

Monthly Communicator

NJ Department of Human Services | Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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



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**Graduation
Day
12**



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Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the October issue is September 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

Cochlear Implant Group stays current with technology

Submitted by Diane Pacello

The Haddonfield/Philadelphia Cochlear Support Group is an educational, social, support group for individuals considering a cochlear implant, or have been implanted. The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides CART and Interpreter services. These services enable us to present a meeting accessible to all people with hearing loss. As usual, we thank the division for its continuing support.

Our June 5th meeting began at 6PM with a meet, greet, and eat at Villa Rosa. This pizza social was hosted by Sam Silberman, representing Cochlear America. At 7 PM, the meeting commenced at Grace Episcopal Church, 19 Kings Highway E, Haddonfield NJ. Sam was our evening's speaker.

Sam speaks to us from experience, as he was implanted in 1999. He thus identifies with all implanted people as part of a unique minority. Only 300,000 people are implanted, worldwide. We are still reaching only 5% of all people in the US who are candidates for implantation. We encourage all who are reading this article to spread the word about this life changing technology.

Sam stated it's up to the recipient to do well, to have a good outcome with their implant. You must go back for follow up appointments at your implantation center. Go to meetings such as this one, communication and relationships are what it's all about. Speaking with CI users can answer many questions you may have. Listening to knowledgeable speakers is another resource open to you. Most implant centers do not provide therapy following implantation. However, it's efficacy is being studied at Gallaudet University in DC, and satellite centers. The closest to us is Columbia, in NYC. Early data is showing a better outcome when therapy is undertaken. Until this resource is offered at the implant centers, one can access many online sites for help. Many cochlear implant companies have excellent resources. They are not maker specific, anyone can use the site most helpful to them. Many programs have tracking

components enabling you to see your progress. Regardless of which company you choose, you will do well. To maximize the benefit, you must practice, persevere, and keep trying. Implants are built to last a lifetime, processors are not. About every 5 years an upgrade is available from your implant makers. At the 5 year point insurance will pay for this, as implants are always able to accept a new processor. Remember that things don't click on the same timetable, everyone is on a timeline unique to them. But never give up, reach out instead.

Sam spoke of the recently FDA approved device for adults, not yet children, the cochlear hybrid implant. This was created for people who have more residual hearing than the usual cochlear implant candidate. This product enables people to hear acoustically and electrically through the same device. The acoustical is a traditional hearing aid with a box that can be programmed as by your hearing aid audiologist. The ear mold goes straight into the processor. The electrical component is the traditional cochlear implant. Best of both worlds!

The day Sam visited CHOP, the surgeons were preparing to implant a 6 month old. This is younger than the FDA approved age, however when the surgeons can provide their valid reasoning for such surgery, it's usually approved. Surgeons are now advocating for simultaneous, bilateral, implantation in children. This avoids the usual need for another surgery, under general anesthesia, to implant the second device.

Another group now being considered as candidates for implantation are those people with normal hearing in one ear, total deafness in the other. The feedback from these early recipients has been positive. There are electrode arrays now being implanted that preserve hearing in the implanted ear. Wireless technology is advancing, TV streaming directly to your processor. Pretty exciting stuff!

The lecture portion of his presentation concluded, but he very graciously stayed to speak to all who had questions.

Todd R. Olsen leaves DDHH after 14 years

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist **Todd R. Olsen** retired from the division on July 31, 2014 after working for DDHH since August 2000. Todd was primarily responsible for providing communication access referrals throughout the years. This included receiving and filling requests for qualified sign language interpreters and Communication Access Realtime Translation Services (CART). The position required an in-depth knowledge of the strengths of the interpreters and preferences of the consumers who are Deaf to facilitate the best communication match. He also spent a lot of his time advocating for the rights of people with hearing loss by educating providers about the various laws enacted to accommodate consumers. Todd coordinated many workshops for sign language interpreters and wrote a variety of articles for the Monthly Communicator. His persistence also resulted in expanding the Equipment Distribution Program to include accessible smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Todd joined the Army Reserves on January 23,



DDHH staff member Cathy Grehlinger presents Todd with a going away gift.

1989 and was deployed four times; OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] 2005-2006, OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom] 2007-2010. He achieved the rank of Major/O-4. While deployed, he sustained multiple combat injuries; the VA [Veterans Affairs] rated him 100% permanent disability. His last day in the Army was July 7, 2014.

We want to express our sincerest thanks for Todd's work at DDHH and serving our country. We wish him well with his future endeavors.





Avoiding Noise-Induced Hearing Loss and Maintaining Hearing Health

By Traci Burton, Field Representative

On Wednesday May 7, 2014 Cooper University Health Care hosted a workshop focused on maintaining our hearing health. Meghan L. Pavlick, Au.D., FAAA, Head, Hearing & Balance Services at Cooper University Hospital provided tips on avoiding noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), reiterated the common methods of protecting our hearing, and discussed some advancements in technology that help us protect our hearing.

As we know, NIHL is caused by exposure to loud sounds, both recreational and occupational. NIHL is virtually 100% preventable. It is up to us to take precautions when in noisy recreational situations such as a shooting range, concert, or listening to personal listening devices. In the workplace,

however, OSHA (1974) has mandated that an employee's exposure to noise not exceed an average of 85dB (noisy restaurant) within an eight hour time-frame. Should the dB levels be above 85, there is a listing of permissible noise exposures at a constant noise level which



dictates how much time an employee is to spend in the environment. For those of us who fly, either for pleasure or business, a study in 2012 revealed that the average noise level in an aircraft cabin is 95dB. If that flight is longer than four hours, according to the study, we need to seriously consider hearing protection.

There are several ways in which we can protect our hearing. The first is to limit the time spent in loud environments. Spending prolonged time in a noisy place may cause what is called a Temporary Threshold Shift, which is the cloudiness/ringing in

our ears for a day or two once we leave the scene. It is a temporary hearing loss. Earplugs can help prevent any sort of hearing loss and there are various sorts available, from affordable foam earplugs to custom-fitted hearing protection. The foam earplug is the most basic and affordable; for effective use be sure to roll it between the thumb and forefinger until it is as small as you can get it, insert it into the ear until the end is almost flush with your outer ear, then hold it in place with your forefinger as it expands to fill your ear canal. If you do not hold it while it is expanding, it will expand up and out of your ear.

Custom earplugs are more expensive, but they are custom made to fit your ear and ear canal. Custom earplugs require a visit to an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser who will take an imprint of your ear. From this imprint, a mold is made, into which the material to make the earplug is poured and at the end of the process you have a pair of custom earplugs. Meghan compared the process to the dentist taking a mold of our teeth. Custom earplugs can be basic or contain filters for musicians.

When listening to a personal listening device, over-the-ear headphones are better than earbuds. Headphones are farther from the eardrum because they rest on the outer ear, where earbuds make the sound six times louder, without adjusting the volume on the device, because they are inserted into the ear and are closer to the eardrum. For those who prefer to use the earbuds, custom fittings that go onto the earbuds may help. The custom fittings help distance the earbuds from the eardrum and because they are made specific to your ears in the same fashion that custom earplugs are, they help prevent the earbuds from slipping out.

We live in a noisy world and over time NIHL will affect us all. It may be that a friend, loved one, colleague, or even ourselves, will be diagnosed with NIHL. Having this information and employing it now may help prevent the condition in the future.

Traci Burton, Field Representative can be reached at 609-588-2648 or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.

Liberty Science Center to Host September 7 Kickoff Event for October's Seventh Annual Garden State Walk4Hearing



The Hall of Skyscrapers at the Liberty Science Center will serve as the site and backdrop for the official Garden State Walk4Hearing KickOff event to be held Sunday, September 7, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. To get there, set your GPS to take you to 222 Jersey City Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07305. The center is just off NJ Turnpike exits 14A, 14B, 14C, which bring you directly to the Science Center exit off I-78. If you plan to attend the September 7 event, please RSVP by September 5 to Erica Wortman at 347-731-1883, or online at Newjerseywalk4hearing@hotmail.com.

We invite everyone touched by hearing loss to learn more about the nation's largest fundraising walk for hearing loss awareness by attending the New Jersey Walk4Hearing Kickoff or visiting the Walk4Hearing www.walk4hearing.org.

While you are here, join us for a fun evening with friends and teammates to celebrate the NJ Walk4Hearing. We will have exclusive use of the first floor where light refreshments will be served in the Skyscraper Exhibit. Skyscrapers are one

of the ultimate expressions of human engineering. A little more than 100 years ago, a 10-story building was impressive. Today,

some towers reach more than half a mile high!

During the Walk4Hearing Kickoff you can explore the planning, design, engineering and technology of these amazing structures and their effect on human culture, the environment and even local weather patterns.

Whether you're bravely walking a steel girder high above the exhibition floor, facing down jet-powered hurricane force winds to test a building design, or taking a quiet moment to reflect on stories about the World Trade Center, you'll leave the Skyscraper exhibit and the NJ Walk4Hearing Kickoff with a new appreciation and understanding of the skyline that surrounds us and the importance of the Walk4Hearing in your community!

As for the Garden State Walk4Hearing itself on Sunday, October 19, 2014, the 5K walk (3.1 miles) will be held at Mercer County Park, West Hughes Drive in West Windsor, NJ. On that day, registration will begin at 10 a.m., while the walk itself will get under way at 11 a.m. For more information and to register yourself and/or your team, visit www.walk4hearing.org. For additional details and/or to become personally involved in the walk planning and operation, please contact Walk Chair Wayne Roorda at bigbearnj@gmail.com.

With more than 48 million Americans currently impacted by some degree of hearing loss, the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey's four chapters in Bergen, Middlesex, and Morris Counties and the South Jersey Shore will join the national effort led by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) to fight the nation's silent disability by hosting the 7th Annual Garden State Walk4Hearing. As the largest series of walks of its kind held in major cities throughout the U.S., the Walk4Hearing raises funds for hearing loss prevention and education programs, and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with hearing loss.

The Walk4Hearing is a great opportunity for individuals, families, and groups to step up and raise awareness to help end the stigma of hearing loss in our area. There are a variety of ways people can get



involved, such as walking to raise funds, organizing a team of walkers as a team captain, sponsoring a walker or team, volunteering, or making a donation.

An estimated one-third of Americans have some form of hearing loss, the third most common public health issue after heart disease and arthritis, while nearly one-half of all seniors over age 75 are affected by this seemingly invisible loss of hearing. Some 30 of every 1,000 school-aged children experience hearing loss. Chances are most people will be affected by hearing loss in some way. People with hearing loss cannot enjoy a dinner in a noisy restaurant. Smoke alarms will not awaken them. And, with thousands of U.S. armed forces returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with hearing loss, more and more people need help.

Since 2006, thousands of people nationwide have joined the HLAA's Walk4Hearing. HLAA is the nation's largest consumer advocacy organization for people with hearing loss, and is dedicated to providing education; support and advocacy to help people with hearing loss live full and productive lives. Funds from previous Garden State Walks4Hearing have enabled HLAA-NJ to provide college scholarships to worthy NJ high school seniors with hearing loss, establish a public Assistive Listening Device (ALD) demonstration center at Montclair State University (where audiologists are trained) and other efforts to raise awareness and support to counter and remediate against hearing loss.

Have We Got an HLAA Chapter For You! Check Out New Chapters Being Formed

■ Interest is mounting for the formation of new HLAA chapters in and around New Jersey. If you live in or near Newark, or alternately

would like to join affinity-interest chapters for veterans, or for other Young Adults in the 18 through 35 age group, read on, and make early contact if a group in formation seems right for you.

Newark may be the next location for a new HLAA chapter, if sufficient interest warrants. Readers who are interested in attending hearing loss and hearing help or support group meetings in or near Newark, NJ, should communicate directly with Latisha Porter-Vaughn at porterti@shu.edu to get their names and contact information onto a mailing list now being assembled for use in the new chapter's formation.

■ Veterans with hearing loss may constitute a new affinity-interest group organizing as an HLAA chapter. For additional information on the proposed new Veterans Chapter, contact Frank O'Neill at foneillrag@verizon.net to furnish your name and contact information to get on a list for future contact.

■ Young Adults, aged 18 through 35, are encouraged to make contact with Robbie Wilde, also known as "that deaf DJ," as he is also working hard to form a younger group of young adults with hearing loss. Interested young adults are encouraged to contact Robbie directly at Robbie@thatdeafdj.com with their names and contact information for a list now being assembled to use in the proposed new chapter's formation.

Those interested in working with Robbie also may be interested in the following: **Robbie Wilde, Deaf DJ and Scholarship Event Speaker**, profiled in Reader's Digest Article

Robbie Wilde, the deaf DJ who was this year's featured speaker at the June 7 scholarship presentation event, was profiled in the August 2014 issue of Reader's Digest

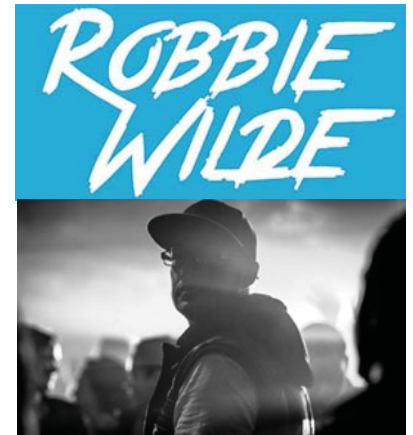
magazine, in an article, "What it's like to be a Deaf DJ." Following the presentations of certificates and scholarship checks to each of this year's four winners, Wilde told attendees how he confronted the effects of hearing loss and spoke of his ongoing efforts to encourage other children, students and their parents, with hearing loss.

In the article, Wilde recounts how he got initial help to become a DJ. "I e-mailed DJ Shiftee, a well-known New York City DJ, when I was 25. "I know you like a challenge," he wrote, "How about teaching a deaf person to deejay?" He wrote back the next day, "challenge accepted." He tutored me twice a week for two years, helping me develop correct technique. I practiced four hours a day. Now when I'm performing, memory muscle takes over.

"When I started, I wouldn't tell club managers that I was deaf. I would just show up, introduce myself, and start playing music. At the end of the night, someone would say, "Oh, here's the check." And, I would say, "What? Oh, I can't hear." They were always so surprised. Sometimes, I would bring doctor's notes because they wouldn't believe me. It was reassurance that they were giving me gigs because I was good, not out of sympathy.

Eventually, people started calling me 'that deaf DJ,' and the name stuck.

"For a show, I set up one speaker facing my left side, my good ear, and crank it all the way up. The speakers that play the bass are on the floor behind me, so I can hear some of the lower frequencies and





feel the beat in my feet. And I can feel the energy of the crowd. When you play a certain song and the crowd goes crazy, you feel that. The song comes to life.

“I use software that turns the music into lines of color on a computer screen. Red is the bass, blue is snare, green is the vocals or melody. I’m visually hearing the music. What I love about deejaying is the creativity, what you can do with a machine, two turntables, and a mixer.”

“The next time you go dancing, cover your ears and you’ll feel a little bit of how I do it. You’ll start using your other senses. You’ll start seeing that you’re able to hear the music in a different way. Music is not all about hearing.

“I play all sorts of get-togethers now, from college parties to corporate events. I also go to elementary schools for the deaf and talk to students about motivation and believing in themselves. I’m big on talking to the parents. I tell them, my advice to you is let (your kids) chase their dreams. I’m a deaf DJ, so why not?”

(Quotes are reprinted with permission from the Reader’s Digest, August 2014, pp.124, 125.)

HLAA Gets Behind Latest Medicare Coverage Effort

The effort to extend Medicare coverage to hearing aids and hearing care has been gaining strength since its enactment in 1965, and now with 48 million people now estimated to have some degree of hearing loss, pressure is mounting to fill that gap, and HLAA national is solidly behind the bid. Rep. Matt Cartwright, representing Pennsylvania’s 17th District, has introduced the HEAR Act, or Help Extend Auditory Relief Act of 2013, as H.R.3150.

If enacted, the bill would: 1) Amend the Social Security Act to include Medicare coverage for hearing rehabilitation, including

a comprehensive audiology assessment to determine if a hearing aid is appropriate, a threshold test to determine audio acuity, and various services associated with fitting, adjusting, and using hearing aids, and 2) Extend Medicare coverage to hearing aids, defining them as any wearable instrument or device for compensating for hearing loss.

HLAA’s director of public policy, Lise Hamlin, wrote a letter of support for the bill, stating that:

- Nearly 17 percent of all Americans report a hearing loss, including a third of all individuals over age 65. Hearing loss is not a benign condition: recent studies reveal a linkage between untreated hearing loss and dementia, a greater incidence of balance problems and falls, and greater incidence of stress-related diseases like diabetes and heart disease.
- Currently, Medicare Part B only covers hearing rehabilitation services for cases caused by an illness or accident. Progressive, age-related hearing loss is not covered, leaving many seniors to pay for their hearing exams and hearing aids. Hearing aids are expensive, ranging from \$600 to more than \$5,000 each. These price tags discourage many seniors from seeking a very basic solution that could dramatically improve their lives.

To sign a petition supporting Medicare coverage of hearing aids, visit: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/to-pass-hr-3150.fb73?source=c.fb&r_by=6379786

HLAA Chapter Board Member in Sarasota, Fla. Convinces U. S. Supreme Court to Add Hearing Loop to Courtroom

For the first time in its history, the U. S. Supreme Court installed a hearing loop system this summer to enable people with hearing loss to follow the proceedings. This decision was a direct result of the efforts of Richard Williams, Esq., a Sarasota, Fla. Chapter Board member of HLAA.

Pamela Talkin, Marshal of the Court told Williams, “I truly appreciate the initiative you took in making your suggestion, which will benefit countless visitors to the court.”

Williams, who had sudden hearing loss and uses a cochlear implant plus hearing aid, has appeared before the court and knows first-hand the difficulty of hearing in the courtroom.

Last year, Williams contacted the Supreme Court Marshal advocating that the court install a hearing loop to enhance speech and voice recognition for people who have hearing loss. He pointed to research showing that hearing loops have become more prevalent in public facilities in the United States and commonly found in most European public facilities.

A hearing loop system consists of a microphone that picks up the spoken word and an amplifier that processes the signal. The signal is then sent to an induction loop, a wire placed around the perimeter of a room or sanctuary, which acts as an antenna that radiates the magnetic signal directly into to the hearing aid. Delivering personalized in-the-ear sound directly from a microphone into a hearing aid or cochlear implant reduces background noise and other acoustic distortions and increases the clarity and crispness of sound.

Useful Websites for Digital Readers' Hearing, and Health Expenditures

■ **White Noise Lite** is a free app that may help you relax or sleep better. It provides 10 ambient environmental sounds and includes a sound shutoff timer, alarm clock with buzzer, and full screen digital clock. Soothing sounds include beach waves, a thunderstorm, crickets, rin, grandfather clock, chimes and other relaxing sounds. For more sound choices and more features, users can upgrade to the premium version for a small fee. Visit Google Play or iTunes to download.

■ **YouCaring** (www.youcaring.com) offers a simple and organized way for someone in need to raise funds for medical expenses. On the YouCaring Web site, set up a profile page, with a description of your cause, including photos and videos, if desired. Next, access the site's Promotion Tools that help you spread the word – through Facebook and Twitter, for example. When funds are donated, the site transfers them directly into a Pay Pal account. You receive 100 percent of funds raised since there are no fees. This free fundraising website can assist with memorial or funeral expenses, hearing aid costs, tuition, adoption fees, funding for mission trips, and lots more.

How HLAA is Working for Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Advocacy and Public Policy Initiatives

HLAA's national office, located in the metro Washington, D.C., area, is geographically positioned to advocate on behalf of the rights and interests of people with hearing loss. Lise Hamlin, HLAA director of public policy, spends a lot of time on Capitol Hill working on issues of the day. If it weren't for Lise and HLAA, people with

hearing loss who use their residual hearing and technology would not be represented in discussions about policy and laws that affect you. You can email Lise Hamlin (lhamlin@hearingloss.org) for more information. Here are some of the latest issues HLAA is working on:

National Court Reporter Association's Caption Community of Interest Meeting

HLAA was asked to join NCRA's Captioning Community of Interest Meeting to provide consumer input to their regular meetings. At this meeting, HLAA discussed the new FCC Captioning Quality Report and Order and how that impacts captioners. NCRA became a Corporate Member of HLAA.

More on Captioning

HLAA met with NBC/Universal/Comcast and Time Warner to discuss the captioning standards rules. Also attending were NAD (National Association of the Deaf), TDI, AADB (American Association of the Deaf-Blind). HLAA also met with the FCC to discuss rules about captioning of video clips provided over the Internet. Also attending were NAD and TDI.

Access Board's Rail Vehicle Access Advisory Committee (RVAAC) Meeting

HLAA, as a member of the RVAAC sits on the Communications subcommittee. That committee is reviewing signage, including electronic signage, and audible access through hearing loops. As this was only the second of

this subcommittee's meetings, we are at the beginning of our deliberations, which will be taken to the full committee for approval. Upon approval, it will go to Access Board staff, which will consider our recommendations and draft guidelines. Those guidelines will be released for public comment. After public comment has been reviewed and considered, the final guidelines will go to the U.S. Department of Justice, which will then draft a notice of proposed rulemaking, review all submitted comments, then provide the final rulemaking.

FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee Health Care Working Group Meeting

The Federal Communication Consumer Advisory Committee, of which HLAA is a member, provides recommendations to the FCC Commissioners on a range of consumer needs, including people with disabilities. There are representatives from industry, state agencies, people living in rural areas and Native Americans as well as those with hearing and vision loss. This Working Group focuses on issues related to health care.

This meeting focused on possible future recommendations FCC to enable the creation of wireless testing environments by helping to streamline its experimental licensing program for medical device experimentation.

Dial 9-1-1

HLAA made a presentation on this topic as part of a panel discussion to the National Emergency Numbering



Association (NENA) Conference. The panel focused on the impact of text-to-911 technology for people with hearing loss. This technology is available in some communities and will be rolled out in other communities in the coming year. The panel was moderated by the FCC with representatives from NAD and Gallaudet University also attending.

**Public Awareness Efforts:
2014 Annual Conference of the
American Society of Aging
(ASA)**

HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall presented at the American Society on Aging (ASA) conference in March with Noreen Gibbens, Au.D., lead audiologist, HealthInnovations on the Serious Nature of Hearing Loss and Innovations in Hearing Health Care Delivery.

**HLAA Gets Top Billing in USA
Today Supplement**

HLAA was delighted to collaborate with MediaPlanet on their campaign, Vision and Hearing Loss, a supplement to the March 28, 2014, issue of USA Today (in select major cities) and available online. MediaPlanet invited HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall to write an article for this campaign.

In her article, "Living Successfully with Hearing Loss," Anna wrote, "There are tools and resources that can help you and your family live successfully with hearing loss. Yes, your family – because hearing loss impacts not only the individual with hearing loss, but the entire family."

GreatNonProfit.Org Contest

If you love HLAA's work – both local and national -- then tell the world with your five-star review. You have an opportunity to help us make even more of a

difference in communities across the country. GreatNonprofits – a charity review site – is honoring highly reviewed nonprofits with their 2014 Top-Rated List. Will you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a review of your experience with us? All reviews will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes three minutes! Go to: <http://greatnonprofits.org/org/hearing-loss-association-of-america-1>

AmazonSmile Program

HLAA is now participating in the AmazonSmile program, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases at no cost to shoppers. Support HLAA when you shop at Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1177011>.



EDUCATION

HLAA Webinars – They're Free and Captioned

Tune into your favorite topic with HLAA Webinars. Go to www.hearingloss.org/content/schedule for presenters and times. Can't make the time? Webinars are recorded and available to play back at your convenience.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

About HLAA-NJ or any of our issues or programs, please contact Joel.Strasser@hearingloss-nj.com or at 732-415-7556.

HLAA-NJ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Montclair Student's Efforts Lead to
College Scholarship Award
from Hearing Loss Association of NJ**



Frank Barnes III, who overcame profound hearing loss as well as the consequences of surviving a bout with meningitis to graduate from Montclair High School and earn admission to the freshman class at Stony Brook University, has won a prestigious College Scholarship Award from the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey.

HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab said, "We are proud to honor Frank's achievements with our scholarship. Diagnosed with hearing loss at an early age, and aided by a cochlear implant, he went on to graduate from Montclair High School with grades worthy of admission to the National Honor Society, in addition to maintaining an active schedule of school sports, community service and other extracurricular activities, including travel to a third-world country to help children far less fortunate than himself, as hard as that may seem."

"It is difficult for people with normal hearing to realize how hard it is to do what Frank has succeeded in doing," Mrs. Schaab said. "Frank had to adjust to relying on a cochlear implant, and other assistive listening devices and technology, to help augment sound and help him understand speech. He has also mastered sign language. But, nothing can make hearing loss go away, or give him what would be regarded as "normal" hearing. From the classroom to the sports field and his other activities, Frank has faced a daily struggle to understand teachers, coaches and

classmates and to overcome the stigma that is too often attached to serious hearing loss.”

Frank, who has just started his freshman year at Stony Brook University, says that “I’m enthusiastic about attending Stony Brook because I envision that I will prosper as a leader, and happily remember my time as a scholar on its campus. My desire to ultimately attend medical school and become an otologist is a sign of acceptance, and a tribute: to otolaryngologist surgeon John K. Niparko, M.D.; audiologist Caryn Neuwirth Antunes, ScD.; and speech therapist Clair Kantor, who have given me, and continue to readily allow me, the gift of hearing.

Frank, himself, explains it like this: “When initially faced with my hearing impairment: I shied away. At least I used to. In late middle school, and in my first two years of high school, I became very self-conscious, bitter even. I let my attachment to this medical device define and mold feelings of frustration and isolation. To my mind, it was detrimental intrusion. I wear a hearing aid, yet felt incompetent by it, and shamed, so much so that I didn’t wear it to my eighth grade graduation party, and I removed it during school throughout ninth grade. By not being fully aware in my classes, low in self-esteem, and personal discipline, I permitted my high honors, academic excellence to suffer consequently.”

Now, he says, “I am grateful to have come to terms with my cochlear implant, because I would be far less functional without its support. I look forward to a rich life where I maximize all that I have to the absolute fullest. In awareness of my ‘epiphany,’ I have pride in this time of my life that has keyed my growth and development to who I am and how I perceive myself today.”

“It took an eye-opening experience one day back at an earlier reunion at the Summit Speech School that changed everything for me. After an extended period of self-imposed isolation from people, I was comforted by being in a room full of children, teens and adults who were living full lives, succeeding in school and prospering in the world. I realized that my circumstances gave me a foundation to achieve any goal, and become successful in spite of being layered with a sensory disadvantage. It really did not matter how an individual may have begun life, rather it’s about how time is spent, and resources are used and personal effort given.”

Lauren Csuka, his school guidance counselor, said, “The number of professional and character building experiences that Frank has had the privilege of undertaking at such a young age is tremendously impressive. I am blown away by the growth he has demonstrated as student and as a person. The work experience that Frank has taken on is diverse in nature and has allowed him to diversify his skills in different areas. He has served as a referee for the Montclair United Soccer Club for over four years.

He’s been able to participate in the National Youth Fellowship Forum on Medicine at Villanova University where he was exposed to cadaver labs and hands-on medical training. He’s worked as an intern at Morgan Stanley and contributed to the team of seven financial advisors, such that Scott Steel, AIG’s chief operating officer described Frank as “open-minded, eager to learn, with strong organizational and communication skills.”

Through all of this, Frank has endured many hardships, obstacles and challenges. After his affliction with meningitis, he became impaired visually and was robbed of his hearing. But, after many surgeries, relentless hard work with physical and speech therapists, Frank was able to develop the confidence wearing his cochlear implant and feel comfortable with who he is.

Gary Odolecki, Frank’s honors chemistry teacher, said that “Frank always impressed me because even though he had difficulty hearing me, he made it a point to be patient with me and others. I know he missed a few things, but he easily found what was missing because he was so smart. He was way ahead of the other students in comprehension and in perception, was one of the most memorable students of my career, and I will never forget the effortless skill he displayed in trying situations.”

Nicole McGrath, president and founder of KinderSmile Foundation, Inc., “I’ve had the honor and pleasure of being part of Frank’s life for the past 17 years, both as a neighbor and as a mentor. KinderSmile’s mission is to provide free dental services to low-income children throughout the State of New Jersey and in developing third-world countries. Due to his diligent and consistent involvement throughout the year, Frank was selected to travel abroad to Guatemala to assist and shadow dentists providing free dental services to 500 Mayan Indian children. He exceeded all expectations and single-handedly conducted oral and nutritional workshops for over 75 children. He utilized his Spanish speaking skills and taught many Guatemalan children English as he displayed meticulous skills as he shadowed and assisted me while providing clinical procedures. His social and emotional skills are beyond exemplary for a 17-year old as he understands his physical disability but does not allow it to define or retard his growth as a young man aspiring to become a physician to help others in life.”

HLAA-NJ works to create awareness of hearing loss issues in the state of New Jersey. It is dedicated to developing a statewide network to address outreach, advocacy legislative and equal access issues that impact people with hearing loss.

For information about HLAA-NJ, the New Jersey state association of the Hearing Loss Association of America, please contact HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab at info@hearingloss-nj.org or, visit www.hearingloss-nj.org or www.hearingloss.org.

Newark Deaf Ministry Progresses throughout the Years

By The Rev. Sheila Shuford



St. James' is experiencing an exciting and challenging time of growth and changes as it looks to the best ways to meet the needs of the community and how to fund those needs.

For nine years St. James' has offered the Deaf Ministry a spirit-filled home. I want to thank the vestry, wardens and members who graciously opened their hearts to this ministry. I am going to share with you the history of the Deaf Ministry in the Diocese of Newark.

Over 30 years ago my family moved from North Carolina to Randolph, New Jersey. We became members of St. Dunstan's in Succasunna. In North Carolina I used the services of a phone relay. At that time it involved communication devices to use with the phone and human volunteers to transmit the calls. I complained so much about there being no way to make a call in this area. St. Dunstan's gave me space and volunteers to create the Deaf Contact Center (DCC). I was the founder and director. We had dedicated volunteers from the church and community. We had financial help from civic organizations. We became a Rotary project. I did a lot of public speaking. I needed an interpreter. I met Cathy Deats who had

recently graduated as a professional sign language interpreter. She volunteered her services. The DCC served the deaf community with an open door policy and the hearing community with education. We opened in 1980 and closed in 1993 when the federally mandated relay service began.

Cathy Deats had heard her own call to ministry. She was working as a social worker and focusing on ordination. She was attending Education for Ministry (EFM) and knew I wanted to go also. Cathy interpreted the whole four year program for me while attending herself.

Cathy had two friends who were married to each other and priests. John and Betsy Smylie had a baby boy named Nathan. He was born deaf. The Smylie family turned to Cathy for counsel. As Nathan grew they looked for a way to help him understand God. I had moved to St. Peter's in Mountain Lakes to join another deaf family. St. Peter's was providing interpreted Sunday services. The Lake Side School of the Deaf is across the street from St. Peter's. Cathy and Betsy conceived the idea of The Bible Club for Deaf Children. I ran the Bible Club for 15 years. Karen Kasper who has been an interpreter here was one of the Bible Club volunteers.

The Diocese of Newark accepted the ministry of permanent deacons. Bishop Croneberger accepted me as a postulate. He ordained me eight years ago this month. I came to St. James' nine years ago as a postulate to be trained by Cathy. My tasks as a deacon given at ordination are to read the Gospel, prepare the Eucharist at the holy table, turn the service book pages if the celebrant desires, help serve communion, clear the holy table and offer the dismissal. I was honored to do so. For nine years. Cathy trained me well.

St. James' has been the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Newark. We have served as speakers and information and referral source for the Diocese.

When I first came to St. James I met a delightful gentleman. His name was Ed Billington. He was deaf and blind. He used sign language and tactile signs. Barbara and David Olsen has been his church family. They transported him and helped him understand the service and enjoy the coffee hour. Ed was the first person to benefit from church interpreters. Chuck Clark was our first church interpreter. Chuck had been my support person and interpreter throughout my education for deacon. Chuck is one of the finest interpreters I have ever known. He and his wife bought a vacation home in the Pocono Mountains. He had to leave at five o'clock to get to St. Peter's in time. That is dedication!

Karen Kasper also joined us at St. James'. Kathy Jacoby and her Jacoby-Duda family joined us as members of the church while Kathy became a valued interpreter. Kathy and Jim's marriage was blessed at St. James'. Pam Laura became interested in sign and taught the children's choir. Pam went to school to become more professional and now can interpret services and events. Rebecca Murray was my first sign student at church. She was a "natural" and has gone on to teach deaf children. The church offered the community a class in sign language.

We had to cut off attendance at 25.

Interpreter Education Program Graduates Six at Camden County College



By Dianne Falvo

Six proud students graduated from Camden County College's (CCC) Interpreter Education Program (IEP) on May 17, 2014 at the Blackwood, New Jersey campus. The six students include: Kerry Ceccanecchio of Blackwood, Sarah Garner-Whittle of Philadelphia, Cheryse Hepburn of Pleasantville, David Lore of Port Norris, Vivian Rodriguez of Blackwood, and Jamie Shough of Cape May County.

Several of the students commented on their completion of the program.

Vivian Rodriguez stated, "For me, it has been a long journey. A lot of hard work, but with the support of my family, friends, fellow classmates, and a lot of prayer...I made it! When I felt like quitting, no one let me. I'm looking forward to being part of and serving the Deaf community. My goal is to be a trilingual interpreter in the years ahead [English, ASL, and Spanish]."

Jamie Shough added, "how dedicated the teachers are and what a great program it is."

Cheryse Hepburn wrote, "This program was really tough, but it allowed me to meet new people (classmates, teachers, interpreters, and Deaf clients). I've seen myself grow in this program, and it wouldn't have happened if I hadn't had such a dedicated teacher who believed in me and classmates that were always there to help."

Kerry Ceccanecchio, winner of the Program Excellence Award this year, had this to say: "Having just graduated from the Interpreter Education Program at Camden County College, I am proud to say that I have gained a very solid background in interpreting. The dedicated teachers and staff at CCC were always present and ready to assist me in improving both my receptive and expressive ASL skills. I received endless feedback and positive

reinforcement throughout my entire time in the program. I was also able to work with many seasoned, experienced interpreters in various settings allowing me to grow as a student into the interpreter I am today." It should be noted that Ms. Ceccanecchio was the first IEP graduate of CCC to interpret at her own commencement!

The six students received Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degrees in Interpreter Education. Several of the graduates are currently working part-time as interpreters in various settings, such as religious services, theatrical performances, and in educational settings – interpreting college courses at their alma mater!

a. (l to r) Vivian Rodriguez, Cheryse Hepburn, Sarah Garner-Whittle, and Jamie Shough. (Absent from this photo are Kerry Ceccanecchio and David Lore.)

b. Prof. Dianne Falvo (left) and Kerry Ceccanecchio (right), on the evening that Kerry won the Program Excellence Award at CCC

c. Dave Lore with his wife, Rebecca, son, Jonathan, and daughter Esther.

Ministry...continued

Olivia Clark was standing on a street corner when our church walked by during a parade. Olivia and I signed "I love you" and she and family now attend St. James'. I taught the local boy scouts deaf education. We have had several sign/deaf education students benefit from attending our services. A top of the line assistive listening system had been installed. This allows people who are late-deafened or hard of hearing to connect aids or cochlear implants to the system. I taught deaf education and signs to our Sunday school.

Every Sunday the interpreters served to provide communication for me and the awareness of inclusion for the congregation. So many people have added their good will and grace to this ministry. If I have left you out, you are still in my heart. I applaud the wardens, vestry and members of St. James. Hands in air, fingers wiggling! My wish is for St. James' to prosper and reach and include many populations with the grace shown to the deaf ministry. I leave you with the most important sign of all, ILU.

HURRICANES FLOODS VIOLENT STORMS BLIZZARDS
NATURAL DISASTERS
EARTHQUAKES TORNADOS SUPER STORMS FIRES

Emergency Management Interpreter Training 2014

EMI Training Dates 2014

September 6 and 7

8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Morris County

Public Safety Training Academy
 500 West Hanover Ave.
 Morris Plains, NJ 07960-2500

September 27 and 28

8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Ocean County College
 Black Box Theatre
 Main Campus
 College Drive
 Toms River, NJ

Cost: FREE

Pick One Location:
 You **MUST** Attend **ALL** Sessions
 for 1.2 CEUs

ASL Interpreters will be provided

**Registration Due By
 August 27, 2014**

For more information and
 other accommodations:
Jason Weiland
 (609) 498-7006 VP/Voice
 Jason.Weiland@dhs.state.nj.us



**Disaster Preparation -
 Are YOU Ready?**

The NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NJ DDHH) under the NJ Department of Human Services in collaboration with the New Jersey Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf (NJRID), and the NJ Division of State Police, Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (NJ EMPGP) are pleased to announce the Emergency Management Interpreter (EMI) Training which will be held on September 6 and 7 in Morris Plains and September 27 and 28 in Toms River.

This program is lead by Terri Schisler, Rick Pope, and Stevie Fenton, all nationally certified interpreters with a dedicated focus on emergency management. The two-day training will cover four areas of emergency management including an Introduction to Emergency Management for Interpreters, Protocols for Public Outreach, Deployment Readiness and a Table-top Exercise. Training is open to Sign Language Interpreters. Those who are certified or CDI are encouraged to attend. This training is also recommended for emergency management personnel, ADA coordinators and PIOS.

NJRID is an approved RID CMP Sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional Studies program is offered for 1.2 CEUs at the Intermediate Content Knowledge Level. Funding for the project is provided by the NJ Division of State Police under the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program.

Produced by the NJ DHS Office of Publications 07/14



New Addition to CapTel Family of Telephones: CapTel 2400i

We are excited to announce that the new CapTel 2400i is now available in the DDHH Equipment Distribution Programs. The new CapTel 2400i is designed for users who are comfortable with touch-screen technology. It features a large, colorful screen with touch-screen menu options. It includes a built-in answering machine with captions, adjustable font sizes and styles, and a helpful dial-by-photo capability.

Please be aware, the CapTel 2400i does NOT replace any current CapTel model. It is an entirely new product addition to the CapTel family. Therefore, there is no “upgrade” path or trade-in option for people who currently use a different CapTel model.

Our program now has more options when identifying the best fit for each CapTel recipient:

CapTel 840 – for use with analog telephone lines, a traditional style telephone.

CapTel 840i – for use with high-speed Internet, for people who are more comfortable with a familiar, traditional- style telephone.

CapTel 880i – for use with high-speed Internet, for people with low vision.

CapTel 2400i – for use with high-speed Internet, for people who prefer a touch-screen display.

Eligible applicants must live in New Jersey, have hearing loss, and a household income of under \$45,000.

Applications are available online: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/equipment/> or call our office at 609-588-2648.

Dear NJ Relay & CapTel



I’ve read a lot about how 911 calls are becoming more complicated with so many cellphones and Internet services. As someone who is hard of hearing with a spouse who is deaf, how can we contact 911 in emergencies?

– Always Worried

Dear Always Worried,

It’s good that you are checking out options for emergency calls, because that could mean the difference between life or death. NJ Relay and CapTel provides different ways for you to contact 911 in the event of emergencies, whether you use a TTY or CapTel.

First, it is always better to call 911 directly from your phone; this ensures a faster connection. However, NJ Relay & CapTel will still process 911 calls.

TTY USERS: Dial 911 on your TTY and connect to a dispatcher. Calling 911 directly will help pinpoint your location. The other option is to dial 711 and ask the operator to dial 911. However, know that this may not be as quick as dialing 911 directly.

CAPTEL USERS: Dialing 911 from your single-line CapTel phone will connect directly to the 911 center, not through the captioning service. The call will be treated as a Voice Carry-Over (VCO) call, so the 911 operator will hear everything you say and everything spoken to you will be captioned on your display. VCO call handling capability is a federal requirement. Calling 911 directly will help pinpoint your location.

For more information about contacting 911 from different mobile devices or computers, visit www.njrelay.com/emergency-calls or <http://www.captel.com/911.php>.

Sincerely,
NJ Relay & CapTel



Ocean-Monmouth Hearing Loss Support Group

The next Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 7, 2014

1 P.M. Manalapan Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan, NJ 08726-3249

Telephone 732-431-7220

Our guest speaker will be from the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

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 e-mail: oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com.

Directions: US-9 North. Continue to follow US-9N through Freehold. Turn right onto Symmes Rd. Go over Rt. 9 to 125 Symmes Rd. Behind Wegman’s and same side as Target.



VSA NJ Seeking Authors for Statewide Writing Competition

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo), a project of VSA New Jersey, is seeking poems, essays, short stories and plays by New Jersey residents eighteen years of age or over for its 21st annual Joyce Indik New Jersey Wordsmith Competition. The contest is open to all writers, and submissions by writers with disabilities are especially encouraged. All works submitted will be juried by a panel of judges, and winning works will be showcased at the New Jersey Readers' Theatre in the spring of 2015. The deadline for submissions is September 29, 2014.

VSA New Jersey is an affiliate of VSA, a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and is dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities. Major funding for VSA New Jersey is provided in part by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, and NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as additional foundations and donors.

There is no entry fee for this competition. In lieu of a fee, a donation of any amount is welcomed and encouraged to cover the cost of the competition. To request an application or to receive additional information, contact VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885 or info@vsanjersey.org. Visit VSA New Jersey online at www.vsanjersey.org.

Cockatoo Needs a New Home

by Deborah Guarino

I'm children's author Deborah Guarino, whose Scholastic picture book "Is Your Mama a Llama?" is now celebrating 25 years in print, and am very proud that my book has reached more than a million readers in that time. Available in several editions and languages, it also has an ASL and Braille edition, and it was this very fact that inspired me when I realized I had to find a new home for my very tame, friendly cockatoo, "Homer."

Homer, as you can see from this photo, is a healthy, intelligent parrot. He's also very friendly, tame and absolutely loves attention. No, make that demands attention! Because, like most cockatoos, he's more like a puppy than a parrot, and, just like a puppy, absolutely hates to be confined all day in a cage. He also loves to be petted, loved and, in general, made a fuss over. Unfortunately, if he doesn't get this kind of attention, he does what comes naturally to most cockatoos...he SCREAMS!

Now, for owners without hearing loss, this kind of screaming can be very, very frustrating, especially when trying to make a phone call, have a conversation or listen to music or TV. This also means, unfortunately, that the average cockatoo has about five hearing owners in its lifetime, simply because they can't put up with the noise.

This hard-learned fact breaks my heart, because during the almost ten years I've had Homer, he's become part of my family. A very noisy part, to be sure, but a family member all the same whom I love. And because I do love him,

I've come to realize he deserves much more than being told to "Be quiet!" all the time, and also because the demands on my time mean I can't give him as much real attention and affection as he needs. Homer really needs a new home where he can find both. But it has to be an ideal environment - and an ideal owner - for a parrot who's so loud.

And that's why I suddenly thought of bird-lovers who may be deaf. Someone who might not have any other pets. Someone with the compassion, maturity and real interest in birds of this type who's always longed to share their life and home with a parrot of their very own. Someone who realizes parrots can sometimes be messy, need lots of toys to occupy them, and who'd

love a bird that likes to cuddle, will always welcome them home, and can live for another 40 or even 50 years!

So, If you're that special someone and live in the tri-state area, please contact this publication. Homer now lives in northwest New Jersey, so someone local to that area would be ideal. And while Homer is a valuable bird, this isn't a question of money. If you're the right person for Homer, the only expense would be in transporting him from my home to yours.

Thank you for taking the time to read this...I hope that you or someone you know can provide Homer's forever home. I know you'll love him as much as I do...and he'll love you, too.

P.S. Homer, by the way, is really a girl, which I found out this spring when "he" laid an egg! But you can re-name him...er, her, anything you'd like!



Homer

Long Branch Library Offers Deaf Program

The Long Branch Free Public Library will hold a program entitled “A Celebration of Long Branch’s Deaf Community” from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014. The purpose of the program, which will take place in the Meeting Room on the main floor, is to welcome the deaf community to the library and to introduce our new collection. This collection does not yet have a name. The library would like to name the collection after a prominent member of the deaf community. Attendees will be invited to nominate someone they feel should be honored in this way, by filling out a nomination form during the program and placing it in the suggestion box.

All interested persons are invited to attend -- whether deaf, hearing, Long Branch resident, or nonresident. Sign language interpreters and a CART provider will be available to provide access to the program for all. Funding for this service is being provided by the New Jersey Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. After opening remarks and the presentation of the new collection, attendees will be given the opportunity to apply for a library card. Library cards are free for those with proof of Long Branch residency. Non-residents may

purchase a subscription membership for \$20 a year but must still provide current proof of residence. There will be a tour of the library, followed by the film “Through Deaf Eyes.” Sign-language interpreters will accompany the tour, but CART service cannot be provided during the tour. A handout describing the library’s various departments will be provided to those who do not sign. The movie is closed captioned.

Following the movie, there will be a meet and greet. Refreshments will be provided. Library cards will be distributed at the beginning of the meet and greet and card holders will be invited to borrow books from the new collection or to place a reserve on any books of interest that are currently checked out to other patrons. Additional nominations for a name for the collection will also be taken during this time.



For more information: Janet Birkhead, Senior Librarian
Long Branch Free Public Library
328 Broadway
Long Branch, NJ 07740
jbirkhead.lbpl@gmail.com
(732) 222-3900, ext. 229

IRS Tax Law Change Could Simplify New Chapter Formation

By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA, Public Information Officer, HLAA-NJ



As of July 1, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has apparently relaxed its requirements for documenting the status of tax-exempt organizations, presumably including potential groups interested in forming HLAA chapters in locations

where they may not now exist, or for chapters whose tax-exempt status has recently been disqualified.

A year after the IRS was first accused of targeting selected non-profits for heightened scrutiny, the agency has now decided it’s not worth scrutinizing some 80% of the groups seeking tax-exempt charitable status each year. Now, instead of a 26-page application with supporting documents and an \$800 fee, organizations raising less than \$50,000 a year, and with less than \$250,000 in total assets, need fill out only a three-page online registration and submit a \$400 fee to be allowed to collect tax-deductible donations. The appropriate expedited form is known

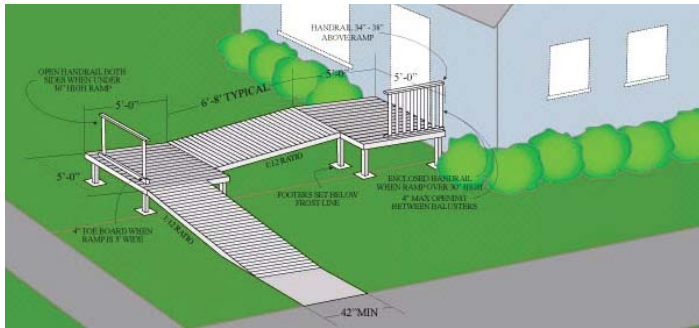
as a 1023-EZ, which is readily available online for completion and electronic filing. This important change can be especially useful for an HLAA chapter that has lost its tax-exempt status due to failure to file their 990-N.

But, some are worried about potential abuse. Said one observer, “It’s easier to get non-profit status under 1023-EZ than it is to get a library card.” As such, abusers “will be able to act in the name of charity, and the IRS will never be the wiser because they’re not looking at the underlying documentation.”

Time will tell. Potential donors, of course, should be careful, be aware and beware that their intended charity actually benefits their targeted causes.

Ramp Rebuild, Replacement and Installation Program for Individuals Affected by Superstorm Sandy

Submitted by Erica L. Larsen, Program Manager
Sandy Relief Modular Ramps, Division of Disability Services



Funding is available through a post-Sandy Social Services Block Grant to replace, repair or build modular ramps for individuals who require one at their Sandy-impacted primary residence. Ramps will be built for eligible applicants until funding is exhausted. Modular ramps are custom built from metal, wood or fiberglass and have no permanent footings, making them easy to install, remove, and relocate as necessary. Installation can take a few days or a week depending on the project.

Who is eligible?

- A ramp was damaged due to the storm and needs to be repaired or replaced.

- A ramp is needed in a home or apartment because a person with a disability has relocated as a result of the storm, even temporarily.
- An existing ramp is no longer useful because a home has had to be elevated to comply with new building codes.

Applicants Must:

- Reside in New Jersey.
- Have a permanent disability that requires a ramp. Physician certification of disability and need is required.
- Show proof of home ownership or have written permission from landlord.
- Provide proof of loss as a result of damage from Superstorm Sandy.
- Demonstrate that all other sources of payment (e.g., Insurance, FEMA) are unavailable or exhausted.

For information or an application:

The Sandy Relief Modular Ramp Program
NJ Division of Disability Services
PO Box 705
Trenton, NJ 08625
Erica.Larsen@dhs.state.nj.us



High Holy Day Interpreted Services

Temple Avodat Shalom (Reform) 385 Howland Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661

Rosh Hashana, 2nd day, Friday September 26, 10:15 a.m.

Yom Kippur afternoon, Saturday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m.

There is no charge for attending these two services, which are open to the public. However, it would be helpful if you let us know that you plan to come so we reserve enough seats.

Please note: Parking is not permitted in the temple's parking lot. Please park on local streets or in Van Saun Park and observe all parking rules.

If you have any questions, contact Stella Teger, Executive Director
director@avodatshalom.net

★ JOBS ★

HS Teacher of ASL

Anticipated Opening September 1, 2014:

Full time tenure track position

Jefferson Township High School

Oak Ridge, NJ

If interested, please contact Derek Sica at 973-697-3535 ext. 5824
and email resume to : dsica@jefftwp.org

Openings for Substitute Sign Language Interpreters and Sign Language Interpreters for After-School Activities

at Mountain Lakes High School. Must be EIPA Certified.

Please send resume to:

Julie Lazeration

Lake Drive Program

10 Lake Drive

Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

jlazeration@mtlakes.org or fax to: 973-299-9405



VISUAL YOGA

With Jenise Peticolas, a HARD OF HEARING, registered yoga teacher who knows basic ASL and speaks well, recently certified in Visual Yoga through Deaf Yoga Foundation with Lila Lolling

Hatha Yoga classes with visual cues for

HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Deaf community members welcome.

Thursday, September 18, 2014

7:00 PM-8:30 PM

6 weeks - \$75

Register at: www.freeholdyogacenter.com

Class size is limited

Jenise Peticolas: jenise@optonline.net

Freehold Yoga Center

3 W Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728

Bring yoga mat (may be rented for \$2 or purchased for \$20 at the yoga center)

Parking on Main Street or in rear of the building

HLAA-Morris County Chapter Meeting

Saturday September 13 from 10:00 to Noon

Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison

For more information, contact: Pat Dobbs at 973-479-8083

pat@HearingLossResourcCenter.com

For better hearing: Captioning is provided by DDHH and
Hearing Loop is installed

Guest Speaker:

Daniel Berke is the owner of Loop NJ and co-owner with his mother, Catherine at Ahrens Hearing Center in Fair Lawn, NJ (a third generation family business.) Daniel has completed many successful hearing loop installations in NJ and surrounding areas, while continually educating about the benefits of hearing loops and hearing aids/CI's. His understanding of hearing loss, hearing aids (and their limitations), and hearing loops combine making him a great advocate and professional installer of hearing loops. Daniel will demonstrate a hearing loop, share knowledge about bringing more loops to the area, and answer any questions in hopes to clear up common misconceptions or concerns.

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.,
proudly hosts

Flea Market (inside and outside)

Rain or Shine - located on the premises of

American Legion Hall, 1 Legion Place, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

1 PM to 5 PM on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

Free Admission for all ages; bring the kids!

Business Booths/Personal Booths/Club Booths

50/50 Chance and TV Drawings at 4 PM

Rent 8 feet booth space for non-profit one - \$ 25 each

Rent 8 feet booth space for-profit business - \$ 50 each

Booth Space Reservation Reservations Recommended by 9/20/14

Bring your own table(s), tent, and whatever you need
to make your ideal booth.

For more information about the booth space, please contact

Heather Crowe, Booth Space Chair at

crazycrowe24@gmail.com or call at (347) 695-1146.

Or visit www.njccdsite.org/fleamarket14rev.pdf

Food and drinks available for purchase

Punch for Money Affair will be held at American Legion Hall, too
from 5 PM to 9 PM. Admission - \$ 10 per person

Texas Hold'Em Poker Games - \$ 20 per player

Hosted by NJCCD Board of Governors

Out & About

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

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. NWJAD

Join us for

Deaf Social & Fun Games – cash prizes!
Saturday, September 13, 2014

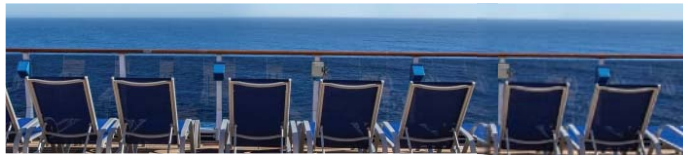
7.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
 6 Winslow Place
 Paramus, NJ 07652

\$10 per person

**Deaf Historian: Joey Garth, past president
 and
 Fun Games**

Contact Peter Wall, Chairperson
(fishhappy45@gmail.com)
if you have a question.



Friends, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Groups

12 Nights to the Caribbean

to beat cold weather in NYC

Feb. 1, 2015 to Feb. 13, 2015

from New York City on

Cruise Norwegian Breakaway

Based on Double Occupancy

Inside Cabin @ \$789 per person

(+\$212.16 for gratuity and taxes)

Balcony cabin @ \$1469 per person

(+\$212.16 for gratuity and taxes)

Deposit: \$250 per person or \$500 per couple
 (ASAP, deposit will hold price flat before it increases)

Insurance (optional) \$89

Interpreters and equipment included

Must pay in full by **October 1, 2014**

For more information about this event,

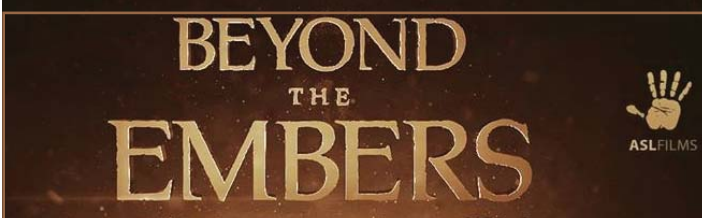
please contact:

Larry VP (201) 676-2360 between 6 p.m.-10 p.m. or

E-mail: EAGLE7b@gmail.com

For information about the cruise, please contact

John VP (217) 408-0485 between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. and
 Middlesex County College ASL Club

Join us for ASL Movie Night

"Beyond the Embers" - (English Subtitles)

September 27, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

Middlesex County College - Performing Arts Center

2600 Woodbridge Avenue

Edison, NJ 08818

Direction: www.nwjad.org/mcc.html

Ticket for \$10 each can be ordered by mail before 09/23/14

\$13 Admission pay at door

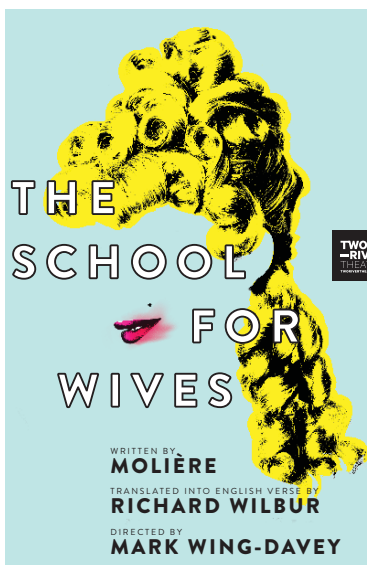
Tickets and Information-dvvn40@yahoo.com or

VP 862-242-5662

Please make a check or money order payable to:

NJWAD, Inc. and mail to

NJWAD, 52 Heritage Court, Towaco, NJ 07082



Open Captioned
 Performance

**Saturday,
 October 4, 2014
 at 3 p.m.**

Molière's classic comedy about a middle-aged man named Arnolphe, whose plan to mold a simple woman into the "perfect" wife goes quickly awry. Can this pompous bachelor really be a match for rival suitors, inept servants and the wit of his soon-to-

be bride? A true classic written by the master of French farce, this season opener is not to be missed!

Tickets are \$25 per person for those using this service.

For more information, contact Adam Haratz at

aharatz@trtc.org or (732) 345-1400, x1815



Two River Theater
 21 Bridge Avenue
 Red Bank, NJ 07701

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Tickets: _____ x \$10 = _____

Out & About

ART

PLAYS

FESTIVALS

MUSIC

SPORTS

GAMES

RELIGIOUS GET-TOGETHERS

ETC...

Catholic Community of the Holy Spirit Parish

17 Earlington Ave.

Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

at 10:30 a.m. every second Sunday of the month

• September 14, 2014 • October 12, 2014

Gingo Nights by Ministry with the Deaf

ICDA #138 of South Jersey

2014 Gingo Nights:

2nd Saturday of each month

New Time: 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

\$10 per person

• September 13 • October 11
• November 8 • December 13

All games are played at Holy Saviour, McDaid Hall,
15 Virginia Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108
(corner of Cambridge and Virginia)

for GPS – use Westmont or Haddon Heights

More info: contact Kate – kate.slosar@camdendiocese.org
856-283-3962 VP

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Family Spaghetti Dinner Social

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at McDaid Hall 15 Virginia Ave,
(GPS use Haddon Twp),
Westmont, NJ 08108

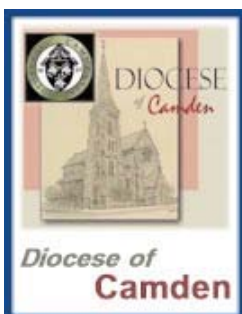
Spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, rolls, dessert
soda, coffee and tea.

Chinese auction! 5 free Chinese auction tickets at admission.
\$10 per person (13 years old and older), \$5 per child, 4-12 years of
age, Children under 3 – FREE. or \$25 per family.
See Gracemarie Newman for tickets.

Contact Kate at kate.slosar@camdendiocese.org
or call 856-283-3962 VP

Find us at www.icdanj138.org or www.deafcatholicnj.net

Deaf Catholic Masses around Diocese of Camden



Holy Saviour Church

50 Emerald Ave.

Westmont, NJ 08108

Every Sunday – 10 a.m.

Mass with Fr. Hugh Bradley

Interpreted and Deaf Readers.

856-283-3962 VP



Please Come and Enjoy Sunday Service and Our Summer Picnic!

September 28, 2014

Church Service:

11:00am Service (Interpreted for the Deaf))

Schalick High School

718 Centerton Rd

Elmer, NJ 08318

Enjoy Food, Fellowship and Fun!

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

Greenbranch Park

299 Upper Neck Rd

Pittsgrove, NJ 08318

For More Information:

www.victoryaog.org

Contact Connie - 856-358-8313 Voice

Ministry With the Deaf - Diocese of Camden Will be hosting a Deaf Community Health Expo!

October 5, 2014

at McDaid Hall (Holy Saviour Church)
15 Virginia Ave, Westmont, NJ 08108
(for GPS users, use Haddon Heights)

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Free admission. Refreshments will be sold.

We are between Collingswood and Haddon Heights on
Cuthbert and Haddon Ave in the Residential area.

We will have various exhibits like the Arts, Health issues,
Fitness for Families, Deaf Adults, Deaf Senior
Citizens, Teens, and Children.

Two presentations will be on stage:

- 1) "Canine Hearing Companions, Inc" – By Debby Schaser and her hearing dog, will demonstrate how a hearing dog alerts the Deaf with sounds they cannot hear.
- 2) "Emergency Preparedness" by Annmarie Buraczkeski

For more information, Please contact Kate Slosarat
kate.slosar@camdendiocese.org or 856-283-3962 VP

Monthly Communicator

September 2014 Vol. 35 No.8

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

Calendar of Events 2014

Friday, Oct. 31, 2014

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
East Brunswick Public Library**

Public is invited – communication access provided

**DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Office Closed September 1 - Labor Day**