

Monthly Communicator

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

March 2006

Vol. 27



No. 3

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Kevin M. Ryan, Acting Commissioner

Brian C. Shomo, Director

State Settles With Regal Cinema: Thousands of Open-Captioned Film Showings in NJ

We are pleased to inform you that after one and one half years of collaborative efforts between the Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, and the Office of the Attorney General, a successful settlement with Regal Cinema was reached to provide open captioning films at 10 of its multi-plexes in New Jersey, through the use of an open captioned system.



At each of the 10 theaters, Regal has agreed to show open captioned movies four times per week between Monday and Thursday evening, and four showings between Friday and Sunday evening, with one show during prime time. This means at each screen equipped with the DTS-DSS system, an open captioned film will be broadcast a minimum of eight times a week at theaters with the equipment.

Additionally, Regal has agreed to show an open captioned film on each DTS-CSS screen on nine different major holidays. This means that in a year, at each equipped theater, movie goers can see over 416 movies a year. Combined, this will result in more than 4160 open-captioned showings per year in New Jersey alone at the 10 Regal theaters in the agreement. This is an incredible development for New Jersey theater-goers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Regal Entertainment has demonstrated a recognition that accessibility makes for good business.

Specific shows can be found at www.regalcinemas.com.



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Positions Available

Educational Sign Language Interpreter - Linwood Public Schools has this position available for the 2005-2006 school year on a substitute basis and meet county requirements for emergencies. Interested candidates should mail resume to: Thomas A. Baruffi, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Linwood Public Schools, Belhaven Avenue, Linwood, NJ 08221.

Personal Care Attendant - Part-time. Woodbridge area. For deaf young man. Call (732) 826-9054 Voice.

Itinerant Teacher(s) of the Deaf - Partnership for Children With Hearing Loss at the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf seeks to fill this opening. Interested parties should contact: Susan Preston, Assistant to the Superintendent, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, PO Box 535, Trenton, NJ 08625-0535 and contact for info, (609) 530-3112 V/TTY, (609) 530-5791 FAX, Susan.Preston@mkzd.state.nj.us.



The New Jersey State Specialized Child Study Team invites applications for the following positions:

- ✓ **Learning Disability Teacher/Consultant** (10-month position)
- ✓ **School Psychologist** (10-month position)
- ✓ **Consultants** to work on a case by case basis performing evaluations in the following areas of specialty: School Psychologist, Learning Disability Teacher/Consultant, Speech/Language Specialist, School Social Worker.

The requirements include: Master's degree, possession of certification in the field of specialty issued by the NJ Department of Education, five years experience in an educational setting working with deaf/hard of hearing students, knowledge of education law (IDEA, Special Education Code, etc), skilled in the use of alternative/augmentative modes of communication used by individuals with a hearing impairment which may include American Sign Language, aural/oral communication and Signed English and must successfully pass a sign language screening process. Interested parties should contact Mary Henneberry, Specialized Child Study Team, PO Box 535, Trenton, NJ 08625-0535 or (609) 530-3145 V/TTY, (609) 530-3141 FAX, Henneberry@mkzd.state.nj.us.

Yom HaShoah Program *Holocaust Memorial Service*

The UJA of Northern New Jersey Holocaust Memorial Committee has announced that this year's program will take place on Sunday April 23 at 4 p.m. at the Paramus Jewish Community Center at 304 E Midland Ave, Paramus, 07652. The featured speaker will be Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, author of [Were We Our Brothers' Keepers?: The Public Response of American Jews to the Holocaust, 1938-1944](#). This service will be interpreted.

Monthly Communicator

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Deadline for submissions: First of the month for the following month's edition

SHHH Changes its Name to “Hearing Loss Association of America”

(Borrowed from www.hearingloss.org)

The Board of Trustees of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) voted to change the name of the organization to the Hearing Loss Association of America on November 6, 2005 during their fall meeting.

Terry D. Portis, Ed. D., executive director of SHHH stated, “SHHH needs to position itself to meet the needs of a new generation of people with hearing loss while continuing to serve the constituents who rely on us today. I believe that by updating our name and image we will be better able to communicate our message and fulfill our mission. SHHH expects to complete the transition to the Hearing Loss Association of America in March 2006”.

According to recent research conducted by Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D., the population of people in the United States with hearing loss has grown from an estimated 28 million in 1989 to over 31 million in 2004, and is anticipated to grow by a third in less than a generation, to 40 million people.

SHHH’s mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. The organization continues to fulfill its mission in innovative ways, such as launching its groundbreaking online education program, the American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists™ in fall 2005, and launching a new design for its Web site in 2006.

Richard Meyer, president of the SHHH Board of Trustees states, “This strategic decision is a significant milestone in SHHH’s 25 year history. While remaining committed to the vision of founder Rocky Stone, SHHH is evolving to best meet the needs of people with hearing loss today and in the future, continuing to be a pioneer in advocacy and support for consumers with hearing loss.”

The Hearing Loss Association of America is the nation’s largest membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. Founded in 1979 by Howard E. “Rocky” Stone, the Hearing Loss Association of America opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. It publishes a bimonthly magazine, Hearing Loss and its Web site is www.hearingloss.org. The national support network includes the Washington, D.C., area office, 13 state organizations, and 250 local chapters. The Hearing Loss Association of America’s straightforward message has changed the lives of thousands of people: Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.

The Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 657-2248 Voice
(301) 657-2249 TTY
www.hearingloss.org

NJAD Encourages Membership

If you would like to become an NJAD member, please contact Phil DiMaio, Membership Coordinator of NJAD at HiDiMaio@aol.com. Membership benefits include discounted events, four color newsletters, and news about advocacy issues within NJ and USA. If you wish to contribute to NJAD, please send an e-mail to Mrs. Charlotte Karras, NJAD Treasurer, at GEOCHA7383@AOL.COM for more information. NJAD also announces a new interim vice president, Reginald L. Redding, PhD. NJAD is a non-profit and tax-exempted organization. Your donations will be tax write offs. The Web site, now under renovation, will be online soon. The next NJAD Board meeting is on Sunday, March 9 at 11a.m. (It is open to public, however, members cannot vote on the issues.) The next NJAD General meeting is on Sunday, April 9 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at NJAD office at MKSD Tower Clock. Light refreshments will be served and is open to public. For information, contact Sean Gerlis, President, NJAD, at NJADPresident@optonline.net.

Getting to Know . . . Laurie Hanin, Ph.D., CCC-A

By Ira C. Hock, Editor, Monthly Communicator

Prior to being appointed to the League for the Hard of Hearing, Executive Director Dr. Laurie Hanin served as the agency's Director of Audiology, providing clinical pediatric audiological services and supervising a staff of 9 audiologists. She also continued to provide public education on the need for early intervention and habilitation of children who are hard of hearing and deaf. Dr. Hanin



received her Masters degree in Audiology from Queens College of the City University of New York and her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Hanin is well published and has made numerous presentations at major conferences and conventions, in addition to making many television appearances as a leading expert in audiology, particularly on The Today Show.

Q. You have studied and worked in the field of audiology in New York for some time. How did your interest in this field begin?

A. I'm a native New Yorker (though I do visit NJ frequently!) and studied audiology in the City University system. I really feel that I had a great education in that system and had the opportunity to study with some of the best people in our field. I became interested in the field after doing some volunteer work with deaf children and found the area both intriguing and challenging.

Q. The League for the Hard of Hearing, which is located in lower Manhattan, offers many services for people with hearing loss. What are some of the unique services that the League provides?

A. The League offers a very wide range of clinical services for people of all ages with hearing loss. We provide audiological testing, hearing aid evaluation and dispensing, speech and language therapy, mental health services, and vocational rehabilitation. One of our unique services is a treatment program for tinnitus, called tinnitus re-training therapy (TRT). To my knowledge, it is the only program of this sort in NY or NJ. TRT has about an 80% success rate in helping people with their tinnitus and the frustration and anxiety that it can cause.

A specialized aspect of our speech, language, and auditory training program is cochlear implant rehabilitation. The League's staff has expertise in working with both children and adults who have received a cochlear implant, but is one of the only facilities that provides this training to adults.

Additionally, the League operates a monthly cochlear implant support group, facilitated by an audiologist. Each month, approximately 20 - 25 people who are either considering an implant or who have an implant join together to ask questions, to share experiences, and to learn new information. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., at 50 Broadway.

The League's Mental Health Department provides counseling to individuals using all modes of communication, but is particularly adept at providing counseling to individuals who communicate using American Sign Language, since all of our mental health clinicians are fluent in ASL. Therefore, an interpreter is not needed.

Q. People with hearing loss often need assistive technology beyond the hearing aid. Can the League help with that?

A. Soundbytes, a company that sells all sorts of assistive devices for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, operates a store on the League's premises. A wide variety of devices are on display to try out.

Continued on page 8

Is Your Back Pain Caused by Your Feet?

By Daniel Margolin D.P.M.

Twenty to thirty percent of all back pain can be caused by poorly functioning feet. This information is the result of more than 18 years of experience in treatment and observation of lower limb deformities. This information as startling as it may initially appear, is actually quite simple and logical in nature. The foot is the main shock absorber of the body. Much like the shock absorber of your car, the foot works to absorb the constant pressure of your body pounding against the pavement. This is not an easy job when you consider that as much as 4-7 times your body weight can pass through your foot when running, and 1-3 times when walking. Unlike the shock absorbers on your car we cannot so easily replace the shock absorbing mechanism of your body when it is worn down. First, let us review how the foot actually functions in its shock absorbing capacity, then let us review the symptoms of poor absorption, and lastly we will review treatment options.

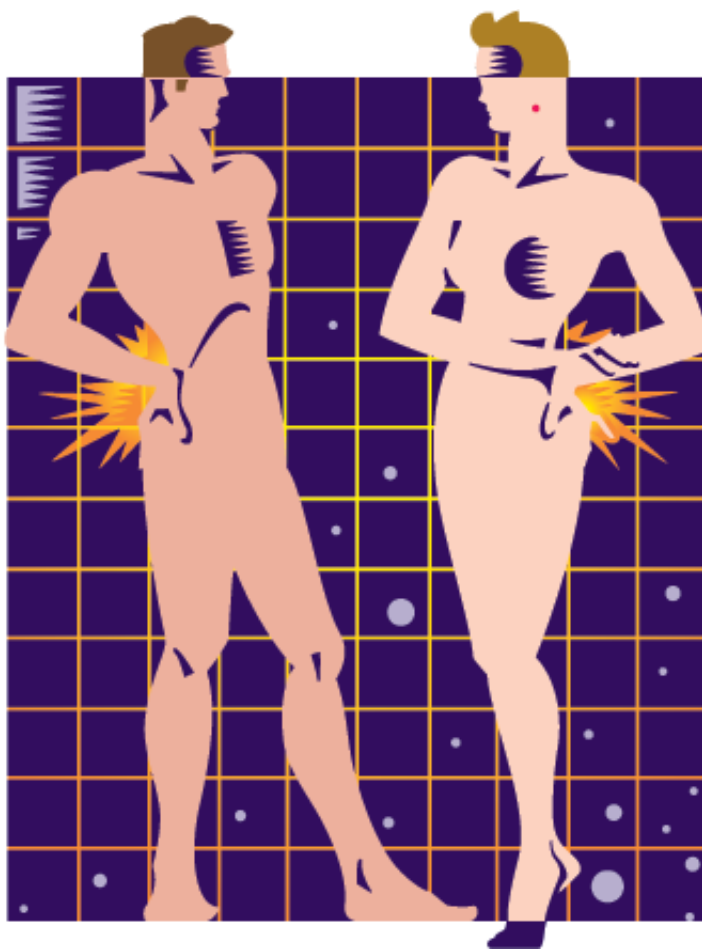
The arch of the foot is considered the main area of function. The arch comes up and down in normal gait. As you step down the arch drops, this motion actually absorbs the shock of your body's weight hitting against the ground. The arch then comes back up to allow you to push forward and take your next step. This is normal motion and when working properly is barely noticed. In some individuals this motion can become extreme. The arch may come down to far and instead

of absorbing the shock will actually slap the ground. The shock is then not taken up by the foot but is transmitted to the knee, hip or lower back. Over time, this presents as pain or aches in the aforementioned areas.

If allowed to go unchecked this excessive pounding can cause what is commonly known as arthritis or degeneration of the joints of the foot, knee hip or back.

The good news is that many cases of foot, knee, hip or back pain can actually be alleviated by correction of this shock absorbing mechanism. This is commonly done with the use of a custom shoe insert called an orthotic. This custom insert is made from a mold of the patient's foot. Exact measurements are utilized to achieve correction of this problem. Like replacing the shock absorbers of a car, results can be instantaneous. Custom orthotics are another tool that your

physician can use in the treatment of acute or chronic back and limb pain. For more information on Treatment Options call (201) 261-9445 Voice.



Daniel Margolin D.P.M., Podiatrist,
New Jersey Foot & Ankle Center,
222 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell NJ 07649.

We offer sign language interpretive services from
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of
every month starting February 7.

NJDEAF: New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates

by: Candi Mascia Reed, Ed.S., Supervisor, Union Street School, Hackensack Bergen County Special Services

Schools can be positive transformational agents, yet the role of educators and others in the field of educating deaf and hard of hearing students continues to be driven, to a still significant extent, by the persistent debate over the use of the “best” communication mode. Today, that debate is expanded to include focus on whether the use of sign language (or some signing system), a visual communication method, is compatible with the cochlear implant, an auditory prosthesis made possible by the phenomenon of communication technology over the past decade.

One of the most hotly debated issues in the field centers on the proliferation and use of the cochlear implant for newly diagnosed children with a hearing loss. The impact of technological developments for the Deaf has significantly affected the educational and philosophical paradigms in deaf education and has further fueled the longstanding controversy about communication methods used with deaf children. Some research findings support the use of an oral/auditory approach only with cochlear implant users by suggesting impressive gains in speech and language acquisition; on the other hand, just as many research findings suggest that sign language or a sign support system in addition to focusing on speech and audition, may be an appropriate and effective option in the development of language for students with implants.



On Saturday, March 25, 2006, NJDEAF, New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, a non-profit, state-wide organization addressing the needs of professionals in the field of educating deaf and hard of hearing students,

and co-sponsored by The College of New Jersey, will present a conference on the topic: Sign Language and the Cochlear Implanted Student: Finding the Balance.

Although this conference will primarily be a forum for those programs/schools in the state that use sign language or a signing system

to discuss how they are addressing the needs of the cochlear implanted student in a signing environment, all programs/schools, regardless of communication mode, are encouraged to attend. The goal is to learn from each other for the benefit of our students. Parents, teachers, administrators, cochlear implant centers, and ancillary support staff should find the conference proceedings significant.

Keynote speakers, guest speakers, and a panel of representatives of schools and programs from around the state will discuss what is currently happening at their schools. Panelists have been asked to provide brief video clips that demonstrate the “balance” that these schools are finding between using a visual (signing) system while encouraging speech and auditory development.

For registration information, please contact Trish Mellott at mellottfamily@verizon.net.

New Specialist At Signs of Sobriety's Substance Abuse Prevention Program

Since 1988, Signs of Sobriety, Inc (SOS) is proud to be among one of the few Deaf and hard of hearing agencies in the United States providing Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) prevention services. We are very happy to announce the hiring of Mike Dorsey, MSW as our new prevention specialist. Mike, who recently relocated to New Jersey from Maryland, is a Gallaudet graduate. He brings with him valuable assets as a social worker who has many years of experience in the field of substance abuse and deaf and hard of hearing persons. Mike is excited to join our team efforts to reduce the misuse of alcohol and drugs by this population.

To address this problem Mike will continue to use our ongoing multifaceted approach that includes:

- ✓ Prevention information, education, and alternative activities to schools and organizations that serve New Jersey's deaf and hard of hearing residents;
- ✓ Public education and information about the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- ✓ Prevention information, education, and alternative activities to schools and organizations;
- ✓ Library of resources - printed and video media are available for loan;
- ✓ Consultation, technical assistance, and training to professional groups on the unique communication, cultural and social needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing; and,
- ✓ Supportive educational and social activities that offer a sober environment for deaf and hard of hearing persons in recovery and their family members.

This intensive approach has not been an easy task. One reason is that many of the senior deaf and hard of hearing residents did not acquire this education when they attended school. Also, much of the substance abuse information through the media via radio and TV is not accessible to them. Lastly, there is still much denial about the prevalence of the problem by this vulnerable population and few adults volunteering to be role models.

In the short time Mike has worked for SOS, he has reached out to many of the organizations and schools that serve our constituency. He has presented "Aging and Medication" to senior citizens and "Conflict Resolution" to schools. Mike has other topics that he can present that lead to healthy choices and stress reduction. If you are looking for a presenter that can "Make a Difference" contact Mr. Dorsey at MikeDorsey@tmail.com.

SOBERCAMP 2006 - August 20-26 **Camp Mark Seven Old Forge, NY**

SoberCamp returns to Camp Mark Seven (CM7) in Old Forge New York! Signs of Sobriety, Inc. and Substance and Alcohol Intervention Services for the Deaf (SAISD) are collaborating to coordinate an exciting retreat for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing in recovery from substance abuse and their families. Sobriety maintenance focused activities for the week will include outdoor recreation, team building games, family/relationship bonding, 12 Step meetings and more. This is an event not to be missed.

Requirements for Attending SoberCamp 2006

At least 30 days sober/clean time (no drug or alcohol use for at least 30 days)

Individuals must be Deaf or hard of hearing (Hearing family members or spouses may attend as a guest)

Registration Information

\$25 non-refundable registration fee (will be applied to full camp cost)

Children = \$60; Adults = \$250

Before April 1= \$175; April 1- May 1= \$200; May 1- August 7= \$250

Registration fees include six nights at the lodge at Camp Mark Seven and all meals. Additional activities such as water tubing, canoeing, and shopping trips to the town of Old Forge are the responsibility of the "campers."

For more information: www.signsofsobriety.org or contact Mike Dorsey, MSW, Signs of Sobriety, Inc., 100 Scotch Road, 2nd Floor, Ewing, NJ 08530; (609) 882-7177 - TTY, (609) 882-7677 Voice, (609) 882-6808 Fax, mike.dorsey@signsofsobriety.org or Wendy DiMatteo, SAISD 115 Lomb Memorial Drive, Bldg. 23A, Rochester NY 14624; (585) 475-4963 Voice, (585) 475 -7375 Fax, wmdgrl@rit.edu

Additionally, the League operates a free group assistive device demonstration open to the public, every Tuesday from 1 – 2 p.m. You do not need to be a League client to attend the demonstration, nor to visit Soundbytes.

Q. What is the greatest challenge you face, as Director, League for the Hard of Hearing?

A. One major challenge is continually working and educating the public and our politicians, making sure that the needs of people with hearing loss are addressed. Too often, this is a disability that is simply ignored. Perhaps as a result, even people who suspect they have a hearing loss often deny or ignore it. On average, it takes people seven years from the time they think they may have a hearing loss until they do something about it. Part of our work at the League is to make it easier for people to get help, and for them to learn just what help is available.

Q. Are New Jersey residents eligible to receive services? How do they apply?

A. Yes, NJ residents may receive services. The services of the League are open to any individual, of any age, anywhere. Anyone interested learning more about what the League can provide, how to schedule an appointment, or to be put on our mailing list, can contact us by e-mail at info@lhh.org or call our Director of Public Education, Amy Boyle, at (917) 305-7809 Voice.

Q. Technology for people with hearing loss has been improving rapidly. In your opinion, what is the single most significant development in this field within the last decade?

A. The advances made in hearing aid technology as well as the expanding criteria and use of cochlear implants has had a significant impact on the lives of people with hearing loss. All hearing aids today, whether analog or digital, are markedly better than they were ten years ago, allowing for much greater access to quality sound for many more people. And when and if hearing aids are no longer enough, cochlear implants, particularly when combined with effective auditory training, can restore a significant amount of hearing.

Q. In New Jersey, most people who need hearing aids have difficulty finding financial assistance to pay for them. Most health insurance does not provide coverage. How is the situation in New York?

A. While it is true that most insurance companies do not cover hearing aids, this situation is starting to slowly change. The most helpful piece of advice I can give someone who needs to buy a hearing aid is don't assume that you must buy the most expensive hearing aid on the market. Many people with hearing loss have been told that they must buy digital hearing aids; that these aids are the "best" hearing aids available. At the League, we strongly feel that the "best" hearing aid is the one that works best for you and it is not necessarily a digital aid. We still fit many people here at the League with analog aids, with great success. Our experience has been that for individuals who must communicate in a variety of listening situations, in demanding, noisy environments, or, who have some particularly unusual type of hearing loss; digital aids may indeed provide enhanced benefit. For other individuals, an analog aid can still provide excellent benefit and speech perception, at a fraction of the cost of some of the more expensive digital aids.

Q. How can people in NJ stay on top of what's being offered at the League and what's going on in NY for people with hearing loss?

A. Sign up for the new League Buzz, a monthly e-mail newsletter with helpful hints for people with hearing loss, information about accessible events, new technology, and new services. To sign up, simply send an email to leaguebuzz@lhh.org and put add in the subject line. If you don't have access to e-mail, you can still keep up to date with this information by becoming a member. To do so, contact Amy Boyle at (917) 305-7809 Voice.

Additional information about the League for Hard of Hearing can be found at: www.lhh.org

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On December 5, 2005 at the Justice Hughes Complex in Trenton, Attorney General Peter C. Harvey called a press conference to announce that a collaborative effort was made on behalf of persons with hearing loss when they are patients in a NJ hospital. Among those joining him in this announcement were J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo, Director of the NJ Division on Civil rights; Albert Gutierrez, CEO of Shore Memorial Hospital; Valerie Sellers, Sr. Vice President Health Planning and Research of the NJ Hospital Association (NJHA); Chris Tester, representative of the NJ Division on Civil Rights; and Jason Weiland of the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Each made comments about this important event and its implications for all patients, deaf or hard of hearing.

A press packet was distributed titled “*Ensuring Open and Effective Communication in Hospitals of Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.*” It contained general public information about the means by which deaf and hard of hearing patients should be accommodated and letters of support by the NJ Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Self Help for Hard of Hearing, NJ Association of the Deaf, DAWN (Disabled Advocates Working for Northwest) for this long-overdue ADA-mandated medical compliance for communication access. Most notably, a considerable-sized manual was distributed titled “*Interpreter Services For The Deaf and Hard of Hearing - A Resource For Hospitals*” printed by the NJ Hospital Association (NJHA).

This manual contains information about characteristics of the deaf and hard of hearing population, assistive technology, various services that are available, ethical considerations, laws, regulations, federal and NJ state standards and guidelines regarding accessibility and accommodations for deaf and hard of hearing patients and a summary of these requirements. This manual is

quite impressive and detailed, and especially useful for persons who need sign language interpreters. However, sign language interpreters are not trained in the use of hearing aids, cochlear implants, and use of listening equipment. The manual does not include training material for medical staff confronted with hard of hearing or late-deafened patients who use hearing aids or cochlear implants or assistive listening devices.

In my case, as a patient who is profoundly deaf, who uses both a cochlear implant and a hearing aid, and must communicate in spoken English combined with speechreading, I believe that the manual needs to be expanded in content to cover in more detail those of us who are hard of hearing, or late-deafened and do not

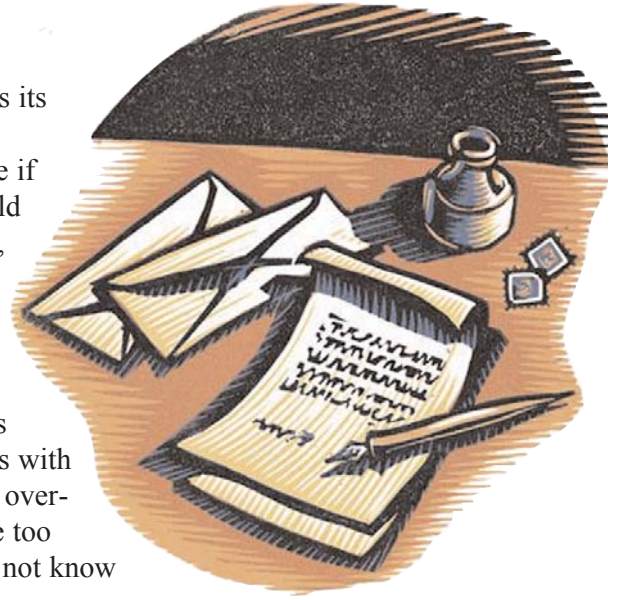
use sign language. The majority of hospital patients who have hearing loss are often adults or senior persons, probably being one in ten with hearing loss or one in three over the age of sixty with hearing loss. They may or may not use hearing aids, or assistive listening

equipment, and cannot use a sign language interpreter. Hospital staff must be trained to identify incoming patients with obvious hearing loss, who may or may not be using hearing aids, who may need to use amplifying devices, and who may have profound deafness using a cochlear implant. Staff must become familiar with these patients and their equipment and use strategies by which effective communication will take place. In a medical environment it is imperative that all communication which occurs is understood and is correct to the greatest extent possible.

“I’ve insisted that all medical staff face me when speaking so I could speechread”



As a deaf patient over the past 10 years, I've had a number of serious surgeries, procedures, tests, consultations and rehabilitation sessions, and devised my own "medical modus operandi." Whenever I was in a medical environment, it was necessary for me to be my own strong self-advocate to the point of aggressiveness. I've had to call attention to my hearing loss, my hearing equipment, and impress its importance to me as a deaf non-signing patient. I've insisted that all medical staff face me when speaking so I could speechread, rephrase if necessary so I understand, remove face masks momentarily so I could see what they are saying, write down or provide printed instructions, e-mail me rather than phone me whenever possible, secure my hearing equipment protecting it against loss, damage or theft and returning it to me as immediately as possible so I am connected with the dialogue in the recovery room. Overall, my efforts for self-advocacy in a medical environment yielded fairly satisfactory results because I took control in each instance. Unfortunately, many patients with hearing loss may be too ill, too elderly and frail, or too distressed to oversee their communication needs themselves. Family members may be too worried or distracted to advocate for their loved ones' needs or may not know what strategies to use.



Hopefully, the recent hospital communication project of the NJHA will include input from all deaf and hard of hearing consumers. There is a need to expand the manual to include appropriate training for all medical staff so that the needs of anyone who cannot hear will be able to understand what's being said, and be able to use one's preferred means of communication. We have learned that the NJHA manual is a work in progress, and I'm sure there will be addendums and revisions over time. Meanwhile, I'll continue to use my own "medical modus operandi" as long as it's necessary to ensure a good medical outcome.

Carol Granaldi

Dear Editor:

January 17 marked the beginning of a new legislative term with the inauguration of John Corzine as our new governor. I read with great joy that, as part of his inaugural events, he read to children at the NJ School for the Deaf! I am taking this as a good omen that he will support Grace's Law and Hearing Aid Insurance Legislation (HAIL).

Fortunately, HAIL has been reintroduced in this new session. However, please urge your readers to contact their local legislators and ask them to support HAIL. Request that they become sponsors of bills such as Grace's Law (A289, S899). Also, note the new bill numbers for the new term, or bills S413/A1143. In addition, discuss with the legislators the difficulty children have in acquiring hearing aids through Medicaid and HMOs, as mentioned in a letter on page 4 of the January issue of the Monthly Communicator by Granville Brady, Jr., Au.D.

Finally, please continue to keep your readers informed of the status of HAIL as bills are voted upon. Let's make HAIL a reality in 2006 once and for all!

As always, a big thank you to DDHH for your constant support.

Jeanine Gleba

ASL Story Hours Promote English Literacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

The New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (NJLBH), a division of the New Jersey State Library, held its monthly Children's

American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour on January 17. NJLBH is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton. Vito J. DeSantis, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, read the biography *A Picture Book of Louis Braille* in honor of Louis Braille's 197th birthday. Afterwards, Mr. DeSantis answered questions and demonstrated the BrailleNote (a small computerized device that blind people use to take notes) to the children.

After Mr. DeSantis' presentation, Christine Hinton, Supervisor of CBVI's Meyer Center and Summer Programs, demonstrated educational toys for blind children, including a football that makes a beeping sound so that a blind child can track it, a ball with a musical tone that lets the child know its location, Braille & Large Print playing cards, a tactile clock, and more. Ms. Hinton gave each child an educational brochure. David DeNotaris, Manager of Statewide Services, displayed his cane and his tactile watch to the audience. The children were fascinated by the devices available to the blind that give them the tools they need for everyday activities.

Following Ms. Hinton's demonstration, certified therapy dogs from the Kindred Souls Canine Center joined the children. Pete Campione, author and illustrator of *The St. Bernard is in the Yard*, selected three students from

Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf as his assistants for a trick that the audience loved. Jason Cruz and Jacob Doty held a large hoop; Toby the therapy dog jumped through it and then over Frank Carbo and his wheelchair. Toby finalized his performance by letting Frank pet and praise him.



Attending the story hour were students in grades two through five from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD), home-schooled hearing children, and students with multiple disabilities from three classes at the Hunterdon County ESC School in Lambertville. With over 85 people present, the story

hour was a huge success.

This story hour was signed by ASL interpreters provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), a division of the New Jersey Department of

Human Services, and accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation illustrating each page along with the storyteller. The Story Hour promotes English literacy skills for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing by enabling them to enjoy simultaneously ASL and English versions of books.



Workshops and events such as the story hour are scheduled by Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the New Jersey Library for the Blind and

Handicapped. For more information on the DHHAP program and story hours, contact Christine Olsen at 1-(877) 882-5593 (TTY) or colsen@njstatelib.org.

For information on the NJLBH and its programs call Anne McArthur at (609) 530-3242 Voice.

Need Help?

Start with 2-1-1

Connect with a caring professional who knows community resources. 2-1-1 is now operational 24/7 statewide and may be accessed by voice, TTY, cell or via instant messaging at www.nj211.org. All inquiries are free and confidential. Translation services are available in 179 different languages and dialects. 2-1-1 is ready to help.



Whether it is nursing care for your mom, affordable child care, or a community program where you can volunteer, 2-1-1 can assist you with information about health and human services, local community resources and government assistance. While services that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community, 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and referrals to services in times of crisis or for every day needs. For example, 2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of services:

- ✓ Basic Human Needs Resource: food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance.
- ✓ Physical and Mental Health Resources: health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.
- ✓ Employment Supports: financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs.
- ✓ Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities: adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services.
- ✓ Support for Children, Youth and Families: childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.

2-1-1 is a service of the United Ways with funding from the NJ Department of Human Services. Don't hesitate to contact 2-1-1 today. If you need help, start here.

Events Around the Town . . .

ALDA-GS Offers Scholarship - Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Garden State announces the availability of two scholarships. A



\$1000 and a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to deaf or hard of hearing high school students or adults in New Jersey. These scholarships extend to deaf or hard of hearing graduating high school students or adults who have been accepted at an accredited college, university, or trade school for the year 2006.

Applications available via e-mail, john.bullock@mindspring.com or contact Diana Fanuel, Scholarship Chair, ALDA-GS, 413 Valley View, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444 or aldafann@hotmail.com. Completed applications must be received by April 15, 2006.

The Governor Livingston High School Program - for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 175

Watchung Blvd. Berkeley Heights, NJ, will host an Open House and Tour on Wednesday, March 15.

Parents, prospective students, case managers, child study teams are welcome. The Open House will offer the opportunity to visit the campus, tour the school and receive essential information. Please arrive for the



between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 10:45 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. See the brochure on at www.bhpsnj.org/. RSVP to Sandra Gogerty at sgogerty@bhpsnj.org. Put subject: (D/HH Tour) or call (908) 508-1923 Voice.

Ocean Deaf Club, Inc. - There will be no Lingo Night on Saturday Night, April 15. They will be closed due to the holiday weekend. They will be open on Saturday, May 20, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. A Happy Easter and Happy Passover to all.

The Camden County College Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center (EIPDC) will be sponsoring a workshop, "Oral Transliteration," provided by The Mainstream Center, Clarke and Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center. It will occur on 3/31, 4/1, 4/2, 5/5, 5/6, and 5/7. The cost is \$50 which includes all 6 days and refreshments. 3.0 RID CEU/ACET credits will be offered. For info contact the EIPDC at (856)-227-7200 ext. 4560 or EIPDC@camdencc.edu. This is made possible through grants from The Mainstream Center, CLARKE and the generosity of an anonymous donor and from the Interpreter Education Center and their US Dept of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, Interpreter Training Program Grant #H160A050002-05.

ADA and the Arts

The Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College, under the direction of Maria Mazziotti Gillan, will host an Americans for Disabilities Act compliance workshop, titled Arts Access for All, on March 14, 2006. The workshop is open to all organizations that present programs to the public and are interested in learning how to comply with federal regulations regarding accessibility issues. The workshop will be presented by John McEwen, Founder and Chairman of the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force, and Ina White, Task Force member. The presenters will focus on the importance of integrating older adults and individuals with disabilities into all aspects of a cultural organization. Participants will learn how to effectively communicate with people with disabilities, provide accessible programs and services, and market to people with disabilities. Tips on conducting an organizational assessment and developing an ADA plan will be discussed.

To facilitate attendance by interested parties, the workshop will take place at two times and locations: at 2 p.m. in Paterson, at Passaic County Community College's Hamilton Club Building, 32 Church Street in downtown Paterson; and at 7:15 p.m. in the Wanaque Academic Center at Passaic Community College, 500 Union Avenue, Wanaque. For information and registration, contact Maria Mazziotti Gillan at (973) 684-6555 Voice.

Communicator Signboard

“The Best of Second City”

Friday, March 10

8 p.m.

starring the Second City National Touring Company A comedy “boot camp” for performers such as Bill Murray, Jim Belushi, Chris Farley, and Mike Myers. The performers you see today could well be the stars of tomorrow!

Sign Interpreted

All seats \$25 - Group Rates Apply

Count Basie Theatre

99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank

732-842-9000 Voice - box office

www.countbasietheatre.org

OPEN HOUSE

March 11

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Professional Center at Somerset

ASL Interpreter Referral Service, Inc.

21 Clyde Rd., Suite 103

Somerset, NJ 08873

Refreshments will be served

MUST reserve by March 6 by e-mailing;

aslirs@aol.com or (800) 275-7551 Voice,

(800) 275-5599 TTY

Sign Language Classes

Beginner I - for people with little or no knowledge of signing

ASL Interpreter Referral Service, Inc.,

21 Clyde Rd, Suite 103,

Somerset, NJ 08873

March 17, 24, 31 & April 7

7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Cost: \$40

Book: Will be available to buy at first class.

No refund after second class.

To register contact:

(732) 873-6406 Voice

or aslirs@aol.com

Communicator Signboard

Playing Around the Towns

George Street Playhouse, 9 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
www.GSPonline.org, (732) 246-7717 Voice (732) 846-0825 TTY

The Pillowman

Open Captioned: Saturday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Gunmetal Blues

Open Captioned: Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 258-ARTS, (609) 252-0915 TTY

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Sign-interpreted: Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

Ridiculous Fraud

Sign-interpreted: Saturday, June 10, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive, Millburn, NJ 07041
www.papermill.org, (973) 376-4343 Voice, (973) 376-2181 TTY

Carnival

Sign-Interpreted & Open-Captioned Performances,
Sunday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Sign-Interpreted & Open-Captioned Performances, Sunday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Hello, Dolly!

Sign-Interpreted & Open-Captioned Performances:
Sunday, July 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, July 14 at 8 p.m.

Two River Theater Company, 21 Bridge Avenue, Red Bank, NJ 07701
(732) 345-1400 Voice, www.trtc.org

What the Butler Saw

Open Captioning Thursday, May 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Bridge Players Theatre Company, Broad Street Methodist Church,
36 East Broad Street
Burlington, NJ 08016

(856) 303-7620 Voice, www.bridgeplayerstheatre.com

Little Shop of Horrors

Sign Interpreted Friday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m.

The Summit Playhouse, 10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2192 Voice, www.SummitPlayhouse.org

The Sisters Rosensweig

Sign Interpreted: Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Communicator Signboard

The Distinguished Poets Series of the Poetry Center at
Passaic County Community College,
and the Paterson Museum, present
Cross Boundaries - Visual Art by Writers
Saturday, April 1, 2006

The event will begin with an art exhibit and poetry reading by exhibiting artists at the Hamilton Club Building, 32 Church Street, Paterson, NJ, at 1:00 p.m. and continue at the Paterson Museum at 2:30 p.m. with poetry readings, art exhibits and a reception.

A trolley will be available to transport people between the venues.

**An FM Assistive Listening System, open captioning,
and a sign interpreter will be available.**

Admission is free.

Info: Call the Poetry Center Executive Director Maria Mazziotti Gillan at
(973) 684-6555 Voice or visit www.pccc.edu/poetry.

The Poetry Center, strives to maintain a barrier-free facility including complete access for patrons using wheelchairs, large print materials, sign-interpreted programs, FM listening systems and open-captioning.

Deaf Ministry's 25th Anniversary Banquet Saturday, April 22

Mass-2 p.m. signed and voiced, at St. Gregory's Church, Magnolia, N.J.

Celebrant: Bishop Joseph Galante

Banquet - 4:30 p.m.

Coastline Restaurant, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Before March 11: \$30 per adult (age 11 & older), \$20 per child (age 4 - 10).

After March 11: \$35 per adult (age 11 & older), \$25 per child (age 4 - 10).

Deadline: April 8

(Tickets must be purchased in advance). Limited to 90 people. Give completed form and cash or check made payable to: Deaf Ministry to Gracemarie Newman or mail check with your name, address, email address, number, and the choice of meat to:

Deaf Ministry, 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Choose one (per person): Roast sirloin of beef, chicken parmigiana and broiled filet of flounder.

Note: Kid-friendly meals available for children 10 and under.

Chairperson: Betty Ann Krumm, info; Sister Bonnie - (856) 795-6481 V/TTY,
Gracemarie Newman, (856)-482-5657 Fax, deafministrynj@yahoo.com.

Tickets will be given to you at the door on the day of the banquet. **No Refunds.**

Communicator Signboard

GUAA Metropolitan Chapter, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

1906 - 2006 Centennial Celebration

Guest Speaker: I. King Jordan, Gallaudet University's First Deaf President
Sunday Brunch, MacMenamin's Restaurant, 115 Cedar St., New Rochelle, NY

Sunday, March 26

12 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

A Leisurely and Luxurious Brunch

\$60 per person

Payable To: GUAA-Metro Chapter, Michael Kramer,

1255 California Road, Eastchester, NY 10709

For information, contact: Peggy Hlibok at Pahlibok@aol.com or Michael Kramer at MSK39NYC@aol.com or Abby Strauss at Abbystrauss@msn.com.

ALDA-Garden State's Annual Birthday Bash Saturday, April, 1, 2006

East Brunswick Library, Jean Walling Civic Center Drive,
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ALDA-GS is now 11 years old!

Come join the party and have some fun with old and new friends.

Food and beverages will be provided.

For more information, contact Eileen Hollywood at Eileena2@aol.com.



Communicator Signboard

Gingo Night

Hosted by Deaf Ministry

Saturday, April 8

6 p.m. - 12 a.m., game starts at 7:30 p.m.

\$7 per person if paid in advance;

\$10 per person if paid at door

50/50 Chances!

No outside food & beverages allowed.

St. John of God School Gym, 1145 Delsea Drive (Route 47), Westville, NJ 08093

Door will open at 6 p.m. No early birds please! Food will be on sale.

Desserts will be on sale during intermission.

Info: (856) 795-6481 V/TTY, (856) 482-5657 Fax, deafministrynj@yahoo.com

Make check or money order payable to Deaf Ministry and mail with your name, address, and e-mail address to: 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Please note: Adults only (21 years old & up)

Mail no later than April 1. No Children! No Refunds!

New Jersey Deaf Education Affiliates, Inc.

Sign Language and the Cochlear Implanted Student: Finding the Balance

Sponsored by: The College of New Jersey

Science Complex-Physics, Room 101

Saturday, March 25

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Registration & Breakfast

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Conference

Keynotes: Mary E. Koch, M.A., CED, Auditory Education Consultant

Jean Slobodzian, Assistant Professor, The College of New Jersey

Guest Speaker: Lou Abbate, Ed.D., Executive Director, Willie Ross School f/t Deaf, Longmeadow, MA

Panel Moderators: .Carol Goodman, Ed.D, Assistant Professor, Kean University

Christina Perigoe, Assistant Professor, Kean University

For registration information: Trish Mellott, mellottfamily@verizon.net

Walk-ins will only be accepted if confirmed via e-mail to Trish Mellott by March 23

NJDEAF is a Professional Development Provider

RID CEU's provided - www.njdeaf.org

Sign language interpreters, realtime captioning, and assistive listening devices provided by DDHH upon request at registration

Communicator Signboard

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

All You Can Eat Buffet & Brunch Chinese * American * Japanese * Italian

at Majestic Restaurant & Buffet, 29 Route 23 South, Wayne, NJ

Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$ 20 each for members and non-members

Reservations in Advance Required

Limit - 120 people in a private room

Wear nice casual clothes. No jeans, please!

To make reservations with names provided, make a check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc. and mail to Virginia Cangialosi, 9 River Street, Lodi, NJ 07644.

Deadline for mailing your reservation is April 15.

Guest Speaker - TBA, Chairperson - Karen Belisle, Co-Chairperson - Virginia Cangialosi, Committees - Rose Pizzo & Michael Drury

Info: Karen Belisle at DeafBzeWoman@hotmail.com or www.njccd.org/april_2006.htm

NWJAD (Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.)

Jersey's Hold 'Em!

A Fund Raiser For Deaf Kids' Programs

Saturday, March 25

Registration at 12:00 p.m.,

game starts at 1:00 p.m.

Admission: \$40 per person by mail,

or \$45 per person at door;

\$5 Fan - at door only

Deadline: March 18

Eligible player must be 21 years old

Win cash - the more players, the bigger cash prizes!
all games, prizes, times subject to change at any time.

St. Peter's Episcopal's Church

215 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ

Make a check or money order payable to NWJAD,

Inc., and mail to Tom Montemorano,

52 Heritage Ct., Towaco, NJ 07082

Kids' & Family Easter & Spring Holiday Party!

Sunday, April 2

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
215 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ

Balloon Animals!

Magic Bob & Ferris the Clown!

Deaf ASL Bunny!

Candy Guess!

Easter Eggs!

Free Admission for All

Free Refreshments

***PLEASE Donate Desserts**

Chairperson: Diane Montemorano

For Info: www.nwjad.org or nwjad@nwjad.org

Calendar of Events 2006

Friday, April 28

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

East Brunswick Public Library
Public invited, RSVP (800) 792-8339 V/TTY

Northwest Jersey Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.

April 22 - ASL Comedy Night!

April 29 - Wallyball & Swim & Fun Night!

www.nwjad.org

May 11

**Trenton Thunder Deaf and Hard of
Hearing Awareness Day**

Signs of Sobriety, Inc.

Lisa DeHart at (609) 882-7177 TTY,
(609) 882-7677 Voice
or info@signsofsobriety.org

Saturday, June 3

**DDHH 22 Annual Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Awareness Day**

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson NJ
Ticket Info: GATickets@aol.com
Details will appear in April issue

August - First Time Trip to Israel

Jewish Deaf Singles Registry
Landau9optonline.net, (908) 352-7395 Fax

December 31

Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

**20th Anniversary and
New Year's Eve Party**

with John Maucere!

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, Parsippany NJ
www.nwjad.org

**DDHH Office Closed April 14, May 29
Regular Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

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

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