

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

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

March 14, 2025

Dear Listeners,

We hope you are enjoying the pleasant break in the weather and the wide variety of opportunities available this month. Of special note is the MWE Men’s Support Group meeting “Are Your Affairs in Order?” Details are [**here**](#Men).

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**FCC Adopts Rules Regarding Wireless Emergency Alerts**](#FCC)
* [**Peabody String Sinfonia Recording Available**](#Peabody)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
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	+ [**2025 ACB Leadership Conference**](#ACB)
	+ [**DC Job Fair**](#Job)
	+ [**Rare Time Capsule Recordings Featuring Helen Keller to be Part of Live Stream Event**](#Helen)
	+ **[Tech Talk Tuesdays - iPad Accessibility Features (Virtual Event)](#Tech)**
	+ **[Low Vision Town Hall (Virtual Event) - Traveling with Vision Impairment](#Hall)**
	+ **[Friendship Heights Vision Resource Group](#Apps)** [-](#Apps) **[Exploring Innovative Smartphone Apps](#Apps)**
	+ [**SSA Disability Benefits & Work Incentives: A Webinar for Social Security Beneficiaries**](#SSA)
	+ [**FFB Virtual Class to Confidently Navigate the Kitchen**](#FFB)
	+ [**AFB Webinar - Using Research to Strengthen State and Local Disability Advocacy**](#AFBWeb)
	+ **[MWE – Blind Men’s Support Group – Are Your Affairs in Order?](#Men)**
	+ [**ACB of Virginia Virtual Book Group**](#ACBVA)
	+ **[America InSight: Verbal Description Art Tour](#InSight)**
	+ [**Being the Light: Friends and Family Connection Event**](#Light)

###

**FCC ADOPTS RULES REGARDING WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS**

On February 28, 2025, the FCC released a Seventh Report and Order and Eleventh Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) regarding Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).  WEAs are emergency alerts delivered to mobile devices of people within the United States.  WEAs are currently sent with an audio attention signal and vibration cadence, which can sometimes be unexpected and jarring, causing some consumers to experience alert fatigue and opt out of receiving future WEA messages.  In the Report and Order, the FCC adopted rules to allow alert originators the option of sending "silent alerts" that do not trigger WEA's audio attention signal, vibration cadence, or both.  Sending silent alerts gives alert originators more flexibility in sending alerts, for example, during an active shooter situation or for a missing person alert sent at night.

The new rules also allow users, including those with disabilities, to override the silent alert and activate the vibration cadence to ensure that they know their device has received the message.

Compliance with these requirements will be required 36 months after publication of the Seventh Report and Order in the Federal Register.

Link to the Seventh Report and Order and Eleventh Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

URL: [**https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-makes-weas-more-responsive-public-safety-and-consumer-needs**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-makes-weas-more-responsive-public-safety-and-consumer-needs)

Additional information about WEA accessibility is available at [**https://www.fcc.gov/wea-accessibility**](https://www.fcc.gov/wea-accessibility).  For questions regarding the new rules, contact David Kirschner, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at (202) 418-0695 or **David.Kirschner@fcc.gov**.  Individuals who use videophones and are fluent in American Sign Language may call the FCC's ASL Consumer Support Line at (844) 432-2275 (videophone).

###

**PEABODY STRING SINFONIA RECORDING AVAILABLE**

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) hosted the [**Peabody String Sinfonia**](https://peabody.jhu.edu/life-at-peabody/career-services/opportunities/experiential-learning/string-sinfonia/) this week and wow, what a performance! Ashley Biggs reports “Their breathtaking music filled the room with energy, emotion, and pure talent.” If you missed it (or want to experience it again), you can hear some of the magic by checking out this link: [**https://youtu.be/0cB4e8qiEss**](https://youtu.be/0cB4e8qiEss).

###

**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 Age of Innocence**

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

Described Saturday, March 22nd at 2:00 pm

**Bad Books**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

**Described Saturday, April 12th matinee**

**Fake It Until You Make It**

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

Described Saturday, April 12th at 2:00 pm

**Sleepova**

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

March 26 – April 27

Described Wednesday, April 16th at 7:30 pm

**Uncle Vanya**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, April 19th matinee

###

**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)

###

**2025 ACB Leadership Conference**

Friday, March 14th through Tuesday, March 18th

Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington

The American Council of the Blind Leadership Conference will be a hybrid event. Full details are at [**2025 ACB Leadership Conference | American Council of the Blind**](https://www.acb.org/2025-acb-leadership-conference)**.**

###

**DC JOB FAIR**

Friday, March 14th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

The Kellogg Conference Hotel
800 Florida Avenue, NE

The District of Columbia is hosting a job fair. Attendees will be able to learn about job opportunities, receive resume support and interview coaching, and get support setting up a LinkedIn profile.  More information is available at [**Gateway to District Careers Federal Hiring Event**](https://app.brazenconnect.com/a/dcgov/e/WQdrzfD).

###

**Rare Time Capsule Recordings Featuring Helen Keller to be Part of Live Stream Event**

Monday, March 17th at 3:00 pm

The [**American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/103624577/532706604/999988524?sourceid=1091348&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjgyYTkxMmExLWYyZmQtZWYxMS05MGNkLTAwMjI0ODJhOWZiNyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=upv48RhTqKTF0gOYyXuKMTHZsRZiGXXm21bWbICWA-E=&emci=08876b72-9efb-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=82a912a1-f2fd-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5132417) and [**The Dot Experience**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/103624582/532706609/-1945196333?sourceid=1091348&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjgyYTkxMmExLWYyZmQtZWYxMS05MGNkLTAwMjI0ODJhOWZiNyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=upv48RhTqKTF0gOYyXuKMTHZsRZiGXXm21bWbICWA-E=&emci=08876b72-9efb-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=82a912a1-f2fd-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5132417) of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) are pleased to announce a special livestream event to unveil a 90-year-old audio recording of Helen Keller.

The special livestream event, which will include leaders from AFB and APH, will take place at the [**Center for Jewish History**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/103624585/532706615/990344032?sourceid=1091348&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjgyYTkxMmExLWYyZmQtZWYxMS05MGNkLTAwMjI0ODJhOWZiNyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=upv48RhTqKTF0gOYyXuKMTHZsRZiGXXm21bWbICWA-E=&emci=08876b72-9efb-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=82a912a1-f2fd-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5132417)**.** The [**livestream will be available on AFB's YouTube**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/103624588/532706619/1656824286?feature=share&sourceid=1091348&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjgyYTkxMmExLWYyZmQtZWYxMS05MGNkLTAwMjI0ODJhOWZiNyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=upv48RhTqKTF0gOYyXuKMTHZsRZiGXXm21bWbICWA-E=&emci=08876b72-9efb-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=82a912a1-f2fd-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5132417) and social media channels. The Center for Jewish History's current location is the former site of AFB's headquarters, where Helen Keller worked for decades.

“Both AFB and APH are excited to share with the world these powerful words of Helen Keller and others, which are just as relevant today as they were almost a century ago when they were captured during a special ceremony commemorating the laying of the cornerstone for AFB's new headquarters," said Eric Bridges, AFB president and CEO.

The’ event commemorates a series of rare, unearthed recordings on silver discs from the 1930s that were placed in a time capsule at the former AFB headquarters at 15 W. 16th Street. The moving speech by Helen Keller was broadcast over the NBC Radio network and allowed her lifelong teacher and friend, Anne Sullivan Macy, to hear the ceremony from her hospital bed.

[**Join the Livestream**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/103624591/532706622/1656824286?feature=share&sourceid=1091348&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjgyYTkxMmExLWYyZmQtZWYxMS05MGNkLTAwMjI0ODJhOWZiNyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=upv48RhTqKTF0gOYyXuKMTHZsRZiGXXm21bWbICWA-E=&emci=08876b72-9efb-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=82a912a1-f2fd-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5132417) **at** [**Echoes from the Past: Helen Keller and the Time Capsule Recordings**](https://www.youtube.com/live/XUA-ACvCrHQ)**.**

###

**Tech Talk Tuesdays - iPad Accessibility Features (Virtual Event)**Tuesday, March 18th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm
Join with Steven Kelley, Certified Assistive Technology Specialist, Hadley, to discuss Apple iPad accessibility features that are helpful for people with vision impairment.
To register, call (301) 951-4444.

###

**Low Vision Town Hall (Virtual Event) - Traveling with Vision Impairment**Wednesday, March 19th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Join Stan Gowin, Co-Chair, Reston V.I.P. Group, as he shares his travel experiences navigating planes, trains, and ships with a mobility cane. Learn tips for overcoming travel challenges with vision impairment and discover how to make travel more accessible.

Call (301) 951-4444 to register.

###

**Friendship Heights Vision Resource Group** - **Exploring Innovative Smartphone Apps**Thursday March 20th from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Friendship Heights Village Center

4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase

Join Sandy Neuzil**,** Low Vision Community Outreach for the Prevention of Blindness Society, for an insightful discussion on cutting-edge smartphone apps that blend human and artificial intelligence (AI) to provide valuable support for individuals with vision impairments.
Three free apps can connect you to human or AI assistance that can read text out loud, identify objects, and describe what you are looking at - in that instant! Learn how to download these apps and try them out on your iPhone, Android, or iPad.

Low Vision Resource meetings help you connect, share ideas, and learn from each other.

To RSVP, call (301) 656-2797.
###

**SSA Disability Benefits & Work Incentives: A Webinar for Social Security Beneficiaries**

Thursday, March 20th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Sponsored by The American Dream Employment Network (ADEN). Are you a Social Security disability beneficiary and want to know how working will affect your benefits? Are you afraid of losing benefits or medical coverage if you return to work? Learn about SSA Work Incentives that will help you return to work and explore a better financial future.

Registration is required and there is no cost to attend.

Register at [**Meeting Registration - Zoom**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pcO2hqzwiEt0UMHMOa0b2fiNKF-4GSZAt#/registration).

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| Once registered, you will receive an email with the link to the webinar.If you have questions about this webinar, please email: **info@AmericanDreamEN.org**###

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**FFB Virtual Class to Confidently Navigate the Kitchen**

Sunday, March 23rd at 7:00 pm

The Foundation Fighting Blindness In partnership with **The Blind Kitchen, Chef Debra Erickson** will be providing a class to teach practical tools, techniques, and strategies to confidently navigate the kitchen including:

* Minimizing the risk of cuts and burns.
* Building confidence to cook without embarrassment.
* Ensuring food safety to protect yourself and your loved ones.
* Discover how to overcome the four key fears – cutting, burning, embarrassment, and food safety – and reclaim your independence in the kitchen.

For more information or to register, please follow this link:  [**https://www.fightingblindness.org/events/dc-social-event-3309**](https://www.fightingblindness.org/events/dc-social-event-3309)

###

**AFB Webinar - Using Research to Strengthen State and Local Disability Advocacy**

Wednesday, March 26th at 12:00 pm

Join the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) for a webinar on how research can help strengthen your state and local disability advocacy. AFB staff will discuss their recently published research summaries and fact sheets—valuable tools to share with state legislators and local officials as you advocate for transportation access, accessible digital information, expanded funding for disability services, and more. Denise Jess, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, will share a three-part formula for effective advocacy and discuss the power of coalition building.

Register for the webinar at [**Webinar Registration - Zoom**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9717417272043/WN_amqjqpH0QSCT3dhozV9v3g?sourceid=1091350&emci=e4334221-5aff-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=fadcdb07-85ff-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5132417#/registration).

###

**MWE – Blind Men’s Support Group – Are Your Affairs in Order?**

Thursday, March 27th at 2:00 pm

12061 Tech Road, Silver Spring

Life is unpredictable. Make sure you and your loved ones are prepared.

Contact Janice Dyson-Ceasar at 301-681-6636.

###

**ACB of Virginia Virtual Book Group**

Thursday, March 27th at 7:00 pm

Come share your recent readings and learn what others are reading.

All are welcome.

You do not need to be a member to attend.

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 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.

And they realize the time and date are not convenient for everyone, so, following the meeting, they plan to distribute information about

 the books attendees review.

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/)

###

**America InSight: Verbal Description Art Tour**Wednesday, April 2nd from 11:00 am to 12:00 pmSmithsonian American Art Museum
8th and G Streets, NW, Washington, DC

Join POB for an in-person docent-led tour for visitors who are blind or have low vision. Through rich verbal description and sensory experience, discover highlights from the Smithsonian's collection.
To RSVP, call (301) 951-4444.
###

**Being the Light: Friends and Family Connection Event**
Saturday, May 3rd
Collington Life Care Community
10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville

You, your friends, and your family are invited to join the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) for a luncheon panel discussion moderated by **Suleiman Alibhai, O.D.**, a low-vision specialist. Additional details and tickets will be available soon.
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