



Monthly Communicator

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



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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY, GOVERNOR


JAMES M. DAVY, COMMISSIONER

BRIAN C. SHOMO, DIRECTOR

Human Services Introduces Web site to Help Access Services

Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner Jim Davy introduced the new NJ Helps Web site (<http://www.njhelps.org>) to help New Jersey residents determine if they are eligible for eight programs offered by the department.

“Unfortunately, many families fail to apply for services,” said Commissioner Davy. “They might be embarrassed by their personal situation or simply do not apply - wrongly believing they will not be eligible.”

 The Web site allows residents to anonymously input basic information about their household and finances and in return learn if they are likely to be eligible for eight different programs offered through the DHS’ Division of Family Development and Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services.

These programs are: food stamps, general assistance or GA, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families better known as TANF, Medicaid, New Jersey Family Care, child care assistance, kinship care and Low Income Home Energy Assistance also known as LIHEAP.

In addition, the Web site provides valuable information on local offices, what documents are needed to apply and links to online applications for food stamps, New Jersey Family Care or LIHEAP that can be printed, filled out and then mailed or faxed.

“There are thousands of residents throughout the state who could use our help,” said Commissioner Davy. “With NJ Helps, we are taking an important first step in improving access to services.”

Phase two of NJ Helps includes plans to add the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit (NJEITC). DHS is also working with the Departments of Health and Senior Services and Labor and Workforce Development about possibly adding some of their programs to the NJ Helps Web site.

The NJ Helps application was purchased for \$20,000 from Multnomah County, Oregon and ECONorthwest creators of the award-winning OregonHelps Web site. A work group of community-based organizations, county welfare offices and state officials provided input on modifying the software for New Jersey. By purchasing the existing OregonHelps application, DHS plans on saving \$400,000 in annual software licensing and maintenance fees.

Commissioner Davy also announced the Department is collaborating with the New Jersey 2-1-1 Partnership to create an e-service directory for New Jersey residents to obtain information on health and human services, volunteer programs and giving opportunities.

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Seeking Authors for Statewide Competition

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo), a project of VSA arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), is seeking poems, essays and plays by New Jersey residents eighteen years of age or over for its eleventh annual Joyce Indik New Jersey Wordsmith Competition. The contest is open to all writers, and submissions by writers with disabilities are especially encouraged. All works submitted will be juried by a panel of judges who are professionals in the fields of theater and/or literature. Selected works will be showcased at the New Jersey Readers' Theater followed by a reception to honor the authors. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2004.

VSA/NJ, a nonprofit organization that is an affiliate of the international VSA arts network, is dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities. UPTCo, a project of VSA/NJ, is an inclusive program designed to involve individuals with physical disabilities in all aspects of the performing arts.

Major funding for this program is provided in New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; United Way of Central Jersey; Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission; New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; The central office of VSA arts, affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, under an award from the U.S. Department of Education.

To request an application or to receive additional information, contact Valerie Grier, VSA arts of New Jersey 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885 Voice, 745-5935 Voice, or 745-3913 TTY, info@vsanj.org, www.vsanj.org.

Monthly Communicator Deadlines

This is a reminder that the deadline for October submissions is September first. The deadline for November is October first. *If the event occurs in the beginning of the month, e-mail it to the editor, ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us, two months in advance.*

First Annual Dare to Imagine Awards Seeking Nominations

VSA arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ) is proud to announce the First Annual Dare to Imagine Awards. The awards will recognize adults and children under the age of 18 who have made a positive difference in the life of a person or persons with disabilities. Awards candidates must have made an impact that relates to one or more of the following focus areas: corporate and organizational responsibility; education, training and enrichment opportunities; accessibility; and personal commitment and volunteerism. Individuals whose contributions are related to the arts are especially encouraged to apply. The application deadline is November 15, 2004.

Selections will be made in February 2005. Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony in March 2005, followed by a performance of the Unlimited Potential Theater Company, a project of VSA/NJ that is dedicated to providing opportunities for adults with physical disabilities to be actively involved in all aspects of the performing arts.

To request an application or for additional information, please contact VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; (732) 745-3885 Voice, 745-3913 TTY, info@vsanj.org, www.vsanj.org.

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The 2004 National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI) Conference

by Tammy Lane, extern, Union County College, at DDHH

During June 24-27, 2004, I had the pleasure of attending the eighth annual NAOBI conference at the beautiful Cincinnati Marriott Hotel in Hebron, KY.

One hundred and twenty-five people attended, as well as eighteen vendors. Many attendees were from the local state chapters of NAOBI, but other members came from as far away as Hawaii. This year's theme was, "The Spirit, The Essence, and The Goal."

After checking into the hotel and picking up registration packets, it was time to visit the vendor room. There were exhibits set up by an assortment of groups such as Dawn Sign Press, Signs of Development, and the Kentucky Commission for the Deaf. There was also a Silent Auction room that had a large array of wonderful items.

The early evening gave attendees a chance to participate in a variety of interpreting related forums. The evening ended with a reception titled, "Wrapped in Black." We all wore black clothing as we were greeted by the conference organizers. This casual event gave us a chance to snack and chat with our fellow NAOBI members.

The next two days of the conference offered a schedule of twelve different workshops and focus groups. These included topics such as multicultural interpreting, contracts and marketing, preparation for the written certification test, and conceptual accuracy. There was also a business meeting which included committee reports, discussions of general member issues, and the election of a new NAOBI president. Although we were very busy during the day, at night there was time for fun. A shuttle provided service to the local mall and casino. We also enjoyed "Motown Night" and "Talent Night" at the hotel.



Fred Beam of the Wild Zappers with Tammy Lane



Union County College Students Uneeda Williams and Tammy Lane

On Saturday night we held our formal banquet and dance. The keynote speaker was Fred Beam, the executive director of Invisible Hands, Inc., and the Wild Zappers. He shared interesting stories about his experiences with interpreters who were not fully able to express some of his cultural nuances. He also encouraged us to continue our professional endeavors as interpreters of color. At the end of the night, the disc jockey announced that his mother was Deaf and that he basically communicated with her through writing. He said that NAOBI inspired him to enroll in a sign language class right away! The local residents offered him information to help him get started.

On Sunday morning we all shared a delicious breakfast as we prepared to say good-bye. Closing remarks were made, and a few tears were shed. Many of us were overwhelmed by all of the positive experiences we had during the weekend. We are all looking forward to seeing each other next year when the NAOBI conference will be held in Long Beach, California.

If you are interested in learning more about NAOBI, be sure to go to the Web site: www.naobi.org

Getting to Know . . . Linda Lamitola

By Lisa DeHart, extern, Union County College, at DDHH

LINDA LAMITOLA has been an American Sign Language interpreter since 1977. She graduated from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), one of the early interpreter training programs in the country. Her background includes a wide-range of theater interpreting, including on and off-Broadway productions. In 1999, she became one of only three interpreters in New Jersey to have achieved the Registry for the Interpreter of the Deaf's (RID) Specialty Certificate in Legal Interpreting (SC:L). Linda is in her eighth year with the Administrative Office of the Courts in New Jersey.



A Like most freelance interpreters, I had a general case load for about 10 years before I began legal interpreting. I did a lot of interpreting in the theater. I was the company interpreter and toured as assistant stage manager with the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD). My late husband, Mike Lamitola, was an actor for many years and later became the Artistic Director for NTD.

Q What was your best learning experience?

A My best learning experience was working with a group called Spectrum F.O.D.A. (Focus on Deaf Arts) from 1977-1979. It was an immersion into a Deaf Arts World. Everything was done the Deaf Way! I was welcomed because I came from a theater background and my heart was in the theater. This

was a very intense and creative period of my life. The rich ASL being used by these Deaf people was so far above my interpreting skills that as a result, my skills grew tremendously. I am very grateful for the patience of those people.

Q What credentials does an interpreter need to interpret in the NJ court system today?

A According to the NJ state statute (NJSA 34:1-69.7 et seq.), any interpreter that works in a New Jersey court must be RID certified and listed with DDHH or NJRID.

Q What would you say is the ideal path an ASL interpreter should go through in order to interpret in a court setting?

A They should attend an ITP (Interpreter Training Program) at the associate or bachelor's degree level. They should practice for a number of years and then become certified. It is at that point that they begin taking introduction to legal interpreting courses. They should then complete about 30 to 40 hours of legal interpreting coursework before they enter a courtroom. There are on-line courses as well as workshops and programs available to train interpreters who desire to become legal interpreters. It is at this point that they are ready to take the RID written and performance test for the Specialist Certificate:Legal (SC:L).

Q How did you get involved in the field of ASL interpreting?

A It all started in 1975 when I was a volunteer for the theater department at NTID. First, I must admit, I was a theater bug. I was working back stage for student productions with Deaf students. At that time, I didn't know a single sign. Naturally, the students had fun teaching me all the wrong signs. So my introduction to sign language was an outgrowth of working with the theatre staff and students. I feel very blessed that I learned ASL in the rich language environment of the theater. I knew sign language for a couple of years before Deaf people around me said, "You should become an interpreter."

Q Did you go through an interpreter training program?

A In 1977, I decided to enroll in NTID's interpreter training program. It was called "The Basic Interpreter Training Program," It was a ten week program, and at that time most of the interpreter training programs were short term.

Q Once you became certified through the Registry for Interpreters of the Deaf (RID) what kind of work did you do?

Q. As far as a person with hearing loss is concerned, what specific accommodations are available?

A. The New Jersey courts have a long history of being very knowledgeable about providing accommodations to people with disabilities. Deaf people or people who are hard of hearing can request interpreters of all kinds: oral, ASL, transliterators or Certified Deaf Interpreters, if needed. All superior courts as well as municipal courts have access to Assisted Listening Devices and Cart services. There is a manual that was developed for the municipal courts, which gives details about the accommodations the courts may provide. The Judiciary provides training to judges and court administrators to ensure that they are knowledgeable about these services.

Q. Who is responsible to provide these accommodations? What is the process? It is the court's responsibility to provide these accommodations upon request. The process always starts with a request. Either the person who needs an accommodation or that individual's lawyer can make the request. A person cannot just show up at court expecting to have a service provided, it often takes time to arrange for the services. It is best to inform the court directly in advance or through an attorney that an accommodation is needed. Each court has an Access/ADA coordinator. Many Deaf people will call ahead and say for example, "I have a speeding ticket. I'm coming to your court. Will you get me an interpreter?" And it will happen.

Q. Are all the courts in New Jersey aware of the services available to people with hearing loss and have there been any accessibility law suits against the court?

A. Yes, the Administrative Office of the Courts, where I work, provides them with that information. Information is available on our websites and available through staff training. New Jersey does very well. It is rare that we get a complaint in the superior court. We have everything in place. Years ago, there was a lawsuit against the judiciary for not providing access to Deaf and hard of hearing people in the municipal courts. The case was settled. As a result of this case there has been a great deal of training to strengthen our access policies.

The Judiciary also has a specialist, like myself, on staff to maintain a working relationship with DDHH, the Deaf Community, and assist the Judiciary's Access Coordinator in matters related to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. This is all in an effort to help ensure quality in this area.

My office does not schedule interpreters. Each court has a Vicinage Coordinator of Interpreting Services responsible for contracting interpreters. They know all about ASL interpreting, CDI's and oral interpretation. Each court, including municipal courts, has an ADA coordinator as well. We're doing the best we can.

Q. What if the court refuses to provide them with the proper accommodations?

A. In my experience, this rarely happens. But if it does, one can call an ADA Coordinator at any of the courts or call my office. Information about our access policies and a list of the ADA Coordinators is available on our website. ADA brochures containing information about our complaint procedure are available in every court in the state. New Jersey has done a great deal to place themselves in front as a model for accessibility. It's great to work here. There is nothing more important than Justice. Awareness and strong access policies ensure that people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing have the same experience as anyone else in New Jersey.

Summit Speech School Honors Local Legislators On Grace's Law

At its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 19, Summit Speech School acknowledged the efforts of New Jersey legislators Senator Anthony R. Bucco and Assemblyman Neil M. Cohen for their sponsorship of Grace's Law. The bill, which is currently working its way through committee review and approval, requires health insurers, state health-benefits programs, and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for hearing aids for children. The bill is named for Grace Gleba of Washington, NJ, who is a student at Summit Speech School. "We would like to thank you for listening to our Trustee Jeanine Gleba, Grace's mom, who shared with you the challenges and needs of families whose growing children require hearing aids," said Scot Guempel of Madison, president of the school's board of trustees, of the efforts of Senator Bucco and Assemblyman Cohen. Mr. Guempel also praised the work of Ms. Gleba in recently founding the school's parent association. For more information, call (908) 508-0011 Voice or visit www.summitspeech.com.

Services for Victims of Sexual Assault Who Have Hearing Loss

By Claire Riley, Community Educator, Cumberland County Sexual Assault Program

In New Jersey, each county is fortunate to have a “rape crisis” program available to victims of sexual violence.

In some counties, these programs are joined with

domestic violence programs. Rutgers University also has a program for victims of sexual assault.

Each program provides services to male and female victims of sexual

abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. All programs provide crisis advocacy for victims and operate a 24-hour hotline. Some programs deliver educational programs and outreach to the community. Some provide extensive professional counseling to survivors, and some operate support groups. Each program relies a great deal on community volunteers to deliver services.

In the past few years, many programs have improved their services to victims with disabilities. People with disabilities are sexually victimized at higher rates than people without disabilities. Although more attention has been given to victims with cognitive impairments, one study in 1987 found that 54% of Deaf boys and 50% of Deaf girls surveyed reported sexual abuse. This abuse occurred on vans, buses, bathrooms and in their own beds. These statistics can be compared to figures of about 25% of hearing girls and about 15% of hearing boys reporting sexual abuse.

Not only do sexually abused children need access to resources for healing, but these children grow up to be adults who may desire support. Additionally, persons with hearing loss may be sexually assaulted as adults, although there are no available figures on the rate at which this occurs. Unfortunately, a survivor with a hearing loss in New Jersey may encounter obstacles to receiving services.

In Cumberland County, the Sexual Assault Program recently received a special grant to improve services for women with disabilities. Services include crisis advocacy, a 24 hour

hotline, education and prevention efforts, and professional therapy for children and adults. We have looked at our accessibility and inaccessibility.

Currently, we are able to hire ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters when needed for counseling sessions. We have taught our volunteers how to use the New Jersey Relay Service, should they have a hotline call from a survivor who is hearing or speech impaired. A victim with hearing loss is most likely to encounter inaccessibility should they be a recent victim of sexual assault and need an advocate to accompany them to medical exams or police interviews, as neither our staff nor current volunteers use ASL.

The situation is not very different in the rest of the state. A survey of other sexual assault programs found that most were accessible by TTY devices, hired interpreters, and used the NJ Relay Service. Bergen County Rape Crisis Center and Passaic County Rape Crisis are notable exceptions because they are fortunate enough to have a volunteer advocate who uses ASL. In Bergen County, a volunteer will soon be giving presentations in ASL. CARA (Coalition Against Rape and Abuse) in Cape May County recently received training from the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing on how to improve services for clients who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Rutgers Department of Sexual Assault and Crime Victim Assistance has greater access to ASL interpreters for counseling students who are victims because of its unique setting in a university.

Unfortunately, most staff and volunteers in programs which provide services to survivors of sexual violence do not communicate in ASL. This may be a barrier for survivors who are seeking services. As more Deaf and hard of hearing survivors reach out for support, programs will become more accustomed to providing access. A complete listing of rape crisis programs in New Jersey can be located at www.njcasa.org, the Web site for the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA). The phone number for NJCASA is 1-800-601-7200 Voice. Their e-mail address is mail@njcasa.org.

If accessible rape crisis services are a matter of concern for you, there are several ways to get involved. Contact your local rape crisis program to see if there is a way you can volunteer. Paid employment opportunities at area programs can be found on the NJCASA Web site. If you work for an organization that serves people with hearing loss, consider forming an alliance with your local rape crisis program or inviting someone to speak on the topic of sexual violence.



Union Street School

A New Total Communication Program in Northern New Jersey Bergen County Special Services - Asking Different Questions

Submitted by Candi Mascia Reed, Supervisor, SHIP and Union Street School

Union Street School, founded in September 2000, and a program within the Bergen County Special Services Schools District, is a Total Communication pre-school to grade 8 school for Deaf students in Hackensack, NJ. An affiliate of HIP, an Oral Program for the Deaf located in Midland Park, NJ, Union Street School has become an innovative “day” school providing mainstream opportunities within the Hackensack School District. What makes Union Street School successful is a unique blend of interesting perspectives and applications such as:

- ✦ The commitment to implement general education curriculum and materials.
- ✦ A strong affiliation and working relationship with the “host district,” Hackensack Schools.
- ✦ A proportionate percentage of cochlear implanted students using sign support and total communication principles.
- ✦ A committed staff from diverse teaching backgrounds.
- ✦ A Student Profile Program; a custom designed data base delineating student progress.
- ✦ The use of teaching strategies based on a Balanced Literacy Approach to reading and writing integrated with “Best Practices” for teaching Deaf students.
- ✦ An exciting, new “Union Street School Parent/Child Shared Reading Program.
- ✦ An emphasis on infused speech and language
- ✦ A Collaborative Teacher (Co-teaching) model in mainstream classes.
- ✦ A mandatory support period for mainstream students with a teacher of the Deaf.
- ✦ Student Literacy Portfolios in reading, writing and math
- ✦ Mandatory participation in a community project for all students in lieu of a JRNAD for some.

Our school literally did appear “over night” and went through a painful but necessary transformation involving changing attitudes about communication, curriculum, assessment, teaching/learning strategies, and mainstream/inclusion philosophies. Union Street School is a text book introduction into systemic change, renewal and acceptance, and is a true work-in-progress.

Teachers have been and will continue to be, assessed using the Signed Competency Proficiency Interview. One of our teachers is planning to take the new Educational Interpreter Training and Professional Assessment at Union County College. Newly hired teachers and educational interpreters



are interviewed in mock “classes” as part of the interviewing process to better ascertain if they are “highly qualified.” Our teachers periodically visit classrooms in Hackensack Schools District and attend their professional development workshops on innovative general education initiatives, practices, and curriculum development. Our administration and teachers provide in-services to Hackensack Schools staff the beginning of each year to better prepare them for receiving our students into their academic classrooms and/or selected elective classes.

We have confirmed our teaching practices and beliefs in workshops conducted by the Laurent Clerc Professional Outreach Center from Gallaudet University. We reach out to our parents with a new school newsletter, a newly formed PTO, an ASL lending video library, and the Union Street School Parent/Child Shared Reading Project.

Our challenges are varied and certainly not unlike many other programs for the Deaf in our state: working with a large percentage of Deaf children from Hispanic homes, balancing the principles of total communication philosophies and general education initiatives with the influx of and unique needs of the cochlear implanted student who uses sign language, determining student learning outcomes, and analyzing the challenges of helping students with learning differences to succeed. We are piloting a new program for parents to use with their emergent readers at home. With the assistance of the Bergen County Special Services Technology Department, we are videotaping our Deaf adult sign language users signing a variety of leveled books used

Continued on page 8

in the classroom. The printed text is visible on the screen. A short video plus a copy of the accompanying book will be available to send home to parents in grades pre-school to kindergarten as a piloted program this school year. Parents and their children may borrow these materials for one week to use in a time of “shared reading” that we know is so invaluable for young children to experience with their families. In addition, we are excited about our new Student Profile Program, a custom made database from Bergen County Special Services Technology Department that will enable teachers to record and analyze student assessment scores including twice yearly developmental reading assessments, state standardized test scores such as the ASK 3 and ASK 4, the GEPA, and the district implemented Terra Nova assessments. Teachers, parents, school district LEA's, and administrators can view at a glance individual student progress as well as comparative class analysis, and eventually, a school-wide profile. Our first graduating class in 2005, will transition into SHIP, the Secondary Hearing Impaired Program at Midland Park High School, Midland Park, New Jersey. They will have had exposure to many of the principles and procedures used at SHIP: mainstream classes with collaborative teachers of the deaf where applicable, exposure to general education curriculum and materials, the opportunity to also participate in small group instruction when needed, and the experience of sharing, working, and learning in an environment that affords the possibilities of learning about Deaf culture as well as learning about the world around them.

Our tasks as educators are not so different as other schools and programs within our state. Whether we are a residential school, a part of a mainstream environment, a day school, or a program with itinerant services; whether we employ ASL in instruction, a total communication philosophy, or emphasize other modes; whether we have only small, self-contained classes or offer a host of educational placement options, the questions seem to be the same, but we also know that the questions must change. Where and when do our students fall behind and what do we do when we find out? When do we move on when goals/objectives have not been “mastered?” How do we teach content when we are not certified in the content area? How best to include our students in classes that we feel are “too difficult for them to handle?” What is the best mode of communication to teach Deaf children? What materials do we use with teaching Deaf students? Can Deaf students be included? These are questions we should not be asking any longer. Deaf education is a part of general education reform initiatives. We can't afford not to be.

What are some of the questions that we should be asking and addressing?

- ✍ Knowing the communication philosophy of my school, what is the administrative responsibility to ascertain and monitor quality and mastery of that system among staff?
- ✍ We know the teaching techniques...how do we introduce the content? What “learning” do students need to do; not what “teaching” must the teacher do?
- ✍ How do we utilize general education materials while at the same time address pacing needs, goals and objectives?
- ✍ What are the current reading and writing teaching strategies in literature programs for hearing children?
- ✍ What is our responsibility to promote Deaf awareness, culture, educational and societal needs for our students? How do we help students preserve their beautiful culture, yet accept the reality in a world that surrounds them with the spoken language?
- ✍ What are the needs of the Hispanic and Black Deaf student and their families?
- ✍ How do we help students develop strategies to think reflectively?
- ✍ How do we close the gap between theory and reality in the classroom?
- ✍ What are ways in which school leaders empower their staff to become learners?
- ✍ How do we, as educators, move away from focusing on the deficiencies of deaf readers and writers and help students identify and employ the proficiencies of fluent readers and writers?
- ✍ What are the current general education theories and practices for transitioning students into the workforce?
- ✍ What does a “balanced” assessment program look like?
- ✍ What does a “balanced” literacy program look like?
- ✍ What makes a “good” inclusion/mainstream experience for our students? What doesn't? What makes a “good” day/residential experience? What doesn't?

I am sure that there are a host of other questions but the importance is in the shift from professional philosophical combat towards student measurable learning outcomes. Union Street School staff and administration ask these questions and seek answers, as I know many of our educators do each day. We welcome visitors and encourage dialogue. You can reach us at (201) 343-5515 V/TTY, or canree@bergen.org

Did You Know That . . .

DDHH Equipment Distribution Program is 13 Years Old

The DDHH began its 13th consecutive year with its Equipment Distribution Program in July 2004. The program began in 1993 disseminating TTYs to New Jersey residents with hearing loss who could not afford to purchase a device. As the program grew, amplified telephones, voice carry over phones (VCO), baby alert systems, and smoke detectors were also included in the distribution. Below are the totals throughout the State Fiscal Years. If you would like an application to determine eligibility, contact DDHH at (800) 792-8339 V/TTY or (609) 984-0390 Fax.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>TTY/VCO</u>	<u>Baby Cry Alerts</u>	<u>Smoke Detectors</u>
1993	235		
1994	263		
1995	269		
1996	(10 telebrailles)		
1997	146		
1998	113		
1999	202		
2000	197		
2001	216		62
2002	232		200
2003	230	13	227
2004	277	37	104
2005	_____	1	_____
Grand Totals: 2,380		51	593

Information Kits for Parents - DDHH has a limited amount of information kits for parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. It includes a closed captioned videotape "Dreams Spoken Here", a handbook, "Make a Joyful Noise", and a resource list. This information was disseminated by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia during the DDHH conference on April 29. If you would like a free kit, contact DDHH Director Brian C. Shomo at 800-792-8339 V/TTY or brian.shomo@dhs.state.nj.us.

Ocean Deaf Club, Inc. will not open on September 18 because Ocean County College will have ASL Show on that day. Ocean Deaf Club, Inc. will open on October 16, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. They have Lingo Games at Church in Lakehurst. Info: ODCPresident2@aol.com.

Disability Forum -

West Deptford's Committee for the Disabled will hold its 3rd Annual Disability Awareness Forum on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. years event will be held at River Winds Community Center in West Deptford Township. The featured speaker will be Lorretta Claibourne, noted disability rights advocate and winner of the 1996 Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, member of the Women in Sports Hall of Fame, Special Olympics Hall of Fame and subject of the Disney Movie "The Loretta Claibourne Story". Also featured at River Winds that night will be representatives from local community, state and county organizations who serve the needs of people with disabilities and their families.

Organizations such as NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Gloucester Counties Office for the Disabled, Social Security Administration will be in attendance for questions and information before and after the presentation by Ms. Claibourne.

Please come out for an evening of education, information and fun.

Light refreshments will be served and transportation

may be available upon request. If special accommodations or transportation is needed you may contact the Committee at (856) 845-4004 x 130 Voice for assistance. ASL interpreters will be available.



Events Around the Towns . . .

The Ocean County College Fine Arts Theater

presents OCC - ITP Sign Language Concert on September 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Please come and enjoy our Sign Language Concert filled with fun. We will have students from our Interpreter Training Program sign to songs such as: Love Shack, Bring Me To Life, Smokin' in the Boys Room, Independent Women, Ladies Night and many more. Tickets are sold at the door. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Free dessert and refreshments will be served during intermission. Info: Kathy Basilotto at: kbasilotto@ocean.edu or (732) 255-0400 ext. 2237 Voice, (732) 255-0407 TTY.



SEED Sponsors ASL Festival -

submitted by Victor Collazo

I work at the SEED (South Jersey Evaluation and Employment Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)



Program at Camden County College (CCC). I am also the advisor to the Signing Communities Club at CCC. On September 18th, 2004 I am organ-

izing a "Fall ASL Festival." The event will take place at the college in Blackwood, NJ. The event is a fundraiser to help support three great organizations. First is the "Happy Hands Deaf Camp." We have this camp every summer for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing at Camden County College. The second is a scholarship that I have established in memory of my late wife who past away suddenly two years ago. It is called the Naureen F. Collazo Academic Endowment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This endowment will financially help Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals who would like to or are attending Camden County College. The third is the Ms. Deaf New Jersey Pageant which is held every two years. This event will be attended by not only Deaf but also hearing individuals. We are expecting 300-400 attendees. I hope many people participate in this great event. Please contact me for more information at; vcollazo@camdencc.edu, (856) 374-4879 Fax, (856) 227-7200 Ext. 4582 Voice, (856) 374-4911 TTY.

The Hearing Society

, located in the First Baptist Church of Westfield, PO Box 2534, Westfield, NJ 07091 will resume office hours and classes on Thursday, September 9, 2004. Office hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursdays only. Classes in Basic Sign Language are from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Lip Reading is from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Free to members of the Society. Info, (908) 233-0266 V/TTY (only staffed on Thursdays, otherwise answering machine).

A Retirement Planning Seminar

for people with hearing loss will occur on Friday, October 1, 2004 from 9:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the NJ Library for the Blind and Handicapped in Trenton NJ. This is only open for NJ State workers, municipal employees and teachers in state pension system. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and realtime captioning will be provided. Contact: Nikki Kowalski at (609) 292-9500 Voice, nichole.kowalski@treas.state.nj.us or www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions.



Get Notified of an Emergency by

E-mail - The Emergency Email Network(sm) has, as its mission to "Provide notification to citizens of local, regional, national and international emergencies



utilizing the Internet and electronic mail (e-mail) in a secure and expedient manner." The National Emergency Email Network serves over 3160 local areas in all 50 U. S. States. You may get notified of an emergency by e-mail, cell phone, pager from your local, regional and national government sources. For additional informa-

tion and to sign up for this free service, go to: <http://Weather@EmergencyE.com/>

New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. Schedule of Events for 2004

NJAD Home Office, Room 20
Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf
Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ

*Assistive Listening Devices, voice interpreter & CART
upon request two weeks in advance.
Light refreshments served.*

General Meeting September 12 and December 5 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Info; Rebecca Rainone, corresponding, secretary at
RebeccaNJAD@aol.com

Deaf Awareness

Presented by Meghan Rainone

September 12 3 p.m to 5 p.m.

Info; Carrie Pogue, Workshop Coordinator at ecem-
pog@aol.com

Board Meetings

October 3 and November 7

NJAD Home Office, Room 19
Info; Rebecca Rainone, Corresponding Secretary at
RebeccaNJAD@aol.com

A Visit to a Veterinary Hospital

Presented by Deanna Bono

November 7

Contact Carrie Pogue, Workshop Coordinator at
ecempog@aol.com

ALDA-GS Hospital Access Workshop

ALDA-GS invites you to attend a Hospital Access Workshop at the East Brunswick Public Library on October 16, 2004, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn what some hospitals are doing to provide access to deaf and hard of hearing patients, hear personal experiences, find out how the ADA applies to hospital services. Lunch will be provided. Questions? Contact: Elinore Bullock (908) 832-5056 TTY or john.bullock@mindspring.com. This event is co-sponsored by DDHH which will provide sign language interpreters and computer assisted realtime captioning (CART). Assistive listening devices will also be available.

High Holiday Services Interpreted in Westfield

High Holiday Services
at Temple Emanu-El,
756 East Broad
Street, Westfield, NJ
will have interpreted
services for Rosh

Hashanah on Thursday,
September 16 at 11:30
a.m. and Yom Kippur on
Saturday, September 25 at 11:30

a.m. Free tickets for deaf individuals are available by
calling Toby Marx (voice or relay) at (908) 272-2549
or the Temple (voice or relay) at (908) 232-6770 by
September 7.



Religious Access

Interpreted Services for the Deaf will begin September 2004, every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Services are held at Second Baptist Church, 124 Atkins Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712 by Rev. Dr. Brian J. Wells, Pastor. Info; Mrs. Margaret Upperman, Deaf Ministry Instructor at (732) 922-3711 Voice.

The Diocese of Metuchen Catholic Deaf Ministry will hold a Sign/Interpreted Mass every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 94 Somerset St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901. A Signed Mass will also occur on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon at St. Ambrose Church, 96 Throckmorton Lane, Old Bridge, NJ 08851. Any questions or for directions contact Tevis Thompson, DEAFinitely Accessible, (302) 529-7088 V/TTY/Fax or deaf1@comcast.net.

Available Jobs

Captionists - The DDHH is seeking CART reporters and C-print captionists to be added to the referral list. Currently, the demand exceeds the supply and the Division would like to fill this void. If you possess the necessary skills and have your own equipment, contact Cathy Grehlinger or Todd R. Olsen at (609) 984-7283 V/TTY.

Job Coaches - Allies, Inc is currently searching for individuals fluent in American Sign Language to function as job coaches in Southern, Central and Northern, NJ. Applicants should have extensive knowledge of Deaf culture and issues pertaining to being Deaf in the work place. Please contact: Maria LaRocco, Job Development Manager, Allies, Inc. (609) 689-0136 Voice or MariaLaRocco@aol.com.

Substitute Sign Language Interpreter - Southern Regional High School District is currently seeking substitute Sign Language Interpreters to work in our district on an as needed/per diem basis. Please send or fax a resume and letter of interest to: Supervisor of Special Services, 75 Cedar Bridge Road, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. Fax (609) 978-9373.

Job Coach - Career Services, Bancroft NeuroHealth, provides job assessment, skill training and job coaching; assists with individualized planning and support to individuals with disabilities. BA/BS degree preferred; related experience in lieu of completed degree will be considered. Work experience in employment services preferred. Willing to train a staff in ASL while they work in this department. Contact Joe Picerno at (856) 216-8474 x 104 or jpicerno@bnh.org.

Deaf Services Center Positions - see below

Send, fax or e-mail a letter of interest and resume to: Deaf Services Center, c/o Milestones Community Healthcare, Inc., 614 North Easton Road, Glenside PA 19038, attention: Julie Diaz-Poore (215) 884-9770 V/TTY, (215) 884-5566 Voice, (215) 884-9774 Fax, jdiazpoore@salisb.com, see Web at <http://www.salisb.com>.

Mental Health Therapist - Deaf Services Center offers culturally competent, linguistically accessible treatment for individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind and in need of behavioral health services, including clinical and residential programming.

Outpatient Therapists (3) - Responsibilities include: Assessment and intervention for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, families and groups, utilizing a variety of communication modalities to accommodate the need; psychosocial evaluations, treatment plans, progress notes, discharge summaries and other reports as required.

The qualified candidate shall possess: Ability to work with both adults and children in our Glenside office and satellite office, at Center for Community and Professional Services (CCPS), in Philadelphia, ASL fluency, Masters in Social Work or Counseling and license (LCSW or LPC) eligible in the state of Pennsylvania, knowledge of assistive technology and needs of persons who are hard of hearing, willingness to work evenings.

Interpreter - needed for Sunday school 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Holy Cross Lutheran in Toms River, for my daughter's 6th grade class. Students welcome. Please call Marian at (732) 506-7985 Voice.



SEED Coordinates Employment Services

By Josie Leone

The South Jersey Evaluation and Employment Services for the Deaf, (SEED) provides support services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients who are seeking assistance with employment.

Throughout the years it has become increasingly difficult to meet the needs of a great many clients who come to us with issues affecting their ability to successfully obtain a job. We realized that working with deaf and hard of hearing clients couldn't be done apart from their daily life needs. Ability to focus on employment goals is impossible until basic human needs for shelter, safety, and other essential personal needs are met. SEED has received funding by DVRS to develop a one-year pilot program for several DVR offices in southern New Jersey. An Employment Support Specialist located in the SEED office would ensure that all employment service needs are coordinated and totally accessible for the DVRS clients served by SEED. Currently the pilot will focus on the following offices: Camden, Thorofare, Bridgeton, Pleasantville, and Wildwood.

For more information please contact Josephine Leone, SEED Coordinator, Box 200 College Drive, Blackwood, NJ 08012 or (856) 227-7200 x 4508 Voice, (856) 374-4911 TTY, jleone@camdencc.edu.



New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Youth and Family Services

New Jersey opens statewide, toll free 24/7 Child Abuse Hotline

1-877-NJ ABUSE

(1-877-652-2873)

Since July 1, 2004, people from all across the State of New Jersey have been able to call one toll free telephone number, any time of the day or night, to report suspected child abuse or neglect. This is a dramatic improvement from present practice. Before the advent of this statewide toll free hotline, police, teachers, doctors, nurses, neighbors and others who saw signs that a child might need help, had to call one of over 30 District Offices during business hours or a different number after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

NEW JERSEY'S NEW TOLL FREE ABUSE HOTLINE WILL ENSURE:

- ✓ Better reporting: Suspected abuse or neglect will more likely get reported because everyone will know how to make a report.
- ✓ More Consistent Outcomes: Trained hotline screeners will make decisions that are more consistent across the state and from case to case.
- ✓ Lower-risk reports will be diverted to more appropriate referrals: Fewer cases will be referred for abuse or neglect investigations as reports of problems with lower levels of risk to a child will be referred to appropriate services.
- ✓ Prompt investigations of abuse or neglect allegations: Hotline screeners will be trained to get complete information rapidly so response priorities can be set (i.e. immediate response or within 24 hours of the call) and investigators can get into the field with effective, efficient investigations as quickly as possible.

In New Jersey, every citizen - every teacher, doctor and neighbor - every person who comes into contact with a child and observes behavior or conditions that might indicate abuse or neglect is required by law to report their suspicions. Then, state authorities can investigate and take appropriate action.

1-877 NJ ABUSE
Make the call; save a child.

Communicator Signboard

Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association
proudly presents

Moon Cake Festival

Saturday, September 11, 2004
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

LaGuardia Community College,
31-10 Thomson Avenue,
Long Island City, NY 11101
Room: E-500 (E building)

Fee: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members,
\$20 at door registration
No Refunds!

Sponsored by Program For Deaf Adults

Info: Mee L. Eng-Naturale,
asiandeafmadaav@netscape.net or advisor@mada-
nynj.org, www.mada-nynj.org

Make check or money order payable to
"Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association Fund."
On memo write: "MADA MCF on September 11"
and mail to MADA, attn: Mee L. Eng-Naturale,
PO Box 36-20323, P.A.C.C. New York, NY 10129

Joshua Finkle,
the Sprint Representative

**"Learn more about
Sprint Video Relay
Services and how to get
a free web cam or
video phone"**

Panel Discussion:

**Do you support Video Relay Services?
Why or why not?**

**Saturday, October 9, 2004
from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

(same fees and location as 9/11/04 event)

Jersey Shore Deaf Bowling Association
Hosts

Bowling Benefit for Marissa Colagrasso

Marissa is a little girl from the Toms River East community
who was recently diagnosed with Medullablastoma,
an aggressive form of brain cancer.

All proceeds will be donated to the Marissa Colagrasso
Foundation to use for family needs during her treatments.

Donation: \$15

Saturday, September 18, 2004

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Lanes at Sea Girt,

2106 State Highway No. 35, Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750

Info: Robbie Duchat, rjd300@optonline.net



Communicator Signboard



Focus on the Future

Job Fair Save the Date

Friday, September 10, 2004
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Atlantic City Convention Center
Atlantic City, NJ

FREE for Job Applicants

For information: www.familysupportnj.com
Demeri Minkoff (856) 858-5900 Ext. 404 Voice or
dinkoff@efnj.com
Interpreters provided by SEED

Deaf Senior Citizens of Northwest Jersey
DAWN, Inc. is sponsoring a

Monthly Social for all Deaf Senior Citizens of Northwest Jersey Non-Seniors and Interpreter Students are Welcome! September 15

Saint Clare's Hospital, 400 W. Blackwell St., Dover, NJ, 1st Floor Cafeteria

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Karen Powers, Director of Social Services (1:30 - 3:00)
New England Homes for the Deaf, Danvers, MA

Topic: How they established New England Homes for the Deaf

ASL/Voice interpreter will be provided. Refreshments served.

Parking is available in the Visitor Parking Lot. If you need any other type of special accommodations, call the office at the numbers listed below. To comply with hospital policy, all visitors must stop at the Front Desk in the Lobby to obtain a Visitor's Pass.

Info: Lila Taylor, Deaf Outreach Specialist, ltaylor09@aol.com, DAWN, Inc., 400 S. Main St., Suite #3, Wharton, NJ 07885, Telephone: (973) 361-5666 Voice, (973) 361-7086 Fax, (973) 361-6032 TTY, 888-383-DAWN, info@dawninc.org

Communicator Signboard

NJADARA

(Professionals Networking for Excellence in Service Delivery with Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing) fall workshop

“Rubella: A Disease We Cannot Forget”

Friday, September 17, 2004

SPEAKERS: staff of Helen Keller National Center

Nancy O'Donnell, M.A., Normadeane Armstrong, R.N., A.N.P

The goal of this workshop is to increase awareness of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) through lecture and case discussion. The participants will become familiar with:

- 1) the history of rubella
- 2) the signs and symptoms of rubella infection
- 3) the characteristics of CRS
- 4) how to distinguish between early onset and latent manifestations of CRS
- 5) the implications of CRS for direct care workers
- 6) resources for information and support

More information available through NJ-L News or Carol Uckar, acessboss@aol.com, (973) 977-6690
Voice, (973) 977-2294 TTY, 977-2298 Fax.

HALLOWEEN GINGO NIGHT

hosted by Deaf Ministry

Saturday, October 9

6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Game starts at 7:30 p.m.

\$7 per person if paid in advance, \$10 per person if paid at door

First come, first served! Limited to 200 people.

Wear a costume for a chance to win a prize!

St. Gregory's Church, 340 East Evesham Avenue, Magnolia, N.J. 08049

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. - No early birds please!, If paying at door, cash only.

Food will be on sale until 7:00 p.m. Desserts will be on sale during intermission.

No outside food & beverages allowed.

Any questions? (856) 627-0009-TTY/Voice, (856) 482-5657 Fax, deafministrynj@yahoo.com

Proceeds benefit St. Gregory's. Make check payable to Deaf Ministry and mail to:
525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 with your name, address, and email address.

PLEASE NOTE: Adults only (21 years old and up)

Please mail no later than October 2, 2004.

No refunds!

Communicator Signboard

The Accidental Death of an Anarchist

Open Captioned on

Wednesday, October 13, 2004 1 p.m.

in Manasquan

You Can't Take it With You

Open Captioned on

Wednesday, May 18, 2005 1 p.m.

in Red Bank

Contact: Lisa Ann Fardella, Director of Audience Services, Two River Theatre Company, 223 Maple Avenue, Red Bank, NJ 07701, (732) 345-1400 Voice, (732) 345-1414 Fax, lfardella@trtc.org, www.trtc.org



Department of Communication Disorders and Deafness at Kean University
present
**Enhancing Listening Learning and
Literacy for Children
who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Kean University, Union, New Jersey

Featured Speakers:

Therese Garavente Sheehan, state coordinator of educational programs and resources for students who are deaf/hard of hearing with the Office of Special Education Programs, New Jersey Department of Education and Carol Flexer, who has a doctorate in Audiology from Kent State University. She has taught at Texas Tech University, at Kent State University, and Denise Wray who has her M.A. in speech-language pathology and her Ph.D. in elementary education from the University of Akron where she has taught for 24 years.

Info: Nancy Schumann (908) 927-9090 Voice or conference@agbellnj.org

Communicator Signboard

Abababa
will be in New Jersey
October 23 - 24, 2004

“The Abababa Tour”

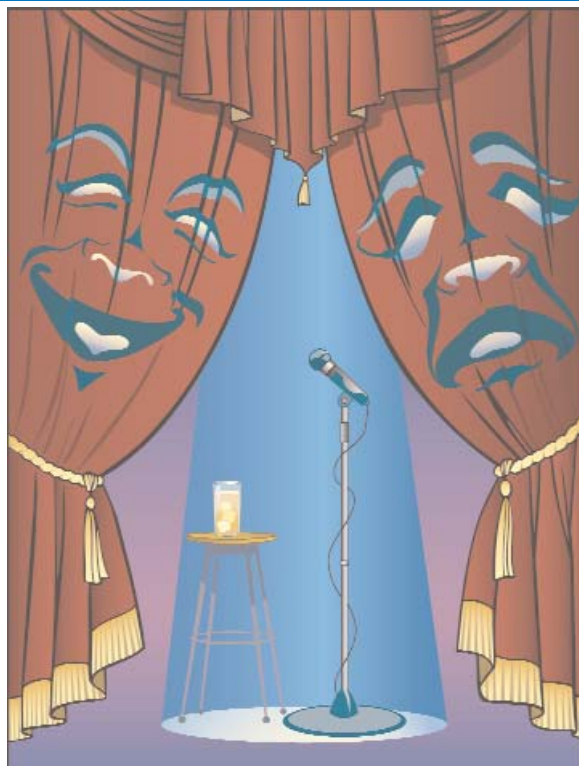
Location -TBA

AMAZING & Perilous Tales of Alan “Abababa” Abarbanell
Abababa will captivate your heart with his sometimes
hilarious, sometimes poignant and often jaw-dropping
tales of life as the hearing child of Deaf parents! Whether
you’re Deaf, hearing, coda, koda, interpreter, teacher,
parent, or otherwise, you’re sure to delight at the
irreverent humor and moving memories of this
uniquely talented storyteller!

Presented in American Sign Language & Voice

Sponsored by NJDAW & NJCoda

Contact Mariann Jacobson at jac2003@prodigy



New York State Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Fall Conference

at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel in White Plains, NY

October 22 - 24, 2004

A great opportunity for individuals with hearing loss, their families,
friends and professionals to join together and
learn how to live more effectively with hearing
disabilities. Saturday plenary sessions include:

**“Living with Hearing Loss, Life after Hearing Aids”
and a Cochlear Implant Forum.**

Information, registration and costs: Melanie Brand, (914) 637-6132 Voice,
mbrand3958@aol.com; Karen Ratner (718) 477-7526 Fax, kkratner@aol.com

Communicator Signboard



McCarter Theatre Center

Princeton, NJ

presents

Sign Language Interpreted performance

“Last of the Boys” Saturday, October 16 3 p.m.

TV and Broadway star Tom Wopat; The Dukes of Hazzard;
42nd Street) leads an extraordinary cast
in this fierce, funny and poignant new play about two
Vietnam vets united by a war which divided a nation.

Last of the Boys is the story of a friendship that
may end. And a war that won't.

Tickets: \$10

www.mccarter.org, marketing@mccarter.org, (609) 252-0915 TTY

New Jersey Relay Service*

Invites you to an

Open House on

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

From 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at the AT&T New Jersey Relay Service Center

1300 Whitehorse Hamilton Square Rd, Hamilton Township (Trenton), NJ

Refreshments will be served. Communications access will be provided.

Info: Yvonne or Suzanne at (609) 581-1113/1061 Voice, (609) 581-1155 TTY or (609) 581-3929 Fax.

*Provided under contract by AT&T.

Directions: Take The New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 7A. Get on I-195 West. Get off at exit 3B
(Hamilton Square), and go to the first traffic light. You will see
YNB (Yardville National Bank) on your left hand side. Turn left at the light (Kuser Road) and stay on
Kuser Road for about 1 mile. At Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road, make a right.
(You will see a Getty station in front of you in the far right corner).

The center is located up the street about a quarter of a mile on
the left side. (If you get to RWJ hospital you have gone too far).

Calendar of Events 2004

Friday, October 29

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
East Brunswick Public Library

Info: 800-792-8339 V/TTY

Thursday, December 2

DDHH/SOS Holiday Tea

Signs of Sobriety, Inc.
100 Scotch Road
Ewing, NJ

DDHH Office closed
September 6, October 11, and November 2, 11, 25

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

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