

March 2020

DIAL—Center for Independent Living

DIAL Inside Look

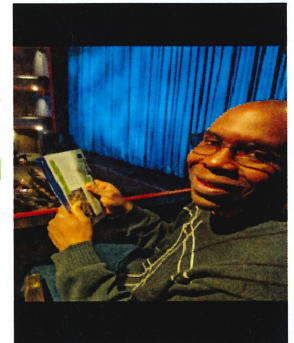
Special points of interest:

- 2020 Abilities Expo
- Essex County Job Fair
- NJ Disability Pride in the Park Picnic
- DIAL Membership Drive
- SLIC Public Forum

NJPAC—Drum Tao: 2020

On February 8, 2020, DIAL sponsored a trip to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center to see the Drum Tao: 2020 performance.

This world famous group uses Japanese drums and dance for an incredible performance. The costumes were bright and colorful and many different types of drums were used. The artists engaged the audience and were often funny. Consumers attending were able to meet the cast members during intermission. We hope to see more of you next time DIAL takes a trip to NJPAC.



Six Flags Now Autism Certified

Six Flags has earned the Certified Autism Center designation at all twenty-six of its North American park locations in a move aimed at better serving guests with special needs. Great job Six Flags!



How do I Prepare My Tax Returns



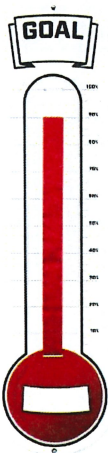
You got your W-2 so now what do you do? It is time to file your Federal and State Tax Returns. Some people get scared when thinking about filing their tax returns, but technology has made it a lot easier to accomplish this once feared task.

You can take your W-2's and other tax papers to a tax preparation agency such as H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt or your CPA. They have trained professionals who can help you with any of your questions. They are more expensive, but you can pay the fee out of your tax refund if you are expecting one. There are online preparation services such as: Turbo Tax, Free Tax USA, Tax Slayer and Credit Karma. They are simple to use with step-by-step instructions. Online services do not cost as much as tax preparation agencies. You will need to have a debit/credit card to pay for the services. Some of these services will let you pay the preparation fee out of your tax return refund. They do charge a premium for this service. You can also file for free with [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov). If you need help with your taxes your local public library usually will have tax preparation services available on scheduled days. If you need help or more information, call the DIAL office for resources. April 15, 2020 is the deadline for filing this year. Don't procrastinate!

**Ever Tried.
Ever Failed.
No Matter.
Fail Again.
Fail Better.**
- Samuel Beckett

DIAL IL Program Surveys

The Annual DIAL Independent Living Program Surveys should arrive in your mailbox soon. DIAL conducts this survey every year to get your ideas and input on what the topics to present at the monthly IL Programs. Please take the time to mark which topics are of importance or interest to you. If you do not see a topic listed, then write in your idea at the bottom of the form. The forms need to be sent back to the office no later than March 31, 2020. If you require alternative format for this survey, please contact the office for accommodations. Send your forms back today!



DIAL Membership Drive

DIAL's 2020 Membership Drive has gotten off to a great start! This year's goal is to have more members than ever before.

Be a part of the Independent Living Movement and get your membership today. There are benefits for being a member of DIAL. Look in this month's mailer for the Membership Form and become a member today!



NJ Disability Pride In the Park

The 2020 NJ Disability Pride Parade is now a Picnic in the Park! Save the date of May 29, 2020 for this MUST attend event. The NJ Disability Pride Picnic is being held at:

Alvin P. Williams Park
Port Reading Avenue
Sewaren, NJ 07077
11:00 am to 4:00 pm



Look for more details on this event in next month's mailer.

Abilities Expo—2020

The New York Metro **Abilities Expo** will be held on May 1–3, 2020 at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center in Edison, New Jersey. Cutting edge products, services, workshops and life-changing activities for all. This is event is one you will not want to miss. It is also **FREE!** Look for more information and details on the Abilities Expo in next month's mailer.

**A wish that every
day for you will be
happy from the start
and may you always
have good luck and
a song within your
heart.**

— Irish Blessing

Your Voice Matters—SILC Public Forum

On April 28, 2020, DIAL—Center for Independent Living will be hosting a Public Forum and would like to invite everyone to attend. This important forum is key in guiding the State of New Jersey on developing and promoting Independent Living services for individuals with disabilities. This is your opportunity to be heard. Let them know what you need and want. The information gathered at this Forum will be used to develop the next State Plan for Independent Living! Your input is invaluable. Call the DIAL office to get transportation to the forum today. The transportation deadline is April 13, 2020. Call today and let your voice be heard!





What does DIAL do?

DIAL—Center for Independent Living is a non-residential, non-profit agency that services individuals with disabilities in Passaic and Essex Counties.

DIAL promotes the Independent Living Philosophy which states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities.

DIAL provides an array of programs and services that inform and support individuals with disabilities. The purpose being to achieve the maximum level in independence and control of the decisions and direction of their own lives and promote their full inclusion in society.

Those services include:

- Information and Referral
- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Programs
- Deaf Outreach Service
- Student Transition Services
- Employment Access Services
- NJ Transit Access Link Assessments
- Recreation Program
- Community Transition Services



**Ormond Quay, Dublin
by Christy Brown**



Famous People of Irish Heritage with a Disability



Christy Brown was an Irish writer and painter who had cerebral palsy and was able to write or type only with the toes of one foot. His most recognized work is his autobiography, titled *My Left Foot*. It was later made into a 1989 Academy Award-winning film.

Francis McCourt was an Irish-American teacher and writer who suffered long-term effects from typhus. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his book *Angela's Ashes*, a tragicomic memoir of the misery and squalor of his childhood in Ireland and the United States.

Simon Fitzmaurice is an award-winning writer and film director whose work has been shown at Sundance and Palm Springs, to name a few esteemed film festivals. Simon has motor neuron disease and is completely paralyzed – but managed to write the script for the film *My Name is Emily* through the movement of his eyes and iris-recognition software.

Joanne O'Riordan age 19 of Cork, Ireland was crowned the "Outstanding Young Person of the World" in Japan. She is recognized for her work with people with disabilities and social inclusion through technology!