

October 4, 2024

Dear Listeners,

What a busy month! Check out the wide variety of activities and performances in this week’s Update. And please let us know by reply e-mail to [**sylvia@washear.org**](mailto:sylvia@washear.org) if we are missing anything you think would be of interest to our community.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Scientists Discover Gene Responsible for Rare, Inherited Eye Disease**](#Gene)
* [**Hadley Podcast: Veterans Administration Services and Vision Loss**](#Hadley)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + **[Arlington County Festival Latinoamericano](#Latino)**
  + **[Reston VIP Open Meeting: Let’s Get Reacquainted](#Reston)**
  + **[Maryland LBPD TUG Meeting: iOS 18](#TUG)**
  + **[Montgomery County Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Health Fair](#Fair)**
  + [**Low Vision Support Group: Healthy Aging (Virtual Event)**](#Aging)
  + [**Stargardt's Network: The White Cane (Virtual Event)**](#Stargardt)
  + [**Leisure World Lions Group: Voting Accessibility**](#Lions)
  + [**Many Faces of BARD Meeting: Smart Speaker**](#BARD)
  + **[Alexandria Low Vision Resource Group: Low-Tech Assistive Devices Demo](#Demo)**
  + **[Salón Mexicano Concert with Jorge Federico Osorio](#Salon)**
  + [**iBugCafe: iOS 18 New Features Demo**](#iBug)
  + **[American Council of the Blind of Virginia](#ACBVA)** [(](#ACBVA)**[ACBVA) Virtual Meeting: Judy Dixon Discusses AI](#ACBVA)**
  + **[MWE National White Cane Safety Awareness Day Expo](#MWE)**
  + [**Tech Talk Tuesdays: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Vision Accessibility (Virtual Event)**](#Tech)
  + [**Virtual Low Vision Town Hall: Optimal Lighting for Your Home**](#Hall)
  + [**Friendship Heights Vision Resource Group: Simple Steps for Preventing Falls at Home**](#Friendship)
  + [**Glide Mobility Aid Demo Day**](#Glide)
  + **[FCC Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting](#FCC)**
  + **[Accessible Board Games Meet-up](#Games)**
  + **[State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia](#NFBVA)**
  + [**Being the Light Friends and Family Connection Luncheon**](#Light)
  + [**POB READS Book Club (Virtual Event)**](#POB)
  + [**America InSight: Verbal Description Tour**](#InSight)
  + [**Virtual Blind Health Expo 2024**](#Expo)

###

**SCIENTISTS DISCOVER GENE RESPONSIBLE FOR RARE, INHERITED EYE DISEASE**

Bin Guan and collaborators including Ehsan Ullah, Laryssa Huryn, Aime Agather, and Chelsea Bender at the National Eye Institute tied variants of the gene *UBAP1L* to at least six cases of inherited retinal disease (IRD). IRDs are a group of disorders that damage the eye’s light-sensing retina. "Now that we’ve identified the causative gene, we can study how the gene defect causes disease and, hopefully, develop treatment," said Guan. [**NEI news story**](https://www.nei.nih.gov/about/news-and-events/news/scientists-discover-gene-responsible-rare-inherited-eye-disease).

###

**HADLEY PODCAST: VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SERVICES AND VISION LOSS**

An episode of the [**Hadley Presents: A Conversation with the Experts**](https://hadleyhelps.org/podcasts/hadley-presents-conversation-experts) audio podcast

Did you know that veterans are eligible for vision services and equipment through the Veterans Administration even if their vision loss developed many years later and was not as a result of service? Learn more from a chat with a representative of the Hines VA at

[**Veterans Administration Services and Vision Loss | Hadley (hadleyhelps.org)**](https://hadleyhelps.org/podcasts/hadley-presents-conversation-experts/veterans-administration-services-and-vision-loss)

###

**THEATER UPDATE**

The following performances will be described by a MWE volunteer. Note that recorded program notes will be available at the theater just prior to the actual performance and on Dial-In before and after the performance at Publication 8, Category 12, Branch 11.

**Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground**

Olney Theatre Center – Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab 301-924-3400

Described Wednesday, October 9th at 7:30 pm

**Mean Girls**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Saturday October 19th at 2:00 pm and Sunday, October 20th at 7:30 pm

**Babbit**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, October 26th matinee

###

**CALENDAR**

**Replay POB Events**

**Listen and watch replays of recent webinars and other POB events at**[**www.youreyes.org/replays**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=21719989f4&e=59825d4dc8)**.**

###

**Arlington Festival Latinoamericano**

Friday, October 4th from 5:00 to 9:00 pm

[**Arlington Mill Community Center**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Locations/Indoor-Facilities/Arlington-Mill-Community-Center)

909 S Dinwiddie Street, Arlington

Arlington County's Festival Latinoamericano is dedicated to celebrating the vibrant and diverse cultures that enrich the community. The mission is to showcase the rich tapestry of Latin American art, food, and culture in Arlington County, providing a platform for local artists, chefs, and performers to share their talents and traditions with the public. By supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, they aim to foster economic growth and community spirit. This free event is designed to be inclusive and educational, offering attendees of all backgrounds a chance to experience Hispanic Heritage firsthand.

[**Register Now!**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/festival-latinoamericano-tickets-995553857387) at [**Festival Latinoamericano Tickets, Fri, Sep 27, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/festival-latinoamericano-tickets-995553857387)**.**

Festival Latinoamericano is FREE. Registration is not required, but heavily encouraged to allow an accurate count of anticipated attendance.

###

**Reston VIP Open Meeting: Let’s Get Reacquainted**

Friday, October 4th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm In-Person

Reston Regional Library - In the ELL Area

(In the far back right corner, ask at the information desk.)

11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Leader: Stan Gowin

Speakers: All who Attend

Welcome back to the freshly refurbished Reston Regional Library. At this in-person meeting there will be a chance to get reacquainted and welcome new attendees. Share your ideas for topics for more in-depth discussion at a future meeting. Do you have a gadget, app, or device to bring or talk about? Icebreaker - Stan will bring his AwareWolfGear Urban Xplorer cane.

Please come and share your ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns. We can all learn from each other.

VIP enquiries? Contact:

Sandy Neuzil at 703-989-1821 [**sandy.neuzil@gmail.com**](mailto:sandy.neuzil@gmail.com)

Stan Gowin at 703-470-6633 [**sgowin@verizon.net**](mailto:sgowin@verizon.net)

Kathryn Hodgdon at 703-608-5817 [**ahodgdon@aol.comm**](mailto:ahodgdon@aol.comm)

###

**Maryland LBPD TUG Meeting: iOS 18**

Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) will look at the changes made to the iPhone with iOS 18. What is new, what is accessible, and what just does not work? As always, your questions and experiences are greatly appreciated.

Who should attend this meeting?

* Individuals who own iPhones
* People who assist others with their phones
* Anyone who is thinking about switching to an iPhone.

This program will be recorded.

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**ACB of Virginia Fiber Arts Club!**

Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and may continue onto going somewhere afterwards for lunch

Where: Alexandria, VA

You are invited to join the first in person Meet-Up for the ACB of Virginia Fiber Arts Club. Whether you love crocheting, knitting, loom knitting, weaving, sewing, or any other fiber art, they welcome you to be a part of their vibrant community.

For further information about the meetup or directions please contact Theresa Breeden at [**teeelynn68@gmail.com**](mailto:teeelynn68@gmail.com).

###

**Montgomery County Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Health Fair**

October 6th from 12:00 to 5:00 pm

Marian Fryer Plaza

2424 Reedie Drive, Wheaton

A celebration of health and heritage, with delicious Latin food and free health checkups. There will also be music, dance, and more. The festival is a celebration of the vibrant cultures and traditions that make the county diverse. It’s a day for the whole family to connect with the community and celebrate our vibrant culture.

Learn more at [**Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Health Fair 2024 - The Latino Health Initiative (LHI) (lhiinfo.org)**](https://www.lhiinfo.org/hhm24/).

###

**Low Vision Support Group: Healthy Aging (Virtual Event)   
Tuesday, October 8th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm**Join Daniel Kim, M.D., Washington National Eye Center Ophthalmology Resident, to learn about the risks of eye diseases, as many adults neglect eye care.  
**Hosted by Washington National Eye Center.**

To register, call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.  
**###**  
**Stargardt's Network: The White Cane (Virtual Event)   
Tuesday, October 8th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

Join to discuss the benefits, fears, opportunities, and stigma surrounding the white cane.  
**Hosted by Prevention of Blindness Society**.

To register, call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.  
###  
  
**Leisure World Lions Group: Voting Accessibility**  
**Wednesday, October 9th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

**Leisure World Clubhouse II Edmondson Room**3300 N Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring, MD   
Join a guest speaker from the League of Women Voters, who will discuss accessibility during voting.    
To RSVP, call Larry at **(908) 770-9111**.   
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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Many Faces of BARD Meeting: Smart Speaker**  Thursday, October 10th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm  The program, NLS BARD on the Smart Speaker, will start with a discussion of the use of BARD on the Alexa device and will include a demonstration. After the presentation, they will entertain questions about the presentation or anything else relating to BARD.    NLS will record this program. The session can be joined by going to [**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1608139852?pwd=mktSe41nRXVbqzT0WzRnZKd3DOZYPY.1**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https:%2F%2Floc.zoomgov.com%2Fj%2F1608139852%3F%2521%2521EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ%2521fesX_Jxv_XNRxtDWZMnqsZvk5jS-y95_NZl6M5MQpGKjqaQwDEMUq7OorGufIOse19ug1TANOBUDJM2YDemNozYpfB5L28yDZlKj-Q%2524=%26pwd=mktSe41nRXVbqzT0WzRnZKd3DOZYPY.1__%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000192430e103a-e49a4fe7-775f-4f93-9614-b601730e75f5-000000/j48NjAq95YpUBtyYdrtcy0CZKzuffhZwPnIzldj3vZo=372)  One tap mobile  US: [**+16692545252,,1608139852#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B16692545252,,1608139852/1/01000192430e103a-e49a4fe7-775f-4f93-9614-b601730e75f5-000000/5pZl2KcUn3GBy2EXbEt_HYemDty3hgZJXFC04QUu1_o=372)**or**[**+16468287666,,1608139852#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B16468287666,,1608139852/1/01000192430e103a-e49a4fe7-775f-4f93-9614-b601730e75f5-000000/aZyXosfIQnysqjE8BpHhaDn64WVrun1tENC0t2ZIbVQ=372) | | |   Meeting URL:  [**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1608139852?pwd=mktSe41nRXVbqzT0WzRnZKd3DOZYPY.1**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https:%2F%2Floc.zoomgov.com%2Fj%2F1608139852%3F%2521%2521EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ%2521fesX_Jxv_XNRxtDWZMnqsZvk5jS-y95_NZl6M5MQpGKjqaQwDEMUq7OorGufIOse19ug1TANOBUDJM2YDemNozYpfB5L28yDZlKj-Q%2524=%26pwd=mktSe41nRXVbqzT0WzRnZKd3DOZYPY.1__%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/2/01000192430e103a-e49a4fe7-775f-4f93-9614-b601730e75f5-000000/Ad-C9SA0fcKjsqyG5PlI2glml1GPWr5IWIET5OdYMyQ=372)  Meeting ID: 160 813 9852  Passcode: 686586  Join by telephone:  Dial +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose) +1 646 828 7666 US (New York) +1 646 964 1167 US (US Spanish Line) +1 551 285 1373 US (New Jersey)  Meeting ID: 160 813 9852  ### |

**Alexandria Low Vision Resource Group: Low-Tech Assistive Devices Demo**

Friday, October 11th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm

[**Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library**](https://alexlibraryva.org/event/8886638#branch)

5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, Large Meeting Room

Explore low-tech assistive devices that can help you enhance your daily life. Discover practical tools and tips, and ask questions!   
To RSVP, call **(301) 951-4444**.   
###

**Salón Mexicano Concert with Jorge Federico Osorio**

Sunday, October 13, 2024

1:00 to 2:00 pm and 2:00 to 3:00 pm

National Gallery of Art West Building, West Garden Court

6th Street and Constitution Avenue

Join pianist Jorge Federico Osorio as he performs pieces from his latest album, *Salón Mexicano*. This program of buried treasures from a bygone Romantic era is filled with instantly enjoyable gems of intimate “party music” by influential Mexican composers Felipe Villanueva (1862–1893), Ricardo Castro (1864–1907), Manuel M. Ponce (1882–1948), and José Rolón (1876–1945).

Register at [**https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0190e561-63cc-3bf9-c7b8-1e1158cb42fc**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0190e561-63cc-3bf9-c7b8-1e1158cb42fc)

###

**iBugCafe**: **iOS 18 New Features Demo**

Sunday, October 13th at 5:00 pm

There will be a demo of the new features in iOS 18. Around 25 new features will be covered, including apps, inside settings, accessibility, and VoiceOver.   
To join the Zoom conference:  
[**https://zoom.us/j/7428486329?pwd=M003RmZaa3pTbWRlZ00xbSs4YTlmUT09**](https://zoom.us/j/7428486329?pwd=M003RmZaa3pTbWRlZ00xbSs4YTlmUT09)One tap mobile from a smartphone:  +13462487799,,7428486329#,,,,\*369978# US  
Dial from a phone:  +1 346 248 7799 US  
Meeting ID: 742 848 6329, Password:  369978

###

**American Council of the Blind of Virginia** (**ACBVA) Virtual Meeting: Judy Dixon Discusses AI**

Monday, October 14th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

For many years, Judy Dixon worked at the National Library Service, and she has written a number of books about topics of interest to people who are blind or who have low vision. She will lead a presentation about how AI can benefit people who are blind and will discuss details of applications available on a Windows computer and an iPhone.

And she’ll discuss other items that are using AI, such as smart glasses.

There will be lots of opportunities for questions and discussion.

For more information about ACBVA, please email:  
[**Info.acbva@gmail.com**](mailto:Info.acbva@gmail.com)  
and visit the ACBVA website at:  
[**www.acbva.org**](http://www.acbva.org/)to learn  more about the organization, and to find links to several resources and how to become a member.

Please contact Paul D'Addario at 703-532-9138 or RoseAnn Ashby at 703-403-0226 with questions.

Join Zoom Meeting  
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09)  
Meeting ID: 864 8124 4260  
  
Passcode: 111222  
  
One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,86481244260#,,,,\*111222# US (Washington DC)  
  
Dial by your location  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
Meeting ID: 864 8124 4260  
  
Passcode: 111222

###

**MWE National White Cane Safety Awareness Day Expo**

Tuesday, October 15th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Hilton Garden Inn

2200 Broadbirch Drive, Silver Spring

Explore the resources and services available to the visually impaired community! Get a chance to learn about:

* Braille Classes
* Mobility Training
* Assistive Technology & much more!

Raffle drawings will be held at 12:30 pm.

Boxed lunches will be served at 1:30 pm

Contact the Metropolitan Washington Ear at 301-681-6636 for more information.

###

**Tech Talk Tuesdays: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Vision Accessibility (Virtual Event)  
Tuesday, October 15th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**

Join POB to discuss the benefits and challenges of artificial intelligence in enhancing accessibility.

To RSVP, call **(301) 951-4444**.

###  
  
**Virtual Low Vision Town Hall: Optimal Lighting for Your Home   
Wednesday, October 16th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Special Guest: Greg Gaurnaccia, LC, LEED AP, IES, Principal, International Light Studio**  
Learn about the importance of proper lighting in the home and the simple, effective modifications you can make to create a more accessible home!  
Call **(301) 951-4444** to register.

###  
  
**Friendship Heights Vision Resource Group: Simple Steps for Preventing Falls at Home  
Thursday, October 17th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Friendship Heights Village Center**4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD

Discover practical strategies to eliminate trip hazards at home, especially for people with vision impairment. Engage in a supportive environment where you can ask questions and exchange ideas.  
To RSVP, call **(301) 656-2797**.  
###

**Glide Mobility Aid Demo Day**

Friday, October 18th

St. John's Community Services   
901 D Street, SW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20024

Forwarded by Paul D’Addario

Glide is the world’s first self-guided primary mobility aid designed to further your independence and help you live life to the fullest.

Demo Day is a unique opportunity to meet the team, hear from their founder, ask questions, and see the latest Glide prototype.

Registration and more details are available at:

[**https://glidance.io/glidance-demo-day-dc-october-18th-2024/**](https://glidance.io/glidance-demo-day-dc-october-18th-2024/)###

**FCC Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting**

Friday, October 18th at 9:00 am

​Commission Meeting Room

FCC Headquarters, 45 L Street, NE

The meeting will be open to the public and webcast with open captioning at [**https://www.fcc.gov/live**](https://www.fcc.gov/live).

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell them how to contact you if they need more information. Make your request as early as possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to: [**FCC504@fcc.gov**](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov)or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530.

The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the event page at [**https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2024/10/disability-advisory-committee-meeting**](https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2024/10/disability-advisory-committee-meeting).

Link to Public Notice:  
URL: [**https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-october-18-2024-dac-meeting**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-october-18-2024-dac-meeting)

For more information about the DAC, visit [**www.fcc.gov/dac**](http://www.fcc.gov/dac).  For specific questions, please contact Molly Burgdorf, DAC Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-2173 or [**DAC@fcc.gov**](mailto:DAC@fcc.gov).

###

**Accessible Board Games Meet-up**

Thursday, October 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
Center for Accessibility, 2nd Floor  
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

901 G Street, NW

Accessible Board Game Afternoons occur on the 4th Thursday of every month and is for all Adults!

Enjoy playing games such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Uno, Chess, and more!

Boards and cards are tactile and include braille labelling. Everyone is welcome to join.

To request a reasonable accommodation for this program, please contact[**DCPLaccess@dc.gov**](mailto:DCPLaccess@dc.gov)**or call 202-727-2142.**

###

**State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia** Thursday, October 31st through Sunday, November 3rd

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel

425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA 23704

This action-packed weekend offers something for everyone, with opportunities to connect, learn, and have fun. Here are just a few highlights: - Adaptive Sports & Wellness Activities: From blind tennis to chair aerobics, there is something to get everyone moving, no matter your age or skill level. - Interactive Technology & Resource Fair: Explore hands-on demonstrations of the latest accessible tech, from AI tools enhancing workplace productivity to gadgets simplifying daily living, plus low-vision cell phones, audible health monitors, and more. - Professional Development & Career Support: Get real-time feedback on your resume, participate in mock interviews, and gain insights from professionals across industries. Whether you are starting your career or looking for a new opportunity, they have you covered. - Family-Friendly Fun: Kids can dive into accessible video games, create braille art, or swap books at our the Book Exchange while parents connect with each other and hear from experienced blind role models.

They have also negotiated affordable hotel and meal rates!

To find all details including the agenda and other necessary information, go to [**https://nfbv.org/convention**](https://nfbv.org/convention).

###

**Being the Light Friends and Family Connection Luncheon**  
Saturday, November 2nd from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm   
Ingleside at Rock Creek   
3050 Military Rd NW, Washington, DC  
You, your friends and your family are invited to a luncheon panel discussion, moderated by Suleiman Alibhai, O.D., low vision specialist.  

**Theme:** A New Path: Adjusting to Vision Loss   
  
**Panel Discussion Topics:**

Embracing Change, Gaining Strength

Hope through Shared Experiences

This special luncheon event will give your friends and family a unique opportunity to learn about vision impairment and its challenges.   
  
For tickets, visit [**www.beingthelightpob.org**](http://www.beingthelightpob.org),    
or call **(202) 234-1010, ext. 233**.   
Tickets: $22 per person   
**(Must be purchased by October 18)**

**###**

**POB READS Book Club (Virtual Event)**  
**Wednesday, November 6th at 11:00 am**November's book is The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson. This book delves into the lives of individuals grappling with ambition, sorrow, and bravery as the Civil War begins.  
To sign up, visit [**www.pobreads.org**](http://www.pobreads.org) or call **(301) 951-4444**.

###

**America InSight: Verbal Description Tour**

Thursday, November 14th at 5:30 pm

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Free

Registration required at [**Overview ⋮ America InSight: Verbal Description Tours  ⋮ Blackthorn Events**](https://events.blackthorn.io/en/5f4ZMUx7/america-insight-verbal-description-tours-4a2bVRv3KX/overview)

Join a docent-led tour designed for participants who are blind or have low vision. Discover highlights from the collection through rich verbal descriptions that invoke a multisensory experience.

**###**

**Virtual Blind Health Expo 2024**  
Friday, December 6th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The 3rd annual Blind Health Expo is the world’s largest virtual expo of healthcare information, products, and services for individuals, organizations, and companies in the health, blindness, and disability communities.

FREE to attend

Hundreds of exhibitors!

[**Click Here to Register to Attend**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedZ-pjdWivnuuOpXx0uuNaIRiH0nNSPg-s-Vf6HI9jjiW4jg/viewform?usp=sharing)

###