

DDHHH

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Monthly Communicator

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

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Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David C. Alexander, Director

DEAF FEST 2007 BRINGS TOGETHER 4,000 FRIENDS AND ADVOCATES

If you looked for bright sunshine, you would have found it at “Deaf Fest 2007.” The annual festival, held on September 16 at the East Brunswick Fairgrounds, brought together members of our community from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and as far away as Michigan and California. Together we enjoyed cheese-steak, hot sausage, and funnel cake; and we all got reacquainted with friends - some of whom we might not have seen for years. Over 4,000 were in attendance. The excitement was evident as people stayed under tents long after the day’s events closed. With the support of tickets sold for “Deaf Awareness Day” at Great Adventure (through 16 sponsoring organizations), the event proved more successful than Deaf Fest 2005.



Sammy Ruiz Jr. wowed the audience in the capacity filled entertainment tent with his magic tricks in the late afternoon. The Mistress of Ceremonies, Camille Lorello, kept crowds entertained between performances. Rathskellar, a performing arts group that uses sign language through music and dance, were the biggest draw of the day. Founder Jon Kovacs, Jessica Kay von Garrel, Andres Otalora, Emily Jo Noschese, and Amanda Kate Sortwell burned up the stage with their dance moves, ASL poetry, and storytelling, which drew laughter and applause from the enthusiastic crowd. Deaf Fest 2007 was also the first stop for Rathskellar in their brand new tour bus! For more information about the group, visit www.rathskellar.com.

Sixty exhibitors were present, thirty of which were new to this year’s event. Video Relay Service providers like Sorenson VRS, Communication Service for the Deaf VRS, Sprint VRS, NJ Relay, and Snap VRS were there in full force and a popular stop for attendees. A free blood screening booth was run by Geralyn Ponzio, M.D. and Paula Daniels, RN. Others tables representing schools, interpreter agencies, state agen-

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Director's Corner

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

Over the past three weeks, I have enjoyed meeting with the Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and late-deafened communities. I participated in the Hearing Loss Association of America's "All 4 to Hear" regional conference, held during the weekend of October 6 in Harrisburg, PA. The conference was excellent. We provide you with highlights from the conference's workshops, exhibits and new technology information in this edition of the newsletter. Throughout the conference, I took the opportunity to meet members of the NJ Chapter of HLAA.

My participation also extended to the NJ Theatre Alliance Advisory Board. The members of this board are very committed to ensuring that the theatre is fully accessible to the Deaf and hard of hearing. I take pleasure in learning that recently this past year, DDHH provided funding to this organization to support the open captioning of 32 theatrical performances around the state.

Several of the DDHH staff members and I attended "DiscoverAbility, the Governor's Conference on Employment for People with Disabilities." DDHH participated in the planning of this conference. New Jersey's business and industry community, people with disabilities and public and private agency representatives gathered together to share ideas and information with the primary goal to increase employment of qualified workers with disabilities.

Last but not least, I also took part in the Fall Festival hosted by the Library for the Blind and Handicapped and met with deaf-blind people, as well as senior citizens, discussing their communication-access needs and the many services available to them through the DDHH.

This has certainly been a busy month for DDHH. Moving forward, I will continue to reach out to our constituencies. I know this newsletter will continue to serve as a valuable resource for you. Please feel free to contact me to share your comments and concerns at david.alexander@dhs.state.nj.us.

Reminder:

The deadline is December 1, 2007 for submissions to the January 2008 issue of Monthly Communicator. The deadline for the February 2008 issue is January 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 e-mail address above.

Monthly Communicator

Director: David C. Alexander

Editor: Alan Champion

NJ Department of Human Services

Division of the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing

PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

(609) 984-7281 V/TTY

(800) 792-8339 V/TTY

609-984-7283 VP (Video Phone)

(609) 984-0390 Fax

www.state.nj.us/human_services/ddhh

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Deadline for submissions:

First of the month for the following month's edition

Court Experience with a Hearing Loss

By Ronnie Adler, Manager of Walk4Hearing

About four months ago, while driving, I hit a vehicle from behind due to bad weather. I received a citation in the mail and returned my citation with a plea of “not guilty.” I received a letter from the Montgomery County District Court stating that I needed to appear in court. I called the courthouse and informed them that I needed CART. I was prepared for the person on the phone to ask, “what’s a CART?” To my surprise, the person with whom I was talking knew exactly what I needed and stated that it would be provided for me. I admit, I had my doubts that a court reporter would be there to provide CART. When the court date neared, I called to confirm about CART and I was informed that I would have it. I was really impressed and pleased.

At court, since I did not want to change my plea, the judge kept asking the court reporter to ask me if I wanted to go to a hearing. The judge continued to talk to the court reporter stating that if I did not change my plea then I would need to go for a hearing. I told the judge to talk to me, not the court reporter. After some exchange of information between the judge and the police officer and me, it was clear that I would need to appear for a hearing. I was really disturbed by the fact that the judge would not look at me and continued to look at the court reporter who was just standing there with me and was not captioning anything at that point.

Two months later, I arrived at the courthouse, and the judge was talking to the court reporter in the waiting room. The court reporter said to the judge, “There she is.” I walked up to the judge and said “Hello.” The judge failed to make eye contact with me.

Finally, it was time for my case to be heard, and while the court reporter set up her equipment, the judge told the witness (the woman whose car I hit) that the court reporter was there for the “handicapped.” I wanted to correct the judge, but since my case was not heard yet, I chose to keep quiet. Then the judge proceeded to share a conversation with the witness and court reporter about

his father-in-law who has a hearing loss and how he can’t hear at a noisy party. This conversation continued for about 15 minutes and I was only able to hear parts of the story. The court reporter laughed and conversed with the judge and did not caption at this point. I was totally ignored and felt like I was invisible.

The judge began my case and talked to the witness at length about the accident and the judge failed to make eye contact with me. He asked the court reporter to ask me various questions and I had to keep reminding the judge to look at me and talk to me. I admit, I was not happy with this situation and felt I was being treated poorly. Finally, when I was able to state my case and it became clear that not only did I understand the laws and the citation, I was able to prove that I should not have received a citation at all and I was found “not guilty.” The judge’s manner changed and he treated me with more respect, yet I felt angry that I had to wait until the end to be treated like a human being.

Even though I won the case and the court provided access, the treatment was horrible and obviously the judge needed an education on “hearing loss 101.” It is still important to ask for access, whether it is CART or a sign language interpreter; but we cannot control how people are going to respond to us because we have a disability.

*Note from Diana Bender, Hearing Loss Association-Pennsylvania State Director: While serving on the Courthouse Access Advisory Committee, I heard many stories such as this, which showed that judges need to be educated about people with disabilities (common courtesy would also have helped in this case!). The committee has made recommendations to the U.S. Access Board on ways to educate everyone involved in courthouse proceedings, including judges. (This article is reprinted from Hearsay: The Official Newsletter of Hearing Loss Association PA, June 2007.)



Challenging Communications Create Diverse Opportunities

By Jon Steele, UBS Wealth Management US

In spring 2006, Claire O'Brien, Manager, IS Client Billing Operations, was told she would need an extra chair for an interview with Candice Hsu, a prospective employee. "The position had been open for several months," recalled O'Brien,"and I was so pleased to hear we had a candidate who had made it past the interview with my boss, Liz DiNicola, that I didn't worry about logistics."



Candice Hsu (left) and Blaise Accumanno, working with a team, tackled office communication and technology issues that Candice encountered.

"Then Candice arrived with her interpreter," O'Brien recalls. "Liz hadn't mentioned that Candice is Deaf." "I probably forgot to mention it," DiNicola, Head of IS Client Billing, said. "The interview I had with Candice and her interpreter was so seamless that it just wasn't a fact I chose to dwell on. What was most important was that we'd found someone I thought had the right skills and experience for the job."

After talks with her soon-to-be supervisor, Blaise Accumanno, Associate Manager, IS Client Billing Operations, Hsu accepted a position as a Lead Associate, IS Client Billing Operations, involving accounting and reconciliation for managed account products. The job not only makes use of Hsu's strong accounting background, but also her analytical skills—she previously served as financial analyst at a top CPA firm. "I like going back to look at accounts where there were discrepancies, then reconciling them," Hsu said. "It's a lot like detective work."

While the on-boarding and training process can be challenging for any newly hired employee, Hsu knew she would need to help educate her managers and co-workers about some additional considerations.

Aware of the communications challenges they might encounter, DiNicola and her team were ready to welcome

Hsu to UBS. "We were excited that we'd found someone who could do the job."

Creating Solutions

Once Hsu joined the firm, she and her managers knew they would need a team effort to tackle communication and technology issues.

Within their group, Accumanno and Hsu first communicated solely using Microsoft Word and e-mailing questions and answers, recalled Accumanno.

But they soon realized that typing fell short when it came to meetings and telephone calls. Hsu knew from the outset to expect those challenges, and she knew where to look for a solution.

At home, Hsu already used a system called Video Relay Service (VRS), which uses webcams to allow a Deaf person to sign to an interpreter and receive signed responses back. With the VRS, the interpreter can see Hsu in the monitor, see her expressions and relay inflections along with the literal translation of the message.

With a lot of help from Information Technology Infrastructure (ITI), particularly Bill Rasmussen, Global Desktop Video Engineer for Connectivity Services ? Product Management & Engineering, a number of security and technical issues have been resolved. The system still needs some fine-tuning, but it has made it a lot easier for Hsu to do her job and better connect with her colleagues.

Electronics, however, aren't much help during meetings. "People think that as long as you have the PowerPoint on the screen, then that's all you need," Hsu says. "But it's not. When I'm in a meeting and someone behind me is speaking, I don't know it. Sometimes I get a feeling I've missed something, but not always."

"And not all Deaf people lip read," Hsu noted, addressing another common misconception. "I can, but not in all situations. For example, if more than one person is talking, it doesn't work—and, of course, some people are easier to lip read than others."

continued from previous page

To address that problem, the department schedules an interpreter for staff meetings and special events, such as a Service Excellence Town Hall. The difference between the first couple of meetings, when an interpreter wasn't available, and those Hsu has attended since was obvious to everyone. DiNicola says, "She gets very involved in the discussions."

Team Effort Pays Off

"Blaise has done a great job," DiNicola said, "and put in a lot of time and effort into making sure Candice had the information and tools she needed to get her work done. And it has involved a lot of collaboration—people in Legal and Human Relations, as well as IT, all had to do their part."

Greg Jones, Head of Diversity Strategy and Development for WM US, believes that Hsu's integration into the Firm was made possible by the team's efforts. "Liz, Blaise and Claire saw a need and wanted to meet it so that Hsu could be as effective as possible. Bill Rasmussen's diversity of thought in considering changes to the system and in his willingness to stick with it was a major contribution. "What ultimately makes this story special," Jones concluded, "is that it made business sense. Candice is making a contribution to her department and the firm and is building the foundation for a career. Creating an environment where people can overcome challenges while creating business opportunities—that's what diversity is about."

All 4 to Hear Conference

The first "All 4 To Hear" conference for Region II of the Hearing Loss Association of America was held October 5 through 7 in Harrisburg, PA. The region comprises Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. The conference gave participants the opportunity to explore new hearing technologies and to learn more about coping with hearing loss. The conference took two years in planning. It provided many opportunities to meet people and learn new information in a variety of workshops and exhibits.

The exhibit hall contained information about hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, telephones and relay services, and other resources available to people who have a hearing loss,

The keynote speaker was Donna Sorkin, Vice President of Consumer Affairs, Cochlear America's, who talked about "The Changing Face of Hearing Loss." Anne Pope, the President of HLAA Board of Trustee, provided the opening session. This was followed by "Emergency Preparedness for People with Hearing Loss", presented by Lise Hamlin, Director of Access and Advocacy, Northern VA Resource Center.

A number of excellent workshops were presented including, two panel discussions: Cochlear Implant Panel with representatives from three implant manufacturers and a Hearing Aid Panel. Other workshops included, "Coping with Hearing Loss" presented by Dr. David Goldberg; "Assistance Dogs and Protection" under the ADA presented by Kristin Law; Dr. Joseph Montano spoke about "The World Health Organization's International Classification of Function and Hearing Loss"; and a Yoga Workshop and Core Conditioning Workshop. Kim Calabretta, Sprint Program Manager, CapTel Relay in North Carolina, also spoke about the CapTel relay system.

In addition to learning new information, participants met old friends, made new ones and enjoyed Harrisburg.



WHY I HAVE TO HEAR BIRDS....

by Carol Granaldi

When a child is unable to hear, and no one understands what happens to her world, what she is unable to hear will shape her perceptions and her potential over a lifetime. Early in the 1940's, when I was a toddler, my mother was too ill to care for me and she died when I was 3 1/2 years old. I then was cared for by a succession of aunts and grandparents until school age.

By school age, I'd developed very frequent ear infections, sore throats and high fevers. It was decided that a tonsillectomy would end the illnesses, and after that I'd be fine. Unfortunately, the surgery came too late to reverse the infections' damage to my hearing. After my tonsils and adenoids were removed, by age eight I became aware of high-pitched ringing in my ears and an inability to hear high pitched sounds like birdsong, bells ringing, people whistling, and telephones ringing, and I couldn't hear anything at all with my right ear. My teachers were all nuns whose high-pitched female voices were very hard for me to hear, especially in a classroom noisy with students' chatter, books being moved about, shoes shuffling under the desks, and footsteps falling around the room.

No one realized during those 1940 years that, when we are unable to hear high pitches, we cannot hear the consonant sounds which give clarity to words. In this manner, a child's speech and language development is affected. Deafness has more to do with the inability to understand speech, than it has to do with simply hearing sounds.

Before my hearing failed in childhood, I always liked to listen to birds singing. We even had a canary who would sing whenever music played on the radio. I recall summer mornings, with our windows open, I'd listen to the various birds singing. I'd be able to pick out the chickadees, the sparrows, the blackbirds and robins by their calls. After the repeated ear infections damaged my hearing, I wondered what had happened to the birds' song whenever I'd go outside to play. I'd see them in the trees, watching their beaks open, their throats throbbing, but I'd hear nothing. In addition, I couldn't hear bells ringing, people whistling, the teakettle shrieking, the doorbell and

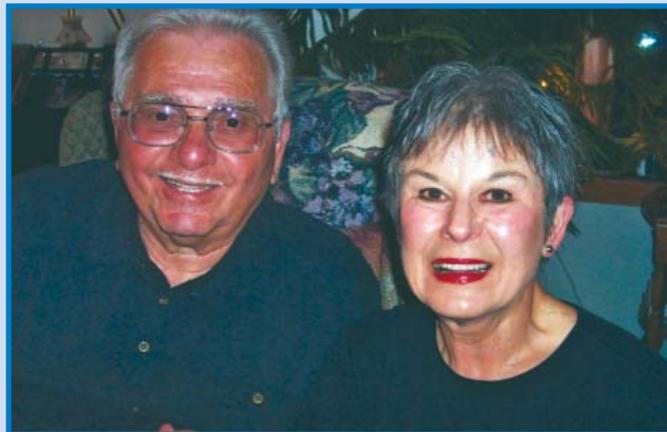
telephone ringing. This frightened me, and I didn't have anyone to share this information with, not even a mother or father. Even if I could have, during the 1940's, I doubt if there was anything which would have helped me to hear those sounds, because hearing aids of that era merely amplified all sound, but were unable to remedy the permanent damage to auditory nerve cells.

By age 10, my teachers noticed my speech impediment, coupled with behavior patterns in the classroom such as inattention and inappropriate responses, and they thought I might be a slow child. By accident, one nun in my parochial school noticed that I didn't respond to her while she spoke to me with my back turned. The school's principal tested my hearing by asking me to listen to her wristwatch ticking, and when I couldn't, she requested that I be tested at the New Jersey School for the Deaf (now Katzenbach). It was frightening experience for me

to be tested there - the person testing my hearing had a grim look on her face, and nobody smiled at me. I was frightened when I saw the other students wearing black harnesses, black boxes, wires hanging from their ears, many waving their hands, and speaking with garbled sounds.

After the tests, it was determined that I wasn't deaf enough to be admitted

to the deaf school, because by that time, I'd acquired spoken language, and had learned to read English very well. To embark on sign language, rather than continue with spoken language would be a setback for me as a student. So, I was given one hearing aid for my better ear and sent back to the classroom in my parochial school. Although I could hear better with the hearing aid, the sound in the classroom was overwhelming. I'd hear every book being dropped, pages being turned, every footstep walking around the classroom, including the hallways, the out of doors sound of passing traffic, overhead airplanes, and the many voices of others, but I still couldn't understand the speech of teachers and students very well unless I could see their faces. The reason, as I learned many decades later, was that my hearing was totally destroyed in all the high pitches, and the hearing aid helped only a little by amplifying the low pitches, and I



Carol Granaldi with husband Peter.

was totally deaf in one ear. This was early in the 1950's. My relatives were greatly annoyed with me when I didn't understand what they were saying, and they'd yell at me saying I was bad or stupid when the telephone rang and I didn't answer it, or try to speak over the telephone and not understand what was said. My speech annoyed my teachers and fellow students laughed at me. One teacher even nicknamed me "Ishkibibble," and this name stuck all through my grade school years. I'd learned not to speak out in a classroom, and keep a very low profile, and was alone a lot, so as not to call attention to myself. I graduated from high school in 1956 as an honor student. In my senior year as a business student, I recall only one "C" grade I'd gotten from a typing teacher. He said my typing speed and spelling was good, but my righthand margins were crooked. I said that the carriage on my manual typewriter kept stopping, so I had to release it to continue typing. He said "that's what the bell is for, it rings when you approach the end of the margin." When I replied "What bell?" he realized that I hadn't heard it. Between the noise in the classroom, and my not hearing the bell on the typewriters, I decided that I'd never want to be in a classroom again.

So, here we are in the 21st century, with its marvelous technology which enables deafened people to hear spoken language. There is an array of sophisticated digital hearing aids, FM or infrared Assistive Listening Devices, and most importantly, the cochlear implant. In 2001, I received a cochlear implant and then embarked on a journey back into time to hear so many sounds denied to me

over 55 years ago. I am so thrilled to once again hear all those delicious high pitches which I hadn't heard since early childhood. I now hear doorbells, church bells, people whistling, flutes, violins, harps, clarinets, soprano singers, high-pitched female and children's speech, and most important of all - the song of birds!

I live in a wooded area, with a waterway and lake just below our home. The area abounds with waterfowl and dozens of native birds. Almost every day I go out of doors, just to listen to their "symphony." I'm able to identify the calls of many of them - the cardinals calling to each other, the bluejays' warning alerts, the territorial honks of the geese, the quacking of the nesting ducks. I even enjoy the summer song of the crickets, buzzing of the bees, and the croaking of the toads serving as counterpoint to the birdsong. All this makes me feel like a kid again, to listen to sounds I hadn't heard in over half a century.

A person once remarked to me: "You went through all that with the cochlear implant surgery, just to hear birds? I was taken aback a little and replied "If only to hear the birds, it's miracle enough." What I wouldn't have given during the years I was a young adult, raising a family, to hear what I hear now. It would have made all the difference in my education and career potential.

This CI thing - it's catching on - with more and more children getting them when hearing aids are not enough. Better late than never.

New Jersey Contingent of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. Conference Summer 2007, San Francisco





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*Coming to Kean University...
Holocaust Resource Center Public Lecture and Forum*

Feature Presentation with Dr. Deborah Dwork

Rescue: Choices and Decisions



Dr. Deborah Dwork

Deborah Dwork is:

- Noted historian, renowned lecturer and acclaimed award-winning author and scholar on the Holocaust
- Rose Professor of Holocaust History at Clark University
- Director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University
- Guggenheim Fellow, Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Fellow of the American Council of Learned Scholars
- Author of *Children With a Star*; Co-Author of *Auschwitz; Holocaust; Flight from the Reich*
- Recipient of National Jewish Book Award, the Spiro Kostoff Award, and Best Book by the German Book Critics for *Auschwitz*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2007
AT 7:50 P.M.
IN WILKINS THEATRE

This is another in a series of public lectures sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center.

There is no entrance fee.

Doors open at 7 p.m. It is recommended that you park in the area off North Avenue.

Interpretation for the hearing impaired provided.

Petway Elementary School Celebrates “Deaf Awareness Week”

Petway Elementary School Deaf Education class in Vineland, NJ hosted the celebration of “Deaf Awareness Week” this year. The week began with over 600 students and staff members decorating and cutting out an “I Love You” handshape, which are being displayed on a hallway bulletin board for the entire year. In addition, the children planned several activities throughout the week. These activities included learning about famous Deaf Americans (I. King Jordan, Laura Redding Searing, C.J. Jones, Linda Bove and Terrence Parkin), educating the students about deafness through Deaf Trivia (for example, Did you know that the baseball hand count was started by a Deaf athlete?), and showing stories signed in ASL.

Petway, in a two year old building in Vineland, is full of state of the art equipment. The morning announcements are broadcasted daily with an interpreter placed in a smaller screen at the bottom of the television. This provides all Deaf students, full access to the morning announcements. Petway’s morning announcements always include a “Sign of the Day.”



Gerardo Franco, 5th grade Deaf student, decorating his “I Love You” hand at the beginning of Deaf Awareness Week.

Each day a sign is taught to the faculty and student body by a Deaf students. This year we are starting a new program called “Community Outings.” Once a month, the students will visit different places throughout the community to expose them to future employment opportunities and to help them learn how to communicate with individuals who do not know how to sign.. Next month, the Deaf class will visit Shop Rite. They will learn how the store is organized, and how the cash register works. Once there, an exercise will be given to the students whereby they must find items on a shopping list, go through the line (without an interpreter) and pay for their items. This is just one of the nine trips Petway has planned this year. Other places on the schedule to visit, include: Pizza Hut, Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD), a dentist’s office, Chocolate on Occasion, Salon Fabrojae, Home Depot, and The Garden Room Restaurant.



Bulletin board displayed in school hallway.

The program in Vineland accepts students from Cumberland County. Currently, there are nine students in the program ranging from first through fifth grade. The students are taught by Tara McMenamin and Jennifer Lilla. The program at Petway is academic with a strong focus on reading, writing, and math. Students are instructed with the same curriculum as their hearing peers, and we are proud to announce that every student scored at proficiency or better in the NJ state testing last year. All students use the computer programs KidBiz and SuccessMaker.

For more information about the Vineland Elementary School Program, e-mail us at tmcmenamin@vineland.org or jlilla@vineland.org , or check us out at www.vineland.org/petway/.



Deaf Education Program - (back row) MaryAnn LaRocca, Billie Riggins, Donna Giannio, Janet Cleveland, Laura Sansalone, Sara Gilrain, Jennifer Lilla (front row) Tara McMenamin, Alexis Holland, Destiny Ferrer, Isabella Jimenez, Gerardo Franco, Ethan Shadinger, Leslie Perez, Ethan Herscher, Thalia Jimenez, (not pictured) Damion Sease.

Self-Advocacy Can Pay Off—Literally!

By Nancy Kingsley

In December 2006, I moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania from New Jersey, where I had been involved in advocacy for services for late-deafened and hard of hearing people. I recently used the telephone relay service to call a Pennsylvania department store's 800 ordering number, and to my surprise and dismay, the representative who answered told me that the chain would provide information but not take orders via the relay service.

Fortunately, I knew that the Americans with Disabilities Act makes it illegal for public accommodations (which includes stores) to treat people with disabilities unequally. I informed the representative of my rights, but she insisted that she couldn't take my order. So I asked to speak with her supervisor—often that can get things straightened out. It didn't help in this case, and I realized that I would need to go still higher. I asked the supervisor for her name and the name and address of the president of the company.

The next day, I sent a letter to the company president describing what had happened and to whom I had spoken. I explained that the company was in violation of the

Americans with Disabilities Act and could be sued unless it changed its policy, and I asked that the staff be told to accept orders placed through the relay service. I mailed the letter certified, return receipt in order to have proof of delivery.

A few weeks later, I received a very nice response from one of the company's vice presidents, who wrote that he had investigated the situation. The company should not have refused to take a relay order, and the staff had been instructed to take such orders in the future. He also enclosed a \$100 gift card and stated that the company wanted to keep me as a customer.

I always feel rewarded when my advocacy produces the desired results, but the rewards are seldom so tangible. As I tucked the gift card into my wallet, I reflected on the fact that one letter really can make a difference!

*This article was originally published in the June 2007 issue of Hearsay, the newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of Pennsylvania.

Sign of the Times

Hearing Person: "Look at them. What are they doing over there? Why are they making funny faces and waving their hands around?"

Deaf Person: "Why are they staring at us again? That's so rude!"

Hearing Person: "Oh, that's sign language – they must be deaf. I've always wanted to learn sign language. Maybe we can watch and figure out what they're saying."

Deaf Person: "How would they like it if we stared at them?"

Have you ever found yourself on either side of this scenario? If so, you are not alone. This situation is becoming more and more common, with over 735,000 deaf people in New Jersey alone. With the onset of mainstreaming and the establishment of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), many more Deaf are found in our schools and workplaces. Unfortunately, due to a lack of education and

communication skills, many are unaware of the needs and challenges of Deaf and hearing-impaired persons. And where there is misunderstanding, there is, at times, lack of respect for differences.



Sounds of Sign, Inc. dba Music In Motion is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between the Deaf and hearing worlds. Our goal is to provide Deaf awareness within the hearing community. This is done through musical sign language programs for schools, libraries, senior centers, etc., as well as workshops that teach basic American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf culture.

Through these programs, children and adults alike have discovered that learning sign language is a lot of fun, making it easier to remember and utilize their new skills. As a result, the gap between these two worlds decreases as understanding and respect increases.

For more information on Music In Motion and our programs, please visit www.mim-asl.com.

cies, religious groups, and vendors (who sold different products such as technology, pagers, health drinks, jewelry, books, and clothing) were available for everyone. Deaf Nation, who held an event in Worcester, Massachusetts the same day, was also present with their beautifully painted Deaf Nation bus. Deaf Nation will host an event in Secaucus, NJ on November 17, 2007. For more information, visit www.deafnation.com.

Northwest Jersey Association for the Deaf continued to support the always popular “Kiddie Korner.” Kids of all ages enjoyed new inflatable activities such as the obstacle course, human slide, and air basketball. Dressed up in a scuba diver’s suit, Joey Garth gave pitchers an opportunity to “throw him in the drink” at the Dunking Booth. The NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided communication access with interpreters, CART and assistive listening devices.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who put in their time and effort to help with this tremendous endeavor. With such a successful event, we’re anticipating another great year for Deaf Fest in 2009. Revenue from events, such as Deaf Fest and ticket sales from Deaf Awareness Day, help organizations which serve Deaf and hard of hearing people in New Jersey. For more information about how you can help, visit the New Jersey Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Week, Inc Web site at www.njdaw.org, as well as GATickets@aol.com. Thank you again for a great year.



New Jersey School for the Deaf

2008 Basketball Tip - Off Tournament
Hosted on the Katzenbach Campus

Friday, December 14

4:00 p.m. Girls' Varsity Delaware SD vs Scranton SD
5:30 p.m. Boys Varsity Delaware SD vs Scranton SD
7:00 p.m. Girls' Varsity New Jersey SD vs. New York SD
8:30 p.m. Boys Varsity New Jersey SD vs. New York SD

Saturday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Girls Varsity Consolation Game
10:00 a.m. Boys Varsity Consolation Game
11:30 a.m. Girls Varsity Championship Game
1:00 p.m. Boys Varsity Championship Game
2:15 p.m. Trophy Presentation

Children under 6 - free

7 - 12 years of age - \$3 per day
Above 12 years of age - \$5 per day

Facts about New Jersey

New Jersey was the 3rd state admitted to the United States; it became a state on December 18, 1787.

State Abbreviation - NJ

State Capital - Trenton

Largest City - Newark

Area - 8,722 square miles [New Jersey is the 47th largest state (that's 4th smallest) in the USA in land mass.]

Population - 8,414,350 (as of 2000 census) [New Jersey is the ninth most populous state in the USA]

Name for Residents - New Jerseyites or New Jerseyans

Major Industries - farming (potatoes, tomatoes, peaches), chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petroleum-based products, insurance, tourism

Presidential Birthplace - Grover Cleveland was born in Caldwell, NJ on March 18, 1837 (he was the 22nd and 24th US President, from 1885 to 1889 and from 1893 to 1897).

Major Rivers - Delaware River, Hudson River

Highest Point - High Point - 1,803 feet (550 m) above sea level (located in the northernmost part of New Jersey)

Bordering States - New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware

Bordering Body of Water - Atlantic Ocean

Origin of the Name New Jersey - New Jersey was named by James, Duke of York (the brother of King Charles II of England), who was given New Jersey by his brother. James later gave New Jersey to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. James named the colony New Jersey to honor Carteret, who had been the Governor of Jersey, a British island in the English Channel.

Dinosaur Fossils Found in New Jersey - Coelurosaurus, Diplotomodon, Dryptosaurus, Hadrosaurus foulkii, Nodosaurus, Ornithotarsus



State Nickname - Garden State

State Song - none

State Mamma - Horse

State Shell - Knobbed whelk

State Flower - Purple violet

State Fruit - Blueberry

State Folk Dance - Square Dance

State Motto - "Liberty and Prosperity"

State Bird - Eastern goldfinch

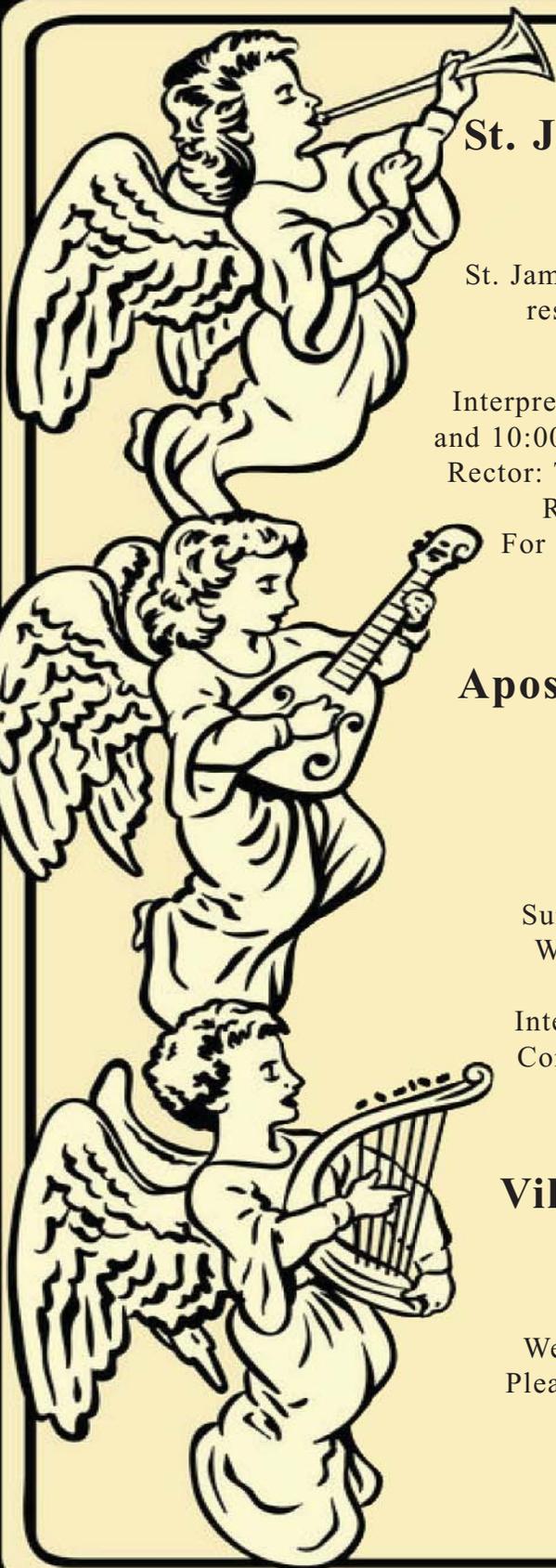
State Insect - Honey bee

State Fish - Brook trout

State Tree - Red Oak

State Dinosaur - Hadrosaurus foulkii

RELIGIOUS ACCESS



St. James' Episcopal Church

214 Washington Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

St. James' is located within easy distance for residents of Morris, Warren, Sussex or Hunterdon counties.

Interpreted Services every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Interpreter students are welcome. Rector: The Rev. Dr. Cathy Deats; Deacon: The Rev. Sheila Shuford who is Deaf.

For more information, contact Sheila at scshuford@optonline.net

Apostolic Tabernacle Church

923 West Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.
(children & adult Bible study)

Sunday Worship Service: 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Interpreters available for all services. Come and join us for an exciting and powerful service!

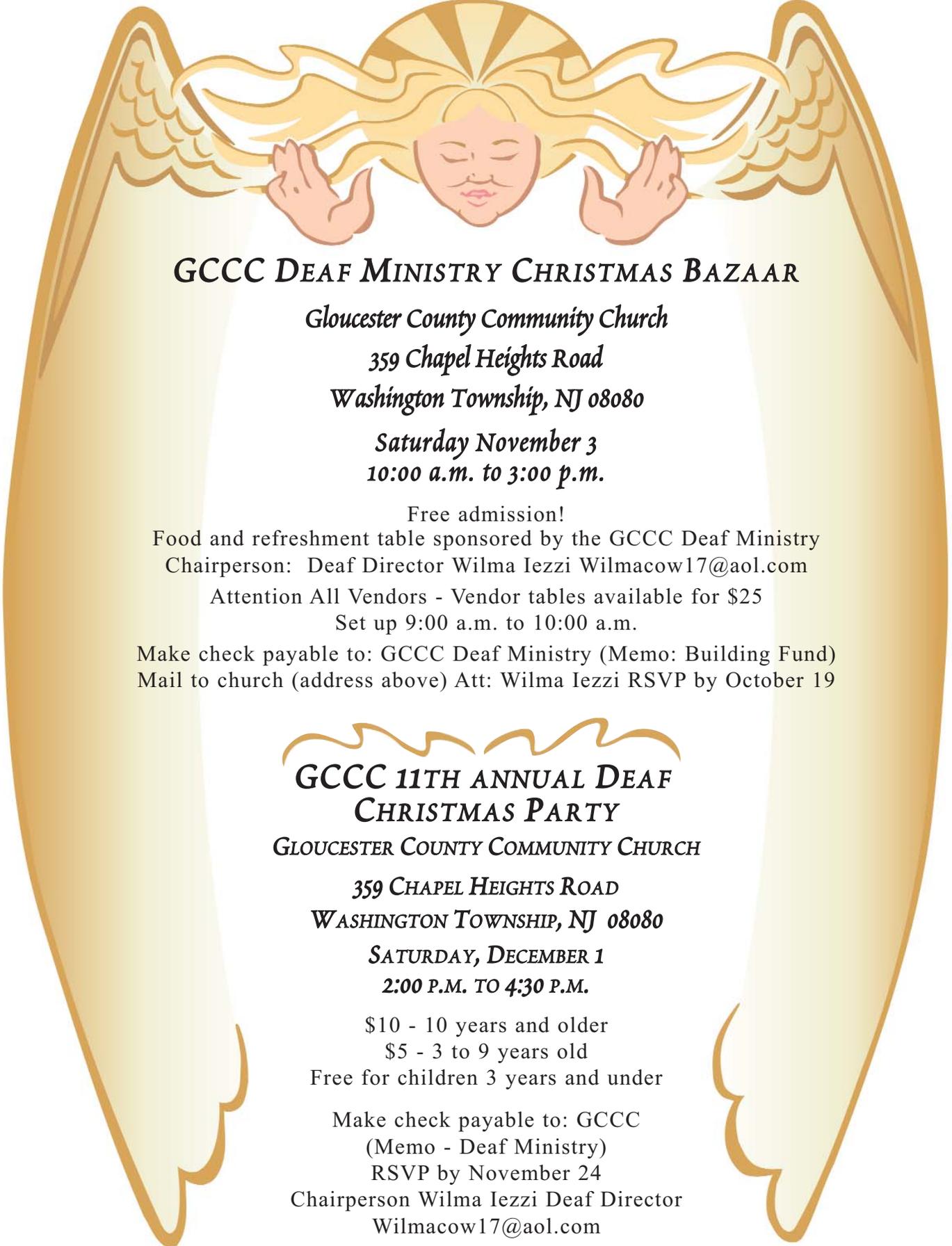
Village Lutheran Church

701 Western Blvd.
Lanoka Harbor, NJ

We will offer an interpreted service. Please join us at our 9:00 a.m. service.

For more information, contact:
patsecretary@verizon.net.

RELIGIOUS ACCESS (CONTINUED)



GCCC DEAF MINISTRY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Gloucester County Community Church

359 Chapel Heights Road

Washington Township, NJ 08080

Saturday November 3

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free admission!

Food and refreshment table sponsored by the GCCC Deaf Ministry

Chairperson: Deaf Director Wilma Iezzi Wilmacow17@aol.com

Attention All Vendors - Vendor tables available for \$25

Set up 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Make check payable to: GCCC Deaf Ministry (Memo: Building Fund)

Mail to church (address above) Att: Wilma Iezzi RSVP by October 19

GCCC 11TH ANNUAL DEAF CHRISTMAS PARTY

GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH

359 CHAPEL HEIGHTS ROAD

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, NJ 08080

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

2:00 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

\$10 - 10 years and older

\$5 - 3 to 9 years old

Free for children 3 years and under

Make check payable to: GCCC

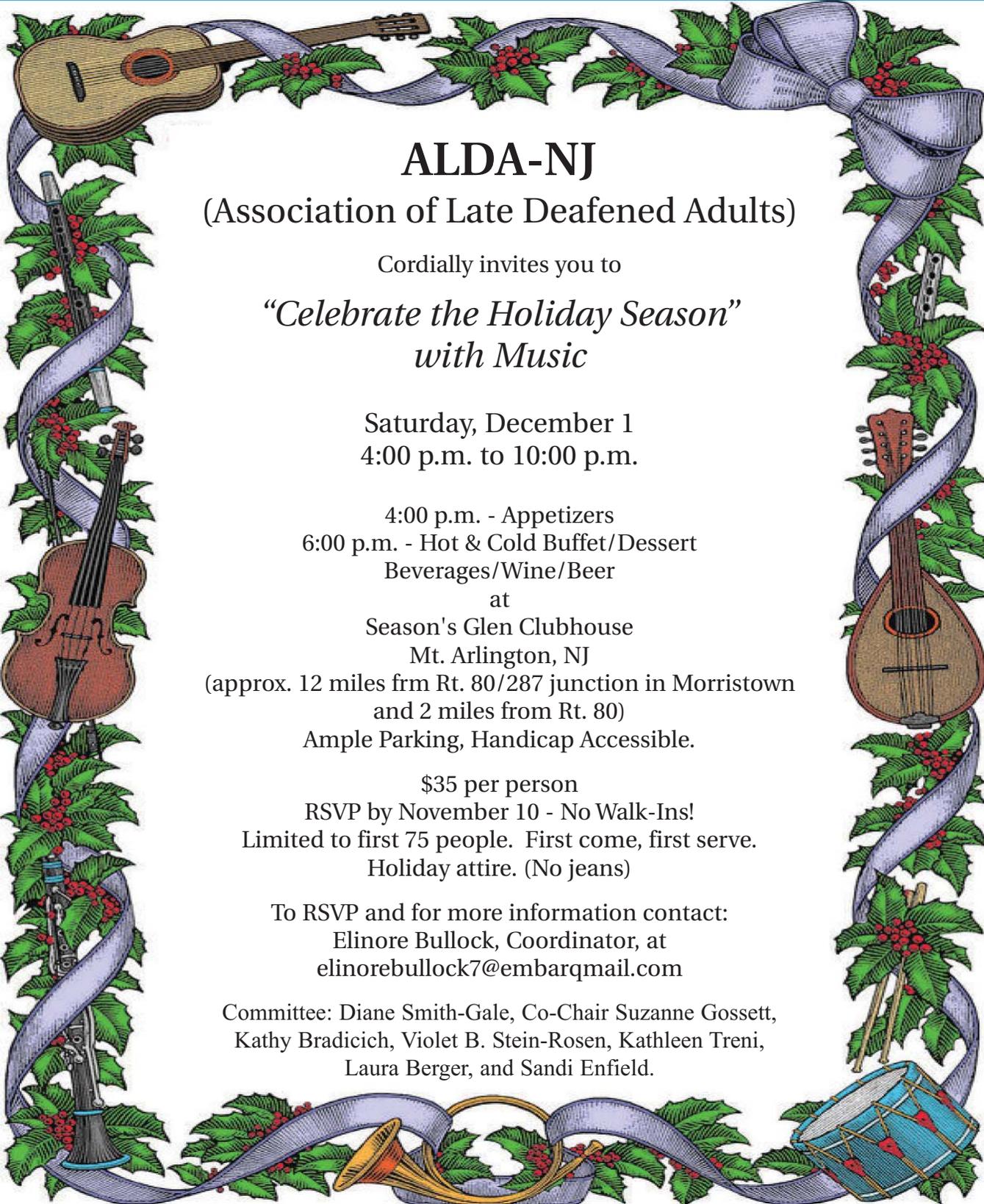
(Memo - Deaf Ministry)

RSVP by November 24

Chairperson Wilma Iezzi Deaf Director

Wilmacow17@aol.com

Communicator Signboard



ALDA-NJ

(Association of Late Deafened Adults)

Cordially invites you to

*“Celebrate the Holiday Season”
with Music*

Saturday, December 1
4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. - Appetizers
6:00 p.m. - Hot & Cold Buffet/Dessert
Beverages/Wine/Beer

at

Season's Glen Clubhouse
Mt. Arlington, NJ
(approx. 12 miles from Rt. 80/287 junction in Morristown
and 2 miles from Rt. 80)
Ample Parking, Handicap Accessible.

\$35 per person

RSVP by November 10 - No Walk-Ins!
Limited to first 75 people. First come, first serve.
Holiday attire. (No jeans)

To RSVP and for more information contact:

Elinore Bullock, Coordinator, at
elinorebullock7@embarqmail.com

Committee: Diane Smith-Gale, Co-Chair Suzanne Gossett,
Kathy Bradicich, Violet B. Stein-Rosen, Kathleen Treni,
Laura Berger, and Sandi Enfield.

Communicator Signboard

DIVERSE DEAF CLUB OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

HOLIDAY DINNER & DINGO NITE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 - 5:00 p.m. - ?

at Recreation hall at the Parish Community of Our Lady of Peace Church
1740 Highway 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Buffet dinner style, foods, included deserts coffee, hot tea, and drink.

Prizes giveaways: TV, two baskets wines and cheese, fruit basket, and 50/50
Members: \$30; Non-members: \$35 (Renew \$5 membership fee before Dec 6)

At the door \$50. Deadline to purchase tickets November 16

For information, Contact Chairpersons -

Tammy L. Williamson at VP 908-782-3712 or fax 908-751-4806

Nilda Zayas at VP 908-393-7502

Pay certified check to "DDCNJ" c/o: Nola Anesh
420 Pulaski Street South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Money order/cash (no personal checks accepted)
or chairperson will provide tickets at Dingo.

Include with your payment, name, address and number of tickets.



SOUTH JERSEY DEAF CLUB, INC.

1ST ANNIVERSARY AND HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 2

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Vanity Fare (Best Western Hotel), 1600 Route 70 East, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Gifts, Awards and 50/50. Casual Wear, No Children, No Walk-ins!

Members \$45; Nonmembers \$47 - Before Nov. 3rd. After Nov 3rd additional \$5 charge.

Deadline for ticket orders is Nov. 17.

Buffets: Appetizers, Sliced Steak Pizziaola, Slice Sirlion, Chicken Francaise,
Stuffed Shells, Orient Wok, Cake included coffee/tea, soda/juice.

DJ and Cash Bar (4 Hours)

Please make reservation to SJDC, 141 Bay Harbor Blvd., Brick, NJ 08723

Provide name and number of reservations.

Communicator Signboard



OCEAN DEAF CLUB, INC.

22ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Crystal Point Yacht Club, Route 70 & River Road, Point Pleasant, NJ 08743

Door Prizes, Surprises Gifts - Hors'D' Oeuvres and Cash Bar

Choice of one (1) Meat: Filet Mignon; or Chicken Francaise; or Flounder stuffed w/crabmeat
Fresh sliced melon w/kiwi & Strawberry. Vegetables. Potatoes. Freshly Baked Bread w/butter.
Coffee, Tea, Dessert Platters.

Limited Seating (150)! Make your reservations early. Members \$45; Non-Members \$50
Please make check payable to "Ocean Deaf Club, Inc." Include Name, number of reservations
and choice of meat with proper dollar amount to:

Mrs Stephanie Studer 32 Sawgrass Street Jackson, New Jersey 08527

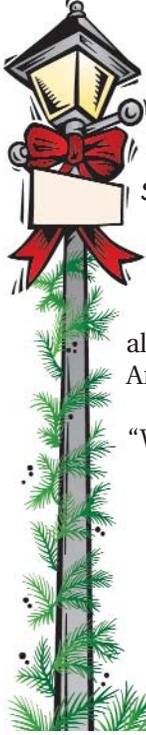
For information, contact Stephanie Studer, Committee Chair at exswiss@aol.com or
Beverly Smith, mommomsangels15@comcast.net

Deadline is November 30. Sorry, No Walk-ins at Door.

Proper Dress and Attire Required (No Jeans or Sneakers)



"SCROOGE, THE MUSICAL" HOLIDAY CHEER FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



At the Ritz Theatre, 915 White Horse Pike, Arts District, Haddon Township, NJ.
Shadow Interpreted Performances December 9 at 2:00 p.m. & Dec. 10 at 10:00 a.m.
\$15. for single tickets purchased. \$9. individual tickets at group rate.

This holiday season, two performances of "Scrooge, The Musical" will offer shadow interpretation. Four on-stage interpreters will shadow the actions of the actors which allows Deaf patrons to watch the show and the interpreters simultaneously. The National Arts and Disabilities Center in Los Angeles recently recognized the Ritz Theatre Company as a leader in the field by offering shadow interpreted performances.

"We are delighted to offer this revolutionary technology that helps us remove the barriers between our work and the Deaf and hard of hearing community," says Ritz Producing Artistic Director Bruce A. Curless.

All seats reserved.

For reservations and information, call the Ritz 24 hour
ticket hotline at 856-858-5230 voice.

www.ritztheatreco.org.

Assisted listening devices are available for the hard of hearing.



Communicator Signboard



SIXTH ANNUAL JDSR RETREAT December 14-16

WASHINGTON, DC (RIGHT IN THE HEART, NEAR WHITE HOUSE)

Join for fun, learning, outing, meals, and more packed into one weekend.

Welcome Jewish Deaf and hard of hearing singles worldwide
(including divorced and widowed).

All levels of Judaism and ways of communicating welcome.
Contact us for the retreat form/membership form to register
and/or for more information.

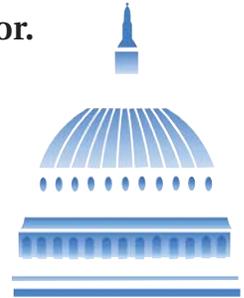
Limited scholarships available. No registration at the door.

Donations appreciated to fund these scholarships.

Contact Landau9@optonline.net 908-352-7395 FAX
or Write to JDSR PO Box 2005, NY, NY 10159-2005

For VP contact, please email to request VP number:

www.njcd.org/ourway/sections.php?id=C0_70_9



NORTHWEST JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, INC. (NWJAD)



21st Annual Holiday Banquet

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:30 p.m. TO 11:30 p.m.

Grand Chalet, 1377 Rt. 23 South, Wayne, NJ 07470

www.grandchalet.com (for directions)

Deaf DJ SupaLee - Great Door Prizes

Two hours of unlimited hot and cold buffets, salads, desserts, etc.

Open Cash Bar and more. Members: \$45; Non-members: \$50

Co-chairs: Diane Montemorano and Therese Parisi

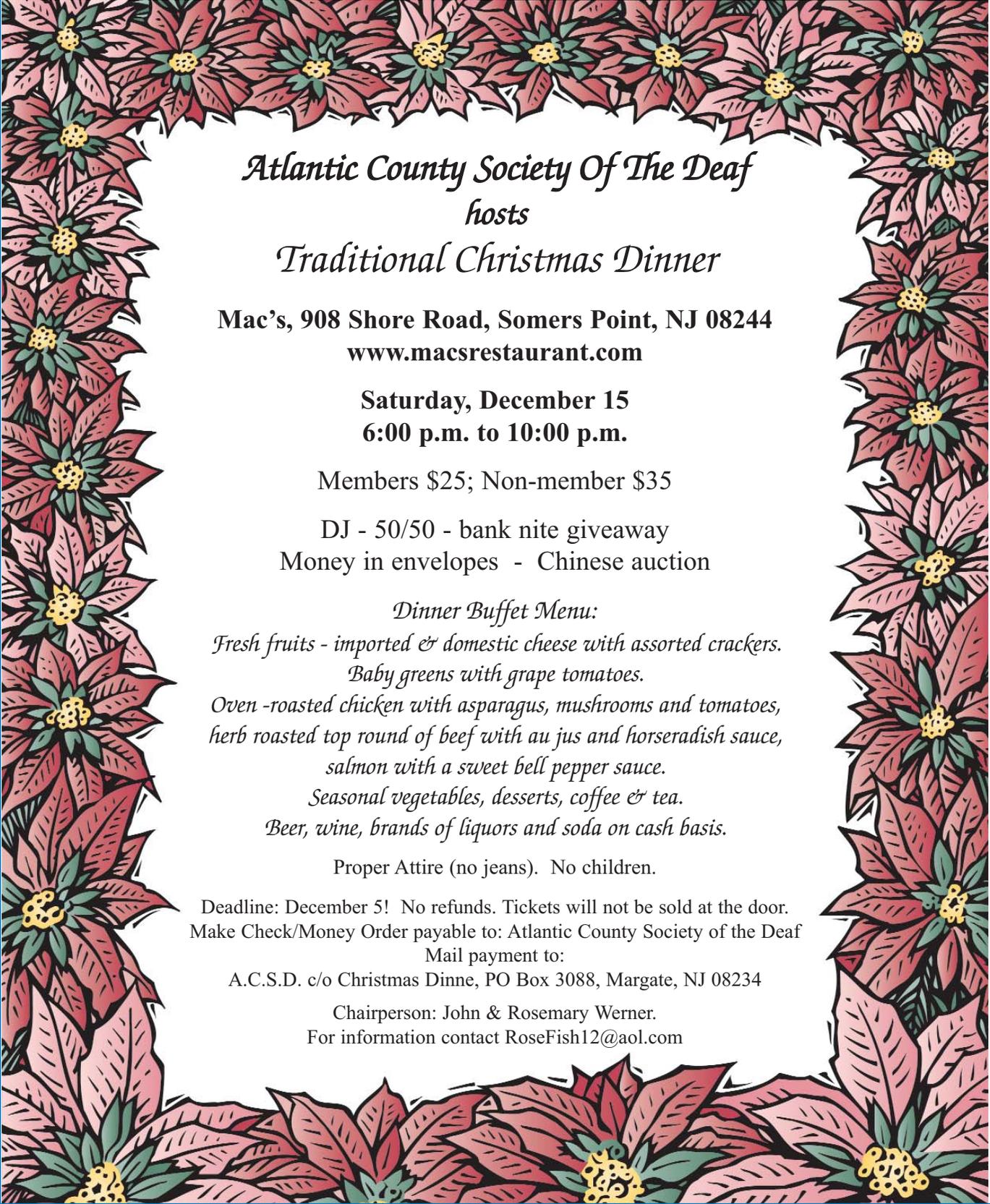
Deadline: December 3 (no tickets at door, no refunds)!

Make check or money order payable to NWJAD, Inc.

Mail to: NWJAD, 113 Blackford Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854

www.nwjad.org; nwjad@nwjad.org

Communicator Signboard



*Atlantic County Society Of The Deaf
hosts
Traditional Christmas Dinner*

**Mac's, 908 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244
www.macsrestaurant.com**

**Saturday, December 15
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Members \$25; Non-member \$35

DJ - 50/50 - bank nite giveaway
Money in envelopes - Chinese auction

Dinner Buffet Menu:

Fresh fruits - imported & domestic cheese with assorted crackers.

Baby greens with grape tomatoes.

*Oven -roasted chicken with asparagus, mushrooms and tomatoes,
herb roasted top round of beef with au jus and horseradish sauce,
salmon with a sweet bell pepper sauce.*

Seasonal vegetables, desserts, coffee & tea.

Beer, wine, brands of liquors and soda on cash basis.

Proper Attire (no jeans). No children.

Deadline: December 5! No refunds. Tickets will not be sold at the door.
Make Check/Money Order payable to: Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

Mail payment to:

A.C.S.D. c/o Christmas Dinne, PO Box 3088, Margate, NJ 08234

Chairperson: John & Rosemary Werner.

For information contact RoseFish12@aol.com

Calendar of Events 2007/2008

South Jersey Deaf Club, Inc.

1st Anniversary and 2nd Holiday Celebration
December 2, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Vanity Fare (Best Western Hotel)
Lakewood, NJ 08701
(More information in November issue of MC)

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 25
East Brunswick Public Library
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Call DDHH to confirm your attendance:
609-984-7281

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

21st Annual Holiday Banquet
December 15
Grand Chalet, Wayne, NJ
Info: www.nwjad.org
125th Anniversary of NJSD/MKSD
See ad in this issue of Monthly Communicator.

Alumni Association of the NJSD/MKSD

80th Anniversary
October 10, 11, and 12, 2008
Columbus weekend
www.mkسد.org
Thomas Sparks, Jr., Chairman,
PhySparks70@aol.com
856 374 1043 FAX

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

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