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

July 17, 2025

Dear Listeners,

July 26, 1990 was a ground-breaking moment in U.S. history. The Americans With Disabilities Act, commonly known as the ADA, was enacted after a long and hard-fought campaign by dedicated and tireless advocates, including some MWE listeners. We are most grateful for their efforts and dedicate this issue of the MWE Update to them.

There’s an overview of the ADA written by one of our listeners [**here**](#ADALiz). We want to hear from you as well. What does the ADA mean for you? Please send your thoughts to [**sylvia@washear.org**](mailto:sylvia@washear.org) by Wednesday, July 23rd so that we can share some of your insights in next week’s Update.

Also, Judy Heumann, a fierce advocate for accessibility and a MWE listener, wrote a memoir that is now the basis for an Apple movie. Details are [**here**](#Judy).

Cheers,

Sylvia

[**sylvia@washear.org**](mailto:sylvia@washear.org)

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**The ADA at 35**](#ADALiz)
* [**Donated CCTVs**](#CCTV)
* [**AFB Case Study – Designing Inclusion: How Mattel and AFB Made Blind Barbie a Reality**](#Barbie)
* [**Tech Support Resources for Older Adults**](#Resources)
* [**Opus Genetics Awarded Funding to Support Preclinical Development of Retinitis Pigmentosa Gene Therapy**](#OPUS)
* [**Find Great FREE Summer Concerts in DC and Montgomery County**](#Concerts)
* [***Forbes* Accessibility 100: Innovators and Impact-Makers**](#Forbes)
* [**Ruth Madeley to Portray Disability Rights Activist Judy Heumann in Sian Heder’s ‘Being Heumann’ for Apple**](#Judy)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + [**Audio Description – Hadley Tech It Out Virtual Discussion Group**](#AD)
  + [**AAPD/NCIL ADA Celebration - ADA35:** **Celebration of Community**](#AAPD)
  + [**Cool Weeknight Meals for Hot Summer Nights – Hadley What's Cooking? Virtual Discussion Group**](#Meals)
  + **[Americans with Disabilities Act 35th Anniversary Celebration: "From Protest to Progress”](#Celebrate)**
  + **[Accessible Board and Card Game Night](#Game)**
  + [**Identifying Partners and Creating Opportunities: Enhancing Access to Recreation**](#Rec)
  + [**Sports for Low Vision – Hadley Virtual Discussion Group**](#Sports)
  + [**Enjoying Our National Parks – Hadley Virtual Travel Talk Discussion Group**](#Parks)
  + [**U.S. Access Board Webinar: Your Voice, Your Vote—Accessible Polling Places and Election Supporting Technology**](#US)
  + [**Embracing Braille – Hadley Virtual Braille Around the House Discussion Group**](#Braille)
  + [**Publishing Online – Hadley Virtual Writers' Circle Discussion Group**](#Publish)
  + [**Classroom Classics – Hadley Virtual Book Nook Discussion Group**](#Nook)
  + **[LBPD Event: Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants](#Ballet)**
  + **[ACB of Virginia State Convention 2025 – "Together Again: Reconnect, Recharge, and Rise!"](#ACBVA)**
  + **[2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference](#AFB)**

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**THE ADA AT 35**

July 26th marks the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act ‘s (ADA) enactment. This landmark civil rights law prohibits disability-based discrimination by state and local governments, private sector employers with over 15 employees, public accommodations, public and private transportation entities, and telecommunications providers.

Access for people with vision disabilities has improved since the ADA. For example, state and local government employers as well as those covered in the private sector are providing reasonable accommodations like screen readers and other assistive technology to their employees.  Public buses are required to call out stops.  Elevator signage in public accommodations and state and local buildings has Braille and raised letters. Movie theaters are required to be wired for audio description, and many live theaters provide some performances with audio description.

A regulation has been published for web accessibility for state and local governments.

However, this access is not always perfect. Often Bus drivers, state and local employees, or theater staff are not trained in the ADA or how to operate audio description.

Many of the ADA’s goals are unfulfilled after 35 years. For example, the employment rate for people with disabilities is only 22.7 % according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in 2024.

Localities have been slow to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at intersections.  Here in Washington D.C. the Council of the Blind has filed a lawsuit to compel the District to install APS.

And thousands of web sites remain inaccessible to people with vision disabilities.

For more information about the ADA, visit [**www.ada.gov**](http://www.ada.gov) or call the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 or 1-800-514-0383(TTY).

###

**DONATED CCTVs**

From Tara Aziz and forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

The Prevention of Blindness Society has a few donated CCTVs in DC and Bethesda.  If you know of someone who needs them, please contact Tara Aziz at [**taziz@youreyes.org**](mailto:taziz@youreyes.org) or call (202) 234-1010, ext. 233.

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington®

###

**AFB CASE STUDY – DESIGNING INCLUSION: HOW MATTEL AND AFB MADE BLIND BARBIE A REALITY**

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is excited to announce the release of their latest case study, [**Designing Inclusion: How Mattel and AFB Made Blind Barbie a Reality**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/111324035/556849624/-73740780?sourceid=&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjU4NzVmNjRhLTg5NWUtZjAxMS04ZGM5LTYwNDViZGZlOGU5YyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=d0z9agQn9Q8BOdRdEhNWgeyeL86itNdx_4s_dvG947w=&emci=fb83b074-c357-f011-8f7c-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=5875f64a-895e-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=13729989), exploring the impact of the AFB and Mattel partnership, along with highlights on how inclusive product design, digital accessibility, and thoughtful storytelling can drive both social value and business growth.

Their report outlines the complete process conducted through cross-functional collaboration to ideate, develop, and execute Blind Barbie, ensuring she authentically represents disability and promotes broader inclusion within the toy and media industries.

Inside you will discover:

* The market research that guided and supported the opportunity for a physically and digitally inclusive product.
* How AFB contributed to the full production of Blind Barbie, from involvement in her product design to ensure it accurately represents lived experiences, to conducting an accessibility audit to ensure an inclusive digital presence.
* Highlights on key outcomes, including improvements to the package's braille quality and the provision of best practices for multimedia accessibility.
* Notable results following the release of Blind Barbie, both in the significant media attention it attracted and in fostering the introduction of an inclusive narrative.

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| Read the full report at [**Designing Inclusion: How Mattel and AFB Made Blind Barbie a Reality**](https://afb.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/Designing%20Inclusion%20-%20Mattel%20White%20Paper%20Final%20v2%20-%20Compressed.pdf?sourceid=&emci=fb83b074-c357-f011-8f7c-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=5875f64a-895e-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=13729989).  ### |

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**TECH SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS**

From Ophthalmic Edge

They mean well, of course they do, but when it comes to asking a family member for technical support or help learning a new skill, things can quickly go sideways. What starts as a loving gesture, often turns into a test of your patience, and theirs. There is no need to blame age or ability for what seems to be an emotionally charged exchange with the geek you love. It’s all about family dynamics, which is why tech support is best delivered by a qualified non-relative.

Some tech support and training resources specifically helpful for older adults are at **[Tech Support Resources for Older Adults - OE Patients](https://oepatients.org/savvy-seniors-tech-support-resources/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Monthly%20Roundup&utm_campaign=Monthly%20Roundup%20%7C%20June%202025)**.

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**OPUS GENETICS AWARDED FUNDING TO SUPPORT PRECLINICAL DEVELOPMENT OF RETINITIS GENE THERAPY**

From the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) Report

Opus Genetics secured up to $2M in non-dilutive funding from the RD Fund to advance its OPGx-MERTK gene therapy program targeting retinitis pigmentosa caused by MERTK mutations.

Read the full story at [**Opus Genetics Awarded Non-Dilutive Funding from the RD Fund to Support Preclinical Development of OPGx-MERTK Program — Foundation Fighting Blindness**](https://www.fightingblindness.org/news/opus-genetics-awarded-non-dilutive-funding-from-the-rd-fund-to-support-preclinical-development-of-opgx-mertk-program-2488?vcrmeid=4mweSrdde0uqEufkshSvA&vcrmiid=i6L4Vi8sRUeDB-hq9uAE5Q).

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**FIND GREAT FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN DC AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**DC** **Jazz in the Park, All Summer Long**

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Join the Department of Parks and Recreation for *Jazz in the Park*, a summer concert series happening every Tuesday and Thursday in July and August at parks around the District.

More information is at [**jazzintheparkseries.splashthat.com**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fjazzintheparkseries.splashthat.com%2F/1/01010197fb4d37e7-256735a5-51ab-4088-a6ed-86429b9ff6de-000000/QF5F57nvhccfCG-vtxxtKup3VFWO66IXH9EP4SoH1Cw=413).

**Montgomery County -** Check out the many summer concert opportunities to enjoy on the [**Visit Montgomery website**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fvisitmontgomery.com%2F/2/01000197fb8be60b-b1795205-2bcd-44eb-8ebb-12a8fefb1a00-000000/1ssDqUZmJxun8u-kDHgroVI59daLW5rFeeyINO5WCVE=413) or download the [**Montgomery Adventure Planner app**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fvisitmontgomery.com%2Fadventure-planner-app%2F/1/01000197fb8be60b-b1795205-2bcd-44eb-8ebb-12a8fefb1a00-000000/TxHn5nGpju8J2qHlGT5Q1hR_YAXethACeAWS-BNdN2g=413) to find the details. From Germantown to Wheaton and plenty of neighborhoods in between, there is something to enjoy no matter what kind of music you like.

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***FORBES* ACCESSIBILITY 100 INNOVATORS AND IMPACT-MAKERS**

Forwarded by the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

*Forbes*’ first-ever Accessibility 100 highlights the biggest innovators and impact-makers in the field of accessibility for people with disabilities.  The list includes people making significant contributions to the fields of communication, education, employment, law, recreation, and more.

Please note this source has limited free access.

Read the full article at [**Forbes' Accessibility 100 List 2025: Innovation in Accessibility**](https://www.forbes.com/lists/accessibility-100/).

###

**RUTH MADELEY TO PORTRAY DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST JUDY HEUMANN IN SIAN HEDER’S “BEING HEUMANN FOR APPLE**

From the May 29th edition of *Variety*

Forwarded by the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

BAFTA nominee [**Ruth Madeley**](https://variety.com/t/ruth-madeley/) will star as disability rights activist Judy Heumann in Academy Award winner Siân Heder’s upcoming feature “Being Heumann” for Apple Original Films.

Based on Heumann’s bestselling memoir of the same title, “Being Heumann” follows the activist as she leads over a hundred disabled people to take over the San Francisco Federal Building, kicking off a 28-day sit-in. As a synopsis of the film explains, “The protestors quickly form a tightly-bound community, refusing to leave until the government enforces section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which required all federal spaces to become accessible.” More details are at

[**Ruth Madeley to Play Judy Heumann in Sian Heder, Apple's Being Heumann**](https://variety.com/2025/film/news/ruth-madeley-judy-heumann-sian-heder-being-heumann-apple-1236413052/)

**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.

**Duel Reality**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, July 19th at 2:00 pm

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**Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Sunday July 20th at 7:00 pm and

Saturday, August 16th at 1:00 pm

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream**

Olney Theatre Center – Roberts Mainstage 301-924-3400

Described Wednesday, July 23rd at 7:30 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**](http://www.youreyes.org/replays)

###

**Audio Description – Hadley Tech It Out Virtual Discussion Group**

Tuesday, July 22nd and the 4th Tuesday of Every Month at 2:00 pm

When the show has 20 minutes of music and sounds but no dialogue, how do you figure out what’s going on? Audio description can help. Join as they discuss sources for audio description and how to access it from a variety of devices.

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

###

**AAPD/NCIL ADA Celebration - ADA35:** **Celebration of Community**

Tuesday, July 22nd from 8:00 to 11:00 pm  
Grand Hyatt Washington  
1000 H St. NW

This evening event, hosted by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), will celebrate the progress of the movement for disability rights and justice. They will also make space for community joy, to strengthen us for the work ahead.

The first hour of the event will be sensory-friendly. Starting at 9 p.m., a DJ will play a live set with captions provided for all spoken and lyrical content.

Use the link below to purchase your ticket on the NCIL website. Select the "Celebration of Community: ADA35 Ticket" option if you are only attending the celebration. If you are registering for the full NCIL conference, you do not need to purchase a separate ticket to the ADA35 Celebration, it is already included.

Tickets are available at [**National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) - Powered by AMO**](https://members.ncil.org/secure/events_register.cfm).

If the cost of registration is a barrier, please reply to [**communications@aapd.com**](mailto:communications@aapd.com) and let them know.

Have questions? Email them at [**development@aapd.com**](mailto:development@aapd.com).

###

**Cool Weeknight Meals for Hot Summer Nights – Hadley What's Cooking? Virtual Discussion Group**

Wednesday, July 23rd and the 4th Wednesday of Every Month at 5:00 pm

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

If summertime is for relaxing and you'd rather not worry about what's for supper, join the discussion for tips on no-fuss meals that will keep both you and your kitchen cool this summer.

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

###

**Americans with Disabilities Act 35th Anniversary Celebration: "From Protest to Progress**

Thursday, July 24th from 9:00 to 11:00 am

[**Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center**](https://lj79tucab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0015Qnn1WkOJ5hHHN-V-hPsYvEvZ-a4YiJhCw6JTXcSpnxE0CumNVBkT6oeTvkrU5fSm2o-6iMrOhVArqdQ-TqkhHAXeajXgGjLq6uiU0Vnq4j1BXM231VDqU9GM0GC5NQgYFSgyMGuuG5tzEsEpZn47JciZfZynG2XyFTfOspV7facHaa1HOTXhDCtaa5wBYJXe0sRydTTnMUs1C-cy6AW0FyAUqEO_zVe&c=-1r7nnohKWquML8t-QLFiz6-9pvFZ_mi2W9AS_A_haF0CCCbM5Opwg==&ch=eq-oNLT1LybxnQinimM__1MdwlVREBs25vDR5pdisIHbUURrAXhXFQ==), 7120 Contee Road, Laurel

Hosted by The Maryland Department of Disabilities

Event check-in begins at 9:00 am with refreshments and resources. The program, including the keynote speech from [**Attorney General Anthony Brown**](https://lj79tucab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0015Qnn1WkOJ5hHHN-V-hPsYvEvZ-a4YiJhCw6JTXcSpnxE0CumNVBkT6oeTvkrU5fSKuvfqSWNko0VWEkHYKtZtmXWbi7EkJyTWZpjXprxJm-G5tnbITwOE2bV1awvykAtEVQpU04wuzHQMgQO_kcb2An1XOD6m9n3waRVmlaGnRo=&c=-1r7nnohKWquML8t-QLFiz6-9pvFZ_mi2W9AS_A_haF0CCCbM5Opwg==&ch=eq-oNLT1LybxnQinimM__1MdwlVREBs25vDR5pdisIHbUURrAXhXFQ==), begins at 10:00 am.

Registration for the event can be found at [**ADA 35th Anniversary Celebration • RSVPify**](https://ada35thanniversarymd.rsvpify.com/?securityToken=TRV8fMexX9bJQN2TcCmRhh5kQSPRYxT6)**.**

ASL interpreters will be onsite. To ensure they're providing equitable access, please place any additional accommodation requests no later than July 10, 2025. Submit any requests by email to Yesheva Kelly, Communications Manager, at [**Yesheva.Kelly@maryland.gov**](mailto:yesheva.kelly@maryland.gov) or call 410-767-3659. Onsite accommodations may include language translation, CART, large print materials, and more.

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**Accessible Board and Card Game Night**

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| Thursday, July 24th at 4:00 pm MLK Library, Center for Accessibility  901 G Street, NW, Room 205-H  Play accessible Scrabble, Monopoly, Bingo, Uno, and more! Boards and cards are tactile and include braille and large print labeling. All are welcome!  ### |
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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Identifying Partners and Creating Opportunities: Enhancing Access to Recreation**  Wednesday, July 30th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm  Virtual (link provided upon registration)  Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center  This session will explore strategies for identifying or creating accessible recreational opportunities at the local level. There will be representatives from [**Metro Washington Association of Blind Athletes**](https://7azbrycab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001UIq2u_5WtzZNcaqPv32xvD2H5kBmQJELj5emmqQxIqrutTw3Yldfy9nj68Ol0Qs4nQCCOIh_dU7IM7PT2b8tgJH1qibrFwyYjIWcUwRr1zgtG8FX7s3jYhv-5T6tTtCfgrO6kU_6wZKEGWxVB6tpYg==&c=47IcKoPGaDB4sDff0un1q-SQGwm_EKF3Bk-ZHlds0bC7r5khFreAig==&ch=uc0Hou6oEVZjj4PUyYPbt2uPS0srHHfPXy48EWpQs9Tvmtb5V2krkw==), [**Achilles International**](https://7azbrycab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001UIq2u_5WtzZNcaqPv32xvD2H5kBmQJELj5emmqQxIqrutTw3Yldfy9nj68Ol0Qs4HAAx8NcCLbCflfeJpkAdeG4EDYFb5koVMl-y9lwkLQJmMZYsOnTARkfvsu9qm8zfvwzRdyrq_WKHaqzRCVSGHwdkfv7AyN-VulxisYFBIK0=&c=47IcKoPGaDB4sDff0un1q-SQGwm_EKF3Bk-ZHlds0bC7r5khFreAig==&ch=uc0Hou6oEVZjj4PUyYPbt2uPS0srHHfPXy48EWpQs9Tvmtb5V2krkw==), and [**Catalyst Sports**](https://7azbrycab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001UIq2u_5WtzZNcaqPv32xvD2H5kBmQJELj5emmqQxIqrutTw3Yldfy9nj68Ol0Qs4tDYp9STjnJHKkE18aYCmBqD0GZdNv006cYit2GYyUTbNkCkvvq8pe7qEO2z3K7crB9kGFjc4P2DjuFIROA3FPrLwW3JAfjdW&c=47IcKoPGaDB4sDff0un1q-SQGwm_EKF3Bk-ZHlds0bC7r5khFreAig==&ch=uc0Hou6oEVZjj4PUyYPbt2uPS0srHHfPXy48EWpQs9Tvmtb5V2krkw==) who will offer practical tips to help you work with local recreation centers, municipal parks departments, or other local groups to make their existing programs more accessible for people with disabilities.  ﻿The speakers will also discuss what it takes, and what sources of support are available, to start a new adaptive sports program or organization in your own community.  Register at [**Identifying Partners and Creating Opportunities: Enhancing Access to Recreation**](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2yyj9ey?source_id=507f27d7-9016-4f33-abd2-ea8c607a530d&source_type=em&c=47IcKoPGaDB4sDff0un1q-SQGwm_EKF3Bk-ZHlds0bC7r5khFreAig==).  ### | |  |  | | --- | |  |   **Sports for Low Vision – Hadley Virtual Get Up and Go Discussion Group**  Tuesday, August 5th andthe1st Tuesday of Every Month at 2:00 pm  They will chat about traditional sports like golf and tennis, as well as games designed for no sight—such as goalball and beep baseball. Share your favorites or discover something new!  Sign up to join at [**Get Up and Go! Fitness | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/get-up-and-go).  ###  **Enjoying Our National Parks – Hadley Virtual Travel Talk Discussion Group**  Wednesday, August 6th and the 1st Wednesday of Every Month at 5:00 pm  Join the discussion to talk about favorite national parks, what it takes to prepare for a visit, and how to enjoy them with all our senses.  Sign up to join at [**Travel Talk | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/travel-talk).  ###  **U.S. Access Board Webinar: Your Voice, Your Vote—Accessible Polling Places and Election Supporting Technology**  Thursday, August 7th from 2:30 to 4:00 pm  Join the U.S. Access Board and the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) for a webinar on voting accessibility. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) created the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission and the right for voters with disabilities to mark, cast and verify their ballots privately and independently. This webinar will cover data related to polling place accessibility during the 2024 election, including election-supporting technologies. Presenters will discuss standards related to polling place accessibility such as the Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines (VVSG) and draft standards developed by the EAC's Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program. Additionally, presenters will demonstrate EAC accessibility web tools, research, and checklists designed to ensure polling place accessibility.  For more information or to register, visit the [**Great Lakes ADA Center's webinar webpage**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fao%2Fsession%3Fid=111178/1/0100019818b66359-b09594c7-2be8-4794-aab7-a3a333831170-000000/bPWp7RzkAqOb8CaRosxzjwUJYnvRgoXflaeYzsNmMgM=414). All webinars include video remote interpreting (VRI) and real-time captioning. Questions can be submitted in advance of the session or can be posed during the live webinar. Webinar attendees can earn continuing education credits. The webinar series is hosted by the [**ADA National Network**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fao%2F/1/0100019818b66359-b09594c7-2be8-4794-aab7-a3a333831170-000000/ktAsgUWuniPb4SWIkddanT74ImakCsQ8CoEaZYtP6Rs=414) in cooperation with the Board. [**Archived copies**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/http:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fao%2Farchives%2F/1/0100019818b66359-b09594c7-2be8-4794-aab7-a3a333831170-000000/wkJJqhTrdfJzPHYP7lVUg8pv1YK-bqbtfLAiFaAGRIM=414) of previous Board webinars are available on the site.  Learn more at [**Your Voice, Your Vote—Accessible Polling Places and Election Supporting Technology**](https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/session?id=111178)**.**  ###  **Embracing Braille – Hadley Virtual Braille Around the House Discussion Group**  Thursday, August 7th and the 1st Thursday of Every Month at 12:30 pm  Top of Form  Bottom of Form  Did you know that braille can be a great tool for keeping yourself organized? From labeling your spices to writing a to-do list, come share your favorite ways to use braille for keeping yourself on task.  Sign up to join at [**Embracing Braille | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/embracing-braille).  ###  **Publishing Online – Hadley Virtual Writers' Circle Discussion Group**  From blogs to Substack and beyond— look at the free and low-cost sites where we can upload and share our work.  Sign up to join at [**Writers' Circle | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/writers-circle).  ###  **Classroom Classics – Hadley Virtual Book Nook Discussion Group**  Thursday, August 14th and the 2nd Thursday of Every Month at 12:30 pm  Did a book assigned by your high school English teacher spark your love for reading? Join us and bring the favorites that make you nostalgic for school days.  Sign up to join at [**Book Nook | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/book-nook).  ###  **LBPD Event: Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants**  August 21st at 11:00 am (in person)  Join a joyful, movement-filled hour designed primarily for individuals who are blind or have low vision! Taught by experienced dance instructor Robyn Hughes, this introductory ballet class focuses on body awareness, graceful movement, and creative expression. No prior dance experience is needed, just the ability to move your arms and legs comfortably. [**Registration required**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmarylandlibraries.libcal.com%2Fevent%2F14855965%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000197cc59c185-82b13310-db62-49a3-bc8c-e705446d8394-000000/AQKFC4d8dZn-ozaF7Ys-tIK6MvCr7j_iRK_0n1mFKGo=412) at [**LBPD Event: Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants - LibCal - Maryland State Library Agency**](https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/event/14855965?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**  **A minimum of four people is needed for the class to proceed. The class is capped at 10 people.**  ###  **ACB of Virginia State Convention 2025 – "Together Again: Reconnect, Recharge, and Rise!"**  October 17th to 19th  Hilton Garden Inn, Fredericksburg, Virginia  After too many Zooms and not enough hugs, ACB of Virginia is absolutely thrilled to announce their first in-person state convention since the pandemic!  **Registration $50 per person**:  Have questions about registering or paying online? Reach out to Theresa Breeden – [**teeelynn68@**](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess8343071094/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4174&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP)[**gmail.com**](http://gmail.com/)**.**  **Transportation Help**  Need a lift? They are coordinating carpool options and train station pick-up/drop-off. Contact [Roseann](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess8343071094/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4174&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP) at [**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net) to discuss.  **Financial Assistance**  They don't want cost to keep you from joining them. If you'd like to be considered for financial aid, contact Roseann at  [**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net)for a private conversation.  ###  **2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference** (AFBLC),  November 12th to 14th  Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia,  Registration is open for this year’s conference. This year's theme, **Leading Together: Leveraging Change to Advance Our Vision,**  highlights the power of collective leadership in a time of rapid technological and societal transformation.  Explore the ideas and strategies driving progress for people who are blind or have low vision at the [**American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference (AFBLC)**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/111411352/557137265/1778005460?sourceid=1091814&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogImYzNzA1ZjEzLWZhNWYtZjAxMS04ZGM5LTYwNDViZGZlOGU5YyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=BVno3VWtjHw93ew6Wm_BDI9YFEWPYBhrM96xZafwH8Q=&emci=30ead0a6-e75c-f011-8f7c-6045bda9d96b&emdi=f3705f13-fa5f-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=13729989) Learn more at [**2025 AFB Leadership Conference | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/get-involved/events/2025afblc)**.** The registration page is at [**Personal Information - American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference 2025**](https://web.cvent.com/event/652243c3-9ee8-4834-8728-dfb8daa07ba4/regProcessStep1?RefId=Default%20Registration)**.**  ### |