

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

December 26, 2024

Dear Listeners,

Happy New Year! All of us at The Metropolitan Washington Ear are wishing you a wonderful 2025 filled with joy and good health.

Of particular note for the new year is The National Eye Institute launch of a call center to answer questions about vision and eye health. More details are [**here**](#NEI).

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**New NEI Call Center Launched**](#NEI)
* [**AFB Releases Possibilities Podcast**](#AFB)
* [**Opportunity to Advocate for People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities**](#Advocate)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + [**All Access Book Club: Horse by Geraldine Brooks**](#Book)
  + **[POB READS Book Club (Virtual Event)](#POB)**
  + [**Reston VIP Zoom Meeting**](#Reston)
  + **[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)**
  + [**TUG Meeting: Columbia Lighthouse and Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program**](#TUG)
  + [**ACBVA Meeting**](#ACBVA)
  + **[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)**
  + **[Roots Music with American Patchwork and Grégoire Maret](#Roots)**

**[Americana: Exploring the Depths of American Music](#Roots)**

* + **[Audio Described Omnium Circus - I'm Possible](#Circus)**

###

**NEI CALL CENTER LAUNCHED**

Information specialists at the National Eye Institute are now available Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, to answer questions about vision and eye health problems at 1-800-680-2578or[**Contact information on the NEI website**](https://www.nei.nih.gov/contact-us)**.**

###

**AFB RELEASES POSSIBILITIES PODCAST**

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has just released the AFB Possibilities Podcast hosted by Melody Goodspeed and produced by Tony Stephens. They take a deep dive into life, culture, and happenings for those experiencing blindness and low vision. Melody Goodspeed, with her faithful guide dog Barney by her side, travels the country, both literally and virtually, capturing the stories and experiences from the blind and low-vision community. Check out Episode 1 (Smart Giving with Ted Francavilla and Liz Updike) **at** [**AFB Possibilities Podcast, Episode 1: Smart Giving with Ted Francavilla and Liz Updike | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/news-publications/media/afb-possibilities-podcast/episode-1?sourceid=1089743&emci=9e0efc2e-46b6-ef11-88d0-000d3a9d5840&emdi=9431f067-75c0-ef11-88ce-0022482a93af&ceid=5132417) or Episode 2 (A Deep Dive on Audio Description) at [**AFB Possibilities Podcast, Episode 2: A Deep Dive on Audio Description | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/news-publications/media/afb-possibilities-podcast/episode-2?sourceid=1089743&emci=9e0efc2e-46b6-ef11-88d0-000d3a9d5840&emdi=9431f067-75c0-ef11-88ce-0022482a93af&ceid=5132417) or visit [**afb.org/afb-possibilities-podcast**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/99112653/518884206/-1996471584?sourceid=1089743&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjk0MzFmMDY3LTc1YzAtZWYxMS04OGNlLTAwMjI0ODJhOTNhZiIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=Awhbai5Ae98mgbcVFw6UsfU2kohgRowJhvoUgCOaZfs=&emci=9e0efc2e-46b6-ef11-88d0-000d3a9d5840&emdi=9431f067-75c0-ef11-88ce-0022482a93af&ceid=5132417) to learn more!

###

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITIES**

The Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board represents and advocates for people with physical and sensory disabilities. Community members wishing to serve should be knowledgeable about the constituency represented, have visibility into the needs and supports available in the communities for which they are appointed, and be able to work with staff to help vision and reimagine how their service delivery system – directly and in partnership with other organizations – supports county residents.

Learn more at [**Family Services Boards, Authorities, Commissions | Family Services**](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/boards-authorities-commissions?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

|  |
| --- |
| ### |

**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.

**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)

###

**All Access Book Club**

January 2nd at 11:00 am

This month’s book is **Horse by Geraldine Brooks**

To join: call 703-324-1800 or toll-free 1-877-862-8112.

At the prompt, enter code 389887#.

The Fairfax County All Access Book Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at 11:00am via conference call

The February 6th book is Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

###

**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**.

###

**Reston VIP Zoom Meeting**

January 3rd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

More details will be available closer to the meeting.

Meeting ID: 514 216 0046  
Passcode: 1007200

###

**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**.  
###

**TUG Meeting: Columbia Lighthouse and Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program**

Saturday, January 11th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) is kicking off the New Year with a dual program. First, the Columbia Lighthouse of Maryland will highlight programs available in those Maryland counties located near Washington, D.C. Part of this discussion will be about updates to Columbia Lighthouse's services that have occurred since their last presentation. Following Columbia Lighthouse, there will be a presentation by Diane DuCharm on the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program, covering free cell phones, complimentary equipment, and how to obtain these items. Furthermore, the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program has also undergone some modifications, which Diane will share with the group.

Who should attend:

* People living in Montgomery and Prince George's counties who are interested in training and other blindness services.
* Anyone in Maryland seeking an accessible cell phone or other type of assistive communication equipment.
* Existing clientele of these programs to learn about the upcoming changes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | This program will be recorded. | |
| |  | | --- | | **Call in Number**:  1-301-715-8592  Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#    **One tap mobile** [**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B13017158592,,6562037293%23/1/0100019404215510-b4c72bc7-99a5-4f1f-8d27-35048ef77340-000000/o7IQ5B72MzCHPembBeWetweycNaluxuV5oVUTmpKPeY=384) | | **Webcast:**  [**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmarylandlibraries.zoom.us%2Fj%2F6562037293%3Fomn=94648805523%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/0100019404215510-b4c72bc7-99a5-4f1f-8d27-35048ef77340-000000/_e-fy3zBl9JBHK3drDcmCe2tADRmzhxs3vKsMkSsqvM=384) | |

###

**ACBVA Meeting**

Monday, January 13th at 7:00 pm

Online via Zoom – Details to follow.

Discover how Silver Bells empowers older adults who are blind or have low vision to adjust to vision loss and develop essential blindness skills.

This engaging dialogue will unveil great resources and get you thinking about the actions you can take to grow your blindness skills and your level of personal satisfaction.

ACBVA President, Doug Powell, will then lead a discussion of how to become more involved in the local Area Agency on Aging. There is a need to advocate for the needs of older individuals who are blind with these agencies. They can provide helpful resources and support but they need to get to know the community.

Zoom details will go out as the date gets closer, but you must be subscribed to the ACBVA email list. To subscribe, send a blank email to: [**acbva+subscribe@groups.io**](mailto:acbva+subscribe@groups.io) and confirm your subscription. Or, email us directly at [**info.acbva@gmail.com**](mailto:info.acbva@gmail.com) for access.

Mark your calendar for February's meeting on February 10th.

Learn More About ACBVA: Explore resources, membership info, and programs by visiting [**www.acbva.org**](http://www.acbva.org/) or emailing them at [**info.acbva@gmail.com**](mailto:info.acbva@gmail.com)**.**

For questions, reach out to RoseAnn Ashby at 703-403-0226.

###

**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.

###

**Roots Music with American Patchwork and Grégoire Maret**

**Americana: Exploring the Depths of American Music**

Sunday, January 26th at 1:00 and 3:00 pm

National Gallery of Art West building, Garden Court

6th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

Registration Required at [**Roots Music with American Patchwork and Grégoire Maret — National Gallery of Art**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/01932256-fdf9-f23f-59c6-dd6bd47e49cf).

Listen to members of the renowned American Patchwork Quartet in a special trio presentation. They will celebrate the immigrant soul of American roots music by reimagining timeless songs from our nation’s past.  Led by Grammy-winning guitarist and vocalist Clay Ross, the trio infuses American folk classics with jazz sophistication, country twang, West African hypnotics, and East Asian ornamentation. Ross, a Southern-born roots music aficionado, is joined by Grammy winner Falguni Shah, an 11th-generation Hindustani classical vocalist, and Yasushi Nakamura, an internationally acclaimed Issei jazz bassist.  This concert also features guest artist Grégoire Maret on harmonica.

###

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

Saturday, February 22nd 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/)

###

|  |
| --- |
|  |