

Monthly Communicator

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

DECEMBER 2014 | www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html

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- | **Walk4Hearing a Huge Success**
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On Friday, October 31, Executive Director & Secretary Steven Murphy, of Sertoma/Hearing Charities of America discusses marketing and fundraising for the New Jersey Hearing Aid Project. This initiative has partners which also include Montclair State University Audiology Department and the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This presentation was addressed to the DDHH Advisory Council. The project received donated hearing aids, refurbishes them, and dispenses to those in need over 65 years of age and who meet eligibility criteria.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director - NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

As we close out the year, there have been some very exciting, innovative initiatives that the division has undertaken. This includes the New Jersey Hearing Aid Project. To date, the division, with partners Montclair State University Audiology Department, and Sertoma, Inc., have distributed more than 40 refurbished hearing aids to low income NJ residents 65 and older. Through a federal grant, the division has also provided workshops for sign language interpreters working in emergency management environments. Not to mention the routine work that staff continues to provide such as communication access coordination, Equipment Distribution Program, Monthly

Communicator, casework, training, and information and referral.

It is also at this time that we would like to recognize the retirement of **Liz Barany**, Secretary 2, after 35 years with the division. Liz was an integral member of DDHH often being the first point of contact for constituents calling the division. She joined the division when it existed in the Department of Labor in 1979. She has performed in an excellent and professional manner. We thank Liz for her many years of service and wish her the best in her retirement.

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director
NJ Division of the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing



Thank you Liz for 35 years of outstanding service to DDHH!

Monthly Communicator

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We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 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



Hearing Loss and the Holidays

By Traci Burton, Field Representative

The holiday season already is upon us and that means there will be much socializing and festivities that include singing, ambient music, laughing, chatter, and lots of flatware clanging on plates while consuming wonderful food. Background noise distracts our brain's ability to focus on what the person you are trying to listen to is saying because it is subjected to the competing noises. People with normal hearing can experience difficulty hearing in these circumstances, let alone one living with hearing loss. In an effort to include all in the fun, below are some tips and pointers to help make that happen.

- **Be realistic, honest and open with yourself and others about what you are able to hear.**
- **If the party is in a restaurant, choose one that is quieter, as opposed to the noisy atmosphere of a sports bar. Also choose a table away from the kitchen, wait service station, bar, etc.**
- **Whether the party is in a restaurant or in a home, the individual with hearing loss should sit with their back to the window so the lighting is behind them and on the speaker's face. If possible, have the curtains/shades drawn.**
- **Ask to have the music turned down if it is too loud. Loud music not only makes it difficult to hear, but is harmful to all.**
- **If you are trying to converse with an individual with hearing loss, face them, enunciate your words, take frequent pauses, and ensure your mouth is free of obstructions – not everybody likes “see food.” Best of all, ask the person how to best communicate with them.**
- **Instead of using the silver and fine china, opt for the quieter selection of plastic wear and holiday themed paper plates. This will cut down on the clatter of silverware hitting glass/porcelain.**
- **If you or a loved one may benefit from an assistive listening device, personal FM systems are available for loan through the library system (www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/aldloan/). The FM systems are compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants.**
- **Give yourself a break! Listening in these situations is a lot of work so take a moment and step outside, help in the kitchen or find a place away from the activity.**

The above list is just a springboard to better communication as we gather with loved ones at this time of year. It's important to remember that hearing loss is as individual as the person who has it and that communication is a two-way street. May these suggestions be of use and wishing you all a wonderful, safe and inclusive holiday season!

*Traci Burton can be reached at
traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us or 609-588-2648 with any questions.*

Information About Ebola



Background

The 2014 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak is the largest in history, currently affecting multiple countries in West Africa with thousands of reported cases. At this time, the focus is on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. There are many organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who have sent personnel to assist in the containment of the disease and treatment of affected people. We live in a global society and everyday there are flights arriving in the U.S. from affected countries. Increased monitoring at several U.S. airports, including Newark Liberty International Airport, has been put in place to help reduce the risk of infected travelers entering the U.S.

Ebola

EVD is a severe, often fatal disease that is caused by a virus. It is spread through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person who is showing symptoms of the disease. EVD is not able to be spread before the infected person begins to show symptoms. The disease can also spread through exposure to objects (such as clothing, bedding, needles and syringes) that have been contaminated with body fluids from an infected person. The risk of getting EVD is low unless you come into direct contact with the blood or body fluids (urine, saliva, feces, vomit, sweat, and semen) of a person who is sick with EVD. The virus can live on surfaces for several hours and can survive up to several days on a surface that is wet with a body fluid (such as blood). The Ebola virus can be killed with hospital-grade disinfectants (such as bleach).

Symptoms

Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to the virus, but the average is 8 to 10 days. Symptoms of EVD may include:

- Fever (greater than 101.5° F)
- Headache
- Joint and muscle aches
- Weakness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Lack of appetite

Some people may also have:

- Rash
- Red eyes
- Hiccups
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Bleeding inside and outside the body

Prevention

- Avoid physical contact (touching) with anyone who is showing symptoms of EVD.
- Practice good hygiene such as frequent hand washing. Soap and water is best, but hand sanitizer works too.
- If returned from West Africa travel, monitor your health for 21 days.
- Call your health care provider immediately in case of contact with expected or confirmed EVD cases.

Both the CDC and Department of Health are routinely updating information and adding resources regarding basic facts, control, and prevention of EVD to websites.

See: CDC (Ebola Virus Disease) www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola

NJ Department of Health:
www.nj.gov/health/cd/vhf/index.shtml



You can only get Ebola from:

- Touching the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.
- Touching contaminated objects, like needles.
- Touching infected animals, their blood or other body fluids, or their meat.



Walk4Hearing Draws 1,000 Walkers, Raises Over \$79,000 Church Group Again Sends Valued Assistance to Aid Walkers



The Church of God volunteers were once again eager to support HLAA. (file photo)

More than 1,000 members and supporters of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey and their families walked Sunday, October 19, 2014 at this year's Annual Garden State Walk4Hearing at Mercer County Park West in Hamilton/West Windsor as they collectively raised both awareness and much-needed funds for hearing loss prevention and education programs. The Garden State Walk4Hearing had raised nearly \$79,000, according to Walk Chairman Wayne Roorda, and Northeast Regional Coordinator Suzanne D'Amico.

HLAA-NJ and the Walk4Hearing organizers want to publicly thank and credit the success of this year's walk to the individuals and alliance team efforts of many. HLAA-NJ organizes awareness and advocacy campaigns and provides

services for individuals with hearing loss throughout the state of New Jersey, through chapters in Bergen, Middlesex (Central Jersey), Morris Counties, Newark and the South Jersey Shore. At the local level, the funds raised from the Walk help support group, educational and social meetings, assistive listening and hearing assistance products, and college scholarships for promising high school students with hearing loss.

In addition to participating members and their families, HLAA-NJ and the Walk4Hearing Committee once again want to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the more than 100 volunteers from the World Mission Society Church of God who turned out to help. Church of God members wearing their characteristic yellow shirts were seen in every corner of the park cheering for the walkers, cooking and serving food, overseeing children's games and

activities, and even maintaining restroom facilities throughout the day.

As part of their ongoing Smile Campaign, Church of God volunteers were eager to support HLAA as they strive to raise awareness for an issue that affects so many New Jersey residents with some form of hearing impairment. Their volunteers traveled as much as two hours from four different branch churches and worked from early morning to late afternoon to encourage and provide assistance to the hundreds of walkers, and to the event itself.

"Hearing loss is widely misunderstood," says Roorda. "Many people think it only affects those over 55 years of age and older. It has many different causes and affects many



different age groups. Walks like this also provide a chance to display and showcase different technology products and personal support services that are available to help people with hearing loss to lead independent and productive lives."

"It's important to us as the leading consumer advocacy group for those with hearing loss to highlight the newest technologies that are available to help people," D'Amico added.

"Forty-eight million Americans have hearing loss," she continued, "but many people are embarrassed and don't like to talk about it," D'Amico said. "It's up to us to try to make it more mainstream. Another goal of these walks is to show there is no need to stigmatize those with hearing loss."

"Some 30 of every 1,000 school-aged children experience hearing loss, while nearly one-half of all seniors over age 75 are affected by this seemingly invisible loss of hearing, making it the third most common public health issue after heart disease and arthritis," she says.

People with hearing loss cannot enjoy a dinner in a noisy restaurant. Ordinary smoke alarms will not awaken them. And, with thousands of U.S. armed forces now and soon returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan with hearing loss, more and more people will need help than ever before.

For more information about HLAANJ, please write to joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org.



HLAA-NJ Chapter Chatter

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays.

HLAA-NJ Morris County Chapter will hold their Holiday Party on December 6, 2014, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the home of Mary-Ellen Marmo, at 300 Main Street, Apt. 811, Little Falls, N.J. Please RSVP through December 4 to either memteach@aol.com, or to Pat Dobbs at 973-479-8083 or pat.dobbs@hearingloss-nj.org.

HLAA-NJ's Morris County will hold its next Chapter meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2015, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison, NJ, with coffee service starting at 9:30 a.m. Featured guest speaker for the meeting will be Terrence Williams, hearing instrument specialist with the Center for Hearing and Communications in NYC. Hearing accessibility will be provided with CART captioning supplied through NJ DDHH, as well as hearing loop. Questions about the January meeting can be addressed to Pat Dobbs at pat@hearinglossresourcecenter.com or memteach@aol.com, or by calling 973-479-8083.

HLAA-NJ's Middlesex County chapter will be restarted under newly simplified IRS regulations and re-named the HLAANJ Central Jersey Chapter, according to Marie Nordland, who can be reached for further information at manord63@yahoo.com.

Interested parties and potential members should contact Marie to receive future meeting and event announcements.

A new chapter is being formed in or near Newark to serve residents and potential members in that area of New Jersey. Interested residents and/or potential

members and attendees should contact Latisha Porter-Vaughn by e-mail via joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org.



Arlene Romoff, past president of HLAANJ, confers with Latisha Porter-Vaughn, organizer of HLAANJ's newest chapter in Newark, NJ.

An important Chapter Development Workshop was held November 1, 2014 at the Elmsford, N.Y. facility of the Greenburgh Public Library, by HLAANational's Ed Ogiba, HLAAN's national director of Chapter Development. The event attracted more than 50 HLAAN leaders from throughout the states of New York and New Jersey, from as far away as Albany, N.Y., and included leaders from as many as five New Jersey chapters. The all-day meeting, which ran from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., was fact-filled and chock-full of helpful and constructive program ideas for building and retaining members summarized over the workshop's 6-1/2 hours of intensive training, based on the extensive experience of Ed Ogiba and colleagues from throughout the United States. A very limited number of sets of printed materials and handouts can be made available to present and potential NJ leaders who were unable to attend by contacting Joel Strasser at Joel.Strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or calling him at 732-415-7556.

Continued on page 8

HLAA-NJ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hamilton Square Student's Efforts Lead to College Scholarship Award from Hearing Loss Association of NJ



Ryan Fink, who overcame moderate-to-severe hearing loss to graduate from Steinert (Hamilton East) High School and earn admission to the freshman class at Temple 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 Ryan's achievements with our scholarship. Diagnosed with hearing loss at an early age, and aided by a hearing aid, he went on to graduate from Steinert (Hamilton East) High School with grades worthy of admission to the National Honor Society, in addition to maintaining an active schedule on the Hamilton Lads basketball team and other extracurricular activities, including Student Council and Special Olympics softball."

"It is difficult for people with normal hearing to realize how hard it is to do what Ryan has succeeded in doing," Mrs. Schaab said. "Ryan had to adjust to relying on a hearing aid, and other assistive listening devices and technology, to help augment sound and help him understand speech. He has also mastered lip reading. But, nothing can make hearing loss go away, or give him what would be regarded as "normal" hearing. From the classroom to the basketball court and his other activities, Ryan 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."

Mr. Fink, now in his freshman year at Temple University, says that he'd "always tried to establish the standard of a high level of success in the classroom throughout my academic career. The challenges I've faced due to my hearing loss have made this task a never ending battle because of how easy it is to fall behind after missing what the teacher or one of my peers has said. Hearing loss requires me to be resourceful, use technology to succeed academically, but I have never let this obstacle be an excuse but

instead a motivational tool."

Ryan explains it like this: "On an emotional level my hearing loss angered and frustrated me growing up, but thanks to the support from my family and friends, I was able to grow as a person and not let these limitations define me. By treating me as if nothing was wrong, they made me feel normal and not the odd man out. Socially, my involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports made it easier to make friends that looked past my hearing loss. In elementary school, I had a reserved personality and never really took risks socially because I was teased for my hearing aids and it angered me, but I overcame that by chalking it up to ignorance. Eventually, I made an effort to become more extroverted and involved in school activities because I observed others with hearing loss. I felt that they were reserved and did not make themselves part of the crowd, and that motivated me to work hard at being involved with others. Through these attempts, I surrounded myself with a strong group of friends who appreciate me for who I am.

My plans to further my education include attending Temple University, where I've

been accepted into their Athletic Training program. Once I finish that, I plan to continue my schooling with an eye toward a degree in Physical Therapy. After I complete those years of schooling, I plan on becoming a Physical Therapist so I may assist people to returning to their own paths of self-righteousness just as those in my life have done for me."

Marc Douglas, his Advanced Placement Government class teacher, says "Ryan is studious, thoughtful, hard-working and demanding of not only of the class but of himself. What I have learned about Ryan this year is that he never used his disability as a reason to fail. He used it to succeed. In all my time as an AP teacher, I can honestly say that Ryan is one of the most dedicated and motivated students that I have ever had and he is a pleasure to teach."

Aimee Turnbull, Ryan's School Counselor, says that "He has worked hard to earn a Grade Point Average of 4.1302 on a 4.0000 weighted scale of a very competitive senior class. He accepts responsibility for his actions and follows assignments through to their completion. He is persistent, intelligent and conscientious. I am impressed

HLAA...continued from page 6



**HLAA Rolls Out New
Online Publications to
Help Stimulate Advocacy
Involvement**

What is advocacy? Legislative lobbying? Promoting an agenda? Educating others about your issue or cause?

Advocacy can be any of the above. Whenever you speak or act on behalf of yourself or others, or support a particular issue, you are being an advocate.

Advocacy is so important to all of us that HLAA has begun showcasing our efforts in this online HLAA in Action edition. HLAA also brings you advocacy news from other sources: federal regulators, other non-profit

organizations, even industry news when it fits.

HLAA publishes two e-News online editions each month, one with general news on hot topics and one that keeps readers up to date with plans for HLAA Conventions and free webinars. Go to the national HLAA Web site to sign up for a free subscription to HLAA in Action.



**NJ Reelabilities Film
Festival Featured
“Lost and Sound.”**

Viewing, Discussion

Arlene Romoff, HLAA-NJ past

president, and author of two books recounting her experiences with CIs, was a discussion panel speaker following two showings of “Lost and Sound” in November, held at two locations, including JCC MetroWest in West Orange and Montclair University in Montclair. The film, shown with open captions, was about three people who rediscover music after losing their hearing. The showings, on November 15 and 19, were also co-sponsored by HLAA-NJ. In addition to Mrs. Romoff, the November 19 showing also included discussion participation by Nancy Williams, HLAA-NJ member, pianist and founding editor of the online magazine, “Grand Piano Passion.”

For further information:
Contact Joel Strasser at joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org or by telephone at 732-415-7556.

Ryan Fink...continued

with Ryan’s enthusiasm, good-natured attitude and motivation in all circumstances.

“Outside the classroom, Ryan is an equally impressive person. His pleasant smile and charismatic personality are reflections of a truly genuine and sincere self-image. In his local community, Ryan is heavily involved with volunteering for various organizations with children of special needs. Ryan advocated and participates with the NJ Special Olympics where he volunteers organizing a softball team and the Olympic Games. Ryan has proven that he handles time management extremely well by balancing his academic needs, extra-curricular activities and by giving back to the local community through community service.”

Kathy Rhead, executive director of the Miracle league of Mercer County, says that “Ryan proved to be a great asset for the team and was an excellent

role model for the individuals with disabilities on the team. He treated everyone on the team, regardless of their ability level, as equals and referred to them all as his teammates. He is true example of the positive effect that Unified Partners and Unified Sports can have on everyone that is involved.”

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 the HLAA’s Web site at www.hearingloss.org

Dear NJ Relay & CapTel



As someone who is involved with a consumer organization in New Jersey, I was wondering who serves on the NJ Relay & CapTel Advisory Board. What do they do, and how do they serve me as a consumer?

I'd also love to share feedback, or even a few ideas, with NJ Relay. How can I do this?

Thanks for the good work you do.
Long-time Relay Customer

Dear Long-time Relay Customer,

It's people like you who help make NJ Relay and CapTel the very best. We rely heavily on consumer feedback, because we want to provide services that are of the most benefit possible. Before discussing how you can share feedback, let's take a quick look at how NJ Relay and CapTel is structured.

The NJ Board of Public Utilities and its NJ TRS Administrator, Patricia Campbell, oversee the administration of the NJ TRS contract, which is provided by Sprint Relay. Feedback from the community is important to Sprint Relay and the NJ Board of Public Utilities to help streamline outreach and marketing efforts about NJ Relay and CapTel in NJ. One way to collect consumer feedback is through the crucial NJ Relay Advisory Board (NJRAB).

The NJRAB meets four times a year and includes community members who use NJ Relay and CapTel services, along with representatives from consumer groups. The NJRAB members share also share feedback from their consumer groups. If you have feedback on ways to improve the overall quality of Relay or CapTel service or marketing ideas you would like to share, feel free to contact any of the NJ Relay Advisory Board members. They will make sure to share your feedback at the next advisory board meeting. Below is a list of NJRAB members.

Robert Robinson, Chair
rrobinson@drnj.org

Patricia Campbell
NJ Relay Administrator
patricia.campbell@bpu.state.nj.us

David Alexander
Division of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
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Nancy Yarosh
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(609) 498-6221
nancy.yarosh@dol.state.nj.us

- NJ Relay & CapTel

Attention CapTel Users

This is to inform you of a change over the coming months that may impact some CapTel users. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) now requires that all users of Internet-based Captioned Telephone service must register. This includes people who received their CapTel phone some time ago and have been using it all along.

Who needs to register? Customers with any of the following models:

- CapTel 840i
- CapTel 880i
- CapTel 2400i
- CapTel 800i (800i users must register online)

CapTel 800 / CapTel 840 users do NOT need to register.

In many cases, customers may already have registered so no action is required. In some cases, however, users will need to register a CapTel phone that they have already been enjoying for years. Users who need to register will see a message on their CapTel display screen telling them what to do.

Registering is easy.

Online: www.CapTel.com/register

Registration Hotline: 1-877-202-9578

CapTel Customer Service: 1-888-269-7477

Download registration form and fax/mail/email in

Please note: per FCC requirements, the registration process asks for personal information including a user's birthdate and last 4 digits of the user's social security number

If you have any questions, please contact CapTel Registration Hotline at 1-877-202-9578 or online at www.CapTel.com/register.

Fall Deaf Culture Day at Mountain Lakes High School

Submitted by Nora Rodríguez, MS, LCSW

On a crisp fall Friday, the Lake Drive Program at Mountain Lakes High School celebrated its first Deaf Culture Day of the school year. After viewing a video created by staff on famous Deaf Americans, the students alternated participating in two activities. One was an informational workshop led by JW Guido, a Deaf actor from the *Theatre Development Fund*. He provided a lively review of the storyline for the Broadway presentation of "Aladdin, the Musical" in preparation for the students' trip to see a sign interpreted performance on October 22.

The other activity was a scavenger hunt with clues that also included interesting facts on Deaf culture. The competitive natures surfaced as the teams raced to find clues around the school to complete the course. At the conclusion of the activities, the students enjoyed a pizza lunch and social as an opportunity to connect with each other before continuing with their regular schedule of classes.





Governor Livingston Beats to the Drum

*By Amy Petronzio and
Chris Colanari*

For the first time this year, Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights has launched a percussion class geared specifically towards their Deaf and hard of hearing program. Chris Colanari, a music teacher in the district, has wanted to teach a class like this for years.

Two years ago, the school offered a workshop for the students and it was a big hit. It was only a matter of time until the school was able to offer it to the students every day. The class currently has eight students ranging from freshman to seniors. So far, the students have been studying African hand drumming, snare drum fundamentals, timpani, drum set, and melodic percussion instruments.

Through feeling the vibrations of the sound, the students are able to play multiple rhythms. Currently, they are working on composing and arranging their own songs.

A junior in the class has taken to drumming so much, that she has asked her parents for a drum set to have at home. Another student plans to play at her uncle's upcoming wedding and everyone in the class agrees they are excited about how diverse and creative the class is, not to mention, the impromptu dancing. It's a great way for the Deaf and hard of hearing students to express themselves in an environment that is completely their own. The students are doing a great job.





Lila Taylor opening meeting with interpreter Lori Adams



Marina Fanshteyn, from the NY Deaf Wellness Center in Coney island

Deaf Housing Progresses

A meeting on housing in New Jersey for Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing was held at the Rahway Public Library on October 24, 2014. The meeting was attended by many representatives from organizations for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing. The New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing, Inc (NJDSH) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cardinal Capital Management to develop the first supportive housing for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing in New Jersey. CCM is an award winning developer that has built successful supportive housing for the Deaf in Wisconsin and Tempe, Arizona. CCM has always stressed the critical importance of having the support of NJ communities for this project to become a reality.

CCM representatives at the meeting were Dan Kroetz, Development and Project Manager, Katie Voss, Property and Community Outreach Manager, and Donna Ferency, Fund Raising and Social Services. Katie is Deaf and Donna

wears a cochlear implant and both are aware and sensitive to the needs of these communities. NJDSH representatives included Lila Taylor, President and Community Outreach Coordinator, Lucinda Brooks, Vice President and Meeting Coordinator, Chung Williamson, Treasurer and Project Management contact, Jane Cyran, Secretary and Fund raising contact, and Tom Smith, Board Member and Social Services Coordinator. Both CCM and NJDSH have strong teams that will work together during the development of the project. During this development process, these teams will consult with representatives of the New Jersey Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing organizations to assure a project that will serve the needs of these communities.

This all day meeting resulted in a consensus that the project in New Jersey should include a mix of incomes that

allows for low income supported and market rate rental units. There are no income or asset limits for market rate units. There will be no age restrictions but a preference for older adults. This will allow a needy 54 year old Deaf person to be considered before a 65 year old hearing person. The goal is to give preference to the populations for which the building will be designed. Another goal is to have a good range of social services that are

NJDSH recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cardinal Capital Management to develop the first supportive housing for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing in NJ

needed for these populations.

All agreed that a North New Jersey location is well suited for this first supportive project of its kind in the State. The building will have specialized and costly equipment designed to help people with hearing loss - flashing strobe light fire and carbon monoxide

Deaf Housing...continued

alarms, visual equipment for visitors, 'loops' in the ceilings for direct signaling to hearing aids. Contrasting colors in rugs and walls will help people with low vision navigate within the building. The building will have a mix of one and two bedroom apartments and will be designed with the help of a Deaf architect, John Dickinson.

People can help support this important and historical project by participating in the many enjoyable fundraisers

being held. The next fundraisers are the Holiday Luncheon at Bottagra on December 13 and the annual Gift Auction/Tricky Tray Fashion Show at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank on May 10, 2015. Please join us for these fundraisers. Contact Lucinda Brooks [vicepresident@njdsh.org] for the Holiday Luncheon and Mayra Castro [chairtttdsh@gmail.com] or Jacqueline Ortolano-Recine [BWB40@optonline.net] for the Gift Auction/ Tricky Tray.



Zoe Le Beau and Dan Kroetz from CCM

18th Annual NJSD / MKSD Tip Off Basketball Tournament 3rd Annual Homecoming Celebration Friday December 5th and Saturday December 6th



Marie Katzenbach School
New Jersey School for the Deaf
320 Sullivan Way
Trenton, NJ 08625



Friday, December 5

2:00 pm	Girls Varsity	New Jersey vs. New York SD
3:30 pm	Boys Varsity	New York SD vs. Lexington SD
5:30 pm	Girls Varsity	Lexington SD vs. American SD
6:45 pm	Boys Varsity	New Jersey SD vs. American SD

Saturday, December 6

8:30 am	Girls Varsity	Consolation Game
10:00 am	Boys Varsity	Consolation Game
11:45 am	Girls Varsity	Championship Game
1:30 pm	Boys Varsity	Championship Game

Admission: Students with ID = \$3 per day
Adults = \$5 per day
Children under 6 = Free

Refreshments will be sold by the **Varsity Athletic Club** during the tournament.
Information: Athletic Director, Martha Fowler: martha.fowler@mkzd.org
Athletic web site: <https://sites.google.com/a/mkzd.org/mk-njdsd-athletics/>

Ocean-Monmouth Hearing Loss Support Group



The next meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 7, 2014, 1:30 p.m., Manalapan Library, Childrens' Room 2, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan, NJ 07726-3249 Telephone 732-431-7220.**

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 further 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 New Jersey Seeking Nominations for Outstanding Educators and Student Artists

VSA New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2015 Arts Achievement Awards. VSA New Jersey is a member of the VSA Affiliate Network, a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



About the Art Achievement Awards

The annual VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards include the **STUDENT ARTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS**, presented to students with special needs (mainstreamed, inclusion, self-contained classes or activities), 14 - 21 years old, not to exceed twelfth grade level, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form; and the **EDUCATION IN THE ARTS AWARDS** presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for students with special needs. The awards also recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for students with special needs. Award recipients become candidates for the distinguished NJ Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Application deadline is January 23, 2015.

About VSA New Jersey

VSA New Jersey is dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities. Statewide programming and services include arts education, professional development for educators, award competitions, exhibitions, festivals and performances. Major funding for VSA New Jersey is provided in



All images from the VSA NJ website

part by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders; New Jersey 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; and additional foundations and donors.

For applications and registration information, please contact VSA New Jersey at 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885, 745-3913 (TTY), or info@vsanjersey.org.

SAVE THE DATE!
KEAN UNIVERSITY'S DEAF JAMMERS PRESENT:
THE 4TH ANNUAL DEAF JAM
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST 2015
WHERE: KEAN UNIVERSITY'S WILKINS THEATER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN US,
PLEASE CONTACT: DEAFJAM@KEAN.EDU

★ JOBS! ★



Employment Specialist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing American Sign Language Required

Bridges to Employment, a division of Alternatives, Inc., is a comprehensive career service. Our team offers an array of employment related solutions to meet a variety of today's workforce needs. We are currently expanding our services and seeking Employment Specialists to work with individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing. This position is part time 20-25 hours and we are currently hiring in the following counties;

Middlesex and Somerset Counties.

Job Requirements:

- Must have experience working with individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing.
- Ability to communicate using American Sign Language and have strong receptive skills.
- Must have excellent communication and organizational skills.
- Must have own transportation and be willing to travel throughout Central NJ to meet with clients as needed (mileage reimbursement included).

Job Duties:

- Provide training and assist with job development and placement activities for individuals served.
- Ability to network and build relationships with community employers.
- Provide on-site job coaching and maintain professional relationships with employers to ensure job retention.



Please email all resumes to: hr@alternativesinc.org

ASL Instructor Wanted

Sussex County Community College is in need of an instructor for the spring semester for ASL levels I and II. The spring semester starts Monday, January 26 and ends Friday, May 15. Both courses are scheduled to run on Wednesday. The level I meets at 12:15 p.m. - 2:55 p.m. and the level II is at 6:30 p.m.- 9:10 p.m. It's important that the person interested in teaching is able to break down the information into small pieces to be presented and practiced in class. (The title of the text used is on the master syllabi.) Pay for level I adjunct faculty is \$690 per credit hour. One course is 3 credits or \$2070. Two courses is 6 credits or \$4140. We normally require a master's degree, but of course in this case, the requirement is waived.

Contact: Agnes Toccket
Assistant Professor and Language Coordinator
Sussex County Community College
1 College Hill
Newton, NJ 07860
973-300-2752
atoccket@sussex.edu

Counselor for the Deaf Center for Family Services

Program: Recovery Network for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Loss

Job Status: Part Time

Hours: 21 Hours per weeks

Location: Voorhees

Travel Requirements: Negligible

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree required.
- Master's Degree preferred.
- Certification or License required.
- CADC/LCADC preferred.
- Must be ASL fluent.
- Experience in substance abuse or mental health field experience with deaf population required.
- Substance abuse or mental health experience with deaf population.

Job Description:

ASL fluent counselor to provide individual and group counseling to deaf and hard of hearing population in outpatient setting with support and advocacy for clients.

All interested candidates must submit a resume and cover letter, indicating desired position(s) and salary requirements to the Hiring Supervisor via email lmur@centerffs.org.

Out & About

ART

PLAYS

FESTIVALS

MUSIC

SPORTS

GAMES

RELIGIOUS GET-TOGETHERS

ETC...



Deaf-Blind League Annual Holiday Party

Welcome friends and family
December 13, 2014

Noon – 4 p.m.

Hotel Woodbridge at Metropark
120 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

(2 blocks from Metro Park train station)

Buffet Dinner Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$37.50

Please make checks payable to:

DBLNJ, 15 Tudor Lane, Colonia NJ 07067

Deadline: Dec. 6, 2014

Questions? Contact Marci (732) 690-2837

Friedm2160@yahoo.com

For event menu: *dblnj.org*



Atlantic County Society of The Deaf

Hosts

Christmas Dinner

Tuckahoe Inn Restaurant & Tavern
1 Harbor Road
Beesley's Point, NJ 08223

Saturday, December 20, 2014

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Proper attire required (No Jeans)

Adults only

Donation: Member \$40 Non-member \$50

No refunds

No tickets sold at the door

Buffet dinner to be served

Bank night giveaway, 50/50 chance,
and Chinese auction

Make money order or check payable to:

ACSD and mail it to:

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

C/O Christmas Dinner

Po Box 3088

Margate, NJ 08402

Deadline: December 15, 2014 (Monday)

Info: *Acsd66@Gmail.Com*

Chairperson: *John Werner*

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

Celebrating the Holydays

Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

In celebration of Kwanzaa, the revered African-American a cappella women's ensemble performs blues, jazz, gospel and R&B, with excursions into symphonic and dance theater.

Sweet Honey in the Rock has enjoyed a 40-year career of musical and activist achievements and worldwide tours, from the U.K. to the U.N.

The current line-up features Louise Robinson, Carol Maillard, Nitanju Bolade Casel, Aisha Kahlil and Shirley Childress, performing in American Sign Language.



Tickets starting at \$29

Groups of 10 or more save 10% - call 1-888-MY-NJPAC



One Center Street, Newark, NJ

1-888-GO-NJPAC

Out & About

Middlesex County's *Plays-in-the-Park* will offer the following services at select performances of



The State Theatre
 15 Livingston Ave.
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 * Sign Language Interpretation *
Sunday, December 28 at 2:00 p.m.

- **Open Captioning** - Friday, Dec. 26 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Audio Description** - Saturday, Dec. 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket Office: 732-246-7469
Tickets – All tickets \$7 - Reserved Seating



NJDEAF's Annual Spring Conference "Educating Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students from Other Countries"

Saturday, March 21, 2015
 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

(Registration and Breakfast begin at 8:30 AM)

Guest Speaker: Ms. Becki Krieg
 Certified Teacher of the Deaf/Students with Learning Disabilities

Ms. Krieg has an MA in ESL and is an NIC-certified ASL/English interpreter. She heads the Lexington (NY) School for the Deaf Foreign Language Transition Class

Middlesex County
 Regional Educational Services Commission,
 Piscataway, NJ

Join us for a day of information and networking!
 Details to follow!



VICTORY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 7, 2014
Children's Christmas Play:
 11:00 a.m. (Interpreted for the Deaf)

December 14, 2014
Christmas Breakfast:
 9:30 a.m.
 - Church Service following breakfast at 11:00 a.m. (Interpreted for the Deaf)

December 21, 2014
Christmas Choir and Church Service:
 11:00 a.m. (Interpreted for the Deaf)

All events are at:
Schalick High School
 718 Centerton Rd
 Elmer, NJ 08318

For more information:
www.victoryaog.org
 Contact Connie
 856-358-8313 Voice



Monthly **Communicator**

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

Calendar of Events 2015

Friday, January 30

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

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Speakers:

**Annmarie Buraczeski and
Michelle Cline**

**“Deaf Advocacy Project on
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault”**

Saturday, May 16

**New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing, Inc.
2015 Fashion Show & Gift Basket Auction**

Fundraising Event

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Molly Pitcher Inn

88 Riverdale Avenue, Red Bank, NJ

www.NJDSH.org

Happy Holidays!

from the staff at the DDHH and the Monthly Communicator

DDHH Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Office Closed: Christmas – Thursday, December 25