

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

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

April 10, 2025

Dear Listeners,

This week’s Update has another interesting mix of information and opportunities. Of particular interest is the initiative to provide video game players with accessibility features [**here**](#Games). We hope you enjoy them all.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Vision Restoration Breakthrough: Retinal Therapy Achieves First Long-Term Neural Regeneration**](#Retina)
* [**Accessible Video Games Initiative to Provide Players with Accessibility Features**](#Games)
* [**Free Webinar Series: The Human Experience of Black People with Disabilities and Their Rights Under the ADA**](#ADA)
* [**New Clinical Trial Opportunities for People Living with Thyroid Eye Disease (TED)**](#TED)
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  + **[Fair Housing for Tenants with Disabilities: Understanding Reasonable Accommodations and Reasonable Modifications – A Free Webinar](#Housing)**
  + **[Vision Resource Group - The Visual System: How Your Eyes Work](#Friendship)**
  + **[Easter Service for The Blind at MWE](#Easter)**
  + **[Join a Virtual Community Forum on Virginia Transportation Accessibility](#Transportation)**
  + [**ADA Title II Update**](#TitleII)
  + **[Tea Tasting Workshop](#Tea)****[Online](#Tea)**
  + [**ACB of Virginia Virtual Book Group**](#ACBVABook)
  + [**Vienna/Falls Church VIP Assistive Technology Fair – In Person Only**](#VIP)
  + **[2025 AAPD Virtual National Community Event](#AAPD)**
  + **[Being the Light: Friends and Family Connection Event](#Light)**
  + **[FFB Mental Health Webinar](#FFBWeb)**

###

**VISION RESTORATION BREAKTHROUGH: RETINAL THERAPY ACHIEVES FIRST LONG-TERM NEURAL REGENERATION**

From ophthalmologybreakingnews.com and forwarded by Theresa Breeden

In a groundbreaking development for ophthalmology, researchers from KAIST have achieved the first successful induction of long-term neural regeneration in mammalian retinas, potentially paving the way to restore vision lost to degenerative retinal diseases…. The study, published in Nature Communications, was co-authored by Dr. Eun Jung Lee of Celliaz Inc. and Museong Kim, a Ph.D. candidate at KAIST.

Read the full article at [**Retinal Therapy Achieves Vision Restoration | OBN**](https://ophthalmologybreakingnews.com/retinal-therapy-achieves-vision-restoration)**.**

###

**ACCESSIBLE VIDEO GAMES INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE PLAYERS WITH ACCESSIBILITT FEATURES**

From the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

This cross-industry effort is designed to provide consumers with clear information about the accessibility features available in video games.

Full details are at [**“Entertainment Software Association Introduces the Accessible Games Initiative to Provide Players with Information About Accessibility Features in Video Games”**](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/entertainment-software-association-introduces-the-accessible-games-initiative-to-provide-players-with-information-about-accessibility-features-in-video-games-302406737.html)**.**

###

**FREE WEBINAR SERIES: THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE OF BLACK PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE ADA**

From the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

This webinar series will unpack research findings and provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities, as well as the challenges and barriers, faced by Black individuals with disabilities in accessing information and exercising their rights under the ADA. The series features four free sessions, and you can register for any or all of them:

**June 3, 2025:** Intersectionality: Unpacking Discrimination, Stigma, and Multiple Marginalization  
**September 2, 2025:** Fighting for Civil and Disability Rights: Strategies to Overcome Barriers  
**December 2, 2025:**The Power of Visibility and Community Advocacy

Learn more at [**Webinar Series: The Human Experience of Black People with Disabilities and Their Rights Under the ADA**](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/axs6uxa/lp/8b0223f9-7589-4043-ac33-2e2d081e9220)**.**

###

**NEW CLINICAL TRIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH THYROID EYE DISEASE (TED)**

Forwarded by the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB)

Viridian Therapeutics, Inc. is studying an investigational drug called VRDN-003, given through a subcutaneous injection, as a potential treatment for people affected by moderate-to-severe thyroid eye disease (TED).

VRDN-003 is being studied in two phase 3 trials, REVEAL-1 and REVEAL-2, to assess the benefits and safety of the investigational drug when given every 4 weeks or every 8 weeks compared to placebo.

Eligible participants will be asked to attend regular study visits for approximately 52 weeks. Some of the study visits will take place at the study center or may be done by telephone.

If you are interested in learning more, please fill in this 5-minute questionnaire by [**visiting this page**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCdV-2BbEK8lNhnXvLWE-2BGDJL1oC-2BGU3BiA6Hm8lccLqMe-2BTy9uJjn7tRYZSOZsHZWz-2Bnt671hHiYZIQ0j9VSxkARm3mIzMM6gjLKHhmShmRIjhZbW61qKeweviMu-2BGoxgl5A-3D-3DvWp1_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPhBB9-2F6a5EXT-2FoUIS2RvmqO7kDtAltGgpjNDAKcLi31zsmI-2BWwskAemmtsLt6iOJoM17MPr8u51-2Fd39Ykuq3SSZZmIfYDfVmCFO7n1FRDil2hHCrWoN4fq6nBpFGuOTL67wjoEvAuNX2wPl3GVIN3Y-2FcKNakbFpHD7OUoifc08Lgo6DEGg9UaUrolw4QfMzhq1dvn2EMmuXZ8EH2bM7-2FtPof17J0cSABTNBMkyBfeSMo-3D), (**[Leapcure - Thyroid Eye Disease (TED) Clinical Trials](https://research.leapcure.com/studies/thyroideyediseasetrial?locale=en&utm_source=VRDNPAO&utm_medium=emailblast)**) and a patient coordinator from Leapcure will reach out to you directly. Leapcure will help you explore your eligibility and help you connect with a trial site near you.

###

**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.

**Bad Books**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

**Described Saturday, April 12th at 2:00 pm**

**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

Described Wednesday, April 16th at 7:30 pm

**Uncle Vanya**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, April 19th 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)

###

**Low Vision Support Group - Read with Your Ears**  
**Friday, April 11th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm  
Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library**  
5005 Duke Street, Alexandria

Join to explore nonvisual reading options with Talking Book, audiobooks, and eAudiobooks.  
To RSVP, call **(301) 951-4444.**  
###

**LBPD Virtual Technology User Group (TUG) Meeting**

Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

the Technology User Group (TUG) welcomes Tamara Rorie from the National Library Service (NLS) to their virtual domain to talk about new and existing equipment and NLS programming.  She will also demonstrate the new DA2 Talking Book Machine and the BARD skill for Alexa.  In addition, she will discuss NLS's Braille on Demand and e-Reader projects and take your questions.

Who should attend?

* All LBPD library patrons.
* Assistive technology enthusiasts.
* Caregivers and professionals in the blind community.
* Students with print disabilities.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523**​](https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523)​

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​

**Call in:**

1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#

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| One tap mobile [**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B13017158592,,6562037293%23/1/01000195fbddd431-ec353fc9-cd26-4ef1-994e-2679ebdc7059-000000/uW5e2rh-44lqv0wrvpyaoK1jl7AVmhm8LdAr9hDoSwY=399) |

###

**Northern Virginia Housing Expo**

Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Meridian High School

121 Mustang Alley, Falls Church (next to Falls Church Metro)

Are you looking for a place to live in Northern Virginia? Whether you are renting or buying for the first time, this free event is for you!

Join the 15th annual Northern Virginia Housing Expo to explore many exhibits about apartment rentals, government help programs, home-buying chances, mortgage information, and more!

You can also join free workshops and get one-on-one advice to help you find the right home.

Learn more at [**Northern Virginia Housing Expo**](https://novahousingexpo.org/index.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

###

**LBPD Tactile Tour: Guinness Open Gate Brewery**

Saturday, April 12th at 12:00 noon

5001 Washington Blvd, Halethorpe, MD

LBPD asks that you please arrive no later than 11:45 a.m. to ensure your participation.

**Transportation will not be provided.**

Join a group tour of the Baltimore Experimental Brewery, where one of their charismatic guides will teach you all about the history of Guinness and the brewery's site. The guide will provide plenty of Guinness heritage, take you inside their innovative brewery to explain the brewing process, and answer any questions.

The tour should last approximately one hour. If you wish to stay past the event, feel free to do so. Please visit the Brewery [**website**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.guinnessbrewerybaltimore.com%2F%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000195bee552dc-f08da301-afdf-4f25-9def-4de482ca92af-000000/PBhgFJfmuuHjdr1-F9YlK6-DdsENHu2Vlmcu20fbnTk=397) for additional details about the facility.

**The tour is limited to 18 people and will be first come, first served.** Due to limited availability, this event is open exclusively to LBPD patrons. They kindly ask that caregivers refrain from participating. Only those 21 and older are permitted to attend.

To register, please follow this link:

[**https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/calendar/ExternalCalendar/Brewery25**](https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/calendar/ExternalCalendar/Brewery25)**.**

###

**iBUG Cafe Demo on the Free Be My Eyes and Be My AI on Your iPhone**

Sunday, April 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

The iBUG Cafe will host an in-depth session on utilizing the Be My Eyes app on your iPhone. The widely-used application, Be My Eyes, will be the focus of our presentation.

The presentation will cover the following key points:

1. **App Installation:** The process of installing the Be My Eyes app on your iPhone.

2. **Home Screen Layout:** An overview of the Be My Eyes Home Screen layout.

3. Get **Support Tab:**

    - Utilizing the iPhone camera to contact a sighted volunteer.

    - Exploring the Groups feature.

    - Reaching out to a sighted volunteer using the Ray-Ban Meta frames.

4. **BeMy AI Tab:**

    - Taking a picture and having AI provide a detailed description.

    - Asking follow-up questions.

    - Importing a picture from the Photos app and having AI describe it.

- Achieving complete hands-free functionality using the Ray-Ban Meta frames.

5. **Community and Settings Tab:**

    - Reviewing the BeMy AI community.

    - Configuring the settings within the BeMy AI app.

To join the Zoom conference:

[**https://zoom.us/j/7428486329?pwd=M003RmZaa3pTbWRlZ00xbSs4YTlmUT09**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fibugtoday.us18.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D4df096a1d765624b3d7355cf9%26id%3D624fa234e4%26e%3D55c1dc3c99&data=05%7C02%7C%7C66475e9ce0834192ca0008dd70b023b5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638790624006791360%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X1Qo8GuKCXX1hZm6lg54VBEs7nMIadTmFsIxi%2FWPsS8%3D&reserved=0)

One tap mobile from a smartphone:  +13462487799,,7428486329#,,,,\*369978# US

Dial from a phone:  +1 346 248 7799 US

Meeting ID: 742 848 6329, Password:  369978

###

**ACBVA's April Program Meeting: Discover the Power of Accessible Reading**

Monday, April 14th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Imagine a world where books, magazines, and newspapers are always at your fingertips, accessible anytime, anywhere. That's the reality made possible by the [**National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)**](https://www.loc.gov/nls/). Join an exciting discussion about how NLS and [**Virginia's Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI)**](https://www.vdbvi.org/) are transforming reading for blind and low-vision individuals!

[**Donna Cox**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/donna-cox-b7648446/), Director of Education and Library Services at **DBVI**, will share insights about her role as Virginia's NLS regional librarian. In addition, a representative from **NLS's Patron Engagement section** will answer your questions about **BARD**, its many formats, and other exciting updates from NLS. Whether you are a longtime patron or simply curious about how NLS can enhance your access to books and information, this is a meeting you won't want to miss!

Zoom Information:

**Join Zoom Meeting:**[**Click here to join**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09)

**Meeting ID:** 864 8124 4260  
**Passcode:** 111222

**One-Tap Mobile:**+13017158592,,86481244260#,,,,\*111222# US (Washington, DC)

**Dial-In Option:**+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington, DC)

For any additional questions, feel free to contact **RoseAnn Ashby** at **703-403-0226** or via email at [**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net).

###

**Tech Talk Tuesdays - Navigation Apps (Virtual Event)**  
**Tuesday, April 15th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**

**J**oin to explore navigation tools for low vision, focusing on tips, challenges, and features that enhance wayfinding, safety, and independence while traveling.

**To register, call (301) 951-4444.**  
###

**Low Vision Town Hall - Life Beyond Low Vision (Virtual Event)**  
**Wednesday, April 16th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**  
Join as community members share their personal stories of life beyond low vision. Hear how they embrace hobbies, manage responsibilities, and navigate everyday experiences. Discover how they live fully and thrive beyond the limitations of low vision. Call **(301) 951-4444**to register.  
###

**Fair Housing for Tenants with Disabilities: Understanding Reasonable Accommodations and Reasonable Modifications – A Free Webinar**

Wednesday, April 16th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Join e.v. yost and Luciene Parsley, attorneys at Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), to learn about federal housing laws that protect tenants with disabilities, the role of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) systems across the country, and the work DRM does to protect the fair housing rights of people with disabilities in Maryland.

In this webinar, you will gain a better understanding of the rights to reasonable accommodations and modifications under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Amendments Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Participants will also improve practical skills and knowledge about how to write effective letters requesting reasonable accommodations, obtain needed resources, and learn how to enforce the right to equal access and benefits in housing!

Register at [**Fair Housing for Tenants with Disabilities: Understanding Reasonable Accommodations & Modifications**](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7xau3e4?source_id=cc3ba46c-ce9a-46f9-ad05-c79019edb907&source_type=em&c=DtHuLXQzGOJLUBVwjTKI0b-03Dr2RGiTjeJc2BWI_ZFH8QxA7vL8gw==&source_id=64a31692-49d6-4013-be4e-1eb51e31e102&source_type=em&c=jpikelYmbGKabB9LhfMFTIghrTf-Lq7-MXXjEqd-Ng2jCZqJkvubOw==).

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**Vision Resource Group - The Visual System: How Your Eyes Work**  
**Thursday, April 17th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Friendship Heights Village Center**  
4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase  
Join **Sandy Neuzil**to explore the anatomy of the eye, from the cornea to the retina. Discover how each part works together to bring light and vision to life! Come and expand your knowledge!  
To RSVP, call **(301) 656-2797.**

**###**

**Easter Service for The Blind at MWE**

Sunday, April 20th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

St. Didymus Church for The Blind

12061-B Tech Road, Silver Spring

For more information, contact Pastor Raymond Raysor at 301-377-6468

###

**Join a Virtual Community Forum on Virginia Transportation Accessibility**

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| Monday, April 21st from 7:00 to 8:30 pm  The Fairfax Area Disability Services Board is hosting a virtual community forum on transportation accessibility. They are looking for your ideas and feedback to help them find out where there are problems or barriers in transportation for people with disabilities in Fairfax County, City of Falls Church, and City of Fairfax.  Your input can help make transportation better and more accessible for everyone. After you register, an email with the link to join the meeting will be emailed to you. Register at [**Participate in Community Forums to Provide Input on Services for Residents with Disabilities | Family Services**](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/disabilities/fairfax-area-disability-services-board/community-forums?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  ###  **ADA Title II Update**  Wednesday, April 23rd from 1:00 to 2:00 pm  Title II of the ADA requires state and local governments to make sure that their services, programs, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. Join the Maryland Department of Disabilities Assistive Technology Program (ATP) to explore the latest updates to this legislation. Registration is at [**ADA Title II Update**](https://lj79tucab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001lTZVJLMfLyuCNPemsum-LJe_cMlV8c3-6f5Lk-OeZT086aL4rPUv7AQzrz9We3XIsJ1b0skelN-nt3yJ_f9ENumSzUdNH7CuwMY57_WruHdQeh7lAjCgmO1vY-NYvz2U1m2Zuw6-EwQVTvHChQ2SQwByn7PP1J-o-h7WAqkWAYPdkMh0jNE2lkX0R0joEpSNUWDsX1x14JUzkuzn-GRQUASySI--xKDXfiNwNVKBIJk=&c=5x8ro2FHiVjWMOdBGtSwzmWwvIqN9bdZbC2tWI8UQM4LcsE6_Hhu2A==&ch=tIt7KgfaNccXAbfZrcq040drvl47X8b5sWF7EZJLOjILuTkfhJda9A==).  ###  **Tea Tasting Workshop** **Online**  Thursday, April 24th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm  Sponsored by the Friends of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, the Carroll County Public Library, and Tea and Whimsey, this tea-tasting workshop aims to introduce you to several new teas while exploring their history and flavor profiles!  The library will mail you three teas to taste for this workshop. You will need the following on hand to get the full benefit of the workshop:   * Tea provided by the library * Hot water to steep the tea * Tasting cups   **Limited to 50 people. Registration is required.**  **Registration closes on April 1st.**  **Register here:** [**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_R9fCdlUqTlaWVPK4ayCLUQ**](https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R9fCdlUqTlaWVPK4ayCLUQ).  **Event URL:**  [**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_R9fCdlUqTlaWVPK4ayCLUQ**](https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R9fCdlUqTlaWVPK4ayCLUQ)  ###  **ACB of Virginia Virtual Book Group**  Thursday, April 24th 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/)  ###    **Vienna/Falls Church VIP Assistive Technology Fair – In Person Only**  Monday April 28th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm  Thomas Jefferson Library Conference Room  7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church  This is an opportunity for visually impaired members and friends to see many types of assistive devices all in one place! Three vendors who sell a wide variety of assistive technology have been invited and are listed below along with the types of technology that will be displayed.  \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* Advance sign-ups are requested In order to provide an organized and positive experience for everyone. Participants will rotate through each of the vendors in small groups at assigned times. Any participant desiring individual time with any of the vendors will be able to connect with them privately by scheduling a future appointment. Please email Rachel Schreiman @ [**rachel.schreiman@gmail.com**](mailto:rachel.schreiman@gmail.com) to sign up. In your e-mail, please let them know if you prefer a 2:00 PM or 3:15 PM start time.  **Vendors**:   1. **Atlantic Low Vision** (Phil Linz); Website [**atlanticlowvision.com**](https://atlanticlowvision.com/) 2. **Eschenbach** (Louise Yi);Website[**eschenbach.com**](https://eschenbach.com/) 3. **ITG Accessibility Solutions Group**(Michael Batista) Website [**accessibilityproducts.net**](https://accessibilityproducts.net/)   **Types of Technology Carried by the Vendors**:   * + Desktop Video Magnifiers: Ideal for extended reading, some include text-to-speech   + Portable Video Magnifiers: Many the advantages of a desktop, with the ability to pack up to take with you.   + Handheld Video Magnifiers: 4” - 10” Screens   + Tablet Based Magnifiers: A video magnifier with internet capability and Apps   + Wearable Magnifiers: Hands free digital magnification   + Wearable and handheld OCR and Artificial Intelligence (AI) devices   + Scanning & Reading Devices: these will scan documents & read aloud   + Handheld and wearable Optical (non-electronic) magnifiers   + Color filter glasses (fitover or wrap around)   + Braille Notetakers & Displays   + Software: ZoomText, JAWS, Fusion     If you signed up at the last meeting, they ask that you still e-mail them. The sheet was very hard to read, and they want to ensure that everyone is properly registered.    Please direct any questions to Ann Koch [**akkoch710@gmail.com**](mailto:akkoch710@gmail.com). or Rachel Schreiman **rachel.schreiman@gmail.com.**  ###  **2025 AAPD Virtual National Community Event** |

Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 pm

Join AAPD to celebrate our community's collective progress and power at the 2025 AAPD National Community Event.

This event is open to all in the disability community, and any ally who cares about advancing disability rights and inclusion.

Tickets are completely free, and the event is virtual.

Register at [**2025 AAPD National Community Event Tickets, Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-aapd-national-community-event-tickets-1245268554769).

The AAPD National Community Event is rooted in the disability community's advocacy and culture: they will bring you engaging conversations with national leaders, hear reports from across the nation about the critical work disabled people are doing across the country, celebrate disability representation in film and the arts, and more! Also celebrate and learn more about the work of the incredible 2025 Paul G Hearne Emerging Leader Award recipients.

Throughout the evening, they will also connect you to opportunities at the national, state, and local level to advocate for disability equality, accessibility, and inclusion.

Audio description will be provided and streaming links will be sent out to all who register.

###

**Being the Light: Friends and Family Connection Event**  
**Keynote: When and How to Ask for Support from Family and Friends** Saturday, May 3rd from 12:00 to 2:30 pm  
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.

This POB special luncheon event will give your friends and family a unique opportunity to learn about low vision and its challenges. Ample free parking on-site.  
  
Vendors will showcase their valuable resources, tools, and technologies, including the Prevention of Blindness Society Low Vision Resource Center and VOMA Technologies & Training (list subject to change).  
  
**Tickets: $22 per person**  
  
To purchase tickets, visit[**beingthelightpob.org**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=1ed36ead1e&e=59825d4dc8)or contact **Tara Aziz at (202) 234-1010, ext. 233,** or email[**taziz@youreyes.org**](mailto:taziz@youreyes.org)

###

**FFB Mental Health Webinar**

Saturday, May 17th at 12:00 Noon

Join the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) quarterly vision webinar focused on mental health, coinciding with Mental Health Awareness Month this May. Navigating vision loss can deeply affect mental health, but finding tailored resources is often difficult, so they're here to support you.

They will cover:

* The emotional impact of vision loss
* Coping strategies and resilience
* Mental health resources
* Building community support

This is a valuable opportunity to connect, learn, and find support.

**Registration Page:**

[[**Quarterly Vision Webinar-Mental Health**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM5kJ0p3uSBqBAikYDlVywGXK3-2F-2B-2FyqFmVKwtOi1PEASoMtAnWy1TyED4KCtIPSKnJQ5QJdeqc54wnSli0ktZz2xobtu3-2FnbTxkATSjIWM8K5Jmzafh6onvozStnaQpJWxJn-2B7Y9ZgWIhI0kxT1G-2FV2trh01oTEC8TPY3IyLyxT5CPpoTpuXkqNDpC3ALq0NnxU-3DE2Jq_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPopBbkowQ2JxxZVrvxYo-2FOLkgeNNESkQ4z9uHwY9XcqziyBD3BQ0zP7BNrLAV-2B5ZisD9UhcYe4xKsBHigzevJ657-2FOpKuNtxjsradsuMDXf8-2BXApFZg-2BNCn-2BZsbYSYUK746Qxp-2FO63JT4Q1B8A9YNMzHUDoBaJzOkEtQglYEdiWlTaLDkC3R4KWBjrETbXIX-2F4O2j3j71fizQrCztRJMGPJdTY1J8ptt8Hv7jPEN43z4-3D)]

For more information, please reach out to Bailey Bostelman at[**BBostelman@FightingBlindness.org.**](mailto:BBostelman@FightingBlindness.org)

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