



DDHH

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## First DDHH Demo Day A Success!

Consumers were given an opportunity to experience different assistive equipment on display at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center as they helped initiate the first official "Demo Day" at the Assistive Device Demonstration Center. Due to positive response and support, the event will continue quarterly on the dates listed below. These dates will be reserved for anyone who wishes to receive a hands-on demonstration on

assistive technology for people with hearing loss. If you would like to attend, please contact Field Representatives Traci Burton or Jason Weiland at (609) 984-7281 V/TTY. The times are between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Kohn Center is located at 130 Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick, NJ. If these dates are not convenient, feel free to schedule a private appointment with Traci or Jason.



*DDHH Field Representative Traci Burton discusses the equipment with visitors Kim Avagliano and Pat Dunkin.*

### *Demo Days*

**March 18, 2003**

**June 17, 2003**

**September 9, 2003**

**December 16, 2003**

# DDHH Technology Programs Continue

The DDHH and the NJ Library for the Blind and Handicapped has an **Assistive Listening Technology Loan Program**. Six regional libraries have assistive listening devices available for loan at no cost. For info, call the library at (877) 882-5593 TTY or (609) 530-3957 Voice.



DDHH continues its **11th Annual TTY/VCO Telephone Distribution Program**. Qualified individuals may receive a TTY or amplified telephone at no charge.



DDHH also continues its **Second Annual Smoke Detector Program**.

However, the supply is limited, so it will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.



**The First Annual Baby Alert System** has begun. These devices will alert a parent with hearing loss that their child is crying.



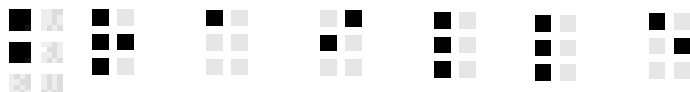
Contact DDHH at 800-792-8339 V/TTY, (609) 984-0390 Fax, or mail to DDHH, PO Box 074, Trenton, NJ 08625-0074 for applications.

## DBLNJ Meeting Dates

The Deaf-Blind League of New Jersey (DBLNJ) will be having their meetings on 2/15/03, 3/15/03, 4/19/03, 5/15/03, 6/21/03, 7/19/03, 8/16/03, 9/20/03, 10/18/03, 11/15/03, 12/20/03. These meetings are held at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center, 130 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. The meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. More information can be obtained from DBLNJ's Web site, <http://geocities.com/DBLNJ>.



## MC is in Braille



*DDHH's publications, such as the Monthly Communicator, are now available in a Braille format. To receive DDHH's publications in Braille, contact the Division at (609) 984-7283 V/TTY, (609) 984-0390 Fax, or e-mail [todd.olsen@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:todd.olsen@dhs.state.nj.us).*

### MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

Director: Brian C. Shomo  
Editor: Ira C. Hock

NJ Department of Human Services  
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074  
609-984-7281 V/TTY  
800-792-8339 V/TTY  
609-984-0390 Fax

[ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us)  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh)

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

# Getting to Know

by Alan Champion

LINDA BOVE is most known for her groundbreaking role as Linda on the world's most beloved children's television show, SESAME STREET. This seemingly ageless woman with all of her energy, continues to make contributions to the Deaf community and to the theatre world. We tracked her down in New York City to get this interview.

**Q.** Linda, some of our readers might wonder why we would feature a Californian in our newsletter interview. Perhaps you can tell us why our New Jersey readers should have pride in seeing you featured in this column?

**A.** I was born and raised in New Jersey and once a Jersey girl, always a Jersey girl. I have lived in California for 20 years, but 3000 miles can't take New Jersey away from me. I graduated from the New Jersey School for the Deaf (now Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf). Even my father graduated from that school. And still today, I find myself in New Jersey a couple of times a year.

**Q.** Why is that?

**A.** For one thing, my brother, Mike, lives in Pennsylvania. I still have business to conduct in New York City and Washington D.C. which brings me back to the area. Even for this interview, I happened to be in NYC and realize that I still have lots of reasons to make regular trips here both professionally and personally. So, every time I make it back for one of these trips, I find myself in New Jersey meeting friends and colleagues.

**Q.** You're probably best known for your work on Sesame Street. Before talking about that, for years before your work on Sesame Street, you were with the National Theatre of the Deaf. How was that experience?

**A.** My first professional job was with the National Theatre of the Deaf in 1969. It was invaluable, on-the-job training, which I was fortunate to have for ten years. It also prepared me for the understudy role of Sarah in the Broadway production of Children of a Lesser God. I performed the role of Sarah in the national touring production of the Broadway show. All of this experience

# Linda Bove

helped me develop the discipline I would need for my work with Sesame Street, as well as my current work with my husband, Ed Waterstreet, at Deaf West Theatre.

**Q.** Tell us about your experiences working with one of the world's most famous children's television programs.

**A.** I'm very proud of my work with Sesame Street. It was the first television show that incorporated the use of ASL in its programming and writing on a regular basis. It was also the first PBS show to offer captioning. I spent 32 wonderful years with Sesame Street. While there, I wrote two children's books on ASL with Sesame Street

Muppets and made one videotape, "Sign Me a Story," published by Random House.

**Q.** How did it all start with Sesame Street?

**A.** After I began working for the National Theatre for the Deaf, I was asked to audition for Sesame Street in 1970 and was

invited to appear on a few select shows. By 1977, I was asked to join Sesame Street as a regular cast member. I left the National Theatre of the Deaf and joined "the Street." I love the cast and crew of Sesame Street. It's like a family. I met and worked with many celebrities and dignitaries during my 32 years there. I would not trade the experience for anything.

**Q.** Do you have a favorite Muppet with whom you most enjoyed working?

**A.** My favorite Muppet is Big Bird because he is so innocent and childlike. I also adore the Muppeteer who plays Big Bird, Carroll Spinney. But to be truthful, I love all of the Muppets.

**Q.** Sesame Street has made some real contributions to our world, hasn't it?



**A.** For 35 years, Sesame Street has educated new generations of people about Deafness and ASL. It has reduced prejudice of all kinds in society. It has generated interest, respect and support from the general public for Deaf people and American Sign Language.

**Q.** So what are you doing now?

**A.** I work as a Sign Master for Deaf West Theatre, which is a wonderful way to promote our language on the theatrical stage. I also work as a court interpreter (Deaf intermediary interpreter). This is one way I have been able to give back to the community. I also serve on several boards such as the New York School for the Deaf, and I'm vice president of the board at Non-Traditional Casting Project, an organization in New York City which promotes diversity and inclusion in the casting of theatrical productions.

**Q.** How did Deaf West Theatre come about?

**A.** Ed gets all of the credit for coming up with the idea for creating a Deaf theatre company in Los Angeles. Ed and I moved to Los Angeles to look for work in 1985 and realized there was virtually no work for Deaf actors. From that, Deaf West Theatre was born. It has been in existence for 12 years and has produced more than 30 shows to wide critical acclaim. Ed is the founder and current CEO of Deaf West Theatre. Although he doesn't perform with the company, he gets a thrill at playing an important role in the professional lives of other up and coming, as well as established, Deaf actors.

**Q.** I understand that Deaf West Theatre hosts an intensive summer training program for actors. Tell us a little bit about that.

**A.** A few years ago, Deaf West Theatre began a summer training program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. This is an intense four-week training for Deaf actors of all ages and from all parts of the country. There are 15 participants who are selected for the program which boasts a staff of some of the best Deaf and hearing professionals in the business. For more information about the training program and Deaf West Theatre in general, your readers can go to our Web site: [www.deafwest.org](http://www.deafwest.org).

**Q.** Is there anything exciting happening at the moment with the company?

**A.** Funny that you should ask. Although I'm not at liberty to give details, last year's production of *Big River*,

which received rave reviews, has been revived with a limited run at the Mark Taper Forum. We have high hopes of promoting this show in a forum which will reach even more audiences in the future

**Q.** We look forward to hearing more about this production. Your husband, Ed, is not only the artistic director of Deaf West Theatre but an actor in his own right. Are either or both of you still performing on the stage, in film or television?

**A.** Once an actor, always an actor. It's difficult finding work which, as I mentioned, was the impetus for creating Deaf West Theatre. We've both been lucky to land acting roles on camera and on stage over the years.

**Q.** On a more personal note, since you and Ed spend so much time with Deaf West Theatre and with all of your other commitments, how do the two of you get some time to yourselves and what do you do when you need to get away from it all?

**A.** We both lead such busy lives that we have to practically schedule time to see each other. In fact, we took a trip to Italy not long ago which was one of the nicest times we've spent together. It was great being away from any disruptions. Ed and I are each other's best friend and love each other more now than we ever have.

**Q.** Is there anything you'd like to leave our readers with?

**A.** I'm thrilled to be living in a period when the visibility of deafness is at an all-time high. I'm also so happy to see that more and more people are understanding that deafness comes in varying degrees. I happen to be culturally Deaf and ASL is my primary language. I have a great sense of pride in the language and culture. We're now seeing Deaf-blind folks, hard of hearing and late deafened folks understand that there's a sense of pride they, too, can have. Despite our differences, there are similarities in our fears and more importantly, our dreams. It's organizations like the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing which contribute to our welfare and makes possible the realization of our dreams. Thank you so much for the opportunity and pleasure of sharing a few words with your readers. I'll see you the next time I'm in New Jersey.

**Q.** Believe me, the pleasure was all ours.



# Adventurous

# Andy's Corner

With the month of February comes the end of pro football season and a time where couch potatoes have no legitimate excuse to be seated at home all day on a sunny Sunday afternoon. So what's a potato to do? The Corner

has just the suggestion for you. Have you ever wondered what a polar bear's life was all about - beneath the surface, submerged in 20-degree water? Search no more. As luck would have it, you can join the Tenth Annual Polar Bear Plunge at Point Pleasant Beach (Jenkinson's Boardwalk)! Last year, 3,000 people joined the event and raised almost \$700,000. Water too cold for your toes? Consider attending the event as a spectator and see what the hoopla is all about. I have attended similar events and it is very entertaining. Besides, the money goes to the Special Olympics program which is headquartered in New Jersey.

One other event to keep in mind is the New Hope/Lambertville Winter Festival which is held on February 7th - 9th (Hunterdon County - check out <http://www.winterfestival.net> for more information). A cool event that involves ice sculptures, scheduled entertainment, tours of the towns and its unique landmarks, and the opportunity to browse the many stores that grace the streets of both towns. If you go, head over to Sneddon's in Lambertville for breakfast and bring your friends later in the day to Rick's (Italian restaurant). No time to make this event? The Annual Shad Festival will be held in Lambertville in April. Catch next month's Corner for more details.

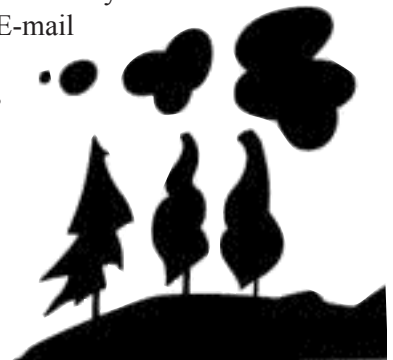


Not interested in being an icicle for the day? Head out to the New Jersey State Aquarium in Camden for a fun day with family or friends. The Aquarium offers many different programs and exhibits including a shark tank. They even have a penguin exhibit which is sure to capture a young child's interest. Check out their Web site at [http://www.njaquarium.org/an\\_exhibits.html](http://www.njaquarium.org/an_exhibits.html) for more information.

Here's another idea on how spend a day: Head up to the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ. This state of the art facility is located inside Liberty State Park. They have an IMAX theatre and a 3-D laser show which is sure to please everyone. The museum is huge and I suggest planning to stay for several hours. Kids will love the hands-on opportunities presented by the museum's displays. I rode a gravity bike, which was incredible. It even had a camera monitoring my movements! Check out <http://www.lsc.org/>.

Speaking of museums, the State Museum in Trenton will be holding a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Day on April 6th. The event will happen from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will include tours, workshops, and planetarium shows. Realtime captioning, assistive listening devices, and sign language interpreters will be available. Details at this time are being finalized. Look in the next Monthly Communicator for more information. Bring your kids!

In ending this month's column, Andy's Corner would like to hear from YOU. Know a cool place to have fun or just hang out? Andy can't be everywhere and hopes you can help out. E-mail your ideas to [Ira.Hock@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Ira.Hock@dhs.state.nj.us)



# *Become a School Social Worker with Deaf Children and Their Families*

The MSW Program of the Gallaudet University Department of Social Work has received a major grant from the US Department of Education.

The goal of this grant is to train social workers to work with deaf and hard of hearing children in school settings and with their families. The training opportunity is open to applicants who are US citizens, interested in becoming a school social worker, have a liberal arts undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above, and who want to have internships in both mainstream schools and residential settings for deaf children.

Those selected for the grant will receive half tuition scholarships and stipends of \$2,500 as support for each of the four semesters of the program. Participants must be willing to work in a school setting after graduation. Students will develop communication competence and knowledge and skills to work with a full range of deaf

and hard of hearing children, including those with other disabilities. There will be the opportunity to learn about issues such as the implications of national legislation for the education of deaf children, the impact of cochlear implants, skill development in interventions with deaf teens, and the use of play therapy as an effective mode of intervention with deaf children.

Our program especially encourages deaf and hard of hearing applicants, those who already have beginning sign language competence, and students representing diverse racial and ethnic groups, as well as those who have competence in other spoken languages, in order to match the needs of the largest group of children and families.

For more information, contact:  
teresa.arcari@gallaudet.edu

## NJ Aquarium Sets Dates

The New Jersey State Aquarium provides access for visitors who are Deaf. For families and general groups, weekend dates are

February 8, March 9, May 3,  
and June 7, 2003 from  
12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For school groups, the  
dates are February 11,  
February 25, April 15  
and April 21, 2003

from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00  
p.m. Prices are \$13.95  
for adults, \$10.95 for  
children and \$11.95 for  
seniors and students and  
includes admission to the NJ

State Aquarium and the Camden  
Children's Garden. For more information, visit the Web  
site at [www.njaquarium.org](http://www.njaquarium.org), e-mail [info@njaquarium.org](mailto:info@njaquarium.org)  
or call (856) 365-3300 Voice. School groups should call  
(800) 616-JAWS or send e-mail to [erozinski@njaquarium.org](mailto:erozinski@njaquarium.org)  
for special advanced group rates.



## Enhanced Services Offered at PCIL

Located in Ewing, New Jersey, the Progressive Center for Independent Living (PCIL) has hired a consultant to be involved with the deaf and hard of hearing residents of Mercer and Hunterdon Counties. Madeline Yuhás began working at PCIL in late spring to help plan efforts to outreach the deaf and hard of hearing populations of this area. Madeline, who is deaf, is interested in working with people on an individualized basis in the areas of information and referral, advocacy, peer support and independent living skills training. These are the four core services of Centers for Independent Living. The goals of the centers are to help promote independence for people with disabilities and inclusion in community life.

Madeline has worked with people on budgeting, medical bills, obtaining appropriate doctors, housing, deaf activities in the area, and providing peer support. Madeline is usually in the office on Wednesdays. She can be reached at (609) 530-1234 TTY or (609) 530-1166 Fax. She would like to hear from you. The address of PCIL is 831 Parkway Ave. B-2, Ewing, NJ 08618. Former students of MKSD will know where to find PCIL. It is right across from Parkway Pizza and down the street from Ewing High School

# LaGuardia Community College Collaborates with Empire State College . . .

LaGuardia Community College has signed an articulation agreement with the State University of New York-Empire State College to establish the tri-state area's first-of-its kind bachelor's degree program in American Sign Language/English Interpretation. The program, which kicked off last fall, is designed for people who already are fluent in both English and American Sign Language (ASL) and who wish to gain expertise in the art and science of interpretation so that they can better serve the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Under this unique arrangement, students will take their concentration (major subject courses) at LaGuardia's nationally recognized ASL/English Interpretation program, and complete their other required courses at the state university. Upon fulfilling the senior college's degree requirements, they will receive a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies ASL/English Interpretation.

"The city's large deaf community has had to deal with a shortage of qualified interpreters for too long," said Jo Ann Kranis, project director of LaGuardia's Interpreter Education Program. "This articulation between LaGuardia and Empire offers students an opportunity to learn this multifaceted process of interpretation at a level that will finally address this issue." Ms. Kranis noted that the launching of the region's first bachelor's degree program in this specialized field is indicative of a growing trend toward better educated interpreters. "The field is recognizing, and research is supporting, that interpreters need more than knowledge of ASL and English to be effective interpreters," she said. "They have to have a keen understanding of such interpretative skills as interpretation theory, the cultural and linguistic dynamics between English and ASL, and the effects of different settings."

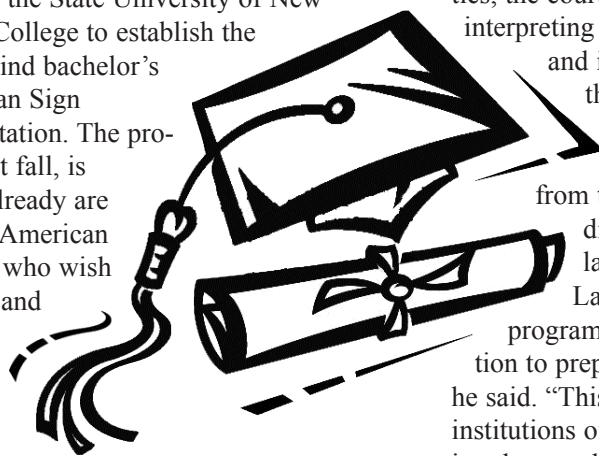
These findings have prompted more and more states to pass legislation that would require interpreters working in the courts to have specific qualifications. And, the Departments of Education in the States of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are in the process of establishing educational and certification requirements for interpreters.

"Since legislation has codified the rights of deaf and hard of hearing people to qualified interpreters, and as deaf people have moved into all fields of endeavor from entry level to Ph.D. professionals, the demand for more highly educated interpreters has increased exponentially," said Ms. Kranis. "With qualified interpreters in high demand to work

in a wide variety of settings, such as mental health facilities, the courts, schools, cultural venues, and conferences, interpreting has become a career option that offers varied and interesting work for those qualified to take on those assignments."

Rob Hills, coordinator of LaGuardia's Interpreter Education program, added that the number of trained interpreters from those cultures does not match the cultural diversity of the deaf and hard of hearing population in the metropolitan area. "The LaGuardia-ESC program is one of very few such programs in an urban institution that puts us in a position to prepare a diverse interpreting student population," he said. "This is an excellent opportunity for two public institutions of higher learning to fulfill the mission of serving the people of this area and for the students to fill a real need in their communities," said Professor Shirley Ariker, the mentor to the students in the program. "We look forward to working with the students and helping them design their studies to meet their specific individual goals while they study at Empire State College. We will offer them the individualized learning and attention given every student at the college."

Students wishing to gain entry into the program must pass a rigorous admission process. Upon acceptance, the student will meet with a mentor from Empire State to design a bachelor's degree program around the interpreting concentration, based on each student's particular needs and degree requirements. LaGuardia's ASL/English Interpreting Program, which for the past seven years has been offered as a two-year Certificate of Completion, will comprise their 37-credit concentration. Here, they will take courses in ASL discourse, how languages function, personal and professional ethics, and five levels of interpreting theory and practice. They will also have fieldwork internships. And, at Empire State, they will take the general education courses they need to fulfill their remaining degree requirements. "It is designed to be a very flexible program that caters to the individual needs of its students, many of whom bring a variety of previous college and life experiences," said Ms. Kranis. For LaGuardia, developing the program and finding a suitable match with a four-year college has taken eight years. During the gestation period, the U.S. Department of Education and the New York State Education Department funded the college's initiative with close to \$1 million. The monies went toward the development of the program, professional development of instructors of interpretation, and the construction of a state-of-the-art, 12-station, interpreting lab that offers multimedia technology to assist students in developing their skills and knowledge.





# Letter to the Editor



**W**e're writing to tell you about what we believe is an intriguing and inspirational holiday season story. An innovative program to help deaf and hard of hearing children is under way in Newark, New Jersey. Janet Calvert at Bruce St. School for the Deaf, is teaching her students to navigate the Internet and explore the world of cyberspace, thanks to a nationwide program called HiP Chat Pals. For some of these children, it is their first time on the Internet.

HiP Chat Pals is funded by an \$80,000 grant from Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) to HiP Publishing Group, a California based, non-profit organization that specializes in educational programs for deaf and hard of hearing children. We believe your readers would be fascinated by how Ms. Calvert is using this innovative curriculum to help deaf and hard of hearing students navigate the Internet and improve essential academic skills in the process.

Aimed at students in sixth through ninth grades, HiP Chat Pals is designed for the special needs of deaf and hard of hearing children. The chat rooms have been created with colorful graphics to appeal to the students' visual interests, and students are matched to chat with buddies from as far away as four time zones, encouraging connection among a group of children who often feel isolated. Special lessons also teach students how life and language are different in various regions of the country.

Through a series of highly structured lessons, Ms. Calvert is teaching her deaf and hard of hearing students to improve their writing and conversational etiquette skills, both on the 'Net and in real life. This is especially important for this population of children, who typically read and write several grade levels below their hearing peers and often miss acquiring the social aspects of communication skills that are much more readily learned by persons with hearing.

Part of what makes this program so special is that the Internet serves as a communication equalizer for these children. Unlike the telephone, it is not necessary to hear to communicate on the Internet. However, it is necessary to have good writing skills, and the program provides practice and strong motivation to this group of children to write better.

The HiP Chat Pals program has been in progress in your community from September, 2002 through the week of January 20. Ms. Calvert had some stimulating lessons, including special sessions in which deaf and hard of hearing students communicate in real-time chat rooms with their peers in other communities about what they did over the weekend (week of December 9), what holidays or customs they celebrate (week of December 16), what their friends are like (week of January 6) and favorite foods (week of January 13).

To view sample pages of the HiP Chat Pals Web site, go to <http://www.hipworks.org/eligibility.html>.

To visit a chat session in progress at Ms. Calvert's classroom or to set up an interview with her about how this program is making a difference in your community, please call Geoff Geiger at (510) 523-7874 or e-mail [gsgeiger@aol.com](mailto:gsgeiger@aol.com).

Sincerely,

Geoff Geiger  
Communications Consultant, HiP Publishing Group



# Deaf Leader Lectures at Cranford Campus

By Yvonne C. La Mons

The ambulance siren was wailing, but cars failed to yield. Drivers with radios blaring could not hear, which led to the addition of various visible effects,

such as red whirling lights on top of emergency vehicles. The letters E-C-N-A-L-U-B-M-A were printed in this

reverse order across the front of vehicles so that drivers could read the word AMBULANCE in their rear-view mirrors. Headlights and parking lights flashing at different intervals and sirens with varying pitches and sounds were added “These changes were made for people who hear, but they also made it easier for Deaf people to spot emergency vehicles,” said Philip N. Moos, who is versed in the field of technology.

Recently, Moos lectured on innovations in “Communications and Technology,” at a college event sponsored by the Student Interpreters Group Network, or the S.I.G.N. Club, on October 19. Moos is an extraordinary example of the accomplishments of a person from the Deaf community. S.I.G.N. Club President Guy LiMato called Moos “a leader and an icon.” Phyllis Catalano found his presentation to be informative.

Moos was the recipient of the Knights of the Flying Fingers Award at this summer’s National Association of the Deaf Conference in Washington, D.C. The National Association of the Deaf was established in 1880 to protect the rights of deaf citizens and ensure that they have access to all services. It is the oldest and largest constituency organization, safeguarding the accessibility and civil rights of 28 million Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans. This recognition was based on his daily electronic mail newsletter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.



Moos was born deaf, but is able to speak and hear with the help of a hearing aid. “As a kid, my hearing aid was about the size of a pack of cigarettes, and I had to wear it on a

strap on my body with a wire coming down from my ear. It made it difficult growing up as a kid, because they could see I was different from everybody else,” said Moos. He volunteers about 30 hours a week to create the newsletter on his home computer.

Approximately 3,800 people worldwide subscribe to his listserv, and he estimates about 10,000 people read it after it has been forwarded and passed around. The newsletter provides news that is relevant to the Deaf community, legislation updates, and job announcements. People also use the news service to locate old friends.

How did his news service get started? “When the Internet started, I suddenly had the ability to punch up all kinds of information,” Moos said. “I looked in the mirror and decided that I couldn’t be selfish. There are people like me who would benefit from all the information I was finding. The newsletter grew from there, and now I can’t stop.” When asked to describe obstacles he had to overcome in life, Phil has a philosophy that is straightforward. “I never thought of obstacles I had to overcome when I was a kid or teenager, said Phil Moos. “What I am saying is it never occurred to me I was overcoming anything.” Why that philosophy? “It was a way of life,” Moos said.

Later in life, Moos pursued an interest in electronics, which he inherited from his father. He learned a lot about computers, mostly on his own. He used to work at a training center. “I enjoyed helping people be able to do their job,” said Moos. His motto was “to help people help themselves.”

Notification systems used by the Deaf may include telephone ring signalers, such as a strobe light or lamp that flashes when there is a call on the text telephone. A similar signaler when the doorbell rings, as well as a clock that causes the bed to shake or a lamp to flash to get up in the morning. Moos has worked as a Senior Programmer/Analyst in the Office of Information Technology for the State of New Jersey for the past 20 years. He is active in numerous organizations and activities in the Deaf community, as well as holding officer positions.

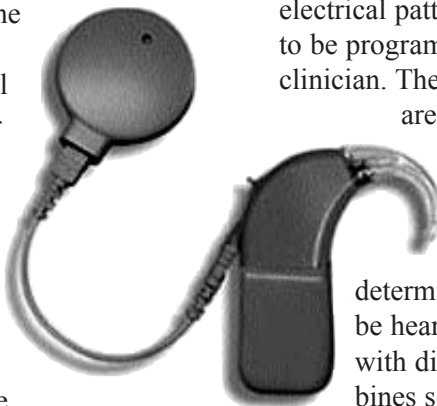
*This article first appeared in “The Scroll,” the student newspaper of Union County College, where Yvonne C. La Mons is completing a degree in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. She holds advanced degrees in business and law. (Reach La Mons at ScrollReporter@journalist.com)*

# How Does a Cochlear Implant Work?

(Source: [www.snhh.org](http://www.snhh.org))

Here how: speech and other sounds are picked up by the microphone and sent to the speech processor. The processor codes the sounds into an electrical signal which is sent via a cable to the transmitting coil. The coil passes the signal through the skin to the implant which transforms the signal to electrical pulses. The pulses pass from the electrode array and stimulate hearing nerve fibres within the cochlea.

The speech processor does not just make sounds louder as does a hearing aid. Instead, it selects out some of the important information in the speech signal and then produces a pattern of electrical pulses in the patient's ear. This pattern is selected to sound as close as possible to the original speech sound. It is not possible to make sounds completely natural, because there are only 22 electrodes that are replacing the function of tens of



thousands of hair cells in a normally hearing ear. The electrical patterns are different for each person and need to be programmed into the speech processor by a trained clinician. The differences arise because the electrodes are not always in the same position relative to the surviving nerves and the nerves vary in sensitivity to electrical currents. The clinician must measure the lowest and greatest current for every electrode to determine the softest and loudest sounds that will be heard. The different electrodes produce sounds with different pitch. The speech processor combines sounds on different electrodes with different loudness, to build up something as close to the original sound as possible.

*The hearing process using a cochlear implant can be summarized as follows:*

- a. Sounds and speech are detected by the microphone.
- b. The information from the microphone is sent to the speech processor.
- c. The speech processor analyses the information and converts it into an electrical code.
- d. The coded signal travels via a cable to the transmitting coil in the headset. Radio waves from the transmitter coil carry the coded signal through the skin to the implant inside.
- e. The implant package decodes the signal. The signal contains information that determines how much electrical current will be sent to the different electrodes.
- f. The appropriate amount of electrical current passes down the appropriate lead wires to the chosen electrodes.
- g. The position of the stimulating electrodes within the cochlea will determine the frequency or pitch of the sounds. The amount of electrical current will determine the loudness of the sounds.
- h. Once the nerve endings in the cochlea are stimulated, the message is sent up to the brain along the hearing nerve. The brain can then try to interpret the stimulation as a meaningful sound.

## The Cochlear Implant Support Group Meets in NY

The Cochlear Implant Support Group meets from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 18th floor at the League for Hard of Hearing, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4162. For additional information and the next meeting date, contact (917) 305-7700 Voice, (917) 305-7999 TTY or (917) 305-7888 Fax. Cochlear Implant Support Group Monthly Meetings take place on Thursdays. Light refreshments are served. Please bring your questions, comments and personal experiences! Individuals who have a cochlear implant, those who are contemplating a cochlear implant or who desire information about cochlear implants are all invited to share, listen, learn, teach, and support each other. This group has no affiliation with any particular implant center, nor do participants need to have received services through the League. A professional staff member with expertise in

# Wanted: MKSD Superintendent

New Jersey Department of Education, Superintendent, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, West Trenton, NJ 08625; Salary: \$72,324.12-\$101,238.60

Residential facilities are provided for the superintendent at a minimal cost.

Responsibilities: Administration of education, operational, residential and support programs and services designed to meet the needs of over 250 deaf and hard of hearing students. Provide direction for the provision of outreach services throughout the state in accordance with school's mission to serve as the state's center on deafness. Lead the school in meeting entrepreneurial objectives including, but not limited to, collaborative efforts with other educational and state agencies and organizations.

Requirements: Master's degree required, doctorate in education preferred. A minimum of eight years of employment in educational programs for the

deaf and hard of hearing students K-12 with a minimum of four years of administrative experience required. Experience in management of educational programs, supervision of staff, operation of school facilities and, development of comprehensive budgets. Demonstrated organizational, management and interpersonal skills. Knowledge of components of deaf culture e.g. sign language, residential life and the unique needs of Deaf Community. Knowledge of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA). Proficiency in sign language required. Must possess or be eligible for New Jersey certification as a school administrator.



For complete job description, please visit: [www.state.nj.us/njded/genfo/vacancy.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/njded/genfo/vacancy.htm)

Personnel Director, New Jersey Department of Education, Reference # U-03-003-H041, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500. Resumes may be e-mailed to: [resume@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:resume@doe.state.nj.us)

AA/EOE

## Goodwill Seeks Job Coach

Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ, Inc. located in Harrison, NJ has an immediate full-time job coach position available. The candidate must be fluent in American Sign Language (SCPI intermediate or above preferred) but will work with both deaf and hearing consumers. The candidate must have a car and know Microsoft Word and Microsoft Outlook. The candidate should have a minimum of an AA degree in the human services field or a high school diploma with 3-5 years working with individuals with disabilities. Salary is low to mid 20's, depending upon experience and some nights and weekends may be required.

Responsibilities include:

1. Ensure that consumers maintain their jobs once they are placed.
2. Assist Placement Services Coordinator in conducting pre-placement activities/workshops and job searches.
3. Maintain daily, monthly and quarterly case documentation of behavioral objectives, task analysis, procedures implemented to reach those objectives and job coaching reports.
4. Develop an Individualized Plan for Employment, which incorporates the gradual reduction of job coaching support at job sites. This includes educating the employer, supervisors and co-workers of the individual placed on the job on how to best work with the employee (how to facilitate communications, etc.)
5. Contact DVRS and other referral agencies for job coaching, placement and supported employment referrals.

For those interested, please fax a cover letter and resume to: Mindi Weiner, Director of Rehabilitation, Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ, Inc., 400 Supor Blvd. Harrison, NJ 07029 or [mweiner@goodwillny.org](mailto:mweiner@goodwillny.org)  
Fax: (973) 481-2781



# What is Deaf?

By Jane Schlau

(Reprinted with the permission of the author and ALDA-News-GS. )

When we can hear, we think “deaf” means a person who simply can’t hear. We define deafness as the absence of sound. Yet, as hearing people, we truly do not understand what the “absence of sound” means.

We see people who have grown up deaf and recognize them by their distinctive speech, maybe by their use of sign language. We think of deaf as just not hearing. Not that big a deal. They look OK, they get around, they just can’t hear. As hearing people, we are pretty clueless as to what the word, “deaf” really means.

When we lose our hearing, to whatever degree, we begin to truly understand deaf. People who become hard of hearing are scared to lose more; people with progressive losses are terrified of what’s to come - they experience each loss often slowly and painfully. People who ultimately become deaf, even suddenly, find themselves faced with an unimaginable silence. Hearing people truly do not know silence as we do.

One of the first things I remember losing, as a sign to me of what was to come, was the ability to hear myself breathing! I have told this story before. I was in that state of almost sleeping but not quite, and became very frightened because I couldn’t hear my own breathing! I thought I was dead! I forced my eyes open, and thought, “well, at least I died in my own bed!” But it made no sense, I could see my ceiling fan turn. How could I be dead? I tried to breath, but I heard nothing. I thought I was breathing, yet I couldn’t hear the sound. So I grabbed myself and started breathing heavily, quickly, terrified. Yes, I was obviously quite alive, just couldn’t hear myself anymore.

That’s deaf. That’s true deafness. As hearing people, we can imagine, or think we can imagine, the absence of sound. We plug our ears and miss some speech, turn off our radios, turn the volume down on the TV, and we THINK we can imagine deaf. However, deaf is so much more. Deaf can’t hear the world of sounds, and that’s truly unimaginable by hearing persons. We can’t hear the leaves, or the wind, or ourselves. We lose a major connection to the world around us.

Of course, there are varying degrees of deafness. As hearing people we don’t know nor do we understand this. A person can be deaf and still have a drop of residual hearing. A deaf person may wear hearing aids to get some information about this environment. Even though these people do hear “something” they are still very deaf. Other deaf people hear even more sounds, but understand less. Who could possibly understand “functionally” deaf as someone who has lost the ability to discriminate sounds?

Of course, there are the few, who are totally deaf, stone deaf, deaf as a post. They experience a depth of silence that is beyond description. Deaf can be very complicated, more complicated than simply the total absence of sound.

What is deaf? It’s indescribable to a hearing person. To those of us who hear virtually nothing, deaf is a magnificent silence. Not always horrible, not always scary, sometimes comforting actually, once you get used to it. Deaf can be coldly isolating or warm like a cocoon. It can build walls, or challenge us to find other ways.

To me, a person deaf not all that long, my deafness can be frightening at times and isolating, too; but it can also be something like a blanket that I wrap myself in, that’s mine. If I allow myself, there are times I can find peace here, in contrast to the times I find frustration. Deaf is perhaps a lesson in contradictions. Tough question, “What is deaf?” To the hearing, well, deaf means you can’t hear. To those of us who know better? Deaf is indescribable.

*Jane Schlau of Queens, New York, is the Assistant Principal of Special Education for Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, NY. She is also a doctoral student at Hofstra University in their Foundations, Leadership and Policy Studies Program. Because of her progressive hearing loss (Jane is now deaf), the professors there have encouraged her to study deafness. The topic of her current study is the Social Constructs of Acquired Deafness. Happily married to husband, Larry, Jane is also the mother of two great children.*

## **Jewish Deaf Singles Hosts Event**

**FOR:** Jewish deaf and hard of hearing singles, any level of observance, including widowed and divorced

**WHERE:** Highland Park, NJ

**WHEN:** February 21-23, 2003

**PROGRAM:** Special workshops, Deaf guest speakers, all meals, outing, entertainment  
**ACCOMMODATION:** available housing first come, first served, special group rate at Hyatt Hotel

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Landau9@optonline.net , www.JDSR.org

**SPEAKERS:** Hillel Goldberg, Student Development Educator, Indiana School for the Deaf  
Eugene Bergman, retired English Professor of Gallaudet, Holocaust Survivor  
Mattice Aaronson, social worker

Samuel and Rachelle Landau, JDSR Coordinators



# A Sign From the

It is perfectly acceptable to expect hearing children to use sign language in the home setting any time they are around a deaf sibling who uses sign as his primary language. Certainly, I wouldn't expect perfection, but the hearing child needs to at least make an effort to communicate in an accessible language, out of respect for the deaf sibling.

It is NOT the same to expect a deaf child to learn to talk out of respect for family members who talk. That child might require years of therapy and still never be capable of speech communication. There are few hearing children who do not have the ability to learn at least some level of sign language. However, the deaf child can respect the hearing child's privacy to talk when he's with his own hearing friends.

Group family activities are different. It is too easy for the deaf child to be left out, so communication around the dinner table, or in the family room, should be accessible to all the members of the family.

For example, in our house we do not watch TV without captions, unless 1) Someone interprets the show into sign language, or 2) the deaf child doesn't care if the show is captioned or interpreted. We only have one child, but when his hearing cousins or friends are in our home, that's the rule. We've had very few problems with it because everyone

knows it's only fair. This is part of making the home environment full of acceptance and love for everyone.

There is no way to 'force' hearing siblings to use sign language to include a deaf sibling. But they should be encouraged and expected to learn, and given regular, ongoing opportunities to continue learning sign language. The parents can 'sign only' in the home, sometimes. If the hearing child wants to know what is happening, they will be compelled to learn to understand signs. Other strategies would be to invite deaf friends over or attend functions where there are many deaf people. The feeling of being left out in a room full of signers will allow that person to develop empathy for what his deaf sibling feels like when everyone is talking at once and no one is signing.

That doesn't mean the hearing sibling can never talk to other people without signing, listen to music, play an instrument, or whatever that child wants to do to enjoy his hearing. Now having said all the above, my heart goes out to all of you with a deaf child and one or more hearing children in the same family. It must be very difficult to make sure all your children are included and nurtured, individually. Sometimes, I am grateful for having only one child.

Mrs. Corliss C. Coleman was a teacher at Bruce Street School for the Deaf in Newark for 32 years. Since 1970, Ms. Coleman has taught at all levels, including the position of Speech Therapist. She has been an active member in both the hearing and deaf communities. The halls of Bruce will not be the same without her. Please come and join us in recognizing her efforts at special retirement dinner in her honor.

**WHERE:** Galloping Hill Inn, 325 Chestnut Street, Union, NJ (Exit 138 off the Parkway)

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 3, 2003, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**COST:** \$50 per person. First deposit due by Feb. 24, 2003. Final payment due by March 17, 2003. Money order or cash only. No checks accepted.

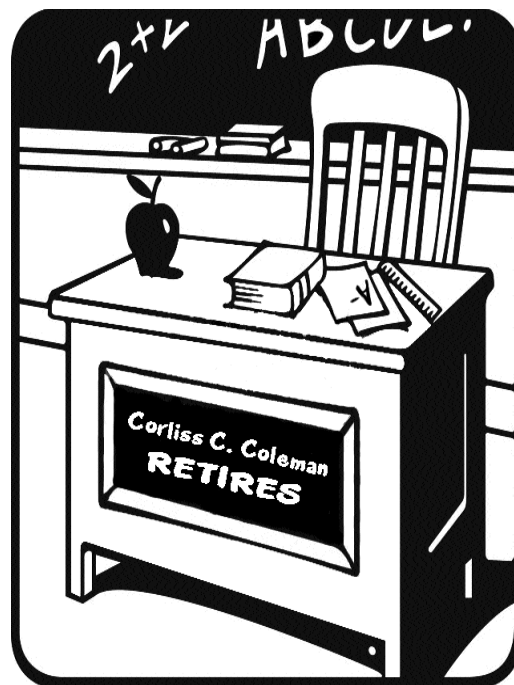
Mail to: MsS. K. Richardson, 122 West 8th Ave, Roselle, NJ 07203

Contact : Ms. Letta Johnson, L7pisces@aol.com, Ms. Calandra Moss, Chillnj30@yahoo.com, Ms. Donna Holden, (908) 558-0708 Voice

**WANTED:** Any Bruce Street School students from 1970 to present, who wish to be a speaker.

Cocktail Hour: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. with hot/cold hors d'oeuvres. 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Hot entrees buffet / deluxe Viennese table (dessert table); all you can drink soda, coffee and tea. Open cash bar.

Sign language interpreter provided.



# Communicator Signboard

## MC Policy and Procedures

From the Editor . . .

Ad for the Signboard section must be submitted in less than 75 words.

Signboard ads will usually be one-half page.

Ads should contain a club, agency or organization sponsor and contact information.

All information must be received by the FIRST day of each month for the next month's issue. If the event occurs in the first week of the month, it should be submitted two months in advance. Include a contact name and indicate if phone number is TTY, voice or both.

You may request in which section you'd like your information to appear. However, since there is limited space, the editor will retain final discretion.

Signboard ads will be published ONE TIME ONLY.

Articles for the purpose of profit-making entities will not be accepted.

Services/entertainment, however, which are accessible, may be included at the discretion of DDHH. Businesses with new TTY numbers may be announced in the information section.

The July/August issue is combined.

Content of the material should provide items of interest to the Deaf, Late-Deafened, Deaf-Blind and/or Hard of Hearing community.

DDHH retains the discretion to edit as necessary and make decisions on what may be included or omitted.

DDHH publishes information about accessible religious services. However, the Division does not promote any particular religion.

While you may disagree with some items you read, DDHH strives to promote an awareness of hearing loss and discusses views for the purpose of education. Your comments are welcome.

The Division is not responsible for the accuracy of information submitted by others.

# Communicator Signboard



*The Center for Community and Professional Services (CCPS),*  
The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD), Creative Access' Deaf  
Performing Artists Initiative, and Black Deaf Advocates Proudly Present,  
**In Celebration of Black History Month**  
**Black Deaf Comedienne, Nathie Marbury**  
**Starring in her one woman show.**

**Friday, February 21**

**PSD Gym, 100 W. School House Lane, Germantown, Pa.**  
**7:30 - 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 p.m.)**

**\$6 Adults (dinner NOT included)**

Directions: Visit [www.psd.org](http://www.psd.org)

Black Deaf Advocates will sponsor a dinner in the PSD Cafeteria at 5 p.m.  
prior to the performance for \$6 per person. Contact Dot Owens,  
[Dowens@psd.org](mailto:Dowens@psd.org) or Latonya Heard at [Vze2bt37@verizon.net](mailto:Vze2bt37@verizon.net).

Dinner reservations are required by February 18.

Info: PSD/CCPS at 215-754-4770 Voice or [info@psd.org](mailto:info@psd.org)

Visit [www.creativeaccess.org](http://www.creativeaccess.org) or [CrAccess@aol.com](mailto:CrAccess@aol.com)

Friendly Society Club of The Deaf & Hard of Hearing

## Jimmy s Haunt

217 South Street

Morristown, NJ 07960

6:00 p.m.- 1:30 a.m.

Must be over 21 years old

Bring driver license



Saturday, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, 2003

Restaurant, Dancing, sport bars, darts, and air hockey

Admission: Free Before 8:00 p.m. After 8:00 p.m. \$7 Fee

No sneakers or hats. You can wear neat clothes and jeans

[www.jimmymorristown.com](http://www.jimmymorristown.com)

# Communicator Signboard



Friendly Society Club of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

## Diva Lounge

369 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair, NJ

Friday, February 14, 2003

9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

ladies; no cover before 11 p.m. (\$10 admission)

Must be over 21 year old. Bring ID

Music: house, progressive, vocal, remix R&B, Latin music

No sneakers, no hats, no joggers.

W ear nice clothes and nice jeans, high heels.

[www.divalounge.com](http://www.divalounge.com)

E-mail address is; [Njfsd@aol.com](mailto:Njfsd@aol.com)

## SPAN Conference 2003

Making the Connections for Student Success

***Two full days of informative, interactive workshops:***

Diversity & Discrimination, Special Education, Health Care,  
School Reform, Early Childhood, Family Strengthening, Violence Prevention,  
Juvenile Justice, Parent to Parent

**Who: Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.**

**Friday, March 21st & Saturday March 22nd**

**8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Ramada Inn National Conference Center, East Windsor, NJ

**Why: Make the Connection!**

*Join other parents and professionals to exchange experiences and ideas and enjoy inspiring guest speakers and a wide array of exhibits in the areas of education, health and advocacy from across the state.*

Communication Access provided by DDHH.

Info and cost: 1-800-654-SPAN Voice or [www.spannj.org](http://www.spannj.org)





# Communicator Signboard

Union County College S.I.G.N. Club presents a

## **Black Deaf Culture Celebration**

with a free lecture and refreshments:

Dr. Reginald L. Redding is the first Black Deaf person to head a School for the Deaf in American history.

**“From Dream to Reality:**

**A Personal Conversation about Race and the Black Deaf Community.”**

**Saturday, February 22, 2003**

Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The event will be interpreted. CART services will be provided.

Directions: Web site <http://www.ucc.edu/directions.htm>

Info or special accommodations: e-mail [uccsign@post.com](mailto:uccsign@post.com) or check Web site:

<http://uccsignclub.tripod.com/unioncountycollegesignclub>

The Deaf Ministry of Evangel Church Presents Singing American Sign Artist, Mark Mitchum

**Saturday, March 15, 2003**

**Workshop and Concert**

**Workshop Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**\$35 (Student under 18 - \$25)**

Evangel Church, 1251 Terrill Rd., Scotch Plains, NJ

RID credit available

**Concert Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**\$15 - advance; \$18-door**

**Buy Combo Ticket(Workshop and concert) and SAVE \$10!**

Info: Carol Francia at: [CJFRANCIA@aol.com](mailto:CJFRANCIA@aol.com) or [CJ@wyndtell.com](mailto:CJ@wyndtell.com)

or (908) 322-5556 TTY or (908) 322-7209 Voice

Make check or money order payable to; Evangel Church Deaf Ministry and mail by February 15  
to: Marilyn DeGirolamo, 442 Lancaster Ct., Piscataway, NJ 08854

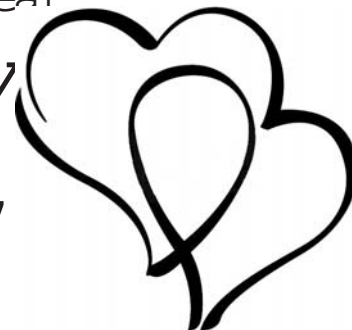


# Communicator Signboard

Atlantic County Society Of The Deaf



## Valentine Party



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

Saturday, February 15th, 7



Dingo, 50/50, Bank Night  
Food and Refreshment On Sale

Most Red Clothes Contest

Guessing Game

Admission, Member \$5

Non-member \$7



Chairperson Henry Wohlers

Info: RoseFish12@aol.com

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

## IRISH

# PARTY

Saturday, March 8th

7pm To ?



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

Most Irish Spirit Contest (Most Green Clothes)

\$Dingo\$, 50/50, Bank Night, Door Prizes

Food/Refreshments on Sale

Admission, Member \$5 Non-Member \$7

Chairperson Dan & Carol Hangstorfer

Info: RoseFish12@aol.com



# Communicator Signboard

## WALNUT STREET THEATRE

825 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, Pa 19107-5195

ASL Interpreted Performances for Kids and Adults

Assistive Listening Devices available

2002-2003 Interpreted Performances:

Rapunzel - 3/29/03

10:30 a.m. one-hour Family Show

Berdinard the Bull - 3/29/03

10:30 a.m. one-hour Family Show

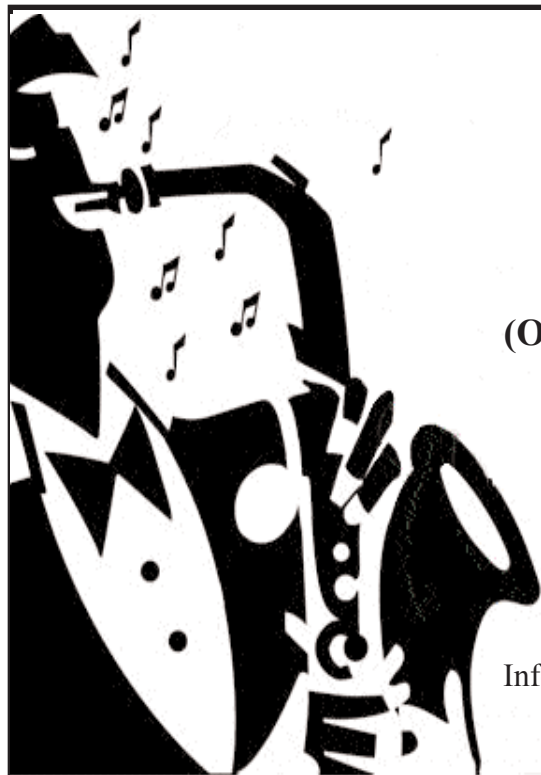
Evita - 7/5/03 - 2:00 p.m.

Full-length performances

all performances take place at Walnut Street Theatre's mainstage  
auditorium. Subscriptions are available, call (215) 574-3550 ext. 6 Voice

Individual tickets may be purchased at the box office, by calling  
(215) 574-3550 ext. 1, or online at [www.wstonline.org](http://www.wstonline.org).

Group discounts call (215) 574-3550 ext. 150



New Jersey Performing Arts Center  
presents

## Lackawanna Blues

Written and Performed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson

April 3 thru April 6

**(Open Captioned on April 4 performance only)**

Assistive Listening Devices Available

Victoria Theater - Tickets: \$36

**Tony Award-winning actor/writer**

Ruben Santiago-Hudson

(August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*) brings vibrant life  
to a full cast of characters as he conjures up the  
bustling blue collar town of his own childhood.

Info: (877) 886-5722 TTY(operates from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)  
or (888) 466-5722 Voice

# Calendar of Events 2003

**Saturday, March 22**  
U.C.C. S.I.G.N. CLUB  
“The Interpreters’ Forum”

**Saturday, April 5**  
U.C.C. S.I.G.N. Club ASL Festival

**Friday, April 25, 9:30 a.m. - noon**  
**DDHH Advisory Council Meeting**  
Public is invited, please call  
800-792-8339 V/TTY

**Saturday, April 26**  
DDHH Presents  
“Living With Hearing Loss”  
Dr. Samuel Trychin  
Details TBA

**May 28 - 31**  
**ADARA National Conference**  
Sheraton Hotel, East Rutherford, NJ  
[www.adara.org](http://www.adara.org)

**Saturday, June 14**  
**DDHH 19th Annual**  
**Deaf and Hard of Hearing**  
**Awareness Day**  
Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson NJ

**June 26-29**  
**SHHH 18th Annual**  
**International Convention**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Info: 301-657-2248 V/TTY

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

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