

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

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

September 18, 2025

Dear Listeners,

**Important Update**: The 2025 White Cane Awareness Expo has been canceled. We are looking forward to an exciting and dynamic White Cane Awareness Expo next year, to be held Thursday, October 15, 2026.

Also of note this week is the item about the Department of Justice suing Uber for denying rides to passengers with service dogs [**here**](#DOJ).

Cheers,

Sylvia

**sylvia@washear.org**

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Justice Department Sues Uber for Denying Rides to Passengers with Service Dogs, Wheelchairs**](#DOJ)
* [**New AFB Survey Seeks Better Understanding of AI Usage**](#AI)
* [**Nominations for Fairfax Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards Due by October 17**](#Award)
* [**Reminder - BARD 2.0 Office Hours**](#BARD)
* [**Tech Tools for Vision Loss, From Low to High Tech Podcast**](#Tools)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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	+ **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
	+ **[Rising to Meet the Challenge: A Constituent Services Event for Former and Current Federal Workers and Contractors](#Rise)**
	+ [**FFB Quarterly Vision Webinar – Focusing on** **Thyroid Eye Disease (TED)**](#FFB)
	+ [**Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired Meeting**](#VABOARD)
	+ [**Hadley Tech It Out Discussion Group - Time to Upgrade?**](#Tech)
	+ [**Hadley’s What’s Cooking Discussion Group - The Power of Plants**](#Cook)
	+ **[Accessible Board and Card Game Night](#Game)**
	+ **[TUG Meeting - iOS 26](#TUG)**
	+ **[Together Toward Tomorrow - The ACB of Maryland State Convention](#ACBMD)**
	+ **[7th Annual Janet Morrison Memorial Low Vision Mini-Symposium (Virtual Event)](#Janet)**
	+ **[Vienna/Falls Church VIP Meeting](#Vienna)**
	+ **[NFB CENA Access Boutique Series: What's New in iOS 26](#iOS)**
	+ [**AFB Research Webinar**](#Web)
	+ [**Hadley’s Travel Talk Discussion Group - Winter Travel Escapes**](#Travel)
	+ [**Hadley’s Embracing Braille Discussion Group - Tricky Letters and Reversals**](#Braille)
	+ **[Reston VIP Meeting](#Reston)**
	+ **[Beep Baseball All-Star Weekend](#Beep)**
	+ [**Hadley’s Craft Circle Discussion Group - Creepy Crafts for Halloween**](#Craft)
	+ [**Hadley’s Book Nook Discussion Group - Fantastic Fall Reads**](#Nook)
	+ [**Hadley Writers’ Circle Discussion Group - Adding a Spooky Twist**](#Writer)
	+ **[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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**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUES UBER FOR DENYING RIDES TO PASSENGERS WITH SERVICE DOGS, WHEELCHAIRS**

Last Friday, the Department of Justice [**sued**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.justice.gov/crt/media/1413866/dl/1/010001993f00b8ad-c00bfa7e-02e4-4b04-9265-9594233f6177-000000/lQmlqRGQWYlBAxa56msnf4_Ta1s2EeOax1wsYJbsEQE%3D422) Uber Technologies, Inc. under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act for discriminating against passengers with disabilities, including blind individuals who use service animals and those who use mobility devices including stowable wheelchairs, by routinely refusing to serve these individuals, imposing impermissible charges, and refusing to reasonably modify Uber's policies to avoid discrimination.

To read more, please read the [**press release**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-uber-denying-rides-passengers-service-dogs-wheelchairs/1/010001993f00b8ad-c00bfa7e-02e4-4b04-9265-9594233f6177-000000/b51kGA_ual3KO84oLykYdPZx8Ea490PBCoQs0wghXcE%3D422). For more information on the ADA, please visit [**ADA.gov**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.ada.gov/1/010001993f00b8ad-c00bfa7e-02e4-4b04-9265-9594233f6177-000000/Z64Rxzc8IjbzxIxIByyed_Us5xL01NNozdOS7UN_PLs%3D422) or call the toll-free ADA Information Line Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (1-833-610-1264 (TTY)).

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**NEW AFB SURVEY SEEKS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AI USAGE**

As part of its ongoing research into the impact of artificial intelligence on society—particularly for people with disabilities—the AFB Public Policy and Research Institute (PPRI) has launched a national study to examine AI's role in everyday life.

[**Learn more about the study and how you can participate**.](https://click.everyaction.com/k/115407090/570211296/-1999337167?sourceid=1093888&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjU2Nzg0ODg0LWY4OTMtZjAxMS1iNDg0LTYwNDViZGViNzQxMyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=7NbrT4hSN0XyFvttlVHhByDYt_WA2zW0iRY-4H5ONow=&emci=1edc85f1-1990-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=56784884-f893-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=13729989) ([**FOCUS September 2025: AFB Spotlight | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/news-publications/newsletters/focus-afb-newsletter/september-2025/spotlight-new-survey-seeks-understanding-AI-usage?sourceid=1093888&emci=1edc85f1-1990-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=56784884-f893-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=13729989))

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**NOMINATIONS FOR FAIRFAX DISABILITY INCLUSION AND EQUALITY AWARDS DUE BY OCTOBER 17**

Do you know an individual, self-advocate, or organization that excels in providing equal rights and community inclusion for people with disabilities in the Fairfax area? If so, nominate them for the **Fairfax Area Disability Services Board's 2025 Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Award**. Award winners are honored for demonstrating a commitment to promoting equal rights and community inclusion for people with disabilities and receive an award, presented at an annual awards ceremony on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Location: 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Conference rooms 200/206.

**There are three possible award categories:** **Individual, Self-advocate, and Organization.**The nominee should demonstrate a commitment to promoting equal rights and community inclusion for people with disabilities in Fairfax County, and the Cities of Fairfax, or Falls Church; and demonstrate how people with disabilities have significantly benefited from their efforts.

**Nominations are due BEFORE 5 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 2025.** If you have questions, please email **DisabilityRights@FairfaxCounty.Gov**.

Learn more at [**Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards | Family Services**](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/disabilities/martha-glennan-disability-inclusion-and-equality-awards?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**

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**REMINDER - BARD 2.0 OFFICE HOURS**

The NLS Patron Engagement Section is offering a new program to assist patrons using the new BARD 2.0 website. BARD 2.0 Office Hours is being held each Tuesday night from 8:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, ending November 25, 2025. Each session will be informal in structure, specifically designed to assist patrons as they learn to use the new BARD website.

Sessions will not begin with a presentation and will not be recorded. Patron questions will be addressed on a first come, first served basis. Staff will share their screen reader sound for the patrons as they answer patron questions and demonstrate features.

This program is a limited series as they roll out new products. The Zoom link for this program will remain the same. The session can be joined by going to

[**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!Zjm6AngyZl1SU33yXtkVEPWv35QFk04MnXNwQcvhqRgFqxQE8D8XCcyTZrQDdOV69N_3chefWT3HCgsPt56uV-j-Qro4$) Remember that this meeting will not be recorded. If you wish to speak, you may request to do so by raising your hand.

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| [**Join Zoom Meeting**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!Zjm6AngyZl1SU33yXtkVEPWv35QFk04MnXNwQcvhqRgFqxQE8D8XCcyTZrQDdOV69N_3chefWT3HCgsPt56uV-j-Qro4$) |
| One tap mobile: | US: **+16692545252,,1614022132#****or****+16468287666,,1614022132#** |
| Meeting URL: | [**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!Zjm6AngyZl1SU33yXtkVEPWv35QFk04MnXNwQcvhqRgFqxQE8D8XCcyTZrQDdOV69N_3chefWT3HCgsPt56uV-j-Qro4$) |
| Meeting ID: | 161 402 2132 |
| Passcode: | 342222 |
| **Join by Telephone** |
|  |
| Dial: | +1 646 828 7666 US (New York) |
| Meeting ID: | 161 402 2132 |

For more information, please contact:
Tamara Rorie
Head, Patron Engagement Section
**tror@loc.gov** or **nlspes@loc.gov**

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**TECH TOOLS FOR VISION LOSS, FROM LOW TO HIGH TECH PODCAST**

An episode of the [**Hadley Presents: A Conversation with the Experts**](https://hadleyhelps.org/podcasts/hadley-presents-conversation-experts) audio podcast

Ever wonder which tools professionals with vision loss use in their daily lives? Wonder no more! Join Sam Seavey, creator of The Blind Life YouTube channel, as he shares the tools he loves.

Website mentioned in the podcast:
[**The Blind Life YouTube Channel**](https://www.youtube.com/theblindlife)

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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.

**Damn Yankees**

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

Described Saturday, September 20th at 2:00 pm

And October 4th at 2:00 pm

**The Inheritance Part One**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, September 27th at 1:00 pm

**Merry Wives**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, September 27th at 2:00 pm

**The Inheritance Part Two**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, October 4th at 1:00 pm

**Red Pitch**

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

Described Wednesday, October 8th 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)

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|  **Rising to Meet the Challenge: A Constituent Services Event for Former and Current Federal Workers and Contractors**Saturday, September 20th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pmParagon Theaters, 112 Founders Ave, Falls ChurchCongressman Don Beyer is partnering with local counties to host the [**"Rising to Meet the Challenge"**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkQccMWowJUbeccPJY0lxjTRCUUBDY2coc8jTuz373u1fLxA/viewform%3Fpli%3D1/1/0101019934e96978-2efeeb1d-e724-4c79-be8f-c0a1b6cda824-000000/0nbf3BKDEnmajxiJNlLMumqADpzra2zPnLLTQwyheks%3D422) event on September 20th. The event will provide practical financial guidance and support to former federal employees.In partnership with City of Falls Church Mayor Letty Hardi and the *wellfed* Team (former federal employees), this event will provide practical financial guidance alongside community and wellness support.Experts will lead a Financial Triage Workshop, sharing clear strategies for budgeting, expense tracking, and planning at every career stage, with time for Q&A.Refreshments and lunch will be provided. There will also be space for connection and mental well-being, recognizing that resilience is built through both financial clarity and a supportive community.Register at [**Rising to Meet the Challenge: Financial Resilience in Times of Uncertainty**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkQccMWowJUbeccPJY0lxjTRCUUBDY2coc8jTuz373u1fLxA/viewform?pli=1).###**FFB Quarterly Vision Webinar - Focusing on** **Thyroid Eye Disease (TED)**Saturday, September 20th at 12:00 pmLocation: [**Online**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM5kJ0p3uSBqBAikYDlVywGXK3-2F-2B-2FyqFmVKwtOi1PEASoLhv11wjdzTGPr0lT3u7t-2FhsM99DIOqZJ-2FRaDKQnuMdpREWniW5MIOsJ-2FWXovdK2OmdkF5VLzb8Ct2DG1IBjgzB0-2BM-2BQpBdBMYcxPpy6FVPAR1yLe6-2Fzl9WIkC-2BL5Kb71TC6HQzrTM-2BxNmrrNDWfM5Y-3DAbPb_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPv8LXdEdJU5yXEgXb5CVYB226kVK9YDjnedhMGokylZpMdB9j-2BBy-2Fp7mU-2BNFrZGW9HzvzsU4cYKH4uDqKBr3n6AZCb4yIPR3zgxicPiw7Pjz-2FzXZRD5fGLieZoggM7-2Fo7koVL1Qf1iaPmyJ-2FQAfsahc-2BMU00x6OjJbatMLjJutlixU8v7H1DQzYzrw6cDuUnofK-2FVtbSLtFVxx1YeWB3diA0S5DU-2B-2BYItsmXmvkl-2Fsq8-3D) via Zoom (Registration required at: [**Quarterly Vision Webinar – Thyroid Eye Disease (TED) — Foundation Fighting Blindness**](https://www.fightingblindness.org/events/quarterly-vision-webinar-thyroid-eye-disease-ted-4465?vcrmeid=u1BtPByE0qCyL2RRl5qA&vcrmiid=i6L4Vi8sRUeDB-hq9uAE5Q).)This free webinar will feature a dynamic discussion moderated by Ben Shaberman and a panel of experts:* **Dr. Sonalika Khachikian** (Endocrinologist)
* **Dr. Maja Kostic** (Neuro-Ophthalmologist)
* **David Brint** (Newly Diagnosed TED Patient)

What You’ll Learn:The connection between thyroid conditions and eye health.* How to recognize the signs and symptoms of TED.
* The impact of TED on vision and quality of life.
* Insights into diagnosis and treatment options.

For more information, please reach out to Bailey Bostelmanat [**BBostelman@FightingBlindness.org.**](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess0712959091/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4671&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP)###**Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired Meeting**Tuesday, September 23rd from 11:00 am to 2:00 pmJoin virtual: [**Zoom Link**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1603190333%3Fpwd%3DgKtZohae7QBGOUqqoPfBje59vIUTLj.1%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01010199593faa26-c471f9a5-b410-49d3-98a6-5ae58559ea07-000000/tDHmL6uZng5JeOxD8G-CF5uUKIug9Yuuj6QZAl3p04M%3D423)Meeting ID: 160-319-0333Passcode: 834086Or via Telephone -(646) 828-7666Meeting ID: 160-319-0333Passcode: 834086###**Hadley Tech It Out Discussion Group - Time to Upgrade?**Tuesday, September 23rd at 12:00 pm How do you know when newer really is better, and when your current device still gets the job done? Join the discussion to talk about making the most of what you already have and how to tell when it’s time for something new.Sign up to join at [**Tech It Out | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/tech-it-out)**.**###**Hadley’s What’s Cooking Discussion Group - The Power of Plants**Wednesday, September 24th at 3:00 pm We’ve all heard about the benefits of plant-based foods, but how can you add them to your diet. Join the discussion to find out and share what has worked for you.Sign up to join at [**What's Cooking? | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/whats-cooking).###**Accessible Board and Card Game Night**

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| Thursday, September 25th from 4:00 to 6:00 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!   ### |

**TUG Meeting - iOS 26**Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 to 11:00 amThe Technology User Group (TUG) will reveal the latest changes coming to the iPhone's operating system (iOS 26). Will these changes aid in accessibility or prove to be just hype?Call in Number1-301-715-8592Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#One tap mobile[**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel%3A%2B13017158592%2C%2C6562037293%23/1/01000198f1857b95-64915905-3bfd-453b-94ef-e00180b1af08-000000/QbxuUohC7nsHuzQWJ389Hc-GSJ5dVIoZBAkxpkmO18s%3D420)Webcast[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293%3Fomn%3D94648805523%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01000198f1857b95-64915905-3bfd-453b-94ef-e00180b1af08-000000/fTli9hM3Hr5gP2w26YgNZN1DHt3YjPhbI7MHqmcBadw%3D420)

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###**Together Toward Tomorrow - The ACB of Maryland State Convention**Saturday September 27th from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm (Virtual)Registration is free so come and join and have a great time. By Registering you can win a Door Prize and at the end of the day join their fabulous auction.  Register by emailing Jane Carona at 301-598-2131, 301-922-9224 or email [**jane.e.carona@gmail**](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess3606192612/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4987&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP) with your name, phone, email, and address. After registering, you will receive a copy of the agenda, auction list and link.###**7th Annual Janet Morrison Memorial Low Vision Mini-Symposium (Virtual Event)** Saturday, September 27th from 8:30 to 11:30 amHear from Andrew Adelson, M.D., Suleiman Alibhai, O.D., and John Shepherd, M.D., as they share updates in low vision care and rehabilitation. POB's Low Vision Resource Center will also demonstrate tools and services to support your daily life. This program is presented in partnership with Washington National Eye Center.To RSVP, call Tara at(202) 234- 1010, ext. 233, or email**taziz@youreyes.org****.** ###**Vienna/Falls Church VIP Meeting**Monday, September 29th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in-personThomas Jefferson Library, [**7415 Arlington, Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042**](https://www.google.com/maps/search/7415%2BArlington%2C%2BBlvd%2C%2BFalls%2BChurch%2C%2BVA%2B22042?entry=gmail&source=g)Hosted by: VIP co-Chairs Ann Koch and Rachel SchreimanA “Meet & Greet,” to get acquainted and/or reacquainted with one another as friends and cohorts in this wonderful visually impaired community! Please come ready to share and/or listen to others share several things:     1. ideas and positive input on strategies, tools and helpful tips on how you are navigating your vision loss 2. The challenges you experience so we can continue to support each other in our journey with vision impairment.  3. One idea for a speaker, special presentation or discussion you would like to see this program year, and they will try to schedule it!### **NFB CENA Access Boutique Series: What's New in iOS 26**Tuesday, September 30th from 2:00 to 3:30 pmApple’s iOS 26 introduces powerful new accessibility tools that expand nonvisual access and productivity. A key innovation is Braille Access mode, which turns an iPhone into full-featured Braille note taking device. Braille Access also enhances real-time interaction by displaying live captions on connected Braille displays.There are numerous general improvements too. Join us as we take you through some of the highlights, so you can make the most of all the new capabilities your iPhone has to offer.Register at [**Accessibility Boutique Registration | National Federation of the Blind**](https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/events/accessibility-boutique-reg).###**AFB Research Webinar**Wednesday, October 1st at 12:00 pmMany common tools for statistics and qualitative data analysis are difficult for blind and low-vision people to use, making it harder for blind and low-vision students to advance into research careers. However, there are tools and strategies that can be effective. Whether you are a student taking your first stats class or a blind or low-vision research professional, join the webinar to learn the latest tips and tricks for analyzing data, accessibly!AFB researchers will be joined by Dr. Jonathan Godfrey, a renowned blind statistician and senior lecturer at Massey University, and Emily Romero, a blind doctoral student and qualitative expert at the University of Northern Colorado, who will share their advice and lived experiences.[**Register today**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/115411142/570225070/1357521577?sourceid=&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogImIyNzQ0ZjE2LTA1OTQtZjAxMS1iNDg0LTYwNDViZGViNzQxMyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=Xee3DBlYRP8PqQa8An6Di89pHBugPEceqhwR8LcIXb4=&emci=24f9645a-0d93-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=b2744f16-0594-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=13729989) at [**Webinar Registration - Zoom**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6717579508053/WN_cU_z38jnQaKNE5YOIKkg5A?sourceid=&emci=24f9645a-0d93-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=b2744f16-0594-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=13729989#/registration) to learn how we can break down barriers in the social science research field!###**Hadley’s Travel Talk Discussion Group - Winter Travel Escapes**Wednesday, October 1st at 3:00 pm Do you want to escape the cold or embrace it? Join the discussion to discuss winter travel adventures and get your plans made for your winter escape. Sign up to join at [**Travel Talk | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/travel-talk).###**Hadley’s Embracing Braille Discussion Group - Tricky Letters and Reversals**Thursday, October 2nd at 10:30 am Mixing up your ds and fs, or your is and es? Join the discussion as they explore ways to keep those tricky symbols straight.Sign up to join at [**Embracing Braille | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/embracing-braille).###**Reston VIP Meeting**Friday, October 3rd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual - Zoom link coming soonGuest speaker Cat Fribley, Executive Director of BirdAbility [**https://www.birdability.org/**](https://www.birdability.org/)   Join a presentation on Birdability's initiatives to enhance access and inclusivity for birders with disabilities and other health challenges. Cat Fribley will delve into the organization's mission, providing a detailed exploration of its efforts to make birding more accessible and inclusive, and how you have a role. This session will introduce the Blind Birder Bird-a-Thon, discuss tools and resources for birding by ear, and offer information about the power of birdsong for mental health.  ###**Beep Baseball All-Star Weekend**Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil and Sharon PayneFriday, October 3rd from 3:30 to 5:30 pm and Saturday, October 4th all day beginning at 8:00 amGeorge Mason University, between Field 3 and Field 44605 Rapidan River Road, FairfaxGeorge Mason University, in partnership with MindsEye Radio and the National Beep Baseball Association, will host a Learn to Play beep baseball clinic for the local community on Friday, followed by the All-Star Single Elimination Tournament on Saturday.The tournament features four teams made up of top blind and visually impaired athletes from across the United States. All games will be live streamed with play-by-play commentary from MindsEye Radio. A link to the stream will be posted before the first game begins.**Friday, October 3 – Learn to Play Clinic**This free hands-on clinic welcomes participants who are new to the sport and those with experience. Instruction is provided by All-Star athletes and experienced coaches.**Schedule:*** Field setup: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
* Participant check-in: 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
* Clinic and scrimmage: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 4 – All-Star Tournament**Four elite teams, each made up of ten players, will compete for the 2025 NBBA All-Star title. Players were selected throughout the summer of 2025 based on their performances at regional qualifying tournaments and at the Beep Baseball World Series in St. Louis. Coaches for each team were also chosen for their outstanding leadership and performance at these events.**Schedule:*** Field setup: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
* Fields open for pre-game warmups: 9:00 a.m.
* Opening ceremonies: 10:35 a.m. (National Anthem, team introductions, welcome, first pitch)
* Game 1: 11:05 a.m. – Team 1 vs. Team 4
* Game 2: 11:05 a.m. – Team 2 vs. Team 3
* Third place game: 3:00 p.m.
* Championship game: 6:00 p.m.

For more information on the rules, history, and community of beep baseball, visit the National Beep Baseball Association at: [**https://www.nbba.org**](https://www.nbba.org/)###

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**Hadley’s Craft Circle Discussion Group - Creepy Crafts for Halloween**Wednesday, October 8th at 3:00 pm Swap favorite Halloween projects. Costumes are optional!Sign up to join at [**Crafting Circle | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/crafting-circle).###**Hadley’s Book Nook Discussion Group - Fantastic Fall Reads**Thursday, October 9th at 10:30 am Whether you prefer dragons or distant planets, fall is the perfect time to cozy up to a book that’s out of this world. Bring your favorite reads in sci-fi and fantasy, and your favorite fall beverage, too.Sign up to join at [**Book Nook | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/book-nook).###**Hadley Writers’ Circle Discussion Group - Adding a Spooky Twist**Tuesday, October 14th at 1:00 pm What chills the reader’s spine? Diabolical dialog? Sinister settings? Join us, if you dare, for tips on adding some frightful features to your fiction.Sign up to join at [**Writers' Circle | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/writers-circle).### |

**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**:View the **full agenda** here: [**acbva.org/convention-program-2025**](https://acbva.org/convention-program-2025/). **Register** online at [**acbva.org/convention-2025**](https://www.acbva.org/convention-2025)Register by **September 1st** to be entered into a drawing for a **$25 gift card**!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? ACBVA is 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** 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**for a private conversation.###**2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference** (AFBLC), November 12th to 14thCrystal 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.This year's keynote speaker is **Dr. Joshua Miele**, one of the most respected voices at the intersection of disability and technology. A MacArthur Fellow and accessibility leader at Amazon, Dr. Miele has spent over three decades merging his passion for science with a mission to build a more inclusive digital culture.In March, he published his acclaimed memoir, *Connecting Dots: A Blind Life*, chronicling his personal and professional journey. At AFBLC, he'll share reflections from that journey and inspire attendees with the wisdom he's gained in his pursuit of a more accessible world.Access the entire agenda at [**2025 AFBLC Agenda | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/get-involved/events/2025afblc/agenda?sourceid=1091814&emci=cf264fbc-2179-f011-b481-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=ac7b87e4-f079-f011-b481-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=13729989). 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).Learn more at [**2025 AFB Leadership Conference | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/get-involved/events/2025afblc)**.** ### |