



## Calendar Listings:

**February 7th SCANJ Lunch and Learn** at Ramapo College. Noon

**9th Volunteers Training for American Red Cross Blood Drive Certification and SCANJ Volunteers.** 4pm -6pm Shiloh Baptist Church, 99 Davenport Ave in Newark

**11th Kente Carpet Premiere Movie Showing of "A Joyful Noise"** starring Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton and Dexter Darden at the AMC Dine-In Movie Theatre in West Orange. 6:00pm. For tickets, go to [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) or mail your order to arrive before Feb. 10 to SCANJ P.O. Box 9501, Newark, NJ 07104.

**16th Mercer County Community College. SCANJ to educate on sickle cell disease** for Black History Month Program in partnership with NJ Blood Services. Noon

**18th SCANJ/107.5 WBSL Radio and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 2nd District for the American Red Cross Blood Drive.** New Jersey City University 2039 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City. For appointment in advance go to [RedCrossblood.org](http://RedCrossblood.org) and enter **Sponsor Code 02215603.** 8:00am-2:00pm

**25th Shiloh Baptist Church Health Fair.** Visit the SCANJ booth and Take Control of Your Health Demonstration. 99 Davenport Ave. Newark 9:30 am-1:00pm

**28-March 2 6th Annual Sickle Cell Symposium and Scientific Meeting, SCANJ Poster Presentation on outreach.** Hollywood, Florida

**March 5-8 4 Day Peer Leader Training for Take Control of Your Health Certification Begins.** Newark Beth Israel Hospital. 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM Stay posted for more workshops. Register online through [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) or call SCANJ at 973 482-9070.



Volume 3  
Issue 2

# Say It Loud!

February 2012

Sickle Cell News You Can Use

The Sickie Cell Association of New Jersey

## A Note From the Executive Director...



Mary  
Bentley LaMar

**Hollywood comes to West Orange!** You're invited to join us at the Premiere *Kente Carpet* Movie showing of "A Joyful Noise!" starring Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton, along with co-star Dexter Darden.

This stellar event begins at 6:00pm on Saturday, February 11, 2012. We're rolling out the *Kente Carpet* for you SCANJ style as you stroll in and get comfortable for an unforgettable evening. You can take pictures, enjoy the food, enjoy the movie and afterwards go behind the scenes with the talented co-star, Dexter Darden, who will be joining us live. Darden, who is from New Jersey, will take your questions with the inside scoop of how he's successfully pursuing his dreams in the face of sickle cell disease.

Other event highlights include sneak previews of public service announcements (PSA's) including one to introduce our PSA contest to raise awareness of sickle cell disease (pg. 2).

Here's your chance to stroll down the Kente Carpet. Tickets are \$50.00 for adults and \$35.00 for youth under 21. Don't forget your cameras!

In other news, I invite you to get certified as a volunteer for SCANJ. In cooperation with the American Red Cross, SCANJ will host a training certification for blood drive support volunteers on Thursday February 9th (See calendar listings) in Newark. Help us to get all set for the WBSL/Omega Blood Drive on the 18th and other events. Refreshments will be provided.

Speaking of volunteers... congratulations to our newly certified CDSMP Peer Leaders; Sharon Brown, Robin Curry, Margaret Hadnott, Robin McCoy, Pauline Phipps, Cyntra Scott, Dominique Scott, Jacqueline Scott, Sandra Sledge, and Caitlin Witucki.

These Peer Leaders are now licensed through the Stanford School of Medicine Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP) to conduct 6 week community workshops for *Take Control of Your Health*. You too can become a Peer Leader and take a 6 Week Community workshop. Visit our website or [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for updates on upcoming workshops.

Kudos to all. Let's keep this up!  
~Mary

## Did You Know? New NJ Law Requires Insurers to Cover Sickle Cell Treatments

Thanks to a new law, insurance companies that do business in New Jersey will now be required to cover medically necessary treatment for sickle cell disease. The law offers critical protection for New Jersey residents with sickle cell disease who will no longer need to worry that their health insurer will use their "pre-existing condition" as reason to deny payment for treatment.

The costs covered include but are not limited to those incurred for prescription drugs, dose-intensive chemotherapy/bone marrow transplants, and umbilical cord blood transplants.

The New Jersey law provides a much needed bridge for insured adults with sickle cell disease who are at risk for having payment of their claims denied until the full provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act go into effect in 2014.

That Act was signed into law in 2010 by President Obama. (One provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that is already in effect requires insurers to cover treatment for children under 19). Even when the federal law goes into full effect, however, the New Jersey law will remain an important safety net for adults and children with sickle cell disease if the federal law is declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court or efforts to repeal it are successful.

Another important health insurance option to be aware of is NJ Protect. This is a new federally mandated health insurance option for uninsured New Jerseyans with pre-existing medical conditions, such as sickle cell disease. Coverage through NJ Protect will generally cost less than comparable individual health insurance.

Because the program is federally subsidized, treatment for pre-existing medical conditions will be covered as of the day a policy goes into effect, and preventive care will be covered at no out-of-pocket cost to the policyholder. For more information on NJ Protect, go to [http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division\\_insurance/njprotect/index.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division_insurance/njprotect/index.htm)

SCANJ thanks Assemblywomen Eleese Evans, Mila M. Jasey, and Cleopatra G. Tucker, who sponsored the New Jersey legislation.

SCANJ also thanks Senator Ronald Rice for his support of legislation to help with sickle cell disease.

## Mailing Address for SCANJ

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EIN# 80-0474935 SCANJ is a 501c 3 agency

Donations are tax deductible.

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## Say It Loud! PSA Video Contest

Registration online

Entries by mail

Entry Deadline is April 3rd.

For complete rules and guidelines go to

[www.sayitloudscanjcontest.eventbrite.com](http://www.sayitloudscanjcontest.eventbrite.com)

The Say It Loud Newsletter is published monthly. Archived copies are available for download from our website.

Beverly Lucas-Editor

**SCANJ Executive Director, Mary Bentley LaMar** will be making **A Joyful Noise** as she journeys to Hollywood, Florida for the 6th Annual Sickle Cell Disease Research and Educational Symposium & Annual National SCD Scientific Meeting February 29-March 2. Mary is doing a poster presentation on *Say it Loud!* Outreach Programs of The Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey (SCANJ).

**NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT!**



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[www.sicklecellnewjersey.org](http://www.sicklecellnewjersey.org)

### Coming Soon...

**February 11th Premier Kente Carpet Movie Showing of *A Joyful Noise* with live guest appearance by co-star Dexter Darden. 6:00pm West Orange.**

**February 18th SCANJ Celebrates Black History Month teaming up with 107.5 WBLS Radio and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 2nd District for the Sickle Cell Awareness American Red Cross Blood Drive. New Jersey City University (NJCU) Student Union 2039 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City. You can register thru [RedCrossblood.org](http://RedCrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code 02215603.**

Health Fest. WBLS' DJ's will be on site to help with the festivities and most of all, raise awareness about sickle cell disease and the importance of blood donations. Contact SCANJ for more information.