On June 13, 2009, DDHH sponsored the 25th consecutive year of the “Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Great Adventure.” Inspite of the depressed economy, many people purchased tickets in advance or on the same day through participating organizations serving people with hearing loss in New Jersey.

A significant number of park guests, both with hearing loss and without, stopped by the DDHH exhibition tent (located outside the theme park entrance) asking for information about hearing loss or to socialize. The day was full of usual activities, such as the Wild Safari drive-through, the Exploration Station where guests can have an up-close and personal encounter with animals rescued from the wild, theme park rides and, of course, plenty of food.

All DDHH staff were present and participated, as well as twenty sign language interpreters and thirteen apprentices were set at all venues where there was communication. Assistive listening devices were available for anyone upon request.

This year, to further enhance deaf and hard of hearing awareness, an announcement was made at the beginning of each venue (i.e., the porpoise show and the tiger show). The announcement mentioned the special Awareness Day and included interesting facts about hearing loss as well as directing individuals and families to the DDHH booth for more information. Once again, thanks to the New Jersey Association of the Deaf, particularly Lauren Lercher, for their tireless efforts of coordinating the sale of tickets with the various organizations serving people with hearing loss in New Jersey.
As many of you are aware, New Jersey passed its first legislation requiring health benefit plans to provide limited financial assistance and benefits for the purchase of hearing aids for children 15 years of age and younger. As with any new legislation, there are often questions regarding this legislation’s implementation. Many families are contacting DDHH with their inquiries, as well as concerns that their respective employer health benefit plans are not required to comply with Grace’s Law.

DDHH has investigated these concerns, and found that certain health benefit plans are indeed exempt from the requirements of Grace’s Law. To that point, DDHH determined there was a need to inform the public of this fact and to provide families with accurate information about the benefits available with Grace’s Law. We determined it was necessary to develop a fact sheet, with the outcome resulting in the development of a consumer guide, the Consumer Guide to Grace’s Law.

The consumer guide (see page 4) is the result of a series of meetings and open dialogue between DDHH and a number of state agencies. The Department of Banking and Insurance, NJ State Health Benefits Commission, the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Education participated in developing the consumer guide. The guide employs an easy to read question and answer format, resources and contact information for specific inquiries. The consumer guides are available from the DDHH office and will also be available on our Web site.

**CORRECTION:**

In the June issue, of the Monthly Communicator, we reported the loss of sign language interpreter Kathleen Sciarabba. Ms. Sciarabba passed away on Wednesday April 22. The mass and memorial services in her honor were held on Tuesday, April 28.

**Reminder:**

The deadline for the October 2009 issue is September 1. The deadline for the September issue is August 1.

Send e-mail submissions to the editor: Alan.Champion@dhs.state.nj.us.

Submissions should be “text only,” in a standard word document (no pdf files). Photos, that accompany submissions are encouraged. For a style sheet, contact the editor.

**Newsletter Subscription:**

If you would like to subscribe to the Monthly Communicator, send your request to the editor (e-mail address above).

Subscription is free of charge.
NOTE: Change in Meeting Location

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
Friday July 24, 2009
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

This Advisory Council Meeting will feature a special presentation on Digital Captioning (DC) Demonstration by Comcast Technical Staff

10:00 - 11:00 AM - First DC Demonstration
2:00 - 3:00 PM - Second DC Demonstration

The public is invited to attend. Limited seating – RSVP required.
Location: Comcast Cable, 401 White Horse Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043

The Caption Demonstration will address the importance of closed captioning; how cable companies monitor closed captioning; how cable companies work with providers if there is a problem in their provision of closed captioning; demonstration of the conventional closed captioning and its limitations; and demonstration of the high definition advanced closed captioning and its capability.

Call DDHH to confirm your attendance: 609-984-7281 V/TTY
All DDHH advisory council meetings are fully accessible with sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices (ALDs) and CART (open captioning) available.

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week (NJDAW) hosts the 10th Deaf Fest
Sunday, September 13, 2009
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (rain or shine)

Middlesex County Fairgrounds
Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, NJ

Free admission (includes entertainment) and free parking.

NJ Deaf Fest is a cultural celebration that promotes awareness and education among the Deaf, hard-of-hearing, Deaf-Blind and hearing communities. This year, the family entertainment will be presented by several talented performers including, Deaf Magician Matthew Morgan, Liliana Morgan and Robert DeMayo. In addition, for children who attend, there will be Bonnie’s Kiddie Korner. This event is sponsored by the Northwest Jersey Association for the Deaf (NWJAD).

More sponsors are welcomed for this year’s celebration. If you would like to be a sponsor, please email njdaw.president2008@gmail.com. Exhibitors with products and information have an opportunity to reach as many as four thousand people, according to past Deaf Fest attendances. If your agency or organization would like to be an exhibitor at Deaf Fest 2009, contact exhibits2007@aol.com. As always, there will be food vendors, a health fair table, a NJDAW tent, and interpreters to make the event accessible.

The NJDAW board of trustees and committee co-chairs, Lauren Lercher and Charlotte Karras, invite you to join us in the open air and under tents at this year’s event, to meet old friends and new. For additional information, visit us at www.njdaw.org.
“Grace’s Law” refers to P.L.2008, c.126, a New Jersey statute, which requires certain health benefits plans to provide limited coverage toward the purchase of hearing aids for children “15 years of age or younger” (under 16 years of age). Your health benefits plan may or may not be subject to the requirements of Grace’s Law. The following information should help determine if your health plan is required to comply with this law.

What are the benefits stated in Grace’s Law?
Grace’s Law states that benefits provided are “$1,000 per hearing aid for each hearing impaired ear every 24 months.” Additionally, under Grace’s Law, benefits covered include “… medically necessary expenses incurred in the purchase of a hearing aid…”

How do I know if my health plan must provide coverage for hearing aids under Grace’s Law?
It is important to understand your health benefits plan to determine if Grace’s Law applies to it. If your child is enrolled in the FamilyCare Program or you are enrolled in the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program, Grace’s Law applies to your health benefits plan. For other health plans, check with your employer or insurance company to see if the purchase of your child’s hearing aids are covered. Ask them the following questions:

- Is my health plan self-funded or fully insured? (Only fully insured health plans, regulated by the state of New Jersey, are required to comply with Grace’s Law.)
- If my health plan is fully insured, in what state is the insurance policy written? (Only plans written in New Jersey are required to comply with Grace’s Law.)
- If my health plan is fully insured and written in New Jersey, what is the plan’s renewal date? (If the plan is fully insured and written in New Jersey, it is eligible for the benefits described in Grace’s Law as of the renewal date of your health plan.) If your insurance company is not fully insured, you should still inquire to see if they will voluntarily comply with the law.

If my health plan is required to comply with Grace’s Law, when can I take advantage of these benefits?
Although this law became effective March 30, 2009, your benefits may not start right away. For existing plans, the benefits resulting from Grace’s Law take effect on the renewal date of the health plan on or following March 30, 2009 (for example, if an eligible health plan is renewed on January 1, the benefits start January 1, 2010). For new plans, issued on or after March 30, 2009, Grace’s Law goes into effect at the time the new plan is issued.

How is it determined that my child’s hearing aids are “medically necessary” for coverage under Grace’s Law?
Grace’s Law states that coverage for hearing aids is provided “when medically necessary and as prescribed or recommended by a licensed physician or audiologist.” This means that first, the hearing aid must be prescribed or recommended by a licensed physician or audiologist; and second, the health plan determines it is medically necessary.

Does Grace’s Law address other costs incurred in the purchase of a hearing aid?
The law states that coverage for “medically necessary expenses” incurred in the purchase of a hearing aid shall be provided by any health benefits plan required to comply with Grace’s Law. Check with your employer or insurance company to find out which incurred expenses are covered.

Will I be reimbursed for the cost of the hearing aid(s) from the insurance company or will the covered amount be deducted at the time of purchase?
This depends on the dispenser from whom you purchase your hearing aid. More than likely, this will be handled the same as your other medical expenses. To make sure you understand, ask your hearing aid dispenser to explain how they will process your bill before you agree to buy your child’s hearing aid(s).
The hearing aid I’m purchasing costs more than $1,000. Will I receive the maximum $1,000 benefit payment according to Grace’s Law?

Under Grace’s Law, for hearing aids which cost more than $1,000, the benefit payment is the allowable cost of the hearing aid minus the application of any co-pay, deductible, or coinsurance. The maximum amount the benefits plan will pay after these deductions are applied is $1,000.

I have been denied coverage but I believe my health plan is required to provide benefits under Grace’s Law. What should I do?

If you believe your health plan is required to provide benefits under Grace’s Law but you have been denied coverage, contact the appropriate agency below according to your health plan.

For FamilyCare, contact the HMO in which you are enrolled. (Check the back of your enrollment card for contact information.)

For fully insured plans written in New Jersey, contact:

Department of Banking & Insurance (DOBI)
Case Inquiry and Preparation Unit
609-292-7272
Ellen DeRosa, Executive Director
ellen.derosa@dobi.state.nj.us
609-633-1882 x50302, Voice
Gale Simon, Assistant Commissioner
gale.simon@dobi.state.nj.us
609-633-1882 x50333, Voice

“Listening Studio” - a Breakthrough for People with Hearing Loss to Maximize Hearing Everyday Sounds

A frequent complaint among people with hearing loss is that hearing aids don’t work as well when there’s a lot of background noise. The hearing aid that worked great in the test booth can become a source of frustration in a noisy restaurant. Addressing the issue, the Center for Hearing and Communication (CHC) announces the launch of the Listening Studio, an innovation for people with hearing loss.

The Listening Studio is an audio and video installation acoustically designed to simulate an array of real-life listening environments. Working in this unique setting, audiologists at the Center for Hearing and Communication can provide people with the opportunity to maximize the benefit they obtain from their hearing aids. Hearing aid settings can be fine-tuned to maximize performance in real-world situations including the classroom, a noisy city street and a subway platform. More than 500 scenarios can be simulated to help consumers hear better at home, at school and when they’re on the go.

The Listening Studio was created through collaboration between CHC, POD DESIGN+MEDIA and Daniel Perlin, sound designer and artist. The Studio is permanently installed in the Center for Hearing and Communication in New York City, and open to the public by appointment by calling, 917-305-7766. Funding for the Listening Studio was provided by Shelley and Steven Einhorn.

The Center for Hearing and Communication is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for infants, children and adults with all degrees of hearing loss. We accomplish our mission by providing hearing rehabilitation and human services, for people who are hard of hearing or Deaf, along with their families, regardless of age, ability to pay, or mode of communication; and by striving to empower consumers to achieve their potential.
Since 1993, the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) has distributed assistive technology to qualified deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind New Jersey residents, as well as those with a serious speech impediment.

This program, called the Equipment Distribution Program (EDP), includes Text Telephones (TTY), Amplified and Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO) telephones, Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Baby Cry Alert Systems, and Artificial Larynx, Devices (ALD). These assistive devices, and more, have allowed people with hearing loss and speech disabilities to live and work independently.

A report of the amount of devices that were distributed, since the program’s inception through the 08/09 fiscal year (which ended June 30, 2009), is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TTY/VCO/HCO Phones/CapTel Phones</th>
<th>Strobe Smoke Detectors</th>
<th>Baby Cry Alerts</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1994 263</td>
<td>2002 200</td>
<td>2004 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995 269</td>
<td>2003 227</td>
<td>2005 22</td>
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<td>2004 104</td>
<td>2006 13</td>
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<td>2000 197</td>
<td>2009 125</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001 216</td>
<td>9 Year Total:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,267</td>
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<td>2002 232</td>
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<td>2003 230</td>
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<td>2004 277</td>
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<td>2008 373</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009 407</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Year Total: 4221</td>
<td>3 Year Total: 436</td>
<td>5 year Total: 51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To qualify for the Equipment Distribution Program, an audiologist or physician must certify that the applicant needs the equipment due to his/her degree of hearing loss or speech impairment. Qualified applicants must have an annual household income no greater than $45,000. Only one of each device will be distributed per household in a five-year period. For an application or more information, contact DDHH at 800-792-8339 V/TTY or 609-984-0390 Fax.
Sprint Announces
Sprint Captel 800i
Coming soon.

This CapTel phone combines the convenience of a telephone with text capabilities over the Internet and the ability to read captions during your phone conversation. Features include five inch diagonal high quality screen display, bright color and easy to read captions, adjustable font size and colors, tilting screen for comfort in viewing, easy to follow menu, one button push to reach customer service, adjustable volume and tone control buttons and ability to switch to standard telephone mode for non-CapTel users.

Set-Up Requirements:
• Internet access, high-speed or broadband
• Telephone line connection: analog, VoiP, DSL or digital cable phone service (not compatible with PBX systems)
• Standard electrical power outlet

For more information, call 800-233-9130, Voice.

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Third Annual
Taste of Technology Mini Conference
Hosted by NJ Relay Service

Thursday November 12
Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick

Due to the overwhelming success of last year’s conference, we are presenting the Taste of Technology event again this year. Come to this free conference to learn about the latest technological advancements, and hear from the consumers who love the variety of communication access products and services available for people with hearing loss.

This is a great opportunity for professionals working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients, and it’s excellent for agencies who serve these people, particularly those who serve senior citizens who may be experiencing a wide range of hearing loss.

This event has limited seating and admission is on a first come basis. For more information and to receive the registration form, please email Kelly.lange@sprint.com or aparna.lele@sprint.com.
After more than 50 years of struggling to hear the everyday sounds of our environment and to understand the speech of others, I was implanted in May 2001 with an Advanced Bionics’ cochlear implant. This opened a long-closed door which separated me from easily communicating with people and hearing the things that normally hearing people take for granted daily.

With small grandchildren visiting, their high-pitched voices are more easily understandable with my cochlear implant. Conversations with my spouse are easier on him and me. It’s less stressful for me to hear and listen to his speech and likewise, he is less stressed because he doesn’t have to repeat himself so often.

When I’m shopping, I can hear my number called at the deli-catessen counter, and my name called in a medical facility. I more easily understand what a nurse or doctor or dentist is saying to me. I don’t need to rely on my spouse to listen for me and convey what’s being said. I mostly can understand the speech of the radio and TV, although captioning augments my understanding. I can even make voice telephone calls using the speaker on my desk and kitchen phones.

I can hear a kitty cat meow, and my dog whine. Every morning I walk my dog and hear her paws as they rustle the fallen leaves. I hear birdsongs and calls, quacking and honking from the waterway nearby, the bees that buzz by my “ear,” the raindrops striking the roof, gutters, and leaves. The squeaky door hinges, footsteps in the hall, my dog’s toenails clicking on the kitchen floor, the microwave beeping, the “ready” signal of my electric oven, or the telephone buttons when they are dialed. These are all delicious sounds to me.

At night, I must remove my CI, and then I fall into the deepest silence which envelopes me like black water into which I’ve plunged. The silence I experience is a deprivation I feel so keenly, that I wish I could wear my CI to bed. If I could somehow tape it to my head so it wouldn’t get dislodged, I would do so. I can’t hear thunder, my dog bark, or my husband call me when he’s had a fall and may need me to take him to the hospital. I get up at night and the inability to hear myself walk to the bathroom disorients me. I can’t hear the toilet flush or the water run in the sink. Nighttime without the CI is like the soundlessness of death, and when dawn comes, with my CI on again, the sounds of my world becomes the symphony of life.

I’ve written most of this while on a train to Philadelphia on my way to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. I have had such a love affair with my CI, that I’ve gotten a second one for my other ear. We are going “bilateral” and making a good thing better. If one CI was so good, I figure, then two is even better and I’m going to be listening in stereo. You can call me the 21st Century “Bionic Granny.”
Program Mission and Description. The Katzenbach extended school year program addresses academic, social and transitional goals through a variety of program options. The six weeks of five and a half hours in class focus on reading, writing, critical thinking, and math skills in an atmosphere of shared learning and fun.

The Middle and High School Programs utilize a unique hands-on learning approach, weekly theme related field trips, enrichment in science and social studies, and many team building activities to make learning fun and memorable. In the high school program, afternoon options include paid work internships on the campus grounds; computer skills; reading, writing or math tutoring; ASL studies or some combination of these. The middle school program themes include, sports/games of the world, unexplained phenomena, animal safari, pirates of the Caribbean, and medieval times. The high school program themes include, real world, crime scene investigation, astronomy, inventions and inventors.

Middle School/High School Residential Component. For students who live too far away to commute or need more language and social development opportunities, there is an option to stay at the school which provides additional activities in a culturally and linguistically rich environment.

The program begins July 6 with an open enrollment policy which means eligible students may enroll at any time during the program. Parents and/or school districts can elect specific weeks which best fits their family or child’s schedule.

Eligibility - Any middle or high school student with a hearing loss is eligible for this program. Join us for summer learning and fun.

For more information, a brochure, application and ESY rates, please contact: Margaret Provost 609-530-3156, Voice and margaret_provost@mksd.state.nj.us.
Support services are available to the NJ Division of Addiction Services (DAS) licensed facilities admitting individuals with hearing loss. Upon request, coordination of communication access services such as Sign Language Interpreters, captioning via Computer Assisted Real-time Translation (CART) services, Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs), etc., is available for DAS licensed treatment programs or hospitals involved in direct treatment of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD). These services may be provided at no cost to the facility depending upon funding availability. The services are provided through funding from DAS.

Contact Irene McClure at the Center for Family Services, Voorhees, New Jersey, for additional information regarding funding for Detox and Recovery Services and for information on other access services that may be available, including Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs). Contact 856-428-5688, Ext .107, Voice; 856-428-0949 FAX; 856-718-7026 Cell/Text; communicationaccess@centerffs.org

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Community Service Projects at Lake Drive School - Remember the children one crayon at a time
Submitted by Nora Rodriguez, MS, LCSW

Books and crayons...the basic tools of early education, as well as moments for pure fun and creativity for children. Yet, for too many, these were not and are not. The Upper Elementary and Middle School students of the Lake Drive Program have embarked on two community service projects of remembrance and hope.

The Crayon Project is the brainchild of The Fair Lawn Jewish Center. The goal of the project is to collect a crayon for each of the 1.5 million children lost in the Holocaust plus more for those children lost in other acts of genocide, such as in Darfur. Once the project is completed, the crayons will be part of an exhibit for the public to be unveiled in September 2009; thereafter, the crayons will be distributed to hospitals and needy schools. The project’s motto is: Remember the children one crayon at a time.

Lake Drive’s Upper Elementary students embraced this project, kicking off the effort with an animated costumed presentation during the school’s Spirit Week. The students are tabulating the crayons that are being donated by staff and students. In addition, they wrote letters to some of the area restaurants who typically give out crayons to young patrons to color while they are waiting for their meals. The local TGI Friday’s and IHOP generously donated crayons to the cause. To date, almost 5,600 crayons have been collected.

Candlelight Books is an organization that collects children’s books for distribution to elementary schools in the Philippines. The Middle School students of Lake Drive also launched their initiative with a skit during School Spirit Week which depicted the pleasure of sharing books with children who do not have them. To date, close to 300 books have been collected.

Both projects are ongoing and all schools are invited and encouraged to participate. For more information or to contribute to either endeavor, contact Flora Frank, the Crayon Project at 201-796-3995. Candlelight Books may be accessed via email: ettonim@yahoo.com.
Neptune Township High School Deaf Education Program

First Annual Deaf Culture and Leadership Conference

On April 24, 2009, Neptune Township High School’s Deaf Education Program presented their “1st Annual Deaf Culture and Leadership Conference.” This day-long program included peer group sessions, a keynote speaker, lunch and socializing with peers, and break-out sessions for students (from other high schools included Governor Livingston High School, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (High School), Jackson Memorial High School, and Toms River East High School). Students from Neptune Township’s Deaf Education Program at the Middle School were also invited to enjoy the day.

The keynote speaker Keith Wann, a well-known CODA, comedian, and actor, presented a one-hour performance, focusing on Deaf culture and communication. Keith also presented a break-out session for the students, which helped them practice their communication skills, and realize the importance of these skills.

This program was a huge success. The students from Neptune Township hope to host this program again next year as the “2nd Annual Deaf Culture and Leadership Conference.” If your school is interested in attending next year’s conference, please contact the Neptune High School Deaf Education Department at 732-776-2234 Voice or e-mail Jessica Swallow at jessicaswallow@gmail.com.

PCTI Student Receives Co-Op Student of the Year

Alexi Portillo, a senior at Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI), was honored as PCTI’s co-op student of the year at an April 20 ceremony in Paterson, NJ. Alexi was one of four PCTI students to win this prestigious award. Alexi won the award in recognition of his hard work at Home Depot. Additionally, Alexi was awarded “Employee of the Month” and received another award for customer service by Home Depot.

In his acceptance speech, Alexi mentioned how welcoming the staff at Home Depot is to him. He commented that, “The staff always tries to include me, even though I’m Deaf. They always help me to understand what is going on.” Alexi was praised by his supervisors during the co-op award luncheon held at the Brownstone in Paterson, “I wish I had five more of him. If only all my employees worked as hard as he does.”

Alexi, who has studied building maintenance at PCTI, plans to pursue computer assisted drafting in the fall at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY. Alexi hopes to help design plans for the inside of homes in the future.
ASL Story Hour at Library for the Blind and Handicapped
Submitted by Christine Olsen

LINDA CARDELL, Search & Rescue worker, and Kobie, Rescue dog, both featured on the American Library Association’s (ALA) READ to Your Hero Poster, were special guests at the New Jersey State Library for the Blind and Handicapped’s (LBH) Children’s American Sign Language Story Hour on May 12.

Ms. Cardell read Emma and the Night Dogs by Susan B. Aller to students from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission School and the public. This heartwarming story is about Emma, who finds a young boy lost in the woods near her house. With the help of her aunt’s special dogs, Emma brings them all back to safety.

Following the story, Linda explained how Kobie is a rescue dog and was chosen by ALA to be on the Read to Your Hero poster for the work he did in New Orleans locating missing people and human remains after Hurricane Katrina. With the help of some volunteers from the audience, she demonstrated for the students just how Kobie searches for missing people.

The Story Hour was interpreted into ASL thanks to support from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services. The Story Hour is part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program (DHHAP) offered by LBH which is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton. For more information contact Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the DHHAP Program, at 877-882-5593 TTY or colsen@njstatelib.org. ASL Story Hour will resume in October 2009.

Library for the Blind and Handicapped has new Name: “New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center”

The New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped is making dramatic improvements in its services this year with the transition to digital books, magazines and players. Along with these changes, and upon meeting with different focus groups representing a cross section of its membership, the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped will change its name to better reflect the services the library offers patrons with a number of other disabilities, as well as the visually impaired and physically handicapped community.

The new name, “New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center,” went into effect on July 1, 2009 with a formal announcement during the fall festival. This change will help us to better serve the residents of New Jersey who cannot see the words in a book or cannot hold a book in order to read.
**Lake Drive Foundation Honors**
The Bob and Lee Woodruff Family

Lee Woodruff and her twin daughters, Nora and Claire, were recently honored by The Lake Drive Foundation during the annual “For the Babies Gala.” The gala event is held to raise funds and awareness for early intervention services for local babies with hearing loss. More than 300 guests attended the gala, held at The Hanover Marriott in Whippany, NJ.

In her inspiring and uplifting address, Lee Woodruff recalled how six years before Bob’s traumatic brain injury in Iraq, she and Bob faced a seemingly overwhelming challenge when one of their twin daughters, Nora, was diagnosed with hearing loss. Reading passages from her recently released book, Perfectly Imperfect, A Life in Progress, Lee reveals her deeply personal reflections, tracing the initial heartbreak of her daughter’s diagnosis, to acceptance and appreciation of Nora’s disability as a potentially different ability. Today, Nora’s “gift of gab” is an especially meaningful one. Lee proudly shared that Nora is “jabbering all the time and leads a complete life with many friends, all adorned with her hot pink hearing aids.”

Serving as this year’s Gala Honorary Chairs were nine year old activist, Grace Gleba, and her mother Jeanine. Jeanine Gleba told the audience, “As Grace’s mother, I believe that my daughter and all children should have the gift of sound. I understand the triumphs and tribulations of being a parent of a child who has a hearing loss.” Grace was described by her mother as also having the “gift of gab” which she proved when she stepped up on a stool, barely reaching the mike at the podium and said, “I am very happy to be here to help these babies. Kids have a lot to say and sometimes it is important even if you don’t want to hear all about Sponge Bob and Hannah Montana. I know they can learn to talk, because I did. I want them to know that you can do anything if you put your mind to it.”

Lake Drive School elementary students continued the evening’s theme with their performance of Neil Diamond’s “We’re Headed for the Future.” The evening also featured a silent and live auction with trips, jewelry and other items.
The ASL-English Interpretation Program
City University of New York/LaGuardia Community College
Pre-Screening Application

The ASL-English Interpretation Program is a rigorous two-year academic curriculum, which incorporates national interpreter education standards recommended by the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE). The methodologies used in this program are based on models of interpretation and pedagogy recognized as the best practices in the field. Diversity and multicultural perspectives are central to the program.

Courses are taught by nationally known Deaf and hearing instructors. The program is offered primarily in the evening, with some required daytime fieldwork hours. The program is offered as a Professional Certificate or a BA Degree option in ASL-English Interpretation. The ASL-English Interpretation Program includes courses, including: Interpreting I, Introduction to the Field of Interpreting, Interpreting II, Language in Use, Interpreting III, Interpreting & Language Lab, ASL Discourse & Internship, Interpreting IV & Internship, Ethics and Decision Making, Interpreting V, Interpreting in Educational Settings, Interpreting VI & Internship.

The program is seeking candidates who are actively involved in the Deaf community and can demonstrate fluency in both ASL and English as well as strong interpersonal skills and an aptitude for learning processed interpretation. The program does not require prior interpreting experience or prior study in interpretation. Educational background (an AA Degree, two years of college credits or equivalent) and potential success in an upper division academic environment are key factors. The program welcomes applications from all qualified individuals. For additional information including the admissions process, visit ace.laguardia.edu/iep/ or contact Rob Hills at 718-482-5313 V/TTY.

Open Registration for Fall 2009 Classes
(September 2, – December 23, 2009)
Regular Tuition & Fees; Chargeback available
For more information, please contact:
Cindy Williams at 908-412-3574 or elwilliams@ucc.edu
Eileen Forestal at forestal@ucc.edu
For a list of ASL/English Interpreting Courses, check the UCC Course Catalog or visit the UCC Web site.
Understanding the Golden Years
Future Home and General Information For NJ Deaf Senior Citizens

Presenter: Lila Taylor, NJAD Senior Chair

Tuesday, July 14
1:00 PM

St. Gregory Church Hall
Evesham Road & White Horse Pike (Route 30) Magnolia, New Jersey 08049

All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.
Please come and support New Jersey Deaf Senior Housing.

For more information, please contact
Sr. Bonnie McMenamin bmcmenamin@camdendiocese.org

Program Schedule at Progressive Center for Independent Living

The Progressive Center for Independent Living is combating the unemployment and underemployment of people with disabilities through a program called EmploymentPlus. The EmploymentPlus program focuses on long term support to promote not only job retention, but career choice and advancement. The heart of the program is self-esteem, self-advocacy, self-determination and self-respect.

Comprised of individuals with disabilities who are employed or actively seeking employment, the program provides its members with networking opportunities, skill building workshops and mentoring. Pilot funding for the program was provided by the Kessler Foundation and current funding is being provided by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities.

There is no fee to participate. Program participants meet twice per month at our Hamilton office for skill and knowledge building workshops. Please share with your colleagues, families, friends, and peers. We welcome new participants to the program at any time.

Please, must RSVP to reserve the seat. If you need sign language interpreter request, please contact advance notice: Kelly Jiras at 609-581-4500 or kelly.jiras@pcil.org. Upcoming workshops this summer are as follows:

✎ July 9 - GettingHired.com
Guest Speaker: Jim Lunney

✎ July 23 - The Success of Savings, A Financial Literacy Program
Guest Speaker: Fran Curley, Director of New Initiatives, Allies, Inc.

✎ August 13 - Interview Like a Pro
Guest Speaker: Judy Lindenberger, President, The Lindenberger Group

All workshops begin at 5:30 PM and are held at Allies, Inc. Conference Room, #1262, Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road, Building A, Suite 101, Hamilton, NJ 08690
Cokely Brings Workshop to Newburgh

Submitted by Keily Carr, SLR, Inc., Continuing Education Coordinator/Staff Interpreter

On Sunday April 26, Dennis Cokely visited Newburgh, NY to present: “Sign Language Interpreters: Has Ignoring Our Past Already Doomed Our Future?” This workshop was coordinated and sponsored by Sign Language Resources (SLR) Inc. An audience of nearly ninety Deaf and hearing interpreters attended Cokely’s presentation on the history of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) through an outline of the changes and decisions made by this organization over the past forty-five years.

Participants were able to see how the connection (between interpreters and the Deaf community) changed drastically as the RID evolved, increased rapidly and significantly in size, and sought to achieve status as an organization of “professional” interpreters. Participants were led to consider the downside of our plight for professionalism and to ask ourselves if we are members of an organization OF the Deaf community or FOR the Deaf community.

Further, participants were asked to consider how often we as interpreters today “give back” to the Deaf community in contrast to the time when interpreting was done through a sense of caring, loyalty, and way of expressing gratitude to the Deaf community. The workshop concluded with an analysis of the RID’s initial Code of Ethics of 1965, the revised Code of Ethics of 1978, and the current Code of Professional Conduct established in 2005 and reflecting on the intentions and repercussions of the codes we are asked to follow.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and the day inspiring and motivating. For more information about SLR sponsored workshops, please visit www.signlanguageresourcesinc.com/education&professionaldevelopment.htm.

New York Life Insurance Recognizes Deaf New Jersey Agent

LINDA HERENCHAK, a New York Life Insurance agent in Saddle Brook, NJ, has been named an Annuity Champion for 2008. Each year, this recognition is bestowed upon a select group of qualified agents based on exceptional annuity sales performance. Herenchak has been a New York Life agent since 1987.

Herenchak is a graduate of New Jersey School for the Deaf in West Trenton, NJ, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Gallaudet University and a master of education degree in special education from Antioch University. She is one of the founders of New York Deaf Theatre in New York City. She has performed off-off-Broadway under Chelsea Theater. She has been a full-time sign language instructor at Union County College in Cranford, NJ, and part-time instructor at Rutgers University.

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A transportation company is seeking two interns who are deaf, proficient in ASL and self-starters to be involved in different aspects of logistics management, including sales and scheduling in the Meadowlands region. The hours work around the class schedule.

Applicants must possess computer skills and excellent interpersonal skills. Complete training provided. $8 per hour, increase after 90 days based upon performance. Video phone provided at no cost.

Please contact the MOSAIC Job Center for Disability Employment (www.Mosaicjobcenter.org); Laurie Salka, MOSAIC Project Director 201-460-1683; Melissa Brockway, Employee Liaison 201-460-1524; Noritza Perito, Employer Liaison 201-460-1606; MOSAIC Overview www.Mosaicjobcenter.org

The MOSAIC Job Center for Disability Employment is an employment agency. We help job candidates who are disabled find jobs, and we help employers who have job openings locate qualified job candidates.

However, unlike a typical employment agency, we are free. Individuals who are connected to a job readiness program, or are in college may benefit from a referral to the MOSAIC Job Center. Through an assessment process, we help match an individual's skills to the available job postings. We can also help individuals connect to training, education, and supportive and transitional services needed to secure employment and advance on the job.

ASL Instructor wanted at parochial high school in Elizabeth NJ. This 12th grade elective course meets twice a week either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday for 50 minutes each session. One or two sections of this course will be offered. Please email bruriah@thejec.org.
Ministry with the Deaf of South Jersey
Chapter #138 of ICDA sponsors

Deaf Family Night at Cowtown Rodeo
Saturday, August 22 -
(Rain date: Saturday, August 29)
at
Cowtown Rodeo
780 Route #40, Pilesgrove, NJ 08098, 856-769-3200 Voice.

Group Admission (25 people or more): $10 adults, $5 children (12 & under),
Under 2 years of age – free. For group discount, entire group must arrive between 6:30 and 7:15 PM.
Rodeo starts at 7:30 PM. Regular prices (after 7:15 PM) $15 – adults;
$10 - children (under 2 years of age – free).

Interpreter provided. For more information & directions, visit www.cowtownrodeo.com.
For questions, contact Betty Ann at mwdbak@yahoo.com

Gloucester Country Community Church Deaf Ministry
invites you to its

13th Annual GCCC Deaf Picnic
Saturday, July 11
9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
at
(Reserved GCCC Deaf Ministry area is at the picnic tables under the pavilion.)
Picnicking, swimming, boating, children play areas, snack bar, baseball area!

Admission for lake is: $8 per person. Pay at gate. No reservations required. Rain or shine.
The Hearing Loss Association of America, New Jersey State Affiliate has scheduled its GARDEN STATE NJ WALK4HEARING on October 17, 9:00 AM. at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, N.J. The WALK4HEARING is a nationally coordinated effort sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA).

The purpose is to increase awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss. One in ten persons has hearing loss in the U.S.; and, in New Jersey the number is estimated to be close to 800,000 persons. Hearing loss is caused by excessively loud noise, illnesses, medications, aging, injury, birth defects, and genetic factors. It affects a child's ability to acquire spoken language, a student's ability to get an education, a worker's productivity in the workplace, and a senior person's wellbeing in social, medical, religious and other environments.

The GARDEN STATE WALK4HEARING is being held to raise funds to provide information and support for all individuals with any form of hearing loss. The proceeds from last year's Walk has enabled HLA-NJ to provide scholarships to hard of hearing students, expand its outreach by supporting New Jersey HLA chapters, support the National HLA office in advocacy and legislative initiatives, as well as educating the public about hearing loss.

Last year's New Jersey Walk4Hearing goal was $25,000, and over $57,000 was raised. Sponsors may enroll in any amount from $100 to $5,000. Sponsors are given prominent display of their logos on the Walk Website and Walk signage along the Walk route.

Area businesses are now being approached and asked to be a WALK4HEARING sponsor. There will be a Walk Kickoff Event at Montclair State University Conference Center on September 13. All sponsors are invited to attend, as well as participate in the Walk on October 17. Sponsors can submit their logos, which will be used in Walk materials, including Walk Tee Shirts.

All sponsorship and donors will be acknowledged. The Hearing Loss Association, New Jersey State Affiliate is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible. Area businesses and individuals wanting to participate as sponsors may e-mail Carol Granaldi, Sponsor Chairperson at: Carol.Granaldi@hearingloss-nj.org or call 609-758-0675. Visit WALK4HEARING at www.Walk4Hearing.org and click the GARDEN STATE NJ for more information.

It was a night of gifts on April 21 for the Cochlear Implant Support Group. DDHH supplied CART, ALDs (Assistive Listening Devices) and an interpreter for the meeting. Traci Burton shared a gift of knowledge when presenting various Assisted Listening Devices.

Cochlear Americas Corporation not only presented the group with their own Parri Tantillo from Denver for the meeting, but also a yummy pizza dinner and some great informational handouts. As usual, the members enjoyed socializing with CI (Cochlear Implant) buddies, professionals, CI wannabes and friends. Several members donated delicious desserts and Grace Church continues to provide the meeting facilities.

While the topic of the meeting was bi-lateral implantation, the group’s members seemed to enjoy hearing the variety of things Cochlear America Corporation offers on its Web site. The many questions reflect how engaging the speaker was as well as the involvement of those in attendance. There was also discussion establishing a group for children with CIs. The group continues to grow, with 30 in attendance at this past meeting. For more information or to get on our mailing list, please email Kathie Simcox or Wayne Roorda at cochlearimplant1@yahoo.com.
Mr. Philip N. Moos passed away on June 4, 2009, shortly after announcing his illness to the community. He is survived by his daughter, Kristina. The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has always had a close relationship with Phil Moos. He often attended DDHH Advisory Council and committee meetings. Phil was an outstanding voice of the Deaf community for many years. He was always willing to take on a job that needed to be done. Phil was busy in front of and behind the scenes, evident when he joined the protest in front of the State House in 1990 in support of Deaf Superintendent Now at MKSD and assisting people with parking their cars at a disabilities conference attended by a thousand people in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Recently, he was most known for his contribution as organizer of NJ-L. With the advent of e-mail and Internet, Phil spent a significant amount of his time facilitating the communication of information to the thousands who subscribe to this list. NJ-L has been a tremendous referral for DDHH, as people often submit ads too late to publish in the Monthly Communicator. With NJ-L, minimal lead time is needed as postings are made immediately thanks to Phil’s efficiency with this valuable community service.

Phil was an active member of the New Jersey Relay Services since its inception in 1990. He is also past president and long time member of the New Jersey Association of the Deaf. He worked for the New Jersey State Office of Information and Technology for many years. He had planned to retire soon and plans for a retirement party were under way when he announced his illness. He had planned to spend retirement in South Carolina nearer to his daughter.

Phil will be missed very much by his friends, family, associates and the constituency he served. He was a true leader of the Deaf community for many years.

George M. Karras, died Sunday, May 31, 2009, at his home in East Brunswick. He was 72. Born in Rochester, New York, he lived in Edison before moving to East Brunswick four years ago. George received his bachelor’s degree from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and his master’s degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. He was a chemist for the Environmental Protection Agency in Edison for 38 years before retiring in January of this year. Mr. Karras was a member of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association, the New Jersey Association of the Deaf, the American Professional Society of the Deaf, the Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, the North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, the Diverse Deaf Club of New Jersey, Inc., the National Association of the Deaf and TDI (Deaf Telecommunication Group). He participated in New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week and was the President of the NJ/NY PC Deaf Connection for many years. Surviving are his wife, Charlotte Hampton Karras; a daughter, Andrea Faust and her husband Michael of Milltown; a son, Michael Karras and his wife Rose of Stallings, N.C.; three sisters, Viola Ceretto and her husband Anthony, Maryann Karras and Bettyann Totten, all of Rochester, N.Y.; a brother, Christ Karras and his wife Carolyn of Penfield, N.Y.; five grandchildren, Michael, Alexis and Madison Faust, and George and Maxwell Karras; and many nieces and nephews.
American Sign Language Bowling Association

We are looking for more players to join our bowling league in September. If you’re interested and would like more information, please contact:

Heidi Schumacher, blackrose@sprint.blackberry.net Deaf bowling league in Central Jersey at Brunswick Zone Carolier Lanes, 790 Rt. 1 North, North Brunswick, NJ.

AMF Bowling Presents:

Strike Night Saturday July 18, 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM
AMF Wallington Lanes 299 Paterson Ave. Wallington, NJ 07057
$10 provides two hours unlimited bowling and shoe rental.

Spend a night with friends and family competing in America’s #1 participatory sport. Reservations not required but are suggested. To reserve lanes, call the center at 973-773-9100 or call Martha 973-685-6729 VP. Must be 21 with I.D. to consume alcohol.
A portion of all admission fees will be donated to the local association for the Deaf and hard of hearing.

North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, Inc.

presents
11th Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 29, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM
Rain or Shine.

St. John Lutheran Church, 810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ.
Great hot & cold foods, drinks, fun games, come & meet people, make new friends.

Members – $16 donation in advance, Non-Members - $18 donation in advance.
Children under 12 Free,
Same Day Tickets - $20 donation per person.

Check or money order payable to NJCCD, Inc.
Mail to Timothy Golden, Committee Chair
26 Thomas Street, Clifton, NJ 07013
Deadline for advance donation is August 24.

For more information, visit us at www.njccdsite.org or contact Tim at TBGolden0206@msn.com.
Calling all Jewish Deaf and Hard of Hearing People and their families: Come join Our Way, program for Jewish Deaf at the

**Annual Summer BBQ**

**Sunday, July 19**
In the backyard of Beryl & Sara Kohn, Passaic NJ
$7 per person
Meet Jewish Deaf friends.
Special Jewish Presentation by a Deaf Community Leader

RSVP (and directions to the BBQ) go to
jdciter@optonline.net or JCOHENret@AOL.com.
Co-sponsored by the Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired Council, NJ.

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### Atlantic County Society of the Deaf - Schedule of 2009 Events

**SEPTEMBER 19, BINGO**

**OCTOBER 17, HALLOWEEN & DINGO**

**NOVEMBER 21, GENERAL MEETING & DINGO**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY, DATE TBD**

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### REIKI

**Sunday, October 4**  
**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

at
The School of Complete Yoga,
57 Main Street Chester, NJ 07930
$150

Reiki is a Holistic method of hands on healing: Bringing a greater flow of positive energy into one's life. The benefits of this gentle healing modality lead to feelings of deep relaxation, serenity, and relief from pain; creating greater balance on the physical, mental, and emotional levels. This course guides you through the history of Reiki and gives step by step instructions on how to offer a Reiki treatment. At the completion of this course you will be a Certified Reiki Practioner and may begin the gift of your healing touch.

Interpreters will be provided. Must register and pay by October 1.
To register, provide name, address and email on ArtsHearingLoss@aol.com
Calendar of Events 2009

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
July 24, 2009
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Comcast Cable,
401 White Horse Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043
RSVP DDHH 609-984-7281 V/TTY
New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

21st Biennial State Conference
Saturday August 29
Holiday Inn – Hasbrouck Heights/Meadowlands
Contact Max for registration, njadsc2009@gmail.com
www.NJADeaf.org
(Click “State Conference”)

New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week, nc.(DAW)
Deaf Fest2009
Sunday September 13
Middlesex County Fairgrounds
East Brunswick, NJ
www.njdaw.org

GARDEN STATE WALK4HEARING – 2009
October 17, 2009
Mercer County Park West
Hughes Drive, West Windsor, NJ
www.hearingloss-nj.org

Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
DDHH Office – Days Closed
Friday July 3 (Independence Day)