

ALDA-GS News

Summer 2007

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We have our Fall Workshop scheduled for November 3, from 10:30 AM until 2 PM the East Brunswick Library. This workshop's topic meets member requests for information about Hearing Ear dogs.

Jane Nagy, president of Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) in NJ will be one of our speakers. At CCI, dogs are trained and then placed with people who are deaf/hard of hearing at no cost. Jane Schlau will join us with her Hearing Ear dog, Remy She will answer questions about her life with a canine companion. Jane asks that people send their questions ahead of time to me at scshuford@optonline.net before the end of October. Kristin Law, from Canines for Disabled Kids, will tell us more about assistive dogs, with the goal of expanding our awareness of assistive animals and how they work. The workshop is designed to offer our members a total education about the benefits of living with a Hearing Ear dog companion.

I want to give special thanks to Tony Yuppa and his committed group that sold three thousand dollars worth of tickets for ALDA-GS at Great Adventure. How much of that will be profit is yet to be learned. Whatever the outcome, this is a huge feat of determination and dedication. When you consider how many groups are now involved in selling the tickets, you can grasp the difficulty of this task. Tony's helpers were Eileen Hollywood, Doreen Dougherty, Diane Limey, Daniel Stark, Linda Streppone, Linda Armstrong, Kathy Yuppa, Chris Barnhardt, Diana Fanuel and Sandy Enfield. Monies go towards our scholarship fund. and workshops. On behalf of ALDA-GS membership I offer praise and thanks for a job well done!

I have written in the past of the new Senior Housing Committee of New Jersey Association of the Deaf. The group is making good progress to obtain funding, develop plans and build affordable supportive housing for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind and Late Deafened Adult Seniors in NJ. Several ALDA members have expressed concern about non-signing people, wondering if they would be comfortable there. Respect for the language, cultural heritage and social experience for the diversity of all the groups mentioned above is necessary. It is an exciting concept and I am happy to be working with this group. Any members who have a question or an interest in attending planning meetings please contact me by email

I want to thank Elinore Bullock, Editor of this newsletter, and so much more! She offers information and support for members old and new. Special thanks to Lori Messing for her continued work keeping the ALDA-GS listserv active and free from intruders. Notice Lori's new last name! Congratulations to Lori and Jacob Messing on their recent marriage.

I look forward to seeing you at the fall workshop and hope to hear lots of questions and ideas via email before then.

Peace,
Sheila Shuford, President ALDA-GS

ALDA-GS
Association of Late-Deafened Adults-
Garden State

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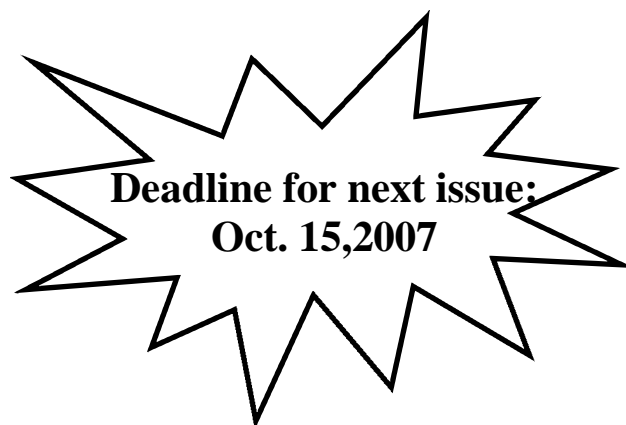
We welcome advertisements, articles, and information.

E-mailed articles preferred, no faxes please.
Other submissions must be clearly written or typed double-spaced and sent to:

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Calendar

September 16
ALDA-NJ
FALL SOCIAL
At the home of Jeff Coppola,
Saddle River



Listserv Address:
Come and see what all the buzz is about
these days!
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ALDA-GS>

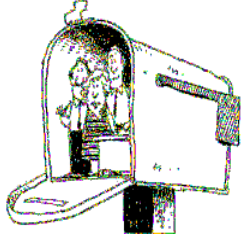
Visit our Website:
<http://www.alda-gs.org>

Welcome
New Members

Elizabeth Braun, Denville
Barbara Riggs, Princeton Jct.



The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the organization. Each article has been written from an individual member's viewpoint.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I was hoping that by this time in my life some hearing health support group would really and truly push for installation of "Induction Loops" in all public places of assembly so that late-deafened seniors can hear what is being said by switching their T-Switch on their hearing aids. The NJ Division of DEAF and Hard of Hearing is heavily weighted toward assisting totally DEAF citizens. Where does that leave us late-deafened seniors who are profoundly hard of hearing?

For most of us, it's too late to learn sign language, no impunity intended. Assistive listening devices are expensive, cumbersome and draws unwanted attention to users of those instruments. The T-Switch operation is unnoticeable and allows us the satisfaction of privacy and attainment of our goal to hear in places of assembly.

What do you suppose can be done to promote the Induction Loop technology?

Dom Bongiorno

Editor's Note: I would love to hear your responses to Dom for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Here's mine, right now! I disagree that other assistive systems have drawbacks, as loops alone will not work for everyone. I feel loops AND FM systems should always be in place, ready for anyone who walks in to use. Interpreters should also be provided upon request, being sure to give adequate notice.

Dear ALDA-Garden State & Diana

Thank you so much for your remembrance, thoughts & prayers for my Mom, Edna Shipley-Connor, and our family. It is wonderful to know & be reminded how many lives she touched. Thank you for your donation to her Memorial Fund.

Patti, Pam, Paul & Kevin Conner



ALDA-CON 2007 Rochester, NY Sept. 26-30

ALDAcon is just 6 weeks away! We are going to have a blast! Never been to ALDAcon? Ask someone who has. They'll tell you that it is an experience NOT to be missed.

This year ALDAcon is being held in Rochester, NY, hosted by RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology), home of National Technical Institute of the Deaf. (NTID). Many ALDA members are alumni of this great institution. In RIT's tradition of excellence, they are putting on a special technology fair just for us! Imagine what kind of new stuff we could see at an institution that prides itself on technology!

Hurry! Get to www.alda.org and register for the convention and hotel. This year's ALDAcon is a fantastic bargain and our sponsors are putting out some big bucks to make it the best experience yet.

It's a great place to meet people with common interests.

Christine Seymour



GREAT ADVENTURE TICKETS SALES REPORT

Submitted by Tony Yuppa, Chairman, GA ticket sales

Our profit information is still pending. In the meantime, I have good news and bad news: The bad news is that our ticket sales continued to decline this year in spite of heroic efforts by many people and the introduction of a Pay Pal link from our website. The good news is very good though: I have come up with some ideas to raise funds in other ways and to improve our GA ticket sales next year.

A quick look at the numbers:

- 2007...196 tickets sold
- 2006...258
- 2005...figures unavailable
- 2004...209
- 2003...361
- 2002...333
- 2001...290

In the past we had more sellers and less competition. The effects of those two factors add up, or rather subtracts down.

The competition was especially keen this year and came from an unexpected source: Great Adventure, itself. It provided people with an opportunity to buy season passes for \$100 and to admit five people that day. Worse, they advertised this offer on TV. Previous theme park customers of ours advised us of this, but there was no way we could match that offer. It pretty much blew our season pass sales out the window. It was a great disappointment. If they do this again next year, we will sorely need more theme park ticket sellers to help. That means YOU! We won't be selling season passes anymore because it will become impossible for us to compete in that area.

I have been considering how we might better get the word out and to do it faster and more easily. What worked this year was word of mouth, getting our families to help, and the internet. I suggest that next year the colorful brochures that GA provides be distributed among all the members with the intent that they leave them in public places, such as banks, doctor's offices, friends, outdoor events...wherever they stand a chance of being picked up. We can attach labels to each one giving my contact info which they can use to make ticket purchases. This would take so little effort on anyone's part and could greatly increase our sales numbers.

We could also make sure each town becomes aware of our campaign. For instance, Eileen Hollywood, Doreen Doherty and I brought our brochures to Freehold's Cruise Night and

managed not only to sell fifteen tickets, but to educate the town about us. Note the picture of these ladies cheerfully doing their best for ALDA-GS. You could do the same if there's a similar event or a flea market or carnival in town. Write an article for your local paper, or place an ad in it. Use your imagination to make your town aware. "Do the town!"

While at Cruise Night, I met a woman who has a candy company. The candy is intended for fund raising and can be labeled with our ALDA-GS name. If we think it worth our while, we could have chocolate bars made up with our own label to sell as another means of fund raising. These chocolates might move quickly at Halloween, Easter and other holidays. I am looking into the cost and will get back to the board so that we might consider the feasibility of this idea.

We did something new this year and used the internet to sell tickets through PayPal. A good friend, Daniel Stark, of New York City, created the link, which was accessible through our own website: www.alda-gs.org We sold 64 tickets this way! Big thanks to him! Diana Fanuel also climbed aboard the internet bandwagon and attempted to sell tickets on Craig's List, a buy-sell website for all sorts of things.

It's important to ALDA-GS that we bring in a few thousand dollars each year so we can continue to award scholarships to deaf, hard of hearing, and late-deafened students and adults. We also need funds to pay for speakers, or donate to a cause related to hearing loss. And if we wish to continue using the East Brunswick Library for our meetings, annual donations are "suggested"

At this time our ticket-selling campaign is our only fund raiser each year, so let's give it all we've got...all of us. We ran into an obstacle this year with Great Adventure's season pass offer, but we can overcome it and come out stronger for it. I ask you all to put on your thinking caps, exchange ideas, build on each other's thoughts. Who knows what could happen?

Many thanks to all those who helped:

- Daniel Stark Jr., who created, at his own expense, our new PayPal web link.
- Chris Barnhart, for selling tickets in the booth
- Eileen Hollywood and
- Doreen Dougherty who worked with me at Freehold's Cruise Night, selling tickets and handing out brochures
- Linda Streppone, a friend not affiliated with ALDA-GS, but sold tickets to help anyway
- Linda Armstrong, my sister, who also sold tickets because she wanted to help.
- Sandy Enfield for helping spread the word at her condo.
- Diana Fanuel for looking into Craig's List and giving it a try
- Last, but not least, I want to thank our loyal, year-in and year-out ticket sellers. We'd be lost without your steadfastness.

Doreen Dougherty

Diana Fanuel

Eileen Hollywood

Diane Limey

Tony Yuppa

Ed. Note: After Tony submitted this report, further figures came in from Diana Fanuel, our treasurer. She says, "Unless there is outstanding GA ticket money due, our profit this year was roughly \$750."

**OPEN CAPTIONING SERIES AVAILABLE AT NEW JERSEY'S
PROFESSIONAL THEATERS.**



Dear Theatregoer:

We are so excited about our newest program, The Open Captioning Series, which will enable those with hearing loss who do not benefit fully from a listening enhancement system or use ASL to experience the joy of live theatre through the technology of CART.

For the first time in the nation, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, whose member theatres are in all corners of the state, is offering a packaged theatre series of open captioned performances to ensure that those with hearing loss have a wide range of theatre offerings in which to choose.

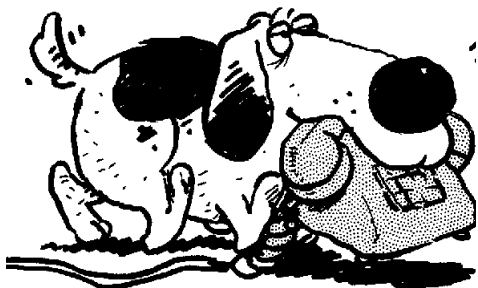
New Jersey's theatres have something for everyone. Musicals, comedies, theatre for young people, and classic drama — stories that make you laugh, cry, reflect and escape from everyday life. You can attend one, or take advantage of our Open Captioning Sampler — 3 shows for \$70 .

The Open Captioning Series is a co-sponsored project made possible by the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. We are grateful for their dedication, support and encouragement of ensuring arts access for all.

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

John McEwen
Executive Director

Ed. Note: for a schedule of open-captioned performances, go to info@njtheatrealliance.org



Mark your calendars!

Learn about Hearing Ear and other service dogs at
the ALDA-GS free Workshop on November 3rd.

10:30 AM until 2 PM

at the East Brunswick Library

Flyer and directions to follow later

Speakers include Jane Nagy, president of Canine Companions for Independence, NJ, Jane Schlau, former president of ALDA, Inc with her dog, Remy, and Kristin Law, from Canines for Disabled Kids. Lunch included! Sign language interpreters, assistive devices and CART captioning will be provided.

REAL-TIME TRANSCRIPTION BRINGS CAPTIONING TO THE CLASSROOM STATEWIDE

Phone service, a laptop computer, and an internet connection are all it takes to bring the latest in interpretive services to deaf and hard-of-hearing students statewide.

These components are the key to real-time transcription (RTT), a state-of-the-art service offered by Somerset-based ASL Interpreter Referral Service, Inc. It enables students to follow the dialog on their computer screens and to retain word-for-word notes for later study.

“RTT is the “next generation of the traditional interpreter service known as CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation)”, says Kathleen Kady-Hopkins, president of ASL Interpreter Referral Service, Inc. CART involves having a stenographer on-site, who types a transcript that is then projected onto a computer monitor, large screen, or other display.

RTT has a number of advantages. The RTT transcriber is off-site, usually working from home through an Internet connection. This eliminates the concern that the transcriber would have personal interaction with the student being served, or any other students in the class. Since transcribers work primarily from home, delays from inclement weather, traffic, or similar issues are taken out of the equation.”

Perhaps most valuable to the students using the service, is the fact that the real-time transcript can be saved and downloaded to their computer, eliminating the need for a note-taker.

It’s a huge benefit to students, because they’re getting every word the teacher is saying, as well as the students’ Q&A’s, which they might not get if they were taking notes themselves from a sign-language interpreter.

A toll-free number is assigned for each lecture/event. Students log in from their desktop computers to the ASL website (www.aslirs.com), while the instructor, who is fitted with a lapel microphone or similar device, dials the toll-free number. The interpreter is on the other end of the phone line transcribes each word of the lecture.

Through the use of Java software programming, this transcription is viewed by the student in real-time on his or her computer. Once the lecture is complete, students can log back into the ASL site to review their notes. Within 24 hours, they have a transcript that’s been reviewed by the transcriber, edited for accuracy, and is ready for printing or saving to their computer. Notes from previous lectures are retained on the site as well. For corporate meetings, RTT can even replace the role of an employee taking meeting minutes.

While RTT can be used in a variety of situations, it’s ideal for the classroom. Because of the saved transcripts, it’s particularly useful in helping students review information from lectures that often isn’t included in their textbooks or other class materials. “I would definitely use this for any classes I were to take myself—I would want to be able to refer back to the notes,” said Kady-Hopkins.

About ASL Interpreter Referral Service

ASL Interpreter Referral Service, Inc. is a deaf-owned/woman-owned company that provides 24-hour-a-day access to interpreters for individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind. ASL’s services include sign-language interpreters, education (e.g., basic sign language workshops, sensitivity training, TTY/relay training), products and services referral, and consultation on accessibility issues. The company also is investigating the possibility of adding video interpreter services in the future.

ASL can be contacted by calling (800) 275-7551 (voice) or (800) 275-5599 (TTY); faxing (732) 873-6405; sending an e-mail to aslirs@aol.com; or writing P.O. Box 1161, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened

By MaryAnne Kowalczyk

\$45,000 has been given to the New Jersey Theater Arts Council for open captioning in theaters. Another \$50,000.00 was given to Special Children's Health Services to pay for hearing aids for children, birth to age 21 (approximately 17 hearing aids at \$2,900.00 each).

There was an increase to the Assistive Listening Device (ALD) Library Lending Program (no figures or information available.) Adding CapTel phones to the equipment distribution program (but with no designation about the number of CapTel phones that would be added nor the cost of each phone).

All of these spending items were issued under a "**Memorandum of Understanding**" (MoU). (Explained below.) All of these are very beneficial programs, but...

Often we hear the pleas of those with a hearing loss: "How do we get the hearing world to understand our needs?" The usual response: "Well, that's the job of the DDHH...to get the education done."

*Excuse me? The DDHH has **TWO** Field Representatives, Traci Burton, who represents the Hard of Hearing and Jason Weiland, the Field Representative for the Deaf. The DDHH staff also has a Director, Assistant to the Director, an on-staff ASL interpreter, a coordinator for interpreters, two secretaries, and one other administrative individual.*

In March 2005, the New York Times ran an article about the merger of the Seton Hall University Audiology Department into the Montclair State University Audiology Department. The article stated that there were **approximately 1,000,000** individuals with hearing loss in New Jersey. (We keep hearing there are about 720,000 such individuals. I heard that figure when I became a student in 1990 in the ASL Interpreter Training and Deaf Culture Studies Program at Union County College. Since then this figure of 720,000 must certainly have risen!)

Let's address the issue of **EDUCATION**. Dr. Sam Trychin, a respected man who presents workshops internationally and knows his subject well, wrote an article in the May/June 2007 issue of Hearing Loss Magazine:

"...in all the time since receiving my first hearing aid (1953) until I began working at Gallaudet University (1981), I essentially knew little or nothing about my hearing loss or its effects on my life. In 12 years of studying psychology, seven years of teaching psychology, and seven years of psychological practice I never came across any information about hearing loss or its potential psychosocial effects. It was not then, nor most likely still today, considered an issue of enough importance to be included in psychology textbooks or lectures. This lack of attention may also be the case in mainstream (outside of Gallaudet University and a few other institutions) academic and professional training in education, health/medicine, social work, and other human service fields to discuss 3 or 4 possible topics and locations. The result is that professionals in many fields and people who have hearing loss themselves, do not understand hearing loss, its potential psychosocial effects, or what to do to accommodate it. ***Because approximately one out of every ten people in the United States has hearing loss and because it also affects the people with whom they communicate, it seems reasonable that hearing loss would be included in academic curricula in all programs that train professionals to provide services to people. But that is not happening.***"

The DDHH MUST provide more outreach programs to the hearing world, more than it is now capable of with only two field representatives.

Cont. pg. 10

ALDA-GS FAMILY NEWS

GET WELL, JUDY! Mary Anne and Arlene Romoff shared the news with me: Judy Ginsberg fell off a bike while on a cruise in Canada. Her injuries were severe, including three broken bones in her shoulder, a broken collar bone, three broken ribs, and a small puncture to one lung. She is now in a hospital in her home town. I have been unable to determine which hospital. Watch the listserv for follow-up information as it comes along.

CONGRATULATIONS, all best wishes, good health, long life and joys galore to Lori and Jacob Messing, who were married on May 27th. at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, NJ. The happy couple now resides in NYC where Jacob is completing his medical residency in psychiatry at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospitals. This September, Lori will begin her 3rd year as a 6th grade reading teacher in West Orange, NJ.

Suzanne Gosset reports that her daughters have both attained their professional licenses. Noelle has a license to practice acupuncture in the state of NJ. Ashley has a license to teach yoga and is doing just that in Rutherford. Suzanne tells us she is proud of both her daughters.



Mary Anne Kowalczyk is now the co-chair of the newly-formed ADA Compliance Committee at the Tuckerton Seaport in Tuckerton, NJ. www.tuckertonseaport.org The purpose of the committee is to bring the Tuckerton Seaport to everyone -- but mostly including those with hearing loss, visual loss, and other physical disabilities.

The committee has already been to the Brian Shomo Assistive Listening Device Center in Trenton and is now planning to have a special Saturday in September at the Seaport where they can bring the events at the Seaport to EVERYONE.

Tuckerton Seaport has been preserved on the site of the Tuckerton Lighthouse which sank along with Tucker's Island. There are educational programs, boat exhibits, cottages from days of yore and much more. It has been a site for field trips for many of the children of South Jersey, and for anyone who loves the sea and its tales.



Aila Kingsley, Nancy's granddaughter, 7, was selected by audition to perform gymnastics at Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster, PA at their National Kid's Day Talent Show on August 5. Aila has been training in gymnastics since she was 3. Nancy modestly tells us that Aila did very well.

Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened, (cont.)

From my presentation before the Advisory Council for the DDHH, I quoted:

“ In the minutes of the [DDHH-AC] meeting of January 27, 2006, under the report of the Community Services/Agency Sub-Committee, Ira Hock noted that “Educating the public is an on-going initiative. Hiring another full-time staff member at this time is not possible, [Hiring Freeze, author’s comment], however, DDHH would be open to working together on several workshop topics and hiring hard of hearing consultants to assist in the planning and implementation of those workshops. He asked the committee to discuss three or four possible topics and locations.

The issue raised so many times at these Advisory Council meetings is one that concerns me very much, that is: *Why isn’t there a hard of hearing individual working in the offices of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing?* I consider this a very, valid absence. In keeping with Ira Hock’s suggestion, the DDHH *could hire hard of hearing Consultants.* (as distinguished from a full-time staff member) Why has this not been given top priority? There are only two field representatives in a state with 21 counties, numerous 55+ communities, many houses of worship, PTA’s, and other places where education should be taking place.

It’s critical that we get into the field about education for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or late-deafened and HEARING to present them with a positive look at the world of hearing loss. Only then will the hearing world perhaps take up the cause of their own children, themselves, their siblings, their parents, their friends, their neighbors.

One last point: What is a **Memorandum of Understanding**? It is a tool for dispensing funds with the approval from the Director of the DDHH. Anyone can present an MoU so long as the group presenting the request is an established group with an infrastructure in place (officers, treasurer, bank account, etc.) and a valid request that will benefit the communities represented by the DDHH. The MoU is presented to the DDHH Council and, if approved, the requested money can be dispensed. There is no formal document to complete. There was no mention made of how the use of the money is justified by an end report.

ALDANs, Arise! Put together a workable plan for ANY legitimate monies you wish to use for education and come to the next DDHH-AC meeting. Better yet, get your list in order and present it PRIOR to the next meeting. There should be no reason for you to be denied access to some MoU financial help.



Two deaf men were talking...

1st. Man: " How did your wife take it when you came home late and very drunk last night?"

2nd. Man: "Oh! She was furious! She swore a blue streak!"

1st. Man: "So what did you do?"

2nd. Man: "I turned the light off."