

December 6, 2024

Dear Listeners,

There are two calendar changes to be aware of:

1. The U. S. Access Board presentation on Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been changed to Tuesday, January 14th.
2. The audio described performance of “Death on the Nile” at Arena Stage has been changed to Saturday, December 28th at 2:00 pm.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**MDTAP Seeking AT Advisory Council Members**](#TAP)
* [**Research In Focus: A Digest of New Research from the NIDILRR Community**](#Digest)
* [**Beinvenidos Todos: Webinar Series in English and Spanish Will Address Services and Resources for Latinos with Disabilities**](#TODos)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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	+ **[Reston VIP Meeting In-Person](#Reston)**
	+ [**Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) Clinical Trials Webinar**](#FFB)
	+ **[DBVI Virtual Public Comment Meeting](#DBVI)**
	+ **[Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards](#Awards)**
	+ **[ACB Virginia Meeting](#ACBVA)**
	+ **[2024 in Review: Assistive Technology Innovations, Web Accessibility & Reddit /r/Blind](#Review)**
	+ [**Stargardt’s Network Holiday Get-Together (Virtual Event)**](#Star)
	+ [**Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program Update**](#Lions)
	+ [**Protecting Your Identity Online (Virtual Event)**](#Identity)
	+ **[TUG Meeting](#TUG)**
	+ **[ACB of Virginia Book Group Meeting](#ACBVABook)**
	+ **[ACBVA's Holiday Party](#Party)**
	+ **[Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired](#VABoard)**
	+ [**Tech Talk Tuesdays: Tools for Reading (Virtual Event)**](#Tech)
	+ [**Low Vision Town Hall: Behind The Mic with Bob Johnson (Virtual Event)**](#Hall)
	+ [**LBPD Tactile Tour: The Feel of Nature** **In-Person:**](#LBPD)
	+ [**Youth Braille Club**](#Club)
	+ [**U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners**](#AI)

###

**MDTAP SEEKING AT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Maryland Assistive Technology Advisory Council is seeking members who represent many facets of the disability community. This is your opportunity to impact change, ensuring that people with disabilities have access to assistive technology supports and services - at school, at work, and in the community!

* The AT Advisory Council meets two times per year, virtually, Spring and Fall.
* Each Meeting is approximately 2 hours long.
* Details including schedule and previous meeting minutes can be [**found on the TAP website**](https://lj79tucab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0015qSiki3ibEPHseY0b_Jss5dG12q8wYalDlgdnCGQeaLC2jwHd6ruzWtwRzUFwmSIhlTy7aMjsq-YiLJNhMVFltLPn5JtwQP_ObmwHngKJRe9tvA_cDzProRr7Sa-EUwC7QMuMxgAbynklpOBuXgbiRYDvOIYN0G8hvdjQH18iJMPpRN_wanzH2y852d_FQV7l9bkrxa5z3g=&c=-joD4ma4roXmQP2uSVTwvUkl3A1AiUHaFov-z_-H6OrC2yo10ntO7A==&ch=6Pu4qadXvHpoeSNcHA1s_sjw-6XAjbL5g_QfhkmEw0ZsbFCOHw2QeQ==).

To express your interest in joining, e-mail **mdtap.general@maryland.gov**

###

**RESEARCH IN FOCUS: A DIGEST OF NEW RESEARCH FROM THE NIDILRR COMMUNITY**

A study funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) offers more insights on small businesses’ beliefs on hiring of people with disabilities.

[**Download this article as a PDF**.](https://www.naric.com/sites/default/files/Study%20Offers%20More%20Insights%20on%20Small%20Businesses%20Beliefs%20on%20Hiring%20of%20People%20with%20Disabilities.pdf)

People with disabilities face higher unemployment rates compared to those without disabilities. Recent statistics show the employment rate for people with disabilities in the US is about 37%, compared to more than 75% for people without disabilities.  Despite policies and legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibiting discrimination, employers may have negative perceptions that hinder the hiring of individuals with disabilities and influence hiring practices. Smaller businesses, in particular, may be less inclined to hire people with disabilities due to concerns over potential accommodation costs.

In a recent NIDILRR-funded study, researchers examined the perceptions of small businesses about barriers to and facilitators of hiring people with disabilities, and the role of the ADA in those perceptions. They also examined whether small businesses had more favorable perceptions of some disabilities over others when hiring and whether there was a relationship between barriers and facilitators and their likelihood of hiring people with disabilities.

Researchers from the Disability Inclusive Employment Policy Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC), the Employer Disability Practices RRTC, and the Southeast ADA Regional Center surveyed 393 owners and hiring managers at small businesses with 2-100 employees. The participants rated their concerns about barriers to hiring of people with disabilities such as a lack of qualified applicants, unfamiliarity with hiring or accommodating workers with disabilities, employee productivity, or legal issues in disciplining employees with disabilities. The participants also rated the importance of facilitators to hiring such as personal experiences with disabilities, diversity policies, and beliefs that hiring people with disabilities could positively impact business image and productivity. Additionally, the participants rated how likely they were to hire individuals with disabilities based on disability type (intellectual, developmental, blindness, deafness, mobility, and mental health).

Read the full article at [**https://www.naric.com/?q=en/rif/7301**](https://www.naric.com/?q=en/rif/7301).

###

**BEINVENIDOS TODOS: WEBINAR SERIES IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WILL ADDRESS SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR LATINOS WITH DISABILITIES**

Bienvenidos Todos will host webinar presentations about disability resources and services, especially for Latinos with disabilities, their families, caregivers, advocates, and those who serve Latinos. Monthly webinars will cover disability topics, especially as they pertain to Latinos and their different residency statuses.

These webinars will be held the second Thursday of the month through March, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in English only and from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Spanish only.

**Find details and registration for the** [**English sessions.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Pqgnveq1S4OC7YYUklYLjg#/registration) **at** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_Pqgnveq1S4OC7YYUklYLjg#/registration**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Pqgnveq1S4OC7YYUklYLjg#/registration)

**Find details and registration for the** [**Spanish sessions**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1_mjoTrYR3CJ4jelhbFcog#/registration) at **(**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_1\_mjoTrYR3CJ4jelhbFcog#/registration**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1_mjoTrYR3CJ4jelhbFcog#/registration)**.**

###

**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.

**The Neil Diamond Musical – A Beautiful Noise**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Saturday, December 7th at 2:00 pm and Sunday, December 8th at 7:30 pm

**A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas**

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

Described Wednesday, December 18th at 7:45 pm

**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

###

**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)

###

**Reston VIP Meeting In-Person**

Friday December 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Reston Regional Library

11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Sandy Neuzil will lead a discussion on InnoSearch AI, Sight Tech Global, and Blind Health Expo 2024

* **InnoSearch.AI** [**https://www.innosearch.ai/**](https://www.innosearch.ai/)  is an All-In-One shopping site that recently added shopping for Flights.  It is designed for shoppers who have blindness and vision impairments (BVI) and open to all.  The site is visually uncluttered, pulls up comparison sources and prices for items, highlights bargains, and lets you ask questions that AI will answer.  There are no shipping fees.

* **Sight Tech Global**  [**https://sighttechglobal.com/**](https://sighttechglobal.com/)  4th annual conference will be held virtually Dec. 4 & 5, (several hours each day) " ... your gateway to a world where innovation and inclusion intersect, creating a brighter future for people with blindness or visual impairments."  Register Free ASAP [**https://sighttechglobal.com/conference-registration/**](https://sighttechglobal.com/conference-registration/)  to attend live.  "*P.S. Curious about last year's conference? Go to*[**youtube.com/@SightTechGlobal**](https://98jlih6ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yWMMx--FqEMNNaYs1uvXUazLLlkLjpO1MGsF2APGK1HCnebBW2WN7L5u8lRD8HPEvFu6n4PkPUvpWlME5d4i6hoYpYD5TtSSZYzn8EeSVfsW2gan0HSV5JOLaJcW65Fu5iUdJCM-b2ne34jZ2Vb32tqPkDvJpNlFZCT6v7ekQ6I=&c=s0i7_hGqJx0Rcqp4mGImqVrhCQ7AgDwWNxfKqiLzs_p6s9iHAd4Avw==&ch=exQ8iYQGQnOetmF5JyxXwSKk2tqffwVapGpFBTLs6ufPXXWpJeS4qQ==)*and prepare to be inspired!*"

* **Blind Health Expo 2024**  [**https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blind-health-expo-2024/**](https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blind-health-expo-2024/)   Free Virtual Event Dec. 6 at 10:00 - 4:00 EST.  "... 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."  Visit the website for updates, a list of exhibitors, and scroll down to the button to **Register ASAP**.

Questions, suggestions, or compliments for Reston VIP?

Please contact any of the following by a phone call, text, or email:

Sandy Neuzil - 703-989-1821 or **sandy.neuzil@gmail.com**

Stan Gowin - 703-470-6633 or **sgowin@verizon.net**

Kathryn Hodgdon - 703-608-5817 **ahodgdon@aol.com**

###

**Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) Clinical Trials Webinar**

Saturday, December 7th at 12:30 pm

From Sandy Neuzil

Discover the latest advancements in clinical trials for blinding diseases. FFB expert speakers will share the most recent research findings, discuss exciting clinical trial opportunities, and highlight the significant impact these trials have on the fight against blinding diseases. Whether you're a patient, caregiver, or healthcare professional, this webinar offers invaluable insights.

Register at [**https://www.fightingblindness.org/national-webinar-registration**](https://www.fightingblindness.org/national-webinar-registration).

###

**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 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.
###

**2024 in Review: Assistive Technology Innovations, Web Accessibility & Reddit /r/Blind**

Tuesday, December 10th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Online via Zoom

Sponsored by Lighthouse Guild

Register at [**https://lighthouseguild.org/events/2024-in-review-assistive-technology-innovations-web-accessibility-reddit-r-blind/**](https://lighthouseguild.org/events/2024-in-review-assistive-technology-innovations-web-accessibility-reddit-r-blind/)

**Speakers**: Bryan Wolynski, an Optometrist and the Chief Technology Officer at Lighthouse Guild, Shanell Matos, an assistive technology consultant and advocate, and special guest Norbert Rum, a seasoned expert in UX Design and Accessibility. He is also a web accessibility specialist and the founder of the /r/Blind community on Reddit.

Join them for an insightful webinar that will review the developments in assistive technology for people who are blind or visually impaired over the past year. They will discuss advancements that happened in 2024, including the growth of AI-powered tools and wearables, the ongoing impact of emerging technologies, and how mainstream technology is enhancing assistive devices.

###

**Stargardt’s Network Holiday Get-Together (Virtual Event)**

**Tuesday, December 10th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm**
Join to celebrate the holiday season and discuss ways to enjoy it, whether with others or on your own.
Hosted by **Prevention of Blindness Society**.

To register, call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.

###

**Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program Update**

**Wednesday, December 11th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**
**Leisure World Lions Group**

**Leisure World Clubhouse II Edmondson Room**
3300 N Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring

Join a representative from the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program (MAT) to learn how Maryland residents can apply for free telecommunications equipment, empowering them to make or receive calls independently. The MAT program provides a range of user-friendly phone solutions designed for individuals with low vision, including devices with large, high-contrast buttons.

To RSVP, call Larry at **(908) 770-9111**.
###

**Protecting Your Identity Online (Virtual Event)**

**Thursday, December 12th from 12:00 to 1:00 pm**
Sponsored by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB)

In April, an organized hacker group reported stealing sensitive identification information on more than 200 million people. If you weren’t concerned about your online security before, you certainly should be now! Join **Perry Hammock** to discuss what is at risk, the repercussions for your financial security, and what you need to do to protect yourself.

Register at [**https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4517332555132/WN\_hpRhGktpSgeCiy1EfAJ46Q#/registration**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4517332555132/WN_hpRhGktpSgeCiy1EfAJ46Q#/registration)or call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.

Submit questions to **events@youreyes.org****.**

###

**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.

###

**ACB of Virginia Book Group Meeting**

Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 pm

As 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 7786

Passcode: 669550

One 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 7786

Passcode: 669550

Find 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 pm

Ledo's Pizza, 8324 Old Keene Mill Road, West Springfield

Refer 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.

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.

###

**Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired**

Tuesday, December 17th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond

Join either virtual: [**Zoom Link**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1614728481%3Fpwd%3D2Bu0XCTzqISslBGi5Mm36rbK3QHmLR.1%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/010101938e77f8c3-8008dd0e-341a-4ccf-856a-9f3d28bda5b0-000000/vt1Du6HfbmNGoxu66a_x7cvHiAW_crr6TJLnyTPGMcU%3D381)

Meeting ID: 161-472-8481
Passcode: 035039

**Or via Telephone -**(646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 161-472-8481
Passcode: 035039

Public Comments will be received at 11:10 am

###

**Tech Talk Tuesdays: Tools for Reading (Virtual Event)**

Tuesday, December 17th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Do you have trouble reading? Join **Rachel Schreiman**, POB Low Vision Resource Navigator, to learn about resources and tools available to assist those with visual impairments with reading.

To register, call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.

###

**Low Vision Town Hall: Behind The Mic with Bob Johnson (Virtual Event)**

Wednesday, December 18th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Guest Speaker: **Bob Johnson of RJVoices**
Join Bob as he shares his journey from Intelligence to voice acting, including his work with Audible, the Metropolitan Washington Ear, and more, showcasing the power of his captivating voice!

Call**(301) 951-4444** to register.

###

**LBPD Tactile Tour: The Feel of Nature** **In-Person:**

Thursday, December 19th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Outside LBPD/MSLA

Sponsored 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)**.**

###

**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.

###

**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%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 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/).

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