

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

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

April 18, 2025

Dear Listeners,

If you are observing a religious holiday this week, we hope it is a meaningful time for you. And just a reminder, there will be an Easter Service for the Blind at the MWE. Details are [**here**](#Easter).

Note too that an additional performance of *Fake It Until You Make It* at Arena Stage has been scheduled for Friday, May 2nd at 8:00 pm.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**NLS Announcement: BARD 2.0**](#NLS)
* [**Virtual Workshop About Using AI and Other Tools to Reshape and Reinvigorate the Transition from Federal to Private Sector**](#Tools)
* [**Moderate-Income Purchase Assistance Program (MIPAP) OPEN to Eligible First-Time Homebuyers Purchasing in Arlington County**](#Home)
* [**Apply Now: 2025 Endowment Grant for Services to the Blind, Vision Impaired, and DeafBlind**](#Grant)
* [**Free Virtual Trainings with VRCBVI**](#VRCBVI)
* [**The Blind Kitchen: Accessible Cooking Tools and Tips for Blind
and Vision-Impaired Cooks**](#Cook)
* [**Audiobook Radio Network**](#Radio)
* [**WhatsApp Banking Assistance**](#Bank)
* [**Back Tap: New Voiceover Gestures**](#Tap)
* [**FFB Eye on the Cure Podcast**](#Eye)
* [**Build LEGO® Sets Without Sight—Thanks to Bricks for the Blind!**](#Lego)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
	+ **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
	+ **[Easter Service for The Blind at MWE](#Easter)**
	+ **[Join a Virtual Community Forum on Virginia Transportation Accessibility](#Transportation)**
	+ [**Insights Forum Call**](#Forum)
	+ **[ADA Title II Update](#TitleII)**
	+ [**Accessible Board and Card Game Night**](#Game)
	+ **[Tea Tasting Workshop](#Tea)****[Online](#Tea)**
	+ **[ACB of Virginia Virtual Book Group](#ACBVABook)**
	+ [**West End Live! - Celebrating the Legacy of the One Step Down**](#Step)
	+ **[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)**
	+ [**ACB Cooking with The Blind Kitchen**](#ACBCook)
	+ [**The Washington National Eye Center At MedStar Washington Hospital Center Low Vision Support Group Virtual Meeting: Open Mic Session—It’s Healthy Vision Month-Are You Making the Most of Your Ophthalmology Appointments?**](#Medstar)
	+ [**FFB Mental Health Webinar**](#FFBWeb)
	+ [**Jazz In The Garden: Lao Tizer Band**](#Jazz)
	+ ###

**NLS ANNOUNCEMENT: BARD 2.0 Coming in May!**

If you use BARD on the web, you will have access to BARD 2 in early May. In the next few weeks, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) will be sending instructions on how to log in to the new and improved BARD website. A Microsoft Word document linked below for your convenience contains a description of the new BARD features. Please contact the LBPD if you have any questions or concerns at 410-230-2443 or **reference.desk@maryland.gov**.

Download the MS Word Information Sheet [**here**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//msla.maryland.gov/Documents/Introduction%2520to%2520BARD%25202.docx%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01000196398ac562-c6c1d088-9619-42ed-9b63-ca10bf5ade11-000000/5e-dIz9xwvG1VXHKVtgEHFBKw3QyzKma9S0sDRoSFWw%3D401).

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**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ABOUT USING AI AND OTHER TOOLS TO RESHAPE AND REINVIGORATE THE TRANSITION FROM FEDERAL TO PRIVATE SECTOR**

Wednesday, April 23rd from 9:00 am to Noon

If you are a current or former federal employee over 50 navigating the next chapter of your career, you may be interested in a special three-hour virtual workshop designed to help recently unemployed or otherwise adversely impacted federal sector workers learn the essential skills and tools needed to transition successfully into the private sector or start their own consulting businesses. The free workshop is sponsored by the JCA Career Gateway.

Register at [**https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/w3edxmw**](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/w3edxmw).

[**Read More**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2025/04/learn-about-using-ai-and-other-tools-to.html/2/01000196277f6905-ca1a36a2-3667-40c1-8279-0e532383bc67-000000/ujh8j-W8uPEsJLW0UuJFQO2KPKCXBETEOP_X-FIOuSg%3D400)

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**MODERATE-INCOME PURCHASE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MIPAP) OPEN TO ELIGIBLE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS PURCHASING IN ARLINGTON COUNTY**

For first-time buyers purchasing a home in Arlington, this program provides a deferred-payment, no-interest loan of **up to** 25% of the home purchase price. The loan may be used to cover a portion of the down payment and all closing costs. The MIPAP loan acts as a 2nd Mortgage. The 1st Mortgage must be a conventional loan from a lender approved by VHDA (Virginia Housing Development Authority).

Full details are at [**Moderate-Income Purchase Assistance Program (MIPAP) – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Get-Help/Home-Ownership/MIPAP).

There will also be [**free workshops and seminars for first-time homebuyers**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.laif.mycaf.org/workshops//1/010101964514818f-1ae23fe5-2add-452c-98ca-2138995bb5af-000000/iGAh75iVD2lQLS11CmeC3295sYK4pRFsYEZpn9N0P6M%3D401) at the Live in Arlington Information Fair on April 26th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St S in Arlington.

###

**APPLY NOW: 2025 ENDOWMENT GRANT FOR SERVICES TO THE BLIND, VISION IMPAIRED AND DEAFBLIND**

Do you have a great idea to help people who are blind, vision impaired, or deafblind in Virginia? The Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired is now accepting applications for its **2025 Endowment Grant**!

Each year, the Board uses this special fund to support programs and projects that make a real difference. If your organization has a plan to strengthen services for people in these communities, you are invited to apply for funding.

**Important Details:**

* **Application opened:** April 1, 2025
* **Deadline to apply:** June 1, 2025
* **How to apply:** Fill out the online form here: [**2025 Endowment Grant Application**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx%3Fid%3DqeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCSlhiJ0Mjz9NpLDrLT40tGJUMjlZQ1RCMFlNTTM0VksxT1oxTVk0M0pXQS4u%26route%3Dshorturl%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01010196355b11b4-4e9e7d0e-16e1-42b5-9e46-87b8a1433ed2-000000/TM5dF0z_TmNL0KcXValji-L6tC5QOQ49aqp_74qqOQ8%3D400)

Grants are competitive, and selected projects will need to report their progress:

* **Interim report due:** December 1, 2025
* **Final report due:** June 1, 2026

If you received a grant last year, you must submit your reports to be considered again.

For help or questions, email: **BoardLiaison@dbvi.virginia.gov**

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**FREE VIRTUAL TRAININGS WITH VRCBVI**

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| Get ready to boost your skills with VRCBVI's free virtual trainings. From tech tips to career readiness and independent living skills, their sessions cover it all. Held twice a month—on the first and third Tuesday—these sessions are perfect for anyone looking to learn and grow. Join them February through May, and again from September through December. Ready to dive in? Head to their website to see all the topics and sign up today! Register now at [**2025 VRCBVI Virtual Training**](https://www.formrouter.net/forms%40VRCB/2025VirtualTrainings.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**### |

**THE BLIND KITCHEN: ACCESSIBLE COOKING TOOLS AND TIPS FOR BLIND AND VISION-IMPAIRED COOKS**

Forwarded by Theresa Breeden

The Blind Kitchen at [**Kitchen - The Blind Kitchen - Everyone has a place at the table!**](https://theblindkitchen.com/)**,** provides adaptive tools, helpful strategies, and specialized knowledge to blind and vision-impaired people who want to cook safely, confidently, and independently.

Founder Chef Debra Erickson is a popular motivational speaker sharing her own inspirational journey and the tools and skills necessary for cooking while blind or vision impaired.

The Blind Kitchen Library ([**Learn More in the Library**](https://theblindkitchen.com/library/)) is a repository of information that comes from many sources related to cooking with vision loss and includes tips to safely manage hot cooking, knife safety, kitchen efficiency, entertaining at home, shopping, and much more.

There are also delicious and home-tested recipes at [**Recipes Archives - The Blind Kitchen**](https://theblindkitchen.com/category/recipes/). Each recipe includes tips from Chef Debra on how to use their kitchen tools to make cooking easy and efficient for blind and vision-impaired cooks. See all of their [**seasonal recipes and get entertainment tips as well!**](https://theblindkitchen.com/category/recipes/)

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**AUDIOBOOK RADIO NETWORK**

From Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

The United Kingdom has an intriguing audio service called Audiobook Radio.  This service plays a mixture of audiobook content with modern day radio dramas.  You can access the service by going to [**www.audiobookradio.net**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/http%3A//www.audiobookradio.net%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/0100019624f9b7af-3ae7e632-ecf9-4c4e-8465-d8f6d87be9d0-000000/Gv1DXveRE4L36KmnA74fyBgIEaTwXP_JXfip_mPacXI%3D400) and clicking the **Listen Now** option, or you can ask Google Home to play it.  Victor Reader Stream users can also stream this product through the Internet radio option.

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**WHATSAPP BANKING ASSISTANCE**

information compiled by David Goldfield, shared by Stan Gowin and forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

WhatsApp Banking is a way to access your banking services using the WhatsApp app on your mobile phone. Just like you chat with your friends or family on WhatsApp, now you can also chat with your bank to get help with your account or request services — all through simple messages. It allows you to do many basic banking activities like checking your account, getting updates, or asking for services — all without visiting the bank or using a separate app. The best part is that it’s easy to use, works anytime, and doesn’t require you to be very good with technology. Check it out at [**WhatsApp Banking: Your Bank, Now Just a Message Away | Tech-Freedom for Visually Impaired**](https://techfreedom.in/whatsapp-banking-your-bank-now-just-a-message-away/).

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**BACK TAP: NEW VOICEOVER GESTURES**

From Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

With the introduction of iOS 14, two new voiceover gestures were created – the Double Back Tap and the Triple Back Tap.  By default, these gestures are not activated; you must turn them on and assign each of them a function.  To turn them on, ask Siri to open accessibility settings.  Swipe to the right with one finger until you hear **Touch**, and then double tap with one finger.  Swipe to the right again with one finger until you hear **Back Tap Off**.  Double tap with one finger to activate this feature, turning Back Tap on.  By swiping, you will notice that no function is assigned to the Double Back Tap or the Triple Back Tap.  To give each of these gestures a function, start by double tapping on one of these specific gestures (e.g., Double Back Tap).  A list of functions will now appear, including options such as home, mute, volume up, volume down, or any shortcut you may have previously set up.  Double tap with one finger on the function you want to assign to the gesture and you are done.  Go back to the previous screen to now assign a function to the other gesture (i.e., Triple Back Tap).

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**FFB EYE ON THE CURE PODCAST**

**[Episode 84: How to Contact Congress](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM6A3tHalgluMwbbEELewW0CdjsDoVwhPIOG6E87Q5y-2Bqm2uTia8Kri3-2BlPouUk6rSNeUmiD47h1QrfS5AOrof1IGQoDEJIHzTGdeP3xv-2BwMjIH3nIoo1Ypado-2BdARZbP3JAxRmBV2U-2BF89quwqwTL25epu9kcJ5vgxUQYTcWtD-2BHoWq-2F02CT3t-2FYK0iyAjOx9w-3DvUKY_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPpEhMdC4ONvm2DKP4b82DN1B8oRMA2aVzcNcHi6q595tT2XmNgYtZC5BR9fAZtzGgUv3Qc-2BJKXbs-2BJ-2BWq-2B-2Buh50kdFo5BdIiFluPKw-2FLBV9QBZOwnyIsY-2BnFx8LgwZYod2h6k94zhl47KrmT09SCqj6DgLxYhwWGh8wf4yODs1oRnWtJXNRPo5YB3r4PbNFihovVCH5XJIjrZfWBmFip3YjK75FsnhABpBulA09ulBlM-3D" \t "_blank)**

Jen Bernstein at Horizon Government Affairs, and Sharon King of Taylor's Tale, talk to host Ben Shaberman about how to schedule and conduct a visit with your House Member in your local district to advocate for important issues.[**[Listen to the full podcast]**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM6A3tHalgluMwbbEELewW0CdjsDoVwhPIOG6E87Q5y-2Bqm2uTia8Kri3-2BlPouUk6rSNeUmiD47h1QrfS5AOrof1IGQoDEJIHzTGdeP3xv-2BwMjIH3nIoo1Ypado-2BdARZbP3JAxRmBV2U-2BF89quwqwTL25epu9kcJ5vgxUQYTcWtD-2BHoWq-2F02CT3t-2FYK0iyAjOx9w-3D6hzp_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPpEhMdC4ONvm2DKP4b82DN1B8oRMA2aVzcNcHi6q595tT2XmNgYtZC5BR9fAZtzGgUv3Qc-2BJKXbs-2BJ-2BWq-2B-2Buh50kdFo5BdIiFluPKw-2FLBV9SYNC4bCOZjp2KvGxPgrusB7CZ5P-2Bfk4PLB4hLgIWzBqALR-2FX4oq8KiBM6Q30EcyuEvga0r0L-2B4JRRPeTmKFzvZGtduXyLmUJcN8Db9y7gWDXdGjK4qjEuD6zflQBKhluU-3D)

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**BUILD LEGO® SETS WITHOUT SIGHT – THANKS TO BRICKS FOR THE BLIND**

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| From the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI)Bricks for the Blind is a non-profit group that helps people who are blind enjoy building LEGO® sets.They make special instructions using only words, so people who can't see pictures can still follow along and build cool creations. These text-based instructions are free and easy to use!Whether it's a small 100-piece set or a huge 4,000-piece one, there's something for everyone—kids and adults too! Building LEGO sets can be fun, relaxing, and help people feel more independent.Want to give it a try? Visit [**bricksfortheblind.org**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//bricksfortheblind.org%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01010196355b11b4-4e9e7d0e-16e1-42b5-9e46-87b8a1433ed2-000000/VT7LNm2wena0vfxO7ePUXwq6XSYbQQE7hyx9jil5RJk%3D400) and start building today!### |

**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.

**NEW - Fake It Until You Make It**

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

Described **Friday, May 2nd at 8:00 pm**

**Uncle Vanya**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, April 19th at 2:00 pm

**Kimberly Akimbo**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Saturday, May 24th at 2:00 pm and Sunday, May 25th at 7:30 pm

**Untitled Tarell Alvin McCraney Play**

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

Described Saturday, May 31st at 2:00 pm

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**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)

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**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

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

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| Monday, April 21st from 7:00 to 8:30 pmThe 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).###**Insights Forum Call**Thursday, April 24th from 11:00 am to 12:00pmThe Foundation Fighting Blindness is pleased to invite you to the upcoming [**Insights Forum**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCYgcWocqzEG8u8yisGb0xvHukfuNVXkcc1XL9-2FfhieEVpRQ-2FwwPuoIh6wPeHihqLSnNJbizM63Y33H30c75-2BCqHdPVTkZq7o9ipu2hVmnqW3II58K2Xjrv3yK4iLX8FAtc2cAz-2FOMBpGEfJ-2FY6-2BrsM7p1PayM4GbhKpHSlJVfgOC4K1K5b38U8qUvWPz8On-2Fg-2BszbLWt1EFU8gOwKaV2YK8-3DSQx3_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrP28Zhj4WoExOLual6sV-2FofsZ4jZFGBrq-2FrYPEhY6kAQqL9pdWDyYoOCuyLpQnA-2BrQ-2FBOD0OK6eF32lFXVJRkzLWULV9l4GXUliRwbp6D7l6wSzNsukR558dFtwCpyhzFVtKd98vlFYZeaxaGkGercTQrGPVekRFKYwJuqe1WTyH-2FmBhTKp4vTp079i6ZSlU7n-2B66OT1Hndk-2BWCKEUXYI9o7Q6tCC7nmFA7zVmZMhyJG8-3D)**,** our quarterly conference call providing updates to the blinding disease community. The focus of this call is to report progress on the Foundation's mission-related initiatives, highlight recent developments and provide scientific and research updates.The guest speaker is David Gamm, MD, PhD whose lab is at the forefront in developing cell-based therapies to combat retinal degenerative diseases. Register at [**Webinar Registration - Zoom**](https://fightingblindness-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/4217443842183/WN_q0qm5yf-QgyTLY-BAUp63Q?vcrmeid=YTvZ74JuU0igIXaQ4uv6aw&vcrmiid=i6L4Vi8sRUeDB-hq9uAE5Q#/registration).After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to the online webinar so that you may join the call from any device – computer, phone, or tablet. Please plan to connect a few minutes in advance to make sure your device is linked to the Zoom webinar platform.A recording and transcript will be available within a few weeks after the event.

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###**ADA Title II Update**Wednesday, April 23rd from 1:00 to 2:00 pmTitle 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==).###**Accessible Board and Card Game Night**

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| Thursday, April 24th at 4:00 pmMLK Library, Center for Accessibility901 G Street, NW, Room 205-HPlay accessible Scrabble, Monopoly, Bingo, Uno, and more! Boards and cards are tactile and include braille and large print labeling. All are welcome!    |

###**Tea Tasting Workshop** **Online**Thursday, April 24th from 6:00 to 7:00 pmSponsored 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 pmCome 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 7786Passcode: 669550One 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 7786Passcode: 669550Find your local number: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/)###**West End Live! - Celebrating the Legacy of the One Step Down**Sunday, April 27th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm[**West End Neighborhood Library**](https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/13393654#branch)2301 L Street, NW, Room 1 (25-80 Person Capacity)Join West End Neighborhood Library for a celebration of West End's historic jazz club, One Step Down. Come hear about it from folks who were there! In this event, local historian Bertrand Uberall and Bassist/Band Leader David Jernigan will discuss this storied venue's legacy with other DC musicians who performed at the One Step Down. Following the discussion, Mr. Jernigan's quartet will perform repertoire from their time in the One Step Down's house band. Closed in 2001, One Step Down was a hotspot for both local and international Jazz in Washington DC. During its heyday, attendees could hear jazz luminaries such as Freddie Hubbard, Roy Haynes, and DC's own Shirley Horn in addition to local luminaries such as keyboardist Lawrence Wheatly.###**Vienna/Falls Church VIP Assistive Technology Fair – In Person Only**Monday April 28th from 2:00 to 4:30 pmThomas Jefferson Library Conference Room7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls ChurchThis 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** 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**. 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**

###

**ACB Cooking with The Blind Kitchen**
Wednesday, May 7th at 1:00 pm

Chef Debra will be discussing Principles of Seasoning with the ACB group. Here are ways you can join:
Ways to join:
[**Listen on ACB Media 5**](https://theblindkitchen.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96db097b4e6eda54cc0ffb211&id=33c12cb9e8&e=ea48b302bf)
Say to your Amazon device, "ask ACB Media to play 5."
[**Join in Clubhouse**](https://theblindkitchen.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96db097b4e6eda54cc0ffb211&id=169584bfc3&e=ea48b302bf)
Join the call:
[**The Dwelling Place**](https://theblindkitchen.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96db097b4e6eda54cc0ffb211&id=72433d6d4c&e=ea48b302bf)
One tap mobile: +13126266799,,84302300091#
Phone: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 843 0230 0091
Passcode: 3614
###

**The Washington National Eye Center At MedStar Washington Hospital Center Low Vision Support Group Virtual Meeting: Open Mic Session—It’s Healthy Vision Month-Are You Making the Most of Your Ophthalmology Appointments?**

Tuesday, May 13th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Gwen Jeong, MD Ophthalmology Resident VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING: You can join via computer or phone or both—email Penny at **penelope.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 number below. Co-sponsored with the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, DC.

For further information, please call 202-234-1010.

Note that THIS IS THE LAST MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER!

###

**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.**

###

**Jazz In The Garden: Lao Tizer Band**

Friday, May 23rd from 6:00 to 8:30 pm

National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden

7th Street and Constitution Ave., NW

Jazz R&B fusion

Kick off the season with the Lao Tizer Band, an Oasis Jazz Award nominee for Jazz Group of the Year.

Registration Required at [**Jazz in the Garden**](https://www.nga.gov/calendar/concerts/jazz-in-the-garden.html) beginning May 12rh at 10:00 am.

They have a free lottery system so that anyone interested in attending Jazz in the Garden has an equal chance to participate.

**Lottery Dates**

*Lottery opens: Monday, May 12, 10:00 a.m.
Lottery closes: Friday, May 16, noon
Results announced: Monday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.*

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