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Monthly Communicator

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Chris Christie, *Governor* Kim Guadagno, *Lt. Governor* Jennifer Velez, *Commissioner* David Alexander, *Director*

DDHH Prepares for 30th Anniversary of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

at Six Flags Great Adventure



How to Support Someone with Hearing Loss

By Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative

Approximately 750,000 people in New Jersey have a hearing loss, and about half of these are senior citizens. Chances are, about one in 115 people in NJ, are working with a loved one, friend, or colleague who has a hearing loss. I am often asked to supply ideas on how to support the individual. The February 24, 2014 article on www.healthyhearing.com provides some sound advice on how to do this.



Recovery Network for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Loss

Center For Family Services RNDHH program educates the Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing loss community throughout New Jersey about the influences of addiction and offers treatment and support to individuals experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol.

RNDHH provides:

- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Treatment
- ✓ Individual and group counseling
- ✓ Family Therapy
- ✓ Case management
- ✓ Communication access
- ✓ Mobile substance abuse treatment
- ✓ Monthly 12-step meetings in ASL

For more information contact:

856-874-8230 Video Phone

856-428-8373 TTY

856-874-8229 V

856-428-0949 FAX

e-mail: rndhh@centerffs.org

www.centerffs.org

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State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Director: David C. Alexander
Editor: Ira Hock

PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

Phone: (609) 588-2648 / (800) 792-8339

Fax: (609) 588-2528

www.state.nj.us/human_services/ddhh

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We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the July/August issue is June 1 and should be e-mailed to: monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us.

The deadline for the *Monthly Communicator* is the first of the month for the next month.

Kindly follow these guidelines for submissions:

- Should be less than two pages
- Plain font, such as NY Times #11 or similar
- Type flush left, no tabs
- No art imbedded within
- Send as Word attachment or an e-mail itself
- Art, logos, photos may be sent as attached JPG
- Submissions are not normally repeated
- Content should be of interest to readers, events should be accessible to people with hearing loss, no direct selling products, but educational info about new technology is acceptable
- Editor has discretion regarding editing, without final approval of submitter

DDHH Hosts Better Speech and Hearing Month Event



Traci Burton, DDHH Field Representative, staffed an information table at the NJ Department of Transportation's David J. Goldberg Transportation Complex in Trenton on Wednesday May 7, 2014

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month and in recognition of this, DDHH hosted an information table at the NJ Department of Transportation's David J. Goldberg Transportation Complex in Trenton on Wednesday May 7, 2014. Many DOT employees visited the table and learned about decibel levels, hearing protection and preservation, the importance of getting one's hearing checked, and general information on services available in the state for people living with hearing loss. There also was a sampling of technology demonstrating possible solutions for individuals experiencing hearing difficulties in certain situations. People who stopped learned about amplified and captioned telephones, personal amplifiers, as well as t-coils and neck loops.

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has compiled fact sheets about hearing protection, common environmental noise levels and personal stereo systems and headphones. If you are interested in receiving copies of these fact sheets, please contact our office at 609-588-2648, or for electronic copies e-mail Traci Burton, Field Representative at traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us. You can also visit the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at www.asha.org and the Center for Hearing and Communication at www.chcheating.org for more information.



Employment Discrimination Workshop

By Catie Purrazzella, DDHH Service Coordinator

The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Career Success Solutions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre collaborated to host a workshop on employment discrimination impacting Deaf and hard of hearing employees. The audience turnout was awesome with at least thirty-five people in attendance. Workshop speakers included Laura Carlin Mattiacci, a senior attorney at Console Law Offices, and Kurt J. Jung, a staff attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Federal laws prohibiting job discrimination in the following categories: Age, disability, equal pay/compensation, genetic information, harassment, national origin, pregnancy, race/color, religion, retaliation, sex, and sexual harassment were covered. EEOC enforces several federal laws which can be found on <http://www.eeoc.gov/>.

In addition to existing federal laws protecting employees from discrimination, New Jersey has a strong employee protection statute called the NJ Law Against Discrimination (LAD). The LAD gives us greater protections against discrimination than federal law. For more information on the LAD you can go to: <http://www.nj.gov/oag/dcr/law.html>.

If you work in New Jersey and believe you have been discriminated in your workplace, you can file a complaint against your employer. There are different ways to file a complaint, and see the table for guidelines.

**This guideline is for only individuals that work in New Jersey.*



DDHH Staff Member, Catie Purrazzella, asks Senior Attorney Laura Carlin Mattiacci with Certified Deaf Interpreter, Creighton Quigley, a question.

Did you know that in the state of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Bar Association has a sign language interpreter/CART fund to reimburse attorneys who pay for sign language interpreters and/or CART to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing clients or potential clients. This fund will reimburse a member for up to \$150 for sign language interpreters or CART fees per interpreter appointment, up to a maximum of two appointments per quarter (every three months) until the fund is exhausted. Attorneys who are members of the PA Bar Association can fill out a reimbursement form and attach a copy of the interpreter's bill.

For deaf and

hard of hearing individuals, the key word to remember here is that your employer cannot treat you differently from others based on your disability. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding job discrimina-

How to File a Complaint

To Whom	Where	Timeframe
For all non-federal employees	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission http://www.eeoc.gov/employees/howtofile.cfm If you file with EEOC, you are filing with a federal agency in accordance to existing federal laws like the ADA.	300 days from the day the discrimination took place. *There are a few exceptions for this, contact EEOC for further information.
For all non-federal employees	NJ Division of Civil Rights http://www.nj.gov/oag/dcr/filing.html If you file with DCR, you are filing with a state agency in accordance to existing state laws like the NJ-LAD.	180 days from the day the discrimination took place
For all federal employees	Your employer's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Counselor *Your employer has the contact information for your EEO Counselor	45 days the day the discrimination took place
Non-federal employees	File with a private attorney that specializes in employment discrimination	You have up to two years from the day the discrimination took place to file with an attorney



Senior Attorney Laura Carlin Mattiacci with Certified Deaf Interpreter, Francis 'Bud' Schrader, speaks to the audience.



Kurt J. Jung from EEOC speaks to the audience

tion, you may contact Laura Carlin Mattiacci or Kurt Jung. Laura has two offices based in Philadelphia and South Jersey. Kurt's office is based in Philadelphia. Their contact information is:

Laura C. Mattiacci, Esquire
Console Law Offices LLC
LCM@ConsoleLaw.com
www.ConsoleLaw.com
(215) 545-7676

PENNSYLVANIA:
1525 Locust St., 9th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

NEW JERSEY:
110 Marter Ave., Suite 105
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Kurt J. Jung
Staff Attorney - Hearings Unit
US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Philadelphia District Office
801 Market Street, Suite 1300
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 440-2636
(215) 440-2604(fax)





Join Us at the June 7 Scholarship Social, Meet 2014's Newly-Knighted Scholars

On June 7, HLAA-NJ will announce and introduce this year's annual scholarship winners at the Scholarship Committee's annual "Scholarship Social." All members, and the general public are invited to attend. For those who plan to join us, here are the specifics: from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Ave., Madison, N.J. This will be New Jersey's one chance to meet and greet HLAA-NJ's newest group of 2014 college scholarship winners, enjoy our enthusiastic speakers and HLAA-NJ officers and board members, along with our usually delicious refreshments as we launch our newly-knighted scholars to their respective campuses to embark on their college or post-secondary educational endeavors.

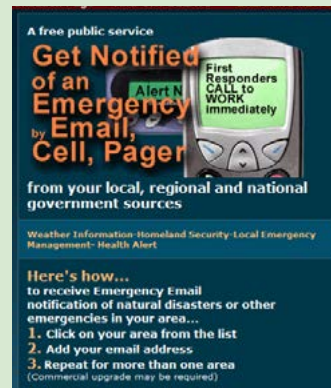


"Be Prepared" Is Not Just a Scouting Motto

In these times of scary headlines, hurricanes, tornadoes, brush fires, and people exploring underground bunkers, it doesn't hurt to be prepared. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For both kids and adults, whether hearing or hard of hearing, FEMA offers prevention advice through this Web site: www.ready.gov or especially for kids, www.ready.gov/kids

Walk4Hearing fund-raising opportunities for other NJ hearing loss groups

It's not too early to start thinking about the next Garden State Walk4Hearing event, especially if you belong to a hearing loss group not associated with HLAA-NJ. The date is set for Sunday, October 19, 2014, and we suggest you mark your calendar. The Walk4Hearing KickOff event is scheduled for Sunday, September 7, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Liberty Science Center. One important fact that may not be generally known by all our readers is that any non-profit organization is welcome to participate as an Alliance Team. All Alliance Teams associated with other non-profit organizations are permitted to keep 40% of the funds they raise, as long as the funds are specifically earmarked for goods or services that benefit people with hearing loss. As this may not be generally known, this may be of interest to other organizations or school groups. For additional information about Alliance Teams, and/or about the 2014 Garden State Walk4Hearing, if you would like to participate in the event's advance planning and/or serve on the Walk committee, please contact Wayne Roorda at bigbearnj@gmail.com.



Since We Are Now Digital Here Are More Crisis-Prep Sites

> Hurricane Central: www.weather.com/weather/hurricanecentral

At Hurricane Central, the Weather Channel devotes a portion of its Web site to all things hurricane-related. Here you'll find a list of storms by year, updates on current tropical storms, tracking information for active hurricanes, and stories on preparedness and recovery from these types of disasters.

> The Emergency Email & Wireless Network: www.emergency-email.org

Visit this Web site to sign up for free email notifications of local, regional, national, and international crisis information. You must, of course, provide an email address as well as your ZIP code. In addition to weather and other natural disaster information, you can receive national security information, national health warnings, and missing child alerts.



HLAA National Convention in Austin, Texas, June 26-29

Have you wondered if you are doing the most that you can to overcome your particular hurdles posed by your specific type of hearing loss? Interested in meeting others with hearing loss from around the country, along with chances to meet the nation's hearing loss experts? If so, our national convention is your annual opportunity to learn more about new ways and technologies. Registrations and other discounts are available for HLAA members, so this is also a good time to join and save.

Here's a rundown on the features and attractions at this year's Convention:

- Meet other people with hearing loss
- Attend communication-accessible workshops and sessions:
 - o More than forty communication-accessible workshops and demonstrations on topics such as employment, advocacy, hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive technology, and relationships. There are also dynamic and interactive workshops for leaders of HLAA Chapters and State Associations.
 - o Opening session features keynote speaker, **Richard Einhorn**, a music composer who suffered sudden sensorineural hearing loss in 2010. Be there to learn what Richard has in store for attendees during his talk, scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 - o **Symposium, Emerging Technology for People with Hearing Loss**, moderated by the executive director of the CEA Foundation, Stephen Ewell.
- **Exhibit Hall** with the latest technology for people with hearing loss
- **Social Events** including:
 - o Thursday, June 26, Get Acquainted Party (GAP), sponsored by Caption-Call
 - o Friday, June 27, Texas Swing, sponsored by Sprint CapTel, the off-site event at the historic Scholz Bier Garten with Texas BBQ and beer, live music by Hot Texas Swing Band, boot scootin' lessons, and a chance to win 2 tickets on American Airlines
 - o Saturday, June 28, Fiesta Banquet, sponsored by Contacta and featuring entertainment by Gael Hannan (comedienne), and music by Kenny Luna (bring your dancing shoes)
 - o Sunday, June 29, Awards Breakfast and Ceremony sponsored by CapTel Captioned Telephone
- **Communications Access:** All workshops and sessions have CART or captioning, as well as a hearing loop and/or infrared. The type of technology in use in a particular room will be noted on signage and in the Convention 2014 Program and Exhibit Guide. Plenary sessions, including the Opening Session, Technology Symposium, and Banquet will also have sign interpreters; interpreters for other sessions available upon request.
- **For information:** Contact Nancy Macklin, 301-657-2248, or: nmacklin@hearingloss.org

Strasser Wins Two Hermes Awards



Joel Strasser

Your author, who also serves as a marketing communications and public relations counsel and principal of his own communications firm in Brick, N.J., as well as an elected Trustee, and Public Information Officer of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey, is proud to acknowledge that he has been presented with two gold Hermes awards by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP).

The awards were in recognition of the results of work, in behalf of HLAA-NJ. The first gold Hermes creative award recognized a highly successful publicity program that consistently produced press coverage for all eight winners of college scholarships. The HLAA-NJ scholarships, awarded to eight hearing-challenged high school seniors, appeared during both 2012 and 2013 in newspapers throughout the State of New Jersey. The second gold Hermes creative award was presented for a series of monthly editorial columns, as well as numerous additional detailed editorial articles, all of which were published over time in the Monthly Communicator, New Jersey's official state publication of the Department of Human Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, published for the benefit of people with hearing loss throughout the State of New Jersey.

According to AMCP, the awards recognize outstanding creative achievement for communications and graphics profession-

Strasser...continued

als involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional and emerging media. In this year's competition, there were more than 5,500 entries from throughout the United States and several other countries in the Hermes Creative Awards 2014 competition.

Hermes creative awards entries come from corporate marketing and communications departments, advertising agencies, PR firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers. The competition has grown to perhaps the largest of its kind in the world. A look at the winners shows a range in size from individual communicators to media conglomerates and Fortune 500 companies. The competition is so well respected in the industry that national public relations organizations, local ad clubs and local business communicator chapters are entrants.

The name Hermes (Greek messenger) and the symbolism of the statuette awarded to each winning entrant were chosen to represent competitors' roles as the messengers and creators of marketing and communications materials and programs. Judges for the competition are industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talents exceed a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry.

Strasser, who is trained as both an engineer and writer-journalist, is technologically fluent, medically



Want to Help HLAA Even Further?

We need Under-30s and Web Developers

Interested in joining HLAA-NJ's leadership team? HLAA-NJ is looking for a few new members who can assist in arranging social and advocacy activities for our younger constituencies. Contact our president Linda Schaab at: lms365c@gmail.com.

Or, do you have special talents in web content development or graphic design? Please contact Wayne Roorda at: bigbearnj@gmail.com

savvy and a can-do marketing communications specialist. During his career in communications, he was previously recognized for developing highly successful public relations campaigns that launched such iconic and breakthrough commercial products as the world's first pocket calculator, the first American videodisc systems, one of the earliest consumer CP/M computers, a nine-state effort to implement widespread solar energy consumer installations, the first videocassette tape system in the United States, and the industry's first handheld photo-video-audio recording and playback device.

A long-time member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), Strasser founded the national PRSA Technology Section some 29 years ago, served as a for-

mer PRSA New York City Chapter president, earned a Silver Anvil Award for planning and carrying out a major solar energy implementation program, and received the John W. Hill Award. He is a Life Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and a member of the National Association of Science Writers (NASW).

Need Additional Information?

For information about HLAA-NJ, or on most hearing loss issues, please feel free to contact Joel Strasser, Public Information Officer, HLAA-NJ, at joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or telephone 732-415-7556.

Survey to Educate Business Owners

By Kelley Higgins-Nelson

I am a certified Sign Language Interpreter and have been interpreting for 30 years in our beloved state of N.J. During my years servicing and advocating for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population, I have seen that businesses/companies are not providing equal access to you as a consumer. I feel strongly about righting this oversight. As a sister of a Deaf individual, I have a personal as well as a professional interest in lifting the bar to make companies better serve and accommodate you as a Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing consumer.

I am in the process of establishing a program where I will educate and train business owners and companies to be more sensitive to the needs of individuals who are either Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

A few examples of what I intend to do are:

- * Educate employers and staff that all videos on their website need to be "open captioned".
- * Emphasize the importance of always having a paper and pen handy in order to communicate what is being said in the event ver-

bal communication fails.

- * In public areas like airports, any and all announcements (not just emergencies) should be open captioned on monitors or marquis throughout all buildings.
 - * Inform companies on various communication tips.
- The above are just a few examples of what my training would involve to educate companies on the importance of meeting your needs as a consumer.

Before I begin to approach businesses, I wanted to create a survey to make sure, that in fact, you as a consumer agree that companies fall short of being sensitive to your needs and can accommodate you better.

This is the link to the survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ogk5G7xieiSRMejGn4kns1NMxDtQ6QISxPtlll0iNk/viewform?usp=sharing&edit_requested=true

kelleynelson@yestoaccess.com

Connecting Deaf and hard of hearing consumers with companies that care.

Roorda to Receive Award

The March 27 meeting of the Haddonfield/Philadelphia Cochlear Support Group had an exciting event. It was announced that co-founder **Wayne Roorda** will receive an award from the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) at their annual convention on June 28, in Austin, Texas. The Howard E. "Rocky" Stone Humanitarian Award is presented to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to further Stone's philosophy. Stone was the founder of Shhh, Self Help for Hard of Hearing, now known as the HLAA. Wayne has worked tirelessly for the group since, holding many executive offices and other volunteer work.

Katie Skipper, of Advanced Bionics, made an interesting presentation. She covered topics such as the number of years before Medicare will pay for upgrades to processors(5), the need to

match the processor to the implant, and the world's largest online hearing loss forum, HearingJourney.com. On Thursday nights, 7-11 p.m., there is a chat where mentors, CI recipients and those considering a CI, can go online and access diverse information, live.

On **April 24**, we were delighted and fortunate to have Matthew Bakke, Ph.D CCC-A FAAA, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences, Director, Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement at Gallaudet University as our returning guest. He discussed the research study ongoing at Gallaudet, and other centers and The Role of Rehabilitation in Improving Outcomes With Cochlear Implants. Dr. Bakke discussed the early data that has been gathered. This data has indicated that training does work in improving communication for people with cochlear implants. Participating study centers include Columbia University Medical Center in NYC.

They are seeking volunteers for the study. Participants will be selected for training in one of two models under investigation. All testing and training is free of charge.

The **New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, co-sponsored this event providing CART and interpreters for communication access services. We are grateful for their continued support.

Our **June 5, 2014** meeting will have as guest speakers, representatives from Cochlear America.

We are an educational, social, and support group organized for individuals considering a cochlear implant, or have already been implanted. We meet at Grace Episcopal, Kings Hwy. Haddonfield, NJ.



Wayne Roorda

Adult Cochlear Implant Users Needed for Study on Benefits of Training

Training is **NOW** available at Columbia University Medical Center in Upper Manhattan, NY

What is the Study's Purpose?

This study is looking at the effectiveness of training for adults who have received cochlear implants. We would like to determine whether a special training program can help cochlear implant users improve their understanding of speech and communication in daily life.

Who Can Participate?

Participants must be adults 18 years of age or older who use a cochlear implant in one ear (not two) and are post-lingually deafened (onset of hearing loss after having learned spoken language), fluent in English, and have received their implant in the last three years.

Benefits?

Participating in this study may improve your communication ability, further knowledge in this area, and help determine the best training method for cochlear implant users.

When and Where?

Participation will require 8 weekly visits (90 minutes each) scheduled at your convenience. There will be two follow-up visits; one at 2 months and one at 6 months following the last training session (also running 90 minutes each).

Sessions will take place at Columbia University Medical Center, Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, 180 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY.

To get more information on how to enroll in this study, please contact:

Cheri Taylor, B.S.

Email Address: ct2616@columbia.edu

Phone: 212-305-8555

The principal investigator is Jaclyn Spitzer, Ph.D., Professor of Clinical Audiology and Speech Pathology in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery.

The Institutional Review Board at Columbia University has approved this study. Identifying information will be kept confidential.

Ocean-Monmouth Hearing Loss Support Group

Our Next Meeting:
Sunday, June 1, 2014, 1 p.m.
125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan, NJ 08726-3249
Telephone: 732-431-7220.

Our speaker will be **Chana B Lerner**,
Doctor of Audiology,
Hear USA, 732-504-2309.

Meetings are open to everyone and are a rewarding way to spend a few hours socializing with other hard of hearing individuals who share your problems and concerns. For additional information: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com.

DIRECTIONS: US-9, North. Continue to follow US-9N, pass Freehold Raceway and Freehold Mall; Turn right onto Symmes Rd., Go over Rt. 9 to 125 Symmes Rd. Behind Wegman's and same side as Target.

ASL Videos

...through the Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf which explain terminology, civic court, and criminal court.

www.mclid.org/your-day-in-court/legal-terms-in-asl/

www.mclid.org/your-day-in-court/civil-court/

www.mclid.org/your-day-in-court/criminal-court/



Deaf Senior Housing Forum Draws Attention



By Jane A. Cyran, Ph.D,
Secretary, NJDSH, Inc.

A Forum on Housing for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Deaf Blind communities in NJ was held on March 17 at the Rahway Public Library. The Forum was sponsored by the newly formed NJ Deaf Senior Housing, Inc, a charitable, tax deductible 501c3 organization. The President, Lila Taylor, welcomed all who attended and represented many Deaf organizations in New Jersey. Lila summarized the history of Deaf housing and problems with HUD. Lila emphasized that the NJ community is continuing work toward the goal of supportive housing in NJ, despite the many obstacles and frustration with HUD. Isolation and loneliness is a major social and health problem in these

communities and NJDSH, Inc. is determined to improve this situation in. A new Web site (NJDSH.org) is online and Lila encouraged all to use this site. On the site is a short presentation on how the decision was made to choose North Jersey as the first location for Deaf housing. It is hoped that after this first location is built that another location will be chosen in south or central NJ.

Lila introduced the two guest speakers. Marina Fahnsteyn discussed how the NY Deaf Wellness and Recreation Center in Brooklyn was formed and how this is expected to make positive improvements to the lives of Deaf people in NY. Marina has practical ideas on how to help the NJ group build the first housing. Marina also has financial expertise to help people who are interested in moving to

the Deaf housing. She agreed that it is also important to include social services and activities for the entire community both those in the housing and those not living there. Jobs for Deaf such as managers for the housing, health aids and recreation will also increase when this is built.

The second speaker, Erich Schwenker from Cardinal Capital Management, spoke about the many supportive housing projects built by CCM including those for blind, veterans and mentally challenged people. These include two very successful projects for the Deaf communities in Wisconsin, Water Tower View, and Arizona, Apache ASL Trails (AAT). CCM has won many awards for their projects including Apache ASL Trails as the Best Special Needs Projects in 2012. Erich discussed



the many difficulties caused by HUD and that CCM spent an enormous amount of time and about \$500,000 to fight HUD and to support the principle that Deaf people should be allowed to live together in Apache ASL Trails. In January, HUD agreed to allow Apache ASL Trails to give a preference to people who need the specialized equipment and features that make AAT friendly and safe for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Deaf Blind. However HUD is still causing problems for Section 8 vouchers at AAT. CCM and the

Arizona state officials are still fighting for the very low income people that need to be helped with Section 8 housing at AAT. CCM is now subsidizing about \$8000 a month for the people who need Section 8 help.

Erich said media exposure such as the article in the NY Times and on the Mike Huckabee Show helped to cause HUD to decrease their opposition to Deaf housing but the Section 8 refusal is still a big problem. These problems with HUD would also affect housing built in NJ. Financial

organizations are aware of the past problems with HUD and may affect financing in NJ. Market rate housing would not be affected as this would not have any government financing but would not be feasible for low income people. Tax credits would help moderate income people and this might be possible in NJ. Erich encourages Deaf organizations to contact HUD and the Congressional Deaf Caucus support housing for the Deaf communities.

A questions and answer section followed. Audience members agreed that North Jersey was a good location near shopping and transportation. Exercise, activities and a game room are important. One person asked if HUD is interested in Deaf culture and the response was no. Some people thought a demonstration at HUD headquarters similar to "Deaf President Now" for Gallaudet would be important. Could the person be a 'snow bird' and live in NJ only six months? Living full time in NJ would depend on the unit being a Section 8 or if rent was helped by tax credits. Market rate units would allow a snow bird situation. There was some discussion about buying a large piece of property and building market rate first. Then working for low income housing with HUD might take a few years but the land could then be used to build a low income project. Erich said a problem would be supporting the unused property costs such as taxes until it was used - but this might be possible. The Forum concluded with people understanding that to build in NJ will still be a difficult process requiring a strong commitment. Erich reminded all that we are building for the future and looking at the next 25 to 50 years.





Hear I Am !!

By Jennifer Beilis

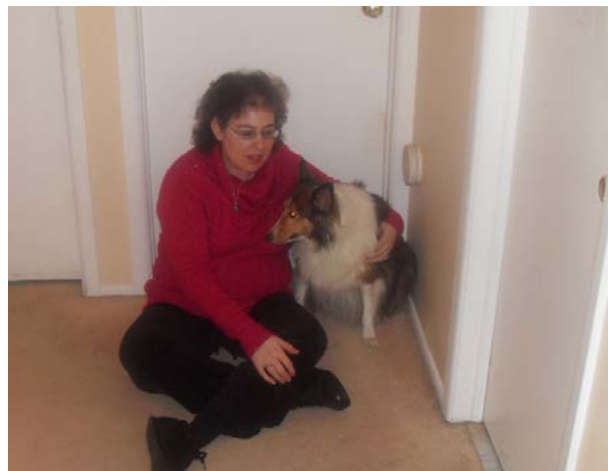
I have written "Hear" I am!! for all populations to achieve more insight in their lives. My trials and tribulations about hearing loss and other disabilities will motivate people to advocate for themselves and others. I was interviewed by WOBM 92.7 and will also obtain an interview from ALDA Association for Late Deafened Adults.

My bifold presentation will consist of helpful information on national organizations. I have researched hearing loss as my thesis in New York University for my Master's degree in Education and Deafness Rehabilitation. I believe that anyone with the proper accommodations can attend college or join the work force.

There are many organizations that can help people with hearing loss including two major groups, Hearing Loss Association of America and Association for Late Deafened Adults. VEDA (for vestibular care) provides information for people who have balance disorders such as Vertigo (Meniere's disease) or a form of that and need assistance with their gait. Canine Companions can help people with various disabilities such as training a dog to assist a person who has a disability. The

My schooling helped me to learn how to accept my hearing loss at New York University. I have my Associate's Degree in Social Sciences from Brookdale Community College, my Bachelor's degree from Rowan University in Psychology and my Master's Degree from New York University in Education and Deafness Rehabilitation and my Sign Language Proficiency Interview. In the book, you will see the various struggles that I had with my hearing loss to hear the teachers and how I learned to advocate for myself and others. You must accept your problem before you can help others.

It was very hard to hear my teachers especially in graduate school because my hearing loss varied daily due to the Meniere's disease and Hypothyroidism (not diagnosed back then). Eventually, I was able to learn American Sign Language and relied upon the interpreters if I missed a word or a concept that the teachers or a student stated. I also taped the classes and had a note taker and used my FM as well (this brings the sound directly to your hearing aid through a t-switch and helps with the fatigue levels.) I also had to learn that I was allergic to latex from the hearing aid. I had experienced burning and itchiness from the mold. Thereafter, the audiologist ordered non-latex molds. I started to feel better from the allergic reaction. I found a product called Dry & Store that sanitizes your hearing devices (it looks like a nail dryer UV idea) to prevent ear infections. I also use Ear for Gears which helps me with



the moisture, wind and any dirt (this is almost like a sock idea over the behind the ear hearing aid). Lastly, I use a Sea-Band product that is a band that helps me with motion sickness in the car but can also help with chemotherapy and pregnancy.

When I was working as a teacher in a community college I showed the reader my struggles to hear the students and faculty. They were very happy to repeat themselves or write down something if I missed what they said. I also used a button that stated "please face me" which was a visual reminder. I used my FM and hearing aids to help me hear better in the classroom. In meetings they used a microphone to help everyone hear better. It was still challenging to me that my hearing declined more from the medical issues as well as I had a hard time recognizing speech and had to be fitted with much stronger hearing aids and FM over time. As we all know there is an adjustment process and it is crucial to build up slowly to achieve our goals.

My book reflects upon questions and answers that you will provide the answers to learn more about yourself. The whole family is always affected when we are going through something in life by standing together and seeking help. I believe that you can accomplish your goals.

You will gain inner strength and become a stronger advocate

for yourself and others after reading "Hear I am!! Thank you for your support and I hope to see everyone at my upcoming book signing where I will be selling the books as well on June 13, 2014 at Ocean County Park, 659 Ocean Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey, from 6-8 p.m. for their annual Yappy Hour (they have an agility show for dogs and so much fun!) There is free parking and admittance and you can bring your dog as well!

You may contact me at the following addresses: [heariam_jennifer](https://www.facebook.com/heariam_jennifer) FB, twitter [@jenniferbeilis](https://twitter.com/jenniferbeilis), AOL heariam_jennifer@aol.com for any questions or to order. You can also purchase "Hear I am!!" on www.xlibris.com, www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com in soft, hard covers or e-book.



HAAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter Hard of Hearing Support Group

**Cape Regional Medical Center
Garden State Parkway, Exit 10
2 Stone Harbor Blvd
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210**

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month.
5:30 to 6:00 PM - Meet n Greet
6:00 to 8:00 PM - Group Session

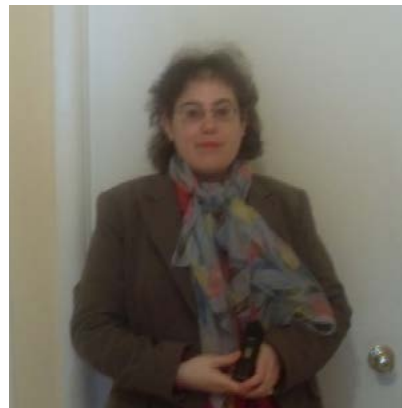
Door is always open for all who need to come at a later time. You are welcome to stay a short while too if you are unable to stay for the whole session. We would love to meet you regardless of how long you can stay.

Next Meetings:

- June 19** - Meet Traci Burton from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- July 17** - Open House
- August 21** - Meet Jeanne Fredricksen from MED-EL.

Are you making vacation plans to visit the Cape May / Atlantic City shore points? Stop by and say hello during your visit. New friends are always welcome!

For additional information please contact; sjhardofhearing@gmail.com or call 609-886-3678.



Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has a "Monthly Communicator" that has events such as the following: employment, religious services, support groups and socialization and more servicing individuals with hearing loss in New Jersey.

Dear NJ Relay & CapTel



Dear NJ Relay & CapTel,

I've been hearing a lot about the CapTel phone. When I told my sister about it, she encouraged me to learn more and consider getting one. I looked it up online, but I'm not sure if it will work for me. I have been slowly losing both my hearing and vision and struggle with seeing print. Are there different font sizes available on the CapTel phone's screen? Could you give me more information?

Thanks,

Wanting to Make Calls Again

CapTel 880i >



Dear Wanting to Make Calls Again,

The Captioned Telephone (CapTel) Service displays live, word-for-word captions of everything that a caller says. Similar to closed captioning on television, CapTel is for telephone calls. With the CapTel phone, a specially trained agent uses enhanced voice recognition technology to provide the captions.

There are several models of the CapTel phone; the most popular is the CapTel 840i. Last year, we introduced the CapTel 880i, which might be an ideal solution for you and others with low vision.

The CapTel 880i model is very similar to the CapTel 840i, with one major exception: the display is 10 inches wide and includes two additional larger font sizes to choose from. Like the CapTel 840i model, you can adjust the font sizes, and color.

The CapTel 880i also has a built-in answering machine with captions, and adjustable volume control with up to a 40 dB gain on captioned calls. It requires a high-speed Internet or WiFi connection, a telephone line connection (analog, VoIP, DSL or digital cable phone service), in some cases a router and a power source.

If you'd like more information on the CapTel 880i or any other CapTel products and services, visit www.njcaptel.com or call 877-805-5845.

NJ Relay & CapTel

Out & About

ART PLAYS FESTIVALS MUSIC SPORTS GAMES RELIGIOUS GET-TOGETHERS ETC...

ASL-English Interpretation Program Sociology of American Deaf Communities

Facilitated by John Collins

Explore the most common definitions of culture; the difference between culture and community; language acquisition; and the relationship between language and culture. Learn basic cultural concepts, including language, identity, values, norms, rules of social interaction and traditions, within various Deaf and hard of hearing communities and discuss their effect on the individual. You will also examine current linguistic, political, social, philosophical, and future directions within Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Mondays and Wednesdays: July 9 – August 11, 2014
5:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
LaGuardia Community College, Room: C-244
Registration Fee: \$465

John Collins, MA

- Masters Degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University (awarded the Daniel T. Cloud Award for outstanding Deaf Education student)
- Coordinator for LaGuardia Community College's Deaf Studies Program
- Has served as Media Coordinator at the Lexington School for the deaf in New York
- Active in the New York Deaf Theater community

Registration: contact Vanessa Watson 718.482.5313 or vwatson@lagcc.cuny.edu or online at www.laguardia.edu/ace/register

Registration Deadline - June 30, 2014



Creation Festival 2014
 is an ASL Interpreted Event!
 June 25 - June 28
 Agape Farm - Mount Union, PA
 Free Camping, Concerts, Speakers, Workshops,
 Children's programs, X-Games, Exhibits and more.
 For more information visit www.creationfest.com.



MIDDLESEX COUNTY'S PLAYS-IN-THE-PARK

...will offer **Sign Language Interpretation, Open Captioning and Audio**

Description at one performance of each of its 2014 summer productions.

Location - Stephen J. Capestro Theater (Plays-in-the-Park)
 Pine Drive, Roosevelt Park
 Edison, NJ 08817

Phone - 732-548-2884

Tickets - General Admission - Adults \$7 Seniors - \$5 Children 12 & under - FREE

Box Office opens at 5:30 p.m. on the day of performance - **No Advance**

Ticket Sales

Patrons must bring their own low-back lawn chairs

Accessible Seating Reservations available - please call for information

Contact Jackie Neill: 732-745-3936 or Jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us

Schedule of Accessibility Services 2014

"SUNSET BOULEVARD"

Audio Description - Friday, June 20 (Rain Date Saturday, June 21)

Open Captioning - Monday, June 23 (Rain Date Tuesday, June 24)

Sign Language Interpretation - Wednesday, June 25 (Rain Date Thursday, June 26)

"SHREK"

Audio Description - Friday, July 11 (Rain Date Saturday, July 12)

Open Captioning - Monday, July 14 (Rain Date Tuesday, July 15)

Sign Language Interpretation - Wednesday, July 16 (Rain Date Thursday, July 17)

"BYE BYE BIRDIE"

Audio Description - Friday, August 1 (Rain Date Saturday, August 2)

Open Captioning - Monday, August 4 (Rain Date Tuesday, August 5)

Sign Language Interpretation - Wednesday, August 6 (Rain Date Thursday, August 7)

Out & About

ART PLAYS FESTIVALS MUSIC SPORTS GAMES RELIGIOUS GET-TOGETHERS ETC...

New Jersey Deaf Sports, Inc.
 and
New Jersey Deaf Soccer
 Proudly host

1st Annual NJ Deaf Outdoor "Indoor" Soccer Tournament

When: June 7 or July 12, 2014
Time: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Where: New Jersey School for the Deaf
 Katzenbach Campus
 320 Sullivan Way
 West Trenton, NJ 08625-0535

(Base on 8 teams) - limited 12 teams play
Team Prizes: 1st Place - \$600.00 & trophy
 2nd Place - \$400.00 & trophy
 3rd Place - \$200.00 & trophy

Team Entry Fee: \$450.00 per team before May 24, 2014
 After April 1st, 2013 - \$500.00 (late fee)
(limit 13 members per team)

All Fans at Tournament Event: Admission \$5.00 all day
Write a check to "NJDS, Inc."

NJDS, Inc.
 % Chuck Wallace, Chairperson
 26 North Shore Blvd.
 Helmetta, NJ 08828-1233

Deadline: May 24, 2014

Any Information: Contact Chuck Wallace 732-641-3420 or NJDeafSportsInc@gmail.com
 If interested in playing for a team, contact the coach Delfim Fragueiro at email valedelobo@live.com or delfimfragueiro708@hotmail.com or by VP at 866-928-1936 in the evening

NJSD is a drug-free campus-absolutely NO smoking, drugs, or alcohol. Thank you.



DEAF NIGHT

Join us for a night of fun, friends, and food at

Sidetrax Bar and Grill
 in Garfield, NJ.

Friday, June 20, 2014
133 Monroe Street
Garfield, NJ 07026

Starts at 8:00 p.m.

\$5 Donation appreciated

Proceeds go to

Canine Hearing Companions

Must be 21 years or older, please bring a valid I.D.

Interpreters on site

For more information, please contact

Martha Paternina at

deafwhiteflower@hotmail.com

Let's Cool Off! Action Park-Mountain Creek

Welcome Deaf, Coda and Hearing Friends Family Fun at Water Park

July 19 2014 Saturday
10:30 AM to 7 PM
200 Route 94 Vernon NJ 07462

PRICES: General admission over 48" - \$39.99
JR admission under 48" - \$27.99
Seniors (65+) \$27.99
Under age 2 free

Attention: Water park does not include fee for the alpine and mountain coaster and zipline. There is an extra fee for this. Bring towels, foods, drink. They have a fee for locker for money, clothes etc.
 If it rains, do not go. If it thunders they will close.
 Hosted by Richard Kish and Peter Wall
 My email whitemoose60@gmail.com

Out & About

ART PLAYS FESTIVALS MUSIC SPORTS GAMES RELIGIOUS GET-TOGETHERS ETC...



Please come and enjoy
Sunday service and a
picnic following the service

Sunday June 29, 2014

**Church Service:
11:00 a.m. Service
(Interpreted for the Deaf)**

Schalick High School
718 Centerton Rd
Elmer, NJ 08318

Picnic:

Enjoy food, fellowship and fun!

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Green Branch Park
299 Upper Neck Rd
Pittsgrove, NJ 08318

Info; www.victoryaog.org
Contact Connie 856-358-8313 Voice

Catholic Deaf Community

Deaf /Interpreted Mass Every Sunday

10:00 a.m. at
Holy Saviour

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish
50 Emerald Ave, Westmont, NJ 08108

VP or Voice 856-942-1000

kate.slosar@camdendiocese.org

After mass we invite you for donuts, coffee
and Vlog discussion with Fr. Mike Depcik.

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Every second Sunday of the month,
June 8, July 13

Interpreted Mass at
Catholic Community of the Holy Spirit

17 Erlington Ave

Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

VP or Voice Kate at 856-942-1000

kate.slosar@camdendiocese.org

Looking for Catholic Deaf/Interpreted

Masses around the state? Check

www.deafcatholicnj.net



Located in Lincoln Park NJ

...offers ASL interpreted services at
their 10 a.m. service upon request.
Jacksonville Chapel is a Christian non-
denominational church community
transforming people into Christ followers
who love God, love people, and serve the
world.



Assistive listening device headsets
available for use during services.

Contact: Kelley Higgins-Nelson
Lendaneainterpreting@gmail.com
www.jacksonvillechapel.org



The Price is Right and Gingo Games Night

Hosted by ICDA #138 of South Jersey

And sponsored by Ministry With the Deaf, Diocese of Camden

Saturday, June 14, 2014

6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

At Holy Saviour – McDaid Hall

15 Virginia Ave, Westmont, NJ 08108 GPS please use : Haddon Township

Admission: \$25 in advance per person and at the door. PIZZA will be sold!

Your donations will go to various Deaf Charities that need our help. Bring 3 cans of canned food for needy families

Mail your registration to:

Gracemarie Newman

525 Doe Lane

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Any questions, VP 856-942-1331 Kate at mwdkate@aol.com Chairpersons: Richard Emore and Mike Perimenter

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

VP: _____ Email: _____

How many people? _____ **No one under the age of 18 years is permitted to participate.**

Monthly Communicator

June 2014 Vol. 35 No.6

NJ Department of Human Services
Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton, New Jersey 08625 - 0074

Calendar of Events 2014

Happy Father's Day

Saturday, June 7

30th Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Awareness Day

Six Flags Great Adventure
Jackson NJ

Info: GATickets@aol.com



DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM