

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

January 2, 2025

Dear Listeners,

Happy 2025!

Just a reminder: Current and previous issues of the MWE Updates are at [**https://washear.org/listener-newsletters**](https://washear.org/listener-newsletters).

Also, if you know of items that would be of interest to our listeners, or would like other features added to these Updates, please let me know. I can be reached at [**sylvia@washear.org**](mailto:sylvia@washear.org) and welcome your suggestions.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**POB Resource of the Month: TSA Cares**](#TSA)
* [**MPT’s American Masters: Renegades**](#MPT)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + [**Reston VIP Zoom Meeting**](#Reston)
  + **[POB READS Book Club (Virtual Event)dley](#POB)**
  + **[Reston VIP Zoom Meeting](#Reston)**
  + **[Resiliency Workshop with Dr. Rob Gilbert](#Rob)**
  + [**Montgomery County Public Libraries Services**](#MoCo)
  + [**Hadley Book Discussion Group: New Year, New Books**](#Hadley)
  + [**Understanding Your Medicare Options**](#Med)
  + [**Many Faces of BARD Online Discussion: NLS Open Forum**](#NLS)
  + [**POB Low Vision Support Group: iPhone Apps for Accessibility**](#iPhone)
  + **[TUG Meeting: Columbia Lighthouse and Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program](#TUG)**
  + [**Accessible Screening of "Deadpool & Wolverine"**](#MLK)
  + **[ACBVA Meeting](#ACBVA)**
  + **[U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners](#AI)**
  + [**Stargardts Network: New Year Goals and Plans (No Resolutions)**](#Stargardts)
  + **[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)
  + [**Bloom at Good Hope Concert Series: BĒHELD**](#Bloom)

###

**POB RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: TSA CARES**From POB Newsletter “Your Eyes Today”  
[**TSA Cares**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=0d6e1811a0&e=59825d4dc8) provides assistance to travelers with disabilities during security screening. Call **(855) 787-2227** at least three days before your flight to request a Passenger Support Specialist (PSS) for guidance. If you don't arrange this in advance, notify the TSA officer if you are blind or have low vision and need assistance. You can inform the officer verbally, use the TSA Notification Card, or provide medical documentation. Canes and other aids must be screened by X-ray; if they don't fit, a TSA officer will inspect them. Let the officer know if you need the device immediately after screening.

###

**MPT’S AMERICAN MASTERS: RENEGADES**

From MWE Volunteer Evelyn Jemionek

The MPT series “Renegades” showcases the lives and cultural contributions of little-known historical figures with disabilities. Each episode is available with audio description and can watch every episode online at [**American Masters: Renegades**](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/0y7BFcb/Renegades?source_id=ce79ed75-f016-44d3-9404-b8143f0f915e&source_type=em&c=GkRuifWNlz30sjA2NsNY2IcSYavGadwC48L6ImcAV6-TY6UYFenUmA==).

###

**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.

**What the Constitution Means to Me**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, January 25th at 2:00 pm

**The Bedwetter – A Musical**

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

Described Saturday, February 15th at 2:00 pm

**Shucked**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Date to be determined

**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)

###

**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

Stan Gowin & Sandy Neuzil will lead a discussion about miscellaneous updates and topics of your choice---member questions always lead to valuable shares of information.

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
[**https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81410922597?pwd=UMwxi9Toa6jFfJCrJKJgkL83wMomIu.1**](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81410922597?pwd=UMwxi9Toa6jFfJCrJKJgkL83wMomIu.1)  
Meeting ID: 514 216 0046  
Passcode: 1007200

**To join by phone:**

+1 301 715 8592 US

###

**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)

**###**

**Montgomery County Public Libraries Services**  
Wednesday, January 8th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm  
Leisure World Clubhouse II Edmondson Room  
3300 N Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring

Join representatives from the MCPL to talk about the many services they offer through their 20 branches and online.   
To RSVP, call Larry at (908) 770-9111.  
###

**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).

**###**

**Understanding Your Medicare Options**

MoCo State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Thursday, January 9th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

[**Rockville Memorial Library**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/12550245#branch)

21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, 2nd floor meeting room

The Montgomery County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) will provide an overview of Medicare benefits, eligibility, enrollment, costs, and coverage, as well as information on Medicare savings programs, Medicare fraud, protection, and local services.

###

**Many Faces of BARD Online Discussion: NLS Open Forum**

**Thursday, January 9th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**

There will not be a presentation, just a full hour of answers to your questions from the experts about anything related to BARD.

NLS will record this program.

Join via Zoom at [**Launch Meeting - Zoom**](https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1617603376?pwd=NfoaVjkaSCNf5wM6eBpg21BWJfSZY9.1#success).

When you join this Zoom event, you will be in the waiting room until the program starts. When you enter the room, you will be muted. Please stay on mute unless you are called on.

For more information, please contact:  
Tamara Rorie  
Head, Patron Engagement Section  
[**tror@loc.gov**](mailto:tror@loc.gov) or nlspes@loc.gov

**###**

**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.

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| |  | | --- | | 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) | |

###

**Accessible Screening of "Deadpool & Wolverine"**

Saturday, January 11th at 1:30 pm

MLK Library

901 G Street, NW, Room 401-C (4th Floor)

This program is open to all! The film will be shown with audio description and open captions right on the screen.

Rated: R

Run Time: 2 hours, 10 minutes

###

**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/).

###

**Stargardts Network: New Year Goals and Plans (No Resolutions)**Tuesday, January 14, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Join us to talk about our new plans and goals for 2025.   
Hosted by **Prevention of Blindness Society**.

Call (301) 951-4444to register.

###

**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**

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'MPossible***](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=a1fd235262&e=59825d4dc8)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. The circus was recently featured on [**WETA**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=2b5185f45e&e=59825d4dc8) where they explained what makes this troupe's work so unique and the impact of each show.

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/)

###

**Bloom at Good Hope Concert Series: BĒHELD**

Beloved Pop & Soul Music sponsored by the Strathmore Music Center

Sat, March 8th at 5:00 pm

[**Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/facilities/recreationcenters/goodhope.html)

14715 Good Hope Road. Silver Spring

Free / Pay What You Can

[**RSVP**](https://secure.strathmore.org/22366)

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