

The DILA Sign Post



Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2006

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Jennifer Whitcomb, Executive Director



Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc. (DILA) is ready to embark on a new journey. While change is necessary and exciting, sometimes change can be challenging. As DILA staff adjusts to the leadership style of a new executive director their flexibility, willingness and excitement are to be admired. The team's commitment

to each other, the agency and consumers only prove that DILA continues to be the leading agency in serving deaf individuals on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The future of DILA is being guided by the Board of Director's carefully thought out strategic planning sessions. After one year of hard work and brainstorming, the Board is ready to make final decisions on DILA's new direction. Confirmation on decisions is scheduled during the final strategic planning phase in

May 2006. The goal is to develop a clear roadmap to DILA's future.

Sharing the same vision that all individuals with hearing loss should have access to services is the strength behind our success. We are diligently moving forward to meet the many needs of the community. We would like to know what you want. Please send comments about what services you would like DILA to provide to dila@dila.org by May 19, 2006.

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OPEN CAPTIONED MOVIES ON DELMARVA

By Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant

Hurray!!! Open Captioned movies have finally made their way to Delmarva. This past winter the new Regal Cinemas Stadium 16 at the Centre at Salisbury started offering open captioned movies. What does open captioned mean? Open captioning converts a movie's dialogue, noises and sound effects into white text, and superimposes it over the screen images. The sound is nor-

mal, and the captions are visible to all. Unlike TV's close-captioned text, open captioning is not surrounded by clunky black boxes. Instead, captions are more artistically integrated onto the screen.

Now the deaf community can enjoy going out to the movies. Don't forget the popcorn.



For movie listings & times call 410-860-0211 or log onto www.regmovies.com and enter your zip code to find a location near you.

Special Note: Open Captioned Movies Titles and Times May Change Daily so Check the Listings

EASTERN SHORE MONITORING PROJECT

By Ann Murray Grimm, Program Director



On April 1, 2006, DILA participated in the Eastern Shore Monitoring Project. This project was funded by the Eastern Shore Regional Office and Developmental Disabilities Administration. The project assessed the residential services and programs

offered by all community providers on the Eastern Shore. Consumers were interviewed in their homes regarding their satisfaction with DILA services and how the supports provided have made an impact on their lives. Consumers reported they were ex-

cited to be involved in this project and look forward to participating again in the future.

Results: Pending

Check Out Our New Website Design
www.dila.org

Staff

Jennifer Whitcomb,
Executive Director

Lisa Trolian,
Administrative Director

Ann Murray Grimm,
Program Director

Ramona Bradley, Director
of Health Care Services

Laura Jones,
Administrative Assistant

Marlena Turner,
Property Manager

Rita Campbell, Program
Manager (Salisbury)

Camelle Bryan, Program
Manager (Easton)

Sue Beaver, Staff
Interpreter/ Coordinator

Lizette Ramos, Community
Support Specialist

Celeste Emerson,
Independent Living
Advisor (Salisbury)

Todd Morrison,
Independent Living
Advisor (Salisbury)

Kim Collier, Independent
Living Advisor, P/T
(Easton)/Healthcare
Assistant, P/T

Belinda Price, Independent
Living Advisor, P/T
(Salisbury)

Renee Gordon,
Independent Living
Advisor, P/T, W/E (Easton)

Joan Taylor, Job Coach
(Salisbury)

Sarita Cooper, Job Coach
(Easton)

Eddy Morrison,
Communication Specialist

Patti Weiss, Program
Secretary (Salisbury)/IT

Carole King, Program
Secretary (Easton)

Carol Grafton,
Receptionist

Darryl Hairston,
Independent Living
Advisor, P/T (Salisbury)

John Handy, Driver
(Salisbury)

Richard Hudson, Driver
(Salisbury)

Sheri Gardner, W/E Driver
(Salisbury)

Will Chambers, Driver
(Easton)

Board Members

Max Verbits,
President

Sheri Perkins,
Treasurer

Carrie Apple

Tom Dryden

Gil Eastman

Francis Langlais

Jane Lind

Lance MacAllister

Donald O. Peterson

Clara Stafford

*Currently recruiting Board
Members see page 4.

DILA ATTENDS TRANSITIONING EVENTS

By Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant



DILA attended two transitioning events recently. Ann Murray Grimm, Program Director and Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant, manned a booth

representing DILA at the second annual *START: Students Transitioning to Adult Resources & Technologies Night* in Dorchester County hosted by Partners for Success on March 28 and at the third annual *Wicomico County Transitioning Night* at Parkside High School in Salisbury hosted by DORS on April 11. DILA and other local agencies

provided information and answered questions for the transitioning students and their parents. Both events were well attended by other area agencies, teachers, students and their parents. At the end of each event donated door prizes were given away. DILA participated by providing two of the fundraising bears for each event.



Mary, Parkside High School student, door prize winner of one of DILA's Fundraising bears.

DILA CO-HOSTS DEAFBLIND PRESENTATION

By Ann Murray Grimm, Program Director

On April 18, DILA in cooperation with Holly Community, Inc., DORS, MD TAP and MD Relay gave a presentation on *Getting it Done Without Sight or Sound: Technologies for People who are DeafBlind*. Six different agencies and over 40 people were in attendance. Susan Levi, from Rehabilita-

tion Technologist Workforce & Technology Center, demonstrated and discussed over 25 various types of equipment and computer programs that are available for the deafblind individual from the high tech of screen reader and screen magnification programs for computers, notetakers,

telephone/TTYs to less technical alert and signal devices, Braille label stickers and most things in between. Ms. Levi explained that the computer programs are important to the deafblind because the computer may end up being the only entertainment available other than Braille books.

“...the computer may end up being the only entertainment...”

DILA STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Lizette Ramos, Community Support Specialist

This past month, WBOC ran a series on “Bridging the Cultures.” A few weeks ago, they contacted DILA regarding doing an interview on a deaf student and also a story on a deaf adult on how its been for them growing up not being able to hear. WBOC’s Jason Newton, came to

DILA with a cameraman on Friday, April 7 and interviewed two of DILA’s very own, Jennifer Whitcomb, our Executive Director and myself, Lizette Ramos, the Community Support Specialist. Jennifer gave them her perspective on how it is for the hard-of-hearing while I

gave the deaf point of view. The news piece was very well received. Jennifer has received lots of positive feedback. We hope DILA will continue to be spotlighted in the news in the future so more and more people know DILA is a resource they can contact.



DILA In the News

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events around the area

APRIL/MAY

April 27, 2006 - Baltimore Sorenson VRS Interpreting Center Open House in Columbia, MD. For more information contact Hayley Jeeter at hjeeter@sorenson.com.

April 29, 2006—Delaware Association of the Deaf & Sprint Relay Service Gathering. Event is being held at Delaware School for the Deaf. For more information contact Karl Ewan at Karl.A.Ewan@sprint.com.

May 5, 2006—Deaf Social Event at Dover Mall Food Court from 6 pm to 9 pm.

May 6, 2006—DINGO at DILA. For more information go to www.dila.org/events.



JUNE/JULY

June 3, 2006 - Kings Dominion Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Day. For more information contact Kings Dominion at 804-876-5340 or email: Cindy.Fields@paramountparks.com.

June 29-July 4, 2006—8th Annual Eastern Deaf Timberfest at Yogi Bess's Jellystone Park in Natural Bridge, Va. For more information contact Allen Markel by email: aslallen@comcast.net or by VP100: 301-779-1528 or Bruce Hubbard by email: edt1994@aol.com or TTY/VP100: 301-552-3615.

July 14, 2006—Deaf Community Night with the Shorebirds. For more information see flyer insert in this newsletter.

July 14-20, 2006—Cue Sign Camp at Towson University, Baltimore, MD. For more information please go to www.cuesigncamp.com.

FUTURE

November 4, 2006—Wilmington Club for the Deaf, 70th Anniversary Banquet. For more information call 302-428-0393 or mail to: 620 South Van Buren Street, Wilmington, DE 19805.

May 9-11, 2008 - Maryland School for the Deaf Alumni Association, 29th Quadrennial Reunion. For more information please contact David A. Martin by email: dndmartin@aol.com or VP/TTY 301-663-1442 or Sean C. Markel by email: savmarkel@comcast.net or VP/TTY 410-489-0016.



DILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

By Max Verbits, President



Announcing your chance to help shape DILA's future! Our Board of Directors is seeking new members—specifically, those familiar with hearing loss issues, fundraising and non-profit organizations. (Individuals with hearing loss are encouraged

to apply as well.) The Board meets quarterly in February, May, August and November; one of its primary functions is securing adequate funding to support all of DILA's current and future programs. Interested? Contact Board President, Max Verbits,

at mfv@dbfinc.com, visit www.dila.org or call 410-742-5052 for more information. We hope you are interested in the opportunity to be a part of a truly wonderful and exciting organization as we continue to expand the scope of our programs.

Deadline for article submissions for the Summer Newsletter is June, 30, 2006. Please submit all articles, photos and events to Laura Jones at laura.jones@dila.org.

Sign Lab Feature Presentations

By Eddy Morrison, Communication Specialist

DILA's Sign Lab and Library are open during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information on these resources and other materials please stop by DILA, contact Eddy Morrison, call 410-742-5052 V/TTY or email us at DILA@dila.org.

Happy viewing  and reading.

FEATURED VIDEO



An Introduction to American Deaf Culture "Identity"

By MJ Bienvenue and Betty Colonomos

Part of a series of 5 videotapes. Covers hearing loss, language, educational background in community membership. It is an excellent resource for Deaf Studies, Interpreter Training, and Sign Language programs.

FEATURED BOOK



A Journey into the DEAF-WORLD

By Harlan Lane, Robert Hoffmeister & Ben Bahan

This is a compelling story of a much misunderstood minority as it struggles for self-determination. This book is rich in examples from the lives of Deaf people. An excellent book to read for anyone with a Deaf person in his or her life.



Sign Lab Feature Book & Video: *A Journey into the Deaf World* by Harlan Lane, Robert Hoffmeister & Ben Bahan, and *An Introduction to American Deaf Culture, Identity* by MJ Bienvenue and Betty Colonomos

EASY, QUICK DINNER—Creamy Rice, Chicken & Spinach

By Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant from *Kraft Food & Family Magazine Spring 2006*

Whip up this one-skillet dinner for a simple, but elegant, meal that is high in vitamin A from the spinach. Eating right never tasted so good!

Prep Time: 10 Min Total Time: 25 min Makes: 4 servings 1-1/2 cups each

Ingredients: 1/4 cup Kraft Roasted Red Pepper Italian with Parmesan Dressing

1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into thick strips

1-1/2 cups fat-free reduced-sodium chicken broth

2 cups MINUTE Brown Rice, uncooked

4 oz. PHILADELPHIA Neufchatel Cheese, 1/3 Less Fat, cubed

1 pkg. (8 oz.) baby or torn spinach leaves (8 cups packed leaves)

1 medium tomato, chopped (about 1 cup)

2 Tbsp. KRAFT 100% Grated Parmesan Cheese

HEAT dressing in large deep skillet on medium high heat. Add chicken; cook 3 min. Add broth; bring to boil. Stir in rice; return to boil. Cover. Reduce heat to medium; simmer 5 min.

STIR Neufchatel cheese into rice mixture until melted. Add spinach (skillet will be full); cover. Cook 1 min. or until spinach is wilted. Stir rice mixture gently to mix in spinach. Cover.

REMOVE from heat; let stand 5 min. Stir in tomatoes; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

KRAFT KITCHEN TIPS

Make it Easy—Purchase bagged pre-washed fresh baby spinach in your produce section.

Great Substitute—Prepare as directed, using KRAFT LIGHT DONE RIGHT! Zesty Italian Reduced Fat Dressing.





By Lisa Trolian, Administrative Director



Kim Collier, our ILA at the Easton Office, has made a position change at DILA. Kim is transitioning into a new position as Healthcare Assistant. She will be working closely with Ramona, our Director of Health Care Services. Kim's new responsibili-

ties will include researching disease processes for training, assisting with medication administration, medical appointments, assisting with 45 day reviews and obtaining the required DDA/MBON paperwork necessary to update our files. Kim is still cur-

rently working as a part-time ILA until a full-time ILA replacement is hired. She is splitting her time between the two positions. Please welcome and congratulate Kim on her new position and excellent teamwork.

ONE YEAR OF SERVICE FOR SARITA COOPER

By Will Chambers, Easton Driver



On March, 30, Sarita Cooper was honored with a covered dish luncheon by the DILA staff for her one year of service as the Easton Job Coach.

Ms. Cooper says that DILA has been a great benefit to her work experience, that she has appreciated the opportunity to be on the staff

and that she looks forward to working here in coming years.

Having worked with Sarita over this past year, I have found her to be very industrious and conscientious. Along with this, what I like about her is that she is down to earth and has a sense of humor. Recently, on Tuesday

mornings, she has started teaching sign language to Carole King, the Easton Program Secretary and myself, the Easton office's driver. She has been very patient and gracious as she tries to teach us this new language skill. We appreciate the opportunity to learn from her. Thank you, Sarita.

Happy Birthday!

Upcoming Staff Birthdays

APRIL

- 2—Lizette Ramos
- 28—Sheri Gardner

MAY

- 15—Laura Jones
- 22—Darryl Hairston
- 29—Sue Beaver

JUNE

- 14—John Handy
- 18—Rita Campbell

Congratulations!

Upcoming Staff Anniversaries

APRIL

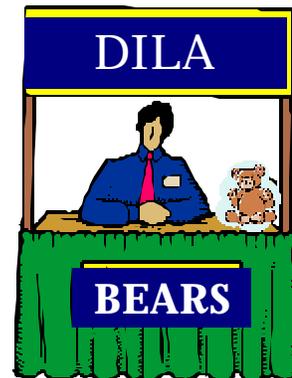
- 1—Celeste Emerson, 4 years

MAY

- 11—Lisa Trolian, 8 years
- 28—Camelle Bryan, 15 years

JUNE

- 3—Ann Murray Grimm, 19 years



Please help support DILA. Look for our Bear Fundraising Booth at the Salisbury Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2006, from 10 am to 5 pm.

COMPUTER ADVICE AND TIPS

By Patti Weiss, IT

What is Adware? Of all the spyware attacks that PC users face, the most plentiful are adware programs. Adware is software that can be quietly installed into your PC when you accept free offers, but can also be downloaded casually while you're surfing on the Internet. You know you have it by the arbitrary pop-up offers that suddenly appear on your screen, or perhaps a change in

your browser's appearance or settings. Some of the ads you may find useful, but many of them contain objectionable content. For example, ads for questionable pharmaceutical products or discounts on imitation Rolex watches.

Other than selling stuff, one of the main functions of adware is to track your Internet surf-

ing habits and report them to a third party. By tracking your surfing habits, they gain valuable market research information, and can target their offers to you more precisely. Interestingly, you may have agreed to have adware installed on your PC when you accepted the free download—your permission is sometimes granted in the fine print.



Find those pop ups ads annoying? Did you know you unwittingly agreed to them? So it pays to read the agreements and fine print before clicking "I accept."

STAFF ATTEND SORENSON WORKSHOP

By Rita Campbell, Salisbury Program Manager

On April 20 the DILA Staff attended a workshop to learn more about the Sorenson videophone. This workshop gave them a better understanding of how to use the videophone equipment. This now allows our staff to better assist deaf and hard of hearing consumers with the Sorenson vid-

eophone. The presentation was given by John Edington from Sorenson VRS. Sorenson Video Relay was created to break down the communication barriers between deaf and hearing. VP-100 allows for real time communication, allows ASL users to communicate in their native language, and interpret-

ers can relay emotion and exact messaging, whereas the TTY cannot. You do not need to have a computer to have a Sorenson VP-100 but you must have high speed internet accessibility. For more information on Sorenson VRS log onto their website www.sorensonvrs.com. Coming soon VP-200.

Stop in and see or
use our Sorenson
Videophone.
It's Free!!

BANQUETS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND MORE

by Laura Jones, Administrative Assistant

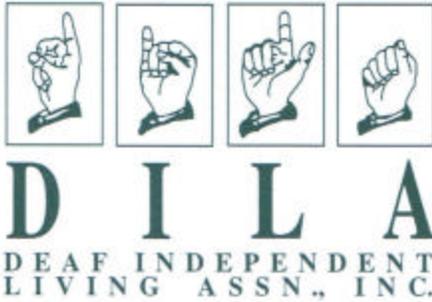
DILA's has a beautiful Multi-purpose room available for rent to small or large groups to hold banquets, conferences, trainings, meetings, baby or wedding showers and more. A few of the amenities are plenty of free parking, spacious raised

stage with a floor to ceiling draw curtain, podium, tables and chairs. For an additional fee you can rent the catering kitchen, microphone, projector or VCR/DVD with TV monitor. We do not provide computers or laptops. Half or full day

rentals are available. Also available for rent during business hours are a Board or Conference Room. For rates, availability or more information please contact Laura Jones at 410-742-5052 or stop by to see the room in person.



**DILA's Multi-Purpose
Auditorium**



806 Snow Hill Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

Phone: 410-742-5052 V/TTY
Fax: 410-543-4874
E-mail: DILA@dila.org



Deaf Independent Living Association, established in 1982, is a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization. A volunteer Board of Directors governs the agency of approximately twenty five staff members, fluent in American Sign Language. There are two offices located in Salisbury and Easton, Maryland serving the nine counties on the Eastern Shore. DILA continues to serve as a transitional program between school, working and living in the community for deaf and hearing impaired individuals.

Thank You to Contributors (January-April)



For helping us help the deaf community and for believing in our valuable programs and services.

As you may know, our many vital programs and services are unique on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. DILA's highly dedicated team work hard to provide the support services necessary so that deaf individuals can live and work independently. Kindhearted donations help us in our endeavors and because of this; we have seen the positive impact it has on the consumers we serve. We take pride in bringing deaf individuals out of isolation and into the mainstream of society through our residential and supported employment services.

**Tina and David Crouse
United Way of Delaware
Food Lion
Rotary Club of Wicomico Co.
Salisbury Elks Lodge POE 817
Salisbury Metro Lions Club
Karla Wagner in Memory of Bernice Turk
Salisbury Lion Club
Lioness Club of Ocean City
Ocean City Parrothead Club**

Coming soon, the capability of on-line credit card donations is in its final stages of being added to DILA's website. Check back frequently for this new feature.