

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

April 2014

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

Vol. 35 No. 4

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

Important Message for Readers of the Monthly Communicator

We are announcing today an important development at the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH). **The Monthly Communicator** will move to an all-digital electronic format and will no longer be mailed or available in print. As part of this transition, the last print edition of the newsletter will be the April 2014 issue.

The Division has been mailing an estimated 8,000 Monthly Communicators in-state and nationwide to constituents and interested stakeholders since 1979. However, the accessibility of a variety of technological platforms now allows us to focus our efforts on evolving the comprehensive, award-winning content without concern for the high cost of print publishing and distribution.

This decision will not affect the quality you've come to expect from the Monthly Communicator. In fact, it gives us far more flexibility to provide fuller reporting on our Division's activities and events. The New Jersey Department of Human Services and DDHH remain committed to providing this state resource for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. It will continue to be a free subscription available for e-readers each month. Current and past issues of the newsletter are available at: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/communicator/current/index.html>.

Look for news about a new listserv to be launched by DDHH in the near future. Consumers will be able to subscribe and receive updates on division events, news and resources on a regular basis.

Thank you for your continued support.

To view a version of this message online in American Sign Language go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECZAL-fAuiU&feature=youtu.be>



DDHH, NJAD and NJ Relay Services Sponsor the 30th Annual Awareness Day at Six Flags

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is proud to hold its 30th Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Great Adventure Theme Park in Jackson NJ on Saturday, June 7. During the past three decades the New Jersey Association of the Deaf has taken on the responsibility to organize all of the non-profit ticket sellers who raise funds for their individual agencies serving those with hearing loss. The New Jersey Relay Service has once again agreed to assist in the provision of communication access at the various venues throughout the park during this event. Staff at information booths will be available to answer questions and distribute materials about hearing loss and relay services. DDHH Director David Alexander related that the "Division is very pleased with this collaborative effort to reach so many people to share information about hearing loss."

NJ Department of Human Services' Commissioner Jennifer Velez stated that she is "very supportive of the division's efforts to educate the public on an issue that affects as much as 10% of the population. We need to spread the word about services to people who are Deaf or hard of hearing."



**NJ Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day
Six Flags Great Adventure
Saturday, June 7, 2014**

See Center Spread for More Information!



Director's Corner

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

On March 14 and 15, eighteen individuals who were Deaf and hard of hearing attended the "**Deaf Self Advocacy Training**" (DSAT). This train the trainer workshop was hosted by DDHH in collaboration with **Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center** (NURIEC) and the **New Jersey Association of the Deaf** (NJAD). The purpose of the training was to teach a select group of individuals who are

Deaf and hard of hearing how to empower their peers with the knowledge and skills to self-advocate for sign language interpreters. While self-advocacy for communication access is important for all people with hearing loss, this training funded by a federal grant was developed specifically for users of American Sign Language. The next step of this project is for the new trainers to offer DSAT training to their respective communities. For additional information about this project or if your organization or club is interested in hosting the self-advocacy training, please contact the DDHH.

Starting May 2014, the Monthly Communicator will be available ONLY as an electronic newsletter. Evolving to this platform has many benefits such as more flexibility for magazine content, as well as more efficient publishing and distribution. Additionally, we are assisting efforts to conserve the environment and "go green."

Look for news about a new listserv to be launched by DDHH in the near future. Consumers will be able to subscribe and receive updates on division events, news and resources on a regular basis. This is another way that technology is enhancing how DDHH is able to communicate with its consumers.

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director
New Jersey Division of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

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

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

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

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

Monthly Communicator

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

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NJSD Student Plays Ice Hockey, Soccer, and Basketball

By Martha Fowler, *Athletic Director, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (NJSD)*

Joseph Bingham Jr. is a 17 year old senior attending the New Jersey School for the Deaf (NJSD) in West Trenton, NJ. He has attended NJSD for seven years. While at NJSD he participated on the varsity soccer and basketball teams. He was part of the 2012 National Deaf Soccer Team of the Year. But..... Joey's real love is ice hockey! He has been skating since the age of three and has been playing ice hockey since the age of five. He has been on several different travel ice hockey teams since the age of seven. He has traveled all over the USA competing in tournaments.

Joey was recently featured in the JerseyMan Magazine. He plays hockey for the Jaguars Midget AA Hockey team out of Mt. Laurel, NJ. He is a standout defensive player, often stifling opposing offenses.

He has three goals and six assists so far this season.

Joey says "I have several disadvantages due to my loss of hearing, but I don't think it really affects my performance on the ice. Most of the time, I stop right after the whistle, but sometimes I accidentally keep playing," Bingham said with a



laugh. "Whoops!" Bingham knows he is at a disadvantage, but his hard work, dedication and perseverance has paid off allowing him to excel at a level of hockey that most teenagers can only dream of reaching. (taken from JerseyMan Magazine)

During practices and games JR's communication is helped by Tommy Szabo, a family friend who joined the coaching staff this year. He interprets for JR. If Szabo is not on the bench, JR has to depend on the team and coaches using gestures and a whiteboard on the bench when communication becomes a problem. Bingham's strengths are his vision and awareness on the ice, which he has developed to a high level to compensate for his hearing loss.

JR's next goal is to try out for the 2015 Deaf Olympics. He attended the 2007 Deaf Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah and witnessed the Deaf USA team win the gold medal. He said it would be an honor to represent his country.

New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing, Inc. Approved for Tax Exempt Status

By Jane A. Cyran, Ph.D, *Secretary NJDSH, Inc.*

A celebratory luncheon was held at the Bottagra Restaurant on Saturday, February 22 for the newly formed **New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing, Inc.** NJDSH was officially approved by the IRS on November 20, 2013 as a tax exempt 501c3 organization. Donations to NJDSH are tax deductible. NJDSH had previously been a committee under NJAD since 2006 and NJAD has agreed to continue their support. The luncheon was well attended by more than 100 supporters of Deaf Housing in NJ. A delicious Italian buffet was enjoyed by all in a festive occasion.

A formal Oath of Office was administered by Charlotte Karras to President Lila Taylor, Vice-President Lucinda Brooks, Treasurer Chung Williamson and Secretary Jane Cyran. These officers and the NJDSH have shown that they will work tirelessly to make the dream come to reality for Housing for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened in NJ.

Two guests, Marina Fanshteyn and Boris Reytblat, from the Deaf Wellness and Recreation Center in Brooklyn were guests of honor. Marina gave an interesting and informative



presentation on the Wellness Center. She described the need for a center that is focused on social and entertainment programs for the Deaf community in Brooklyn. Marina described how she was encouraged every day to work on starting the center by an older friend from Russia. Marina

Continued on page 6



Don't Isolate Yourself: Get Your Hearing Checked

By Traci Burton, *DDHH Field Representative*



Hearing aids and other assistive technology greatly help people living with hearing loss to participate in the activities they enjoy. When an individual feels they are no longer able to go to the movies, lectures, theater performances, religious services or other group activities the beginnings of isolation set in. Often loved ones and facility staff notice the symptoms of social isolation and contact me to discuss the various assistive devices that may work in specific cases. Many times appointments are made at one of our five Assistive Device Demonstration Centers so the technology can be seen and tried by the individuals in need. The November 21, 2013 news emission on www.healthyhearing.com discusses isolation as it relates to hearing loss. If you are interested in visiting one of our demo centers, please contact me at the information found at the end of this article for an appointment.

Hearing loss affects around 17 percent of adults in the U.S. Thirty percent of adults between 65 and 74 years of age and nearly 50 percent of adults ages 75 and older have some degree of hearing loss. However, only about one out of five people who should use hearing aids actually does wear them.

Some people don't realize how bad their hearing is, while others cannot afford hearing aids and still others feel stigma and simply aren't ready to get hearing aids. In fact, on average, it takes adults with a recognized hearing loss between seven and 10 years to decide to get a hearing aid.

Aside from missing out on all of the sounds in the world, people with untreated hearing loss also are at a much greater risk for isolation.

How does isolation happen?

There are many reasons that isolation occurs among people with untreated hearing loss. First, older adults are more likely to live alone than other people. Other things can happen that lead to social isolation. Maybe a person gradually stops making phone calls or answering the phone when it rings - and in some cases becomes afraid of receiving a phone call - because he or she feels embarrassed to constantly ask "What did you say?" Phone conversations are much more difficult than face-to-

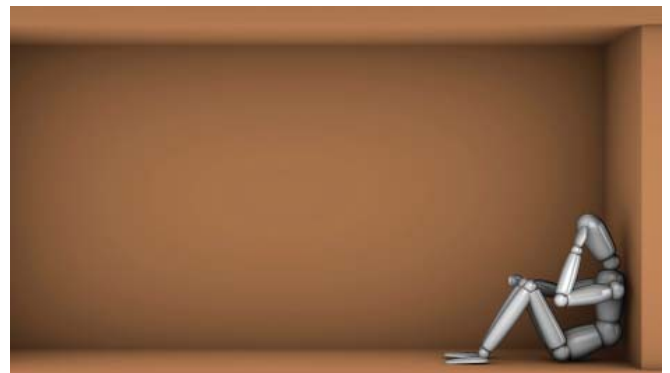
face communication because there is the added difficulty of not being able to lip read.

Going to dinner with friends and family also often becomes too difficult because it's impossible to hear anything over background noise and in low lighting where lip reading is challenging, too.

Why is isolation dangerous?

Much research has shown that isolation can lead to loneliness, depression and cognitive decline. Social isolation also might be a factor in the development of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. A study by Johns Hopkins researchers, which was recently published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, studied people older than 70 for a six-year period. Those with hearing loss developed cognitive impairment more quickly than other adults.

Additionally, a huge body of research shows that social connections



"...people with untreated hearing loss are also at a much greater risk for isolation."

are one of the most important factors in maintaining health and longevity. Simply put, the more connected to others you are, the less your risk of death is.

Traci Burton, Field Representative can be reached at 609-588-2648 or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.



HLAA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ
By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA, Trustee, HLAA - NJ, Public Information Officer

May 1 Deadline Looms for NJ High School Seniors with Hearing Loss to Apply for HLAA-NJ Scholarships

Last call! With the May 1 deadline coming up quickly, this has to be our final announcement about HLAA-NJ college scholarships to be presented in June to as many as four qualified high school seniors with hearing loss. With funding made possible in part by the successful **Garden State Walk4Hearing** in October, up to four scholarships of \$1,000 each are being offered to successful candidates.

You are encouraged to apply if you are a high school senior with hearing loss, a New Jersey resident between 17 and 20 years of age, you plan to continue your education in the fall of 2014, and are ambitious and determined not to let hearing loss get in the way of your dreams.

The application process includes completion of a form, letters of reference, and an essay. To start the process, go to www.hearingloss-nj.org to download the application, or if you have additional questions, write to scholarship chair Alice Glock at alice.glock@hearingloss-nj.org.

Scholarship winners will be announced in May, and this year's award ceremony and celebration open to all will be held Saturday, June 7, 2-4 p.m., location to be announced.

Next State Board meeting: May 3

Next meeting of the Board of Trustees of HLAA-NJ is Saturday, May 3, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the East Brunswick Public Library. As usual, all board meetings are open to the public, so if any of our readers would like to meet board members, ask questions about hearing loss issues, or learn more about HLAA-NJ activities, feel free to attend, especially if you are not able to attend one of our local chapter meetings closer to home. Also, planning for our next Walk4Hearing on



October 19, 2014 is just getting started, so if you'd like to get involved with the early planning or operation, now would be a good time to join the effort. We always welcome new members and find ways they can lend their special skills or talents. Possible agenda items also may include the HLAA-NJ Web site revision, the planned statewide looping project and other efforts. Meetings are usually looped, sound-augmented, and/or otherwise aided by CART captioning, so potential attendees need not worry about understanding meeting proceedings.

HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab Wins Community Service Leadership Award

HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab is the recipient of the 2014 Communitas Award for "**Leadership in the New Jersey Hearing Loss Community**," as announced by the **Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP)**. Communitas Awards recognize individuals and organizations that unselfishly give of themselves and their resources, and those that are changing how they do business to benefit their communities.

AMCP judges found that Linda Schaab clearly exhibits the spirit of Communitas, a Latin word that means people coming together for the good of community. Linda Schaab joins other Communitas winners recognized for specific programs involving

volunteerism, philanthropy or ethical, sustainable business practices. Some individuals and organizations also are recognized as leadership winners because of their excellence in multiple programs.

Linda Schaab's notable contributions during her tenure as president include spearheading development of an annual Scholarship Social event for HLAA-NJ scholarship winners, establishment of two additional HLAA-NJ chapters in Morris County and South Jersey, her participation in the NJ Hearing Aid Project, vocal support of the statewide Looping NJ Project, the redesign and revision of the new HLAA-NJ membership brochure, and her active leadership and support of the Annual Walk4Hearing fundraising event.

Communitas Awards is an outgrowth of the pro bono recognition program of AMCP, a several-thousand member group that honors creative achievement and fosters partnerships with charities and community organizations. Communitas nominees are evaluated based on the extent and effectiveness of their program. The size and potential scope of the nominee also is taken into consideration. Winners range from a one person design firm donating \$35,000 in services to help improve the diets of inner-city students, to an online retailer enlisting help from vendor-partners to design and create teddy bears that have helped cheer-up 20,000 recovery room patients at a Children's Hospital, to a Fortune 500 business that is converting its fleet of cars and trucks to energy efficient vehicles.

Need More Info on HLAA-NJ?

Contact Joel Strasser at joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or call 732-415-7556.

Job Openings



■ New Residential Program for Deaf Youth

ACCESS, of St. Joseph's Healthcare System in Paterson, NJ is proud to announce the addition of a new residential program, through the NJ Department of Children & Families, which will serve five Deaf/hard of hearing youth, ages 12-21, located on the grounds of the New Jersey School for the Deaf/Katzenbach in West Trenton, NJ.

Our team of professionals will incorporate an integrated approach to work toward the goal of returning adolescents to their homes, staying in school and out of trouble. Staff will provide an array of services in a culturally affirmative environment that supports Deaf Culture as well as the culture of the child's family. Through a variety of activities youth of the program will explore social, recreational, and vocational opportunities via linkages with community service providers, which will also include close collaboration with Katzenbach. Families will also be engaged in support services and therapeutic activities designed for the goal of a successful return home of their child. The efforts of the team are expected to result in improved coping/problem solving strategies, emotional stability, educational performance and improved social competence in each adolescent.

We are conducting interviews for the following positions:

Master's Level Clinician – LCSW/LSW preferred; or psychology, counseling degree from an accredited graduate school. Major responsibilities include the provision of clinical assessment and treatment services, individual/group therapies, coordination of services, working closely with families and schools. Full-time position.

Child Care Staff – requires a high school diploma + 1 year experience working with children, or unrelated Associate's/Bachelor's Degree + 6 months experience with children, or Associate's/Bachelor's degree in Social Work/Psychology/Counseling or related field with no experience. Supervise and provide students with positive learning experiences in a variety of environments, e.g. classroom, group home, community. Full and Part-time positions available. All shifts.

Psychiatrist or APN – Consultant basis.

Registered Nurse – several hours per week, for assessments, participating in treatment team.

Allied Therapists – seek art, music, movement, recreational, and occupational therapists for weekly groups. Consultant basis.

We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. For Immediate consideration, please send resumes to:

Eileen Kimbell-Meaney, HR Recruiter at kimbelle@sjhmc.org or fax to: 973-754-4511

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

www.jobs.stjosephshealth.org

■ Ocean County College

Vacancy Number: PEd44-048FY14 Unit: PEd.-PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

Job Category: Professional Educators Position Title: College Lecturer II - American Sign Lang.

Department: HUMN-Humanities/Fine Arts/Media Study

Job Summary/Basic Function:

Teaches classes with the following credit assignments:

- Fall Semester: twenty-one (21) credits
- Spring Semester: twenty-one (21) credits
- Summer Sessions: six (6) credits in the summer terms

Holds seven (7) office hours per week in the fall and spring semesters and three (3) per week in summer sessions

Salary Range: TBD

Required Qualifications:

Master's degree, National Certification through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, et. al.

Closing Date: 4/4/2014 or until filled

Hours of Work: The College Lecturer II shall be employed on a twelve month basis with a consecutive five-day work week that does not exceed seven hours per day.

To Apply: Apply directly to **Ocean County College** via the online recruiting site located at www.ocean.edu/jobs

NJ Deaf Senior Housing, Inc. - *continued from Pg. 3*



and Boris know first-hand that so much work and commitment from the community are needed to make a dream become a reality. Lila Taylor attended the pre-grand opening last November. The center offers classes, outings, meals, help with tax preparation, minor home repairs and social and medical services. Medicare and Medicaid are accepted. Marina and Boris have made a commitment to being partners in the NJ dream of supportive housing for the NJ Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Community.

This celebratory luncheon was a great beginning to the work of NJDSH and the community to finally start our long wished for housing. The next event that NJDSH will hold is a forum on March 17 at the Rahway Public Library. The forum will present the plans for the coming year to build housing in NJ designed for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Seniors.

Property in Roxbury, NJ has been identified and the forum will focus on what is needed to proceed with building. The primary presentation will be given by Erich Schwenker from CCM who has built successful Deaf Senior Housing in Milwaukee and Arizona.

The problems with HUD charging discrimination in giving priority to Deaf residents in Arizona have significantly delayed building in NJ. A recent letter from HUD appears to have resolved these issues. Invitations to the forum have been sent to leaders of Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Organizations in NJ and NY. In addition, invitations have been sent to NJ State, county and town agencies and social services. The forum will be an opportunity to demonstrate the overall commitment and need for this project to come to reality in NJ.

Giving the Gift of ASL for the Holidays

Submitted by Candice Chaleff, Director of Special Education, Passaic County Technical Institute

Passaic County Technical Institute's American Sign Language III students were the hit of the Head Start party! Preschoolers were delighted to learn sign language as a part of their annual holiday party.

Laura Martin's American Sign Language III students brought an Ipad and handouts to teach the eager three year olds in the Head Start program housed at PCTI. The



children eagerly watched an ASL animated story of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," then the high school students taught each student how to sign their favorite animal. Students were then given a handout so they could practice more at home with their moms and dads.

One ASL II student noted, "One little boy was so shy, but when he learned how to sign 'dinosaur' his face lit up!" PCTI students were amazed at how quickly the children were able to pick up signs.

The Head Start teachers were grateful to the sign class for working so hard to make the holiday party a success. Given the holiday season students also were thrilled to learn the signs for "Santa" and "reindeer".

"The day was so much fun for both the preschool children and the high school students. It was great to see my students become the teachers. They had so much patience with the children and taught them at their level. The children were mesmerized. I am so proud of them. We will definitely be coming back for follow up lessons," commented Laura Martin.

PCTI students definitely enjoyed being part of such a wonderful day!

Twelve Days of Christmas

Wayne, NJ- Passaic County Technical Institute's (PCTI) Sign Language Club was the hit of the holiday show for the second year in a row! PCTI students under the direction of advisor Laura Martin, practiced tirelessly before stepping on stage to sign "Twelve Days of Christmas" at PCTI's annual holiday show.

The Sign Club performed five shows for more than 3700 students at PCTI! The Sign Club members were all decked out in Christmas hats and reindeer ears. As is a tradition with PCTI's choir they had a lot of fun with the "five golden rings" portion of the song and hold it out for an extreme and hilarious amount of time. Sign Club members were not phased and added a laugh inducing skit where enormous rings were added to a student's hand while the other members "ohhhed and ahhed"

The audience had a wonderful experience and Sign Club as usual did a wonderful job.

Passaic County Technical Institute Sign Language Club Unveils Their First Ever T-Shirt!

Wayne, NJ- Students who showed up for Passaic County Technical Institute's (PCTI) monthly "Spirit Day" were in for a huge surprise when they were greeted with hundreds of students sporting Sign Club t-shirts. It was easy to spot the more than 275 Sign Language Club members in their neon green shirts as they walked down the halls.

The shirts have "PCTI" finger-spelled on the front and an ILY symbol and "Love is a Language the Deaf Can Hear" on the back. PCTI's own Jordon Hernandez designed the shirts. Jordon a member of the Deaf program and is studying graphic arts at PCTI. Jordon jumped at the chance to design the shirts for the club but even he was surprised how many students were

wearing his design!

The shirts were a long time dream of advisor Laura Martin who worked hard to make the dream come true. PCTI's sign club has ballooned to almost 300 members and interest in the club keeps growing! PCTI now offers nine sign classes in ASL1- ASL III. Students could be heard in the halls all day asking where they could get a shirt of their own and how cool they looked. The shirts were so popular they will now be ordered and sold at the school store.



The Hearing Loss Revolution and Nine Guiding Principles

By Pat Dobbs

The Hearing Loss Revolution grew out of years of being ashamed of my hearing loss and trying to hide it. If I couldn't hear, I simply faked it—mimicked people's facial expressions or gave answers that I hoped were right. But I often wondered if I had answered inappropriately. Then at a national convention, when I heard Dr. Sam Trychin talk about the psychological impact of hearing loss, I was surprised to learn that I was not the only one who did that.

Why do we do this, I wondered? I came to believe that we had taken on the prevailing attitudes about people with hearing loss — that we are slow, not all there and perhaps even a little stupid. Even though we know it isn't true, we're afraid others will associate us with those characteristics. A vicious circle develops — the more we hide our hearing loss and fake hearing, the more we sell ourselves short, and reinforce people's negative assumptions about us.

But it didn't affect my behavior until a particular day at work. Now, any extra noise makes it difficult for me to hear, especially on the phone, and I shared an office with another sales representative. So when she was on the phone, I just dealt with it in a quiet way, I did other work. I never told anyone about my difficulty. That day, while I was on the phone, she began listening to her messages on the speaker. When I asked her to please listen on the phone instead, she yelled and screamed at me and told me that I was selfish.

I couldn't believe it. After being upset for a few days, I realized that the quiet way wasn't doing me any good. I needed to let go of my own negative ideas about hearing loss and openly advocate for my needs.

Everyone deserves respect and a chance to participate in conversation. Then I began to imagine what that change would look like. I fantasized that people like me would become so comfortable with hearing loss, that we would show off our Gucci & Dior hearing aids just like others show off their Gucci & Dior eyeglasses. It's no different; we have to take care of it—that's all.

The Hearing Loss Revolution calls on us to transform how we feel about our own hearing loss. If we want others to change, we have to do it first. We must be the change we want to see.

We accomplish this through the 9 Principles:

1. Our lives define us, not our hearing loss.
2. We're intelligent, engaged, and valued in spite of our hearing loss.
3. We're the heroes of hearing loss, not its victims.
4. We tell people what we need them to do so we can hear them better.
5. We use assistive listening technology and advocate for them in public venues.
6. We are honest with ourselves and others; we don't pretend to hear what we don't.
7. We laugh when we misunderstand a word(s), seeing the humor in it.
8. We accept with grace the hearing challenges that we cannot change.
9. We feel grateful for our courage and strength in living these Principles.

The Hearing Loss Revolution &
9 Guiding Principles © 2013 Pat Dobbs
Pat@HearingLossResourceCenter.com |
(973) 479-8083



30th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day Saturday, June 7, 2014

To purchase tickets visit one of our partnering organizations listed on page 9 or go to: www.sixflags.com/greatadventure and use the promo code: **NJDAD** or **DEAF** (\$29.99 online before June 30)



- Communication access available throughout the park on June 7
- A portion of the proceeds supports organizations serving people with hearing loss
- Tickets (after June 30) are good until **November 2** including Fright Fest!

Ticket Prices for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Before Saturday, June 7

Theme Park (Before June 30): \$29.99

Theme Park (After June 30): \$38.00

Hurricane Harbor: \$23.00

Premium Season Pass: \$75.00

Parking Voucher: \$15.00 (At the park, \$25.00)

On June 7

Theme Park: \$40.00

Hurricane Harbor: \$25.00

There are two Promo codes: **NJDAD** or **DEAF**

\$29.99 until June 30 **\$38.00 after June 30**

Promo code is good for the whole season of this year.

****Lowest price \$29.99. Hurry to buy those tickets. Only good until June 30. ****



Contact These Organizations for Tickets to the DDHH Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day Saturday, June 7, 2014 - Six Flags Great Adventure

Bridges to Employment

600 First Ave.
Raritan, NJ 08869
V: 908-685-1444 ext. 284
abetso@alternativesinc.org

Bruce Street School for the Deaf

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

Eastern Deaf Ladies Golf Association

Text: 347-574-2952
VP: 347-308-7669
Sourpeas@aol.com

National Council of Hispano Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Npid1@hotmail.com
732-733-2730

New Jersey Association of the Deaf

177 Winthrop Rd.
Edison, NJ 08817
Text: 848-248-2132
njadeaf@gmail.com

Everas Community Services

24K Worlds Fair Drive
Somerset, New Jersey 08873
732-805-1912
arosen@everas.org

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.

8 Kirk Ave.
Ewing, NJ 08638
RKArrigo@aol.com

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.

26 N. Shore Blvd.
Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233
732-641-3420 (H)
609-997-3441 (W)
NJDeafSportsInc@gmail.com

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

52 Heritage Court
Towaco, New Jersey 07082
W: 862-242-5662
dvvn40@yahoo.com

Lifepoint Church

923 W. Washington Ave.
Pleasantville, NJ 08232
Text: 609-42-1130
Suepal70@comcast.net

New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing, Inc.

Wald267@aol.com



The Lake Drive Foundation's Annual *For the Babies Gala* To Honor Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano

Children born with a hearing loss who are identified and given appropriate intervention before 6 months of age demonstrated significantly better speech and reading comprehension than children identified after 6 months of age. (Yoshinaga-Itano & Apuzzo, 1998; Yoshinaga-Itano et al., 1998)

When babies with hearing loss get appropriate intervention from birth to age three, they can acquire age appropriate communication skills by the time they are five. (Yoshinaga-Itano, 1999)



Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Professor of Audiology, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, Institute of Cognitive Science, Center for Neurosciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder; Department of Otolaryngology and Audiology at the University of Colorado, Denver and the Marion Downs Hearing Center

On May 1, 2014 at The Villa in Mountain Lakes, **The Lake Drive Foundation for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing** is proud

to honor Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, renowned professor of audiology at the University of Colorado Boulder whose research sparked universal newborn hearing screenings and revolutionized the early intervention movement. The annual event benefits **The Sound Start Program for Babies Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, providing transformational early intervention services to children from birth to age three throughout northern New Jersey.

Millions of newborns worldwide are screened for hearing loss each year as a direct result of Christine Yoshinaga-Itano's ground-breaking research. Her meticulous work has produced unequivocal evidence that babies identified with hearing loss who began early intervention within the first six months of life could develop language skills commensurate with their hearing peers.

The impact of her research on the futures of children with hearing loss is beyond measure. Universal newborn hearing screening programs have now been implemented in all 50 states. In the U.S., more than 5,000 babies identified annually now have timely access to life changing early intervention services and the chance to achieve their full potential.

In addition to her work in the U.S., Christine has provided support to many countries advancing their own early hearing detection and intervention programs, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan,

China, Korea, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, Philippines, and South Africa. Recently, she also traveled to China to help audiologists with the infrastructure to improve their services and outcomes. As a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the LENA Foundation, she continues to impact children with hearing loss using this revolutionary new speech recognition and analysis tool to open new doors for research and clinical practice.

The Lake Drive Foundation is a non profit organization dedicated to raising vital funding for The Sound Start Program at The Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes. The annual "For the Babies" Gala is the foundation's signature event, with the goal of raising \$150,000 to provide intensive, comprehensive, quality early intervention services to more than 50 infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing each year.

Support from the Foundation has enabled Sound Start to expand the program with innovative initiatives designed to optimize the critical period of brain development from birth to age three.

"Dr. Yoshinaga-Itano's research inspires us to take advantage of every opportunity to facilitate speech and language development during these precious years," says Sound Start Program coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Steinruck. "From using the revolutionary LENA speech recognition and analysis technology to teach parents how to exponentially increase language in their daily

routines, to our full day inclusive preschool program where toddlers with hearing loss learn side by side hearing peers, our goal is to make every minute count."

Please join The Lake Drive Foundation as we applaud Dr. Yoshinaga-Itano's 30 years of dedication and landmark research that have so dramatically changed the lives of children with hearing loss. For sponsorship and ticket information please visit www.lakedrivefoundation.org or contact Lauri Masur at CDK Events: lauri@cdkevents.com; 973-696-3784.



Seattle Seahawks' Derrick Coleman's biggest fans, Riley and Erin Kovalcik will also be special guests at the Gala. You read about them on the cover of last month's issue of the Communicator. Riley is a Sound Start graduate! Their family will share their story and how Sound Start impacted their lives.

Dear NJ Relay & CapTel



I've just moved to New Jersey. A friend told me about NJ Relay and CapTel's programs, which I'd like to learn more about. I also would love to stay updated on NJ Relay and CapTel events and news. How can I stay informed?

– Happy to Be in New Jersey

Dear Happy to Be in New Jersey,

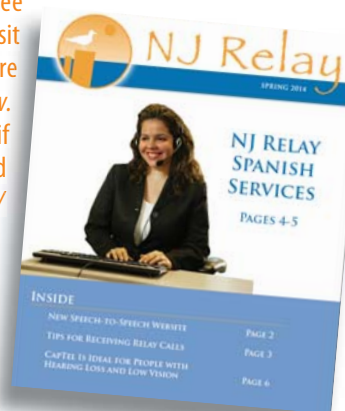
Welcome to the Garden State! One of the most important things to the NJ Relay and CapTel team is staying in touch with our consumers and community. We achieve this by reaching out whenever possible, including:

- Our biannual newsletter, free to anyone. To sign up for it, visit www.njrelay.com. Back issues are also available at the at www.njrelay.com/media-downloads; if you prefer to receive a printed copy, visit www.njrelay.com/request-materials.
- Our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/njrelaycaptel, where you can see photos, interact with the NJ Relay and CapTel team, and stay updated on the latest.
- We're also on other social media sites:
 - o YouTube: www.youtube.com/njrelay
 - o Twitter: [@njrelaycaptel](https://twitter.com/njrelaycaptel)
 - o Blog: www.njrelay.com/blog
 - o LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/njrealycaptel

In addition, a dedicated team of experienced NJ Relay and CapTel Outreach Specialists is available to visit you either at work or home to provide presentations, product demonstrations, one-on-one training and even exhibits—all for no charge. To learn more, contact njrelayoutreach@sprint.com.

With all that, anyone can contact us any time to make inquiries or to share feedback. Once again, we're at www.njrelay.com, njrelayoutreach@sprint.com, (800) 676-3777 (English), or (800) 676-4290 Espanol. Contact us any time!

– NJ Relay & CapTel



Governor Christie Makes Appointments to the Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

On March 20, Governor Christie made the following appointments to the **Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. The Council is charged with providing recommendations on programs and services to people with hearing loss in New Jersey. It meets quarterly on the last Friday in January, April, July and October. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, April 25 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Rahway Public Library. The meetings are open to the public and are communications accessible.

Business Person

Appoint David Cooper (Morganville, Monmouth)

Person Born to Deaf Parents

Reappoint Carol Uckar (Edison, Middlesex)

Persons Who Are Deaf

Reappoint Lauren Lercher (East Brunswick, Middlesex)

Appoint Paulina Ramirez (Dunellen, Middlesex)

Appoint Bryan Ross (Montville, Morris)

Appoint Ellen Schaffer-Williams (Bedminster, Hudson)

Appoint Michelle Cline, LCSW (Bloomingdale, Passaic)

Persons Who Are Hard of Hearing

Reappoint Judy Ginsberg (Monroe Twp., Middlesex)

Reappoint Arlene Romoff (Saddle River, Bergen)

Reappoint Wayne Roorda (Voorhees, Camden)

Reappoint Marie Nordling (South Amboy, Middlesex)

Appoint Linda Schaab (Monroe Twp., Middlesex)

The Bergen County Deaf Seniors
meet at the Northwest Bergen Senior Activity
Center 46-50 Center Street, Midland Park,
NJ 07432 every Thursday. Seniors 60 and
over are welcome. Phone 201-445-5690.

Fax: 201-493-8900

email arslaniant@optonline.net.

Bergen County Deaf Seniors Calendar of April Events.

April 3: **Bingo** at 1:00 p.m.

April 10: Special **Easter Bingo** by Charlotte at 1:00 p.m.

April 17: **Dingo** at 1:00 p.m. followed by **Birthday Party**
about 3:00 p.m.

April 24: Social Worker Sheila Brogan assisted by ASL
interpreter Lauren Margolin will provide information
and referral assistance to individuals. Please call for
appointment.

The Communicator Signboard

New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. hosts

Wine Tasting Fundraising

Back by Popular Demand!

Saturday, April 5, 2014

2 - 4 p.m.

**Cream Ridge Winery
145 Country Road 539
Cream Ridge, NJ 08514**

\$25 per person - no walk in at door
In addition to delicious wines, assorted
cheeses, red/green grapes and
assorted crackers will be provided.

One free ticket for wine basket drawing
put together by Laura Schultz

"Wine Basket" Extra Ticket: \$5

Interpreter will be present

Info; Kathy Hajdamacha at

kathmaryhaj@gmail.com

Deadline: March 24, 2014

You can pay by submitting the form in the
mail or pay online - www.deafnjad.org

Make a check or money order payable to:
NJAD Inc and mail to

NJAD C/O Eli Pogue, Treasurer

PO Box 167 Cumberland Avenue, Estell Manor, NJ 08319



Sign Interpreted and Open Captioned Performance

Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 3 p.m.

TROUBLE IN MIND

By Alice Childress

Directed By

Jade King Carroll

The year is 1957. On the stage of a Broadway theater, an acting company has gathered for their first day of rehearsal. When the black actress in the starring role confronts her white director about his interpretation of the play, everything explodes. Filled with warmth and razor-sharp humor, *Trouble in Mind* is a provocative look at the way people talk about race- and a hilarious backstage drama about artists at work.



Two River Theater 21 Bridge Avenue Red Bank, NJ 07701
\$25 discounted tickets are available for anyone using these services as well as all companions.

Info; Adam Haratz at aharatz@trtc.org or
(732) 345-1400, x1815



Hearing Loss Empowerment Class

Coach: Pat Dobbs

(Limit of 9 People – Registration Required)

4 Tuesdays - April 15, 22, 29 & May 6, 2014

(90 minute sessions)

Total Package: \$100

43 Spring Garden Drive, Madison, NJ

The goal of the course is to let go of any negative feelings we may have surrounding our hearing loss so we can easily advocate for ourselves. The more we advocate for ourselves, the more we ask people to talk so we can hear them, the better we can communicate, and the better it is for everyone.

These classes provide a safe setting to explore our feelings about hearing loss and how it has affected our lives. The agenda stresses being honest with ourselves, while not making any assumptions, or taking anything personally, all in reference to our hearing loss. We do this by using The Hearing Loss Revolution and the Nine Guiding Principles.

To register, contact Pat Dobbs at
Pat@HearingLossResourceCenter.com
or call 973-479-8083

Empowering People with Hearing Loss



Celebrate Our 30th ASL Festival on April 26

Union County College Commons

1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford

By Union County S.I.G.N. Club

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Free Admission)

With performances and 40+ vendors!

Support our vendors.

Come shopping. See old friends - Make new friends

Enjoy our afternoon program with friends and family.

Come and spend the evening with

Peter Cook

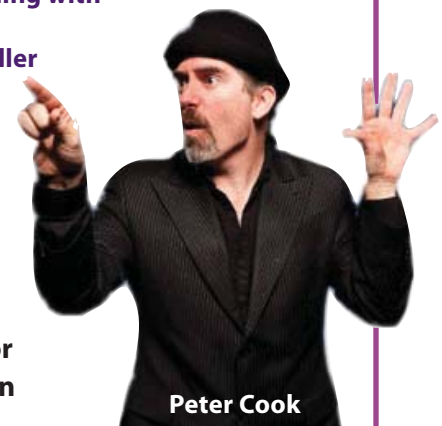
**An excellent storyteller
and performer!**

**UCC Theater doors
open at 7:00 p.m.**

\$10 by April 21

or \$15 at door.

**See www.nwjad.org for
additional information**



Peter Cook

The Communicator Signboard

NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
Career Success Solutions for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals
& Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, Inc.
present:

Employment Discrimination Workshop

Tuesday April 22, 2014

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(NOTE: Change of address from March MC issue)

Burlington County College-Mount Laurel Campus

Briggs Road Center, Room #115

1000 Briggs Road, Suite 120

Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08054



Presenters:

Laura Carlin Mattiacci, *Senior Attorney at Console Law Offices* and
Kurt Jung, Esq., *U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*

To reserve seating, please **RSVP: 609-503-4862 (VP), 609-358-2006 (text),**
or Catherine.Purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us

ASL Interpreters, CART, and ALDs will be provided

If you need additional special services, please contact Catie Purrazzella.

For directions: www.bcc.edu/pages/144.asp

Kean University's
Deaf Jammers Present:

3rd Annual DEAF JAM

May 1, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Main Campus
University Center
Little Theater

Tickets \$5 - all are welcome!
Come and enjoy songs, poems,
skits, and other performances
by Kean students.

We encourage you to place
ticket order in advance due to
limited number of seating.

Please contact
deaffam@kean.edu
for more information
and ticket sales.



VISUAL YOGA

With Jenise Peticolas, a HARD OF HEARING, registered yoga teacher who knows basic ASL and speaks well, recently certified in Visual Yoga through Deaf Yoga Foundation with Lila Lolling. This is a Hatha Yoga class with visual cues for HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS. Deaf community members welcome.

6 week session \$75 per person

Thursday nights 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

followed by after class tea

May 1 through June 5

To register visit:

www.freeholdyogacenter.com

Class size is limited.

Jenise Peticolas: jenise@optonline.net

(732)673-7734 Voice/Text

Join me at the Freehold Yoga Center
3, W Main Street in beautiful historic
downtown Freehold, NJ for my first
yoga class specifically for HARD OF
HEARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

Bring yoga mat (may be rented for \$2 or
purchased for \$20 at the yoga center)

Parking on Main St.
in rear of the building



HLAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter
Hard of Hearing Support Group
Cape Regional Medical Center
Garden State Parkway, Exit 10
2 Stone Harbor Blvd.
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Meetings are held on the third
Thursday of the month.

5:30 to 6:00 p.m. - Meet n Greet

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Meeting Session

Door is always open for all who need to come
at a later time. You are welcome to stay a
short while too if you are unable to stay for
the whole session. We would love to meet you
regardless of how long you can stay.

Next meeting: April 17,
Refreshments will be provided.

Save the Date: May 15, June
19, July 17, August 21

Are you making vacation plans to visit the
Cape May / Atlantic City shore points?

Stop by and say hello during your visit.

New friends are always welcome!

Info: sjhardofhearing@gmail.com or
call 609-463-4043.

The Communicator Signboard

Ocean County College Interpreter Training Program presents

ASL Rock & Roll Fundraiser Show

April 26, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Toms River High School North Auditorium
(1245 Old Freehold Road; Toms River, NJ 08753)

Tickets at the Door:

Adults- \$12

Children 12 & UNDER- \$8 Students with ID- \$8

Free desserts & refreshments!

Info; Kathy Basilotto at kbasilotto@ocean.edu
or

732-255-0400 x2256

OCC ITP Board Members:

Alexa Cantalupo, Francesca Nitti, Patty Keene,

Stacey Degen, Meghan McGovern



The 2014 New Jersey Folk Festival

Celebrating 40 Years of Folk Traditions

Featuring live music and demonstrations,
workshops, storytelling, and crafts

ASL interpreters provided

Saturday, April 26

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Douglass Campus of

Rutgers University

Free Admission

For more information, visit our

Facebook page www.njfolkfest.org



MKSD Alumni Day

May 3, 2014

**New Jersey/ Marie H. Katzenbach
School For The Deaf**

West Trenton, NJ 08625

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Meeting and elect officers at 11 a.m.
at Jochem Center.**

**Flea Market with vendors by residences
1 and 11**

Food sold by residence 11 students

NJ/MKSD Museum at Former Boy's Dormitory

New Jersey/ Marie H. Katzenbach School For The Deaf High School Softball

Tournament at Dey/Fedorchak Field against American School for the Deaf,

Lexington School for the Deaf, West Pennsylvania School for the Deaf,

and The Learning Center. Info; njsd.mksdalumni@gmail.com

Dingo Night at Diverse Deaf Club of NJ, Inc. at 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church

1740 Route 130 N, North Brunswick, NJ 08902



Delaware River Deaf Disc Golf Competition

Members of Delaware River Deaf Disc Golf (DRDDG) and YOU.
April 26, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Demonstration starts at 10:00 a.m.

Disc Golf Tournament.

Registered players will be competing for prizes. Don't want to compete but want to see what Disc Golf is about? Then this is the perfect time and place to see how this wonderful sport is played. While the players are out throwing their discs, I will be giving a demonstration; afterwards you can walk along with the players and watch the tournament in progress. Good for all ages and families. Come on down!

South Vineland Park, 429 West Elmer Rd., Vineland NJ

Info- delawareriverdeafdg@gmail.com.

Let's Get Together Fundraising

After UCC's 30th Annual ASL Fest

Join us at

Blackthorn Restaurant & Irish Pub

651 North Michigan Avenue

Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Saturday, April 26, 2014

4- 7 p.m.

\$28 per person by April 20, 2014

\$30 per person at DOOR

Appetizer platters, sandwich wraps, family

style desserts includes soft drinks

50/50 Drawings

To benefit NJAD Delegates to NAD Conference

You can pay by submitting the form in the

mail or pay online - www.deafnjad.org

Make check or money order payable

to: NJAD Inc., and mail to:

NJAD, C/O Eli Pogue, Treasurer,

PO Box 250, Estell Manor, NJ 08319

The Communicator Signboard



NJDSH's Spring Fashion Show

Tricky Tray, too!



Hosted by **New Jersey Senior Housing, Inc.**- a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Exciting gifts, gift certificates, 50/50, raffles, door prizes and many more!

Lunch will be provided **NJ Relay**.

May 10, Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Montville Senior Center

356 Route 202, Montville, NJ 07045

\$15 Advance by May 6

\$20 at Door

Contact info:

Debra Fleetwood: Fashion Show Chairperson at DFuller327@gmail.com

Mayra Castro : Tricky Tray Chairperson at chairttdsh@gmail.com

RSVP by May 6, 2014 -- Limited to 180 seats



Make check or money order payable to NJ Deaf Senior Housing, Inc. and mail it to NJDSH, Inc., PO Box 212, Millburn, NJ 07041.

\$15 x _____ = \$ _____

_____ I am unable to attend but I would like to donate \$ _____ for Senior Housing Fund. (Donation is tax-deductible)

Name(s): _____

Address:: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

(All proceeds go to the NJ Deaf Senior Housing Fund)



May 31, 2014

10 a.m.

\$30 per player

sign up- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tournament begins at

11:30 a.m. sharp

Cash Prize

\$50 VENDORS

Please pay in advance

e-mail for additional inquiries

\$5 fans

Lakewood Pine Park

500 Country Club Dr.

Lakewood, NJ 08701

jerseystrongsoftball@gmail.com

**Fundraiser for Jersey Strong
Deaf Women Softball**

Religious Access



**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Trenton NJ**

**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral,
801 West State Street,
Trenton, 08618, invites all ASL
users to join us for our Easter
morning service at 10:30 a.m.
on April 20. We will have an ASL
interpreter with us, and would
very much like to welcome you
to celebrate Easter with us.
Questions, call Patrice D'Angelo,
parish administrator, at 609-392-
3805.**

OCEAN COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Worship God and Jesus Christ
at Ocean County Baptist Church**

**Welcome all Deaf and Hard
of Hearing Worshipers**

Service starts: 8:30 a.m. - Sunday

School Class starts: 10:00 a.m.

at 1380 Old Freehold Road,

Toms River, NJ 5005

**There are more than three interpreters
provided. Come and meet our old and
new friends.**

**For information: Call Herbert (Bob)
Burns 732-298-6030 VP**

VICTORY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

***Celebrate with us the
Easter Season***

Sunday April 13, 2014:

Palm Sunday Service

11:00 a.m. (Interpreted for the Deaf)

Friday April 18, 2014:

Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m. (Interpreted for the Deaf)

Sunday April 20, 2014 Easter Service

11:00 a.m. Service (Interpreted for the Deaf))

All events will be at:

Schalick High School

718 Centerton Rd Elmer, NJ 08318

Info; www.victoryaog.org

Contact Connie 856-358-8313 Voice

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR - April 2014



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

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Calendar of Events 2014



Friday, April 25

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Rahway Public Library

2 City Hall Plaza

Rahway, NJ 07065

Dr. David Cooper, Sc.D.,

CCC-A, FAAA

"Internet Hearing Aid Sales:

Sometimes Saving Money

Becomes Very Expensive"

Saturday, June 7

30th Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Awareness Day

Six Flags Great Adventure

Jackson NJ

Info: GATickets@aol.com

Potential ticket sellers should email

DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Offices Closed Friday, April 18 - Good Friday