

July/August 2010

Monthly Communicator

Vol. 31 No. 7

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Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

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David C. Alexander, Director



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Day*

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Lobby?

Us?

Yes We Can!

by Carol Granaldi

**Produced by DHS
Office of Publications**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day – 26th Year NJAD, Six Flags Great Adventure and DDHH Continue Goal of Increasing New Jersey's Consumer Awareness

Another year, and another successful Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day took place at New Jersey's Six Flags Great Adventure. The heat and humidity did not stop the excellent and wonderful turnout, particularly from teens and 20-something Deaf folks.



Strolling along the Wild Safari

People could be seen signing around the park -- in line for rides/for food, chatting near the main fountain and attending the various park shows. All the shows on Awareness Day were made accessible through the use of sign language interpreters and assistive listening devices.

The New Jersey Association of the Deaf (NJAD) and the Deaf Awareness Week (NJDAW) committee oversaw the group sales ticket booth, just outside the main entrance, for those who had come for this special day.

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) also had a tent and exhibit table set-up to provide information about available services in New Jersey for people with hearing loss. Carol Granaldi, representing HLA-NJ, was with DDHH throughout the morning.



Fly, Fly Fly...with me



DDHH Staff

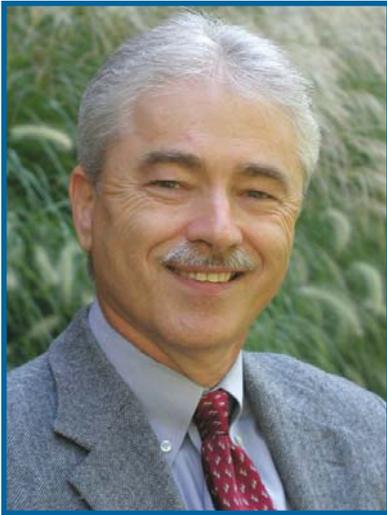
Standing, left to right Pat, Traci, Liz, Cathy
Seated, left to right Jason, Ira, David (Director), Todd, Alan

General announcements about hearing loss, along with the day's activities and events, were made before each park show, including the dolphin show, the tiger show, Wiggles, and Looney-Toons. This practice began last year, and continued as a best practice to increase consumer awareness.

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Director's Corner

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



Have you ever wanted to try an Assistive Listening Device (ALD) prior to purchasing one? First, let's make sure you understand ALD's. These devices are amplification systems designed specifically to help people with hearing loss, hear in a variety of difficult listening situations. ALD's can be connected to a personal hearing aid or cochlear implant, or used with headphones, earbuds, or a neckloop, to help overcome background noise and distance from the sound source. Some places where ALD's are particularly useful include: restaurants, conferences, workshops, lectures and tours as well as places of worship.

Next, let me tell you that the NJ Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and NJ Talking Books and Braille Center continue to jointly operate the "ALD Loan Program." Through this program, ALD devices can be borrowed, free of charge, for a two week loan period.

The ALD Loan Program is available through 16 regional libraries, called Regional Resource Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The list of these participating libraries and phone numbers are available at www.njsltbbc.org/DeafCenters.htm.

This program is an excellent opportunity for people with hearing loss to learn about the types of ALD's available, and to gain hands-on experience with these devices. The program also enhances the awareness of organizations and agencies regarding accommodations for people who are hard of hearing.

Please find further details about the program through DDHH Field Representative Traci Burton's column in this issue of the Monthly Communicator. Then, for more information regarding the program, contact Christine Lam, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at clam@njs-tatelib.org.

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

Reminder:

The deadline for submissions to the October 2010 issue is September 1. The deadline for the September issue was August 1.

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

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

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

Shuford Receives Beacon Award



Reverend Sheila Shuford received the "Beacon Award for Excellence" from the Warren

County Human Relations commission on May 13, 2010 during their Sixteenth Annual Award Celebration at Belvidere High School located in Belvidere, NJ. The Beacon award recognizes Shuford "as an individual who has been involved in an extraordinary manner to advance and promote all facets of diversity."

The purpose of the commis-

sion is to address and eliminate bias wherever it manifests itself, in schools, the work place, the home, the media, housing and employment. The commission strives to eliminate discrimination based on race, creed, color, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and physical or mental challenges.

Shuford was cited for her work as a Deacon at St. James' Episcopal Church in Hackensack, NJ, as well as her recent teaching at "Enable," a conference for clergy and lay people from all faith communities and persons with disabilities. Shuford was also applauded for her work with

teaching Deaf awareness in the community at schools and to scouts, teaching sign language classes that are open to church and the community, and her work as a chaplain with Deaf patients at a state psychiatric hospital.

The award reads, "Reverend Sheila Shuford ... In recognition of commitment and service to promoting the dignity of humankind." ALDA-GS congratulates her on this truly high and esteemed honor.

Shuford is currently ALDA-GS' Member at Large, has served as president for two terms and has also served ALDA-GS in many other capacities through the years of her affiliation with the organization.

Correction

In the June 2010 edition of the Monthly Communicator, the Page 14 article entitled "Governor Livingston High School Provides Accessible Theatre" was written by Mrs. Elisabeth Chiminec.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting



Friday, July 30
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Burlington County College: Mt. Holly Center
1 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060-1701

The public is invited to attend.

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

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

Awareness Day *continued from page 1*

In addition this year, the park shows were assigned a word or "sign" for the day, which was taught to the audiences at each showing. Signs for words such as "spaghetti," "potato," "banana," "fish," "tiger," and "dance" were signed by hundreds of people during the shows. Many individuals were spotted signing these words in the park throughout the day. So, in addition to raising awareness, much goodwill was also engendered with the participants.

The entire DDHH staff was present in the information tent throughout the day. The information tent was located at the park entrance from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM; and then set-up inside near the fountain from 2:00 to 6:00 PM, to capture the interest of many folks strolling around. People stopped by with questions about services for themselves, family members or loved ones; with questions about how they could be of assistance as a volunteer; about where to learn sign language; and even about how to become an interpreter.

There were a total of 20 sign language interpreters and 14 interpreting student interns participating, all working to ensure access and assistance throughout the park. The park made assistive listening devices available upon request. Even in a tough economy, this event continued to prove valuable on many levels, including education, awareness, access, social networking, and good old-fashion fun.



DDHH Field Representative Report for Summer 2010

Have You Heard About The Assistive Device Loan Program?

Submitted by Traci Burton

Many people wonder if a particular piece of equipment, such as a telephone, is going to work for them at home. They perhaps had a demonstration appointment, liked a device in the acoustically preferred conditions of one of our centers, and question if it will provide the same experience in the real world. The NJ State Library Talking Books and Braille Center, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program operates an "Assistive Listening Device Loan Program."



This loan program enables people with hearing loss, as well as community organizations, to borrow the devices on a trial basis. A few of the devices available for loan include a baby cry alert system, amplified telephones, and a smoke detector with attached strobe light.

Some people like to borrow a device they are considering requesting through DDHH's Equipment Distribution Program (EDP). Some devices, though, are not available through the EDP; and need to be purchased (ex., alarm clocks with bed shaker, amplification systems for the television and Cap-Tel). If uncertain whether a particular device will work effectively, you are able to borrow and try the device in your daily activities before purchasing the equipment.

Sometimes, one is in need of an assistive listening system in order to actively and effectively participate in a meeting, training session or live local theater performance. This part of the program is funded by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Two types of systems are available: Personal FM Systems for use up to 150 feet, and Wide Area FM Systems for use in larger spaces. Both systems are portable and come with simple instructions. They readily connect to all types of hearing aids and cochlear implants, and also work with earbuds or lightweight headsets. These systems combine a transmitter placed near the desired sounds, which is wirelessly linked to a small receiver that you wear. This receiver, in turn, delivers those sounds directly into the amplification device in your ear(s).

If you would like to borrow one of the FM systems, go a participating loan libraries. To see a list of libraries available in New Jersey, visit www.njlbh.org/DeafCenters.htm. To borrow any of the devices available, you may also go to your local library and ask for the equipment through the New Jersey Interlibrary Loan Service for Libraries. The loan period is limited, subject to availability and individual library policy.

For more information, contact Christine Lam, Coordinator State Library Talking Books and Braille Center Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program, at :

NJSL Talking Book and Braille Center
2300 Stuyvesant Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
866-326-6035 VP
888-671-6983 VP/Voice
clam@njstatelib.org



News and Views

A Monthly Column From The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

Summer has just arrived but HLA-NJ is looking ahead to fall and the most important event of our year, the Walk4Hearing on Saturday, October 16. The Walk, a 5K (3.1 miles) event in Mercer County Park, West Windsor, NJ, draws people of all ages to enjoy a day of companionship with friends and family to raise both awareness and funds to benefit people with hearing loss.

The kickoff event for the Walk is on September 12 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at Montclair State University's new Audiology Department facility in Bloomfield, NJ. The event is open to all, and we welcome your participation. Come to learn more about the Walk, and to discover ways to join a team, sign-up as a team captain or help with publicity, refreshments or entertainment. Last year's walk raised money for our successful scholarship program, outreach materials and programs, chapter development, as well as advocacy efforts for more accessible public events, telephone services and expanded government resources. Volunteers can also learn how to seek sponsorships from companies, and donations from family and

friends. This is an excellent opportunity to explain your hearing loss to others while helping people understand more about hearing loss and its impact.

The October 16 Walk4Hearing offers a chance for people of all ages to gather, bond, swap tips and share experiences. For children, there will be a moonbounce, face painting, refreshments and the chance to be with other kids who use hearing aids or cochlear implants. Most of all, the Walk is fun. An excellent video that captures the excitement is available at hlaa.convio.net/site///Page-Server?pagename=video_and_info. For information, please contact Lois Walker at Lois.Walker@hearingloss-nj.org, or visit www.walk4hearing.org.

Arlene Romoff, President of HLA-NJ, has won the Leadership Award from the Cultural Access Network, a program of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. This honor, which testifies to Arlene's successes in making movies, live theater and museums more accessible, includes a \$1,000 grant to further Arlene's arts access advocacy work. Arlene is the author of *Hear Again – Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant*, a chronicle of her first

year with her cochlear implant. In addition, HLA-NJ has won the first national award for excellence from the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Elizabeth LeBarron of HLAA said the award recognizes HLAA-NJ's "strong voice to spotlight and effect changes for people with hearing loss." More information is available at www.hearingloss.org.

For those who missed the TV broadcast, here's the informative captioned video about CapTel that features HLA-NJ board member, Bev Sudler www.captel.com/videos-profile-series.php. If you are not familiar with the new CapTel phone and services, make sure to watch this video.

We would like to hear from you. If you have questions or experiences to share on this or any other topic related to hearing loss, please pass them along to us, at info@hearingloss-nj.org. For information about HLA-NJ, please contact HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff at info@hearingloss-nj.org. Visit us at www.hearingloss-nj.org or plan to attend one of our local chapter meetings, which will resume in the fall in Bergen, Middlesex and Monmouth/Ocean Counties. Please, definitely join us at the Walk4Hearing events.

Drop It In, Dry It Out

by Liz Barany

BHEESTIE Bag® is an original, innovative product that gets the wet out of hearing aids, cell phones, and iPod® and other small devices. Sweat, rain and humidity can cause damaging corrosion or malfunction. The BHEESTIE Bag® helps protect your electronics from this damage.

Karen Wildman, partnering with her sister, Lisa Holmes, created Bheestie and Co. to sell their electronics-drying Bheestie Bags. Struggling with hearing loss since she was a baby, Karen knew a lot about drying out hearing aids from sweat, rain and other moisture. From her experience with moisture and hearing aids, she realized she could apply her drying technique to other small devices. Karen says, "In Texas, the humidity is very high and if you are outside doing any kind of activity your hearing aids get wet. I had trouble with them shorting on and off. They would also just stop working from the moisture. Because of that I had many different products (silica, desiccants, and dehumidifiers) that I used to dry out the aids and keep them working.

I have had a bi-lateral moderate/severe high frequency loss since a very young age. The doctors told my parents that it was from birth but my mom thinks my loss came about sometime between birth and age two because I had learned to speak well at a young age. As I have gotten older, I find I have very little hearing ability without my aids. I was mainstreamed in school and never learned to sign. My parents did not pick up on my loss until I was about five because I had learned to adapt well with lip reading. The doctors also told them that I would probably not finish high school due to my loss. However, I went on to graduate from nursing

school. I was very ashamed of my hearing loss growing up and refused to wear hearing aids until age sixteen. Even as an adult I struggled with shame and embarrassment from having a hearing loss. After Bheestie got going, I found myself having to answer the question of how did I come up with this idea for a product. This led to me talking about having a hearing loss. I do feel like inventing Bheestie was a blessing derived from having a hearing loss."

Karen says, "Starting out, we just wanted to be able to save many electronics including hearing aids due to moisture from sweat, humidity, saliva, and rain." Starting small and funding the project themselves, Karen and Lisa took five years to develop their product. "We initially wanted to have a product we could manufacture ourselves to save money. Many times we had to change the design, wording and packaging. It was a slow process and it was easy to get stuck in one place without any forward movement. She says, "But we believe in our product and we use our product daily, which helps in discussing it with other people. It is now being sold online and in retail stores, including at major outdoor supplier REI."

When asked what advice she had for someone wishing to start their own business, Karen said, "Believing in yourself is a key principle for me and Lisa. Trust your instinct when making a decision. Don't allow others to bring you down. You may not hear as well as they can but because of that you may have many other skills they do not have. We often stop and look at what we have done with Bheestie and enjoy a moment of feeling proud of our accomplishments."



New Contract for New Jersey Relay and CapTel Services Awarded to Sprint Relay

The Sprint Relay team is thrilled to be serving the communication needs of all citizens and visitors to the state of New Jersey. Effective April 1, Sprint continued as the relay service provider for New Jersey. At its board meeting of March 17, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities gave final approval for Sprint to continue to provide both traditional Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and Captioned Telephone (CapTel) services to New Jersey residents. The new contract will run from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2013 with two possible extensions.

The New Jersey Relay Service is a free service provided by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) ensuring equal communication access to telephone service for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf-blind or speech disabled. Sprint appreciates the award and commends the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for their long standing history in providing New Jersey Relay Service since 1990 as one of the earliest TRS states during the TRS boom in the 1990's.

Sprint is also celebrating 20 years of relay service reflecting our strong commitment to the relay communication business. Our never-ending drive for innovation has been the key to expanding accessible communication options.

We are pleased to be able to maintain all the same toll-free relay phone numbers we have been providing for New Jerseyans since 2006. Either dial up 711, or any of the following numbers:

- Voice: 800-852-7897
- TTY/ASCII: 800-852-7899
- VCO: 866-658-7711
- HCO: 800-852-7899
- STS: 866-658-7712
- Spanish: 866-658-7714
- Telebraille 866-658-7713
- 900 Service: 900-230-4149
- CapTel Users: 877-243-2823

The following Customer Services numbers are also available:

- New Jersey Relay Customer Service : 800-676-3777 TTY/Voice/ASCII
- New Jersey Relay Spanish Customer Service: 800-676-4290 TTY/Voice/ASCII
- CapTel Customer Service: 888-269-7477 TTY/Voice/ASCII
- CapTel Spanish Customer Service: 866-670-9134
- Sprint's TTY Operator Service: 800-855-4000.

To learn more about the New Jersey Relay and CapTel Services, request a presentation or have one-to-one training by an Outreach Specialist in your region, please visit www.njrelay.com and www.njcaptel.com.

For additional relay services via the Web sites, please go to:

- New Jersey Relay Conference Captioning: www.njrelaycc.com
- Sprint Internet Relay: www.sprintip.com
- Sprint Video Relay: www.sprintvrs.com

Why ALDA Confusion?

Submitted by Elinore Bullock

People often ask, why are there two Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) organizations in New Jersey. It's time to set the record straight.

ALDA-Garden State (GS) is a formal chapter of ALDA-Inc. and has membership dues, a board, a newsletter, bylaws, elections, and definite agendas, everything a formal organization should have.

ALDA-NJ, has none of those and is informal. It is therefore classified as a "group" rather than a chapter. Both are affiliated with ALDA, Inc. an international organization.

Both the GS chapter and the New Jersey group focus on the late-deafened adult, people who have lost their hearing to greater or lesser degree after having acquired spoken language skills. All require more than auditory input to understand speech.

These people are in the unaccustomed position of having to learn to live in a whole new way after the loss of their hearing. Some had to change careers and some learned that marriage is not always for better or for worse and most feel a bit lost. All need the support of others who understand that feeling of having had the rug pulled out from under them.

Both ALDAs use whatever modes of communication works for each individual member. Some of us have learned to sign, though for want of practice opportunities, few are fluent. Although now hard of hearing or deaf, we still live surrounded by those who hear, (i.e. those who do not sign) so frustration and feelings of isolation affect us possibly more completely than those who have found a life for themselves in the Deaf community. All of us speech read to some extent, and some still need note writing. At meetings, most of us prefer CART to interpreters, as reading is easier for us than trying to follow classroom learned sign language. To extend the classroom analogy a step further, most of us are still in the first grade when it comes to sign language. When we're together, little signing is used or seen, but most of us can sign when we need to communicate with those who prefer this mode of communication, provided they have lots of patience.

We, in New Jersey, were not always an ALDA in two parts. In the early 90's, under the leadership of Nancy Kingsley, ALDA-NJ was organized with the intent of providing social opportunities for late-deafened adults of a kind not to be found either in the hearing world or in the culturally Deaf world. The gatherings, or parties, filled a need for us. They were and still are well attended.

Some of those who attended the parties saw potential in our unity to expand the group's purpose to provide advocacy and educational opportunities. The leadership felt that such expansion would interfere with the original purpose of the organization which was to put aside all politics and possible conflicts. It was decided to maintain the original intent of the organization, having a good time. As Nancy put it, "I want people to leave politics at the door when they come to one of these parties and just have a good time, free from communication restraints."

Led by the late Dr. Jerel Barnhart, (aka Jerry) a faction of ALDA-NJ members split off from the original group and formed a new one. Some individuals maintained membership in both groups, others drifted toward one over the other. The new group needed a different name to distinguish itself from the New Jersey group, but still wanted to be affiliated with ALDA, Inc. and be identified with New Jersey. So ALDA-Garden State was born to the everlasting confusion of many people.

Ever since the split, consideration has been given to reuniting. Some feel a single group would be stronger. Others fear both group could fall apart with such an effort. As the current New Jersey coordinator, it has been my decision to not "rock the boat" but let it continue to float, as is.

It is clear that the two groups differ a lot in outlook, and few people attend both the ALDA-NJ parties and the ALDA-GS workshops. I am one who feels that "marrying" the two groups could be fatal to both. I also think two groups are better than one and would like to see even more groups throughout the state. New Jersey is a small state in size but not in number.

I welcome thoughts on this from all involved or interested in getting involved. I invite you to contact me at elinorebullock7@embarqmail.com with your comments regarding advantages and disadvantages of reuniting the two groups. I will be sending this to the New Jersey group, as well as requesting that this be published in the GS newsletter. If so indicated from your comments, I would approach the GS board about considering reunification.

So there you have it . . . two distinctly different ALDA's in New Jersey, one focused on socializing, the other on advocacy, education, and providing scholarships. Both groups fill a need. One has alda fun and the other has alda work.

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey Wins National Award for Excellence

The Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey (HLA-NJ), which offers wide-ranging programs benefiting people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, has won a national award for excellence from the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss.

"The State Organization Award, a new category this year, goes to HLA-NJ, which epitomizes the selection criteria. The award recognizes a state organization that has a strong voice to spotlight and effect changes for people with hearing loss," said Elizabeth LeBarron, the HLAA National States and Chapters Coordinator. The national support network of HLAA includes fourteen state organizations, and two hundred local chapters.

Arlene Romoff, President of HLA-NJ, called the award "a welcome recognition of the hard work, skills and commitment by the HLA-NJ team." "HLA-NJ has helped thousands of people from New Jersey break out of the isolation that too often accompanies hearing loss," she said. "Our programs, and the efforts of individual members, have shown others how to take advantage of the latest technology and medical techniques, how to get support and counseling, and how to be an effective advocate for themselves and for others with hearing loss. As Baby Boomers age and the number of people with hearing loss increases, our work has taken on new importance."

HLA-NJ serves people of all ages throughout the State of New Jersey, providing information, support and opportunities for advocacy to people with all degrees of hearing loss. The group also works closely with the state Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and

other organizations, public and private, to ensure a coordinated response to meeting the needs of people with hearing loss.

One of HLA-NJ's main activities is its annual Walk4Hearing, according to Ms. Romoff. The event is not only the group's main fundraiser, but also a chance for people with hearing loss from across the state to mingle, share experiences, and enjoy a fun day of outdoor activities. Equally important, however, is the event's goal of raising awareness of hearing loss and its impact on individuals and their families at home and in the workplace. HLA-NJ welcomes participation from people with hearing loss, their friends and families, as well as corporate sponsorships. Information is available at www.walk4hearing.org.

In addition, HLA-NJ sponsors a mini fair as part of its annual meeting. The mini fair brings together a number of agencies and organizations, to foster a collaborative approach and to make valuable information and ideas available to members.

Other HLA-NJ outreach activities include college scholarships to help students with hearing loss pay the cost of college tuition, and a captioned theater initiative that has resulted in New Jersey becoming the model and prototype for movie theaters and live theaters across the country. HLA-NJ is also working to address the serious problems people with hearing loss encounter during hospital stays.

Ms. Romoff and other HLA-NJ members respond to hundreds of requests a year for information and advice. These requests come not only from people with hearing loss about specific problems, but also from friends, relatives and caregivers.

LOBBY? US? YES, WE CAN!

By Carol Granaldi

People who are Deaf, hard of hearing or late-deafened often think that they cannot play a part in lobbying for legislative change, or have social input. In fact, any organization that does not lobby or does not lobby well is almost certain to get left out. Lobbying is making an effort to persuade the members of a legislature, whether city council, county commission, state legislature, or United State House of Representatives or Senate, to enact legislation favorable to your cause or, on occasion, defeat or repeal legislation unfavorable to your cause.

You are a constituent, you pay taxes, use services, reside in a community, and when you belong to an organization, your organization has expertise in a field which impacts you and others who have hearing loss. When you lobby or testify, you can give your legislator information he or she doesn't have the time to acquire any other way. If you testify in person at a public hearing, others present also gain information they may not absorb in person. You literally put a "face" on a cause, which in our case, is sensitivity to hearing loss and its impact on individuals. When we focus on legislation that affects our hearing loss population and lobby for funding for services or passage of laws pertaining to hearing loss enablement, we impress legislators by overcoming our deaf-related shyness of speaking in public. Some of us are uncomfortable in an environment which is not geared to deafness: lack of assistive listening devices, captioning services, or sign language interpreters. In this post ADA era, you have every right to request, accommodations you need. Chances are, your request will be honored. When you are provided with these accommodations, you then become emboldened to "speak your mind."

Notices of upcoming public hearings will be publicized through the federal

or state legislative Web sites. The public notices will give the location and time of the hearing. If there's a hearing you can attend, and in which you can present your case in person, you will contact the Office of Legislative Services to request your communication accommodation. Often the notices will give the contact name and number for special accommodations. Make your request as far in advance as possible so the office can secure the assistive devices, captioning service, or interpreters you need. You also need to register with the contact person who will list you as one who is testifying. You will be instructed to pro-



vide a number of pages of your testimony to the committee or panel so they can be distributed at the time of your appearance.

If you are to testify in person, you must present a well documented case for the legislation that you either support or oppose. The more you know about your subject matter, presenting your facts clearly, the more effective you will be. You will have no more than five minutes to convey your message, stating why you want the legislators to do what you are asking, showing them your belief in the cause, and putting a human face on issues impacting hearing loss. You don't have to be "wordy," but you do have to be sincere and truthful. If a legislator asks

you a question, answer it honestly, or if you don't have the answer, say that you will get that information and send it later to the legislative committee or panel. Write down the question, the legislator's name, and be sure to follow up.

It's intimidating to step into a public venue such as legislative chambers, meeting hall, or open space while worrying about understanding what is being said during the proceedings. You should have the communication accommodations already set in place, and then you will rely on this service to get you through the process. You will sign in and relinquish your written material, keeping one for yourself to read. When you are called to the microphone, open your presentation by addressing the chairperson by name, and the committee by group such as "Budget Allocation Committee" or other. Most of us read verbatim from our written material to ensure all details are remembered. It's acceptable to read your comments because most of us are not polished professional speakers and some of us get "tongue tied" under stress. After you've spoken, look at the committee, wait for any questions they may ask, then say your "thank you" and get up and make room for the next speaker. There, that wasn't hard, was it?

As an American citizen you have every right to appear and speak at a public hearing and make a difference in how people with hearing loss are perceived. If we don't speak up, legislators will think we don't care. When laws are passed, and funding is granted, it's because of what we do or don't do. Legislation reflects what the people want only if we take the time and effort to let our legislators know what we want. That's why there are public hearings, and that's why we should lobby and testify. To paraphrase a Chinese saying: "It's better to beat one small drum, than to curse the silence."

Curtis Pride Honored by Lake Drive Foundation Visits Program Students

By Sueanne Sylvester

"I strongly believe that one of the greatest gifts we have as human beings is our ability to dream," former New York Yankee, Curtis Pride told the more than 200 guests at the recent "For the Babies" Gala held at the Villa in Mountain Lakes. Although born 95% Deaf, Pride dreamed about becoming a major league baseball player. "People would always tell me I was chasing an impossible dream. They would say things like, 'Curtis, how can you possibly think about playing major league baseball when you can't even hear your coaches' voices or the crack of the bat when the ball is hit?' There were even teammates who made fun of me, and there were many times that I felt like I wanted to quit pursuing my dream. But I stuck with it because of one thing, I never stopped believing in myself."

The annual gala is the signature event for The Lake Drive Foundation to raise funds for The Sound Start Early Intervention Program for babies who are Deaf and hard of hearing. A highlight of the evening was the chance to meet successful Sound Start babies, some now graduating from high school, others attending college or achieving their dreams in the business world. "This was a great opportunity for our donors to see the connection between the foundation Sound Start builds for the babies and the successful futures they can achieve," said Foundation President, Deyo. Deyo spotlighted the achievements of two graduating seniors, Alyssa Davis, a marathon runner who earned a perfect score on her college reading ACT, and Mountain Lakes High School athlete, Leslye Kang, who will compete in the 2010 World Deaf Games with the USA Under 21 Women's Basketball Team. Graduating senior Kiara Suarez presented Curtis Pride the Honorable John H. Ewing Friends of Deaf Children Award. Suarez is a member of the Mountain Lakes High School girls' softball team and will be attending Gallaudet University next year where Pride is now head baseball coach. Kiara was also acknowledged as one of the four members of the Lake Drive Academic Bowl team which placed in the top ten among the best and brightest students with hearing loss in the country.

Pride also visited with Lake Drive Program middle school and high school students the day after the Gala. He told the students to believe in themselves, dream, and work hard. Pride graduated the College of William and Mary with a degree in finance, and emphasized the importance of higher education for students with hearing loss. "Looking back, while I always feel proud when I am introduced as the first Deaf player in modern major league history, I am even more proud to be thought of as a major league player who also has a college degree."

For more information about The Lake Drive Program's new Ivy Nursery, contact Michele Klimovitch at 973-299-0166.



Do you have a concern, complaint or suggestion regarding closed captioning with your cable television provider? Following is a list of companies and the contact information to direct inquiries.



Verizon Fios

ATT: Valerie DeCastro, Manager PO Box 33052, 821
First Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.
888-553-1555 Voice
888-806-7026 FAX
videoclosedcaption@verizon.com

DirecTV

ATT: Closed Captions, PO Box 1076, El Segundo, CA 90245.
800-531-5000 for current concerns.
310-964-1010 C. Schrum, Senior Manager, for formal inquiries
310-964-3703 FAX
ClosedCaptions@directv.com

TimeWarner Cable

Monique Crawford, Administrator, Legal Affairs, 13820 Sunrise Valley Drive, Herndon, VA 20171
Enter zip code for telephone number at www.timewarnercable.com/nynj/about/contactus.html
704-697-4935 FAX
www.timewarnercable.com/nynj/support/closedcaptioning/default.html
twc.closedcaptioningissues@twcable.com
877-276-7432 Voice, Monique Crawford for questions about a written complaint,
NOTE: This number should only be used in connection with written closed captioning complaints.
Immediate concerns should be directed to the number listed above.

Cablevision/Optimum

ATT: Phyllis Baston-Crosby, VP, Shared Services, 6 Corporate Center Drive, Melville, NY 11747
888-420-0777 Voice
631-846-5349 FAX
optimum@mailca.custhelp.com
631-846-5360 Voice
516-803-2040 FAX
pcrosby@cablevision.com

Comcast Cable

ATT: Frank Eliason, Closed Captioning Office, 1701 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia, PA
19103-2838
800-266-2278 Voice
215-286-8000 To leave a phone message
215-286-4700 FAX
closed_captioning@comcast.com
www.comcast.com/support

The above information is provided by the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology.

Journey into the Deaf World

Submitted by Jason Weiland, DDHH

The Center for Collegiate Deaf Education (CCDE) at Bergen Community College hosted an enriching experience for the college and community called, "Journey into the Deaf World" on Friday, April 30. This was a cultural immersion activity, where participants from Bergen, Passaic, and Essex counties had an opportunity to practice their sign language skills as well as increase awareness and understanding of the communication barriers for Deaf and hard of hearing people.

More than seventy participants were welcomed into a mock Deaf World where ASL was the only language used. Participants used passports to guide them on a journey that took them to various destinations where they need to complete tasks. Destinations include an ASL school, a medical center, a history museum, a career, an ASL café, and an ASL store.

Along the way, participants were presented with challenges they needed to strategically overcome in order to accomplish their tasks. Participants who were unable to communicate or didn't understand were required to request interpreting services. At the end of their journey, participants earned a certificate of participation.

The evening was a fun-filled and worthwhile experience for signers of all levels. The staff of the Center for Collegiate Deaf Education Center is grateful to the support of the participants, volunteers, and DDHH for their time contributions to the event.



Deaf Interpreting – Means What? Introduction to Deaf Interpreting



On May 1, the New Jersey Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf hosted, "Deaf Interpreting – Means What? Introduction to Deaf Interpreting" at Union County College in Plainfield, NJ. Eileen Forestal, RSC, Master Mentor and Interpreter Educator, gave the seventeen Deaf participants in attendance an idea of what they can expect if they want to be a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI).

The workshop explained how to become RID certified, the training involved, the skills needed and the settings where CDI's are needed. Hopefully, there will be more workshops in the future and New Jersey will be adding to its pool of Certified Deaf Interpreters.



Religious Access



High Holiday Services at Temple Emanu-El

756 East Broad Street Westfield N.J.

Interpreted high holiday services



Rosh Hashanah - Thursday, September 9 at 11:30 AM
Yom Kippur - Saturday, September 18 at 11:30 AM

Please arrive about 11:15 AM each day so you can sit in the front near the interpreter.

Free tickets for Deaf individuals are available by calling before Sept. 5
Toby Marx 908-272-2549, Voice or
Call the Temple directly at 908-232-6770, Voice.

Communicator Signboard

ASL BOWLING ASSOCIATION

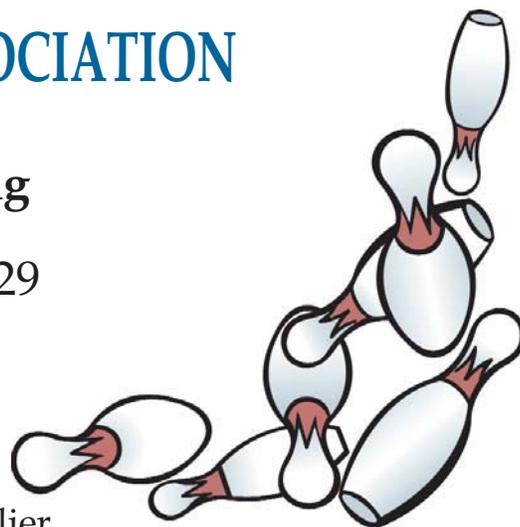
General Meeting

Sunday August 29

2:30 PM

at

Brunswick Zone Carolier
790 U.S. Route 1, N. Brunswick, NJ 08902



League meeting to discuss rules, policies and team selections.
Old and new bowlers Welcome

For more information, contact Debra Fuller dfuller977@aol.com. Visit www.aslba.org

Communicator Signboard

Accessibility Services at Plays-in-the-Park



Plays-in-the-Park will offer American Sign Language interpretation and open captioning for their summer season of musicals at the outdoor amphitheater in Roosevelt Park on the dates listed below. Also called the Stephen J. Capestro Theater located on Pine Drive in Roosevelt Park, Edison, NJ.

Admission is \$6 for Adults and \$5 for Seniors.

Children under 12 are admitted free.

All performances begin at 8:30 PM

The Wedding Singer

Open captioned Performance on Monday, July 19, rain date July 20
Sign language interpretation on Wednesday, July 21, rain date July 22

Disney's High School Musical

Sign language interpretation on Wed., August 11; Rain date, August 12

For further information on these services, or if you have questions regarding access for a patron with special needs, please contact Jackie Neill at 732-745-3936, Voice or Jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us.

You may call in advance to reserve seating in any of our wheelchair accessible areas at Plays-in-the-Park.

Summer Knitting Project

Wednesday's (starting July 14)

7:30 to 8:30 PM

at

Rutgers University Catholic Center

94 Somerset Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Instruction is free.

Come and join a knitting class to make scarves, hats, blankets, and others projects. Creations will be given to the homeless shelter for next winter.

This is for beginner, intermediate, and advanced knitters.

A knitting instructor will be available for beginners. Learn something creative and give back.

All projects will end the last Wednesday in August.

For more information, contact kathykadyhopkins@aol.com or call 732-418-9054.

Communicator Signboard



Millburn Fundraiser Party

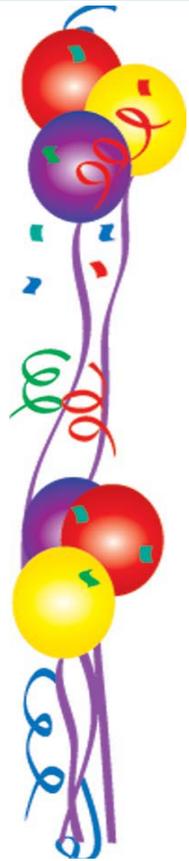
July 31, 10:00 AM

Roosevelt Park
Parsonage Road, Edison NJ 08871 (Next to Menlo Park Mall)
Meet Group (Grove 1B)

Admission \$5

Hamburger/hotdogs, desserts and drinks provided
(Buy Your Own Alcoholic Beverages)
There will be games, raffles, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles.

R.S.V.P to Millburn Committee. For questions or information,
contact Millburnschool@yahoo.com.
Also, visit us at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/parksrecreation/roosevelt.asp.



North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

presents

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament

Saturday, September 11

3:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church, 810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ 07013

Doors open at 3:00 PM for registration. Buffet dinner at 3:30 PM
Tournament game starts at 5:00 PM

\$60 per player and **\$15** per fan advance purchase. **\$70** at the door.

Cost includes dinner, prizes, and expenses. Limit one hundred people

For more information, directions or ticket orders, visit us at www.njccdsite.org/texas10x.pdf or
www.njccdsite.org. Chairman Leonard Amato and the Committees

Communicator Signboard

NORTH JERSEY COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE DEAF, INC.

presents

12th Annual Summer Picnic

**Saturday, August 28, 12 Noon to 6:00 PM
at St. John's Lutheran Church,
810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ 07013**

**Great food, drinks, fun games, rain or shine.
Come and meet people.**

Guest Speaker - Rose Pizzo, author of "Growing Up Deaf"

**Donations in Advance Members - \$16, Non-Members - \$18,
At Door - \$20,
Children under age 12 - free.**

**To order tickets, mail before August 23 and
make check or money order payable to
NJCCD, Inc.**

**send c/o Tim Golden
26 Thomas Stree
Clifton, NJ 07013**

Chairperson - Tim Golden and the Committees

**For more information or directions, please visit
www.njccdsite.org/sumpic10.pdf
or www.njccdsite.org.**

Communicator Signboard

In Honor of Deaf Awareness Week

NJDAW, NJASLTA, UCC S.I.G.N and NWJAD
hosts our first



ASL Storytelling Contest

and

Coda Brothers DVD Show



Saturday, October 23, 2010

1:00 to 5:00 PM

Door opens at Noon

at

The Auditorium of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016
\$10 per person mailed and postmarked before Oct 9, 2010, or \$15 per person at the door.
Limiting Seating.

Come and share your favorite Deaf Culture story.
Story or joke can be presented individually or in a group (up to four people)

- ❖ 1st Prize: \$200 ❖ 2nd Prize: \$150
- ❖ 3rd Prize: \$100 ❖ 4th Prize: \$75 ❖ 5th Prize: \$50

Sign up on same day as the contest. No advance registration is necessary.
Only Deaf and hard of hearing individuals may enter the contest.

Refreshments will be sold by NJDAW (New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week committee).

Visit www.nwjad.org to order tickets online or make check or money order payable to
NWJAD, Inc. and mail to Box 533, Gladstone, NJ 07934
Include your name, home address and e-mail address.

For information, visit www.nwjad.org or contact us at nwjad@nwjad.org.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
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Calendar of Events 2010

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting Friday July 30

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION:

Burlington County College:

Mt. Holly Center

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

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:

609-984-7281 V/TTY

Garden State Walk4Hearing

Saturday, October 16

www.hearingloss-nj.org

ASL Storytelling Contest and Coda Brothers DVD Show

Saturday, October 23

nwjad@nwjad.org

NJRID Biennial Conference

Friday through Sunday

November 5, 6, 7

www.njrid.org

Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
DDHH Office – Monday, September 6, 2010