

13th Brighter Futures Honors Nine Winners

For the thirteenth year, Philadelphia MRS is sponsoring the *My City My Place* celebration, bringing together one thousand individuals with disabilities, their families, professionals, friends and advocates.

It is a pleasure to pay tribute to this year's nine Brighter Futures Award winners because they have made a difference in people's lives. The winners are people with disabilities who have lived self-determined lives, family members, staff, friends and advocates, employers and this publication who respect and value individuals with mental retardation and are successful in helping them make real choices, have control over their lives, and be a vital part of the community.

Brighter Future winners come from all walks of life. What they have in common is an appreciation of the contributions of people with mental retardation and a commitment to help communities welcome and include all people.

13th Annual Brighter Futures Awardees

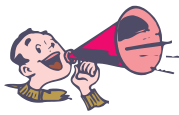


From left: Lori Brew, Ali Mabsoute, Denise Weil, Arielle Mabsoute, Hamid Mabsoute, Hana Sabree, and Shiela McLeod. Not pictured: Shirley Drayton, Peggy Cox, Amy Filiano, Ed Cohle, and Ann Marie Campbell

Arielle's Circle Self-Determination

Arielle is a twenty-two year old woman who, along with her family and friends, dreamed of a full life in the community. Traditional services weren't a good fit, so Arielle's family chose to participate in Philadelphia's Self-Determination Project. Sheila McLeod is Arielle's circle support broker. Sheila helped organize the

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New Faces

Julia Danzy assumed the post of Director of Social Services in Philadelphia on September 20th. Danzy was deputy commissioner of

Children's Services in the Health Department and also served as deputy for the State Department of Public Welfare.

Arthur C. Evans is the Director of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services for the City of Philadelphia. He was formerly the deputy commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in Connecticut.

Philadelphia-area child advocate **Harriet Dichter** will lead the new Office of Child Development within the Department of Public Welfare. The Office is a new initiative linked with the Department of Education to bolster early care and education for Pennsylvania children. In addition to serving as deputy secretary for the Office of Child Development, Dichter will have a dual capacity role as co-director of the Office of Policy for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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Contacts for Hispanic population for Supports Coordination Organizations

- ❑ Consortium
Pedro Gerena, Supports Coordinator
215-596-8300 ext1350
- ❑ Partnership
Diana Kukiella, Supports Coordinator Supervisor
267-350-4718
- ❑ Quality Progression
Shelina Moore, Office Manager
267-765-2012
- ❑ PersonLink
Mayra Cruz, Supports Coordinator Supervisor,
215-922-0647

Let's hear from you!

Please submit articles to: Editor, Family Forum, Mental Retardation Services, Suite 5200, 701 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532

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MRS Internet Resource Directory

www.MyCityMyPlace.com

Family Forum's are archived on the web

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SPOTLIGHT



Parent Advocates for The Waiver

My name is Barbara Nattile. I am going to speak on how the Consolidated Waiver assisted my husband and I in keeping our son, Derrick, at home in our community for the past 34 years. Derrick passed away in May of 2003. Matter of fact, today is Derrick's Birthday. I am dedicating this testimony in his memory.

Derrick had severe Mental Retardation, severe Cerebral Palsy, seizure disorder, respiratory and nutritional problems. He was non-verbal, non ambulatory, had dysphasia (which is a swallowing disorder), acid reflux, and about a year and a half before he passed away, he developed aspiration difficulties.

We received the Consolidated Waiver during a family crisis when my husband injured his leg. Before this crisis occurred I worked part-time during the day at a Base Service Unit and my husband worked from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. for the railroad. We had a schedule set-up where my husband would care for Derrick during the day, and I would care for him in the evening. My younger son, Lorvell, would also pitch in when needed if I had to attend evening meetings, or go to doctor appointments. This was a total family project.

Under the Consolidated Waiver, Derrick was eligible to receive the following services in our home:

- ❑ An aide 5 days a week, 5 hours a day and on weekends if needed.
- ❑ A day program once a week to fit his needs. The in-home aide accompanied Derrick to the day program since he needed one-on-one care. It was impossible for Derrick to do anything for himself. Derrick depended on others for his daily needs.
- ❑ Transportation- ParaTransist provided us with services to and from his day program and medical visits, along with his aide since he was unable to travel alone.
- ❑ Home Adaptation- A wheelchair lift was provided on the front porch that gave Derrick access to the community.
- ❑ Nutritionist Consultant- This service was provided once a month
- ❑ Recreational Therapist- This was one of the happiest times for Derrick, who for so long was unable to participate in extra curricular activities. The recreational therapist was just phenomenal. Derrick's face would just light up when she came into our home. She would read to him, and he would bust out laughing, and would get so excited when it was time for them to go out for an activity.

This testimony was given at The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services Forum, on August 19, 2004, by Barbara Nattile.

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215-685-4MRS (4677)**

- ❑ Respite Care- We requested this service when it became evident that we could no longer take Derrick on long family vacations.
- ❑ Visiting Nurse & Physical Therapist- When Derrick's medical needs increased the HMO provided him a visiting nurse and a physical therapist.
- ❑ Speech Therapist- With the assistance of Temple University, Institute on Disabilities, a speech therapist was provided who offered Derrick, our family, and his aide a new way to communicate. This was done by using an eye contact board. We would ask Derrick a question, and he would respond by using his eyes to select a picture that would convey his needs. Derrick was thrilled because he was able to finally express himself.

I didn't always receive timely responses to our complaints/grievances under the Waiver, but I was persistent until the issues were resolved. I am thankful that I was able to have the choice in selecting the providers of services for Derrick.

In closing I would like to say that the past 34 years have not been an easy time for my family, but we are thankful that Derrick was able to receive the Waiver for the past 7 years, which we feel improved Derrick's quality of life and enabled him to have a full life based on his severe disabilities. If we were not eligible for the Waiver, I would not like to think of what the alternatives could have been.

I am employed at Vision For Equality as a Communications/Intake Assistant. Even with the passing of Derrick, I am continuing my job with the strong commitment to assist other parents and families in accessing quality services and resources for those folks who are so desperately in need. We as parents have a responsibility and commitment to our families and loved ones to access the best quality health and welfare services for them. To reach Mrs. Nattile, email her at bnattile@visionforequality.org.



Art Contest: Inclusion Works

For the first time, and what we anticipate will be an annual event, the Public Awareness Committee is sponsoring an Art Contest for all students in Philadelphia public high schools. The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of the abilities and contributions that individuals with mental retardation make within our communities.

All people contribute to their communities, but sometimes it's more difficult for the person with mental retardation to make friends who don't have a disability, or even be invited to events with non-disabled people. More and more students with disabilities are in neighborhood schools, but this still poses a challenge for the student with the disability to really be included.

The Public Awareness Committee is interested to learn how knowing someone with a disability has made a positive difference in a student's life, or in the life of the person with mental retardation. The theme is "Inclusion Works." Entries may be expressed in many ways: by drawing, writing a poem, an essay, creating a song, or rap. Winners will be announced in May 2005.

For the submission deadline, entry form and rules, call 215-685-5915, or visit www.mycitymyplace.com.

The Art Contest Sub-Committee is seeking new members and volunteers to judge and/or sponsor this contest. Please call the number above if you are interested.

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Arielle's Circle circle of support that provides the assistance to connect with the community, plan and develop her budget, and serves as a safety net for Arielle. The circle – consisting of Arielle, her parents and brother, supports coordinator, and two other parents of children with disabilities – has been meeting for one and a half years. “It’s good to have creative people who seek other ways of doing things. You need to have people willing to fight for what you need and believe in,” said Denise Weil, Arielle’s mother. At its best, the circle is described as wonderful, brilliant, altruistic, great advocates who change the world for people with disabilities. The challenging issue, according to Denise Weil, has been building in accommodations for Arielle so that she fully understands and participates in her circle meetings. “Self-determination is not possible without a circle,” said Denise. “Arielle had doors shut in her face her whole life. Now she sees doors opening up.”



Jim Britt
Employment

Jim Britt, General Manager of the Flyers Skate Zone, has supervised Jim Gemmel in his position as data entry clerk for nearly a year. “I had the good fortune of having all this fall in my lap,” said Britt about his

experience with Gemmel. Britt says that he enjoys the challenge of making the job work and supported Gemmel from his first day and the Networks staff while they experimented with different ways of positioning Gemmel’s headstick and Liberator, so that Gemmel can enter data into the computer. “It’s been magnificent to watch the reaction of the customers and high school kids who

work here,” said Britt. “Jim is sensitizing a whole other group of people who haven’t been exposed to people with disabilities before.” Britt includes Gemmel in all Flyers Skate Zone events and introduces Gemmel to many personalities who skate at the rink.

Jim Britt retired as a federal law enforcement officer in 2003 and went to work at the Skate Zone. Britt and his wife, Celeste, are both native Philadelphians and the parents of four adult children. In addition to his duties at the Skate Zone, Jim is a graduate student at Neumann College and a volunteer hockey coach at Holy Ghost Prep School.



Joseph R. Bucci
Mental Retardation
Professional

Joseph R. “Joe” Bucci has served as Executive Director of The Association for Independent Growth (TAIG) since its inception twenty years

ago. “TAIG is probably the best example of what has happened to the mental retardation system in Philadelphia over the years,” commented Bucci, who has long been known as an innovative leader. TAIG’s initial focus was on providing previously institutionalized people with opportunities to live in the community. The focus later shifted to helping groups of people who weren’t happy with where they lived. “Where we’re at now is truly at the individual level ... relationships are everything. It took me a while to figure that out. I never underestimate the power of relationships,” said Bucci.

Proud of his low staff turnover rate, Bucci attributes

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Bucci much of his success to building relationships with staff. Asking staff what is important to them, listening, and responding is key to retaining quality support staff. He emphasized his concern that Pennsylvania is not moving quickly enough to recognize that direct support professionals deserve respect and compensation that befits their work. "Until the system recognizes that direct support professionals deserve a living wage, it will not continue to advance."

The Family Forum - Public Awareness

The Mental Retardation Services' Family Forum newsletter has been published continually since April 1990. Begun by Ruth Landsman, it was originally part of the Family-Driven Support Services initiative. Family Forum's goals include informing readers about advocacy issues, supporting and encouraging family groups, and furthering the goals of family-driven, person-centered service and supports incorporating the values of choice, self-determination and community inclusion. Growing over the years, now six issues of 8,000 copies each are distributed to everyone who receives supports coordination, daily and weekly newspapers,

elected officials, School District officials, every residential program supported by Philadelphia MRS, and all who request a copy.

The Family Forum Committee, under the leadership of Freda Egnal, of MRS, and Linda Falotico, of PDDC/Arc, has the task of creating and publishing an interesting newsletter every other month year after year. The Family Forum has proved to be a popular way to advertise successes, publicize special events, bring up-to-date program information and resources (one feature now in Spanish) to the reader, investigate issues, provide an open forum for sharing and comments from the public, and gather dates of MR-related events and interesting things to do.

"As a parent of a child with MR, I find this publication to be one of the most important tools to keep me informed about services and resources," wrote Emilio Pacheco. "Over the years I have been extremely impressed with the limitless potential of this outstanding publication. The people behind this deserve to be recognized for the excellent work they do. They are really making

a difference in many lives including our son who is living very happy in his home."



The Family Forum Committee (from left) Emilio Pacheco, Donna Szamatowicz, Vanessa Williams, Freda Egnal, Ruth Landsman (founder), Linda Falotico. Not pictured: Charles Haley, Bernadette Lennon, Julio Nieves, and Rosette Proodian.

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Shenice Haythe Self-Advocate

Shenice Haythe has been associated with the Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation (PDDC) for about twenty years.

Haythe began PDDC's job training program when she left high school and obtained a job at Cigna, where she worked as a mail clerk for fifteen years. In 2000, Cigna underwent significant layoffs, and Haythe's job was on the firing line. Haythe was fortunate to find that PDDC had an opening in the Communications

Department, and her skills fit the job requirements perfectly! "I run errands, make copies, and help other people," said Haythe. She helps in seniors, the cultural center, and volunteers to go to all advocacy events. Haythe shares her job experiences with students in the Employment Partners classes and loves to "ham it up" to keep the classes interesting. Named Employee of the Month in January 2003, Haythe is proud of her work at PDDC.

Haythe has been a member of St. Matthew AME Church for thirty years and sings in the choir and helps with Sunday School classes. "I'm a hard worker. I get along with people, and I do what I'm supposed to do," says Haythe of her success. Haythe lives with her mother in West Philadelphia.



Sheila McLeod Advocate

Sheila McLeod is a powerhouse advocate and civil rights leader. Described as a remarkable individual by those who know her well, McLeod is a

devoted parent and advocate for people with disabilities. In her paid positions as an advocate at Vision for Equality and as a Support Broker in Philadelphia's Self-Determination Project, as well as in her private life with her family members, McLeod is not afraid to press the service system for the rights of every person to a life in the community, to push professionals to achieve "cutting-edge" goals and to be creative problem-solvers.

McLeod's work as Arielle's Support Broker has brought her special recognition. She assisted Arielle and her family to develop a circle of support, and was instrumental in helping Arielle craft a good life for herself. Described by fellow circle members as

the person who ignites the spark of activism when others are feeling low, McLeod is a vibrant facilitator who located community resources that benefit Arielle. McLeod's work made Arielle's needs known to the service system, which led to increased funding for supports and created new opportunities for Arielle.

"We as a family were frantic- my daughter was about to graduate high school with no program, no services and the potential for a very bleak future. Instead of sitting home, held hostage in her house, instead of doing nothing day after day, my daughter has had opportunities to grow and enjoy her place in society," wrote Denise Weil, Arielle's mother.

Florence Perdunn Direct Support Professional - Arts & Crafts



Florence Perdunn spent most of her adult life working with art companies and training art teachers. Fifteen years ago, Perdunn was sent by her previous employer to set up a ceramics studio at the Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities

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Perdunn

Corporation (PDDC). “I fell in love with the consumers, and I never left,” said Perdunn of her major career change. Her forte is ceramics and arts and crafts. Perdunn emphasized that art helps to boost the self-esteem of students and encourages

expression of each individual. “Lots of people have talent, but with or without talent people can get a nice [art] piece done,” said Perdunn. Perdunn teaches anywhere from three to twenty-five students in each class. The benefits to students include socialization, a sense of pride and accomplishment, and seeing that their art pieces are just as good as what they see for sale in stores. The annual art show at the Cheltenham Mall, coordinated by Perdunn, is the crowning moment of the year for her students.

Florence Perdunn has four adult children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Described as a good friend to all – parents, care-givers and consumers – Perdunn is proud of her work with consumers at PDDC, and enjoys her association with her co-workers. “Without the support of staff around me, I couldn’t do what I do.”



Alan Sainoz
Direct Support
Professional -
Job Coach

Alan Sainoz is a quiet, self-effacing man with a passion for his work. Employed as a job coach by PATH for the past five years, Sainoz developed a reputation for the creative methods of support he devises to teach job skills to people with disabilities. Described as a natural

advocate, he believes strongly that everyone who wants to should be given the opportunity to work. Sainoz specializes in supporting people who may challenge the employer in ways most have not previously experienced. Using his skills, talents and good humor, he assists the employer and employee to appreciate one another and effectively deal with any challenges. He also works closely with the families, circles of supports, and/or teams of each individual he supports.

In addition to working with individuals, Sainoz helps train other job coaches by assisting with Networks for Training and Development’s employment training series. He firmly believes that while one person may win an award, the entire organization must function as a team in order that creativity and innovation make an impact on the lives of the individuals they support. “I can’t emphasize enough that this is a team effort. My co-workers deserve this award right along with me.”

Lior Liebling and Family



Lior Liebling, a young man with Down syndrome, led his congregation, Mishkan Shalom, in an intense, three hour service in celebration of his becoming a bar mitzvah last spring. He prayed in Hebrew and English, in words and song, leading a congregation that included loving family, friends, and members of several spiritual communities. Lior studied for two years, and it showed with a voice that was certain and an air of confidence that enabled him to speak slowly and not to stumble over difficult Hebrew passages. According to his parents, his proudest moment was when his Mishkan Shalom name tag – the sign he had fully joined the community – was draped around his neck.

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DID YOU

▶ **Ken-Crest Custom Products** – Ken-Crest EmployNet, in Pottstown, PA, is managing a small business venture, Ken-Crest Custom Products. They produce custom-designed water bottles and candy bars. These products are being sold to both companies and individuals and are used for corporate promotions, employee recognition, conferences, open houses, celebrations, and special occasions. Please allow two weeks' notice to receive custom orders. For more information, visit <www.kencrest.org/adult/prod.htm>, or call 610-327-4606 x310.

▶ **Ken-CrestCustomProducts:** Ken-CrestEmployNet, in Pottstown, PA, está manejando una pequeña empresa comercial, Ken-CrestCustomProducts. Ellos producen botellas de aguas y barras de dulces con diseños personalizados. Estos productos están siendo vendidos tanto a compañías como a individuos y son usados para promociones corporativas, reconocimiento de empleados, conferencias, celebraciones y ocasiones especiales. Por favor, recuerde que debe esperar dos semanas para recibir su orden personalizada. Para más información visite<www.kencrest.org/adult/prod.htm>, o llame al teléfono 610-327-4606 x310,

▶ **Travel Aids** – Rent Wheelchairs & Scooters – Scoot Around North America rents wheelchairs and scooters in more than 500 North America locations and for cruises and conventions. <www.scootaround.com>, 888-441-7575. Accessible Travel – The Society for Accessible Travel's website <www.sath.org> lists travel resources, destinations, airline special needs websites and dozens of other resources. 212-447-7284.

▶ Ayuda al viajero, renta de sillas de ruedas y escúter. "Scoot Around North America" renta sillas de ruedas y escúteren más de 500 localizaciones en Norteamérica para cruceros y convenciones. www.scootaround.com>, 888-441-7575. Viajes accesibles. La sociedad para viajes



KNOW?

accesibles "<www.sath.org>" tiene una lista de recursos de viajes, destinos, una página en la Internet de las líneas aéreas para las necesidades especiales y docenas de otros recursos. 212-447-7284.

▶ **Works of Artists with Disabilities on Display** – ArtAbility, an international juried exhibition featuring contemporary works by artists with disabilities is on display at Philadelphia International Airport through March 31, 2005, in Terminal F. This collection of works on paper was organized by Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital.

▶ Trabajos realizados por artistas con impedimentos en exposición. "ArtAbility" una exhibición internacional caracterizada en trabajo contemporáneo realizado por artistas con impedimentos, esta en exhibición en el aeropuerto internacional de Philadelphia hasta el 31 Marzo del 2005 en el terminal F. Esta colección de trabajo en papel fue organizada por el Hospital de Rehabilitación "BrynMawr."

▶ **School District Resources** – The School District of Philadelphia has an Office of Parent and Community relations that is "working to empower parents and the community". PADS – Parent Assistance Desks – are a resource for parents and other school visitors staffed by parents in elementary and K-8 schools. The Parent Support Hotline (215-299-7276) responds to parent concerns and requests for information. The Parent Support Center in the Administration Building, 21st & the Parkway, Room 605, provides access to resource materials from many offices and city agencies dealing with parental issues.

▶ Recursos del Distrito Escolar. El Distrito Escolar de Philadelphia tiene una oficina de relaciones entre padres y la comunidad que está trabajando para promover a los padres y la comunidad @ "PADS". "Parent Assistance Desks" es un recurso para padres y visitantes de la escuela atendido por

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Any websites noted in The Family Forum are provided for your information and are not rated or reviewed. We welcome your input about useful sites you have visited. Email familyforum@phila.gov.

Did You Know?

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padres en las escuelas elementales y K-8. La línea caliente de apoyo a los padres.

▶ (215-299-7276) responde a las preocupaciones y requisitos de información de los padres. El Centro de Apoyo a los Padres en el Edificio Administrativo, localizado en la calle 21 y Parkway, oficina 605, provee acceso a materiales y recursos provenientes de numerosas oficinas y agencias de la ciudad que tratan asuntos relacionados con los padres.

▶ **DHS Community Supports** – the Philadelphia Department of Human Services has created a network of community supports to provide Philadelphia families with encouragement, assistance, and knowledge to build strong, loving and nurturing families. From parenting education, to truancy and delinquency prevention, support is just a phone call or a click away: 215-PARENTS, <www.phillysos.org>.

▶ **"DHS" Apoyo Comunitario.** El Departamento de Servicios Sociales de Philadelphia ha creado una red de apoyo comunitario para proveerles a las familias de Philadelphia con entusiasmo, asistencia y conocimiento para construir y criar familias fuertes y amorosas. Desde educación en la crianza hasta ausentismo, prevención y delincuencia. El apoyo esta tan cerca como una llamada telefónica 215-PARENTS en la Internet. <www.phillysos.org>.

▶ **Special Needs Radio** – Special Needs Radio is a call-in program to field questions and answers about special education. The Special Needs Radio Talk Program airs live Mondays at 12 noon on WNWR, 1540 AM. You can hear the Special Needs Radio program live on the Internet at <www.wnwr.com> and shows are archived on <www.specialneedsradio.com>. To contact Sam Burwell, call 215-545-3369 or 215-432-9222, or email to <snr49@aol.com>.

▶ **Necesidades Especiales en la Radio.** "Special Needs Radio" es un programa radial donde usted puede llamar con preguntas y respuestas acerca de Educación Especial. El programa radial de Necesidades Especiales se trasmite en vivo todos los lunes a las 12 del mediodía a través de

WNWR, 1540 AM. Usted puede escuchar el programa radial de Necesidades Especiales en vivo a través de la Internet en <www.wnwr.com>. También los programas son archivados en <www.specialneedsradio.com>. Para contactar a SamBurwell, favor de llamar al 215-545-3369 ó 215-432-9222, o el correo electrónico <snr49@aol.com>.

▶ **Computers for \$150** – TeamChildren will provide a refurbished Internet-ready computer in exchange for a letter about why you can't afford a computer, how it will benefit you, and a donation of \$150. In addition, a minimum of two hours' volunteer work is required the day the computer is picked up. Call 610-539-8480, or visit <teamchildren.com>.

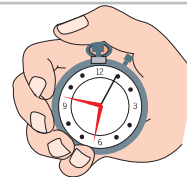
▶ **Computadoras por \$150.** "TeamChildren" proveerá una computadora restaurada y lista para Internet a cambio de una donación de \$150 y una carta explicando porque usted no puede costear una computadora y como ésta le beneficiará. En adición, un mínimo de dos horas de trabajo voluntario es requerido el día que usted reciba la computadora. Favor de llamar al 610-539-8480, o visite nuestro sitio en la Internet <teamchildren.com>, 610-539-8480.

My Future My Plan is a transition planning resource that includes a video, video discussion guide, a planning and resource workbook for students, and a guide to the workbook for family members and teachers. This \$55 curriculum is designed to inform students with disabilities and their families about the transition planning process and encourage them to use this process to achieve their goals for life after high school. Materials are available in both English and Spanish. An information link is on the home page of <www.thearc.org>. Questions can be directed to Community Integration Publications, 612-624-4512, or publications@icimall.umn.edu.

*Thanks to Emilio Pacheco for
the Spanish translation.*

**Visit www.MyCityMyPlace.com
for resources**

Same Window - Different Timing



SEPTA's CCT Connect ParaTransit has made another change to its reservation/ride policy. As of Sunday, September 26th, the times of the "window" for ParaTransit drivers to arrive has been adjusted.

Until now, when you called to reserve a ride, the CCT reservationist, at the end of your call, would remind you that the driver had a 15 minute window on either side of your reserved time. That meant that the driver could arrive for you up to 15 minutes before, and as long as 15 minutes after, your reserved time. Your ride was not considered late until the extra 15 minutes had passed.

The same total 30-minute window exists; however, the timing has shifted. The driver now can arrive at early as 10 minutes before and up to 20 minutes after your reserved time. You cannot call the Control Center to check on your ride until those extra 20 minutes have lapsed. Please be aware of this extra "late" time and reserve your rides accordingly. If you have additional questions, call CCT Connect Customer Service at 215-580-7145. Source: Liberty Resources.

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TASH Conference on Inclusion

The TASH Conference is the largest conference in the world to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of all people with disabilities. This conference features over 250 sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, and poster sessions jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, policymakers, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for reform.

"Blazing the Trail" will be held November 17-20 in Reno, Nevada. For information, visit www.tash.org/2004reno

Your Passport to Job Success

Find out how CareerLink can help you with your job search and other job-related functions. Visit a local center to attend an orientation and workshops.

- ❑ North: 990 Spring Garden, 215-560-5465
- ❑ South: 930 Washington Ave, 215-952-1137
- ❑ Northwest: 235 W. Cheltenham Ave, 215-560-5187
- ❑ Northeast: 3210 Red Lion Rd, 215-281-1038.



16th Annual Special Olympics Fall Festival

The Special Olympics Fall Festival is hosted by Villanova University students on November 12-14. For three days, the largest annual student-run Special Olympics event in the US hosts 1,000 athletes and over 300 coaches. Spectators are encouraged to visit and cheer. For information, or to volunteer, call 800-235-9058, or visit www.specialolympics.villanova.edu.

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Lior Liebling (third from left) and his family

Lior's spirituality and expressive devotion to Hashem brings light to all those in his company. His spiritual communities call him, "the little rebbe", or rabbi, because his joyful prayers touch them so deeply. One long time family friend said that praying with Lior "gave me answers to questions I hadn't even asked." Lior was been davening (praying) since he was three years old. Another family friend, said "He prays. He's found a way to be in the world instead of being apart from the world." Lior is the third of four children born to Mordechai Liebling, a prominent Rabbi, and Rabbi Devora Bartnoff, who died of breast cancer when Lior was six.

Thomas K. Gilhool, Esq. Leona and Marion Fialkowski Humanitarian Award

Thomas K. Gilhool, Esquire, dedicated his life's work to fighting for the rights of people with disabilities. An attorney with the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia for nearly twenty-six years, Gilhool changed the world for people with development disabilities and forced the creation of community options and services. Gilhool met Marion and Leona Fialkowski while representing the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC) in *PARC v. Pennsylvania*, the nation's first right-to-education case that opened Pennsylvania's public schools to children with disabilities. "I have fond memories of sitting at Marion and Leona Fialkowski's kitchen table discussing the case," said Gilhool. "They were fighters." The PARC suit and others that followed led to the passage of Public Law 94-142, now the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In 1978, Gilhool again represented PARC in *Halderman v. Pennhurst State School and Hospital*. The case resulted in the eventual

closing of Pennhurst with community placement of all residents and all those on the institution's waiting list. Gilhool's impact on the lives of countless people with disabilities and their families has been profound.

Gilhool was Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1987 – 1989. Upon leaving state government, he spent a year teaching eighth grade at a Philadelphia inner city school and also taught a seminar on law and education at the University of Pennsylvania. A native of the Philadelphia area, Gilhool and wife, Gillian, are the parents of two adult children. Gilhool now focuses his efforts to improve access to health care for children.

The Fialkowski Award was established in 1997 as a tribute to Leona and Marion Fialkowski, who were trailblazers in the quest for rights and opportunities for their children, Walter and David. The Award is given annually by Vision for Equality to individuals who exemplify their spirit and dedication Award.

REPEATABLES

These activities are marked on the calendar with an asterisk. Although the items have been checked, it is best to call before going.

Mondays

- ☆ 1st Mon 6:30-9p Speaking for Ourselves, St. Joseph's College, McShane Hall, 5600 City Line, 610-825-4592
- ☆ 2nd Mon 1:30p Mayor's Commission on People w/ Disabilities, Municipal Services Bldg, 1401 JFK Blvd., 16th fl, 215-686-2798

Tuesdays

- ☆ 2nd Tues 10a-12p That All May Worship (TAMW), Vision for Equality, 718 Arch St, 6N, 215-923-3349 x137

Thursdays

- ☆ 2nd Thurs 1:30p SEPTA Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation, 1234 Market St, 11th fl, 215-580-7145

Fridays

- ☆ 1st & 3rd Fri 7-9p Easter Seals Teen Social Club, 3975 Conshohocken Ave, Kendra Brooks 610-565-2353 x 231
- ☆ 3rd Fri 1-3p Consumer Connection, Liberty Resources, 1341 N. Delaware Ave, 215-634-2000 x320

Saturdays

- ☆ 2nd Sat 1-4p Disabled In Action, American Friends Ctr., 1501 Cherry, 215-627-7255

Liberty Resources' Housing Advocacy Services

Group sessions for those who would like information on subsidized housing, or would like to apply for subsidized rental housing, are held on the second Thursday of every month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and the fourth Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Registration is not required.

Additional group sessions on a variety of topics related to housing and financial fitness will be held on an ongoing basis. Individual appointments regarding tenant counseling, rental delinquency and pre and post home-buyer counseling are available.

For information and to request accommodations, call 215-634-2000 x381 (note this is a new number for the Housing Advocacy Department).

Holiday Window Decoration

By Laura Fekete, SPIN

I like to do a lot of recycled crafts, so every year I save all my Christmas cards to use for the following year. This is a nice idea for a window decoration.



You will need:

Clear Contact Paper cut into 7" x 10" pieces

Clear transparency film (used for overhead projectors, found at office supply stores)












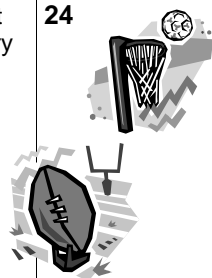




Scraps of Christmas decorations, old cards and wrapping paper, scissors, hole punch, yarn and plastic yarn needle (optional)









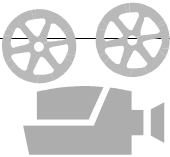


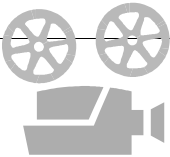




Place the rectangle of clear contact paper on the table in front of you with the sticky side facing up. Arrange a design using the scraps and cut out shapes from old cards, or wrapping paper (snowflakes, angels, stars, scraps of yarn, tissue paper, construction paper and any other type of materials that will lay fairly flat when covered). Once you have the design the way you like it, carefully place a clear piece of transparency film on the top of it to seal it. Punch two holes at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through the holes for the hanger.

Optional: using the hole punch, punch holes around the outside of the design. Use yarn to sew a border around the outside of the picture. You may also make several squares of designs and connect them like a quilt with the yarn. For an extra flare, add some yarn tassels at the bottom.

To contact Laura, email her at lfekete@spininc.

For Expanded Dates
Visit [www.
MyCityMyPlace .Com](http://www.MyCityMyPlace.Com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* Adoption Month, National Epilepsy Month, Diabetes Awareness, Lung Cancer Awareness</p> 	<p>1 All Saint's Day</p>  <p>* Speaking for Ourselves</p>	<p>2 Election Day 11/3- Governor's Committee on Employment of People w/ Disabilities Conference in Harrisburg \$75, 800-442-6351 -Toddler Story Time, 10:30 A.M., Central Library, 19 & Vine St.</p> 	<p>3 13th Annual My City, My Place/Brighter Futures Event, PA Convention Center 9am 3:30pm 215-685-5915 - Composting Workshop, Whitman Branch Library, 6pm 215-686-5444</p> 	<p>4 Aquability -hour of swimming and fun at Frankford Community Y 7:30-8:30p</p> 	<p>5 * Easter Seals Norcom Center Family Bingo, 6-8:30p, \$5, 215-813-1070</p> 	<p>6 Outdoor Flea Market, Reading Terminal, 12th & Arch St 215-922-2317</p>
<p>7 Something on Sunday: Give any dollar amount and be admitted to the Philadelphia Art Museum. -Chinese Folk Dance Society, Sundays on Stage, Central Library. 19 & Vine St. FREE 215-686-5372</p>	<p>8 *Mayor's Commission on People w/ Disabilities -11/8-11 Crisis Prevention instructor's course at Comhar, gain a certificate and manual of techniques. \$150/day, info 1-877-219-7117</p>	<p>9 OMR Planning and Advisory Committee Supports Coordination Group public info sessions on supports coordination services, Crown Plaza, King of Prussia 610-265-7500 6-9pm -Toddler Story Time Also 16, 23 & 30 FREE</p>	<p>10 OMR Planning and Advisory Committee Supports Coordination Group public info sessions on supports coordination services, Crown Plaza, King of Prussia 610-265-7500 1-3:30pm</p>	<p>11 Veteran's Day *SEPTA - Philadanco at the Kimmel Center, 215-893-1999 - Signs & Voices Conf. at Swarthmore College 11/11-14, info 610-328-8000</p>	<p>12 11/12-14 October Gallery at the Liacouras Center, 10a-8p every night. 11/12-14 Fall Festival largest student-run Special Olympics at Villanova Univ. 610-519-7244</p> 	<p>13 *Disabled In Action -FREE Early Intervention Empowerment training at Lovett Library 1-5pm</p>
<p>14 Paint Nude Expo, Temple University Mitten Hall, 10a-7p, \$10, all art forms. -Voices of Africa, Sundays on Stage, Central Library, FREE 215-686-5372</p> 	<p>15 11/16 Understand your child's report card with CCP, workshop 9am to noon 17th & Spring Garden Streets</p>	<p>16 11/16-18 Paths to a Sustainable Future, PAR Conference-Harrisburg PA, 717-469-0661 -Advocacy workshop at Temple University Kiva Auditorium 8:30a-noon 215-204-1356</p>	<p>17 11/17-20 TASH 2004 Conference: Blazing the Trail -Inclusion, Opportunity & Equity, Reno, Nevada 410-828-8274 -Compost Workshop, Falls of Schuylkill 6 p.m. 215-686-5444</p>	<p>18 *Quality Progressions 6pm -11/18-20 Amer. Speech-Language-Hearing-Assoc. Conf. 1-800-793-7300 -2004 Nat'l ARC Conf., Boston MA, 301-565-3842</p>	<p>19 *Easter Seals * Consumer Connection - 9th Annual SPIN Auction 6-10pm, 215-612-7507</p> 	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Citizen's Bank Marathon, BF Parkway, 215-685-1999 -Fiddlekicks, Sundays on Stage, Central Library, 1901 Vine St. 215-686-5372 FREE</p> 	<p>22 Show me your motion! Caribbean dance workshop with Tania Isaac, \$10 each, 6:30 pm at the Painted Bride Art Center</p> 	<p>23 Sports Challenge at the Franklin Institute-Try your skills at various sports w/ the help of roaring crowd, and jumbotron screen. \$12, 215-448-1200</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Thanksgiving -Thanksgiving Parade, BF Parkway</p> 	<p>26 Black Friday when retailers went from being unprofitable "in the red" to "in the black"</p>	<p>27</p> 
<p>28</p> 	<p>29 Please Touch Museum Enchanted Colonial Village until 12/30 215-963-0667, 210 N 21st Street</p>	<p>30 How the Right Went Wrong discussion of the Republican party, Constitution Center, 215-409-6700</p> 	<h1>November 2004</h1>			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2004</h1>		Nat'l Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month - Safe Toys and Gifts Month 	1 City Hall Tree Lighting 5pm, 215-440-5500 - Preschool Potpourri Ages 1 –4 story hour 10:30 a.m. Free Library, 1901 Vine St. 215-686-5369 Also 12/8,15 & 22nd 	2 –Trials and Turbulence: Pepon Osorio, An Artist in Residence at DHS. This exhibition is a detailed view of the architecture of social services down to the case workers' coffee mugs. \$3, 12-8pm	3 *Easter Seals -Taste of Technology Tour at Liberty's Academy. Learn about career options. Info 215-634-2000 x 227 - Fashions of Africa Fashion Show at Phila. Museum of Art, 26th & BF Pkwy, 215-763-8100	4 Rittenhouse Row Annual Winter Festival & Tree Lighting -Early Intervention Empowerment Training at Temple Univ., 10am-3:30pm, 215-204-1772 
5 Hand Washing Awareness Week -Latkepalooza, second annual fun, food-filled day of latke tasting at the Gershman Y. \$12, 2pm - Christmas Festival in Peddler's Village, FREE, 11a-5p 215-794-4000	6 * Speaking for Ourselves -PA Humanities Council hosts the Read all about it! Program, FREE, explore the authenticity and history of contemporary novels. Locations vary, 800-462-0442	7 Hanukkah Begins  - Money in Motion Exhibit at the Federal Reserve Bank, 6th & Arch, FREE, 10am-4pm, 215-574-6000	8 Norcom Center Wreath Making Class \$25 7-9p 215-813-1070 	9 *SEPTA - Amy Stillman, NYC artist celebrates post-Surrealism creates a wall-work at the Institute of Contemporary Art in University City, \$3, 12-8pm	10 Built By hand– Functional Clay Objects displayed at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown 215-345-0210, Children will be invited to create their own. Reservations req. 	11 *Disabled in Action -Saturday Night Out with County Recreation Program, 21+, times vary please call 215-879-1000 - Wine tasting at the Phila. Museum of Art 1:30-4p Free
12 Celebrate Africa at the Phila Museum of Art Central & East Africa, Congolese music, dancing and African Dance & Drum Ensemble 	13 Jewish Film Festival 24: The Fight at the Gershman Y, Joe Louis . 7pm, \$10 215-446-3026 -12/11-23 see Pinocchio Mandell Theater, 33rd & Chestnut Sts. 215-881-9899	14 Broadway's RENT comes to the Merriam Theater, 215-732-1366 - Wreath workshop at the Bowman's Wildflower preserve in New Hope, 215-862-2924, reservations required. 	15 12/15-16 Commonwealth Housing Forum 2004 : Sustaining & Building Communities at the Hilton Harrisburg & Towers, 717-780-3800	16 *Quality Progressions 10a -Taste of Technology Tour at Liberty's Academy. Learn about career options. Info 215-634-2000 x 227 -Proposed Phila I.U.26 Right to Education local meeting 215-229-4550	17 *Mayor's Commission on People w/ Disabilities *Easter Seals *Consumer Connection -Norcom Center Teen Movie Night 13-18yrs, 215-813-1070 	18 A year with Frog and Toad, children's play about a grumpy toad and cheerful frog who share a special friendship. Tony nominee \$25, at the Arden Theater 215-922-1122
19 Enjoy Holiday on Main (street), many fun events, shopping, museums, and parking in Manayunk for the holiday season The Nutcracker, Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, 215-686-5372 free	20 The Titanic Artifact Exhibit is now at the Free Library, 19th & Vine St., until Jan 2. 	21 Winter Solstice - Body Maps– life sized renderings that show hopes & sorrows of South Africans w/HIV, FREE 12-6pm 	22 Visit the American Philosophical Society for an exhibition of the finned, furred, pressed, painted, stuffed & mounted. 235 images that trace natural history from the 1700's. FREE 215-440-3400	23 Follow the Yellow Brick road with Dorothy & friends. See the Wizard of Oz at the Media Theater for the Performing Arts \$25, 7pm, 610-891-0100	24 	25 Christmas 
26 Kwanzaa Begins - Umoja: unity 	27 –Kujichagulia: Self determination	28 –ujima: collective responsibility - Kids Week at the Phila. Museum of Art. Children learn about & celebrate the African American tradition of Kwanzaa, 10am-5pm FREE	29 –ujamaa: cooperative economics 	30 –nia: purpose -Visit the Gingerbread House Display in the Peddler's Village Gazebo, houses compete for cash prizes 215-794-4000	31 New Year's Eve -kuumba: creativity (New Years Day– imani: faith) 	

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**To all our Readers and Friends
Have a Happy Holiday Season
and a Great New Year!**