



# Cultural Access News

A publication of  
the New Jersey Arts  
Access Task Force

February 2006

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## Yes, You Can

By John Hockenberry

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**C**areful! You might miss the light show. If you surrender to any nervousness or caution and avoid looking at me when I roll by in my wheelchair, you'll miss the fireworks in my front wheels: tiny, colored electric lights that blaze out red, blue and green when they turn. That's right. I have electric scooter wheels on my wheelchair, and the greatest thing about them is how they grab the nervous eyes of some folks and pull them in.

"Awesome!" people will say to me as I race across the Brooklyn Bridge. "Hey, that's cool!" I'll hear at an airport as I race to catch a plane. "Really cool."

It was two 6-year-old girls who convinced me that high-profile, sparkly wheels were a big improvement over my quiet, in-the-shadows approach to being disabled in public. Those two girls are my oldest

twin daughters, Zoe and Olivia. They are almost 7 now, and all of their lives they have ridden on their

daddy's lap. Doctors may call me a paraplegic. Strangers might say I am "wheelchair bound." But to my daughters, I have always been a daddy who comes with his own playground apparatus. In their short lives, oblivious of the fears and anxieties of adults, they have known a wheelchair only to represent a warm, safe place.

## Going Public

These days, Zoe and Olivia are nearly too big to ride comfortably on my lap anymore, and I will miss them terribly when they stop climbing up altogether. (At least I still have 4-year-old old Zach and Regan, our second set of twins!) But I look into the faces of my children and see a sunrise of hope that people with disabilities are experiencing 15 years after the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Almost two decades into this landmark civil rights law, people determined to share their distinct talents have begun to take their places in the American mainstream. The signs of their presence go far beyond handicapped parking spaces and wheelchair ramps. Thanks to their persistence, today you are as likely to see a person with a disability on the ski slopes as you are in your workplace. And the momentum is picking up. All across the U.S., people with and without disabilities are bringing about lasting changes in their communities: There are city and state building codes, such as Michigan's, that go beyond federal law by mandating that doors, passageways and bathrooms be unobstructed. There is the unique federal and civic partnership that designed and built wheelchair access into Boston's venerated Fenway Park, which for decades was off-limits to the disabled. And there is the Center for Creative Play, a universally accessible indoor playspace in Pittsburgh, Pa., for children of all

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# A Message from the Chairman of the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force

Welcome to this issue of Cultural Access News.

*"The major issue is accessibility with dignity. It is not enough to get into the building any old way. I like to get into the building at the front like everybody else, where the rest of society gets in."*

— *Itzhak Perlman, violinist*

This past summer we lost a wonderful friend and dedicated advocate for arts access, Gary Kaplan. Gary's generosity of time and talent played an instrumental role in removing barriers and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and the general public in New Jersey. I was honored to have known Gary and grateful for the positive impact he had on the arts community as a valued member of the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force since its inception in 1991. Gary was a wonderful resource in educating our cultural organizations on the letter of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it related to physical accessibility. As you read about Gary's many impressive accomplishments, you will also notice that he embraced the spirit of the law ensuring that barrier free environments were developed for people with disabilities. Gary's guidance, dedication and giving spirit made the arts and cultural community in New Jersey one that is welcoming to all and for that we are extremely grateful.

The newsletter also features stories that celebrate the achievements and creativity of people with disabilities and the tremendous strides organizations are making in opening their doors to all.



The New Jersey Arts Access Task Force is busy compiling the data of nine focus groups conducted in the spring and fall of 2005 and the statewide survey as part of the Building Cultural Participation

Project, made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and by funds from the Wallace Foundation.

The results of these studies will be shared with the state's cultural community to help us better understand cultural participation and consumer behavior patterns of people with disabilities. From this information, we will be able to provide managers and volunteer leadership guidance and a better understanding of how to effectively market and serve people with disabilities.

The Task Force is also busy developing a website that promises to be a valuable resource for cultural organizations, as well as for people with disabilities interested in participating and attending cultural events throughout the state. The website will serve as a role model in web accessibility and in this newsletter we have

listed a variety of resources that will assist you as you continue to take steps in making your websites accessible.

The Task Force will also be offering a series of sensitivity training workshops (see schedule inside). It is highly recommended that your staff and volunteers, especially those who interact directly with the public, attend these sessions to ensure that they have the tools and knowledge to create a welcoming environment and to communicate effectively with all members of the public.

These newsletters are a resource and we recommend that you share them with your staff and hold onto them for future reference. If you have any questions or need any assistance with your access programs and services, please call Robert Carr at 973-540-0515, ext 15.

We remain committed to continuing to work with you and those with disabilities to ensure that the impressive work of New Jersey's cultural community can be shared and enjoyed by everyone.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McEwen".

John McEwen

abilities, which projects such a powerful “Welcome, all!” message that families drive hours just to play there. Taken one at a time, these are small changes you might miss unless you modify old assumptions and look at the world with new eyes.

## Strength In Numbers

Even the battles today are different. Fifteen years ago, there might have been a debate over whether someone like Tony Sylvester, a young man born with spina bifida, could even go to a public school. Recently, Tony, 19 and a graduate of Wauwatosa West High School in suburban Milwaukee, Wis., waged a tough campaign for his varsity letter. Tony’s a forward for the highly ranked Wheelin’ Wizards — a wheelchair basketball team that competes with other disabled athletes, independent of their high schools. To appeal the school superintendent’s decision to deny the letter, Tony and his mother, Tish, got advice from a powerful ally — IndependenceFirst, a Milwaukee-based organization that helped them pack a school-board meeting with disabled athletes, coaches, parents and the media. As a result, Tony was awarded his letter — a big W, which he wears proudly.

No doubt, there is strength in numbers — and the numbers are growing. IndependenceFirst, the group that helped Tony and Tish, is just one of about 500 Independent Living Centers across the U.S. that have grown up with the ADA. Typically nonresidential, private and nonprofit (though many are state-supported), these community-based centers provide services and act as advocates for people with disabilities. (To learn more about them or to find one, visit [www.ilusa.com](http://www.ilusa.com) on the Web.) There also are 10 federally funded ADA & Information Technology centers in the U.S. to help businesses, architects and schools comply with the law by providing information, training and technical assistance. (To find an ADA & IT center, visit [www.adata.org](http://www.adata.org) on the Web.)

Clearly, there are fewer excuses today for being inaccessible and indifferent

to the disabled. But, in the end, a truly inclusive world will depend on the efforts and courage of those who are not disabled — in a word, society at large. After all, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — which had the backing of the courts, the police and the National Guard — still has not wiped out racism.

## It’s Up To You, Too

Meanwhile, local victories like Tony Sylvester’s boost morale for the bigger struggles that lie ahead. For instance, employment for people with disabilities has not improved significantly since the passage of the ADA. Disabled unemployment has stood near 70% for the past two decades. The ADA itself has suffered setbacks in court decisions and by its own limitations. Businesses can be exempted from the ADA by claiming that compliance is an “undue burden.” And houses of worship do not have to comply at all, even though thousands have because it is the right thing to do. Enforcement of the ADA is left to the courts, where the vast majority of lawsuits are thrown out before they ever reach trial.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of the Americans With Disabilities Act is that it has widened the expectation that there ought to be some way in for people with disabilities. One telling example is an incident that occurred a few years ago when I was riding on the New York City subway. The train was declared “out of service” and pulled into a station without an elevator—one of many. The conductor ordered all passengers off the train. With the exception of me and a few women with

## What You Should Know

On July 26, 1990, the Americans With Disabilities Act was signed into law, eliminating discrimination in employment, transportation and public accommodations for the nation’s 50 million disabled adults and children. Still, to this day, many with physical and mental disabilities do not get their due. To learn more or for technical-assistance materials, visit [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov) or call the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301. (During business hours, specialists help you apply the law to your own situation.) For TTY, call 1-800-514-0383.

- Employers interested in hiring the disabled can consult the Employer Assistance and Recruiting Network (EARN), a free service of the Department of Labor. Visit [www.earnworks.com](http://www.earnworks.com) on the Web.
- Several states are marking the ADA’s 15th anniversary this week with parades and other events. Visit [www.aapd-dc.org](http://www.aapd-dc.org) to learn more.

strollers, everyone got off and trudged up the steps to the sidewalk.

When the conductor offered me no help, my only option was to hop out of my wheelchair and lug myself up the filthy subway stairs on my keister. But then one of the stroller women laid into the conductor: "What's your plan for this man? Is he just supposed to stay down here forever? Is that your plan?" She was riled up on my behalf. "We're not stupid people," she continued. "There's a law that says you have to have a plan. Everybody knows that."

## We All Benefit

The conductor went from ignoring a solitary man in a wheelchair to being intimidated by a volunteer SWAT team of Brooklyn moms. He told all of us to stay on the train, then drove us to the next elevator station. The stroller mom looked at me and said with a smile, "You're the guy on TV, right? I love your work." I thanked her and left the train in awe of the anonymous outraged lady who had saved the powerless TV star. Her outrage represented something deeper: an expectation that has grown

up with the ADA that disabled people have certain rights that cannot be denied. That's what saved me: her expectation — *our shared expectation* — that there is a place for all in America.

It's not like only the disabled benefit from this. Those ladies with their strollers have me to thank for the sidewalk ramps they love. And do you think that young office workers in the gym realize that it is the deaf they have to thank for the captions on the TV screens that allow them to follow their stocks while they huff and puff? Having a place for all is both the American dream and the engine of our success. We've been working on this freedom thing for the past 229 years. As my daughters might say: It's high time for some awesome, sparkly wheels.

**John Hockenberry, an award-winning television commentator, radio host and foreign correspondent, became a paraplegic in an auto accident when he was 19. He lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his wife, Alison, and their two sets of twins — Zoe and Olivia, and Zachary and Regan** ▲

# we're your resource

**Would you like to host a sensitivity training session for your organization or community?**

Please contact the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force for further details.  
973-540-0515 ext 15

**Would you like to offer an audio-described performance or provide assistive listening equipment for a concert, conference or short run of a show?**

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance has multi-channel FM Equipment available for loan that can be used for assistive listening and audio-description events. For further information call Robert Carr at the Alliance at: 973-540-0515 ext 15  
or e-mail: [rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org](mailto:rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org)

# 4 PEOPLE, 1 BODY: An Artist's Life Journey

Mare Akana for Arts Access

**N**atalia Manning, aka Star Crystal, chose a life in the arts over death. She credits Matheny Medical & Educational Center's Arts Access Program with helping her discover and develop into the emerging multi-media artist she is today.

Of her birth, Manning says, "I died five times." This difficult delivery caused cerebral palsy, which has left her in a wheelchair using a speaking device to communicate. There were times when she was in such pain and so depressed that "I wanted to die." Instead of taking the drugs the doctors suggested for her, she chose to explore the arts, specifically acting. She had some acting classes before coming to Matheny, but when the Arts Access Program began in 1993, she was one of the first to participate in both acting and painting classes and has remained an inspiration to facilitators and program participants alike. Acting took her out of herself, allowing her to explore new lives. "I like to dance, but I love acting because it is a vacation for me," she says.

She is a dedicated performer and director who spends several days a week pursuing her dream of living a life devoted to the arts. She credits her drama/ playwriting facilitator, Mare Akana, with giving her life its direction. Now, following Manning's detailed instructions and Arts Access' policy of facilitator neutrality,



Akana has become Manning's assistant in an ambitious new work: *4 People, 1 Body*.

This piece showcases Manning's talents: acting, directing, playwriting, wheelchair dance, dance choreography, painting, musical composition, makeup and costume design. Manning plans to use dancers to convey her story and has already directed four program facilitators in the voiceover dialogue. This is the first time any participant in the Arts Access Program has created a multi-media piece.

The concept surfaced during a discussion in Drama/Playwriting Group, and Manning quickly wrote out the intricate relationships of various aspects of her personality and the order in which they developed. There is Nicole, about 13, who is innocent, yet sexual. SnuggVamp is 15 and an impulsive loose

cannon who sometimes manipulates Nicole. Natalia, 17, is the weak one because her conservative ways make her very fearful of life. Last of all is Star Crystal, 29, the free spirited artist who unites them all. It is very much a play about self-acceptance, self-nurturing and overcoming fear. Of the piece, she says, "I think *4 People, 1 Body* is about how art is my pill." Manning has indeed come full circle.

*4 People, 1 Body* had its World Premiere on 6 November 2005 at Arts Access' Full Circle: Between the Lines, the annual celebration of the arts held at Matheny Medical & Educational Center's Robert Schonhorn Arts Center. For more information on the program, go to [www.artsaccessprogram.org](http://www.artsaccessprogram.org) or contact Eileen Murray at 908-234-0011 ext 442. ▲

# Cochlear Implant — The Personal Experience of Arlene Romoff

I've had my cochlear implant for 7-1/2 years, and I am still in awe of being able to hear again. I had normal hearing until my early twenties, when my slow descent into deafness began. My hearing declined over the next 25 years, until I was left with virtually none.

As a long-time client of the League for the Hard of Hearing in New York, and a member of SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People Inc.), I kept abreast of current technology. Over the years, I used a variety of assistive listening devices, but eventually even those weren't effective for me. I learned everything I could about cochlear implants, and met people who had them.

With each decrease in hearing, activities that used to be pleasant became less so. Movies, concerts, theatre, socializing with friends — once vibrant parts of my life — began to fade, and then became unbearably difficult. Finally, the day came when even a simple conversation with friends wasn't possible, and the long journey into deafness was over. The cochlear implant was my last hope at functioning effectively in the world as I knew it — the hearing world.

In my book, *Hear Again — Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant*, a chronicle of my first year with my cochlear implant, I wrote, "About a dozen times a day, I'm reminded how my behavior is different because I can hear. I welcome human contact. I no longer walk through the day hoping that no one will speak to me. I'm a part of the world around me, not isolated in my silence or confined to my own thoughts." Those words are as true today as the day I wrote them.

Deafness, an invisible disability, is vastly misunderstood and underestimated. Helen Keller called it an "inhuman silence," because it separated her from people. She explained that she found it a greater challenge than her blindness, which separated her from things.

With the miracle of my cochlear implant, people are no longer obstacles but human beings again. The electrician, the bank teller, the supermarket cashier, the postman — they're all people who have personalities and can be engaged in conversation —

simple human contact that the veil of deafness denied me. And, it turns out that the people in my life were as eager to communicate with me as I was to understand them!

Does the cochlear implant (CI) allow me to have "normal" hearing? No — it has its limitations. Background noise can present problems, as can hearing at a distance. But, fortunately, upgrades in both hardware and software have improved my functioning. My first CI speech processor was a body-worn style, the size of a large "beeper." Three years ago, I upgraded to a miniaturized behind-the-ear model and, coupled with a small auxiliary microphone that fit into the ear, my functioning in noise and on the telephone improved. In addition, using an assortment of assistive devices, such as an infrared receiver in the theater, or a personal FM system for lecture-type programs, allows me to overcome the problems of background noise and distance.

Daily living has become so much easier:

Telephone — I can hear most people on the phone without any major problems. I prefer an amplified phone.

Television — I can hear some programs without captioning, but not all, so I leave the captioning on.

Movies — I prefer going to captioned movies because the background music and noise often drowns out the dialogue.

Theatre — I use assistive listening devices in the theatre, but usually prefer to go to captioned performances so I am sure not to miss a word.

Museums — I enjoy using a personal FM system for Gallery talks and lectures, but I also need captioning for any video or film programs.

Restaurants — noisy places are my most difficult environment. I can hear the person on my implanted side, but those further away usually pose a problem.

Social situations — are never hopeless, as they had been without my CI. Simply moving closer to my CI microphone solves most communication problems.

And music is once again a part of my life! When I first got my CI, music was what I described as

“electronic mush.” At first, only the simplest arrangements were melodic, but after a while, I was able to listen to more complex harmonies. And music that I grew up with still sounds the best.

As the years go by — even with no changes in programming or hardware — my brain seems to be learning to do “better.” The medical profession calls this “brain plasticity” — the capacity to adapt on its own. (It took two years for organ music to finally come around!) I’m also able to move from different environments more seamlessly, and think less about my hearing. I can’t say that I function as a hearing person, but there are more times now that I simply don’t think about my hearing as much.

The fact remains, though, that I’m still a deaf person, sometimes masquerading as a hearing person, and sometimes functioning as someone with a mild to moderate hearing loss. Every night, though, when I remove my CI to go to sleep, I’m deaf again — and showers and swimming are also done in silence. I never take my hearing for granted — the miracle of being able to go from silence to sound. It’s a special joy and wonder that hearing people cannot fully appreciate, that I experience each and every day.

#### **Arlene Romoff**

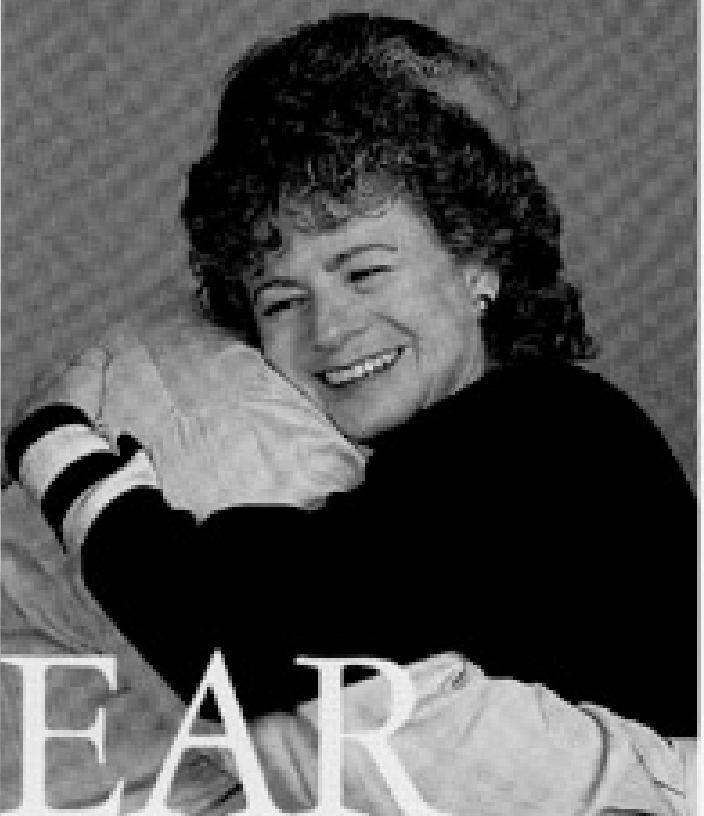
**October 26, 2005**

■ Member, NJ Arts Access Task Force

■ Trustee, SHHH-NJ (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People – NJ state assn.)

■ Board Member, League for the Hard of Hearing

■ Author, *Hear Again — Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant* ▲



# HEAR AGAIN

Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant

*The compelling, true story of how a late deafened adult regained communication with the “hearing” world.*

**Arlene Romoff**



## **Cultural Access News**

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# Website Accessibility Information Resources

**Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)**, at <http://www.w3.org/wai>.

A major activity of the World Wide Web Consortium, the WAI is a broad collaboration among industry, academic research, and members of the disability community to define standards and techniques for maximizing the accessibility of Web-based materials for all users.

**Section 508 Final Standards**, at <http://www.section508.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Content&ID=12#Web>. These standards became effective on June 21, 2001, and govern IT accessibility for all federal agencies and entities operating federal contracts. These standards are expected to have significant impact in the private and nonprofit sectors as well as in government.

**IBM Web Accessibility Checklist and Tutorial**, at <http://www3.ibm.com/able/accessweb.html>.

The most recent version of IBM's accessibility checklist is closely aligned with Section 508 federal standards. Each checkpoint includes a link to a short, clear tutorial about basic design and testing techniques.

**Web Accessibility for Section 508**, at <http://www.jimthatcher.com/webcourse1.htm>.

The online accessibility course described in the previous entry, on the site of the person who wrote it. Thatcher's site (<http://www.jimthatcher.com>) includes other valuable information, including a comparison chart with side-by-side views of Section 508 requirements and related WCAG Checkpoints.

**Knowbility online accessibility course**, at <http://www.knowbility.org/curriculum>.

An overview of accessibility issues, tools, and techniques for designing accessible Web sites.

**WebABLE Solutions**, at <http://www.webABLE.com>. Site maintained by Mike Paciello, founder of the Web Accessibility Initiative. Good design and usability information plus links to hundreds of other resources, including the WAI site.

**International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet, Section 508 Resource Page**, at [http://www.icdri.org/section\\_508\\_resource\\_page.htm](http://www.icdri.org/section_508_resource_page.htm). Substantial listing of government, industry, and academic resources related to federal accessibility standards as defined by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

**Trace Research and Development Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**, at <http://www.trace.wisc.edu>. Probably the leading center for research on information technology and people with disabilities.

**Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Web site**, at <http://www.tsbvi.edu>. This site, maintained by Jim Allan, Web-master and Statewide Technical Specialist, provides a wealth of information on a broad range of accessibility topics. Allan is a member of the WAI Interest Group.

**Adaptive Technology Resource Center, University of Toronto**, at <http://www.utoronto.ca/atrc/>. Wide-ranging research and development program related to adaptive technologies for persons with disabilities, including excellent work on Web and software accessibility. See also the **Special Needs Opportunity Window (SNOW)** project site, at <http://snow.utoronto.ca/index.html>.

**Lighthouse International**, at <http://www.lighthouse.org>. This organization has created guides to improved legibility through font selection and sizing and effective use of color and contrast. "Simple Steps to More Readable Type through Universal Graphic Design" is available at [http://www.lighthouse.org/bigtype/universal\\_graphic\\_design.htm](http://www.lighthouse.org/bigtype/universal_graphic_design.htm). "Making Text Legible: Designing for People with Partial Sight" is available at [http://www.lighthouse.org/print\\_leg.htm](http://www.lighthouse.org/print_leg.htm).

"Safe Web Colours for Colour-Deficient Vision," at <http://more.btexact.com/ces/colours/>. Guidelines for selecting Web colors that work for people who have difficulty seeing certain colors. Excellent illustrations. By Christine Rigdon of British Telecom.

**WebAim: Web Accessibility in Mind**, at <http://www.webaim.org/>. The Section 508 checklist with success/failure criteria is especially helpful — <http://www.webaim.org/standards/508/checklist>.

**Microsoft's Enable site**, at <http://www.microsoft.com/enable>. Substantial site providing information about and access to many Microsoft tools for accessible design, plus links to many other resources including information about Microsoft's Active Accessibility (MSAA) Application Programming Interface (API) for Windows.

**Uselt!**, at <http://www.useit.com>. Web site maintained by Jakob Nielsen, a leading usability expert who has written some useful pointers about accessible design.

**Bobby, the automated accessibility checker**, at <http://www.cast.org/bobby>. Comes in two versions — one on the Web, one stand-alone (Java-based) application. Stand-alone version can check a whole Web site; the online version checks one page at a time and has trouble with dynamically generated pages. Be aware that no automated tool can possibly detect all accessibility problems. Humans are necessary!

**W3C's HTML Validation Service**, at <http://validator.w3.org/>.

**The WAVE**, at [http://www.temple.edu/inst\\_disabilities/piat/wave/](http://www.temple.edu/inst_disabilities/piat/wave/). Developed at Temple University (Philadelphia) by the late Len Kasday, the WAVE is especially useful in helping sighted developers see ALT text and recognize the order in which items on their pages will be read by screen readers and talking browsers.

**WAI Evaluation and Repair Tools Working Group** list of free and commercial evaluation and repair tools, at <http://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/existingtools.html>. The list is frequently updated.

**IBM Home Page Builder** configurable accessibility checker, at <http://www-3.ibm.com/software/websevers/hpbuilder/win/>. Much of its extensive functionality is accessible from the keyboard.

[ibm.com/software/websevers/hpbuilder/win/](http://www.ibm.com/software/websevers/hpbuilder/win/). Much of its extensive functionality is accessible from the keyboard.

**Microsoft PowerPoint WWW Accessibility Wizard**, at <http://www.rehab.uiuc.edu/ppt/index.html>.

Developed by the Division of Education-Rehabilitation Services at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. This tool steps PowerPoint authors through the process of converting PowerPoint presentations into accessible Web-based presentations.

**Macromedia Dreamweaver** extensions for checking compliance with Section 508 and with general usability guidelines, at <http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/accessibility/>. The Dreamweaver MX product provides substantially more support for authoring accessible content, as well as improved accessibility for authors who have disabilities.

Information about accessibility features for **Adobe products**, at <http://access.adobe.com>. Includes instructions on using Acrobat 5 and Microsoft Word 2000 to create accessible PDF documents.

Developed by John Slatin and Jim Allan to accompany a presentation at the Government Technology Conference in Austin, Texas, on February 15, 2002. Copyright © 2002 John M. Slatin and Jim Allan. Used with permission.



# In Memoriam

## Gary Y. Kaplan

**G**ary Y. Kaplan, 68, of Fair Haven, died Friday, 8/26/05 at Riverview Medical Center. Born in East Stroudsburg, PA, he was raised in Red Bank before moving to Fair Haven where he lived for 33 years. He graduated from Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School and received a degree from the University of Michigan in Architecture in 1960. Mr. Gary Y. Kaplan was a member of Congregation B'nai Israel, a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects (FAIA), an Eagle Scout and a member of the Boy Scout Council. In 1969 he founded an architectural firm, now known as Kaplan Gaunt DeSantis of Red Bank. He enjoyed fishing, camping, rafting, woodworking and gardening.

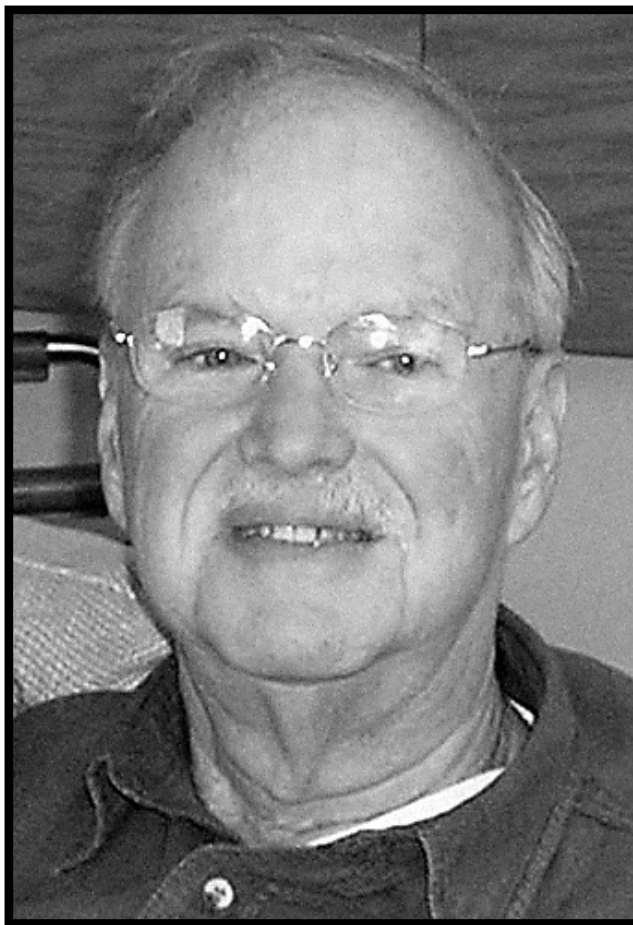
For over thirty-five years, Gary worked as an architect in the Red Bank area. He was particularly sensitive to the built environment and how it affected the disabled community, and as a result he was dedicated to creating barrier free standards for organizations whose mission is to provide services to the disabled. As a professional activist, spirited collaborator, and entrepreneur, he led the profession beginning in the late sixties in developing barrier free standards with the New Jersey Easter Seal Society, when such standards were not commonly accepted. The standards developed with Gary's assistance have become the model codes for many national standards.

Mr. Gary Kaplan became the President of the New Jersey

Society of Architects in 1975. He later served on the committee for the Americans with Disability Act for NJ. He was the past Chairman of the NJ Easter Seals and served as Chairman of several National Easter Seal committees.

Mr. Kaplan was also the President of the Architects' Community Design Center in Newark, N.J., President of Pathways (an organization for rehabilitation of the mentally ill); and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Camp Merry Heart (a camp for handicapped children). Since 1968, he was a member of the N.J. State Sub Code Committee and participated in the development of the Barrier-free Design Standards for the State of N.J. In 1995 he was selected by Governor Christine Todd Whitman for the Governor's Volunteer of the Year Award. In 1997, the N.J. Society of Architects named Gary Architect of the Year and in that year he became a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Kaplan also served on the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force since its inception in 1992

He was predeceased by his



parents Ethel and David Kaplan in 1985. Surviving are his wife Gloria, of 46 years; daughter Michele Fine and husband David of Westfield, NJ; daughter Andrea Yanoff and husband Michael of Westwood, MA; and son Ross Kaplan and wife Susan of Birmingham, MI.

Also surviving are his sister, Joan Leon and seven grandchildren; Adam, Ben, Derek, Danielle, Nicole, Perry and Aaron.

With the help of the American Institute of Architects New Jersey (AIA NJ) his wife, Gloria and the architecture firm of Kaplan Gaunt DeSantis, to commemorate Gary's accomplishments, have created a scholarship fund for a talented architectural student who is a New Jersey resident, with special consideration given to one with disabilities. The AIA NJ has agreed to assume management of Mr. Kaplan's fund through its 501-C3 tax-exempt non profit account program. Donations to the fund can be made by sending a check made payable to the Gary Kaplan Scholarship Fund and forward it to Kaplan Gaunt DeSantis Architects at:

241 Maple Avenue  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

# Sensitivity Training Sessions

Presented by the New Jersey Arts Access Task. A co-sponsored project of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

**L**earn from a panel of individuals with disabilities how your organization can effectively communicate, offer assistance and provide a truly welcoming experience for all individuals attending your venue and participating in your activities. All members of your staff are encouraged to attend, especially those that interact directly with the public (i.e. ushers, volunteers, box office and concession personnel, docents, etc).

We would like to thank those organizations that took part in the recent training sessions at The Paper Mill Playhouse, Two River Theatre Company and The Cape May County Library. We applaud your ongoing commitment to providing access to all individuals. For more information on how your organization can host a training session contact Robert Carr by phone at 973.540.0515 x15 or by email at rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org

## Guide to Accessible Arts

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance and The New Jersey Arts Access Task Force are dedicated to informing the public of Cultural events throughout the state of New Jersey through our publication of The Guide to Accessible Arts.

To receive a copy of the *Guide To Accessible Arts*, email your request to info@njtheatrealliance.org or call (973) 540-0515 ext 10. Organizations are asked to submit all Sign Interpreted, Open Captioned and Assisted Listening events to Maris Smith at smith@njtheatrealliance.org, 973-540-0515 ext 12.

**new jersey theatre alliance**

**Accessible Theatre Performances at New Jersey's Professional Theatres**  
December 2005, January/February 2006

Call the theatre box office to purchase tickets to these performances.

<b>George Street Playhouse</b> 9 Livingston Avenue New Brunswick, NJ 08901 Box Office: (732) 246-7717 www.GSPonline.org	<b>McCarter Theatre</b> 91 University Place, Princeton NJ 08540 Box Office: (609) 258-ARTS www.mccarter.org	<b>Paper Mill Playhouse</b> Brookside Drive, Millburn, NJ 07041 Box Office: (973) 376-4343 www.papermill.org
<b>Inspecting Carol</b> By Daniel Sullivan and the Seattle Repertory Ensemble Thursday, December 15, 2005 @ 8:00pm Saturday, December 24, 2005 @ 2:00pm	<b>A Christmas Carol</b> Based on the Charles Dickens tale. Saturday, December 17, 2005 @ 1:00pm	<b>The Diary of Anne Frank</b> By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman Thursday, February 23, 2006 and Saturday, February 25, 2006 @ 2:00pm
<b>Underneath the Lintel</b> By Glen Berger Thursday, January 26, 2006 @ 8:00pm Saturday, February 4, 2006 @ 2:00pm	<b>A Moon for the Misbegotten</b> By Eugene O'Neill Saturday, February 18, 2006 @ 3:00pm Sunday, February 19, 2006 @ 2:00pm	<b>Two River Theater Company</b> 21 Bridge Avenue, Red Bank, NJ 07701 Box Office: (732) 345-1400 www.trtc.org
		<b>All My Sons</b> By Arthur Miller Thursday, February 2, 2006 @ 8:00pm

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# Cultural Access News

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### Arts Access Task Force

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