

## Volunteer Recognition Event on September 28!

There are red carpet events like the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, the MTV Awards, the People's Choice Awards and then there are there is the ultimate red carpet extravaganza...the New Jersey Unit Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Joan Rivers and Kathy Griffin will be commenting on the afternoon wear, Jon Stewart and Whoopi Goldberg are thumb wrestling to see who has the honor of emceeing the event and even though she doesn't volunteer, Susan Lucci is once again hoping to win the daytime vixen award.

Only kidding.

Oh, you'd already figured that

out.

The New Jersey Unit will be expressing gratitude for the hard work of its volunteers during the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to be held on **Thursday, September 28 from 12-3 P.M. at the Queenship of Mary Church on Dey Road in Plainsboro.** Of course, we know that many of you, especially evening and Saturday volunteers, can't attend (those annoying things called work or school), so there will be special goodies available during the following week.

Along with presentations to volunteers who have given 5, 10, 15,

20 and 25 or more years of service, and the most time over the last fiscal year, there will be tributes to **Betty Wood, Ruth Alampi and Anne Sheldon.**

**Kristen Witucki**, a visually impaired RFB&D member and winner of a National Achievement Award will tell of her experience using RFB&D recordings. She is currently working on an MFA in Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence.

If you can join us, please RSVP with studio staff. Directions to the church are available in the studio.

**Be sure to read photo and illustration credits at the end of the description.**

**SAVE!**

**It's good to SAVE your file each time you stop while recording.**

## "The little red dot is blinking. Does that matter?..."

In a word, **"YES!!!!"**

The VU meter at the bottom right of the screen measures the volume of the sound coming through the microphone. That volume can be increased or decreased by the knob on the far right of the mic preamp/processor (or at the top if the preamp is mounted vertically). Ideally, the yellow lights of the VU meter should be lit when the reader is speaking into the mic. If the red bar is lit, the volume is a little high, but not to the point of distorting or having the voice turn to static or disappear (called clipping). When the red dot lights up, whether it's blinking or not, it is an indication that the volume is too high. It may have gone too high for just a moment, but there was something that set the light off.



Ideally, the yellow lights should be lit while recording.

When the red dot is lit or flashing. **STOP, go back and listen. You may hear distortion**

You should stop and listen back. What you heard while recording isn't what was recorded. (You're favorite computer science reader can explain why.) Even after you get the OK on your soundcheck from staff, things change; readers move, voices get stronger or tired. Some readers read differently during soundchecks than while actually recording. Directors, readers and self-

directed readers need to look at the VU meter from time to time. If you have a problem or question, don't hesitate to ask staff.

# If you love volunteering at RFB&D, imagine how much fun you'll have working for RFB&D!

**Position: NJ RFB&D Educational Outreach Regional Coordinator (two positions, one for the northern and one for the southern part of the state.**

Purpose: To support and encourage RFB&D's educational outreach initiatives in New Jersey as defined by the NJ Unit's Educational Outreach Director regarding the state funded program. This position is directly related to specific funding requirements.

Part time – 20 hours per week.

## Responsibilities:

- To build awareness of RFB&D services throughout specified counties within the state.
- Reports directly to the Educational Outreach Director, who reports directly to the Executive Director.
- This position is an important element of the Educational Outreach team.
- Support & maintain relationships with existing schools that have RFB&D memberships under the state funded program.
- Works closely with the Educational Outreach team to foster productive institutional memberships.
- Provides considerate and courteous assistance to school districts regarding the state funded program through emails, telephone inquiries and individual visits.
- Provides prompt and courteous follow-up to all inquiries from school personnel.
- Works with identified school districts to build an understanding of the state funded program.
- Provides teacher training and in-service support to district schools.

## Requirements:

- Valid driver's license and proof of vehicle registration.
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills.
- Computer proficiency.
- Bachelor degree/or relevant educational work experience.
- Background check/federal requirement.

## Please contact:

Christine Ranaghan, Director– RFB&D NJ Educational Outreach Center

Toll Free – 1-877-4RFBNDJ      cranaghan@rfd.org

**Name this newsletter!**  
**THE NEW JERSEY UNIT NEWS?**  
**Dull! Boring! Clichéd!**  
**Drop your suggestion in the**  
**box by the sign out sheets.**  
**Make it funny...Make it classic**  
**You suggest...we'll decide**

*Gitti Sínding*  
says *Thank You* for your  
cards and well-wishes.  
If you'd like to send Gitti a card  
or letter, her address is:  
900 Hollingshead Spring Road  
Apt. I-102  
Skillman, NJ 08558

**Finish that paragraph before  
you quit for the day.  
If you can't get through it,  
please go back to the end of  
the previous paragraph.**

## Join RFB&D at The International Dyslexia Association Fall Conference

New Jersey Unit Educational Outreach Director **Chris Ranaghan** and **Connie Dowling**, educational programs director at RFB&D's national headquarters will be making a presentation at the New Jersey branch of The International Dyslexia Association's (IDA) Annual Fall Conference. The conference will be held on Friday, October 13 at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village (less than five minutes from the New Jersey Unit studio).

The theme of the conference is *Aligning Language and Literacy: Covering All the Bases*. Chris and Connie will be conducting a pro-

gram providing an overview of RFB&D; explaining why it is an effective intervention for students with learning disabilities. They will also outline practical classroom implementation strategies. There will be other presentations and information on research, assessment and effective instruction to aid students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities at the conference. An exhibit hall of vendors offering educational material will be open throughout the day.

The IDA is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the study and treatment of dyslexia. The organization focus is

in four major areas: information and referral services, research, advocacy and direct services to professionals in the field of learning disabilities. Chris is also on the board of directors of IDA's New Jersey branch.

The conference will run from 8:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. and is open to the public. If you or anyone you know (parents, educators, etc.) would like more information, please email the New Jersey branch of IDA at [njida@msn.com](mailto:njida@msn.com) with your name and mailing address and a brochure will be mailed to you.

## Help yourself and RFB&D with the Pension Protection Act

A new tax-saving opportunity was signed into law by President Bush on August 17, 2006. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 gives new tax incentives for charitable gifts for donors who are 70½ or older, or will turn 70½ on or before December 31, 2007.

The new law allows you to use funds from your IRA to make a lifetime charitable gift, tax free.

The benefits to you:

☛ You may be receiving minimum distributions from an IRA as part of your retirement income since you turned 70½. You may not need these IRA distributions, but by law you have to take them and pay income tax on them. Under the new law, if you

transfer those minimum distributions to your favorite charity, you will avoid paying income tax on them.

☛ Your transfer will not generate a tax deduction, so you do not have to itemize this tax deduction to receive the benefit.

A couple of rules apply:

☛ You are currently aged 70½ or older, or will be on or before December 31, 2007

☛ You make your gifts on or before December 31, 2007

☛ Your gifts do not total more than \$100,000 per year (thus you have a maximum allowance of \$200,000 by December 31, 2007)

☛ Your funds are transferred

directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA

☛ You make your gift to a public non-profit charity (such as the New Jersey Unit)

Making a gift to the charitable organization of your choice is easy – please contact your IRA custodian for the necessary transfer forms. Please consult your financial advisor for further information pertinent to your own specific circumstances.

And if you would like any further information on the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and how your gift could benefit your favorite charity, contact Jessica Wilson at (609) 750-9579.

## Oh! That's the difference between O and 0

For longer than most of you would believe, I had a phone number with the last four digits of 1062. It was voiced, one-oh-six-two. The 0 was also what you dialed (Remember dialing?) to get an operator ("Operator! Get me

Murray Hill 5-5555!).

Unfortunately, in the digital age, 0 and O are completely different animals. You MUST read the 0s as zeros and the Os as Ohs. For example; if my website was [www.tgruenewald\\_1062.com](http://www.tgruenewald_1062.com), it

would be very important to read the 0 as a zero. If you read it as oh, the browser would, at the very least, not lead you to the site you were looking for.

# Does your company have a matching gift program?

Does your company play the Match Game. No, not the one with Gene Rayburn in eternal reruns on the Game Show Network. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contribution made by their employees to nonprofit organizations like the New Jersey Unit. Some even make contributions for time volunteered with the

organization.

Listed below are some of the companies that have matched their employees'—and even retired employees'—gifts to RFB&D. Contact your business or personnel office to obtain the proper form to complete, and return it to us at the New Jersey Unit.

Adobe Systems, Inc.	ARCO Foundation	Bestfoods/ITG	St. Paul Federal Bank	Mutual of America
Gannett Foundation	Harcourt General	Charles Schwab & Co.	Chevron Corporation	Unilever United States
PCW Communication	PQ Corporation	The Boeing Company	McGraw-Hill Companies	Contractor Bonding & Insurance Co.
Advanced Micro Devices	Astoria Savings	Johnson & Johnson Security	Sun Microsystems	Mutual of New York (MONY)
Geico	John A. Hartford Foundation	Mutual Life	Foundation	United Technologies
J.C. Penney	Quaker Oats Foundation	BP America	Chubb Corporation	Corn Products International
Aetna Foundation	AT&T Foundation	The Robert Wood Johnson	Merrill Lynch & Co.	National Reinsurance Corp.
General Electric Company	Herberts-O'Brien	Foundation	Foundation	UPS Foundation
PepsiCo Foundation	Reader's Digest Foundation	Shaklee USA	Susquehanna Partners, GP	Corning Incorporated
Aid Association for Lutherans	Automatic Data Processing	Leo Burnett U.S.A.	CIGNA Foundation	NY Marine & General Insurance Co.
General Re Foundation	William & Flor Hewlett	Kemper Securities	Microsoft	U.S. West Foundation
Pfizer	Foundation	Sony USA Foundation	Swiss Bank Corporation	Equitable Foundation
AlliedSignal	Reuters America	The Capital Group	Cisco System	The New York Times Company
G.L.C. Inc.	Avon Products	Eli Lilly & Co. Foundation	Millipore Foundation	Washington Mutual Foundation
Philip Morris Companies	Hoechst Foundation	Southern California Gas	Time Warner Cable	Ericsson GE
American Express Company	Rreef Outreach	CapMac	Citibank	Newsweek
Glaxo WellCome	BankAmerica Foundation	Lucent Technologies	Mobil Foundation	The Washington Post
Pitney Bowes	Houghton Mifflin Company	Southwestern Bell	Times Mirror	Exxon Corporation
Ameritech Corporation	The Rockefeller Group	Foundation	Cleveland H. Dodge Fdn.	Nike
The Green Point Savings Bank	Bankers Trust Foundation	Champion International	Monsanto Company	Zurich Reinsurance Centre
Bank	IBM Corporation	MassMutual	Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.	Fannie Mae Foundation
PNC Financial Corporation	Safeco Corporation	Spear, Leeds & Kellogg	The Coca-Cola Company	Norton Company Foundation
Applied Energy Services	Becton Dickinson	Foundation	J.P. Morgan & Co.	
John Hancock Mutual Insurance Co.	Illinois Tool Works	Foundation	Transamerica Foundation	
PPG Industries	Foundation	McDonnell Douglas	Computer Associates International	
	Salomon Foundation	Foundation		

## Volunteer happenings

David Coales waited until the hottest day of the year to make his appearance in the world. Proud parents **Heather and Stephen Coales** were happy to spend the summer's most intense days using the hospital's air conditioning. Since young David spent much of his in utero time helping Heather direct recording sessions, we expect his first words will be a legal citation, a chemical reaction or computer code.

**Angela Holman** and her husband Dr. Michael Holman celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July in Maine. Their children and other relatives came from as far away as England and Alberta, Canada to celebrate with them.

**Ginny Mayer's** husband Bill will be honored with the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service for the state of New Jersey on September 12 at Grounds for Sculpture. The award is named after AARP's founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus and recognizes outstanding AARP volunteers and members who are making a difference in their communities in ways that support the organization's mission, vision and strategic direction and inspire others to volunteers.

**Bill Kastan** won first place in the professional acrylic painting category of the Middlesex County Department on Aging Senior Art Contest. He will go on to compete in the New Jersey State Senior Citizens Arts Contest in September.

**John Schivell** returned to RFB&D just five weeks after having open heart surgery. He's feeling well enough to have started jogging again.

**Fred Horowitz and Savi, Chet, Kavita and Preeta Ragavan** were featured in a recent Princeton Packet article about RFB&D.

**Molly Williamson** has started classes at Villanova. **Megan Finley** has started classes at St. Olaf College.

**Shamus Adams** is working for the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York.

**Greg Paris** sends greetings from the Boston studio. His job with Novartis was transferred to Beantown.

If there's any news you'd like to share with your fellow volunteers, please tell Tony Gruenewald or send him an email at [tgruenewald@rfd.org](mailto:tgruenewald@rfd.org).