents and grandparents.

The presentation began with a brief video highlighting the Lake Drive Ivy Nursery Program, New Jersey's first full day early intervention program for 18-36 month old toddlers, combining children with hearing loss with hearing peers. The principles of Ivy Nursery are based on the research in neuroscience not only as it relates to children with hearing loss

but to typically developing children as well. The video ended with the provocative line "congenital hearing loss is a neurological emergency." The presentation which followed by Dr. Stamm underscored the statement.

Dr. Laura McKirdy, a cofounder of The Lake Drive Programs for Children With Hearing Loss and trustee of The Lake Drive Foundation, introduced Dr. Stamm. "While we all know that babies make incredible developmental strides that occur during the first three years, it is only recently that we can document the actual physical changes in the brain that occur during this time. This illuminating research has provided information that guides the planning of effective strategies to take maximum advantage of this unique period of neural growth and plasticity. For infants and toddlers with hearing loss there is a body of research that reveals that during these early years brain connections are made between the auditory system and centers for speech and language development. Without this stimulation the auditory center is reassigned to other functions.

"The Lake Drive Foundation in its commitment to further opportunities for children born with hearing loss recognized that this research had

important implications not just for children with hearing loss but for all infants and toddlers. Today's lecture is presented to share this information with the community at large."

Dr. Jill Stamm, an internationally renowned expert in early brain development and its connection to later learning and academic achievement, is the author of, *Bright from the Start, The Simple, Science-backed Way to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind from Birth to Age 3*. Most importantly, she is also a mother. Dr. Stamm began her lecture sharing her journey from young mother to neuroscientist. Her first daughter, Jenny, was born prematurely with significant developmental disabilities inspiring Jill to understand her daughter's unique brain functioning and provide the best care for her. Her second daughter, Kristin, followed in her mother's footsteps to also become a neuroscientist. Jenny has flourished with her mother and sister's understanding and support.

"A child's IQ is not fixed from birth. At birth, the human brain has about 100 billion nerve cells, yet most of them are unconnected," Stamm shared. "By three years old, a child's brain is about 90 percent of its adult

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# NJDEAF Conference a Success

By Alicia Cristiani, NJDEAF, Inc. Promotions Coordinator, 2011 Conference

**More than ten years ago,** Dr. Candi Mascia Reed and Ms. Melanie Phillips brainstormed ideas for an organization specifically for educational professionals who work with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Today, New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, Inc. is still going strong under their leadership. Countless topics related to the field have been the focus of the events since 1999. This year, the NJDEAF, Inc. conference was yet another success.

On March 19, 2011, NJDEAF, Inc., in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and Therese Sheehan of the Office of Programs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, held their annual conference entitled: Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in Deaf Education: A Blueprint for Collaboration, Part I. Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) was the gracious host for a second year in a row. The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided communication services throughout the conference. The success of this year's conference was due to the hard work and dedication of the NJDEAF Committee and the NJDEAF Coordinator Team. The roughly 60 participants included teachers of the Deaf, educational sign language interpreters, program coordinators, pre-service college students, and a handful of parents from throughout the state.



Carol Albritton

The morning began as Co-chair Dr. Mascia Reed welcomed participants. Following her welcome, the Keynote speaker, Carol Albritton, Teacher Quality Coordinator from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education began her presentation entitled: Collaborating for Student

Success: The Professional Learning Community. Ms. Albritton's presentation included information on the variety of professionals who might work with a deaf or hard of hearing student, growing research in the area of PLCs, a description of the kinds of PLC teams that can be formed, and a variety of items and goals that PLCs can focus on when meeting on a regular basis. As stated in her title, it was made evident that the purpose of PLCs is to enhance students' learning and guide them toward success.

Following Ms. Albritton's Keynote, participants were divided into three groups to discuss important



“cornerstone topics” related to the education of deaf and hard of hearing students: Administrator and Leadership Support, Collaborative Learning Teams, and Student Data and Information. NJDEAF moderators and scribes guided discussions on current successful strategies as well as additional

strategies that the participants would like to see happen in their schools and programs in the future. During the afternoon session, all participants reconvened as a full group, allowing moderators and scribes to present each group's contributions from the morning discussions Dr. Mascia Reed and Ms. Albritton offered some closing remarks as they summarized the information discussed throughout the day.

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**The hope is that the inclusion of these professionals in Part II can lead to positive collaboration with the professionals directly in the field of deaf education.**

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Participants offered ideas for the upcoming Professional Learning Communities in Deaf Education: A Blueprint for Collaboration, Part II which will be held on September 24, 2011 at the MRESC. The most popular suggestion was to invite administrators, coordinators, general education teachers, and other professionals who work with students who are Deaf and hard of hearing to September's conference because they are also integral participants in these students' learning. The hope is that the inclusion of these professionals in Part II can lead to positive collaboration with the professionals directly in the field of deaf education. Together, they can generate strategies for effective PLCs that can foster educational success for students who are Deaf and hard of hearing in schools and programs throughout the state.

NJDEAF, Inc. would like to extend a great thank you to the DDHH for their communication services. In addition, NJDEAF, Inc. would also like to thank the MRESC for their hospitality. Both organizations have shown tremendous amounts of support and generosity to NJDEAF, Inc.

To be a part of the NJDEAF Committee or to join the NJDEAF Coordinator Team for the Part II Conference in September, please contact either Ms. Melanie Phillips at [melmark59@gmail.com](mailto:melmark59@gmail.com), or Dr. Candi Mascia Reed at [canree@bergen.org](mailto:canree@bergen.org).



# Remembering Alan Champion





# Selecting a Hearing Center

By DDHH Field Representative Traci Burton

Often conversation with constituents results in giving advice on how to find a hearing health professional and where to find them. The Web site, [www.healthyhearing.com](http://www.healthyhearing.com) discusses this very topic and the article below is reprinted, with permission, from their Tuesday February 22, 2011 news release. Selecting a hearing center or ear doctor can be confusing, and there are many things to consider. Your hearing is very important and contributes greatly to a better quality of life, and you should do everything you can to make sure you find the right hearing center for your needs.

## How to Select a Local Hearing Center

Finding the right ear doctor or hearing center can be as easy to answering a few simple questions. If your answer to all of the following questions is "Yes," then you will be well on your way to finding the help you need for your hearing loss.

1. Is there a licensed, certified and experienced audiologist or hearing aid specialist on staff?
2. Is this professional willing to make a referral for a medical evaluation to rule out the need for medical or surgical treatment, if necessary?
3. Will the audiologist or hearing aid specialist communicate effectively with you about hearing aid choices and fitting options, if hearing aids are appropriate for your hearing loss?
4. In determining whether a hearing aid is appropriate, will the staff at the hearing center speak to you clearly about your hearing loss, lifestyle, manual dexterity, and budget?
5. Does the hearing center offer a wide range of hearing aid makes and models from various manufacturers?
6. Will you receive assistance and training regarding how to wear and care for your hearing aids, as well as how to adjust to wearing them?
7. Does the hearing center offer trial periods, warranties, and loss and damage protection?
8. Will they provide follow-up care following your hearing aid fitting, at least every six months?
9. Is the hearing center open at least five days a week, with an audiologist or hearing aid specialist on staff to provide emergency care, or loaner hearing aids if needed?
10. Will you always see the same audiologist or hearing aid specialist when you visit?

If you have answered "Yes" to all of these questions, you can rest assured that you have taken the right steps in finding a reputable hearing center. Of course, answering some of these questions may require more research than just exploring online. Call the hearing centers in your area to see how they answer your questions. Once you find one you are comfortable with, schedule an appointment for an initial consultation and hearing test.

To find the best hearing center, ear doctor, or hearing aid store near you, search our directory online of more than 4300 providers across the United States at <http://www.healthyhearing.com/hearing-aids/>. For New Jersey specific information, please visit the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs at this link <https://newjersey.mylicense.com/> verification for licensed practitioners in your area.

**Traci Burton, Field Representative, can be reached at 609-984-7281 or [traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us).**



## Hearing Loss Association Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be held on

**Sunday, June 5, 2011  
at 1:30 PM**

**in the  
Center for Healthy Living  
198 Prospect St.  
Lakewood, NJ.**

The speaker for this month's meeting will be Michael Gordon, Total Hearing Care. 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.

The following dates are on our monthly schedule.

(All dates and speakers are tentative and subject to change.)

**July 10  
August 7  
September 11  
October 2  
November 6  
December 4**

For more information:  
[ocean/monmouthhla.yahoo.com](mailto:ocean/monmouthhla.yahoo.com)



## Lake Drive Foundation...from page 7

size," The neuroscientist showed how new technology of PET scans and MRIs has made it possible for researchers to finally 'look inside the brain' while it is at work at different stages of development and actually see how the brain processes information. "The visual system is the first system to 'wire up' and develops primarily in infancy," she demonstrated. Following her science backed approach, the ABC's of Attention, Bonding and Communication, parents and caregivers can learn how to interact with children to increase their ability to pay attention, be securely bonded and lay the foundations for language and literacy. "Critical studies show you cannot spoil an infant by being attentive," she reassured the audience. "Human contact and touch promotes a sense of security and encourages healthy brain development."

"Implementing simple strategies so that children become successful early learners eliminates the need for expensive downstream remediation," Dr. Stamm continued. "Public investment in education is lowest in early childhood, creating a mismatch between the investments made and the opportunity for improvement. As a result, there is a great demand for expensive remedial programs to address learning and behavior problems in later years when change is far more difficult to achieve."

Dr. Stamm played an important role in the development of Arizona's Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative, a 2006 ballot measure increasing the tax on tobacco products by 80 cents a pack and dedicating the money to building a statewide system to improve the health and education of infants and toddlers. As cofounder of New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development and an associate clinical professor at Arizona State University in the Department of Psychology in Education, Dr. Stamm teaches public policy makers, business and community leaders, caregivers and others how they can apply this new knowledge of brain development to a broad range of programs and services to benefit the lives of children.

Dr. Stamm is a member of the National Advisory Panel of the Learning & the Brain Conference and frequently presents at their meetings. She is also the creator of a training tool called Brain Boxes™, a set of products being used to train child care staff, parents, and children's librarians to interact with young children in a way that encourages brain development.

Although scientific in nature, Stamm's lecture was warm and accessible. For parents in the audience with older children who wished they could do it all over again, she reflected on a quote from Maya Angelou: "I did what I knew, and when I knew better, I did better."

"As parents we always want what's best for our children and do the best we can," Stamm said. Grandparents in the audience were happy to have a second chance with the opportunity to apply their new knowledge as they help raise their grandchildren.

The Lake Drive Foundation is a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit established

by community leaders in 1996 as the fund development arm of The Lake Drive Programs for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Lake Drive offers New Jersey's most comprehensive continuum of educational opportunities for children with hearing loss from birth to high school graduation. Lake Drive's Ivy Nursery and Sound Start Early Intervention Program are the major programs supported by the Foundation.

Ivy Nursery and Sound Start Early provide therapy and educational services to sixty infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing from throughout northern and central New Jersey each year. Despite research like Dr. Stamm's that demonstrates the importance and cost efficiency of early intervention for children with hearing loss, New Jersey state funding covers barely one third of the cost of these life changing programs.

For more information about The Lake Drive Foundation, visit [www.lakedrivefoundation.org](http://www.lakedrivefoundation.org).

## Moo Cows and Animal Crafts at Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf

Submitted by Christine Lam

Jay Hicks, Deaf Storyteller, was this month's special guest at the New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center's (TBBC) Children's American Sign Language Story Hour at the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf on April 12, 2011.

Mr. Hicks signed *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin to students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf and the public. In this hilarious story, Farmer Brown discovers he has a problem when his cows find his old typewriter and start making demands.

Following the story, the children enjoyed animal-themed crafts. The Story Hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the NJ 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 TBBC which is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton. For more information about the DHHAP program, contact Christine Lam, Coordinator of the DHHAP Program, at 866-326-6035 Direct VP, or (888) 671-6983 Voice VP or [clam@njstatelib.org](mailto:clam@njstatelib.org).



Deaf Storyteller Jay Hicks signs "O" to MKSD students.



Students enjoying the story, "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type."

# What You Can Do to Speed Up Your Disability Application

By Everett M. Lo

Social Security Administration's Regional Public Affairs Office in the New York Region



If your disabling condition is preventing you from continuing to work, you may want to apply for disability benefits through Social Security. In most cases, doing so involves a thorough process of determining your eligibility, medical condition, and ability to work. Because we look so carefully at so many cases - more than three million each year - it can take us three to five months to determine whether you are eligible.

Processing times on that initial claim can vary depending on several factors, but primarily on:

- the nature of your disability;
- how quickly we obtain medical evidence from your doctor or other medical sources; and
- whether we need to send you for a medical examination in order to obtain evidence to support your claim.

There are things you can do to help speed up the process. The more information you provide up front, the less time it will take us to obtain the evidence we need - and the faster your claim can be processed.

## What type of information do we need?

- Any medical records or documentation you have is helpful. We can make copies of the records you have and return your originals;
- The names, addresses, and phone numbers for any doctors, medical facilities, treatment centers, or providers related to your disabling condition;
- The names, addresses, and phone numbers for previous employers and the dates worked for each employer; Workers' compensation information, including the settlement agreement, date of injury, claim number, and proof of other disability benefits awarded;
- Names and dates of birth of your minor children and your spouse;
- Dates of marriages and divorces (if any);
- Checking or savings account number, and the bank's 9-digit routing number, so we can deposit your payment electronically;
- Name, address, and phone number of a person we can contact if we are unable to get in touch with you.

- If this disability application is for a child, we need the name, address, phone number of the schools attended and any school records you can provide.

We also ask you to sign release forms that give us permission to obtain the information needed from third parties to make a decision on your claim.

The best place to start is online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability). Select "Disability Starter Kit" in the left column. There, you'll find more information and starter kits for both adults and children.

You can apply online for disability benefits (the easiest method), or you can make an appointment by phone or in a Social Security office. The choice is yours. (For Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits, you cannot apply online, but you still can complete the Disability Starter Kit to prepare for the interview and speed-up the processing time.)

If you're considering an application for disability benefits, the place to go is [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).



## FALL 2011 CLASSES

September 1, 2011 – December 22, 2011

Registration Starts on May 9, 2011

Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center (EIPDC)

American Sign Language-English Interpreting Program

American Sign Language & Deaf Studies Program

To ensure a seat will be available to you,  
we encourage you to register early.

August 31 is the last day to register with no late fee.  
September 1 late fees will be applied.

## EIP (Educational Interpreting Program) ONLINE CLASSES

■ EIP 202-300 "Language and Development for Educational Interpreters" – 3 credits  
Regular Tuition & Fees; Chargeback available

■ EIP 207-300 "Disability Laws for Educational Interpreters" – 1 Credit  
Pre-requisite: HUD 110 – Interpreter Role and Ethics  
Regular Tuition & Fees; Chargeback available

## ON CAMPUS CLASS

■ DBI 210-390 "Deaf-Blind Interpreting and Interpreting Strategies" – 3 Credits  
(Focus on Skills Development for Deaf-Blind Interpreting)  
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Plainfield Campus  
Regular Tuition & Fees; Chargeback available

For more information please contact:

Cindy Williams at (908) 412-3574 or [clwilliams@ucc.edu](mailto:clwilliams@ucc.edu)  
Eileen Forestal at [forestal@ucc.edu](mailto:forestal@ucc.edu)

Please check the UCC Course Catalog or UCC Web site for  
ASL/English Interpreting Courses





# Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association

**Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association (MADA)** welcomes all individuals for the 6th Triennial NADC in Flushing, NY., which will bring together Asian-American communities, both Deaf and hard of hearing, to explore issues of interest in their lives and professional work.

The conference theme is "Reconnecting the Beautiful Traditions of our Asian-Multi-Cultural Heritage and the Value of Modern Cultural Experiences."

This conference will be devoted to cultural enrichment, empowerment, community networking, and resource building across the Asian and Deaf communities, including of professional training and development.

**June 22-26, 2011**

**Mudan Center at Queens Crossings  
136-17 39th Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Flushing, New York USA**

For information: [www.madanynj.org](http://www.madanynj.org) and find us on : **nadc 2011**

NADC 2011 is seeking volunteers for interpreting, if you are interested send an e-mail to Marie Rose Guillermo at [polotpot@hotmail.com](mailto:polotpot@hotmail.com).

We are open to interpreters ranging from first-year interpreting students to experienced professionals!

If you have any questions, please contact NADC Chairpersons: Jennifer Cho and Marie Rose Guillermo at [nadc2011@yahoo.com](mailto:nadc2011@yahoo.com).

## Job Opening

### Relay Sales Administrator

**Wireless Innovations** (a Business Partner for Sprint) is seeking a Sales Administrator, to support the Sprint Relay program, in our Totowa NJ office. Wireless Innovations works very closely with the Sprint Relay Sales organization, providing wireless products and services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Wireless Innovations provides a comprehensive health, dental and vision benefits.

Position will communicate directly, via videophone, with customers who are deaf or hard of hearing; using American Sign Language (ASL) to handle orders, change services or answer questions.

Please send resume via fax to Jackie La Rode at (973) 256-2145 or [jlarode@pcsorders.com](mailto:jlarode@pcsorders.com).



## Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf

The Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf will celebrate their  
**130th Anniversary at the  
Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA 17601  
October 6 - 9, 2011**

Purchase a COMBO ticket which includes all the following:

- **Thursday evening** – friend feud game with refreshments
- **Friday morning** – free breakfast
- **Friday morning** – PSAD annual meeting
- **Friday afternoon** – three workshops
- **Friday evening** – PA dutch family style dinner and price is right game
- **Saturday morning** – free breakfast
- **Saturday morning** – PSAD annual meeting and board election
- **Saturday afternoon** – three workshops
- **Saturday evening** – black & white gala with banquet and casino games

#### All for only:

PSAD Member - \$115,

Non-member - \$125 by August 31, 2011

PSAD Member - \$125,

Non-member - \$135.00 after August 31, 2011

The *Eden Resort* offers a special rate for PSAD at the group rate of \$139 plus tax. Please call the hotel at 1-866-801-6430 or 1-717-569-6444 and make reservation with code #6700. You can reserve a room online under reservation code PO 0088. Deadline for the group rate is September 7, 2011.

Info: [www.psadweb.org](http://www.psadweb.org)

Hotel: [www.edenresort.com](http://www.edenresort.com)

**Questions?** Contact Chairperson Sharon Antal at [antalsco@epix.net](mailto:antalsco@epix.net) or 1-570-234-0306 VP



# Communicator Signboard



**MSF BRC-2a September 2011  
on Your Motorcycle**


**DEAF Students Apply  
ASL  
Interpreters Provided**

Please submit ADA request  
Call Mary for details  
201-692-6513

201-692-6500  
ridesafe@fd.edu  
www.fdu.edu/motorcycle

THE LEADER IN GLOBAL EDUCATION  
**FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
UNIVERSITY**

**PETROCELLI COLLEGE  
of Continuing Studies**



**NWJAD**  
**Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.**  
Join us for a "Spectacular New Year's Eve "Party"  
Saturday, December 31, 2011  
8:00 PM - 1:00 AM  
Marriott Saddle Brook Hotel  
138 New Pehle Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663  
(near I-80 & GS Parkway)  
Casual dress – NO Jeans or Sneakers

*Hot & Cold Hors D'oeuvres /Coffee & Desserts; FREE drinks includes soft drinks, juices, bottled water, beer, wine & cocktails; Deaf DJ Lee – Music/Dancing; Comedy show - TBA; Fun Games / Door Prizes*

**ADMISSION COST:**

Now to Sept. 30, 2011	\$75 per person
Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011	\$80 per person
Dec. 1 to Dec. 17, 2011	\$85 per person

**For Marriot Hotel Room Reservation:** – Go online to make your reservation: [www.marriott.com/ewrsb](http://www.marriott.com/ewrsb) Type the arrival date 12/31/11 and number of rooms and people. Click the box for "Special Rates and Awards" and in the Group Code box type: *NADNADA* and click *FIND*. You will see the rate for "NW JERSEY ASSN DEAF" Click that rate and follow directions to complete your reservation!

Make check/money order payable to: **NWJAD, Inc.** and NWJAD accepts a "two payment" plan.

**Mail to:** Tom Montemorano, Treasurer  
52 Heritage Ct.,  
Towaco, NJ 07082

Make Your Reservation and Pay Half Deposit Now  
Name, Spouse Name:  
Please Pick One: Pay in Full or 2 payment plan  
(pay half now & half before deadline)  
With address and e-mail: (will send a confirmation)  
For PayPal – visit NWJAD: [www.nwjad.org](http://www.nwjad.org) Sorry, NO Refunds  
Questions? [cochairs2011@nwjad.org](mailto:cochairs2011@nwjad.org)



## Events Around the Towns...

### American and Portuguese Deaf Club Public Festivals

June 4, 5  
Portuguese Social Club  
600 Grove Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
6:00 PM to midnight  
Food & drinks will be provided  
Contact: Delfim Fragueiro at  
[Delfimfragueiro708@hotmail.com](mailto:Delfimfragueiro708@hotmail.com)  
[Valedelobo@live.com](mailto:Valedelobo@live.com)

### North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

proudly presents both  
**Bingo Affair at 1 PM** and  
**Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament**  
at 6 PM, Saturday, June 11 at  
Cardinal McCarrick High School  
310 Augusta Street, South Amboy  
NJ 08879. (Changed Location)

Doors open at 1:00 PM for *Bingo Affair* so games begin to play at 2 PM.  
Advance donations for member and students with ID - \$ 8; non-member - \$10. Save money by ordering your tickets in advance.

Doors open for registration at 6 PM for registered *Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament* players so tournament game will start at 7 PM sharp.  
Advance player - \$ 60 and at door - \$70 including prizes and expenses.  
Fan - \$ 5: 7500 Chips. Must be 21 years old or older to play.

Go to: [www.njccdsite.org](http://www.njccdsite.org) to print your advance ticket order form and mail it before the deadline of June 6.  
Chairman Leonard Amato and the committees.

### Ocean Deaf Club, Inc. 26th Annual Outing & Picnic

**Saturday, August 20, 2011**  
Rain or shine (Huge Pavilion)  
Veteran's Park, Veteran Hwy.,  
Bayville, NJ  
Noon to dusk  
Admission: Member: \$20;  
Non-member: \$25

Buffet includes: Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad, cole slaw, baked beans et. al. Includes all beverages and door prizes. Bring dessert, cookies and fruit salad to share.

Make your reservations by  
August 10, 2011  
No walk-ins; no refund  
Limited to 125 People  
Info or directions:

[oceanclub@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanclub@yahoo.com)

Make check payable to:  
Ocean Deaf Club, Inc. and Mail to:  
Diane Hammond, 75 Garden Avenue,  
Brick, NJ 08724

### Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. 2011 Calendar of Events

See [www.nwjad.org](http://www.nwjad.org) for details

**Saturday, June 4** - NWJAD-O game  
and Dr. GERALYN PONZIO:  
*"Taking Care of your Health"*  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

**Saturday, June 11** – *Great Adventure's 27th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day.*  
Purchase discounted tickets and Season Passes at NWJAD's online [www.nwjad.org](http://www.nwjad.org) and save.

**Saturday, September 10** – *"What is the Difference Between ASL and English"* and Deaf Culture workshop  
by Joey Garth  
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
CEU and Price – TBA  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

### Creation Festival 2011 is an ASL Interpreted Event

**June 29 - July 2**

Agape Farm – Mount Union, PA  
Camping, Concerts, Seminars,  
Children's programs, X-games,  
exhibits and more.  
For information visit:  
[www.creationfest.com](http://www.creationfest.com)

### NJSD/MKSD Alumni Association

Proudly hosts

**Barn Dance**

**October 1, 2011**

NJSD/MKSD campus

"Museum will be open"

2:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Adults: \$15

Kid 12 years old & under: \$7

The Golfer will get \$10 off

Contact: Heidi Schumacher and Joey DeLusant at:

[NJSD.MKSDGOLF@gmail.com](mailto:NJSD.MKSDGOLF@gmail.com)

MAIL: money order

(no personal checks please) to:

NJSD/MKSD Alumni Association

C/O Heidi Schumacher

26 North Shore Blvd.

Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233

Sponsored by:

*NJSD/MKSD alumni*



# Communicator Signboard

Please join us for

*A Celebration of the Life  
of our Beloved Friend and Colleague*



*Alan Albert Champion*

**Sunday, June 26, 2011  
1:00 PM**

**PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE**

22 Brookside Dr.  
Milburn, NJ 07041

*RSVP to [Champion1memorial@gmail.com](mailto:Champion1memorial@gmail.com)*

***Religious Services Interpreted for the  
Deaf at Grace Lutheran Church and  
St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf***

**2222 Vauxhall Road, Union NJ.**

**June Schedule:**

Thursday, June 2: Ascension Thursday: 7:30 AM worship

Sunday, June 5: Interpreted Bible study following 10:30 AM worship service. Lunch is not provided, please bring your own.

Sunday, June 19: Father's Day breakfast in between the 8 AM and 10:30 AM services. If attending, please contact the church office so we know how many people to prepare for. Cost of the breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

Sunday, June 26: Congregational picnic following our 10:30 AM worship. Dress for the weather. Contact Pastor Brand for further information.

We have our regular worship services interpreted for the Deaf at 10:30 AM every Sunday, with Communion service on the first and third Sunday's of the month.

You may contact us at 908-686-3965 Voice; 908-851-2004 TTY; or [gracelu4u@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelu4u@yahoo.com).

Go to [www.gracelutherannj.org](http://www.gracelutherannj.org) for upcoming events such as our next interpreted dinner theater!

## DEAF DAY

**Saturday, July 9**

**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Central Hunterdon Baptist Church  
325 Route 31, Flemington, NJ 08822**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Bruce Kelly  
From Deaf Baptist Church, Smyrna, GA**

**Lunch provided at no cost**

**A day of fellowship, preach and workshops**

**Host: Contact: Bob Levy 908-442-7000 VP or  
e-mail: [Bob15Fly@sprint.blackberry.net](mailto:Bob15Fly@sprint.blackberry.net)  
Eva Platt 609-644-4814 VP or e-mail:  
[saved\\_by\\_grace\\_010@yahoo.com](mailto:saved_by_grace_010@yahoo.com)**

**Central Hunterdon Baptist Church  
325 Route 31  
Flemington, NJ 08822**

## **The Deaf Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark**

announces accessible services for people who are hard of hearing and deaf at St. James' Episcopal Church in Hackettstown. The church building is accessible for disabled persons. Services are interpreted by professional interpreters each Sunday at eight and ten in the morning. Assisted listening devices are available for those who are hard of hearing, including people who use hearing aids and cochlear implants. The Rev. Dr. Cathy Deats is skilled in sign language. The Rev. Sheila Shuford is a deaf Deacon whose expertise is communication. Hackettstown is located in Warren County and has easy access from Morris and Hunterdon counties. St. James is an open, inclusive, and caring faith community that embraces diversity and celebrates the joy of Christ. Church e-mail: [stjames214@comcast.net](mailto:stjames214@comcast.net).



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DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
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## Calendar of Events 2011

### ■ Saturday, June 4

NJ Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
22nd Biennial State Conference  
Burlington County College  
Mount Laurel Campus  
Route 38/Briggs Road  
Mount Laurel NJ

### ■ Saturday, June 11

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day  
Six Flags Great Adventure  
Jackson, NJ  
For ticket information, contact Lauren at  
[GATickets@aol.com](mailto:GATickets@aol.com)

### ■ Sunday, September 18

NJDAW  
DeafFest  
Middlesex County Fairgrounds  
East Brunswick, NJ  
[www.njdaw.org](http://www.njdaw.org)

### ■ October 15 - 16

The Real ASL Weekend  
NJ Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and  
NJ Association of the Deaf  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
360 Forsgate Drive  
Monroe Twp. NJ

### ■ Saturday, December 31

NWJAD'S Spectacular  
New Year's Eve Party  
Information: [www.nwjad.org](http://www.nwjad.org)

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

DDHH Office – Days Closed:

■ Monday, July 5 - Independence Day