

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

[**https://washear.org/listener-newsletters**](https://washear.org/listener-newsletters)

February 6, 2025

Dear Listeners,

We are delighted to announce that **Rev. Ray Raysor, MWE Executive Director, will be speaking about New Resources and Services at The Metropolitan Washington Ear on Thursday, February 20th at the Friendship Heights Vision Resource Group meeting. Full details are** [**here**](#MWE)**.**

Also note that free tax preparation assistance is available again this year at both the national and local level. For information about the various services, check out the following links in this week’s MWE Update.

* [**IRS Programs**](#IRS)
* [**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**](#AARP)
* [**DC Information**](#DC)
* [**Montgomery County information**](#MoCo)
* [**Prince George’s County information**](#PGTax)
* [**Virginia Information**](#VA)
* [**Arlington Information**](#Arl)

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers**](#IRS)
* [**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**](#AARP)
* [**Free Tax Return Preparation for DC Residents**](#DC)
* [**Free Tax Help Available for Eligible Montgomery County Residents**](#MoCo)
* [**Free Tax Preparation Assistance Service for Prince George’s County Residents**](#PGTax)
* [**Free Tax Help for Eligible Virginia Residents**](#VA)
* [**Free Tax Help for Arlington Residents**](#Arl)
* [**Practical Solutions for Low Vision**](#LV)
* [**Capital Area Guide Dog Users (CAGDU) Information**](#Dog)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + [**Reston VIP Support Group In-Person Meeting**](#Reston)
  + **[LBPD TUG Meeting: The Bookshare App and Alexa Skill](#TUG)**
  + [**ACBVA Meeting**](#ACBVA)
  + **[Low Vision Support Group Virtual Meeting: What to Know About Macular Degeneration](#Vision)**
  + [**Stargardt's Network: Transportation and Navigation (Virtual Event)**](#Star)
  + [**Leisure World Lions Group: How Can a Low Vision Specialist Help Me?**](#Lions)
  + **[Hadley Book Discussion Group - Tales of Friendship and Family](#Tales)**
  + **[Many Faces of BARD Online Discussion: Open Forum - Answers to Your Questions from the Experts](#BARD)**
  + **[Youth Braille Club](#Youth)**
  + [**Tech Talk Tuesdays: Smart Glasses Explained (Virtual Event)**](#Tech)
  + **[The World of AI Online via Zoom](#AI)**
  + [**Low Vision Town Hall: What is Orientation and Mobility Training?**](#Hall)
  + [**New Resources and Services at The Metropolitan Washington Ear**](#MWE)
  + **[Audio Described Omnium Circus – I’M Possible](#Circus)**
  + [**“The Spirit and Strength of Nathalie Joachim” In-Person Concert**](#Concert)
  + [**NFB CENA Access Boutique Series: How to Engineer an AI Prompt**](#NFB)
  + **[LBPD TUG Virtual Meeting: Christine Ha to Share Insights](#Ha)**
  + [**Bloom at Good Hope Concert Series: BĒHELD**](#Bloom)

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**FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION FOR QUALIFYING TAXPAYERS**

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

The VITA program offers free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

* People who generally make $67,000 or less
* Persons with disabilities; and
* Limited English-speaking taxpayers

In addition to VITA, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

While the IRS manages the VITA and TCE programs, the VITA/TCE sites are operated by IRS partners and staffed by volunteers who want to make a difference in their communities. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

Full details are available at: [**Free tax return preparation for qualifying taxpayers | Internal Revenue Service**](https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers)

###

**AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE**

**[Tax-Aide Locator is now open!](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/locations/" \o "link to TA Locator)**

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. **You don't need to be an AARP member to use the service.**

AARP Foundation volunteers are IRS-certified every year, so they understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. You can choose to have an IRS-certified volunteer prepare your taxes or provide coaching so you can prepare them yourself.

Full details are at [**https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/**](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/)

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**FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION FOR DC RESIDENTS**

Information is available at [**Free Tax Preparation Sites | disb**](https://disb.dc.gov/freetaxprepresources)**.**

**###**

**FREE TAX HELP AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS**

Montgomery County residents with combined household incomes of $67,000 or less can receive free tax preparation services through the Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

[**Read More**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmontgomerycomd.blogspot.com%2F2025%2F01%2Ffree-tax-help-available-for-eligible.html/2/01000194bea75817-9d91dfa8-2208-4d0f-948d-28ca694927a2-000000/e--qBbC5GTBdVOnjlHm6TKn_nQ6QjYzB3hVpMt1Bt_c=390) at [**https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2025/01/free-tax-help-available-for-eligible.html**](https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2025/01/free-tax-help-available-for-eligible.html).

###

**FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE SERVICE FOR PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY RESIDENTS**

The Family Investment Division (FID) of the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS), in partnership with the CASH Campaign of Maryland, Maryland Department of Human Services, and the IRS, opened its first Tax Preparation Site on Wednesday, February 5th at its Temple Hills office location.

County residents with a household income of $67,000 or less from the last taxable year, now have the opportunity to get assistance with their taxes with on-site IRS-certified volunteers for free and will file their returns with the IRS and the State of Maryland electronically at no cost.

The FID Tax Preparation Site is located at 4235 28th Avenue Temple Hills, MD 20748. The site is anticipated to be open from February 5, 2025, until April 11, 2025, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Service at this site will be by appointment only. Call 301-316-7900 to schedule your appointment today. For more details, please visit: [**https://bit.ly/VITAscope**.](https://bit.ly/VITAscope.)

###

**FREE TAX HELP FOR ELIGIBLE VIRGINIA RESIDENTS**

Free help preparing your taxes is available for low-income, middle-income and senior taxpayers. The IRS and AARP sponsor free tax assistance for eligible Virginians. All volunteers are trained in both federal and state taxes. More information is available at [**Free Help with your Taxes | Virginia Tax**](https://www.tax.virginia.gov/free-help-your-taxes).

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**FREE TAX HELP FOR ARLINGTON RESIDENTS**

Did you know that you can [**access free tax preparation assistance**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.arlingtonva.us%2FGovernment%2FDepartments%2FDHS%2FPublic-Assistance%2FTax/1/01010194dce33171-6e20c241-1139-429e-abd2-7dbe6a9cf3bc-000000/O8sr0PDIqi7xgqdPYLWtYXyfXxSQPU5fdkNm_r7oQiI=391) at several locations in Arlington? Check it out at [**Free Tax Preparation – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS/Public-Assistance/Tax)**.**

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**PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR LOW VISION**  
From Your Eyes Today, the POB Newsletter  
At January's Tech Talk Tuesday event, the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. DC (POB) asked attendees to share practical, low-tech, or no-tech items that make life easier. Here are some of the most popular: 

**Food Preparation:** For food handling, use task lighting with adjustable brightness and contrast-colored tools. Store dry goods in labeled jars for easy access, employ wide mouthed funnels and practice liquid pouring with beeping liquid-level devices. Use trays with edges for chopping and flexible, grippy oven gloves. 

**Lighting:** Task lights with variable brightness and portable options like headlamps or neck-hanging flashlights can help ensure visibility for any activity.

**Hobbies:** Bold-lined paper, pens, and calendars can improve notetaking. Contrast-colored tools can simplify sewing or crocheting with larger hooks.

**Safety:** Nightlights, step markers, and glare-reducing mats can help to prevent accidents.

Many of these items are available on [**amazon.com**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=7a7f3a9dca&e=59825d4dc8)**,**[**maxiaids.com**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=82f4b1ef3f&e=59825d4dc8) (800-522-6294),  [**lssproducts.com**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=462a3f7232&e=59825d4dc8) (800-468- 4789), [**ez2seeproducts.com**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=99c4416c8c&e=59825d4dc8), and [**theblindkitchen.com**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=04fe2d67f4&e=59825d4dc8).

Call the POB Low Vision Resource and Information Hotline at **(301) 951-4444** to speak with a Resource Navigator.

###

**CAPITAL AREA GUIDE DOG USERS (CAGDU) INFORMATION**

From Joyce Feinberg, Treasurer of Capital Area Guide Dog Users (CAGDU)

CAGDU is a special interest affiliate of Guide Dog Users, Incorporated. Although their name indicates that they serve the National Capital area, they have members from all parts of Maryland, Virgina, Washington, D.C., and Delaware. Members consist of current Guide Dog handlers, past guide dog handlers, and those who are waiting for another Guide Dog or may want their first Guide Dog.

CAGDU meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM through Zoom. They quickly take care of Chapter business and then proceed to either the speaker for the evening or let the members tell stories about their dogs. They also assist new Guide Dog Users in problem solving issues they may be having or just brag about what their Guide Dog has done recently. They also have an e-mail list so members can ask questions or share information with our other members.

For their first meeting in January 2025, they had a speaker from Metro Access to answer some questions on issues they have been having with their drivers and third-party contractors. They also will have a speaker on how to properly record denials by ride share drivers in February or March.

For more information, including membership, contact

Joyce Feinberg

Treasurer of Capital Area Guide Dog Users (CAGDU)

Affiliate Liaison for Guide Dog Users Inc. (GDUI)

301-332-5053 or [**cagduacb@gmail.com**](mailto:cagduacb@gmail.com)

###

**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 Bedwetter – A Musical – NEW DATE**

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

Described Saturday, **March 8th** at 2:00 pm

**Shucked**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Saturday, March 1st at 2:00 pm and Sunday, March 2nd at 7:30 pm

**Waitress**

Olney Theatre Center – Roberts Mainstage 301-924-3400

Described Wednesday, March 5th at 7:30 pm

**Kunene and The King**

Shakespeare: Klein Theatre: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, March 8th at 2:00 pm

**The Age of Innocence**

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

Described Saturday, March 22nd 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 Support Group In-Person Meeting**

Friday, February 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Reston Regional Library

11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston

The Q & A Quiz Challenge

Leader: Sandy Neuzil

Q & A: All Attendees

Face-to-face meetings make it easy to ask questions.  Is there **new terminology and technology** or are there **programs and organizations** you don't understand?  Don't be shy, ask!  Someone in the group is bound to have an answer or a lead to more details.  Someone else will be glad you asked.

Meeting with people who have vision challenges is a great way to learn from each other.  You will realize you are not the only one trying to figure out this complex world, which seems to be a bit more challenging when you have impaired vision.

Please come and share your ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns.  We can all learn from each other.

*Note: It is unlikely, but IF the weather looks nasty for Feb. 7, they will send a ZOOM link on Feb. 6 so all can stay safe indoors.*

VIP enquiries?  Contact:

Sandy Neuzil at 703-989-1821  [**sandy.neuzil@gmail.com**](mailto:sandy.neuzil@gmail.com)

Stan Gowin at 703-470-6633  [**sgowin@verizon.net**](mailto:sgowin@verizon.net)

Kathryn Hodgdon at 703-608-5817  [**ahodgdon@aol.com**](mailto:ahodgdon@aol.com)

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**LBPD TUG Virtual Meeting: The Bookshare App and Alexa Skill**

Saturday, February 8th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

Join the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Technology User Group (TUG) as they take a deep dive into the Bookshare universe! Bookshare is a service offering books and periodicals in a variety of formats such as braille, DAISY and audio.  Many of these items are not available from the NLS collection.  The company also offers an iOS app and an Alexa skill.  Lara from Bookshare will talk about using the app and skill as well as the organization's future endeavors.

Fortunately, Bookshare books will play on the NLS digital talking book player when downloaded to either a flash drive or an NLS cartridge, which are available for purchase from many retailers.  In addition, Bookshare material can be read on your NLS braille e-Reader or accessed from your smartphone or via an Amazon Alexa skill.

Did you know that you can get a FREE Bookshare account through the library? Contact [**reference.desk@maryland.gov**](mailto:reference.desk@maryland.gov) for more information.

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/1/0100019493c9d1f9-0526e680-f414-4290-8d8a-bb1c7f22edd0-000000/fMymma6sl22oyn_Cis1UIsYIvWNPyjK0Zy-tOf9jQ9k=389)

or

**One tap mobile**

[**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B13017158592,,6562037293%23/1/010001946a44a164-821c1ee4-60a0-49f6-89f9-30afbc4f63a7-000000/vN8ZdEYxbAIBu-xHyLxJnMM6JD7K5KSmiJzv7baDZ9c=388)

or

**Call in Number:**

1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#

###

**ACBVA Meeting**

Monday, February 10th at 7:00 pm

The American Council of the Blind of Virginia’s February meeting will be critical in helping to focus on ACB’s advocacy efforts at the national level. ACBVA has invited Claire Stanley, ACB’s Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, to speak about ACB’s 2025 Leadership Conference as well as ACB’s legislative imperatives.

The 2025 ACB Leadership Conference will be a hybrid event and will include ACB’s Board Meeting, Presidents’ Meeting, Legislative Seminar, and Capitol Hill visits. This meeting will take place from March 14-18, 2025, at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA.

They are discussing the option of conducting some in-person meetings with some of the Congressional staff for Virginia as well as continuing to have some virtual meetings as they have during the past several years. There will be lots of opportunities for you to be involved—stay tuned to learn more about the details.

To learn more about the 2025 ACB Leadership Conference, go to:

[**https://www.acb.org/acb-2025-leadership-conference**](https://www.acb.org/acb-2025-leadership-conference)

Registration is now open.

Join Zoom Meeting  
  
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09)  
  
Meeting ID: 864 8124 4260  
  
Passcode: 111222  
  
One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,86481244260#,,,,\*111222# US (Washington DC)  
  
or Dial   
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
Meeting ID: 864 8124 4260  
  
Passcode: 111222

Note: There will be no program meeting in March.

###  
  
**Low Vision Support Group Virtual Meeting: What to Know About Macular Degeneration**

Tuesday, February 11th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Hosted by The Washington National Eye Center at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, DC

Join Alex Reese, M.D., Washington National Eye Center Ophthalmology Resident, to learn about the leading cause of low vision for older adults.  
To register, call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event. You can join via computer or phone or both—**email Penny at** [**penelpe.a.helfgott@medstar.net**](mailto:penelpe.a.helfgott@medstar.net) **to receive an electronic link to the program.** If you have any questions, please call Penny Helfgott at 202-877-5329 and leave a message or call the POB at 202-234-1010.

###

**Stargardt's Network**: **Transportation and Navigation (Virtual Event)  
Tuesday, February 11th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm**Share your favorite navigation tips and strategies!  
Hosted by **Prevention of Blindness Society.**   
To register, call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.  
###

**Leisure World Lions Group: How Can a Low Vision Specialist Help Me?  
Wednesday, February 12th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm   
Leisure World Clubhouse II Edmondson Room**  
3300 N Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring   
Join Judith Goldstein, O.D., and Colette Houssan, O.D., from the Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at Johns Hopkins Medicine to learn how vision rehabilitation can support you.  
To RSVP, call Larry at **(908) 770-9111**.   
###

**Hadley Book Discussion Group - Tales of Friendship and Family**

Thursday, February 13th at 10:30 am

February is all about love, not just the romantic kind. This month let's celebrate the connections that bring us together. Share your favorite stories of lasting friendships and the families we’re born into or create along the way.

Sign up to join at [**Book Nook | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/book-nook).

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| **Many Faces of BARD Online Discussion: Open Forum – Answers to Your Questions from the Experts**  Thursday, February 13th at 7:00 pm |

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

Join the discussion at [**Launch Meeting - Zoom**](https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1617603376?pwd=NfoaVjkaSCNf5wM6eBpg21BWJfSZY9.1#success), NLS will record this program.

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

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| **Youth Braille Club**  Friday, February 14th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm  Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library Center for Accessibility  901 G Street, NW, Room 205-B (2nd Floor) |

They will play accessible games, make tactile art projects, talk about cool books, and more!

This program is designed for low-vision and blind youth and friends, but all kids are invited to attend! No knowledge of braille is required.

Contact the Center for Accessibility with questions or for reasonable accommodations. Email [**DCPLaccess@dc.gov**](mailto:DCPLaccess@dc.gov).   Phone 202-727-2142.

###

**Tech Talk Tuesdays: Smart Glasses Explained (Virtual Event)     
Tuesday, February 18th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm  
Speakers: Sree Roy and Rachel Schreiman**Smart glasses are innovative wearable devices designed to be worn on the head or eyes, combining everyday eyewear with advanced technology. Wondering if they're right for you? Join the event. To register call **(301) 951-4444** at least 24 hours before the event.  
###

**The World of AI Online via Zoom**

February 18th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

[**Register**](https://lighthouseguild.org/events/2024-in-review-assistive-technology-innovations-web-accessibility-reddit-r-blind-2/#register) at [**The World of AI - Lighthouse Guild**](https://lighthouseguild.org/events/the-world-of-ai/?mc_cid=0a542cd84a&mc_eid=d7c2dd5e52)

Join this informative webinar on the transformative world of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This discussion will cover the basics of AI, what AI is, where we stand today and how it’s shaping accessibility for people who are blind or visually impaired. Learn about Chat GPT, Perplexity and other AI platforms as well as those designed for use by someone with vision loss, such as BeMyAI, Seeing AI and wearable devices like Ray-Ban Meta Glasses making a difference the lives of users.

Special guest, Brian Fischler, assistive technology expert and host of “That Real Blind Tech Show”, will share his expertise and insights on current AI trends, real-life use cases and exciting future possibilities. This talk will also discuss common AI concerns, fears, and misconceptions while exploring the positives and the negatives.

* Discover the latest AI powered apps, tools and devices.
* Gain practical insights and basic AI knowledge and how it is being used and its potential for the future.
* Learn about the challenges and opportunities AI presents for accessibility.

**Questions?**Do not hesitate to reach out to Chief Technology Officer Dr. Bryan Wolyinski, at [**wolynskib@lighthouseguild.org**](mailto:Wolynskib@lighthouseguild.org).

###

**Public Forum on Proposed Changes to Montgomery County Ride On Bus Routes**

Tuesday, February 18th at 6:00 pm In-Person

Mid-County Regional Services Center, 2nd floor conference room,

2425 Reedie Drive, Wheaton

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is hosting the in-person public forum. MCDOT is seeking public feedback on proposed changes to MCDOT Ride On bus routes [**10**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/routesandschedules/allroutes/route010.html)**,**[**34**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/routesandschedules/allroutes/route034.html)**,**[**42**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/routesandschedules/allroutes/route042.html) and a new route 40, as well as weekend service changes to Metrobus routes [**L8**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/routesandschedules/allroutes/routel8.html)and [**T2**.](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/routesandschedules/allroutes/routet2.html) These changes are planned to take effect on Sunday, June 29. Public feedback has the potential to impact these changes.

More details are at [**In-Person Public Forum on Proposed Changes to Montgomery County Department of Transportation Ride On Bus Routes on Tuesday, Feb. 18**](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=46480&Dept=50)**.**

###

**Low Vision Town Hall: What is Orientation and Mobility Training?  
(Virtual Event)  
Wednesday, February 19th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Speaker: Sharon Payne, M.S., Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and Certified Low Vision Therapist (CLVT), Director, Able Services**  
Join the event to explore how orientation and mobility (O&M) training can empower individuals who are visually impaired to move safely and independently in all aspects of their lives. From fall prevention and home safety to strengthening exercises, including chair yoga, O&M skills can provide the confidence to navigate confidently. Sharon will also discuss overcoming psychological barriers to using a white cane.   
Call **(301) 951-4444** to register.   
###

**New Resources and Services at The Metropolitan Washington Ear  
Thursday, February 20th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Friendship Heights Village Center**4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase

**Vision Resource Group Speaker: Rev. Ray Raysor, Executive Director, Metropolitan Washington Ear (MWE)**MWE provides reading and information services, and independent living skills training for blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled people who cannot effectively read print, see plays, watch television programs and films, or view museum exhibits. Join them for an exciting update!  
To RSVP, call **(301) 656-2797**.   
###

**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/)

###

**“The Spirit and Strength of Nathalie Joachim” In-Person Concert**

Sunday, February 23rd from 3:00 to 4:15 pm

National Gallery of Art East Building Auditorium

4th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

In-person

Registration Required at [**https://tickets.nga.gov/events/019326ac-0a68-e48b-163a-5a7dc7f39c6f**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/019326ac-0a68-e48b-163a-5a7dc7f39c6f).

Join Grammy-nominated Haitian-American performing artist and composer Nathalie Joachim for a concert celebrating the exhibition [***Spirit & Strength: Modern Art from Haiti***](https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2024/modern-art-haiti.html).

Lauded by *The New York Times* for her “powerful and unpretentious voice,” Joachim advocates for social change and cultural awareness through her gifts of storytelling and human connection. Her landmark recording project *Fanm d’Ayiti* explores her Haitian heritage and received a Grammy nomination for best world music album.

Joachim will perform selections from her recent album *Ki moun ou ye.*

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**NFB CENA Access Boutique Series: How to Engineer an AI Prompt**

Tuesday, February 25th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm via Zoom

AI tools are becoming ubiquitous in our lives as technology rapidly advances. To get the most out of these tools, it is important to ask the questions the right way. This practice of properly communicating what you want to an AI model, called prompt engineering, is crucial for making sure you get the information you are looking for as efficiently as possible. Join the National Federation of the Blind Center of Excellence in Nonvisual Accessibility to learn how you can get the most out of your use of AI. They will cover:

* Why prompt engineering is important
* How to craft a good prompt
* The effects of different phrasing on AI responses
* Real examples of how this can be useful in daily life

Register at [**https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/events/accessibility-boutique-reg**](https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/events/accessibility-boutique-reg).

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**LBPD TUG Meeting: Christine Ha to Share Insights**

Saturday, March 8th at 10:00 am

MasterChef winner Christine Ha will share her story with the Technology User Group (TUG).  The chef extraordinaire who lost her vision from Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder will talk about her blindness journey, competing on national television, and sharing the finer points of cooking and the technology gadgets she prefers.  Her book, *Recipes from My Home Kitchen: Asian and American Comfort Food from the Winner of MasterChef Season Three*, is available in both audio (DB 76676) and braille (BR 20085).  Patrons can also download the title from the NLS BARD website at [**https://nlsbard.loc.gov/**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fnlsbard.loc.gov%2F%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001946a44a164-821c1ee4-60a0-49f6-89f9-30afbc4f63a7-000000/pKCl8ELKvjSfIR_eCbUSSGcNo5s76Qt55itz8_m0274=388).

Technology User Group (TUG) meetings can be joined via Zoom:

[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmarylandlibraries.zoom.us%2Fj%2F6562037293%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001946a44a164-821c1ee4-60a0-49f6-89f9-30afbc4f63a7-000000/k4WS1Yoy1PpWhDQhgLy-If3EKM8jyxn6IRMlY_MXiOY=388)

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293

or

**One tap mobile**[**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B13017158592,,6562037293%23/1/010001946a44a164-821c1ee4-60a0-49f6-89f9-30afbc4f63a7-000000/vN8ZdEYxbAIBu-xHyLxJnMM6JD7K5KSmiJzv7baDZ9c=388)

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**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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