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UPCOMING DB CAN NJ EVENTS

- Sep 6** 50/50 Tickets on Sale! \$5 each or 5/\$20
To buy tickets, email: dbcannj@gmail.com
- Sep 10** Classic Bingo 10:30 a.m.
Register by email: dbcannj@gmail.com
- Oct 1** Classic Bingo 10:30 a.m.
Register by email: dbcannj@gmail.com
- Oct 28** Haunted Halloween Event
- Nov** Cards & Calendars Holiday Sale

From the Editors

DB CAN NJ keeps things moving and shaking - from knocking on the Statehouse doors in Trenton to our ongoing virtual events and upcoming creative fundraisers. We hope you enjoy the highlights in this issue ... and stay tuned because there's always more to come!



NICK SHEREL MARK KATHY

DB CAN NJ Receives *Innovator Award* for Accessible Film

DB CAN NJ received this year's *Innovator Award* from New Jersey's Cultural Access Network (CAN). CAN is a program co-sponsored by the New Jersey Theater Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The award recognizes our "outstanding efforts and creativity in making film accessible to the deafblind community on a virtual platform" for our adaptation of the Oscar-nominated short film *Feeling Through*.

In June, Kathy, Mark and Jon attended the awards program at Grounds for Sculpture. The program generated insightful discussions and fantastic networking opportunities, as well as a heartwarming awards presentation. We're humbled and honored that our work and our community are recognized. We look forward to continuing our relationship with CAN as we work together to achieve the goal of including all in the arts.

2022 DeafBlind Awareness Activities

Once again, we led the effort of 20 organizations and two state agencies in asking NJ Governor Phil Murphy to declare the last week of June as Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week. Here's what else we did:

- ◆ **June 6 – 17: A Call for Art** for our first-ever calendar with all the art created by deaf-blind artists.
- ◆ **June 11: A roundtable discussion** for deafblind people with deaf actress **Hillary Baack** ("Sound of Metal," "The East," "You & Me"), pictured at right, who plans to make a film about Helen Keller as an adult activist.
- ◆ **June 18:** In a unifying display of deafblind solidarity, DB CAN NJ, DBL NJ and the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey hosted a **DeafBlind Awareness Picnic Celebration** at Cheesecake State Park. This was our first in-person event in more than two years, and more than 65 people attended! Old Bridge Township Mayor Owen Henry (photo at right), presented proclamations from the state, Middlesex County and the township declaring DeafBlind Awareness Week. Thanks to Marci and Laura for leading the organization of the event and to the many volunteers who donated items, assisted with set up/clean up and acted as cabbies for our friends who traveled by train and paratransit. It was a GREAT day filled with fun, food and a wonderful spirit of being together again!
- ◆ **June 18 – 30: A DeafBlind Awareness social media campaign** on our Facebook page. Each day we posted a message from a deafblind person sharing something they want the larger community to know about being deafblind. Due to the positive comments received, the messages can be found in our article "DeafBlind Awareness Series 2022" at <https://tinyurl.com/DBAware2022>
- ◆ **June 27:** The New Jersey Commission for the Blind celebrated DeafBlind Awareness Week with a virtual screening of the PBS special "Becoming Helen Keller." DB CAN NJ President Kathy accepted the State of New Jersey's official proclamation and shared messages from those who participated in our social media campaign.
- ◆ **July 2:** Virtual Classic Bingo for deafblind players.
- ◆ **July 9:** (Yep, we extended the festivities into July!) Board Trustees Sherel, Nick and Marci shared information on DB CAN NJ at Jon's art booth at the music and arts festival Maplewoodstock in Maplewood. At the end of the day, Jon donated 1/2 of his sales to DB CAN NJ – thanks, Jon!



HILLARY BAACK



MAYOR HENRY



HELEN KELLER DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK June 26 - July 2, 2022

Cards & Calendars: Great Gifts for the Holidays!

This year's Fall Fundraiser features holiday cards, note and special occasion cards, and calendars with art created by New Jersey deafblind artists. We're sure there's a design that'll make you smile! The sale officially opens November 10, but due to production time, **braille calendars must be pre ordered by September 9**. We'll also take pre orders without braille. The cost per calendar is \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling. Pre order your calendar at: <https://tinyurl.com/2023DBCANCalendar>



Bravo! Sharing Accomplishments

- ◆ **Alice Eaddy** has been appointed DB CAN NJ's social media manager. If there's something related to the deafblind community that you'd like to see us post to Facebook and Instagram, forward it to Alice at socialmedia@dbcannj.org
- ◆ DB CAN NJ Access Team member **Anne McQuade** was sworn in by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to represent Georgia's deafblind residents on the Georgia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Congratulations, Anne!
- ◆ DB CAN NJ Access Team member **Tara Invidiato** has been elected vice president of the American Association of the DeafBlind. Tara describes AADB as "for everyone with vision and hearing loss. We appreciate diversity with open arms in our advocacy community."
- ◆ **Alice, Jon, Kathy, Mark, Tara and Anne** collaborated to write "Guidelines for Making Videos Accessible to DeafBlind Viewers." The article describes accessibility options and tips on how to make videos accessible to those with a combined loss of vision and hearing. The article is available on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/DBVideoGuidelines>

March Madness: Family Feud Tournament

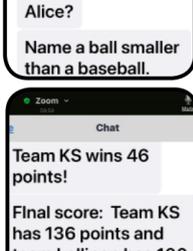
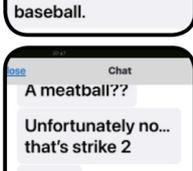
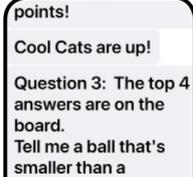


Early in the year, Kathy and DBL NJ President Tamilah brainstormed if it would be possible to create an accessible Family Feud game to play on Zoom. The answer: Of course! We proceeded to set up rules and tested them in (*really fun*) pilot games. To be sure that our game would be unique and true to our community, we created our own questions and surveyed our community. Each week, about 60 people answered our survey questions.

Finally we were ready for our March Madness Family Feud Tournament. The event was sponsored by DB CAN NJ and DBL NJ. Each team consisted of three players, and five teams registered to compete. Games were played March 19 and March 26, and the final games were played April 1. Accessibility included ASL interpreting, chat box, communication facilitators, a "board" in large print (in photo at top left) showing the most popular answers, and in the April 1 event, live captioning.

Congratulations to the Kindred Spirits Family – Alice, Elisha and Jonathan – for being crowned our 1st Family Feud Champs and receiving a cash prize of \$25 for each family member. The Triumphant Trio Family – Cathy, Beverly and Carol – came in second, and each team member won \$4.01 (because the championship was played on April Fool's Day, 4/01).

Every player told us they'd enter another Family Feud tournament and described the tournament as "great!" "amazing!" "awesome" and "so much fun!" One player said, "We can't stop at 1 Family Feud (tournament), or at least I hope we don't! Win or lose, it has been fun answering the questions in preparation, then trying to guess the most popular answers with my 'Family.'" Another player warmed our hearts with this message, "As usual you guys are the absolute best thing for flexing the deafblind mind and having fun as a deafblind person and for welcoming my regular hearing blind peeps. DB CAN NJ YOU ROCK!!"



News from the Board of Trustees

July 22 was DB CAN NJ's 6th birthday! Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey and especially to our **AMAZING** and **DEDICATED** Board Trustees - President Kathy, Vice President Mark, Secretary Marci, Treasurer Nick and Trustees Betsy, Natalie and Sherel, and our bookkeeper Lisa. All our officers and Trustees are continuing for another 2-year term.

Our annual July board meeting focused on a review of the last year's activities to be sure that we're staying true to our mission. We agreed to keep the number of trustees at seven, and to look for more volunteers for our events and ongoing projects, like keeping our website updated and fundraising. To join our team of volunteers, send us a message at dbcannj@gmail.com

Newsy Tidbits

- ◆ **Tasting of Technology** has been postponed again due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A tentative date is set for June 2023.
- ◆ Join us for **Monthly Saturday morning Classic Bingo** for deafblind players and special guests. It's free and it's fun! To get on the mailing list so you don't miss a date, email dbcannj@gmail.com
- ◆ **Subscription trivia** – it's always lighthearted, yet challenging, and always full of fun! To subscribe, email dbcannj@gmail.com
- ◆ **Send us your comments** on anything deafblind that's important to you: dbcannj@gmail.com

Donate Your Gift Card Leftovers to DB CAN NJ!

Holiday gift cards with a few bucks or a few cents left ... what can you do with them? Donate them to your favorite charity: DB CAN NJ! Go to dbcannj.org/donate and click on Donate using PayPal. When PayPal comes up, type the balance on the card in the number space, and click on the bottom button: Donate with a Debit or Credit Card. When the next screen comes up, complete the card and cardholder info, hit enter, and that's all there is to it. Your card is now completely used ... and for a terrific cause!



We're a grassroots effort that aims to be truly responsive to the needs of the deafblind community. Everyone who cares about and believes in our **AWESOME** community is welcome to join our training, networking, social, and recreational events.

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