

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

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

May 22, 2025

Dear Listeners,

We hope this Memorial Day is very meaningful for you as we pause to remember all those who gave their lives to ensure our freedom and democracy.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**2025 National Survey on Health and Disability**](#Survey)
* [**Reintroduction of the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act**](#Act)
* [**The Reading Room Sessions:** **Free Virtual Author Talks and Book Chats Hosted by the Braille Institute of America**](#Braille)
* [**FCC Seeks Nominations for 2025 FCC Chair’s Awards for Advancement in Accessibility**](#FCC)
* [**Apply Now: 2025 Endowment Grant for Services to the Blind, Vision Impaired, and DeafBlind**](#Grant)
* [**Free CCTV Available**](#CCTV)
* [**Prince George’s County Executive and Councilmanic District 5 Special Election Information**](#PG)
* [**Call for Artists with Vision Impairments**](#Artists)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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	+ [**Maintaining Independence at Home**](#Home)
	+ **[iPhone Vision Accessibility Demonstration](#iPhone)**
	+ [**The Fairfax County All Access Book Club – Dial A for Aunties**](#Aunt)
	+ [**Reston VIP Summer Lunch**](#Reston)
	+ [**Jazz in the Garden - New Jazz Underground Modern jazz trio**](#Jazz)
	+ [**ACB of Virginia Meeting - Starting a Business in 2025: Real Stories, Real Advice from Blind Entrepreneurs**](#ACBVA)

###

**2025 NATIONAL SURVEY ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY (NSHD)**

The University of Kansas Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies is looking for adults with disabilities who are at least 18 years old to take the 6th NSHD at [**https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_737aJXFFSjDzpBA**](https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_737aJXFFSjDzpBA)**.**

Health and related services need to be accessible to all people and they want to hear from you about your experiences. If you would like more information about the NSHD, you can visit [**https://ihdps.ku.edu/nshd**](https://ihdps.ku.edu/nshd). If you would like information about the results after the NSHD closes the website will also have that information or you can email them directly at **healthsurvey@ku.edu**.

###

**REINTRODUCTION OF THE WEBSITES AND SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS ACCESSIBILITY ACT**

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) announced that the Website and Software Applications Accessibility Act has once again been introduced in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, May 14. This was a wonderful way to usher in Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on Thursday, May 15. The bill was introduced by Republican Congressman Pete Sessions from Texas. ACB is elated to once again see bipartisan support for this important bill. The bill, which has been introduced in the previous two congressional sessions, will work to ensure that website and applications are accessible to all people with disabilities. The bill number is H.R. 3417.

###

**THE READING ROOM SESSIONS: FREE VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS AND BOOK CHATS HOSTED BY THE BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA**

Looking for meaningful conversations, thought-provoking author talks, and vibrant book groups—all accessible from home? Join the Braille Institute Library for *The Reading Room Sessions*, a free, weekly virtual series designed for readers who are blind, visually impaired, or print-disabled.

Participants can access specially curated reading lists through their local NLS regional libraries and receive personalized support from expert library staff.

**Featured Guests Include:**

* **Renowned Authors:** *Susan Orlean, Catherynne M. Valente, Tananarive Due, Mary Robinette Kowal*
* **Forward-Thinking Academics:** *Raymond Mar, Karla Nielson, Rebecca Solnit*
* **Fascinating Creators:** *Chris Downey, Nina Cooke John, John Lee Clark*

**Registration** is at:

[**https://www.brailleinstitute.org/find-services/offerings/the-reading-room-sessions-author-talks-and-book-chats/**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.brailleinstitute.org/find-services/offerings/the-reading-room-sessions-author-talks-and-book-chats/%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01000196f2ef46b4-311841bb-2787-4cf1-b97a-f2bb4a8eb249-000000/E23Ok1DusfmXkV2JVODS98ikkymDSIUkaYux_OCg5-Y%3D406)

Phone: 800-808-2555

Email: **bils@brailleinstitute.org**

###

**FCC SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 FCC CHAIR’S AWARDS FOR ADVANCEMENT IN ACCESSIBILITY**

Nominations Due Date: Friday, June 13, 2025

On May 21, 2025, the FCC released a Public Notice to invite nominations for the Eleventh FCC Chair's Awards for Advancement in Accessibility (Chair's AAA). The nomination period runs from Thursday, May 22, 2025, to Friday, June 13, 2025.

The FCC is soliciting nominations for individuals who have made lasting and impactful contributions to the advancement of accessible communications technologies and services in the fields of policy, advocacy, research, and design.  This year's awards will recognize the contributions made by those committed to making rapid, efficient nationwide communication service available to all individuals.

The FCC is specifically seeking nominations for individuals in the following categories:

* Consumer Advocate
* Industry Leader
* Educator or Researcher
* Next Generation Leader

Public Notice:

[**https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-nominations-awards-advancement-accessibility**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-nominations-awards-advancement-accessibility)

Please send all nominations to **FCCAAA@fcc.gov** by 11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, June 13, 2025.  Award winners will be recognized at a ceremony to be held in July 2025.  A subsequent announcement will be made providing specifics about the Chair's AAA ceremony, including exact date, time and location.  For information about past winners, visit: [**http://www.fcc.gov/FCCAAA**](http://www.fcc.gov/FCCAAA).

For questions or inquiries about the Chair's AAA, please contact Gerard Williams at 202-418-1505 or call the ASL Consumer Support Line at 1-844-432-2275 via videophone.  Inquiries may also be sent to **FCCAAA@fcc.gov**.

###

**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.

**Deadline to apply:** June 1, 2025

Apply online at [**2025 Endowment Grant Request Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired**](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCSlhiJ0Mjz9NpLDrLT40tGJUMjlZQ1RCMFlNTTM0VksxT1oxTVk0M0pXQS4u&route=shorturl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**

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

###

**FREE CCTV AVAILABLE**

From Sandy Neuzil

It is a Telesensory Atlas 610 (desktop size).

It has an instructions booklet.

It is located in Fairfax City.

The owner is hoping to find a good home where someone can use this device.

The model comes with the original old style TV monitor, which could be swapped out and replaced with a flat screen monitor, according to the folks at Telesensory 800-804-8004.

If you are interested, reply to Sandy Neuzil by email **sandy.neuzil@gmail.com** or call/text 703-989-1821.

###

**PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT 5 SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION**

**Early Voting**: May 28, 2025-June 2, 2025

**Election Day**: Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Keep up with special elections in the County to select the [**next County Executive**](https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/county-executive/about-county-executive/county-executive-transition) and a [**District 5 Council representative**](https://pgccouncil.us/27/The-Council).

[**Check Your Voter Registration**](https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch) and visit the Board of Elections to learn who the candidates are and where you can vote at [**Board of Elections | Prince George's County**](https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/boards-commissions/board-elections)**.**

You can also use the [**Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Lookup**](https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch) tool to find your current voter registration and district information. Be sure your voter information is up to date.

###

**CALL FOR ARTISTS WITH VISION IMPAIRMENTS**

Forwarded by Debra Hill
The **MEDRVA Low Vision Center**, in collaboration with the **Petersburg Area Art League (PAAL)**, is excited to invite artists with vision impairments to participate in a powerful and inspiring art exhibit. Whether you're a lifelong artist or just beginning your creative journey, **they want to showcase your artwork**—no professional experience required!

This exhibit will be part of **Friday for the Arts** on **Friday evening, July 11th**, held at the **Petersburg Area Art League**,

located in the heart of historic Old Towne Petersburg:
7 East Old Street, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.
Learn more about PAAL and their mission to promote the arts at [**www.paalart.org**](https://www.paalart.org/).

**What Kind of Art?**

You don't have to draw or paint to participate! They welcome a wide variety of mediums, including but not limited to:

* Drawing, painting, sculpture
* Glasswork, tile, stone, or wax creations
* Quilting, knitting, crocheting, needlework
* Collage, etching, screen printing
* Clay, pottery, found object art, woodwork
* Jewelry, beadwork, macramé, textiles
* Digital art, 3D printing, photography
* Poetry and written word
...and so much more. If it's art to you, it's art to us!

**What They Need from You**

* **Your artwork!**
* **A short bio or artist's statement**.
* **Your presence at the event (if possible)**
* **Optional: Interested in selling your artwork?**
You are welcome to offer your work for sale during the exhibit.

Interested artists should contact Mary Bullock or Kim Crawley by **June 5th.**Their contact information is below.

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| **Mary.Bullock@medrva.com** |
| [**www.medrva.com/**](http://www.medrva.com/) |
| [**8700 Stony Point Pkwy #240, Richmond, VA 23235**](https://maps.google.com/?q=8700%20Stony%20Point%20Pkwy%20#100,%20Richmond,%20VA%2023235)Office Phone: 804-545-9435Office Fax: 804-545-9440Cell: 804-399-3224 **Or contact Kim Crawley****Kim.Crawley@medrva.com**804-545-9435 |

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###

**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.

**Kimberly Akimbo**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

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

**We Are Gathered**

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

Described Saturday, May 31st at 2:00 pm

**Senior Class**

Olney Theatre Center – Roberts Mainstage 301-924-3400

Described Wednesday, June 4th at 7:30 pm

**King James**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

**Described Saturday, June 7th at 2:00 pm**

**Frankenstein**

Shakespeare: Klein Theatre: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, June 14th at 2:00 pm

**Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described, Saturday, June 21st at 2:00 pm and

Sunday, June 22nd at 7:30 pm

###

**CALENDAR**

**Replay POB Events**

**Listen and watch replays of recent webinars and other POB events at**[**www.youreyes.org/replays**](http://www.youreyes.org/replays)

###

**Section 508 Best Practices Webinar: The NPS.gov Media Player: An Accessible Option for All Government**

Tuesday, May 27th from 1:00 – 2:30 pm

The National Park Service (NPS) within the Department of the Interior (DOI) has developed an open-source media player which conforms with the Revised Section 508 Standard for user controls by ensuring that the caption control (CC) and audio description control (AD) buttons are visible alongside the other user controls. Over several years, the National Park Service has customized a media player which aims to be as accessible as possible.

For more details or to register, visit the [**Great Lakes ADA Center's webinar webpage**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.accessibilityonline.org/cioc-508/session%3Fid%3D111169/1/01000196aaf1c72f-0a187edc-1e9a-4d0d-964b-9d0c07955398-000000/QtfPaB2VXivV5N2J2GJOp3ndFGZwT4lplXDQS8g15Co%3D404). Questions for the presenters can be submitted during the registration process.

Learn more at [**The NPS.gov Media Player: An Accessible Option for All Government**](https://www.accessibilityonline.org/cioc-508/session?id=111169).

###

**NFB CENA Access Boutique Series: Indoor Navigation Software Boutique**

Tuesday, May 27th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

The indoor Navigation technology field has expanded greatly in recent years. With the advancement of beacon, laser mapping, and smart phone technology, finding your way around a large and complex indoor space like an airport or office building as a blind person has become much easier. They will cover:

* Smart phone applications
* The future of indoor navigation

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).

###

**Hadley Tech It Out Discussion Group - Tech for Tracking Your Health**

Tuesday, May 27th at 2:00 pm

Join as they discuss talking products and smartphone apps that can help you access important information about your health.

Sign up to join at [**Tech It Out | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/tech-it-out).

###

**Hadley What's Cooking? Discussion Group - Cooking from Scratch vs. Prepared Ingredients**

Wednesday, May 28th at 5:00 pm

Do you prefer to cook with fresh ingredients or prepared? Join the chat and share experiences, tips, favorite recipes.

Sign up to join at [**What's Cooking? | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/whats-cooking).

###

**Maintaining Independence at Home**

Monday, June 2nd at 1:00 pm

Hosted by the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

Join an informative session on how two vital professions, care management and occupational therapy, work hand in hand to support individuals with vision impairments in maintaining their independence and functioning safely in their homes. This discussion will highlight how these professionals collaborate to create effective, personalized strategies that enhance quality of life, safety, and self-sufficiency.

**About the Topic:**

Living with vision loss presents unique challenges, particularly when it comes to remaining independent at home. Care Managers and Occupational Therapists play distinct yet complementary roles in helping individuals manage these challenges. From navigating healthcare systems and securing resources to adapting the home environment for safety and accessibility, their combined efforts are essential in assisting clients to stay safe, empowered, and engaged in daily life.

**Presented by:**

Ellen Platt, MA, CRC, CCM,Founder and Owner, *The Option Group, LLC* - [**https://theoptiongroup.net**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//theoptiongroup.net/%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01000196f8c4a57e-01d33ecd-23fa-4859-9854-78c21cf42a51-000000/kULQ0V0EaO7TXKtnl_CZDwRYFYsD-SoqFS_NixarkvI%3D406)

Amy Young**,** occupational therapist at *Home Safe for Seniors*

**Register at:**

[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/meeting/register/-FbhB07mTr-buw1rW\_nKHQ**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//marylandlibraries.zoom.us/meeting/register/-FbhB07mTr-buw1rW_nKHQ%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/2/01000196f8c4a57e-01d33ecd-23fa-4859-9854-78c21cf42a51-000000/urXmbk8hBsblQTwQohAU55gDz6uwXz96trcz-VzUUyw%3D406)

###

**iPhone Vision Accessibility Demonstration**
Wednesday, June 4th from 10:00 to 11:00 am
Apple Store - Fairfax Corner
4221 Fairfax Corner East Avenue Fairfax
Apple experts, known as Geniuses, will guide everyone through the iPhone's vision accessibility and assistive features, including magnification, and text-to-speech. They recommend bringing your iPhone for hands-on training. Space is limited

**To reserve a spot,** call (301) 951-4444.

Sponsored by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington.

###

**The Fairfax County All Access Book Club – Dial A For Aunties**

Thursday, June 5th at 11:00 am

For June, the All Access Book Club is reading [**Dial A for Aunties**](https://fcplcat.fairfaxcounty.gov/search/title.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.1&pos=3&cn=466895)  by Jesse Q. Sutanto. Join to share your love of books with others in the county! To join the discussion:

* Call 703-324-1800 or 1-877-862-8112 (toll-free)
* Enter the code 389887# when prompted

For more information, call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or email **libas@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

###

**Reston VIP Summer Lunch**

Friday, June 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Café Montmartre

Lake Anne Village Center, 1625 Washington Plaza N, Reston

Join in for lunch and socializing before the summer break.

Café Montmartre is unique (not a chain) that serves French & Viet food.

The owners asked that a small menu be offered to simplify, expedite smooth efficient service, and ensure requested choices are available.  Sandy will pay for all (please reimburse Sandy with cash at the luncheon).

If you wish to join us for lunch, please:

·       Select your food choices from the small menu - below.

·       **Send your meal choice by 12 noon on Saturday May 31 to Sandy via email****sandy.neuzil@gmail.com****or call 703-989-1821 and leave a message.**

Arriving by Metro Access?  They will send details for best drop off address and short walking directions through Lake Anne Plaza to the restaurant by Friday May 30.  Driving?  Plenty of free parking at Lake Anne shopping Center.

CAFÉ MONMARTRE - SMALL MENU - VIP LUNCHEON June 6, 2025

Listed price (followed by suggested payment with a 20% tip)

LUNCH SELECTIONS

·       Gazpacho (Cold Tomato and Vegetable Soup)  $10.95  ($13.14)

·       Shrimp Summer Rolls with Peanut Sauce Dip  $9.95  ($11.94)

·       Viet "Bahn Mi" Chicken Sandwich served with House Salad  $17.95  ($21.54)

·       Quiche aux Epinards (Quiche with Spinach and Onion) served with House Salad  $18.95  ($22.74)

·       Quiche Lorraine (Quiche with Bacon and Cheese) served with House Salad  $18.95  ($22.74)

·       Filet de Saumon sauce a L'Aneth  (Baked filet of Salmon with Capers and Dill in a light Lemon Butter Sauce) served with Rice and Vegetables  $29.95  ($35.94)

DESSERT CHOICES - each  $10.95   ($13.14)

·       Mousse au Chocolat (Chocolate Mousse)

·       Mousse au Mangue (Mango Mousse)

·       Key Lime Pie

BEVERAGES

·       $3.50  ($4.20) – Sodas, Iced Tea, Milk

·       $3.95  ($4.74) – House Coffee (Hot or Iced)

·       $4.50  ($5.40) – Root Beer, Evian, Perrier, Arnold Palmer Iced Tea, Lemonade, Herbal Hot Tea, Chocolate Milk (Hot or Cold), Shirley Temple, Juices (Apple, Pineapple, Cranberry, Orange)

·       $5.75  ($6.90) – Pellegrino   /   $5.95  ($7.14) – Iced Viet Coffee

###

**Jazz in the Garden - New Jazz Underground Modern jazz trio**

Friday, Jun 6th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm

National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden

7th Street and Constitution Ave., NW

Lottery will open Monday, May 26, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Welcome the weekend with the New Jazz Underground. This young American trio takes traditional jazz and infuses it with Afro-Cuban, swing, hip-hop, and house/Afro-beat flavors.

Since their days at Julliard, Abdias Armenteros (saxophone), Sebastian Rios (bass), and TJ Reddick (drums) have continued to win accolades, receiving the 2023 DCJazzPrix™ and 2024 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award.

Their videos have attracted millions of viewers and re-energized the jazz scene.

**Registration is required for all ages 2 and above.**

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 26, 10:00 a.m.
* Lottery closes: Friday, May 30, noon
* Results announced: Monday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.

**Questions?**

Email **visit@nga.gov** or call 202.737.4215.

Concerts may be canceled due to excessive heat or inclement weather. In the event of a cancelation, visitors who have reserved passes will receive an email.

###

**ACB of Virginia Meeting - Starting a Business in 2025: Real Stories, Real Advice from Blind Entrepreneurs**

Monday, June 9th at 7:00 pm

Have you ever dreamed of starting your own business, but wondered how to get started, especially as a blind entrepreneur? Join this meeting that will spotlight two successful blind business owners who turned their passion into thriving enterprises:

* **Jason (JJ) Meddaugh**, Owner of [**A T Guys**](https://atguys.com/)
* **Tricia Waechter**, Owner of [**Blind Girl Designs**](https://blindgirldesigns.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqExwIS-UfLMCObIqe_pd0vX7yGBGlCf1FmWQIy-pNnhd3GAmkm)

In this powerful panel discussion, you'll hear:

* The journeys of Jason and Tricia as they launched their companies
* What they learned—and what they wish they'd known earlier
* Advice for others exploring entrepreneurship
* Tools, supports, and resources available to blind business owners

Whether you're actively working on a business idea, supporting someone who is, or just curious about what it takes—this session will leave you informed and inspired.

**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)

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

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