

May 2010

# Monthly Communicator

Vol. 31 No. 5

Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner  
David C. Alexander, Director



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*Thanks to DDHH*

*Produced by DHS Office of Publications*

## 26th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

**Saturday June 12**  
Six Flags Great Adventure  
Jackson, NJ

### Awareness

- Announcements about the special day and services DDHH provides for people with hearing loss are made at every performance venue.
- Visibility of interpreters and listening devices throughout the park is useful and increases general knowledge of the use of different devices.
- Approximately 30,000 guests visit and view the DDHH information tent located in front of the park.



### Support Deaf and Hard of Hearing Organizations

- Purchase your tickets in advance through the list of participating organizations that has been organized by the New Jersey Association of the Deaf. (see page 6)



### Community

- Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing families and friends come together for a fun filled day of rides, shows, eats, games and socializing.

Stop by and visit the DDHH tent located between the parking area and entry to the park.

To get your tickets, see Page 6 for participating New Jersey organizations serving people with hearing loss.

## Director's Corner

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



Hearing awareness is so important that the month of May has been declared "*Better Hearing and Speech Month*." During this month, there is a drive by the Council for Better Hearing and Speech, along with various organizations, to educate the public about the importance of hearing as well as various forms of speech and voice communication impairments.

DDHH supports *Better Hearing and Support Month*, and is working tirelessly to highlight hearing loss issues to increase and enhance public awareness. The following are two outreach activities planned by DDHH staff:

Field representative Traci Burton participated in an innovative project known as the 2010 New Jersey Pediatric Hearing Healthcare Teleconference series sponsored by the New Jersey Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program. Using teleconference technology, Traci spoke with audiologists, speech and language therapists, and hearing health professionals throughout New Jersey. She enhanced their awareness of hearing loss issues as well as services and resources available from the division.

In addition, the division will set up a *Better Hearing and Speech Month* Information Booth for state employees and other government workers in Trenton. This will be held for the first time on May 5 at the Capital Center, 50 East State Street which is a popular gathering place for state and government workers during their lunch hour. This will provide an opportunity to educate and inform the public about the importance of hearing health, the social and emotional implications of hearing loss, and the available resources and professionals who can improve the quality of life for those who experience hearing loss and speech or voice disorders.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Alexander".

### **Reminder:**

The deadline for submissions to the combined July/August 2010 issue is June 1. The deadline for the June issue was May 1.

Send e-mail submissions to the editor:  
[Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us).

Submissions should be "text only," preferably in a standard word document or within the body of an e-mail message (no pdf files). Photos, which accompany submissions are encouraged. For a style sheet, contact the editor.

### **Newsletter Subscription:**

If you would like to subscribe to the [Monthly Communicator](#), send your request to the editor (e-mail address above).  
*Subscription is free of charge.*

### **Monthly Communicator**

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



Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey hosts its  
**Third Annual Garden State Walk4Hearing**  
As Part of National Effort to Support Those with Hearing Loss

Teams of walkers can 'step up' on Saturday, October 16, 2010, 9:00 AM to make life better for people with hearing loss

The Hearing Loss Chapters of Bergen County, Middlesex County and Ocean/Monmouth Counties are joining the national effort led by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) to end the stigma of hearing loss by hosting the Garden State Walk4Hearing in West Windsor. The 5K walk will begin on October 16 with registration at 9:00 AM As the largest series of walks of its kind held in major cities throughout the U.S., the Walk4Hearing™ raises funds for hearing loss prevention and education programs, and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with hearing loss.

"The Walk4Hearing™ is a great opportunity for individuals, families, and groups to step up and raise awareness to help end the stigma of hearing loss in our area," said Lois Walker, chairperson. "There are a variety of ways people can get involved, such as walking to raise funds, organizing a team of walkers as a

team captain, sponsoring a walker or team, volunteering, or making a donation."

An estimated 31 million Americans have some form of hearing loss. Chances are, most people will be affected by hearing loss in some way. People with hearing loss cannot enjoy dinner in a noisy restaurant. Smoke alarms will not awaken them. And with thousands of U.S. armed forces returning from war with hearing loss, more and more people need help.

Since 2006, thousands of people nationwide have joined the HLAA's Walk4Hearing™, presented nationally by T-Mobile. HLAA is the nation's largest consumer advocacy organization for people with hearing loss, and is dedicated to providing education; support and advocacy to help people with hearing loss live full and productive lives.

Watch for the free kick-off luncheon event at the Montclair State University, Dept. of Communication Sciences & Disorders, 1515 Broad St., Bldg. B, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

## **DDHH Advisory Council Meeting**

**Friday, July 30**

**9:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

### **NOTE JULY MEETING LOCATION**

Burlington County College: Mt. Holly Center  
1 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060-1701  
The public is invited to attend.

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

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

## DDHH Field Representative Reports for May

### DDHH has Five Assistive Technology Demonstration Centers

Submitted by Traci Burton,  
DDHH Field Representative



For several years, DDHH has operated assistive technology demonstration centers (ATDC). The first was at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center in New Brunswick, and then a second was opened on the campus of the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf in West Trenton.

Recently, we were able to open three more centers at Goodwill Industries in Harrison; Bridges to Employment in Raritan; and Career Success Solutions at Burlington Community College, Mt. Holly.

DDHH has entered a joint collaboration with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). DVRS received federal funds to enable community agencies applying for these grants to expand employment services for people with hearing loss. In early discussions with DVRS, DDHH addressed the importance of assistive technology devices in securing/maintaining employment for people with hearing loss. These discussions resulted in DDHH being invited to operate an ATDC within each of the three new regional employment centers.

The purpose of the ATDC is threefold. First is to expose DVRS clients to the various assistive technologies available to enable a Deaf person to effectively accomplish the functions of his/ her job. Second, the ATDC will also be available to employers to visit and become knowledgeable of assistive technology available for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Third, a special arrangement with each of the community agencies will enable the public to also visit the ATDC to learn about technology resources for those with hearing loss. The centers will also display technology of interest outside of the realm of employment to people who are Deaf, hard of hearing and senior citizens.

Continued on Page 7

### Did You Know . . .

Submitted by Jason Weiland,  
DDHH Field Representative

As a videophone (VP) and video relay service (VRS) user, I am always looking and trying new devices. Not only as a responsible consumer, but also as a field representative for the DDHH so that I can keep up-to-date on the available technology for VP users. The number of videophone solutions for the Deaf and hard of hearing are out there and some are available at no cost; and others may cost a little of money but provide an excellent product. As one may already know, as of November 2009, all VRS users are required to have ten digit relay number which is given to the consumer through the VRS provider. These numbers and service are currently provided at no cost to the consumer, which makes for a wonderful phone communication solution for the home and work for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing and are fluent users of American Sign Language (ASL).

The real talk of the VRS world is the "Big Five" - Sprint VRS, Z VRS, Snap VRS, Sorenson VRS, and Purple Communications. Today, much of the VRS business resolves around these five companies. While all of them provide video relay service, each one is unique with their own equipment and/or software. To find more information about the noted VRS companies, consumers are encouraged to check out their Web sites.

**Sprint VRS** - [www.sprintvrs.com](http://www.sprintvrs.com)

**Z VRS** - [www.zvrs.com](http://www.zvrs.com)

**Snap VRS** - [www.snapvrs.com](http://www.snapvrs.com)

**Sorenson VRS** - [www.sorensonvrs.com](http://www.sorensonvrs.com)

**Purple Communications** - [www.purple.us](http://www.purple.us).

As you explore the Web site of each of these five VRS providers, you will find a vast array

Continued on Page 7



## News and Views

### A Monthly Column From The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

Welcome to the May column from the HLA-NJ. Last month we offered tips on captioned movies. But many people don't know captions are also widely available for live theater, in New Jersey and in New York City, on Broadway and off – around the country and abroad. Thanks to open captioning, you can follow the dialogue as its spoken—even if you can't hear a single word.

At open caption performances, you'll see the actors' words displayed on a large digital screen set at the side of the stage. People who are Deaf or hard of hearing can enjoy first-rate performances at New Jersey's best theaters, including the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, the McCarter Theater in Princeton, the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. To find a full calendar of open-captioned live theater in the area, visit [www.c2net.org](http://www.c2net.org).

**Advocates Needed. No Experience Necessary.** HLA-NJ not only advocates for people with hearing loss—we also encourage people to learn to advocate for themselves. Advocacy means many things. At the most basic level, it means asking for what you need. Sounds simple, but many people with hearing loss are reluctant to do this. If you need to ask someone to speak more slowly.... if you feel like you're being rushed in a doctor's office because you have trouble hearing...., if you need an assistive device or CART captioning to attend a meeting, let

people know what you need. Advocacy also means reaching out to public officials or to organizations to educate them about this invisible disability. And advocacy works. One reason New Jersey live theaters have open captioning, for example, is that HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff spearheaded the advocacy movement to get this accommodation. And one of the best ways to find out where your help is needed is by connecting with other people with hearing loss by joining organizations HLA-NJ and HLAA – at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

May 1 is the deadline for applying for HLA-NJ's three scholarships of \$1,000 each for high school seniors who have hearing loss, and are pursuing a college degree or vocational training. Applications and information are available from Sandy Spekman, at [Sandy.Spekman@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Sandy.Spekman@hearingloss-nj.org) .

We'd like to hear from you. If you have tips, personal experiences, or questions on any topic related to hearing loss, please pass them along to us, at [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org).

**Get Involved!** For information about HLA-NJ, please contact HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff at [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org); or, visit our Web site at [www.hearingloss-nj.org](http://www.hearingloss-nj.org). Please attend one of our local chapter meetings, and check the Web site for the latest information.

**Monmouth/Ocean Chapter**

**Middlesex County Chapter**  
Meets May 18 and June 15  
in South Plainfield, 7:30 PM

**Bergen County Chapter**

## Contact the organizations listed below to purchase tickets to the June 12th Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

### **Bruce St. School for the Deaf**

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

### **Burlington County College's ASL Club**

1338 New Rodgers Road  
Levittown, PA 19057  
267-229-6358 Voice  
Rachy41@yahoo.com

### **Deaf Golf Association**

420 North Union Avenue  
Cranford, NJ 07016  
908-975-0103 VP  
RHSARK@aol.com

### **Eastern Deaf Ladies Gold Association**

264 Swinnerton Street  
Staten Island, NJ 10307-1641  
Sourpeas@aol.com

### **New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind**

24 K Worlds Fair Drive  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-805-1912 TTY/Voice  
arosen@njadb.org

### **New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week**

9 Vessel Road  
Waretown, NJ 08758  
609-489-7605 VP  
carlna@aol.com

### **New Jersey Deaf Sports**

26 N. Shore Boulevard  
Helmetta, NJ 08828  
732-521-3098 VP  
NJDeafSportsInc@aol.com

### **New Jersey Registry Interpreters for the Deaf**

83 Hawkins Road  
Tabernacle, NJ 08088  
609-980-8037 Voice  
Meg.ellis@comcast.net

### **Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf**

52 Heritage Court  
Towaco, NJ 07082  
973-326-5720  
Dvvn40@yahoo.com

### **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf**

2222 Vauxhall Road  
Union, NJ 07083  
908-686-3965 Voice  
908-851-2004 TTY  
Gracelu4u@yahoo.com



### **Ticket Prices before June 12, if purchased through above listed participating Deaf and hard of hearing organizations:**

Theme/Safari: \$30  
Hurricane Harbor: \$20  
2-Park (theme and safari) Season Pass: \$85  
3-Park (theme, safari and hurricane harbor) Season Pass: \$105  
Parking Voucher: \$12

Ticket prices the day of the event (on June 12):

Theme/Safari: \$35  
Hurricane Harbor: \$25  
Age two and under: Free



All tickets purchased can be used throughout the 2010 summer season.

## New feature this year.

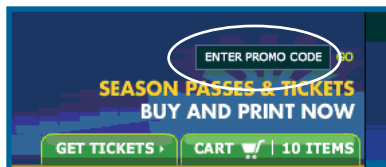
Tickets may be purchased on the Six Flags Great Adventure Web site. [Note that although the site will state that tickets are for June 12 ONLY, they are good for the entire season.]

To purchase tickets on line, follow these steps:

1. Click on [www.sixflags.com/greatAdventure](http://www.sixflags.com/greatAdventure)



2. In the upper right corner "Enter Promotion Code" box type NJDAD.



3. Click GO. The rest is easy. Any money made from on line purchase will go directly to NJAD.

For more information about tickets, sales, and purchasing, contact NJAD at [GATickets@aol.com](mailto:GATickets@aol.com)

## DDHH Field Representative Reports for May (continued from page 4)

### Five Assistive Technology Demonstration Centers (continued)

The centers provide opportunity for hands-on training on various devices. Some of the devices in the centers include amplified telephones, video phones, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, personal amplifiers, baby cry alert systems, and other signaling systems for the door, telephone and alarm clocks.

All five centers are open to the general public and an appointment is necessary to visit. If you are interested in making an appointment contact the DDHH office at 609-984-7281 and ask to speak to one of our field representatives or you can e-mail us directly at [traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us) or [jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us).

### Did You Know (continued)

of products available either at no cost or for sale. In addition, many of the providers allow you to download their software to your desktop or laptop computer for use with a Web cam so that you can have videophone access no matter where you are. Even some of these products have the ability to permit three way calling. Over the past 10 years, Videophone devices have truly come a long way. Check and see what's out there and decide for yourself which VRS best suits your needs.

### Are You Connected?

# Center For Hearing and Communication Celebrates 100 Years

## Offers 100 Days of Free Hearing Screenings

The Center for Hearing and Communication (formerly the League for the Hard of Hearing) is celebrating 100 years of leadership and innovation in hearing healthcare. Founded in 1910, this not-for-profit organization is renowned for its clinical expertise and innovative therapies for people of all ages with hearing loss. It is also regarded as a global leader in promoting healthy hearing practices and educating the public about noise and the impact noise has on hearing.

To commemorate this historic milestone, the Center for Hearing and Communication (CHC) is offering 100 Days of Free Hearing Screenings. CHC has designated 100 days between now and December 31 when people in the New York City area will have the opportunity to get free hearing screenings conducted by a licensed audiologist. The screenings will take place at CHC's office at 50 Broadway and aboard its Mobile Hearing Test Unit at various locations in Greater New York. To schedule your free hearing screening or learn more, visit [www.chchearing.org](http://www.chchearing.org). Screenings on the Mobile Unit are made possible by the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations. Organizations and individuals interested in underwriting a public screening should visit the Web site or call 917-305-7842.

Executive Director Laurie Hanin says, "We're thrilled to offer 100 Days of Free Hearing Screenings as a public service for people in the tri-state Area. An estimated two million people living and working in the area have hearing loss, and we encourage them to get a hearing screening if they haven't done so already. Left untreated, hearing loss can lead to isolation, withdrawal from social interactions and, in some cases, depression. Statistics show that people with hearing loss wait on average seven years before seeking help. By offering 100 Days of Free Hearing Screenings, we hope people will be inspired to seek help much sooner."

In addition to the free hearing screenings, CHC will celebrated its centennial with high profile events throughout the year including Comedy Night (April 21) and International Noise Awareness Day (April 28). The celebrations will culminate with a Centennial Gala at 583 Park Avenue on October 18. For more event information, visit [www.chchearing.org](http://www.chchearing.org).

*The Center for Hearing and Communication is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for infants, children and adults with all degrees of hearing loss. Established in 1910, CHC accomplishes its mission by providing hearing rehabilitation and human services for people who are hard of hearing or deaf, and their families, regardless of age, ability to pay, or mode of communication, and by striving to empower consumers to achieve their potential.*

## Winter 2010 Interpreted 12 Step Meetings in New Jersey

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - A Twelve Step meeting for people to share their experience, strength, and hope in an effort to overcome their misuse of alcohol. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement to attend is a desire to stop drinking.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - A Twelve Step meeting for people to share their experience, strength and hope in an effort to overcome their misuse of drugs. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement to attend is a desire to stop using drugs.

**Twelve Step Meeting (12 SM)** - A 12 Step Meeting using the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address the problems of addictive behavior. There are 12 Step Meetings for addiction to alcohol, specific drugs, gambling, compulsive shopping, overeating, etc.

Al-anon meetings are 12 Step Meetings for people who are effected by a loved ones addictive behavior.

12 Step Meeting Access for Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened

There is a **FM Loop System** available at the-Al-an Club, Cass St. Trenton, NJ for all 12 step meetings. SOS has a FM system available to loan recovering persons or meeting places. Call SOS office to request other communication access services.

### North Jersey Area

Sunday 6:30 PM

#### **Grace Church on the Mount**

Route 46 East  
Netcong, NJ  
(.5 miles from Netcong Circle)  
Al-Anon: C, NS

Wednesday 7:30 PM

#### **Assembly of God Church**

30 Manning Ave  
Butler, NJ  
AA : O, SP, NS

Thursday 7:30 PM

#### **Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church**

75 Ridgedale Ave  
Cedar Knolls, NJ  
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
AA: Open, Beginner Meeting

### Central Jersey Area

Tuesday 6:45 AM

#### **Attitude Adjustment**

Al-An Club  
761 Cass Street  
2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ  
AA: I, O

### Central Jersey Area (cont'd)

Wednesday 6:15 PM

Deaf Meeting – no interpreter

#### **Silent Serenity**

Al-An Club  
761 Cass Street, 2nd Floor  
Trenton, NJ

Thursday 6:45 AM

#### **Attitude Adjustment**

Al-An Club  
761 Cass Street  
2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ  
AA: I, O

Thursday 8:00 PM

#### **St. Paul United Church of Christ**

62 South Main Street  
(School Bldg Behind The Church)  
Milltown, NJ  
732-828-0020  
AA: I, O, SP, NS, W

### South Jersey Area

Thursday 8-9:30 PM

#### **Kings of Kings Church**

1000 N. Main Street  
Route 9  
Manahawkin  
NA: C, S, D

### South Jersey Area (cont'd)

Friday 7:30 PM

#### **Southern Ocean County Hospital**

Route 72  
Manahawkin, NJ  
AA: I, O, D

### Additional Meetings

(services not provided by SOS)

Tuesday 8:00 PM

Deaf Meeting – no interpreter  
Circle of Hands - Closed Meeting,

#### **Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church**

224 Gowan St. & Ardleigh St.  
Philadelphia, PA  
Al-Anon: SP, D, Closed

Tuesday 8:00 PM

Deaf Meeting – no interpreter  
HANDS OF HOPE

#### **Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church**

224 Gowan St. & Ardleigh St.  
Philadelphia, PA  
AA: I, C, SP, D

Sunday 11:00 AM

(every other week)  
Deaf Meeting – no interpreter

#### **Center for Family Services**

108 Somerdale Road  
Voorhees, NJ 08043

### Abbreviations:

O - Open (Everyone Welcome)  
C - Closed (For Alcoholics/Addicts only)  
I - Interpreter provided for Deaf members  
ASL - mtg. conducted in American Sign Language

D - Discussion  
SP - Speaker, ST - Step, TP - Topic  
B - Big Book or Beginner  
NS - No Smoking  
WC - Wheelchair Accessible

This 12 Step Meeting list was updated 10/08. If you have any questions, notice mistakes, or are aware of other 12 Step Support Groups that provide special communication access for the Deaf and hard of hearing in the New Jersey area please notify Signs of Sobriety, Inc. If you plan to travel or are interested in 12 Step Meetings in other states please call SOS office at 609-882-7177. For more information visit our Web site at [www.signsofsobriety.org](http://www.signsofsobriety.org).

To arrange interpreter or communication services at a 12 Step meeting in your area e-mail Lisette Weiland at [communication@signsofsobriety.org](mailto:communication@signsofsobriety.org) or call 609-882-7177 TTY

## Dedication And Confidence Reach The Goals: A Proud Mother's Account of Raising a Deaf Child to Young Adult

By Vivian Shanthi de Silva

Going down memory lane I'm reminded of the greatest sacrifice, dedication and productive coordination our family endured to educate and enhance the refinement of character of our Deaf son, Chanaka, in a developing country, Sri Lanka.



It was a struggle from the time I first learned Chanaka was Deaf in 1987. I kept a positive outlook in my efforts to reach my goals educating

him and exposing him to life skills. This was made more challenging in a developing country such as Sri Lanka. I began by giving private coaching in English from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM each day I was qualified English Language teacher.

My tireless efforts helped him get into an international school in Sri Lanka in which he was put into the main stream where he was placed at the Cambridge London Ordinary Level in the English medium (very much equivalent to high school in the USA). There, he excelled at learning math, physics, French, English, computers and science. He was able to achieve the grade prize for French in each grade.



The entire family, with our varied specializations assisted Chanaka in each of his subjects. Additionally, in 2002, he won the Sri Lanka national championship in swimming, the butterfly stroke.

Practice became a ritual in our family home. Sacrifice, dedication, patience and tireless efforts

round the clock by dad Subash, sister Jeevanti and mom Shanthi reaped fruits. I always told



Chanaka "when the going gets tough; the tough get going". This dedication by the family confirmed the adage "Unity is Strength" and helped prepare him for the lessons of each day.

I am happy to say Chanaka never gave up hope studying with his hearing friends in spite of

the challenges in Sri Lanka where there were no accommodations for a Deaf child to study in the mainstream. Once he succeeded his London Ordinary Level, I made him study English for entry at Auckland University in New Zealand to study information technology. Simultaneously, with the help of my sister, we were able to get a green card to migrate to the USA. It was in 1996 we arrived in the USA as permanent residents.

This move was a great blessing for my son as he could sharpen his skills and potential even further. This turning point in his life was made easier through the guidance, friendliness and motivation by the DDDH. Among those I wish to recognize are Alan Champion, Judy Dorbecker, Edward Faver, Fonda Lewis, Sean Nugent, Prof. Beth Pincus at the Bergen Community College, Arlene Romoff, Deborah Smith, and Jason Weiland.

Chanaka is now very independent, works in a reputable company and is looking forward to impending marriage to his beautiful Deaf bride from Sri Lanka. The traditional wedding ceremony is to be performed in Sri Lanka in 2011. All readers are invited to this beautiful unique Island called "The Pearl Of The Indian Ocean" which has an amazing culture and a heritage.

"When oft when on my couch I lie, in vacant or in pensive mood, memoirs flash in my inward eye which is the bliss of solitude" courtesy to W. Wordsworth.

## CJ Jones in Residence at Lake Drive

Submitted by Maureen Butler, Music Teacher

What an exciting week it was for the Lake Drive Program, where CJ Jones, internationally known Deaf director, writer, actor, comedian, musician and motivational speaker, was welcomed as artist-in-residence. The program, "Express Yourself," was funded by Provident Bank in response to a grant request I wrote and submitted by Sueanne Sylvester, Head of Development.

CJ's workshops were designed to help students from kindergarten through high school develop their creativity and artistic sense. While the work at hand was challenging and fun, it served to instill a sense of self esteem and pride. Some highlights were: learning how to dramatize a haiku poem; learning about CJ's experiences with Deaf people around the world; and activities that focused on memory, movement and expressive communication.

A common thread in CJ's presentations was his belief that a key to success for all students, Deaf or hear-

ing, is education. CJ also led a professional workshop for faculty members, who were captivated by the stories he told about his life experiences.

Many of our students do not have access to theater since communication can be an obstacle without sign language. Also, extracurricular drama and arts

classes are not readily available to our students since sign language interpreters are not typically on the staff of private studios and performing groups.

CJ was a valuable source for learning self expression through acting. He was a wonderful and memorable role model for the students who witnessed someone who has overcome obstacles to become a successful performer. Although the weather was not

cooperative and cut the time short, CJ made a lasting impression on everyone at the school and the hope is he will return for another unforgettable experience.



### Lake Drive Program Students Win Mid-Atlantic Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing High School Students

The Lake Drive Program Students at the Mountain Lakes High School won their fourth Mid-Atlantic/At Large Academic Bowl Championship March 20 in Trenton after competing against eleven other leading schools for students with hearing loss from New York to Virginia. The Lake Drive team will now progress to the national competition held at Gallaudet University April 24 – 27 and compete against fifteen teams representing the nation's best and brightest students who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

This year's team members include senior, Alyssa D. of West Milford; junior, Naomi L. of Parsippany; junior David M. of Long Valley; and senior, Kiara S. of Perth Amboy. This is the third year David has participated in the Academic Bowl and Kiara's

second year. Students are coached by Lake Drive Program teachers Marion Clark and Diane Hewitt. Mountain Lakes has been sending a team of competitors since 2002 and won the National Title in 2006.

"All of the students in our program are such hard workers and dedicated to take advantage of every opportunity to achieve to their optimal potential," shares Lake Drive Principal Trish Filiaci. "We are so proud of all of them," adds Michele Klimovitch, Director of Programs, "and we wish our Lake Drive Academic Bowl team great success as they compete at the national level." For more information about The Lake Drive Programs visit [www.lakedriveprograms.org](http://www.lakedriveprograms.org).

## “Clowning Around” at the Talking Book and Braille Center

Submitted by Chrissy Lam

Joseph “Joey” Garth, 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 on March 16. Mr. Garth signed Moses Goes to the Circus by Isaac Millman to students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf and the public. This exciting story is about a young Deaf boy, Moses, and his hearing family who are all going to the circus. Not just any circus, but the Big Apple’s Circus of the Senses!

Garth uses American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate with his parents and little sister, Renee. He loves teaching her the signs for their day at the circus.

Following the story, Terri the Deaf Clown explained her costume and showed how she puts on her make-up with the students’ help. She then used some student volunteers to paint their faces, as well.

The Story Hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services. Story Hour is part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program offered by TBBC 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 VP or clam@njstatelib.org. The last ASL Story Hour for this school year was April 20.



Deaf Storyteller Joey Garth signs Moses Goes to the Circus.



Students volunteering to put on clown makeup.



MKSD student lending a helping hand.

## MKSD Students Visit Bridges to Employment's Career Development Center

Submitted by Alyse Betso

On Tuesday, March 30, 2010, Bridges to Employment's Career Development Center hosted an event where students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf visited to learn about the services available after graduation. The students received a presentation from Tanya Onsongo, a rehabilitation counselor for the Deaf and hard of hearing, about the Supported Employment services available through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). The students were also given the opportunity to hear a testimonial from a current job seeker, Matthew Bellof and his experience with DVRS. He shared how he went through college and earned his graduate degree and about his current experience working with a career facilitator from the Career Development Center to find employment.

The students also learned about the Career Development Center (CDC) and were given a tour of the facility. The CDC works in collaboration with DVRS and the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) to provide Vocational Services and Assistive Technology Demonstrations.

After the students enjoyed their lunch, they had the opportunity to learn about assistive technology and the different types of equipment that are available. Jason Weiland, a field representative from DDHH did a live demonstration for the students as they learned about video relay phones, the Captel, fire



Ted Rooy, vocational assessment specialist at bridges to employment, discusses the students job goals and interests.

alarms and many other devices.

Bridges to Employment, A Division of Alternatives, Inc. is located in Raritan, New Jersey. In 2009, Bridges to Employment expanded their

vocational services to include individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing. The Career Development Center is a mobile program that offers career related services such as Vocational Assessments, Career Exploration, Job Readiness Training, and Job Development and Placement. Bridges to Employment is also available to provide short and long term job coaching services through their Supported Employment program.

For more information about these services, visit our Web site at [www.bridgestoemployment.com](http://www.bridgestoemployment.com) or contact Alyse Betso, Manager of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at 908-685-1444 extension 284 Voice, 866-971-9542 Voice or at [Abetso@alternativesinc.org](mailto:Abetso@alternativesinc.org).

## Montclair Art Museum Offers Interpreted Tour of New Exhibit

Saturday, May 8

1:00 to 2:00 PM - Imagination Station

2:00 to 3:00 PM - A Force For Change

**Free parking on site**

*The Montclair Art Museum is offering an interpreted adult tour of the new exhibit, "A Force For Change: African-American and the Julius Rosenwald Fund" as part of a pilot initiative for outreach to the Deaf community. Prior to the tour will be "Imagination Station," the weekly drop-in family program which will also be interpreted. The museum invites those who attended either or both the tour and program to participate in the focus group discussions that will be held afterward. The entrance fees will be waived for those who attend.*

Please RSVP to Benedetta Balsimelli, tour coordinator at [bbalsimelli@montclairartmuseum.org](mailto:bbalsimelli@montclairartmuseum.org)  
For additional questions, contact Gary Schneider, director of education at [gschneider@montclairartmuseum.org](mailto:gschneider@montclairartmuseum.org)

Montclair Art Museum, 3 South Mountain Ave. Montclair, NJ 07042, 973-746-5555 Voice, 973-783-8716 TTY [www.montclair-art.com](http://www.montclair-art.com).

## Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf Students Perform WONKA to Packed House

By Alan Champion



Jr. Bingham

At 7:00 PM on Wednesday evening March 31, the Elementary/Middle School (ELMS) at Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MSKD) put on a most impressive production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The play took place in the school auditorium to a packed house. It was a delightful production showing off the skills of both production staff and the artistic abilities of the students who acted in the play.

The musical is based on the 1964 Roald Dahl novel Charlie and the Chocolate Factory that was made famous in the 1971 movie version Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; and, subsequently in the 2005 film with the same title as the novel.

**A.J. Ryan** did a nice job as Charlie Bucket helping the audience understand where we were in the play as he moved between the house where his family lives, the candy store, the street and the candy factory. **Jr. Bingham** made a perfect Willy Wonka with his somewhat sardonic, if not cocky mug shots to the audience after some of the funny lines he delivered. **Matt Gilmore** who played Grandpa Joe, was very comical with a lot of hilarious eye gazing and hunched over movement around the stage. **Tateiana Laguerre, Stephen Oliveira, Morgan Bock, Joseph Gilmore, Thomas Moy, Deanna Phillips, Eric Sarnouski and Audrey Caseiro** did fine work as the other five children and accompanying family members on the factory tour. **Sskyah Hughes** was quite a strong presence as the news reporter who traveled globally reporting on the latest winner of the golden ticket.

The Oompa Loompas were played by first through fifth graders in the Lower and Middle

School MD division. They did a wonderful job keeping the show together with their occasional marches up and down the aisles throwing candy into the audience.



Sskyah Hughes

Much credit goes to the staff at MKSD for their devotion and tireless efforts to give these students such a rich experience. The beaming faces of the parents were testimony enough to the value of this experience for everyone on stage, back stage and watching the stage.

As an audience member, my focus never wandered and I found myself laughing through much of the play at some of the clever techniques by students and the creative production team. For those in the audience who don't understand sign language, there was voice interpretation provided by Mary Beth Kilkenny, Jennifer Peck-Gray, Donna Roppelt, Margaret Provost, who also did a wonderful job with their amazing dexterity in altering their voice for the various characters each of them had to interpret.

The production staff is too numerous to mention here but it is worth singling out the director, Gina Bencivengo, as well

as Chris Parker, technical director who turned the stage into a magical space that invited the audience into this imaginary world, no doubt, on a shoestring budget. The children at MKSD were indeed fortunate to have this theatrical experience to grow socially, educationally, and artistically.



A.J. Ryan and Matt Gilmore





## The 100th Anniversary of Bruce Street School for the Deaf

### Open House

Friday, October 22, 9:00 AM

Bruce Street School for the Deaf, 333 Clinton Place, Newark, NJ 07112

Come tour the school, watch student performances, visit vendors and exhibits, and see a special slide show \*.

### 100th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday, October 23

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

\$40 per individual, \$75 per couple.

A reunion celebration with a buffet dinner, dancing, and cash bar.

At Terrace Ballroom at Symphony Hall, 1020 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102

RSVP by e-mail is required. RSVPs to [BruceStreet19@gmail.com](mailto:BruceStreet19@gmail.com).

For more information about the events, hotel reservations and transportation, visit [www.bssd.info](http://www.bssd.info)

\*We need your photos of when you were at Bruce Street School for our slide show.  
Please e-mail photos to [BruceStreet19@gmail.com](mailto:BruceStreet19@gmail.com).

## Millburn School for the Deaf Alumni

We are looking for all Millburn School former teacher, staff and alumni to attend a banquet in July.  
We need your an address and phone.

**Millburn School for the Deaf Alumni**

C/o Alumni Committee

P.O Box 58

Keansburg, NJ 07734

Or contact us at [Millburnschool@yahoo.com](mailto:Millburnschool@yahoo.com)



# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## Access Program Employment Opportunities

Paterson, NJ Campus

As key members of our ACCESS Program, a statewide program providing behavioral health services to Deaf and hard of hearing people throughout New Jersey, candidates for employment positions will help meet the case management and treatment needs of service recipients who are Deaf and hard of hearing, including, but not limited to, children, adolescents, adults and seniors within a variety of therapeutic environments.

Opportunities are currently available for the following three positions:

**Caseworker** • Evenings and Weekends, Residential Group Home Program. Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Psychiatric Rehabilitation or Mental Health related discipline, one year of case management experience required. LCSW preferred. Valid New Jersey Driver's License also essential.

**Mental Health Worker** • Evenings and Weekends, Residential Group Home Program. High School Diploma plus 4 years of related work experience required.

**Clinician** • Monday - Friday, Day Shift - Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology or related discipline, New Jersey Licensure as a LSW or LCSW required.

All candidates are expected to possess ability to communicate fluently in American Sign Language, along with a familiarity of Deaf Culture and knowledge of current technology used for individuals with hearing loss. Valid New Jersey Driver's License also essential.

We offer a competitive salary, dynamic work environment, and a comprehensive benefits package that includes tuition reimbursement and child care. For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume, indicating job title in Subject matter to: [kimbelle@sjhmc.org](mailto:kimbelle@sjhmc.org), or apply online at: [www.StJosephsHealth.org](http://www.StJosephsHealth.org) . EOE M/F/D/V

St. Joseph's Healthcare System  
St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center • St. Joseph's Children's Hospital  
St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital • St. Vincent's Nursing Home  
Visiting Health Services of New Jersey, Inc.

## Thanks to DDHH

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Dear Mr. Hock, I have received my new phone and what a blessing to be able to hear conversation without having to ask the other party to keep repeating. The reply to my request was so quick. I just wanted to thank everyone who made this possible and the state of New Jersey for this program. My husband and I are both hearing impaired and wear aids but still could not communicate well on the phone. We both are benefiting from our new phone. Please pass this thank you on to anyone you think should be thanked.

Respectfully,  
Emily Richard

# Religious Access



## Deaf Day

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

Saturday May 22  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Speaker: **Jim Bracelin, Silent Word Ministries**

A day of Fun, Food, Fellowship and Workshops. Lunch provided.  
Free (Love offering will be received). Casual church clothes (no shorts.)

Let us know if you plan to attend by sending name address, how many attending  
and how many children for the nursery to -  
Central Hunterdon Baptist Church 325 Route 31  
Flemington, NJ 08822.

## Every Sunday

Worship Service at 9:30 AM, ASL interpreted. Deaf Bible study at 11:00 AM.  
Join us for coffee, fellowship and teaching.

## Cornerstone Presbyterian Worship for the Deaf . . .



of Jackson, New Jersey announces new summer hours starting May 30, Memorial Day weekend at 10:00 AM. We invite and welcome all people who are Deaf, their friends and families. We have a large screen that projects all the words and songs. Our worship is friendly with refreshments before and after services.

Cornerstone also provides help with jobs, food and clothes. Feel free to call our office or talk to our pastor, Dr. Rob Morrison. We are a new church development that meets in the Holman Elementary School, 125 Manhattan St. Jackson. For more information, visit [www.CornerstonePCUSA.com](http://www.CornerstonePCUSA.com) or call 732-928-2424 Voice.

## 20th Annual Deaf Picnic

hosted by

Grace Bible Chapel of the Deaf  
100 Oakdale Road (Cathy Lane) Chester, NJ 07930

July 17  
Noon - 5:00 PM

Rev. Jouse Tavarez guest Deaf speaker

Free parking, swimming pool (woman use one piece bath suit)  
Food provided. Love will be appreciated.

For more information, contact Roy [rojogolfer@hotmail.com](mailto:rojogolfer@hotmail.com) or Mike [ms1262@aol.com](mailto:ms1262@aol.com).

# Communicator Signboard



**Tri-State Deaf Latino Association (PA, NJ, DE)**  
Hosts our

## 1st Annual Picnic Day

Hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken will be provided.

Saturday, June 19  
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Neshaminy State Park ([www.visitparks.com](http://www.visitparks.com)) Site #1A (see balloons)

Adults: \$10, Children 13 years of age and older - \$10 Children under 13 - Free

**Deadline June 5 (Contact us soon, limit to 100 people.)**

If interested or for more information, please contact  
Edgar Bermudez, chairperson at [elatinosordo@aol.com](mailto:elatinosordo@aol.com)

Activities at Neshaminy State Park include  
Swimming pool (Fifteen or more people, pay \$6.50), volleyball, children's playground

Neshaminy State Park, 3401 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020  
At the intersection of State Road and Dunks Ferry Road, PA 132 (Street Road)

## Happy Hands Camp 2010

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and CODA (Children of Deaf Adults)  
Children ages five to twelve are welcome.

July 12 - August 12 (Mondays - Thursdays)  
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Bankbridge Elementary School, Sewell, NJ

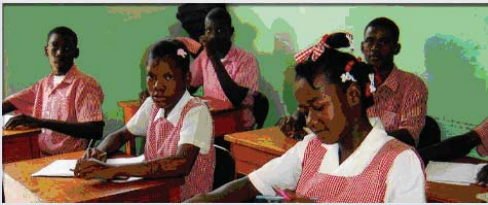
\$138 per week (Mondays - Thursdays)  
\$673 per five week session (discount is offered for those who pay for all five weeks upfront.)

Contact Mary Hilley, Supervisor 856-415-7530, ext 6468 Voice  
Lorie Cross-Jones, Camp Director [happyhands\\_gcssid@verizon.net](mailto:happyhands_gcssid@verizon.net).



# Communicator Signboard

Institut Montfort



Join us for  
**ASL Idol**  
Signing for Haiti



Friday June 4  
7:00 PM

## Ocean City High School Auditorium

Tickets \$9.

Come support the OCHS ASL Program  
and  
Institut Montfort School for the Deaf in Haiti

For tickets, contact Amy Severino [severinoasl@yahoo.com](mailto:severinoasl@yahoo.com),  
Annmarie Buraczeski [buraczeski@juno.com](mailto:buraczeski@juno.com), Carrie Pogue [ecempog@aol.com](mailto:ecempog@aol.com).

## Deaf Yoga Day Events

DYF Fundraising Gala & Silent Auction Night  
Hosted by: Jivamukti Yoga School, Union Square, New York City

Saturday, May 15

7:30 PM to 10:30 PM

\$45 online, \$60 at door



The next day ...

Teaching Yoga to Deaf Students Workshop

Sunday, May 16

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Jivamukti Yoga School, Union Square, New York City

\$45 pre-registration highly suggested.



This unique workshop is designed to teach yoga instructors the basic signs & techniques to use during their yoga classes to better accommodate Deaf yoga students. No sign language experience necessary. ASL-fluent yoga instructors & interpreters welcome.

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 2010

## **DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Friday July 30**

**9:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

### **NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION:**

Burlington County College:

Mt. Holly Center

1 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060-1701

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:

609-984-7281 V/TTY

**Saturday, June 12**

## **DDHH 26th Annual**

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Six Flags/Great Adventure

Jackson, NJ

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## **Garden State Walk 4 Hearing**

**Saturday October 16, 2010**

[www.hearingloss-nj.org](http://www.hearingloss-nj.org)

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

**DDHH Office – Days Closed**

**Monday May 31 - Memorial Day; Monday July 5 – Independence Day**