

LOUD and CLEAR

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The ABCs of Low Vision Enhancement

Access Services is hosting this special community program on Wednesday, October 22 at 10:30 a. m. The program will take place at the

Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, located at 7548 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA, 22043.

Please plan on joining us as we discuss many practical solutions for living with low vision. Our co-presenters are Dr. Suleiman Alibhai, Director of the Prevention of Blindness Society's Low Vision Learning Center, and Burt Levy, owner of Beyond Specs and the White Cane. In conjunction with this program, the Society for the Prevention of Blindness of Metropolitan Washington (POB) will conduct free vision screenings.

The Low Vision Learning Center located in Alexandria, Virginia offers a variety of programs and services for people with low vision, including examinations and personalized rehabilitation programs. Any healthcare provider can refer an individual to the center based on an evaluation or a person's request.

The name 'Beyond Specs' refers to the point when an eye-care specialist tells someone that prescription lenses can no longer improve that person's sight. Mr. Levy has knowledge of a wide variety of vision aids and appliances that make life easier for people with low-vision or blindness.

The free vision screenings test for adult glaucoma. Glaucoma cannot be reversed, but with early detection it can be treated to slow the disease's progression. There are usually no symptoms in its early stages and that is why screening is beneficial. The POB uses visual field testing to screen for glaucoma. It is not the air 'puff' test. A visual field test measures an individual's entire scope of vision, including peripheral (side) vision.

Please tell your neighbors and friends about this program and extend them an invitation to join you. Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Holidays

The library will be closed on the following days. Please particularly note that for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays we will be closed Thursday and Friday. During Christmas week we will actually close

at 1:00 on Wednesday, December 24. Remember to order your books early so you won't get caught short while we are closed.

Columbus Day	Monday, October 13
Veteran's Day	Tuesday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 27
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28
Christmas Eve 1:00 p.m.)	Wednesday, December 24 (library closes at
Christmas	Thursday, December 25
Christmas Holiday	Friday, December 26
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 19

United States Currency Readers

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has partnered with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to distribute currency readers. This is in advance of the BEP issuing tactile-enhanced Federal Reserve notes. The readers fit in a pocket, slide over the top of U. S. currency banknotes and provide audio feedback for the value of the bill. They are distributed free-of-charge to qualifying individuals.

Access Services is creating a pre-order list of our blind or visually impaired patrons who want a reader. A reader will be sent from the BEP when they become available. Only registered Talking Book users will receive one of the currency readers before December 31, 2014. In January 2015, the program will open to all U.S. residents and U.S. citizens living abroad who are blind or visually impaired.

Please contact us at 703-324-8380 or at access@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information or to place your name on the list.

Friends Helping Friends

The Friends of Access Services is a group of customers and other interested parties who serve as an advisory panel for Access Services. They exchange practical and helpful information and believe that this information may also benefit other AS customers and/or Loud and Clear readers. In this continuing column, 'Friends Helping Friends', the Friends share helpful tips and experiences from the viewpoint of a user.

This lively group always welcomes new members. For more information contact Access Services at 703-324-8380.

News Services, Part 1

by Kathleen Tozer, Friend of Access Services Library

The Washington Metropolitan Ear and NFB-NEWSLINE

If you feel disconnected from the world, like I did when I was no longer able to read printed material, take heart. I remain forever grateful for being introduced to the National Library Service's Talking Book program and to two wonderful news services in our area. The news services can simply be accessed by using your telephone, whether at home or away.

While there are similarities between the two services they are each unique and I have enjoyed them both. They are free to any qualified applicant and those who are currently enrolled in The NLS Talking Book Program are automatically eligible.

Metropolitan Washington Ear

As stated on the Metropolitan Washington Ear web-site, this organization provides “free services for blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled people who cannot effectively read print.”

Wouldn't it be wonderful to access many of the same sources of information that your family, friends and neighbors do? Not only is it possible but it is easy and fun. All you need is the dial-in number, your access code, a pin number, which you will receive after your application is approved, and a phone with a touch pad. Then, to borrow from an old slogan, let your fingers do the reading.

The Ear, as it is often called, is made up of many volunteers that narrate The Washington Post, USA Today, People magazine, Time magazine, The Washingtonian and other regional publications as well as selected articles from the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. In addition, if you would like to know about audio description opportunities for movies, live theater, and museum tours that are available in your area, you can learn about them by pressing number 8 on your keypad.

When can one access all this wealth of information? As they say, 24/7. If your phone is working, The Ear is at your service.

How is such a wonderful service provided? The Ear is a non-profit organization, established in 1974 and continues today with a small staff and a whole lot of volunteer readers.

Honestly, it is like having a friend stop by to chat with you. In addition to reading text, these lovely people do their best to give you the full picture, by describing photos, charts, comics, etc. They can really make you smile, if not laugh out loud, as they describe the dress, facial expression and, even, hair-dos.

NOTE: The Ear also has a radio reading service that provides programming throughout the day, including newspaper articles and book excerpts. The radio receiver is provided to Ear customers.

Contact information for The Metropolitan Washington Ear

Phone: (301)681-6636

Email: www.washear.org

The second half of Ms. Tozer's article, focusing on the NFB-Newsline, appears later in the newsletter.

Reading Roundup

Fall into books, with this cornucopia of 'seasonal' titles. And remember, you can always call and ask us for your favorite author, title or subject area. We are here to keep you reading.

Fall Of Giants Ken Follett **DB 71970**

Saga of five interrelated families in the early twentieth century. Welshman Billy Williams enters the coal mines, British lady Maud Fitzherbert falls for German spy Walter von Ulrich, Russians, Grigori and Lev Peshkov, endure revolution, and American Gus Dewar becomes a diplomat. Some violence and some strong language. Book one of the Century Trilogy. Bestseller. 2010.

Orange is the New Black : My Year in a Women's Prison Piper Kerman **DB 77538**

Upper-middle-class author chronicles her conviction and incarceration in 2003 for drug smuggling and money laundering--crimes she committed ten years earlier after graduating from Smith College. Kerman relates her immersion into prison culture at a minimum-security facility in Connecticut. Basis for the Netflix original series by the same name.. Strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

The Hunt for Red October Tom Clancy **DB 21513**

The entire crew of "Red October," a new Soviet missile submarine under the command of Marko Ramius, is defecting to the United States.

Most of the Russian navy is sent to the U.S. Atlantic coast to find and destroy the sub. Jack Ryan, a CIA data analyst, gets the job of making contact with Ramius, and the United States mobilizes all its resources to protect our shores and the sub. Some strong language. 2008.

Thanksgiving Prayer Debbie Macomber **DB 75671**

Two romance novels. In the title story Seattle medical student Claudia meets Seth, an Alaskan businessman, but is torn between marriage in an unfamiliar environment and her potential career. 2006. In *A Handful of Heaven* waitress Paige and a divorced customer are in love--but both are afraid of commitment. Bestseller. 1984.

The Fall of the House of Zeus: the Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer Curtis Wilkie **DB 77501**

Chronicles the career of Mississippi attorney, Dick Scruggs, the brother-in-law of former senator, Trent Lott. Scruggs won fame and fortune for litigation against the asbestos and tobacco industries. This details Scruggs's downfall after he was indicted in 2007 for attempting to bribe a judge. Some strong language. 2010.

Falling Upwards: How We Took to the Air Richard Holmes **DB 77724**

Author of the **Age of Wonder (DB 72354)** examines ballooning in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Profiles early pioneers in the field, including Tiberius Cavallo, Jacques Alexandre Charles, and the Montgolfier brothers. Discusses female aeronauts, scientific advancements, and Arctic expeditions. 2013.

Autumn Glory: Baseball's First World Series Louis P. Masur **DB 58780**

Recreates the 1903 postseason play-off between teams in the rival American and National leagues--the Boston Americans and the Pittsburgh Pirates--that marked the birth of baseball as a modern sport and pastime.

Details each game of the World Series, described by one participant fifty years later as "the wildest...ever played." 2003.

Web Corner: Two to See

www.WindowEyesForOffice.com Window Eyes is a screen reader that enables individuals who are blind or visually impaired to access Windows PCs via speech and/or refreshable Braille displays. Consumers using Microsoft Office version 2010 or higher can now download the screen reader for free. The website provides download instructions and additional details about this offer.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/> The Fairfax County Board of Elections website contains all the information that you will need for the upcoming elections.

Of particular interest, voters can find out what will be accepted as photo identification and see a schedule of where the new voting machines will be available for demonstrations before the November elections.

The new machines provide a paper ballot for all voters, including those who need to use the new accessible equipment called ExpressVote. The ExpressVote machine is fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and enables voters with special needs to use technology similar to touch screen equipment to generate a marked paper ballot. The ballot will then be inserted into the same optical scan machine used by other voters. The technology allows those with special needs to vote independently and privately.

Friends Helping Friends

News Services, Part 2

by Kathleen Tozer, Friend of Access Services Library

Ms. Tozer continues her article about news services...

NFB-NEWSLINE

Would you like to read news from another state, perhaps where you have family members? Or, if you love sports and would like to read about your favorite teams, you may enjoy reading the papers where there is broader coverage. NFB-NEWSLINE can provide this and, more, every day of the week, anytime you desire and anywhere from within the United States.

The National Federation of the Blind, headquartered in Baltimore, provides access to over 300 newspapers, including 4 in Spanish, as well as over 40 magazines for free! This is done through NFB-NEWSLINE. The current day's paper, the previous day's and the previous weekend editions can be heard.

NFB-NEWSLINE is accessed in much the same way as The Ear, by calling into a central number and entering your codes, then using your touch-tone telephone to make selections. Since this is a digital news service, it functions a little more like a computer and allows for lots of options. While it may seem a little more daunting than The Ear, it is worth the additional time spent to learn the system, particularly if you are interested in being able to take advantage of all it has to offer. I would compare it to any electronic device you have in your home.

Although some people can use all the various functions and settings on a device, most use some and others just know how to press the "play", "start" and "stop" buttons. I fall into the last category but am able to access a newspaper or magazine on NFB-NEWSLINE.

Some special features include:

Subscribers can have a newspaper e-mailed to their in-box in DAISY 3 format.

Get your local TV listings by phone or web.

NFB-NEWSLINE is now available on the iPhone.

For those who like to do more in-depth research or, just locate information on a particular topic, there is a feature that allows for doing a search by entering a word or subject.

This is truly a grand endeavor to bring a bounty of the most current information to individuals who would not otherwise have access to it.

Contact information: NFB-NEWSLINE

TOLL FREE Phone: 1-866-504-7300

Web: www.nfbnewslineonline.org

If you are not familiar with either of these services, the Washington Metropolitan Ear or NFB-NEWSLINE I would encourage you to consider the difference they could make in your life. You will be the most knowledgeable person on your block. The only drawback to giving it a try is that you might become a news junkie!

Described Narration on TV and at Movie Theaters

(Adapted from the summer 2014 issue of the Talking Book and Braille News, Oregon Talking Book Library.)

For years our Talking Book library has offered a selection of Descriptive Videos to our users, but what if you want to watch primetime television or new movies in a theater setting? Well, thanks to several groundbreaking advancements in telecommunications accessibility, now you can!

The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) mandates that several of the most popular TV networks must include descriptive audio as part of some of their primetime and children's programming. These networks include ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, USA, the Disney Channel, TNT, Nickelodeon, and TBS. To inform viewers what shows are described and when they air in your area, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has created a described TV listing you can access online at www.afb.org/tv.

If you're more of a movie fan, you can enjoy described narration at theaters wherever you may live. Many companies like Regal, AMC, and Cinemark offer special headsets and other assistive technology that enable visually impaired or hard-of-hearing movie-goers to enjoy new releases in the theater.

Here are three good ways to find movie titles that offer descriptive narration or closed captioning:

- Call your local theater and ask about accessible titles.
- Find movie listings noted with DN / CC / Accessibility Devices. Different companies use different codes.
- Visit www.captionfish.com. All movie titles and show times listed on this website include DN / CC.

But what happens if you miss the movie in theaters? Don't worry; an increasing number of DVDs include a descriptive video audio option.

The Audio Description Project website keeps a running list of DVDs with the DVX 2.0 soundtrack at <http://www.acb.org/adp/dvds.html>. The list is organized by release year. You can also link from the titles listed to Amazon.com in order to purchase the DVDs.

Please Note: You will need a sighted person to help access the descriptive video option from the DVDs audio menu.

Upcoming Event

Access Services will have an information table at the following community event:

World of Possibilities EXPO
Saturday, November 15 11:00am - 4pm

Tysons Corner Marriot
8028 Leesburg Pike
Tysons Corner, VA 22182

For more specific information on the World of Possibilities EXPO call 1-866-227-4644.

Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the *Loud & Clear* newsletter, please call Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389. You may also e-mail him at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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 Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703- 324-8365.