

November 21, 2024

Dear Listeners,

Good news! Current and back issues of the MWE Updates are now available on our website **at** [**Listener Newsletters – Metropolitan Washington Ear**](https://washear.org/listener-newsletters/).

Also, note that the ACBVA fiber Arts Group zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd has been cancelled due to the holiday season. All activities will resume in January 2025.

And just a reminder that all events in the Calendar section of each Update are free unless otherwise indicated.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Montgomery County Clinics Will Administer Free Flu Vaccinations in November**](#Flu)
* [**NCD Releases Annual Report of Policy Progress Impacting Americans with Disabilities**](#NCD)
* [**POB Job Vacancy: Low Vision Resource Navigator**](#Job)
* [**NEI Scientists Publish Cell-Making Recipe for Research**](#NEI)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
	+ **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
	+
	+ **[Cultural Crossroads: Dvorak in America](#Culture)**
	+ **[Android TalkBack Drop-In Clinic](#Android)**
	+ **[Kensington Park No Pressure Audio Book Club - Virtual](#Audio)**
	+ **[Hadley Tech It Out: Tech Gifts](#Gifts)**
	+ **[Hadley What's Cooking?](#Cooking)****[Adapting Favorite Cooking Techniques](#Cooking)**
	+ [**Sight Tech Global Virtual Conference**](#Global)
	+ [**Virtual Blind Health Expo 2024**](#Expo)
	+ [**Mr Sun Plays Ellington’s Nutcracker**](#Sun)
	+ [**DBVI Virtual Public Comment Meeting**](#DBVI)
	+ [**Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards**](#Awards)
	+ [**ACB Virginia Meeting**](#ACBVA)
	+ [**U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners**](#AI)
	+ [**TUG Meeting**](#TUG)
	+ [**ACB of Virginia Book Group Meeting**](#ACBVABook)
	+ [**ACBVA's Holiday Party**](#Party)
	+ [**“My Favorite Things: Singing the Songs of the Season” with Shana Tucker**](#Songs)
	+ [**LBPD Tactile Tour: The Feel of Nature** **In-Person:**](#LBPD)

###

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLINICS WILL ADMINISTER FREE FLU VACCINATIONS IN NOVEMBER**

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich is joining County health officials in urging all residents to protect themselves and their families by getting vaccinated against the flu. A number of clinics throughout the County will make available free vaccinations for adults and children in November.

Read more at [**https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/10/county-operated-vaccination-clinics.html**](https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/10/county-operated-vaccination-clinics.html).

###

**NCD RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT OF POLICY PROGRESS IMPACTING AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

The National Council on Disability (NCD) released its annual progress report, focusing on a review of governmentwide disability policy developments over the last year.

National Disability Policy: A Progress Report, 2024 report highlights issues pertaining to the health status and healthcare of people with disabilities as well as issues related to employment, travel, accessible technology, housing, and the US census.

The 2024 NCD Progress Report provides a summary of developments in disability policies, assessing the progress made in achieving disability policies, while identifying new and emerging issues. NCD restates several of its existing recommendations on the topics addressed in the report as a measure by which to gage progress.

NCD as an independent federal agency provides recommendations to the President, Congress, federal, state, local and tribal agencies on disability policy.

The report is available for download at [**www.NCD.gov**](http://www.NCD.gov).

###

**POB JOB VACANCY: LOW VISION RESOURCE NAVIGATOR**

Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

The Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement and preservation of sight by providing services, education, advocacy, and innovation. POB programs address vision health equity in the D.C. Metropolitan community.

POB is seeking a part-time Low Vision Resource Navigator. This part-time position trains persons with vision loss on basic adaptations, devices, and aids, and provides optimism about the vision loss journey.

If you are interested in giving back and making a meaningful difference for persons with vision loss and POB, you are invited to apply. The hourly rate is $18.00 per hour, and the work schedule is 15 - 20 hours per week.

Please send resumes and inquiries to **taziz@youreyes.org**.

###

**NEI SCIENTISTS PUBLISH CELL-MAKING RECIPE FOR RESEARCH**

Tea Soon Park and colleagues at NEI published a step-by-step protocol that uses human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to produce key components of capillaries (tiny vessels that carry blood, oxygen and nutrients throughout the body). Now, they're combining these capillary cell types to make tissues to study eye diseases and potential new approaches for treatments. [**NIH Record story**](https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2024/11/08/nei-scientists-publish-cell-making-recipe-research).

###

**THEATER UPDATE**

The following performances will be described by an 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 10, Branch 11.

**Six**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described: Sunday, December 1st at 7:30 pm

**A Hanukkah Carol or Gelt Trip! The Musical**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, November 30th at 2:00 pm

**Data**

Arena Stage Kogod Cradle at the Mead Center - 202-488-3300

Described Saturday, November 30th at 2:00 pm

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**Death on the Nile**

Arena Stage Kreeger at the Mead Center - 202-488-3300

**Note Date Change**:

Described Saturday, December 28th at 2:00 pm

###

**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)

###

**Cultural Crossroads: Dvorak in America**

Sunday, November 24th from 3:00 to 4:15 pm

National Gallery of Art, West Building, West Garden Court

6th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

Registration required at [**Cultural Crossroads: Dvořák in America — National Gallery of Art**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0191a368-fe98-b8ba-855c-1c3528efb1a0)**.**

Listen to how Native American melodies and uplifting African American spirituals influenced the music of beloved Czech composer Antonín Dvořák with *Cultural Crossroads: Dvořák in America*. With its stellar cast of musicians, this ensemble entertains, educates, and inspires through a program drawn from the curiosity of a Czech composer a century ago.

###

**Android TalkBack Drop-In Clinic**

**Friday, November 22nd from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**

[**Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library**](https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/11670964#branch)

901 G Street, NW, 205-B Accessibility Program Room

Learn to use the TalkBack screen reader for Android.

Practice the gestures and other basic skills and try to trouble shoot your individual issues as much as possible, to learn to use Android phones without sight. To register please call 202-727-2142 or email **DCPLaccess@dc.gov**.

###

**Kensington Park No Pressure Audio Book Club - Virtual**

**Monday, November 25th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

[**Virtual Branch**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/10781899#branch)

Audiobook lovers, drop in for an informal and wide-ranging discussion without the pressure of reading an assigned title. All readers are welcome whether you read with ears or eyes. Tell us about a book title that you really enjoyed.

**Join Zoom** [**https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480395484**](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480395484)

**Or Dial In**: 301 715 8592; **Meeting ID: 854 8039 5484**

**If you have trouble getting in, please call Kensington Park Library at 240-773-9515.**

**For security reasons, this program session may be locked 10 minutes after it begins. Please log in promptly.**

###

**Hadley Tech It Out: Tech Gifts**

Tuesday, November 26th at 2:00 pm

There’s always room for a new gadget to make your life a little easier, or perhaps a little more fun. Just in time for the holidays. Join to discuss the best tech-related options to add to your wish list.

Sign up to join at [**Tech It Out | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/tech-it-out)

**###**

**Hadley What's Cooking?** **Adapting Favorite Cooking Techniques**

Wednesday, November 27th at 5:00 pm

Are you the kind of cook who is always looking for a better way to make your favorite foods, such as flipping a pancake or cutting and chopping foods? Join us to share ways you have learned to adapt cooking techniques to fit your vision needs in the kitchen.

Sign up to join at [**What's Cooking? | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/whats-cooking).

###

**Sight Tech Global Virtual Conference**

Wednesday, December 4th and Thursday, December 5th

**Join a real autonomous journey through the streets of San Francisco.**Ride along ... and follow two blind Vista Center staff members on their very first Waymo ride. Learn about the accessibility features available for blind and low-vision riders, such as turn-by-turn audio navigation to the car, as well as descriptive audio cues describing what's happening during a ride, and where to find controls.

This isn't just another ride – it is a real, unscripted look at autonomous
transportation that's giving independence to people who cannot drive!

Watch the audio described video to hear how features like wayfinding assistance, screen reader compatibility, and audio cues are making autonomous rides accessible and independent in San Francisco, with more cities to come.

Waymo has autonomously driven over 22 million miles on public roads and 20 billion miles in simulation, across the country, making this technology today's reality!

**Registration is at** [**2024 Conference Registration - Sight Tech Global**](https://sighttechglobal.com/conference-registration/?mc_cid=ab81e4c2e5&mc_eid=9b3185f9e7)**.**

##3

**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 blindness, and disability communities.

FREE to attend

Hundreds of exhibitors! health

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

###

**Mr Sun Plays Ellington’s Nutcracker**

Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 and 3:00 pm

National Gallery of Art West Building, West Garden Court

6th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Registration Required at [**Mr Sun Plays Ellington’s Nutcracker — National Gallery of Art**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0191a3e1-b94f-071d-056c-50aeedfae0de).

Discover a new take on the holiday classic *Nutcracker Suite* with the acoustic Americana group Mr Sun. Based on the beloved melodies of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker Suite* and its re-interpretation by Duke Ellington and his life-long musical partner Billy Strayhorn.  Mr Sun salutes and re-invents this multi-faceted work through the lens of the American string band.

In this performance, based on the recording *Mr Sun Plays Duke Ellington’s Nutcracker Suite,* selections range from close interpretations of Billy Strayhorn’s original charts to intense extrapolations based on the spirit of the material.

###

**DBVI Virtual Public Comment Meeting**

Monday, December 9th from 5:00 - 6:00 pm

The Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) wants to hear from you!

**Join virtual:**[**Zoom link**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1608030691%3Fpwd%3DHiP9TI438aRHZtKmPmKPAh56ynt7oC.1%25C2%25A0%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/010101934026606c-c838c619-be23-4ee8-b8e1-9746db7aea18-000000/652m1SJwyiSPs_FB-TCLy1-lRHn4Q6LR9eInPFaFHJg%3D379)**Passcode:** 511801

Or

**Telephone:** Dial: (646) 828 - 7666
**Meeting ID:** 160 803 0691
**Passcode:** 511801

Public meetings are held to give stakeholders an opportunity to make comments about DBVI programs and services. DBVI especially wants to get input regarding agency strategic planning, development of agency policies and procedures, and implementing services and supports to potentially eligible and eligible individuals who are blind, vision impaired, or deafblind. DBVI is particularly interested in comments regarding the following programs, services, and divisions:

* Independent Living/Rehabilitation Teaching
* Education Services
* Low Vision Services
* Deafblind Services
* Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired Programs
* Rehabilitation Technology Services
* Vocational Rehabilitation and Workforce Services
* Library and Resource Center Services
* Virginia Industries for the Blind
* Virginia Enterprises for the Blind
* Services to Students and Youth including year-round programming and special Academies

Individuals requiring interpreters or other special accommodations should contact Deborah Collard (800-622-2155) at least two weeks prior to the meeting to request the preferred accommodation.

Written and e-mail comments may be submitted prior to December 31, 2024:

Deborah Collard, Senior Program Analyst
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
397 Azalea Avenue
Richmond, VA, 23227

**Deborah.Collard@dbvi.virginia.gov**, 804-371-3140/1-800-622-2155 (Voice/TTY)

###

**Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards**

Monday, December 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Fairfax County Government Pennino Bldg., Rooms 200/206, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

The Fairfax Area – Disability Services Board's Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards are presented annually to recognize people, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and others that excel in demonstrating a commitment to promoting equal rights and community inclusion for people with disabilities.

This year they will recognize Patricia Beech and Brain Injury Services, for their commitment to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

For reasonable accommodations or questions contact Ann Kim at **Ann.Kim@FairfaxCounty.Gov** or by calling 703-324-7486

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**ACB Virginia Meeting**

Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm

Theresa Breeden will be leading a simple crafting project that everyone can enjoy. If you wish to do the craft along with Theresa during the meeting, please let RoseAnn Ashby know (**beachrose9@verizon.net**). Theresa needs to mail you the kit of supplies you will need for the project, and she wants to put everything in the mail by December 1.

In addition, Debra Hill will grace everyone with a medley to get in the holiday mood. And finally, there will be a sharing of holiday memories or traditions that are particularly meaningful—either funny or poignant. If you wish to share a memory, please let them know so that they can allot sufficient time for sharing.

To get the Zoom information, either join the ACBVA email list (directions below) or write to **info.acbva@gmail.com**.

For your reference, please mark your calendar for future monthly program
meetings:

Monday, January 13, 2025

Monday, February 10, 2025

To join the ACB of Virginia (ACBVA) list serve, send a blank email to:
**acbva+subscribe@groups.io**
you will receive an e-mail message asking you to confirm your subscription.

For more information about ACBVA, please email:
**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.
###

**U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners**

December 12th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

As part of the Developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Equity, Access & Inclusion for All Series, the Access Board will [**present its preliminary** **findings**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.access-board.gov/news/2024/11/07/u-s-access-board-presents-preliminary-findings-on-artificial-intelligence-ai-for-disability-community-and-ai-practitioners//1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/mh1xFR6oUKvFAifbG8Zp3e4khBEQfN6Z-xph6Oakg6w%3D379) on the risks and benefits of AI for people with disabilities. The findings are based on the outcomes of three recent AI hearings held in August 2024, independent research and engagements, as well as comments received from the public. The presentation will take place virtually.

* **Zoom Link:** [**https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601731944**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.zoomgov.com/j/1601731944/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/38RFQG8bzTZ0X2Fq2JQUhgirXE8H8FLEedgri2Ao0D8%3D379)
* Meeting ID: 160 173 1944
* Passcode: 524293

Learn more about this series and the partnership with the [**American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.aapd.com//1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/ygQdZ4gefNTSsGZ_6bGRXmzs8sroOWUuksIVwhhsasw%3D379)and **the**[**Center for Democracy & Technology (**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//cdt.org//1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/SlMGfkzsGQUQT5Z-PZOP8HnZD9qmR7E5Ramn7kexxqI%3D379)CDT) at [**U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Disability Community and AI Practitioners**](https://www.access-board.gov/news/2024/11/07/u-s-access-board-presents-preliminary-findings-on-artificial-intelligence-ai-for-disability-community-and-ai-practitioners/).

###

**TUG Meeting: BARD on Alexa**

Saturday, December 14th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) will demonstrate the BARD Alexa skill.  In addition, some of this year's best new apps and websites will be discussed.

Who should attend:

* Individuals who want to read books on their Alexa-driven devices.
* Existing Alexa BARD skill users who may be encountering issues.
* People wanting to learn about new apps and websites benefitting low vision and blind users.

Call in Number

1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#

One tap mobile

[+13017158592,,6562037293#](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel%3A%2B13017158592%2C%2C6562037293%23/1/010001933faad628-b626b3c5-35c3-411d-9d8a-a4433d79170f-000000/p1HJWkL-AmVJUXx65pm-1d8I11A_38VN5aEHGXPFiOs%3D379)

Webcast

[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293%3Fomn%3D94648805523%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/010001933faad628-b626b3c5-35c3-411d-9d8a-a4433d79170f-000000/VI5sJzV9Gs2CFTrmHRHMs2h15b6Q_67BKq_aor63AZo%3D379)

**Upcoming TUG Programs**

January 11:  Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind and an Update from the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program

February 8: Bookshare App, Alexa Skill and more.

If you would like to listen to previous TUG recordings, please click here:

[**https://msla.maryland.gov/Pages/Technology-User-Group.aspx**](https://msla.maryland.gov/Pages/Technology-User-Group.aspx).  You may also listen on the Maryland State Library Agency podcast channel at [**https://anchor.fm/mdstatelibrary**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//anchor.fm/mdstatelibrary%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/010001933faad628-b626b3c5-35c3-411d-9d8a-a4433d79170f-000000/xTUq6FIW6y3CEi9zH6C0yjcA0s98IPdK1JBsqgGTNzA%3D379) or wherever you get your podcasts.

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| **ACB of Virginia Book Group Meeting**Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 pmAs always, rather than asking everyone to read the same book, attendees are asked to report on a book or books they have read.You do not need to be a member to attend.You do not need to have a book on which to report.ACBVA's book group meetings are not only a great way to learn about books you may not be aware of, but you may also learn about sources of audio books and technology others use to read.Realizing that the time and date are not convenient for everyone, they plan to distribute information about the books attendees review following the meeting. **Join Zoom Meeting**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83807277786?pwd=NHhqckpZRHB0dTRsSEoyNzM5Z3B5dz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83807277786?pwd=NHhqckpZRHB0dTRsSEoyNzM5Z3B5dz09) Meeting ID: 838 0727 7786Passcode: 669550One tap mobile+13017158592,,83807277786#,,,,\*669550# US (Washington DC)+13052241968,,83807277786#,,,,\*669550# US or Dial by your location        +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)        +1 305 224 1968 US        +1 309 205 3325 US       Meeting ID: 838 0727 7786Passcode: 669550Find your local number: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/)###**ACBVA's Holiday Party**Sunday, December 15th from 1:00 to 4:00 pmLedo's Pizza, 8324 Old Keene Mill Road, West SpringfieldRefer to the following website for additional details: [**https://ledopizza.com/store/va-west-springfield/**](https://ledopizza.com/store/va-west-springfield/)In addition to pizza, Ledo's offers sandwiches, salads, pasta, soft drinks, and alcoholic drinks.  The room will be set up with tables for four. Each table will be billed separately. Please come with cash in small denominations so that you can settle up with your table mates. There should be room to walk around and socialize with old friends and new. A white elephant gift exchange is planned. Bring something of minimal value ($10-$15). You will have an opportunity to pick an unopened gift or "steal" someone else's gift when it is your turn to choose. If you need to be picked up from a Metro stop, please let RoseAnn Ashby ((703) 403-0226 – cell or **beachrose9@verizon.net**)know, and they will do their best to arrange to have someone pick you up and return you to the station. For questions, also contact RoseAnn Ashby.Finally, they need your RSVP by December 8 so that the restaurant can make plans for staffing the party.### **“My Favorite Things: Singing the Songs of the Season” with Shana Tucker**Sunday, December 15th from 3:00 to 4:15 pmNational Gallery of Art West Building, West Garden Court6th and Constitution Avenue, NWRegistration Required at [**“My Favorite Things: Singing the Songs of the Season” with Shana Tucker — National Gallery of Art**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0193221e-6d02-b702-db8e-c2dea9478b14)**.**Join renowned vocalist and cellist Shana Tucker as she brings her unique genre of “ChamberSoul” to your favorite holiday standards. Tucker is joined by award-winning jazz pianist and arranger Christian Tamburr and upright bassist Kenny Phelps-McKeown. Having headlined everywhere from The Apollo Theater to Lincoln Center, you can’t miss the artistry and musical collaboration these artists bring to the stage. ###**LBPD Tactile Tour: The Feel of Nature** **In-Person:** Thursday, December 19th from 1:00 to 2:00 pmOutside LBPD/MSLASponsored by the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LPBD)With five very distinct physiographic regions that range from mountaintops to the seashore, Maryland is often referred to as America in miniature. During this visit to the Natural History Society of Maryland, you will get to explore the rocks, minerals, fossils, plants, and animals that tell the 4.6 billion year story of this place called Maryland. Special 8-million-year-old souvenir included!Registrations open at 1:00pm Thursday, November 21st at[**Natural History Society of Maryland: The Feel of Nature - LibCal - Maryland State Library Agency**](https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/calendar/ExternalCalendar/NaturalHistory24?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**### |
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