

# MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

March 2014

[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html)

Vol. 35 No. 3

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

David Alexander, Director

## Super (Bowl) Coleman Reaches Out to NJ Kids with Hearing Loss



2014 Super Bowl winner and Seahawks' Deaf fullback Derrick Coleman presents Super Bowl tickets to 9-year old twins with hearing loss Riley and Erin Kovalcik for their inspirational letter they wrote to him. They also posed for a group picture.

**By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA, Trustee and Public Information Officer, Hearing Loss Association of America, New Jersey (HLAA-NJ)**

**A**s announced on WCBS-TV in the days just before the big game, the one football player wearing hearing aids in last month's Super Bowl, which was held in New Jersey, was Derrick Coleman of the Seattle Seahawks. This was announced by sports anchor Otis Livingston, who also lives in New Jersey, and was further motivated by his on-air admission that he has a son and daughter who also experience hearing loss. The Seahawk's Coleman story was further expanded on in the *New York Daily News* about the football pro's thoughtfulness and generosity in presenting a signed football and Coleman's jersey, with Derrick's number 40, (which would have been hard to get locally) to 10-year old Pat Coleman, a young fan from nearby Allentown, Pennsylvania who

has experienced hearing loss since he was nine months old.

But there was more to Derrick Coleman's compassion to other fans with hearing loss. In another instance, 9-year old New Jersey twins with hearing loss, Riley and Erin Kovalcik opted to send tweets of support to Derrick Coleman as the Seahawks were making their way through the playoffs. Generally, things could have ended right there, as athletes and the NFL probably get inundated daily with messages on their Twitter accounts. Sifting through and finding one specific tweet is almost as unlikely as Coleman playing in the NFL and a young girl on the complete opposite side of the United States finding inspiration in his story.

Yet Coleman did more than find the letter on his Twitter account. Where most athletes might have responded with a simple "thank you" or a simple nod of thanks - if he saw the letter at all - the 23-year old Seahawks fullback said he appreciated the fact that the child did not want anything.

"I think it was one of those things where she was not asking for anything,

not an autograph or something. She was just saying, "I have faith in you. You're my inspiration, and I hope you do well in everything you do."

"That kind of just touched my heart a little bit," Coleman said.

It didn't stop there. On learning of the Kovalciks' story, ABC's *Good Morning America* invited the family on to the show to tell their story during Super Bowl week. There, Riley and Erin

*Continued on page 3*

**i n s i d e**

- 2 Director's Corner**
- 3 Letter to the Editor**
- 4 Answers About the NJ Hearing Aid Project**
- 8 Hearing Healthcare Products: Best Options?**



# Director's Corner

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

Communication access and services resulting in employment is a topic of utmost importance to people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. This past January 2014, Alice Hunnicutt, Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitative Services (DVRS), was a guest presenter to the DDHH Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Hunnicutt described a state plan for the improvement of employment services for the Deaf and hard of hearing. This plan was the culmination of two town hall meetings conducted by DVRS and the Deaf community. The presentation was exceptionally well received by those in attendance. I personally would like to thank the New Jersey Association of the Deaf, the Deaf community and DVRS for working collaboratively to develop this new plan. DDHH will work closely as a partner with DVRS in supporting the plan's implementation.

The New Jersey Hearing Aid Project is off to a smooth start. DDHH is responsible for the application process and we have received a large number of inquiries and applications. By the time you receive this edition of the Monthly Communicator the first batch of acceptance letters will have been mailed to eligible applicants. They will then make appointments for a consultation with one of the many licensed audiologists who have agreed to participate in the project. As part of the Project, Montclair State University coordinated a network of audiologists to support this project. They have done an amazing job recruiting a top notch team. For additional information about the New Jersey Hearing Aid Project, please see the article in this edition authored by staff person, Traci Burton.

David C. Alexander, Ph.D., Director  
New Jersey Division of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

## We Welcome Your Articles and Ads

The Monthly Communicator is published 11 times per year. Deadline for submissions for the April issue is March 1 and should be e-mailed to: [monthlycommunicator@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto: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

## Monthly Communicator

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

Director: David C. Alexander

Editor: Ira Hock

PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

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

Videophone: (609) 503-4862

Fax: (609) 588-2528

[www.state.nj.us/human\\_services/ddhh](http://www.state.nj.us/human_services/ddhh)

The Monthly Communicator is published by the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a state agency. DDHH provides information, referral, and advocacy to service recipients. Information or articles provided by others does not imply endorsement by DDHH or the State of New Jersey. There currently are 8,800 copies of the MC distributed monthly.



# Letter to the Editor

## Coleman...continued

Dear Editor:

I was delighted when I read the January article about the 20th Anniversary of the Greystone Hospital's Deaf Program. Twenty years! These days that seems to be a long time. And because of this, there may be many on its staff, and others, who know little about the fifteen preceding years which led to the establishment of the Program. So, I would like to recall some moments of the long process it took to get to its beginnings.

It all started around 1978 when the Public Advocate became interested in the condition of deaf and hard of hearing patients hospitalized with psychiatric diagnoses. At the time I worked in Greystone's Recreation Department. During my activity on one ward, I met two deaf patients, Mr. A. and Ms. J. Having had two deaf cousins (who died in Auschwitz), I felt sympathetic toward them. I also met other deaf patients, all housed in different places. A large percentage of patients with hearing loss were older people. About eight patients were under 40 years old, the youngest around 20.

Pressure by the Public Advocate to "do something" increased. In the meantime I had been attached to the Rehabilitation's Speech and Hearing Department. An R.N. and myself started to collect the eight younger patients, calling it our Deaf Club. We took them outside on the grass, played ball and other activities, had some refreshments, and generally had a good time.

We could not sign then. However, the socializing as such was very important at that time.

Alan Tenthoff joined me in Speech and Hearing and Kim McLennon from Social Service joined us some time later. Without them, things would have been harder to accomplish.

In the course of developing a program and a unit for our deaf patients we contacted many individuals and other institutions for ideas and manuals such as N.Y. Psychiatric Hospital in Orange County, N.Y., a Unit for Deaf in St. Paul MN, Austin TX, people from Gallaudet, and so forth. Also, Dr. Robinson from St. Elizabeth in D.C. came to speak to us. McKay Vernon visited and toured some of our areas.

In 1983, as the cottages were opened, Cottage One was designated for deaf and hard of hearing patients. It was not easy in the beginning. For general information re: rules, schedules, etc. we resorted to drawn and cut-out pictures; we invented a special sign for "fire/emergency". Meanwhile, a number of us had studied some sign and ASL. We also had two interpreters on staff as well as a speech/language teacher. Upon admission, each new patient received a routine hearing screening.

There were further developments. Finally, a class action suit was settled out of court which established appropriate screening centers for people with hearing loss and included ASL instruction for all staff involved. Greystone was designated as the inpatient unit, and a community residence for those deaf and hard of hearing patients who were able to live more independently.



told viewers how they were inspired by Coleman's appearance in a hearing-aid battery commercial.

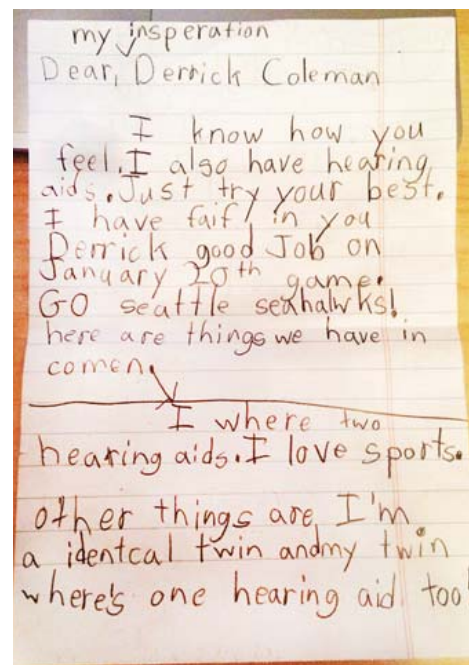
"We were so happy that there was actually somebody that was good and could understand everything about hearing aids and that could help you."

This being television and all, Riley and Erin weren't just there to tell their story. They were there to meet their idol. During the show, Coleman came out to surprise the twins, not only making their dreams come true, but also inviting the entire Kovalcik family

**"That kind of just touched my heart..."**  
Coleman said.

to watch the Seahawks play the Denver Broncos at the Super Bowl.

Those were really first-class gestures by the Seahawk's running back which we salute. We would also like to invite both the Kovalcik and the Otis Livingston families to join HLAJ-NJ.



Here is the letter, complete with wonderful misspellings!

Ursula M. Weimersheimer  
Providence, RI



# Some Answers about the New Jersey Hearing Aid Project

By Traci Burton, *DDHH Field Representative*

**T**he *New Jersey Hearing Aid Project* (NJ HAP) is a brand new hearing aid assistance program that was launched in January 2014. As you read in the January *Monthly Communicator*, the first year of the program will limit the eligibility to New Jersey residents who are at least 65 years of age and meet the income requirements of \$26,130 if single and \$32,037 if married.

As this is a brand new program, below are answers to the most common questions. This information will be helpful in requesting an application and understanding what happens after DDHH receives your completed paperwork.

The first question we will ask is if you are a participant in the *Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled* (PAAD) program because this information determines the application form we send. If the applicant is a PAAD member, we send Form A because the residential, financial and age eligibility requirements already have been met. Should the applicant not be enrolled in PAAD, we send Form B requesting the necessary information to determine eligibility. We want to make sure you get the appropriate application as the wrong one could further delay the receipt of the hearing aid.

We will then ask how you wish to receive the application. Should you want a hard copy in the mail, please call our office at 609-588-2648, or within New Jersey 800-792-8339. To download an application from our Web site, please visit <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html> and look to the lower right of your screen for a box entitled **More Information**. Scroll down within that box and find **Hearing Aid Project Application Eligibility Form A** (PAAD members) and **Hearing Aid Project Application Eligibility Form B** (non-PAAD members). Click on the appropriate form for you. Complete the application and return to the address noted on the form.



Once we receive the completed application, DDHH will respond with either an approval letter or a denial letter. The approval letter will outline the next steps you must take to obtain your hearing aid. The denial letter will outline the reason(s) why your application is not approved. In some cases, a denial letter will be generated due to missing information. Once the complete paperwork is submitted, your application will be reconsidered.

The amount of time you will have to wait for your hearing aid depends upon the availability of used hearing aids that have been donated to the project. If an appropriate hearing aid is in the hearing aid inventory, it may take up to six weeks for the hearing aid to be reconditioned and fitted. In some cases, an appropriate hearing aid may not be readily available in the inventory. This will extend the waiting period and you will be notified when one becomes available.

If you are in possession of hearing aids you wish to donate, the NJ HAP will accept gifts of all hearing aids regardless of function, style or how old the device is. A tax deduction letter will

be mailed to the donor if a name and address are included with the items. Please send your donations to one of the addresses below:

**New Jersey Hearing Aid Project  
Hearing Charities of America  
1912 East Meyer Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO 64132**

OR

**New Jersey Hearing Aid Project  
Montclair State University  
1515 Broad Street, Bldg. B  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services', Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing partnered with Sertoma, Inc./Hearing Charities of America and Montclair State University's Center for Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology on this innovative endeavor. We look forward to serving you and may this information be beneficial as we begin your journey to receiving a hearing aid.

**Traci Burton, Field Representative can be reached at 609-588-2648 or [traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us).**



# HLAA-NJ Expands 2014 Scholarship Solicitations, Publicity, to Boost Number of Apps in Quest for the Best

In HLAA-NJ's "quest for the best" and on-going effort to reach more college scholarship applicants than ever before, Scholarship Chair Alice Glock has announced that additional publicity about the annual grants will be expanded directly through flyers and mailings to both high school guidance counselors and audiologists offices throughout the state of New Jersey. With anticipated higher numbers of scholarship applications, the competition is expected to tighten resulting standards for each of the four HLAA-NJ scholarships to be awarded this high school year to students seeking to continue their education. With funding made possible in part by the successful Garden State **Walk4Hearing** in October, four scholarships of \$1,000 each are being offered to successful candidates.

HLAA-NJ's scholarship program is designed to encourage and support young students by publicly celebrating their successes and achievements with hearing loss. Aligned with the HLAA-NJ goal to bring awareness to life challenges of hearing loss, the application requires a thoughtful essay on how hearing loss has impacted the student's life, and how its challenges have been met.

Scholarship winners will be announced in May, and an award ceremony and celebration open to all will be held on Saturday, June 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., location to be announced.

With the official application posted online at [www.hearingloss-nj.org](http://www.hearingloss-nj.org), and limited to online submissions by the application deadline of May 1, 2014, time is of the essence. Application success has been shown to increase with early assembly of the required documentation, including drafting the required essay. Questions concerning the application or application process are welcome and may be addressed to Alice J. Glock, HLA-NJ Scholarship Chair at [aglock@optimum.net](mailto:aglock@optimum.net).

**Web Site To Be Updated**

The online Web site for HLAA-NJ will be revamped and modernized to reflect current practice and technology and content improvements, including new capabilities for communicating with social media. Individuals interested in assisting with this update may contact Dr. David Cooper at [david@dcoopercommunications.com](mailto:david@dcoopercommunications.com). Watch this column in future issues for information about new Web site features and other major projects of HLAA-NJ.



**HLAA Files Against \$75 Fee for Caption Phones**

HLAA has watched captioned telephone services become increasingly successful since their arrival on the scene in 2001. Throughout the years, it has proven to be the one service that is truly equivalent to the traditional phones many of us grew up with; pick up the phone, dial and talk directly to friends, family, co-workers, even *Joe's Pizza*. The FCC, instead of embracing the success of captioned telephone services, appears to be focusing primarily on the cost of providing captioned telephone services.

In response to the new rules, **CaptionCall**, one of the companies that provides captioned telephones, filed a Stay Request and a Motion to Vacate in the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, arguing the new FCC regulations violated the rights of people with hearing loss as guaranteed by the ADA. Their *Stay Request* was granted in part by the court on December 6, 2013, so that companies are now **permitted**

**to offer IP CTS phones for free with professional certification of hearing loss.**

HLAA supports the FCC's efforts to ensure that no fraud or misuse harm the TRS fund. However, we believe this rule goes too far. The ADA is a civil rights law; no one should have to pay a special fee to have access to their civil rights.

Consumers with hearing loss who need captioned telephones should not be prevented, deterred or discouraged from receiving this essential service.

In their brief to the court, **CaptionCall** notes that the FCC acted when the number of users of IP CTS approached 150,000 in January 2013. With 48 million Americans with hearing loss, it would seem logical that more than 150,000 of those people would benefit from captioned phones. In addition, the FCC apparently did not

**"...no one should have to pay a special fee to have access to their civil rights."**

dispute **CaptionCall's** claim that preserving the fund would have required an increase of only three one hundredths of one percent in the contribution factor for contributors to the TRS Fund.

HLAA filed a *Friend of the Court Brief* (amicus brief) January 14, 2014. We support **CaptionCall's** petition to the court requesting that the FCC's Order be vacated on two issues: 1) regarding the requirement of the minimum \$75 fee for the phone or

*Continued on page 6*

## 'A Funny Thing' is coming to Hackensack High School

Tickets are going fast for Hackensack High School's spring musical ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum***, the hit Broadway musical with a score written by the legendary Stephen Sondheim. Performances are on March 20, 21, and 22 at 8:00 p.m., with an additional 2:00 p.m. matinee on March 22.

Additionally, for the first time in the school's history, one of the performances will be interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL). The production staff at the school is working closely with several interpreters and educators from Bergen County Special Services, who will be performing alongside the student actors on March 21.

"When we were approached with the offer to have one of our performances interpreted in sign language, the decision was a no-brainer," Hackensack High School teacher and Forum director Caseen Gaines said. "This is an excellent opportunity to share our growing program with even more local residents."

***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*** includes memorable songs such as "Comedy Tonight" and "Lovely." Forum began as a successful musical and film starring Zero Mostel, and was revived in the late 1990s with cast members such as Nathan Lane and Whoopi Goldberg in the lead role of Psuedolus, a Roman slave trying to earn his freedom through a series of high jinks and vaudevillian fun.

Forum stars Alexa LaCorte, a sophomore at the school, as well as seniors Sarah Acevedo, Ryan Cloughley, John Paul Martinez, and Katrina Tutschek. Samuel Irvine and Alexandria Kowal, both juniors, join freshmen Kamrin Dorsey and Brandon Scott in rounding out the principle characters. More than twenty additional students are also a part of the cast of various characters.

Tickets to ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*** are \$12. Seating is reserved and orders will be filled on a first come-first serve basis. To order tickets, call Jeanette Mortorano in the Hackensack High School Main Office at 201-646-7902. People who are deaf or hard of hearing should specify that while making their purchase. For more information about the show, visit [www.facebook.com/forumathhs](http://www.facebook.com/forumathhs).



## DVR Director Presents at DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

On Friday, January 31, the DDHH held its quarterly advisory council meeting at the East Brunswick Public Library where NJ Division of Rehabilitation Services' Director Alice Hunnicutt presented. Two forums had been held in the fall as an opportunity for the community to express their concerns regarding DVR services to the Deaf and hard of hearing communities. Alice came to the meeting to share DVR's plan to address those concerns. Every three years, DVR must complete a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. Alice explained that these issues will be addressed as part of DVR's overall strategic plan and will be implemented over the next two years and beyond. Those in attendance appeared very pleased with the response received.

The next meeting will be held in the Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway NJ. The presenter will be audiologist Dr. David Cooper, Sc.D., CCC-A, FAAA whose topic will be "*Internet Hearing Aid Sales: Sometimes Saving Money Becomes Very Expensive*".

## HLAA-NJ...continued

software applications; and 2) the requirement for keeping the captions on. We argue that these rules create a barrier to people with hearing loss who could benefit from or have benefited from captioned phones. It's our understanding the court will rule on the issue sometime this summer. When that happens, we'll know just how difficult it will be for people to make a simple phone call.

### Next 2014 Walk4Hearing: Hold The Date

The date for the 2014 Garden State ***Walk4Hearing*** has been set for Sunday, October 19, 2014. At this point, we ask you to mark your calendar. If you would like to participate in the event's advance planning and/or serve on the Walk committee, please contact Wayne Roorda at [bigbearnj@gmail.com](mailto:bigbearnj@gmail.com).

### We Stand Corrected

The corrected abbreviation for our association name should be HLAA-NJ, which stands for Hearing Loss Association of America, New Jersey. We always assumed we were worthy of an extra "A", and now it's official.

### Need More Info On HLAA-NJ?

For additional information about HLAA-NJ, contact Joel Strasser at [jjas888@aol.com](mailto:jjas888@aol.com) or [Joel.Strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Joel.Strasser@hearingloss-nj.org)

# Dear NJ Relay



Mayra Castro



Dear NJ Relay,

I am deaf and Puerto Rican. My parents are hearing and only speak Spanish. Is there a Spanish Relay service available where the operator can translate my English text messages using my TTY to spoken Spanish to communicate with my hearing parents? Also, is there someone who can come and provide a presentation about Spanish Relay to my community?

Deaf Latino

Dear Deaf Latino,

Yes, we do have Spanish speaking Relay Operators who can translate your English text messages to spoken Spanish to the hearing callers. We also have other services available in Spanish below:

Spanish Relay:

English version: <http://njrelay.com/spanish-tty-relay>

Spanish Version: <http://njrelay.com/servicios-en-espanol>

CapTel Service:

English Version: <http://njrelay.com/captel>

Spanish Version: <http://njrelay.com/captel-en-espanol>

We are glad you asked if there's someone who can come and present to your community. We are pleased to announce that we recently hired a new Spanish Relay & CapTel Outreach Specialist. Welcome Mayra Castro! She is deaf and Cuban-American. She is available to provide presentations, one to one training and do exhibits for the Hispanic & Latino or Spanish community. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, please email: [njrelayoutreach@sprint.com](mailto:njrelayoutreach@sprint.com) and we will be happy to schedule a time for Mayra to come and speak to your community.

Good luck and thank you for contacting us!

NJ Relay

Estimado NJ Relay,

Soy sordo y puertorriqueño. Mis padres escuchan y sólo hablan español. ¿Hay algún servicio de retransmisión en español en que el Operador pueda traducir mis mensajes de texto en inglés que escriba usando mi teléfono de texto (TTY) y traducirlos a español hablado para comunicarme con mis papás, que sí escuchan y que hablan solamente español? También quisiera saber si hay alguien que pueda venir a mi comunidad y darnos una presentación sobre el servicio de Retransmisión en Español, Spanish Relay.

Latino sordo

Estimado Latino sordo,

Sí, tenemos Operadores de Retransmisión que hablan español y que pueden traducir tus mensajes de texto en inglés a español hablado para las personas que sí escuchan. También ofrecemos los siguientes servicios en español:

Retransmisión en Español (Spanish Relay):

Versión en inglés: <http://njrelay.com/spanish-tty-relay>

Versión en español: <http://njrelay.com/servicios-en-espanol>

Servicio CapTel:

Versión en inglés: <http://njrelay.com/captel>

Versión en español: <http://njrelay.com/captel-en-espanol>

Nos da gusto que nos hayas preguntado si hay alguien que pueda visitar tu comunidad y dar una presentación. Nos complace dar a anunciar que recientemente contratamos a una nueva Especialista en Alcance Comunitario de Retransmisión y CapTel. Demos la bienvenida a Mayra Castro, ella es sorda y cubanoamericana, está disponible para brindar presentaciones, capacitación individual y exhibiciones a la comunidad de habla hispana. Si te interesa programar una presentación, por favor envíanos un correo electrónico a: [njrelayoutreach@sprint.com](mailto:njrelayoutreach@sprint.com) y con gusto programaremos la fecha y hora en que Mayra puede visitar y hablar con tu comunidad.

¡Buena suerte y gracias por comunicarte con nosotros!

NJ Relay

## Ocean-Monmouth Hearing Loss Support Group



The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Library, 301 Lexington Ave., Lakewood, NJ (732-363-1435). 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 information email: [oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanmonmouthhla@yahoo.com).

**DIRECTIONS:** From 198 Prospect St., Center for Healthy Living; turn left onto Rt. 9 (at CVS) Continue on Rt. 9; Turn right onto 4th St., take 2nd right onto Lexington. 301 is on the left.

# Hearing Healthcare Products: With So Many Choices, What are Your Best Options for Success?

By David Cooper, Sc.D., CCC-A, FAAA

Owner, Hear-4-U; Vice President, NJ Hearing Loss Association; Vice President, Communications, NJ Academy of Audiology

**T**oday, consumers with hearing loss face a multitude of choices to address their hearing healthcare needs. As consumers, we all enjoy the empowerment of choice. Choice helps us save money and find the product that best fits our needs. However, those in the market for a new hearing aid quickly will realize that choice in the hearing healthcare marketplace may become a confusing proposition.

Is that **Personal Sound Amplifier Product** (PSAP) you saw on TV an effective and inexpensive alternative to purchasing that much higher priced hearing aid? Is that highly discounted hearing aid sold over the Internet really a good alternative to purchasing the same device at a higher price from your licensed audiologist? Which product and purchasing method will really lead to long-term improvement in your communication ability?

For consumers with hearing loss, particularly when funds are tight, it is easy to see why saving money on a hearing healthcare product is attractive. However, before spending any of your hard earned money on the “deal of the century,” it is important to understand that purchasing a hearing aid is not like buying headphones or other personal electronics device, where the seller with the cheapest price can drive the process. While anyone with hearing loss should be encouraged to shop around - be careful not to just look for the lowest price, but for the right product and best path to success with your new hearing device.

As the saying goes, “an educated consumer is the best consumer.” “Buyer beware” is another old, but wise cliché

that comes to mind. With that in mind, let’s discuss two of today’s most notable product categories considered by many consumers with hearing loss.



*Beware of online deals that may seem too good to be true.*

## **Personal Sound Amplifier Products vs. Hearing Aids**

You may have seen ads for PSAPs. Unfortunately, after seeing an ad for one of these products, many consumers with hearing loss are led to believe that PSAPs can serve as inexpensive hearing aids, or inexpensive alternatives to hearing aids. Better yet, they believe they can diagnose and treat their own hearing loss and save even more money by cutting out the visit with their local licensed audiologist. However, none of these perspectives is accurate.

Simply stated, PSAPs are not hearing healthcare products at all. In fact, legally PSAPs only can be sold to people with normal hearing who want to increase the volume level of every environmental noise reaching the ear.

Unlike hearing aids, PSAPs are not regulated by the **Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) as medical devices. However, they are subject to applicable provisions of the Radiation

Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968; under this Act the FDA regulates electronic products that emit sonic vibrations, such as the headphones or ear buds you might purchase for your digital music device or smart phone.

In the best case scenario, someone with hearing loss who purchases a PSAP most likely would be underserved by such a device - receiving little or no benefit from what is essentially a non-medical loudspeaker.

In the worst-case scenario, dealing with a hearing loss by purchasing one of these products can be downright dangerous - lulling the consumer into ignoring what might be an underlying medical condition. Failure to address a treatable medical condition puts a patient at great risk. Once treated, the hearing loss may resolve and the patient may not need a hearing aid at all. In addition, because PSAPs are just sound amplifiers, there is a real potential for consumers to cause additional and permanent noise-induced hearing loss by turning the volume way up in an effort to compensate for their hearing loss.

Simply stated, for people with hearing loss, there is no adequate substitute for a hearing aid. If you truly want to address your specific hearing healthcare needs and maximize your hearing ability so you can participate in challenging communication situations, you will find your greatest success with the use of a hearing aid or two - depending on your specific hearing deficits.

Hearing aids are regulated by the FDA as wearable sound-amplifying devices that are intended to compensate for impaired hearing. Hearing aids usually are programmed to address an individual’s degree of hearing loss





*Is the hearing aid on the left the same as the one on the right? One was ordered from a “cheap” internet hearing aid site while the other was properly fitted by a healthcare/audiologist.*

across sound frequencies, or pitches, to improve speech intelligibility. Further, depending on whether or not they have wireless capabilities to communicate with each other and/or external devices like smart phones, they are regulated either as Class I or Class II medical devices, respectively.

Hearing aids are only sold via prescription from a licensed audiologist or hearing aid dispenser. The type and model of hearing aid prescribed is determined based on a comprehensive evaluation. This evaluation is used to determine if there are any underlying medical conditions that a physician needs to address, as well as the type and severity of the patient’s hearing loss.

When it comes to wearable hearing aids, the vast majority are used to address something called sensorineural hearing loss. This type of hearing loss occurs when the cochlea, located in the inner ear, is not functioning normally.

Only a licensed audiologist is qualified to determine the type and severity of your hearing loss, and the effect the hearing loss has on your ability to hear and understand speech. After this is determined, the next step is for your hearing healthcare professional to work with you in determining the hearing aid type and style that best meets your needs. The next question to answer is where/how to purchase the hearing aid(s). There are choices – purchasing them from your local audiologist or the Internet retailer with the lowest price. How should you make the decision?

Certainly the most important factor is determining which process will lead to the highest potential for success.

### **The Road to Success: Your Local Hearing Healthcare Provider Vs the Internet**

Hearing aids are typically not “set it and forget it” medical products; it takes some time to adjust to a change in hearing lifestyle. While this may be particularly true for first-time buyers, even experienced buyers need to acclimate to new hearing aid fitting strategies, programs, styles and the like.

It is critical to understand that achieving success with the hearing aids is a process. The process involves everything from hearing aid selection and adjustment to learning how to include family and friends into an aural rehabilitation plan.

When working with an audiologist, the selection process begins with evaluating your dexterity to change batteries and insert the hearing aids in your ears. Once the hearing aids arrive, a comprehensive orientation is conducted to ensure you understand how to use and clean the hearing aids properly.

As the process continues, the hearing professional develops a series of communication strategies to help you maximize hearing performance in the various, and unique, communications challenges you encounter day-to-day. This includes identifying visual and/or cognitive issues that may impact the plan of treatment.

An ongoing part of the process also includes verifying the settings of the hearing aids and working through the myriad of issues that may occur following a hearing aid fitting. Patients should expect to spend at least several months working with their hearing professional before maximum patient performance and acceptance of the new hearing aids is achieved.

Let’s face it; everybody wants to save money – especially on high-ticket items. A hearing aid shopper searching the Internet for the lowest price can easily save hundreds of dollars on the initial purchase price of hearing aids. In many cases, all you’ll need to do is select the hearing aid you wish to purchase and submit the results of a hearing test that is less than one year old. The Internet hearing aid retailer will then use the results of that evaluation to program the hearing aids and ship them to the awaiting consumer.

Sounds great, but after the Internet purchase, consumers are often left with no professional support – just when the most meaningful part of the “road to success” process begins. There will be no one to provide the technical expertise necessary for fine tuning and verifying the hearing aid settings, no one to provide counseling and guidance to support personal adjustment to the hearing aids, and no rehabilitation plan or communications strategies to help maximize personal success in the multitude of communications challenges an individual may face day-to-day. Without that level of support, the odds are pretty high that the Internet-purchased hearing aids are going to end up in the night table drawer, never to see the light of day again.

When considering Internet alternatives to the typical direct-to-patient hearing aid sales model, it is highly unlikely that everything a hearing professional addresses to ensure patient success can adequately be accomplished online, regardless of the Internet retailer’s best intentions.

As you evaluate your options when purchasing your new hearing aid(s), please keep in mind that achieving maximum success in all of your most challenging communications situations is the single largest part of the value proposition.

# iCanConnect Provides “Life-Changing” Technology for 9 Year Old New Jersey Boy

From [www.icanconnect.org/news/](http://www.icanconnect.org/news/)

**J**onathan Ferguson of Flanders, New Jersey is a technical whiz with an incredible spirit! Sure, he does what any young boy his age might do – play Angry Birds, surf YouTube, keep in touch with relatives – but what he loves to do most is make movies and music. Jonathan has experienced a lot in his 9 young years. He was born with CHARGE Syndrome, a complex genetic condition which causes, among other things, severe hearing and vision loss.

Last March, Jonathan’s family applied to The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, which is promoted as iCanConnect New Jersey. Because the family was eligible, Jonathan received an iPad and one-on-one training on how to use it, all at no cost. Since then, his parents say, Jonathan’s creativity and ability to communicate have flourished.

“If he can experience it, he can learn it and he’ll remember it,” says Jonathan’s mom, Julie. She and her husband were amazed at how quickly Jonathan took to the new device.

“I’m not sure how he does it. He taught himself. He just plays around with things until he gets it,” marvel Scott and Julie Ferguson. Mom and dad say Jonathan also benefited because the man who trained him on the iPad is also Deaf-Blind.

They recall a special moment that really showed how Jonathan and the trainer, 24-year-old Jon Gabry, bonded. Young Jonathan actually convinced his trainer to download a video game so the two could play together.

“Life-changing” is how Julie and Scott Ferguson describe the impact this device has had on Jonathan. In school, his teachers are looking for ways to incorporate the iPad into his curriculum. They believe it will help him overcome communications challenges that impact his educational and social development.

Now in its second year, iCanConnect offers a wide range of modern distance communications tools and training to people with combined hearing and vision loss. Familiar equipment such as smartphones and tablets, as well as specialized adaptive software, phone amplifiers and braille displays, are available at no cost to those who meet income guidelines.

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired collaborates with The College of New Jersey to administer iCanConnect New Jersey.

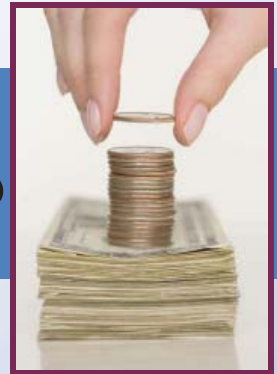
“Access to the Internet gives us access to each other,” explains Dr. Jerry G. Petroff, with The College of New Jersey. He says iCanConnect gives people confidence and a true connection to the outside world.

Because of his genetic condition, Jonathan had six operations on his heart before he was five years old. Mom and dad acknowledge the 9-year-old Jonathan is a gift, and they are thrilled to see how a piece of distance communications technology is giving their son a creative outlet and a sense of independence.

iCanConnect is available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the

U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at [www.iCanConnect.org](http://www.iCanConnect.org). Click on “State Partners” to find each state’s contacts. There, you will find out how the program works, what kind of distance equipment is available, how to find out if your income qualifies, and how to apply. The Web site is accessible to users with low vision and those who use screen readers, and it features video that is both audio described and captioned. Information about iCanConnect is also available by calling 1-800-825-4595 Voice or 1-888-320-2656 TTY. In New Jersey, you can call 1-609-771-2711 or e-mail [iCanConnectNJ@gmail.com](mailto:iCanConnectNJ@gmail.com).

## Want more of this?



### Then apply for the 2013

### Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

If you worked full- or part-time or you were self-employed in 2013, you may qualify. A family with 3 or more children earning less than \$46,227 (\$51,567 for working, married couples) in 2013 can get a combined federal and state EITC credit of up to \$7,252.

You can apply even if you don’t owe any income tax!

## Get FREE Tax Help!

Free tax preparation is available at over 300 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. For the location nearest you, call NJ’s resources hotline, 2-1-1.

**For more information on EITC, contact:**

Internal Revenue Service (IRS):  
1-800-829-1040  
[www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc)

New Jersey Division of Taxation:  
1-866-698-9065  
[www.njeitc.org](http://www.njeitc.org)

State of New Jersey  
Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Department of Human Services  
Division of Family Development  
Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

1/14

# Jobs Available



ALLIES IN CARING  
Counseling • Education • Community

## Allies in Caring

*Allies In Caring* is a multicultural non-profit organization dedicated to helping underserved individuals who have emotional and behavioral problems move toward recovery, health and greater independence through counseling, education and community support. We are particularly skilled at working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals; our professionals use American Sign Language and culturally appropriate treatment goals, process, and content that not only address the mental and emotional needs of individuals and also help families develop coping strategies and mastery of their environment.

We are in the process of expanding services in NJ and we're looking to hire and train individuals who sign proficiently. Those who join our team will be supported to develop the knowledge and the competences necessary to be successful in providing counseling, mentoring, education and advocacy to deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

• **Licensed Therapists** – Provides ongoing clinical consultation to the child, family and team members and develops initial treatment plan; Assesses progress toward goals of individual served, coordinates supports and resources, as needed. Must be fully licensed or have met requirements to be provisionally licensed with LPC, LMHC, LCSW and/or LMFT. Fee for service \$60-\$70 / hr.

• **MA Level Therapists** – Models and implements treatment interventions; Provides psycho education to the child and family; Documents progress made. Must be a master's degree graduate in Psychology, Education, Social Work, Behavioral Sciences, Human Development or related fields. And have previous experience working with children or youth. Fee for service: \$30 -\$40 / hr.

• **Behavioral Assistants (BA)** – Assists in developing, implementing, and modeling positive, functional behaviors for the purpose of meeting individual needs and reinforcing goals. Provides activities, information, and other resources that facilitate learning and modification of behaviors. Implements and models alternative communication strategies for the purpose of teaching youth to communicate effectively. Implements and models social skills including: Empathy, taking turns, listening, sharing, conflict resolution, etc. Reports observations and incidents (e.g. fights, inappropriate behavior, etc.) for the purpose of providing documentation and/or communicating information to the team. Needs HS diploma and previous experience working with children or youth. Preferably but not necessary bachelors degree graduate or student in Psychology, Education, Social Work, Behavioral Sciences, Human Development or related fields. Fee for service \$13-\$18 hr.

Some of the benefits that we offer include:

- Flexible Schedule
- Supportive team environment
- Personal growth & career development
- Challenging and stimulating work opportunities
- Competitive pay rates/ per diem basis

**Qualifications:** ASL proficiency, various levels of education, preferably but not necessary courses in Psychology, Education, Social Work, Behavioral Sciences, Human Development or related fields, and previous experience working with children or youth.

All interested candidates must submit a resume and cover letter indicating desired position(s) via email at [careers@alliesincaring.org](mailto:careers@alliesincaring.org)

## Mountain Lakes School District Lake Drive Program 2013 - 2014 School Year Part-time Teacher of the Deaf Medical Leave Replacement 3/1/14 - 6/20/14

*Must have New Jersey Teacher of the Deaf Certification*

If interested, please contact:

Julie Lazeration

Lake Drive Program

10 Lake Drive

Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

Phone 973-299-0166

[jlazeration@mtlakes.org](mailto:jlazeration@mtlakes.org)

Resumes may also be faxed to: 973-299-9405

*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](mailto:jlazeration@mtlakes.org) or

fax to: 973-299-9405



Mountain Lakes  
School District

# The Communicator Signboard

**Career Success Solutions for  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals &  
NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

presents:

**Employment Discrimination Workshop  
Tuesday April 22, 2014**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Burlington County College-Mount Laurel Campus**

*(Building/Room TBA in April)*

**500 College Circle**

**Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054**

**Presenter-Laura Carlin Mattiacci,**

*Senior Attorney at Console Law Offices and*

**Kurt Jung, Esq.,**

*U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*

**ASL Interpreters, CART, and ALDs will be provided**

*If you need additional special services, please contact Catie Purrazzella.*

*Info: Catie Purrazzella 609-503-4862 or*

*Catherine.Purrazzella@dhs.state.nj.us*

**Open Captioned Performance  
Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 3 p.m.**



*By Andrea Thome  
Directed By José Zayas*

Exiled from Chile to the strange new land of Reagan-era Wisconsin, two young sisters create imaginary worlds to make sense of their family's past, as their parents try to find their own place in the American Dream. Pinkolandia is a fantastical play about growing up- because sometimes, when you lose your country, you have to make your own.

**Two River Theater  
21 Bridge Avenue  
Red Bank, NJ 07701**

Tickets are \$25 per person for those using captioning.  
For more information, contact Adam Haratz at  
[aharatz@trtc.org](mailto:aharatz@trtc.org) or (732) 345-1400, x1815

## MASQUERADE BALL

**Staten Island Club of the Deaf**

**March 22, 2014**

**Hor D'Oeuvres from**

**7 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

**(ONLY ADVANCED TICKETS)**

**\$12 Member \$15 Non-member**

**After 9 p.m.**

**\$15 Member \$18 Non-member**

***Please make a check to SICD  
and mail it to the address  
below before March 10***

**Staten Island Club of the Deaf**

**92 Victory Blvd., Staten  
Island NY 10301**

**Hosted by**

**Suzanne Sorrenti and  
Donna Butera**

**[SICD1954org@gmail.com](mailto:SICD1954org@gmail.com)**

## "Crazy Hat"

**Saturday, April 5, 2014**

**11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf**

**320 Sullivan Way**

**Trenton, NJ 08625**

**Admission:**

0-6 years old free

6-12 years old student \$3.50

18 years old and up \$7

Refreshments will be served.

For your information contact:

Chairperson: Gwendolyn Wiggins,  
[countrywoman1951@yahoo.com](mailto:countrywoman1951@yahoo.com)

Co-Chairperson: Adrian Foote,  
[Adrianfooteu@aol.com](mailto:Adrianfooteu@aol.com)

# The Communicator Signboard

## HOLD THE DATE

The **New Jersey Theater Alliance** is pleased to present **Lights On, Hands Up: An Introduction to Interpreting for the Theatre.**

**Friday, May 2 – Sunday, May 4.**

Taught by Candace Broecker-Penn and Lynnette Taylor – two of the founding members of TDF's Interpreting for the Theater program. Additional instructors include Jason Norman and Anne Tomasetti.

Applications will be available in early March.

For more information contact Robert Carr at [rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org](mailto:rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org)

## NJ / MKSD Annual Alumni Basketball Games

**Wednesday, March 5**

**High School Gym**

**Girl's game – 6:30 p.m.**

**Boy's game – 7:30 p.m.**

**Admission**

**Adults - \$5**

**Students with ID - \$3**

**Children under 6 – free**

**Refreshments will be sold by the Varsity Athletic Club**

**Hot dogs, soda, water, snacks - Come Hungry!**



Briarcliff Middle School Presents

### Annie Jr.

**Interpreted performance  
Friday March 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

\* Adults \$8 \* Students and Seniors \$5 \*

Purchase tickets at the door

**93 Briarcliff Road**

**Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046**

For more information, call: 973-299-0166.

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

## St. Patrick's Day Affair

American Legion Post 147, 1 Legion Place, Elmwood Park, NJ 07470

**Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

At Door Admission Prices for Irish Clothing Outfitters

\$ 10, Non-Irish Clothing Outfitters \$ 15

Cash Prizes for Most Irish Green Outfits. Contests will start at 6:45 p.m.

\*Punch for Money Games to play with prizes given away

8Texas Hold'Em Poker Games - \$ 20 per player to play

\*Refreshments on Sale \* NJCCD Affair BankNite \* 50/50 Chances

For more information about this exciting event,  
please visit [www.njccdsite.org/stpatpunch14.pdf](http://www.njccdsite.org/stpatpunch14.pdf)

Hosted by NJCCD Committees

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

## Spring Fever Tricky Tray Event

American Legion Post 147, 1 Legion Place, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

**Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Advance ticket price - \$ 20 for all members/non-members with 10 Bonus Tricky Tray gift tickets.

At door price on April 12 - \$ 20 for members/non-members with 5 Bonus Tricky Tray gift tickets

**Texas Hold'Em Poker Games** - \$ 20 per player plus \$ 10 admission charge

**L C R Games** (up to 3 cash prizes given away to top winners)

\* Refreshments on sale \* 50/50 chance \* \*

**NJCCD Affair BankNite \* Cash Bar**

Chairperson Jill Gulino Co-Chairperson Elizabeth Rozynski

For more information or ordering tickets in advance

to get 10 Bonus tricky tray gift tickets, visit:

NJC [www.njccdsite.org/sftrickytray14.pdf](http://www.njccdsite.org/sftrickytray14.pdf)

Mountain Lakes High School Presents

## Legally Blonde the Musical

Interpreted performance March 7 at 7:30PM

VIP Seating \$15 Reserved Seating \$12

**Tickets on sale now!**

Purchase online at

[www.mlhs.booktix.com](http://www.mlhs.booktix.com)

or at the door.

**Mountain Lakes HS**

**96 Powerville Road**

**Mountain Lakes, NJ 07047**

**Info - 973-299-0166**



NWJAD (Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf)

Welcomes - **Jose Granda** -

the hilarious performer from Florida

Join us for a Saturday night of **Dr. XXX**

**March 29, 2014**

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Show will start at 7:30 p.m. sharp

Union County College - The Roy Smith Auditorium

1033 Springfield Ave Cranford, NJ 07016

**18 years old and up are welcome!**

50/50 raffles will be sold.

Ticket Price: \$10 per person/

\$5 for senior citizens/college student with ID

For more information, contact Lynne Jacob

at [btlynne12@nwjad.org](mailto:btlynne12@nwjad.org)

Make check or money order payable to NWJAD, Inc. before March 22 or pay cash at door only. Mail to: NWJAD, P.O. Box 533, Gladstone, NJ 07934

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Communicator Signboard

## Deaf Night

Join us for a night of fun, friends, and food at Sidetrax Bar and Grill in Garfield, NJ.

**Friday, March 21, 2014**

133 Monroe Street

Garfield, NJ 07026

Starts at 8:00 p.m.

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

Interpreters on site!

For more information, please contact Martha

Paternina at [deafwhiteflower@hotmail.com](mailto:deafwhiteflower@hotmail.com)



## Deaf Community Gathering Day

Ocean County College Interpreter Training Program

**March 15, 2014 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Ocean County College Gymnasium

Admission is \$5. Enjoy a day of fun, vendors, and Deaf culture!

At 2:00 p.m. entertainment by *The Unstoppable Rene Pellerin Unique Comedy Story Teller!*

Save the date OCC ITP ASL Rock & Roll Show on April 26, 2014! Join us for a rockin' good time at Toms River High School North Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door: \$12 Adults, \$8 Children 12 and under, \$8 Students with ID! Free desserts & refreshments

Info: Kathy Basilotto, CI M.Ed. [kbasilotto@ocean.edu](mailto:kbasilotto@ocean.edu)

NJDEAF, Inc. - New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates  
Presents

### *Meeting the Needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students With Additional Disabilities*

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**MRESC: Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission,  
Piscataway, NJ**

#### **A.M. Guest Speakers**

Carol Ukstins, *Program Specialist, Bruce Street School f/t Deaf*  
Robert Mortorano, *Principal Woodridge Transition Center, BCSS*  
Maura Zaldivar-Garcia, *Parent, Union Street School f/t Deaf, BCSS*  
Robin Godshalk, *President Board of Directors, Hands & Voices Parent Group*  
Lori Timney, *NJ Outreach Specialist, NJ Relay & CapTel*  
**Special Guest Speaker:** Christian Markovic, *Owner Fuzzy Wuzzy Designs*

#### **P.M. Presenters**

**Parent Panel:** Moderator - Robin Godshalk  
**Interpreter Panel:** Changing 'Hats': Deafness and Additional Disabilities,  
Moderator Grace Samis

**Classroom Instructional Practices:** Jeannine Termyna, Union Street School f/t Deaf; Michele Moreno, Bruce Street School f/t Deaf; Lisa Spohn, Bergen County Special Services, Itinerant Teacher; Jaime Hayer, Teacher HIP, Midland Park, BCSS

#### **Vendor Tables**

Lunch/Breakfast included in registration fee  
CEU's and PD Hours Provided

Communication Access Provided by DDHH

For registration brochure please contact Treasurer Juliann Toone:

[juliann.toone@gmail.com](mailto:juliann.toone@gmail.com) <http://www.njdeaf.com>

Hearing Loss Association of America-  
Morris County Chapter

The Chapter's Voice for People with Hearing Loss  
Information • Education • Support • Advocacy

## Chapter Meeting

**Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

**Madison YMCA**

**111 Keep Street**

**Madison, NJ 07940**

Captioning Provided by DDHH

Assistive Listening Devices available

We are delighted to have Katherine Bouton as our guest speaker. She is the author of "Shouting Won't Help: Why I - and 50 Million Other Americans - Can't Hear You," a memoir of adult-onset hearing loss. She is a former editor at the New York Times, where she was deputy editor of the Sunday Magazine for ten years. She also held senior editing positions on Science Times, the Sunday Book Review, and Culture. Her nonfiction has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine and elsewhere.

Contact Information:

Pat Dobbs

973.479.8083

[pat@HearingLossResourceCenter.com](mailto:pat@HearingLossResourceCenter.com)

[www.HearingLossResourceCenter.com](http://www.HearingLossResourceCenter.com)

ASL-English Interpretation Program  
CUNY/LaGuardia Community College —  
Adult and Continuing Education



## Are you interested in becoming an ASL-English Interpreter?

Attend our OPEN HOUSE PANEL and learn about:

- LaGuardia's nationally recognized ASL-English Interpretation Program\*
- Tuition scholarships available to accepted program students\*\*
- Earning a BA degree in Interpreting\*\*\*
- Our state-of-the art iMAC interpreting lab
- The application and admission process

Talk to current students, recent graduates, staff and faculty. Q&A session

**Wednesday March 12, 2014**

**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**LaGuardia Community College, E Bldg. Room E-111  
Interpreters Provided**

\* Two-year rigorous academic curriculum

\*\*U.S. Department of Education Grant Funding

\*\*\* In agreement with SUNY – Empire State College

Seating is limited. Please reserve your spot before Monday March 3, 2014

For more information and to reserve your seat, email [aeip@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:aeip@lagcc.cuny.edu)

or call (718) 482-5313 or

visit [www.lagcc.cuny.edu/aeip](http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/aeip)

# The Communicator Signboard



NJASLTA presents



## Polish Up on Fingerspelling/Numbers, Cities, States, Countries & Sex Signs

Jose Granda is a Deaf Cuban who graduated as a drama major from Gallaudet University. He has been teaching ASL for over 32 years at many places including Vista College, San Francisco State University, University of Central Florida and Miami Dade College. He also has been an instructor for the Interpreting Training Program at Miami Dade College. He has done various workshops and storytelling with his irrepressible joy for life!

This workshop will discuss the formal and informal uses of sex signs used in ASL and is heavily focused on vocabulary, appropriate uses in different interpreting scenarios, will stress the importance of the rules and state cultural reasons for purpose and why our old ASL signs no longer politically correct.

### Cities, States & Countries

• There are over 180 signs for those categories. Gain knowledge of our American Sign Language and the native signs for their various countries.

#### Polish Up on FS/Numbers

• Will focus on number and letter production. It will include the different number systems and Fingerspelling rules used in American Sign Language.

### Sex Signs

• Will focus on situationally appropriate formal and informal sex signs

Video of Jose on five different topics will be sold.

NJRID is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional Studies program is

offered for .6 CEUs at the some Content Knowledge Level.

**March 29, 2014**  
**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**ASLTA Hours: 6**  
**CEU's: .6 (RID)**  
**Cost: \$45**

**Rahway Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ**

There will be no voice interpreted. Please bring your own lunch. Contact Lynne Jacob for more information, e-mail to [NJASLTA@aol.com](mailto:NJASLTA@aol.com).

Please pay to NJASLTA, 52 Heritage Court, Towaco, NJ 07082-1262 with your name and email address. The deadline is **March 22**.

# Religious Access

**Grace Lutheran Church & St. Matthews Lutheran Church for the Deaf**  
2222 Vauxhall Road Union, NJ

## March Events Interpreted for the Deaf

**Every Sunday:** 10:30 a.m. Service interpreted.

**First Sunday of the Month:** Interpreted Bible Study (please bring own lunch) after 10:30 a.m. service. We usually begin at 12:30 p.m. and end around 3:30 p.m. Many times we end earlier than that. But be prepared.

**Wednesday, March 5:** Ash Wednesday service begins. Then every **Wednesday in March up until Wednesday, April 9** we continue to have Wednesday evening Lent services. All of these services begin at 7:30. Prior to the services we host pot luck dinners. This is always a soup, salad, supper affair which all people bring something to eat to share with everyone who attends. After 7:30 service we have coffee/tea/dessert. Again, please bring a dessert to share with others. Coffee and tea will be provided by the church. If there aren't enough people in attendance for either the before or after service, then we will not be hosting the dinners and desserts. But we will always have the 7:30 services.

**Holy Week and Easter services** will be announced in the April Monthly Communicator. **1-908-686-3965 [gracelu4u@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelu4u@yahoo.com)**



## 4th Annual Catholic Deafest

Hosted by NJ Pastoral Workers With the Deaf in Archdiocese of Newark, Diocese of Camden, Metuchen, Paterson, and Trenton.

**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

**Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center**

**499 Belgrove Dr. Kearny, NJ**  
**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**\*\* Free Admission \*\***

### Keynote Presenters:

Fr. Christopher Klusmann

**"Discipleship: Journey to the Great Banquet"**

from Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A Deaf priest who ministers with Deaf in the Milwaukee area and PJ Mattiacci **"Catholic Social Justice"**

PJ is a Deaf Manager of Community Development Outreach at Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, Inc. in Swarthmore, PA  
All presentations will be in ASL and voice- interpreted

**Registration deadline – March 14, 2014**, Individual registration required.

Mail to: Kate Slosar, Ministry with the Deaf, 631 Market St. Camden, NJ 08102

For more info: [catholicdeafestnj@gmail.com](mailto:catholicdeafestnj@gmail.com) or call 856-283-3962 VP

[www.deafcatholicnj.net](http://www.deafcatholicnj.net); exhibitors info – [mwdbak@gmail.com](mailto:mwdbak@gmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ VP: \_\_\_\_\_

Deaf \_\_\_ HOH \_\_\_ Deaf-Blind \_\_\_ Hearing \_\_\_ CART \_\_\_ ALD \_\_\_

# MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR - March 2014



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

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TRENTON, NJ  
PERMIT No. 21

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Dated Material Please Rush

# Calendar of Events 2014

## Friday, April 25

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Rahway Public Library

2 City Hall Plaza

Rahway, NJ 07065

Dr. David Cooper, Sc.D.,

CCC-A, FAAA

*"Internet Hearing Aid Sales:*

*Sometimes Saving Money*

*Becomes Very Expensive"*

## Saturday, May 10

11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Jersey Deaf Senior

Housing, Inc.

Spring/Summer Fashion Show

Tricky Tray

Montville Senior Center

356 Route 202,

Montville, NJ 07045

## Saturday, June 7

30th Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Awareness Day

Six Flags Great Adventure

Jackson NJ

Info: [GATickets@aol.com](mailto:GATickets@aol.com)

Potential ticket sellers should

email

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