

DDHH

Monthly Communicator

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

April 2008

Vol. 29



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Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David C. Alexander Director

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Produced by
DHS Office of Publications

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day, Sherri Hicks will entertain us with a solo - performance!

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is happy to announce Sherri Hicks will bring her one woman show, as the feature entertainment, to the upcoming Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day in June. Sherri is a particular favorite because of her energy, charisma and unique ability to engage the audience both as passive and active participants. Sherri is half of the performance team known as "Half and Half," which has performed for us in the past. This year's event will once again be held at Six Flags Great Adventure on June 14. If you are ready for sound, visuals and a bit of culture in this one hour performance, for which Sherri Hicks is particularly known, see listed inside on (Page 8) organizations where you can purchase tickets in advance.





Director's Corner

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

This month, I want to continue to elaborate on the 5th Annual Disability Law Conference, "Protecting the Rights of Persons with Hearing Loss," that occurred on February 29. As presenters on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) and its Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), the DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez, DDHH Field Representative Jason Weiland and I actively participated in the conference, which was well attended with a host of excellent speakers familiar with state and federal disability law.

As I listened to these speakers, two common themes emerged in their presentations: the need for tenacious advocacy to educate service providers about the actual communication access needs of persons with hearing loss; and, when advocacy is not enough, the importance for persons with hearing loss who have experienced discrimination to file their complaint with the Division on Civil Rights (DCR) and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Regrettably, many places of public accommodation as well as places of employment continue to be unaware of the communication access needs of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. It is important that this information be brought to their attention. DCR Director J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo, Esq. recommends engaging the assistance of advocacy organization(s) to assist with education efforts. Organizations such as Hearing Loss of America Association (HLAA), New Jersey Association of the Deaf (NJAD), Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA), and other Deaf and hard of hearing consumer organizations can be very effective at advocacy, especially when they enjoin together.

On the other hand, persons with hearing loss who have experienced discrimination must be willing to file formal complaints with the DCR. Director Frank Vespa-Papaleo states that if persons with hearing loss do not come forward and file a complaint, it gives the appearance that there are no problems.

It is important for us and for you, our readers, to make DCR aware of those situations in which persons with hearing loss think their rights have been violated. By filing complaints, you are advocating for your rights and benefiting from the provisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD) that protects the rights of persons with hearing loss.

Inside this month's edition of the newsletter you will also find all kinds of interesting information for the Deaf and hard of hearing community. We have great plans to continue the progress of DDHH, and look forward to your comments and feedback. You can contact me at David.Alexander@dhs.state.nj.us.

Please enjoy this issue. Thank you.

Reminder:

The deadline for the June 2008 issue is May 1, 2008. *The* deadline for the May issue was April 1, 2008.

Send e-mail submissions to the editor:
Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us.

Photos that accompany submissions are encouraged. For instructions on how to submit photos, contact the editor at the above e-mail address.

Newsletter Subscription:

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

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Deadline for submissions:

First of the month for the following month's edition.

Summary of AADB's Letter to the FCC on Hawk Relay's Petition for Deaf-Blind Relay Services

(From AADB Today www.aadb.org)

On February 4th, American Association of the Deaf/Blind filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Hawk Relay's petition for deaf-blind relay services. AADB's comments were prepared with the assistance of Brett Ferencak and Nguyen Vu, from the law firm of Bingham McCutchen. We appreciate working closely with Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.'s (TDI) in developing the comments. Besides TDI, National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Hearing Loss of America Association (HLAA), Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network (DHHCAN), Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA), and California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. signed on their support.

AADB appreciates the initiative from Hawk Relay for a separate deaf-blind relay service program. However, AADB raised several key points:

- There are some deaf-blind individuals who can use their limited vision/hearing to access today's relay services, like Video Relay Services, Internet Relay, traditional TTY-to-voice, Voice Carry Over, and Hearing Carry Over. Relay service providers can and should make adjustments to make their services accessible.
- There is a segment of the deaf-blind population that cannot access any of today's relay services, and they will benefit from having communication facilitators come to their residence, work, or another place to make/receive relay calls. They are the ones that use tactile interpreting or close-up interpreting.
- AADB expects all providers to be accessible and provide as many options as possible for deaf-blind American to access their relay services at all times. This is the same as what is available for the deaf community.
- AADB recommends that the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund cover the cost of providing relay services for deaf-blind Americans. To require every state to provide this service could raise several important issues:
 - ✓ States tend to pick one provider, and deaf-blind Americans deserve every right to make a choice between providers,
 - ✓ Some states may not be financially equipped to provide this program, and
 - ✓ Several states that have a large number of deaf-blind residents may find costs feasible to run the program where as other states that have low numbers would find running such a program becomes cost-prohibitive.
- AADB strongly recommends that the FCC invite a number of stakeholders to participate in its summit to address all key facets of a deaf-blind relay service. AADB contends that there are many issues to resolve, before the FCC can consider mandating this service, and authorizing reimbursement of costs from the Interstate TRS Fund.

If you would like to read the letter in its entirety, visit:

http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6519839414

View the letter on AADB's website at: dbrs_comment.html

Read Hawk Relay's petition at www.hawkrelay.com/files/HR%20DBRS%20Proposal.pdf

People-Technology-Communications-Lifestyle

by Paul Arabas

One day while taking my daily walk, an idea popped into my mind: How can I share my 33 years of experience with a hearing loss to people with normal hearing and those with hearing loss? I felt an urge to write an article sharing my knowledge and experiences with hearing loss using a few key words as topics. The following words felt appropriate: People; Technology; Communications; Lifestyle.

People: A person with normal hearing might wonder why a person with a hearing loss tries to deny their hearing loss. Why do they not seek help and buy a hearing aid? This person could be under the impression that a hearing aid restores normal hearing in the way that eyeglasses restore vision. Also, people with normal hearing might think that hearing aids are the only tool available to improve hearing. Hearing loss is very specific for each person and is like a fingerprint. What works for one person may not work for you. It is a trial and error process to try everything available and see what works best for you. When a person first discovers a hearing loss they often only think of the impact it will have on his/her life. They may not realize the affects of their hearing loss on family, friends, education, work, social life and daily living.

There are three kinds of professionals that can help with hearing loss: Doctors who specialize in hearing such as an ENT (ear, nose & throat doctor) or an otologist who specializes in hearing problems; Audiologists who test levels of hearing loss and prepare an audiogram which shows a hearing loss curve and your word discrimination score (by the way, when tested for hearing, always request a copy of your audiogram); and lastly, there are hearing aid dispensers who sell and service hearing aids. Some audiologists and doctor's offices also sell hearing aids. Additionally, consider visiting an allergist and nutritionist, and have your glucose levels tested (five hour glucose tolerance test) and consider getting a second opinion about a hearing loss and treatment for it. You never know what will work best for you.

There are many support groups for hearing loss that can be found on the Internet. Here are a few:

HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) in Bethesda, MD is the largest and has about 200 local support groups in the U.S. It has about ten thousand national members and another seven to ten thousand members at the local level who are not members of the national organization. HLAA publishes a bimonthly publication called "Hearing Loss Magazine" and holds annual conventions. This year the convention will be held in Reno, NV, June 12-15, 2008.

About eight hundred to fifteen hundred people attend these conventions.

ALDA (Association of Late Deafened Adults) headquartered in Rockford, IL has support groups in about nine states. It publishes a quarterly newsletter called "ALDA News" and hosts an annual convention which will be held this year in Chicago, IL, October 8 - 12. About one hundred fifty to three hundred people attend these national conferences.

SWC (Say What Club) is an Internet-based organization run by volunteers. It consists of about four hundred members with eight lists, one of which is for people interested in or who have cochlear implants. Each list is categorized by common interests. There are no dues and it has an annual convention this year to be held in Philadelphia, PA, July 9 - 12. About forty to fifty people attend these conventions.

Technology: Many people think that the only tool available for hearing loss is a hearing aid. Other options are available such as:

1. Wearing your hearing aids using the t-coil & direct audio input microphone when needed. Replace batteries, tubing and ear molds as needed;
2. Using telephone devices like an adjustable amplifier & caller identification;

Continued on next page

3. Using signaling devices such as a loud bell, flashing light or vibrating alarm clock;
4. Using assistive devices such as a pocket talker, an audio loop, fm system or an infrared system;
5. Using captioning on television, the telephone, at theaters and plays; and,
6. Considering a cochlear implant when hearing loss in both ears is profound and hearing aids do not provide benefit.

Communications: There are many communication skills and strategies available to improve communications.

1. Try speechreading/lipreading and sign language classes to see if they may help.
2. Be aware of good communications guidelines for listeners and the person speaking to improve communications.
3. Remember that distance-noise-light can affect your hearing:
 - Be as close physically as possible to the person speaking.
 - Consider using a microphone via direct audio input or assistive device.
 - Minimize or eliminate background noise.
 - Minimize sunlight or light shining directly on your face. It is preferable if the light is behind you.
4. Make a list of Internet Web site home pages on hearing loss that interest you.
5. Be aware of specific strategies for special situations such as:
 - eating in restaurants;
 - theaters and movies;
 - doctor's office and hospitals;
 - places of worship;
 - traveling in a car.

Lifestyle: Some people with a hearing loss get so absorbed in their hearing loss that they forget about everything else happening around them. Hearing loss is important but we need to keep a balance with other life needs.

1. We need to concern ourselves with our health, financial survival, education, work, leisure, a positive attitude, faith, hope, love and a good sense of humor.
2. Positive attitude and positive relationships help. We should try to be optimists, practice positive self talk, and read and listen to positive affirmations. We should find good in other people and recognize challenges in relationships.
3. Be aware of psycho-social effects of hearing loss as in the stages of loss - shock, denial, anger, depression, and bargaining. And acceptance of the effect of stress on our lives and how to reduce it using the relaxation response that involves breathing exercises, muscle relaxation and visualization techniques.
4. Be aware of ototoxic drugs and their effect on hearing loss.
5. Consider preparing a hearing loss profile or an autobiography of your hearing loss. Either one will help you better understand your loss and what you can expect to happen in the future so you can plan strategies to help you.

In a future issue of the Monthly Communicator, I plan to list 27 topics about hearing loss from which you will be asked to select five that are of special interest to you and to identify one topic not on the list. All responses will be summarized, and articles will be written on the six most popular topics.

Comments about this article can be sent to me by mail or on the Internet. Address and e-mail are below:

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Paul Arabas is a retired engineer and tax accountant, and not a professional writer. He is a member of HLAA, ALDA, and Say What Club; and Treasurer of HLA-NJ. He wears two behind the ear hearing aids and enjoys sharing his knowledge and experience with hearing loss. He is also an avid New York Yankee and Buffalo Bills fan.

Protecting Rights of People With Hearing Loss: What Does the Law Say?

By Jennifer Millman

Does your deafness or hearing loss make it harder to find and keep a job? How can you find out which companies are best at including people with all disabilities, and what are your legal options if you feel you're a victim of discrimination?

The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights' 2008 Disability Law Conference, "Protecting the Rights of People With Hearing Loss," was jam-packed, featuring legal training, presentations from state and federal civil-rights employees, and an emotional Q&A session to close the annual conference in New Brunswick, NJ.

How many people have hearing loss? More than 31.5 million people have a self-described "hearing difficulty," according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). But that number is expected to increase as the baby-boomer generation approaches age 65. Adults 65 and older have the highest percentage of hearing loss compared with other age groups.

But there is substantial diversity among those who are Deaf or hard of hearing. They come from all ages, races/ethnicities, genders and orientations and have varying degrees of disability. "Protecting civil rights of people who Deaf and hard of hearing requires that this diversity in relation to hearing loss be acknowledged," said David Alexander, Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The conference outlined some of the main concerns and problems facing people with deafness and hearing loss in employment, public accommodations, government service, entertainment, schools, housing and other areas, as well as how to prevent discrimination.

It happens frequently. Read 'Second-Class Citizen': Deaf Mother of three Denied Service at Restaurant for one Deaf woman's story about being denied service at an Illinois fast-food restaurant. Karen Putz tried to explain to a drive-through attendant that she needed to communicate her order through the window rather than the speaker because she couldn't hear through the speaker, but the attendant ended up threatening to call the police because she was "holding up the line," slamming the window in her face.

In the employment realm, the reality is that there's no law to guarantee hiring and promotion of people with disabilities on par with their representation in the talent pool, and corporate lawyers can be creative when it comes to find-

ing loopholes in existing civil-rights laws. While the law prohibits discrimination against all people with disabilities, the panelists said infrastructure change is needed to make real progress.

Good companies do a good job of recruiting and retaining a diverse work force--diversity as it relates to age, race/ethnicity, gender, disability and orientation--and their workplace cultures reflect that inclusiveness, said J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo, Director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. "These companies do it right from the beginning," Vespa-Papaleo explained.

Check out DiversityInc's Top 10 Companies for People With Disabilities to learn how these employers make inroads and tap into this talented, often under-utilized work force.

What does the Law Say?

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including deafness and hearing loss. Title I of the ADA addresses employment, covering private employers with 15 or more employees and similarly sized state and local government employers. Most states also have their own discrimination laws that include disability, and these statutes may provide even more protections than those afforded by federal law.

The conference kicked off with introductions and legal training on the state and federal level as it relates to disability law and reasonable accommodations, which is one of the blurriest areas of all civil-rights laws. At what point does accommodating someone's disability, such as requesting a sign language interpreter for a person with hearing loss, become an "undue burden" on the employer? It depends on the size of the employer, access to and cost of equipment, the type of accommodation requested and how it relates to an individual's ability to perform the essential functions of a job, for example.

Each case must be evaluated on an individual basis because an individual employee's view of what is "reasonable" often differs from that held by the employer. Find out why disability is the most complex of EEO laws from a former EEOC chair and DiversityInc's legal expert. These are tough questions. People should get the EEOC guidelines.

Continued on next page

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Download the division's guide to disability discrimination to learn more. Also check out the fact sheet on rights for people with hearing loss under state law.

Discrimination charges on the basis of disability accounted for 21.4 percent of all those filed with the EEOC in 2007, down from 22.4 percent in 1997, according to agency charge statistics. The EEOC recovered \$54.4 million in monetary benefits, which exclude litigation fees, for disability-related discrimination cases that year, up from \$41.3 million in 1997. Charges based on hearing impairments comprised four percent of total disability-related charges in 2007. You can get more facts and statistics on disability-related EEOC charges here.

In the federal work force, employees with targeted (or severe) disabilities account for a mere 0.97 percent of the total permanent work force. That number has declined every year since 1993. "Overall, the federal government is losing more people with targeted disabilities than it is hiring each year," reports the EEOC.

In 2006, Deaf people made up 18.3 percent of all federal employees with targeted disabilities, but their representation has declined every year since 1997 for a total loss of 7.22 percent. Representation of Deaf employees in federal government among those with targeted disabilities is second only to employees suffering from mental illness, who make up 24 percent of all federally employed individuals with targeted disabilities. Still, the number of those with mental illness has gone up over the last decade.

Download the EEOC's report to improve opportunities for individuals with targeted disabilities in the federal work force for key statistics and recommendations.

Protecting Rights of People With Hearing Loss: What Does the Law Say?

By Jennifer Millman Date Posted: March 07, 2008

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What to do if you think you're a victim?

The Q&A session at the conclusion of the conference became emotional when Deaf and hard of hearing people painfully expressed their experiences facing rejection when trying to get jobs, enjoy public accommodations or contribute to society.

State and federal legal experts had advice for those who feel they are victims of discrimination:

Keep notes: Document times, dates and the names of individuals who you feel discriminated against you.

Reach out: After you contact the organization you feel is not accommodating your disability or discriminating against you in some way to make them aware of the situation, contact your local civil-rights division or EEOC office. You can find out more about how to file a complaint at www.eeoc.gov.

Educate: Engage the assistance of hearing-loss advocacy organizations to help educate your employer because sometimes they don't intend to exclude certain groups; they just don't think about it.

Advocate: Involvement in state and national associations for Deaf people and collaborating with individuals, employers and government representatives is key for large-scale change.

Make the business case: At the end of the day, it's all about numbers. Making a compelling business case to your employer, for example, about how providing access to certain equipment will help you be more productive in your job and to the bottom line is likely to gain buy-in.

Notice of Design Change for Monthly Communicator Front Cover/Page

Starting with the Monthly Communicator May edition, you will see a change in our appearance with the front cover of the newsletter. The reason for the change is, DHS would like the various division newsletters to project agency consistency in appearance.

The change maintains much of the design of our original cover. The cover will incorporate the DHS template, using the blue and red colors that are currently the prominent colors of the Department of Human Services. DDHH will continue to publish high quality articles and resources of interest to the Deaf and hard of hearing community, which the community has come to expect from this newsletter.

Support Organizations Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in New Jersey

Purchase Six Flags Awareness Day Tickets from Participating Organizations for June 14 Event

Many people ask how they can help Deaf and hard of hearing people who live in the state of New Jersey. Here's one way, by purchasing tickets to this year's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day event held at Six Flags Great Adventure on Saturday June 14. When you purchase tickets for this year's event from any of the organizations listed below, you are helping these not-for-profit organizations in a number of ways including the provision of communication access, activities for seniors, families and children, scholarships, and of course NJDAW's biennial Deaf Fest. Please contact one of these organizations (or more) and purchase your tickets in advance for this year's event. Thank you.

Association of Late-Deafened Adults-GS

P.O. Box 145
Freehold, NJ 07728-0145
TTY: 732-761-9809
yupyup4@juno.com

Bruce Street School for the Deaf

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

Deaf Golf Association, Inc.

420 North Union Ave.
Crandford, NJ 07016
TTY/VP: 908-272-3939
RHSARK@aol.com

Eastern Deaf Ladies Golf Association

264 Swinnerton Street
Staten Island, NY 10307-1641
TTY: 718-605-9403
Sourpeas@aol.com

New Jersey American Sign Language Teacher Association

32 Fairway Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052
V: 800-973-1501
NJASLTA@aol.com

New Jersey Association of the Deaf

25 Hampton Court
Washington, NJ 07676
201-358-8573 (VP)
Joshuabeckman87@gmail.com

New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind

24K Worlds Fair Drive
Somerset, New Jersey 08873
TTY/V: 732-805-1912
Kgalindez@njabd.org

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, Inc.

27 Elberta Road
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Zup14@aol.com

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.

26 N. Shore Blvd.
Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233
VP: 732-521-3098
NJDeafSportsInc@aol.com

New Jersey Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf

517 Farley Avenue
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
TTY: 908-490-1123
Plt311@comcast.net

New Jersey Registry Interpreters for the Deaf

83 Hawkins Road
Tabernacle, New Jersey 08088
V: 609-980-8037
Meg.ellis@comcast.net

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf

21 Patton Drive, Apt. D
Bloomfield, NJ 07003-5283
H: 973-724-3230 (VP)
ACEPOKER12@aol.com

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

52 Heritage Court
Towaco, New Jersey 07082
W: 973-326-5720 (TTY)
Tmontemo@att.com

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf

2222 Vauxhall Road
Union, NJ 07083
V: 908-686-3965
Gracelu4u@yahoo.com

Signs of Sobriety, Inc.

100 Scotch Road
Ewing, New Jersey 08628
W: 609-882-7677 V
W: 609-882-7177 TTY/VP
Info@signsofsobriety.org

NJSD/MKSD Alumni Association

320 Sullivan Way
West Trenton, NJ 08628-3405
TTY: 609-698-7310
BORG3283@aol.com





GREAT ADVENTURE TICKET INFORMATION



Ticket Prices:

Before June 14

Theme/Safari: \$30

Hurricane Harbor: \$27

Theme Season Pass: \$85

Hurricane Harbor Season Pass: \$85

June 14, Day of Event

Theme/Safari: \$35

Hurricane Harbor: \$30

Note: Tickets can be used any day of this year of 2008.

For information, contact Lauren Lercher at GATickets@aol.com or call 732-613-8172 (TTY/VP)
Voice callers...use relay service.

Facts About Hearing Loss

Reprinted from League for Hard of Hearing www.lhh.org/about_hearing_loss

Fact: Approximately 10 percent of the U.S. population or 31 million Americans have a significant hearing loss.

Fact: Over 90 percent of Deaf children are born to hearing parents.

Fact: 30-40 percent of people over 65 have some type of hearing loss.

Fact: 14 percent of those ages 45-64 have some type of hearing loss.

Fact: 15 percent of children between the ages of 6-19 have a measurable hearing loss in at least one ear.

Fact: Hearing loss occurs in 5 out of every 1,000 newborns.

Fact: Exposure to a noisy subway, for just 15 minutes a day overtime, can cause permanent damage to hearing over time.

Fact: Hearing aids can offer dramatic improvement for most people with hearing loss.

Fact: A mild hearing loss can cause a child to miss as much as 50 percent of classroom discussion.

Fact: Listening to an MP3 Player at high volumes overtime can cause permanent damage to hearing.

Fact: With early identification and appropriate services, Deaf children can develop communication skills at the same rate as their hearing peers.

Fact: Noise is one of the leading causes of hearing loss.

Fact: Tinnitus (ringing in the ears) affects 50 million people in the United States.

Fact: Babies are never too young to have their hearing tested.

Fact: Speechreading is the more current word for lipreading.

Fact: People with hearing loss wait an average of 7 years before seeking help.

Fact: Only 16 percent of physicians routinely screen for hearing loss.

Fact: 15 million people in the United States with hearing loss avoid seeking help.

Fact: One out of three people over age 65 have some degree of hearing loss.

Fact: Approximately three million children in the U.S. have a hearing loss; 1.3 million of them are under the age of three.



CNET (www.cnet.com), a popular online portal where people go to discover the latest in technology and consumer electronics information, announced the official launch of CNET TV 2.0 (www.cnettv.com), featuring closed captioning of its popular video content. This move extends CNET's reach with original video content that is accessible to people interested in learning about the latest tech news and reviews of consumer electronics.

Hundreds of CNET TV videos are available with closed captioning on Adobe Flash® Player version 8 or above. A button labeled "CC" is located on the video player and accesses closed captioning on popular CNET TV shows like The Buzz Report, CNET Top 5, CNET Live, CNET Mailbag, Insider Secrets, Prizefight, and Product Spotlight. For upcoming videos on CNET TV, closed captioning will be available shortly after the release of each video.

One of the most common requests received from users after the launch of CNET TV in 2006 was for closed captioning. Despite the explosive growth in online video content, very few websites offer captioning on its streaming videos. In keeping to its commitment toward all users, CNET worked with Automatic Sync Technologies (www.automaticsync.com/caption) and Adobe Systems to create a captioning system for its online video content.

"There are more than 30 million Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in America today, and CNET is proud to be one of the first Web sites to offer comprehensive closed captioning of its video content so this group can turn to CNET to explore today's digital world," said Joe Gillespie, executive vice president of CNET. "CNET TV 2.0 embodies everything our users want out of video content - information that is entertaining and easy to understand so that they can get the most out of their tech and CE gadgets."

"CNET's decision to incorporate closed captioning into its CNET TV video programming is a textbook example of doing well by doing good, and is emblematic of the interactive media industry's commitment to innovations that improve peoples' lives" said Randall Rothenberg, President and CEO of the Interactive Advertising Bureau.

"The addition of closed captioning is an innovative step that shows CNET's commitment to being accessible for anyone interested in exploring technology," said Pam Horan, president of the Online Publishers Association. "OPA research has shown that quality news and information sites such as CNET are playing an increasingly vital role in the everyday lives of Americans. As online media grows in importance, it becomes even more essential that it is accessible to all audiences."

Point

Digital TV on Its Way – Prepare for the Switch to Get the Picture

Submitted by Stephen A. Gregory

Big changes are coming in television broadcasting. On February 17, 2009, all full power television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the DTV transition.

Some consumers are asking why they need to switch. First, all-digital broadcasting will give needed communications channels to police, fire and emergency rescue personnel. It will also allow for new wireless services for consumers. In addition, since digital is more efficient than analog, it allows stations to broadcast several programs at the same time, instead of just one program with analog. This means broadcasters can offer consumers more choices. Digital also allows broadcasters to offer improved picture and sound quality, including high definition (HDTV) programming. For Deaf and Hard of Hearing TV watchers, the biggest benefit will be the availability of CE-708 Digital Captions. These captions provide for user-selectable colors, sizes, font style, background color, etc. and are much more pleasant to view than last century's "one size fits all" captions of white letters on a black box background.

It is also important to know that the end of analog broadcasting does not mean that consumers must purchase new TVs, and you certainly don't need an HDTV to watch

digital broadcasts. If you currently receive over-the-air programming on an analog television using a broadcast antenna, either through "rabbit ears" on your set or an antenna on your roof, you will only need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue watching broadcast television on that set after February 17, 2009. These boxes will cost approximately \$40 to \$70, and will be available in stores beginning in early 2008.

To help defray the cost of digital-to-analog converter boxes, each U.S. household can request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of eligible boxes. This coupon program is being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). For more information on the coupon program visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009.

If you watch over-the-air programming on a DTV (a TV with a built-in digital tuner), you will not need a digital-to-analog converter box. Also, an antenna you use to receive analog broadcasts should work for receiving digital broadcasts, both on a DTV and on an analog TV connected to a digital-to-analog converter box.

If you subscribe to a paid television service such as cable or satellite TV, you will not need a digital-to-analog converter box, and the TVs connected to your paid service will continue to receive local broadcast programming. However, consumers are advised to check with their providers to see if they will need any additional equipment in the future.

For more information, call the FCC at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or visit their DTV Web site at www.dtv.gov.

Counterpoint

Is Digital TV Transition at Risk?

Submitted by Ronald Johnson

Will analog TV broadcasts really end next year? The official word is yes. But no for certain stations! Millions of people still depending on free to air analog TV signals have applied for converter box coupons issued by the National telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The coupons are valid for 90 days.

Those visiting the DTV coupon program Web site and all other government and industry sponsored web sites intended to educate the public about DTV transition and the termination of analog signals, will find a statement to the effect: "Analog television sets receiving free TV using an antenna will not work after February 17, 2009. Television viewers with these sets that are not connected to a pay TV service need to take action before February 17, 2009, to ensure their TV sets continue to work."

The government overlooked important details in the rulemaking process including the fact that there are 2,600 Low Power Television (LPTV) stations that will continue to broadcast analog signals after the February, 2009 deadline. Additionally, there are 4,400 TV translators that will

continue to rebroadcast full-power stations in analog for an unspecified time period.

These oversights have members of the Community Broadcasters Association (CBA) up in arms. The CBA represents the LPTV industry and is has filed a complaint with the FCC and is attempting to get the NTIA rework the DTV converter box program. This action and possible suit should attract attention from legislators.

How did we get this far in the transition only to find a debacle? Those who understand why we are going through this transition know that analog TVs are not going to stop working next year.

The cable industry is telling subscribers they don't need to do anything. Why? Because their analog signals will be there when Full Power broadcasters cease analog transmissions. DBS subscribers already have digital set-top boxes have nothing to worry about.

Analog TV sets will not stop working next year. The cable industry is telling subscribers they won't have to do anything; their analog signals will continue when full power broadcasters cease standard definition (analog broadcasting).

Legislators set aside \$10 Million to equip TV translators with digital to analog converters so they could receive and retransmit them (digital)signals in analog. On October 29, 2007 the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced the inception of the Low Power TV (LPTV) digital to analog conversion program.

Also in October, the FCC issued its consumer advisory about the effects of DTV transition on Class A and LPTV stations and TV translators. The NTIA and FCC failed to take continued operation of these facilities into consideration of their DTV education programs.

Analog tuners in existing TV sets will receive LPTV stations and translators. So what are the issues?

You must dig deep in government web sites about DTV transition to learn that LPTV and translators will continue analog broadcasts.

Promotional spots from full power TV stations are misleading and incorrect because of their simple statement that: your old TV sets won't work after "their" analog transmitters are shut down. Older TV's will work with a converter box. They won't have the same resolution as a new DTV TV.

The converter boxes are designed with glaring deficiencies, and the NTIA claims they (boxes) did not require necessary features. Why? Because of cost!

What all boxes need:

- The boxes need an analog Radio Frequency (RF) pass through capability with an A/B switch for the converter and an integrated National Television System Committee (NTSC) tuner that allows analog stations to be tuned directly.
- The analog pass through feature is included on some NTIA approved converter boxes, including the \$39.95 versions announce at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) and announced by EchoStar and Sling Media.
- Many approved Set Top Boxes (STB) have disabled NTSC tuners inside. Almost all tuner chips in the new DTV capable sets include a NTSC/cable tuner as well as two other tuners for digital signals.
- The FCC used the all-channel receiver act for requiring a type of tuner in new TV sets. A strict interpretation of law suggests that deleting the NTSC tuner violates that law!
- Another important problem is that millions of viewers that already have requested DTV converter coupons may not even be able to by STBs with pass-through capabilities, as the coupons expire in 90 days. Some products will not be available until June or July.
- Finally, the time frame between the CBA complaint with the FCC (Dec. 6, 2007) and published manufacturer specifications for converter boxes (March, 2007) is a problem for all since the approved list was made public in January, 2008.

Is the date of DTV transition at risk because of litigation and semantics?

Filing a Closed Captioning Complaint

Submitted by Stephen A. Gregory

Quick & Easy Filing. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established a stand alone email address for you to use with your complaints or questions on closed captions, which is: closedcaptioning@fcc.gov.

Contacting your TV program distributor. The FCC's rules require that, before contacting the FCC, you must first complain in writing to your television program distributor (i.e., your cable or satellite TV, or other subscription service if you pay for any of these services, or the TV station broadcasting the program, if you do not pay for cable, satellite, or other service). The mailing address for your cable or satellite TV provider is usually on the back of your bill, or you can phone the Customer Service number of the provider and ask for the mailing address. Mailing addresses of TV stations are generally found in phone directories. Letters should be addressed to the General Manager or CEO of the company.

Time Requirements. Your written complaint to the TV program provider must be sent before the end of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter when the problem occurred. For example, if the problem occurred on January 28, 2008 (1st quarter), your complaint must be filed by June 30, 2008 (end of 2nd quarter).

Content of Complaint. Closed captioning complaints need to be very specific. Include the following information in your complaint to the TV programming distributor.

First, state that your complaint is "Filed Under the FCC Closed Captioning Rules 47 CFR § 79.1.";

- Your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address;
- Name of the TV program(s) or show(s) with the captioning problem;
- Number, call letters and name of the channel where the interrupted close captioning occurred;
- Date(s) and time(s) you experienced the closed captioning problem;
- Detailed description of the captioning problem (for example, "no closed captioning during entire show" or "closed captioning disappeared halfway into the program" or "the closed captioning text was garbled or unreadable").

Complaining to the FCC. If you are unsatisfied with the response you receive from the TV programming distributor, or the TV programming distributor does not respond at all after about 30 days, you may complain to the FCC.

- You should contact the FCC quickly, within 30 days: closedcaptioning@fcc.gov
- Send a written letter to the FCC with the information contained in your complaint to the TV programming distributor. You must include a copy of the original complaint to the TV distributor and a copy of the response you received, if any.
- You may include further information such as videotapes, or copies of schedules showing the CC logo that was shown without closed captioning.

Send the complaint to Federal Communications Commission; Attn. CICD/CGB; 445 12th Street S.W.; Washington, DC 20554, closedcaptioning@fcc.gov

Access to Emergency Information, A Different Type of Closed Caption Complaint. The FCC requires that video programming distributors that provide emergency information make it accessible to people who are Deaf or have hearing impairments. Emergency information is that which helps to protect life, safety, or property, such as hazardous weather, hazardous chemical spills, or power failures. The information displayed visually must include critical details about the emergency and how to respond. Most stations close caption emergency information.

If you have a complaint alleging a violation of the rules requiring access to emergency information, you can send it directly to the FCC by any reasonable means:

- E-mail to fccinfo@fcc.gov;
- Fax to 1-866-418-0232;
- Phone by calling 1-888-225-5322 (voice) or 1-888-835-5322 (TTY);
- Mail to the address shown above for closed captioning complaints.

Your complaint should include:

- the name of the TV programming distributor,
- the TV channel and name,
- the date and time of the omission of access to emergency information,
- the type of emergency,
- your personal contact information.

The FCC will notify the programming distributor and work to resolve the problem.

Any other issues regarding closed caption complaints may be forwarded to Stephen Gregory, 515 Lakeview Avenue, Pitman, New Jersey 08071-1874 856-589-5010 FAX or to s.gregory@email.com

ALDA-GS

(Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Garden State) is pleased to announce the availability of a \$2,000 scholarship for the year 2008. This scholarship will be awarded to a Deaf or hard of hearing high school student or adult whose primary residence is the state of New Jersey.

This scholarship offer extends to any Deaf or hard of hearing graduating high school student or adult who has been accepted to an accredited college, university or trade school for the year 2008.

Applications available online at www.alda-gs.org

or contact:

Diana Fanuel, Scholarship Chair

413 Valley View

Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

aldafann@hotmail.com

Completed applications must be received by April 15, 2008 to be considered.

Exciting New Safety Technology

submitted by Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative

The KA 300 system, made by Krown Manufacturing, Inc., connects existing alarm devices (i.e.: smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector and house alarm) in your home together with the wireless link system. The system connects up to three audible alarms into one monitoring system, and alerts by using a bright strobe light, loud audible siren, and strong bed shaker. It is designed to accommodate small, medium or large scale buildings. A battery back-up allows the system to work even in a power outage.



This system is available for demonstration at the DDHH Demonstration Center located in the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center in New Brunswick, as well as at the Brian C. Shomo Demonstration Center on the campus of the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Trenton. To make an appointment, contact field representatives Traci Burton and Jason Weiland at 609-984-7281 Voice/TTY or by email at traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us and jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us.



American Sign Language Story Hour

Submitted by Christine Olsen

The New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped (LBH) held its monthly Children's American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour on February 5, 2008. Kay Henderson, Chief of Staff to NJ Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells, read Dad, Jackie and Me by Myron Uhlberg. Ms. Henderson did a lively reading of this sports story. Set in 1947 Brooklyn, NY, a young boy and his Deaf father anxiously await Jackie Robinson's arrival to the Dodgers baseball team as first baseman. Together they go to games, share stories and information and even create a Jackie Robinson scrapbook. Through baseball, their relationship grows and the young boy learns that his father relates to Jackie Robinson's triumphs through his own personal struggle for respect and acceptance.



After Ms. Henderson's presentation, Mr. Ohmny Romero, a blind Electrical Engineer, shared his experiences playing professional baseball and his road to becoming an electrical engineer. Mr. Romero was born in Venezuela and grew up playing several sports. By age 17, he was a professional pitcher playing with the Caracas Lions and then the Pittsburgh Pirates. In Mr. Romero's last two games, he pitched no-hitter, no-run games.

After losing his sight at age 19 in a baseball accident, Mr. Romero pursued his other passions: reading and education. With the skills he learned through sports – practice, perseverance, setting goals and listening to people, Mr. Romero received his masters in Electrical Engineering and worked for Bell Labs doing research. Today, he owns his own wireless communications company and continues to play sports. With the assistance of ropes, he runs the 100, 200 and 400 meters and has taken home many medals for these events. He also enjoys playing bip-baseball and explained how sound is incorporated into the game to help blind people play.



Mr. Romero works with blind high school students to help them learn to be successful and independent adults. Mr. Romero stressed to the children that they are capable of anything they want to be and that nothing is impossible if you want it, and persevere to obtain your dreams. Mr. Romero was a wonderful presenter and a great role model for the children to listen to.

After the educational segment, Pete Campione, along with his dog, Ruby, a Doberman Pincher, and his volunteers from Kindred Souls in Howell, NJ, spoke to the children.

Pete shared that Ruby is a special dog because she was born with a white marking that is not common in her breed and it prevented her from finding a home. He reminded the children that being different can make you special, just like Ruby, and having a handicap is not a disability but a challenge in life. How you face that challenge is what is important.



Mari Coderre, a Kindred Souls' volunteer, then introduced, Gracie, a Great Dane and told a little bit about her. The therapy dogs are on hand throughout the Story Hour to interact with the children. Attending the story hour were students in grades two through five from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) and students with multiple disabilities from the Hunterdon County ESC School in Lambertville. Also joining the Story Hour were local community members and students from Union County College. Sixty-six people attended. This story hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation illustrating each page along with the storyteller. The Story Hour promotes English literacy skills for the Deaf and hard of hearing by enabling them to enjoy simultaneously ASL and English versions of books.

Workshops and events such as the story hour are scheduled by Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (NJLBH). NJLBH is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton, NJ. For more information about the DHHAP program and story hours, contact Christine at 877-882-5593 TTY or colsen@njstatelib.org.



The upcoming ASL Story Hour(s) will be held at NJLBH on April 15, 2008, May 13, 2008 and June 3, 2008 (at 10:00 am). For information about NJLBH and its programs, call Anne McArthur at 609-530-3242.

Lake Drive's Walk-a-Thon

Submitted by, Nora Rodriguez, MS, LCSW

Feet of all sizes in shoes of every style walked in unison on a crisp October day. Each generation has taken to the streets in that unique American expression of freedom: marching or walking for a cause, be it suffrage, civil rights illnesses... On October 29, 2007, the students, families and staff of the Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes, NJ held a walk-a-thon with the theme of "Building a Better Me." Sporting buttons with the theme and led by a cheer created for the event, the students, whose smiles outshined the sunny day, walked, skipped and hopped along "The Boulevard", the town's main thoroughfare.



The event was the brainchild of the school's Character Education Committee. Comprised of psychologists and clinical social workers, the committee's focus is to raise the consciousness of the students and staff in continuing the program's practice of supporting the social-emotional development of the students. The "Building a Better Me" theme stresses the importance of working together, of each student bringing his/her positive qualities to the school, resulting in an environment that is friendly, kind, safe and respectful. Each classroom created colorful and thoughtful posters reflecting their individual recognition of a quality that the students hope to focus on; the posters are on display for the remainder of the school year. The Committee's other planned activities for the school year include: a display of the posters created by the individual classrooms for the walk-a-thon; a presentation by Red Grammer, who is a singer/songwriter with positive messages weaved into his upbeat songs, and; a Random Acts of Kindness Week, where students will be "caught" affirming all they have been hearing about.

As with most "movements" of the past, it all starts with the call to awareness. In a world that can be challenged to sustaining moral character, the coming together of young hearts and minds in a commitment to values and strength of character would make generations of past marchers very proud.



Petway Elementary School

Petway selects Deaf Education Teacher as “Teacher of the Year”.

DDHH salutes Tara McMenamain as Petway Elementary School’s Teacher of the Year! We know that staff and students are very proud of you!



Petway Students Satisfy Their Sweet Tooth

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, the Deaf students at Petway Elementary School visited Chocolate on Occasion, a local chocolate shop in honor of Valentine’s Day. The students learned the process of melting chocolate and making different treats. While there, the students practiced ordering and paying for numerous items without the help of an interpreter. It was a learning experience for the staff at Chocolate on Occasion as well. Students left with a handful of sweets and two huge bags of supplies to continue their fun at school! Chocolate covered pretzels, marshmallows, graham crackers, Oreo cookies and Rice Krispies treats are just a few of the scrumptious delights the Deaf students dipped and took home!



College of New Jersey students visit Petway

From Wednesday, February 27, 2008 to Wednesday, March 5, 2008, all the students at Petway Elementary School celebrated “Read Across America.” Fourteen future Deaf Education teachers from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) visited our school on Friday, February 29, 2008 to help expose our school population to sign language through the use of books. The college students read a story and completed fun activities with our Deaf students and their mainstreamed classes. The different classrooms learned about zoo animals, classifying, deserts, Venezuela, and Florence Nightingale...just to name a few. TCNJ has very talented students, and our Petway family was very lucky to share the morning with them!





NJRID

**New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
and
The Center for Collegiate Deaf Education at Bergen Community College
proudly presents:
ASL to English Interpreting: Making it Sound Natural**

Presenter: Carolyn Ressler

What makes an interpretation sound like naturally produced speech? Interpreters focus on issues of message equivalency and content accuracy in ASL to English interpretation. This workshop takes a close look at what goes into making an English interpretation sound more like an original speaker initiated utterance.

April 26, 2008

Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ Room T128

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

CEU's = .6

NJRID Member \$45 Non-Member \$65

**Deadline for registration: April 19, 2008
Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided.**

Bergen Community College Room T128

400 Paramus Rd. Paramus NJ 07652

For more information, visit the NJRID Web site www.njrid.org
or contact: Suzanne Baker CI, CT - NJRID PDC Co-Chair * 2 Jennifer Dr., East Hanover, NJ 07936
morgan1mom@aol.com

Thirteenth Rockland County Deafness and Mental Health Symposium Wednesday, June 11 2008

Stony Point Conference Center;

Stony Point, New York

Sponsored by:

**Mental Health Association of Rockland County, Inc.
Rockland County Task Force for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services**

Brochure and Registration Form will be mailed out in early May.

For further information call:

Barbara Russ Smith, Conference Coordinator - 845-426-5416 Voice; 845-426-6443
VP; BarbaraRSmith@optonline.net

A Celebration Of Yiddish At Wayne Y
Sunday, May 18, 2008

10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

YM-YWHA of North Jersey, One Pike Drive in Wayne, NJ

A Fun Day For All Ages

Don't let the word "Yiddish" scare you! You absolutely do not have to understand Yiddish to have fun at this festival – but if you get into the spirit, you will certainly come away with an appreciation for a culture and language that were almost lost in the Holocaust.

Early 1900's Lower East Side setting.

Mingle with costumed kibitzers (matchmakers, peddlers, gossips).

Three Mainstage Shows

The Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus

The Folksbiene Yiddish Musical Comedy Troupe

Margot Leverett and The Klezmer Mountain Boys with special guest Naomi Miller.

Also,

Magic Show, puppet show, Yiddish petting zoo, puppet making, and craft projects for kids.

For sale: Food, art, books, jewelry, handbags, dolls, collectibles, toys, Judaica, clothing.

Yiddish bingo, Yiddish aerobics, Yiddish Simon Sez,

Historical Displays and Scavenger Hunt for Yiddish Glossary pages.

You can even renew wedding vows in Yiddish!

Entry to the festival is free!

Tickets for the three Mainstage Shows are:

Advance Sale = \$7 each or \$18 for all three shows.

At The Door = \$10 each or \$25 for all 3.

Tickets for puppet show = \$5 adults; \$3 children and teens.

To buy tickets in advance, call 973-595-0100 Ext. 237 or send check payable to the YM-YWHA of North Jersey, 1 Pike Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470 with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

The festival will be interpreted in sign language upon request, which must be made no later than May 1, thanks in part to funding from the Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired Council.

Come and have fun with Yiddish!

For more information, contact

Cheryl Wylen at 973-595-0100 ext. 228 WylenC@ymha-nj.org or

Harvey Miller 201-289-4027 Voice, 201-489-3479 TTY, Hmiller@ColeSchotz.com.

LABYRINTH THEATER COMPANY

&

The Public Theater present the World Premiere

The Little Flower of East Orange



A new play by Stephen Adly Guirgis directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman
Interpreted Date

Saturday, April 19, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$30.00

The Public Theatre/Martinson Hall
425 Lafayette Street, NYC (just below Astor Place)

LAByrrinth Theater Company and The Public Theater join forces to reunite the powerhouse writer/director team behind such groundbreaking urban dramas as *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*.

Playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis and Director Philip Seymour Hoffman bring us their latest collaboration, and inter-generational ghost story set in an upper Manhattan charity hospital.

With Ellen Burstyn, Elizabeth Canavan, Liza Colon-Zayas, Arthur French, Gillian Jacobs, Ajay Naidu, Howie Seago, Michael Shannon, Sidney Williams, David Zayas and Howie Seago.

(Famed Deaf actor featured in Peter Sellers' production of *Ajax*, the German film *Beyond Silence*, as well as TV appearances on *Hunter*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and the *Equalizer*.)



Helen Keller, 8, with her teacher Anne Sullivan in Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1888.

The photograph on the left is a recently discovered late 19th century photograph of the young Helen Keller (left) holding a doll with her acclaimed teacher, Anne Sullivan, looking on. The significance of the photograph is that it may be one of the earliest taken of the two together. Also, one of the early words which Helen learned was that for "doll." Helen Adams Keller (born June 27, 1880, died June 1, 1968) was an American author, activist and lecturer. She was the first deafblind person to graduate from college. The life of Helen Keller was memorialized in the Oscar winning movie "The Miracle Worker" written by William Gibson.

RELIGIOUS ACCESS

Tabernacle Baptist Church,

150 East Second Street
Burlington, NJ 08016

We have American Sign Language interpreted worship services on the first and third Sundays at

11:00 a.m.

We welcome the D/deaf community. Come and bring your ideas. We have a Gymnasium. Contact:

Teresa Branham, Coordinator at

Branham.te.cade@verizon.net; 609-386-9350 Voice.

St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church

4620 Nottingham Way
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
609-587-4877 Voice

Interpreted Mass on the last Sunday of every month,
10:30 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME -
reserved seating at the front of the sanctuary.

St. Raphael - Holy Angels Church

1733 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ

Sign interpretation Mass every Sunday

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Come worship with us. All are welcome!

Gather at the front of the sanctuary near the statue of Mary.

Contact Pat Langon at pmlnao@msn.com



Memorial Service for Tom Popowski held at MKSD

Tom Popowski, 42, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Everett, Washington during the early morning hours of Wednesday January 30, 2008 after complications from colon cancer.

Memorial service will be on Saturday May 3 at
the Jochem Center at
New Jersey School for the Deaf in West Trenton, NJ.
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tour of MKSD Musuem
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Memorial Service
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Gathering & Refreshments

Tom is survived by his parents Charles and Sally Popowski; and his brother Ron, his wife Jennifer and three children, Sima, Trista and Trent. Tom will be sorely missed. Thank you to friends, family, teachers and teammates. Tom, your life continues to have meaning and you will always be in our hearts and souls.

Communicator Signboard

HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Temple Sholom

385 Howland Avenue

River Edge, NJ 07661

6:15 p.m. - Media exhibit open

7:00 p.m. - Program begins

Keynote: Julius Berman - Chairman,
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.
Holocaust survivors honored while students tell their stories.

Interpreter provided upon request.

Deadline: April 24

RSVP jajonas@verizon.net

Interpreted Performance



The Strand Theater Ensemble is proud to present an ASL
Interpreted performance of Peter Pan!

Sunday April 6, 2:00 p.m.

\$27 for Adults; \$22 for Seniors, Children and Students

Order tickets on line at www.strand.org or 732-367-7789 Voice.

Please ask for seats in the reserved interpreted section.

Strand Theater – 400 Clifton Ave., Lakewood, NJ. Free parking!

We hope you come join us for a wonderful evening!

Communicator Signboard

Bridge Players Theatre Company joins in celebrating the 25th anniversary of renowned composer Stephen Schwartz by proudly presenting

**Fridays at 8:00 pm:
May 2, 9, 16***

**Saturdays at 8:00 pm:
May 3, 10, 17**

**Sundays at 3:00pm:
May 4*, 11**

Tickets \$18.00



**Roger O. Hirson, book
Stephen Schwartz, music
& lyrics
Directed by
Bernard DiCasimirro**

**Broad Street United Methodist Church
36 E. Broad Street
Burlington, NJ**

**An optional Dinner/Theater package is also available for \$45,
which includes dinner at the acclaimed Café Gallery restaurant in Burlington.**

For more information or to order tickets please call 856-303-7620
or visit: www.BridgePlayersTheatre.com

*The performances on May 4th & May 16th will be shadow interpreted.

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) will be available upon request on May 2nd, 3rd, & 4th.
Persons in need of special accommodations are requested to give two weeks advance notification.

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week Fundraising Event
ASL Film (no voice/no captions)

“Wrong Game”

Saturday, May 17, 2008

2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$5.00

320 Sullivan Way,
West Trenton, NJ 08628

www.mkdsd.org

To purchase tickets in advance, send a check payable to:
NJDAW, Debbie Greenspan, 1131 Front Street, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
(on/before May 7)

Tickets can be picked up on the day of the show and can also be purchased at the door.

Any questions, Kim Arrigo at Exhibit2007@aol.com

Sponsored By Sprint

Calendar of Events 2008

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday April 25

East Brunswick Public Library

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:

609-984-7281 V/TTY

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Saturday, June 14, 2008

24th Annual

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ

Ticket Info: Lauren Lercher

GATickets@aol.com

NJSD/MKSD 125th Anniversary and NJSD/MKSD Alumni Association 80th Anniversary

October 10, 11 and 12, 2008

Columbus Weekend

Check www.mkzd.org for more information:

Thomas Sparks, Jr., Chairman,

PhySparks70@aol.com

856-374-1043 FAX

DDHH Office - Days Closed

Memorial Day (April, 26 2008); Independence Day (July 4, 2008)

Regular Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Rush

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
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