

12061 Tech Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 – 301-681-6636

December 20, 2024

Dear Listeners,

On behalf of the entire staff of the Metropolitan Washington Ear, we wish you a very happy holiday season. If you’re travelling for the holidays, you may want to check out the General Travel Tips for Persons with Disabilities [**here**](#Tips) and the New Regulation for Airline Passengers with Disabilities [**here**](#Reg).

Whatever you are doing, we hope you stay safe and warm.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**New Regulation for Airline Passengers with Disabilities**](#Reg)
* [**General Travel Tips for Persons with Disabilities**](#Tips)
* [**NPS Seeks Public Comment on New Accessibility Policies**](#NPS)
* [**PBS Offers More Than 2,000 Programs with Audio Description**](#PBS)
* [**DOT Adopts Access Board's Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines into Enforceable Standards**](#DOT)
* [**Scam Alert**](#SCAM)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + **[The Aging and Disability Resource Unit Visits the Maggie Nightingale Library](#Maggie)**
  + **[Family Concert - New Orchestra of Washington](#Concert)**
  + **[Youth Braille Club](#Club)**
  + [**POB READS Book Club (Virtual Event)**](#POB)
  + **[Resiliency Workshop with Dr. Rob Gilbert](#Rob)**
  + [**Hadley Book Discussion Group: New Year, New Books**](#Hadley)
  + **[POB Low Vision Support Group: iPhone Apps for Accessibility](#iPhone)**
  + **[U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners](#AI)**
  + **[POB Practical Solution Showcase (Virtual Event)](#Showcase)**
  + **[Low Vision Town Hall: Enhancing Your Quality of Life Through Vision Rehabilitation (Virtual Event)](#Vision)**
  + **[Glaucoma Research Update](#Glaucoma)**
  + **[Audio Described Omnium Circus - I'm Possible](#Circus)**

###

**NEW REGULATION FOR AIRLINE PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES**

From AAPD

This week, the Department of Transportation [**announced the finalization of its regulation**](https://aapd.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=08dab5cd58ad9250c3f56519f&id=d89c392235&e=d204b146b9) to address safety and accessibility for disabled air passengers.

The regulation establishes rights for disabled passengers and requirements for airlines, including:

* Requiring airlines to ensure disabled travelers' safety, and that disabled passengers are treated with respect by airline workers, including requiring specific training for all workers who assist disabled passengers:
* Setting standards for wait times, ensuring that disabled passengers who receive transportation assistance by airline workers are not made late or kept waiting by the airline before or after their flight.

Full details are at [**Secretary Buttigieg Announces Sweeping Protections for Airline Passengers with Disabilities | US Department of Transportation**](https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/secretary-buttigieg-announces-sweeping-protections-airline-passengers-disabilities)**.**

###

**GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

From the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center Bulletin

The U.S. Department of Transportation offers tips for traveling at [**https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/aviation-consumer-protection/general-travel-tips-persons-disabilities**](https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/aviation-consumer-protection/general-travel-tips-persons-disabilities)**.**

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**NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES**

From the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center Bulletin

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared updated policies and procedures for making facilities, transportation systems, information and communication technology, interpretive and educational programs and services, and commercial services accessible to visitors with disabilities. **The public may submit comments by January 9, 2025**.

More information is at [**Federal Register :: Notice of Availability and Request for Comments on Draft Director's Order #42 Concerning National Park Service Policies and Procedures Governing Accessibility of National Park Service Facilities, Programs, Services, and Activities**](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/10/2024-28942/notice-of-availability-and-request-for-comments-on-draft-directors-order-42-concerning-national-park).

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| **PBS OFFERS MORE THAN 2,000 PROGRAMS WITH AUDIO DESCRIPTION**  From MWE volunteer Evelyn Jemionek  Did you know hundreds of audio described programs are streaming on PBS? As part of PBS's commitment to accessibility and inclusion, they want to make you aware of audio-described content streaming on [**PBS.org**](https://oegftw5ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=00178gQbkNfHuuEM56qYI958qtFlynXRFmvrZQJPSSVtBSWQA-rEbx04bbFJ32PhVOcOQmVqyddbQM72t71_WJzEBos4ClfEoWjaL-gqe_gQr_oPBVPUCzPxaewYdcWatktAD2sU_nOu4rc0qiGmLqXP5arJAGh-6EpHzSC3AIhy4M1ivlOJdFPRPkhP_IPlH4Ix5o5ybcIsylTd4jZH0WUjwM-4RpR0kNwGMNnNlb89aUjBN3rRukrr0gxRjVYwwD1&c=c8yfrJICQbF0JamCk3Yo-MBbUyg_09wRiwzhXYRVLeJQcWo4TnhqmQ==&ch=MKUbXqta0YEzSrHUQDb6AxFRivlcPNGyLyqZX419JfchJ3sOW2xw-g==).  The PBS video player enables users to turn on audio description for videos that have it by clicking the headphones icon.  There are currently more than 2,000 programs available with audio description and more are added all the time.  The library of audio described items is at [**"audio description" Search Results | PBS**](https://www.pbs.org/search/?q=audio%20description)  Help with audio description is at [**How do I enable Audio Description on PBS videos? : PBS Help**](https://help.pbs.org/support/solutions/articles/12000084565-how-do-i-enable-audio-description-on-pbs-videos-).  ### |

**DOT ADOPTS ACCESS BOARD’S PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES INTO ENFORCEABLE STANDARDS**

The Access Board has published new guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) that address access to sidewalks and streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of public right-of-way. These guidelines also review shared use paths, which are designed primarily for use by bicyclists and pedestrians for transportation and recreation purposes. More details are at [**https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/#about-the-ada-and-aba-accessibility -guidelines-for-the-public-right-of-way**](https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/#about-the-ada-and-aba-accessibility -guidelines-for-the-public-right-of-way)**.**

###

**SCAM ALERT**

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is providing information about commonly reported scams and is cautioning everyone to remain alert when receiving unsolicited calls, emails or text messages. ACPD is sharing tips to help keep your personal information and finances safe at:

[**FRAUD ALERT: Stay Ahead of Commonly Reported Scams – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2024/FRAUD-ALERT-Stay-Ahead-of-Commonly-Reported-Scams)**.**

###

**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.

**Leopoldstadt**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, December 21st matinee

**All the Devils are Here – How Shakespeare Invented the Vill**ain

Shakespeare: Klein Theatre: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, December 28th matinee

**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

**What the Constitution Means to Me**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, January 25th 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)

###

**The Aging and Disability Resource Unit Visits the Maggie Nightingale Library**

Friday, December 20th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

[**Maggie Nightingale Library**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/12386906#branch)

19633 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville

Learn about the variety of resources available to Montgomery County older adults, people with disabilities and/or caregivers.

The Aging and Disability Resource Unit provides personalized hands-on assistance, referrals to services and specific information to older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.  A representative will be at the Maggie Nightingale Library to answer questions related to housing, transportation, staying healthy, and much more.  Learn about the rich variety of resources available to Montgomery County, MD residents.   No registration necessary.

###

**Family Concert - New Orchestra of Washington**

Friday, December 20th from 4:30 to 5:30pm

[**Germantown Library**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/12069097#branch)

19840 Century Boulevard, Germantown

Register required at [**AudienceView Professional**](https://ci.ovationtix.com/35644/production/1216562?performanceId=11537774)

The New Orchestra of Washington invites you to La Música De Las Américas, a festive and heartwarming concert designed for the entire family! The program will take you on a musical journey across the Americas—featuring lively, familiar, and warm melodies from North, Central, and South America, curated and conducted by Ahmed Alabaca.

Questions about this program? Contact the branch: 240-777-0110

###

**Youth Braille Club**

Friday, December 20th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library Center for Accessibility

901 G Street, NW, Room 205B (2nd Floor)

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Braille is the world's most popular system of tactile reading and writing!

They will play tactile games, build with braille LEGOs, check out books, and more! No prior knowledge of braille is required.

Contact the Center for Accessibility with questions or for reasonable accommodations. Email DCPLaccess@dc.gov.  Phone 202-727-2142.

###

**POB READS Book Club (Virtual Event)**

Friday, January 3rd from 11:00 to 12:00 pm

January’s book is **After the Funeral and Other Stories** by Tessa Hadley.

To register, call **(301) 951-4444**.

###

**Resiliency Workshop with Dr. Rob Gilbert**

Tuesday, January 7th at 6:00 pm

Overwhelmed by daily stresses? Kick off the New Year with Resiliency! Learn how to create strategies to boost self-confidence, overcome worry and doubt and set wellness goals. This opportunity is open to everyone served by DBVI and DBVI staff!

[**Register today!**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZ0sd-GtrjgqE9KSEChKywJFp1IBMwU-2Sah%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery%23%2Fregistration/3/01010193ac54f32b-5045cb92-0292-4a5d-b61f-57ac8645be56-000000/BzLBmkxFF4qogZdZz15TqyvKYszNv1bpbnd6LJ_tUG8=382)

**###**

**Hadley Book Discussion Group: New Year, New Books**

Thursday, January 9th at 10:30 am

There’s nothing quite like diving into a book from your favorite genre, but have you ever thought about the incredible stories waiting just beyond your usual picks? Join to discuss finding books outside your literary comfort zone.

Sign up to join at [**https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/book-nook**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/book-nook).

**###**

**POB Low Vision Support Group: iPhone Apps for Accessibility**

Tuesday, January 10th from 1:00 to 6:00 pm

**Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library**5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA

Join to explore iPhone apps that support people with low vision in their daily lives. Bring your iPhone!  
To RSVP, call **(301) 951-4444**.  
###

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

**New Date**

Tuesday, January 14th 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:%2F%2Fwww.access-board.gov%2Fnews%2F2024%2F11%2F07%2Fu-s-access-board-presents-preliminary-findings-on-artificial-intelligence-ai-for-disability-community-and-ai-practitioners%2F/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/mh1xFR6oUKvFAifbG8Zp3e4khBEQfN6Z-xph6Oakg6w=379) 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:%2F%2Fwww.zoomgov.com%2Fj%2F1601731944/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/38RFQG8bzTZ0X2Fq2JQUhgirXE8H8FLEedgri2Ao0D8=379)
* Meeting ID: 160 173 1944
* Passcode: 524293

Learn more 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/).

###

**Virtual Low Vision Town Hall: Enhancing Your Quality of Life Through Vision Rehabilitation**

**Wednesday, January 15th from 12:30 to 1:30 pm**Speaker: **Suleiman Alibhai, O.D., Low Vision Optometrist, Low Vision Services PLC**Join Dr. Alibhai to discuss low vision rehabilitation, including when to start, available options, and practical strategies. Learn how vision rehabilitation can help maximize your remaining vision and improve your overall quality of life.

Call **(301) 951-4444**to register.

###

**POB Practical Solution Showcase (Virtual Event)**

Tuesday, January 21st from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Have a practical, low-tech, or no-tech item that makes life easier? Share your idea, whether it’s a helpful large-print product, a new device, or a simple, impactful find! Submit by **January 15** to participate. Let’s inspire each other with creative solutions to everyday challenges.

To submit, call **(301) 951-4444** or email [**taziz@youreyes.org**](http://taziz@youreyes.org/).

###

**Glaucoma Research Update**

Saturday, January 25th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

**11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Presentation**  
**12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Free Glaucoma Screening**

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

Special Guest: **Arthur Schwartz, M.D.**, Washington Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Join Dr. Schwartz, a nationally recognized glaucoma expert, to learn about the latest research and updates on glaucoma, a leading cause of vision loss and blindness. After the presentation, POB will offer free glaucoma screenings. All are welcome!

To RSVP, call (301) 951-4444.

###

**Audio Described Omnium Circus - I'm Possible**

Saturday, February 22md at 2:00 pm (Doors open at 1:00)

[**Warner Theatre**](https://www.ticketmaster.com/warner-theatre-tickets-washington/venue/172129)

513 13th Street, NW

Omnium Circus is a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to create world-class entertainment celebrating diversity, accessibility & inclusion.

For general ticketing and event questions, please contact the Warner Box Office at [**WarnerBoxOffice@LiveNation.com**](mailto:WarnerBoxOffice@LiveNation.com).   
Babes in arms do not require tickets.  
For Premium Seating information, please reach out to Maryclaire Griffin at MaryclaireGriffin@LiveNation.com or call 202-626-8255. [**Visit OmniumCircus.org for more info!**](https://omniumcircus.org/)

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