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A Fairfax County, Va.,
publication

 Reasonable accommodations will be made
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LOUD and CLEAR

Fall 2015

Volume 27, Issue 3

In This Issue

[iPad Workshop Reminder](#)

[BARD for Android](#)

[Upcoming Holidays](#)

[Friends Helping Friends](#)

[Speaking of Magazines](#)

[Reading Roundup](#)

[AS Reminders](#)

[“Walk Our Way” Family Fun Day](#)

[Staff News](#)

[Voting 2015](#)

[Enhance Your Library](#)

[Web Corner: Three to Investigate](#)

[Foundation Fighting Blindness Event](#)

[Contact Us](#)

iPad Workshop Reminder

Access Services will host two workshops for people with low vision who are curious about the Apple iPads. Moira Williams, the Founder of Envision Technologies, will conduct the workshops.

The first program is for people who are wondering if the Apple iPad is a usable tool for someone with vision impairment. The workshop will be held at the George Mason Regional Library (A branch of the Fairfax County Public Library) on Thursday, October 22 from 1:30 until 3:30. Participants will see low vision features and apps such as font magnification and voice commands demonstrated. No advance registration is needed for this program.

The second workshop is for more experienced iPad users and will take place on Thursday, November 19 again at George Mason Regional Library from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Ms. Williams encourages participants to bring their own devices to the second workshop. No registration is needed for this workshop.

For more information about these workshops please call Access Services at 703-324-8380.

BARD for Android

After years of development, on June 10, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) released an Android app for accessing the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) site. BARD Mobile for Android (BARD Mobile) is compatible with tablets and smartphones running Android OS 4.1 and later.

In order to use this application a person must be an NLS patron and have a BARD account. Access Services will help you create a BARD account. Please contact us via phone at 703-324-8380 or via email at

access@fairfaxcounty.gov. Once you have an account, you are ready to begin using BARD Mobile. It is important to note that one also has to have connectivity from a wireless carrier or a Wi-Fi provider to download material from BARD.

The first step is to download the free app from the Google Play app store on your device. You will then need to agree to the terms of service. Once you have accepted the terms of service, your android device may prompt you to select where your downloaded materials will be stored. For assistance, the user guide is available from the bookshelf on the app.

Additional Instructions for BARD Mobile

Complete instructions on Bard Mobile are available at:
<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/android/v1.0/toc.html>.

Android devices are also equipped with assistive features, including a gesture based screen reader called TalkBack and built-in magnification gestures. For more information on using android accessibility features, visit:
<https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/#topic=6007234>.

NLS has also produced several tutorial videos featuring the BARD Mobile application for Android devices. In the videos, NLS Consumer Relations Officer Judith Dixon provides instruction on how to read and navigate an audiobook, manage downloads, and use basic gestures with TalkBack, the Android screen reader service. The BARD Mobile Android How-to Series videos are available from the Library of Congress channel on YouTube. To see these videos please use the following link: [BARD mobile How-to-Series](#).

Upcoming Holidays

The Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) and all county offices will be closed on the following dates:

Columbus Day

Monday, October 12, 2015

Veteran's Day Wednesday, November 11, 2015

****PLEASE NOTE:** For both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays Access Services will be closed for four days. Contact us early so you have plenty of reading material while we are closed.

Thanksgiving Thursday, November 26, 2015

Friday, November 27, 2015

Christmas Thursday, December 24, 2015 (closes at
12:00 p.m.)

Friday, December 25, 2015

New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2016

Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 18, 2016

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. Members 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 energetic group always welcomes new members. Its next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Government Center, Conference Room #6. For more information contact Access Services at 703-324-8380.

Thoughts on Magazine Reading

by Max Bassett

In the past, have you enjoyed browsing through magazines in the doctor's waiting room, the hair salon, in your favorite chair at home or perhaps in the library? Do you have low vision now that makes it a struggle to read? You can continue to read with your ears and have access to even more magazines than ever before in your life. I know, because that has been my experience.

Nineteen years ago I had pretty good vision and enjoyed reading at least two newspapers a day and several magazines a month. Then came a drastic reduction in my vision and I discovered that I could read with my ears and visualize things just as well as I did before. The answer for me and for many is through the accessibility of magazines through the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) a Library of Congress program for people with disabilities. The "talking books" program also has magazines.

It is not my purpose here to give you all of the details on how to access these services but to make you aware of their existence. Using the NLS "talking books" web site I am able to download many magazines as well as books and listen to them on my Humanware Victor Stream mini-digital player. (see Editor's notes below) Again, I will not go into detail about the Stream device, except to say that it is my "library" and fits into a shirt pocket. A few months ago I was moving and traveling so I had 62 magazines and books on my little memory card. In the interest of full disclosure my dear spouse does the downloading for me but I have confidence that I could learn to do it, if necessary.

I have access to a great variety of magazines and using either the digital Stream or the NLS digital player, I can literally "browse" through a magazine, searching for articles of interest. I am able to control the speed of playback, the tone of the reader's voice and even mark an article with an electronic bookmark so that I may return to a topic later if I choose.

I enjoy such magazines as Sports Illustrated, Health & Nutrition, The Economist, National Geographic, The Week, The Nation, American History, Money, Choice, and Newsweek, which actually comes from the American

Printing House for the Blind, and many others. Even National Geographic is available. My interest is almost exclusively for non-fiction and I find that my listening speed of such magazines has increased, enabling me to read more as the months go by. The quality is excellent, the variety is superb and the ability to listen with my ears has improved greatly. I now read more than I did before my vision declined and that has made the world more accessible to me.

If you would like to explore these resources and would like more information about NLS or devices like the Stream for listening, just contact the Fairfax County Library's Access Services branch office or a member of the Friends of Access Services.

I wish you many hours of enjoyable reading.

Editor's notes:

(1) Magazines can be downloaded from the BARD website onto blank digital cartridges as well. The cartridges can then easily be played in your digital Talking Book machine.

(2) Access Services can schedule one-on-one demonstrations with their Victor Stream Player for those who are interested. Please call to schedule a time with a staff member.

(3) As Max suggests, if you have questions about downloading magazines please contact Access Services at 703-324-8380 or via email at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Speaking of Magazines

Some member libraries of NLS have recording facilities and produce their own digital books and magazines. NLS assures that these 'locally produced' titles meet their standards through the Quality Assurance Program. The following magazines are being recorded locally but are available for downloading from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website:

Audubon, Cowboys & Indians, Humpty Dumpty, Missouri Conservationist, National Geographic, Oklahoma Today, Playboy Magazine, Seventeen, Southern Living, Smithsonian, and Vital Speeches of the Day.

Reading Roundup

In this issue we feature some of the new bestsellers that are arriving quicker than they may have in the past as well as some 'recent reads' that Access Services staff members have enjoyed.

All the Light You Cannot See by Anthony Doerr **DB 79182**

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure Leblanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee **DB 81896**

Twenty years after the events of **To Kill A Mockingbird (DB 77672)**, Jean Louise Finch (once known as Scout) returns home to Maycomb, Alabama. She confronts the racism of her hometown in the 1950s, including the views of Atticus, the father she idolizes. Some strong language. 2015.

Wright Brothers By David McCullough **DB 82175**

Author of **The Greater Journey (DB 73472)** details the lives of brothers Wilbur (1867-1912) and Orville (1871-1948) Wright and their development of the first working airplane. Describes their early lives in Dayton, Ohio, their work on airplanes, and the influence of their sister, Katharine. Bestseller. 2015.

The Keynote Speaker at the recently held Book Club Conference was Celeste Ng. Her debut novel is listed here.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng **DB 80393**

Examines the secrets of the Chinese-American Lee family of Ohio before and immediately after the 1977 drowning death of their middle child--high school sophomore Lydia. History professor James and his wife, Marilyn--whose medical school plans were aborted by pregnancies--had high hopes for her. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2014.

And some titles that were recently enjoyed by AS staff members:

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins **DB 80635**

Rachel's train commute to London passes her former house--now inhabited by her ex-husband and his new family. She also observes a happy young neighboring couple--but then the wife goes missing. Rachel believes she witnessed a critical clue, but her alcoholic blackouts make her an unreliable witness. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

The Short & Tragic Life of Robert Peace by Jeff Hobbs **DB 80277**

Biography of Robert Peace (1980-2011), a talented young African American man who escaped inner-city Newark for molecular biophysics and biochemistry studies at Yale University. Examines how Peace succumbed to the dangers of the streets when he returned home to teach at his former Catholic high school. Strong language and some violence. 2014.

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier - **DB 44762**

Sorely wounded and disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, a Confederate soldier named Inman decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains to Ada, the woman he loves. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, both helpful and malign. At the same time, the intrepid Ada tries to revive her father's derelict farm and learns to survive in a world where old certainties have been swept away.

Ghost Boy: The Miraculous Escape of a Misdiagnosed Boy Trapped Inside His Own Body by Martin Pistorius - **DB 81045**

Martin Pistorius explains how, in 1988 at age 12, a mysterious illness left him in a wheelchair and unable to communicate. Institutionalized for 14 years, he is finally given a chance to show that his mind is fine, and he learns to communicate via computer. 2013.

The Martian by Andy Weir – **DB 78389**

Six days after becoming the first man to walk on Mars, astronaut Mark Watney is caught in a windstorm that causes his support crew to abandon him for dead. Drawing on his ingenuity, engineering skills, and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him? Strong language, Bestseller. 2011.

Yes Please by Amy Poehler **DB 80350**

Emmy award-winning star of television show Parks and Recreation, Poehler (born 1971) ruminates on what she has learned so far in her life. Describes growing up in Massachusetts, the development of her improvisational skills in Chicago, show business, divorce, and personal and professional relationships. Strong language. Bestseller. 2014.

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson **DB 62169**

In this prequel to **Peter Pan (RC 59430)**, Peter and four other orphan boys set sail from England on the Never Land. Peter and his mysterious new shipboard friend, Molly, fight off pirates and thieves to protect a special trunk in her keeping. For grades 4-7. 2004.

AS Reminders

Please return your books in a timely manner once you have finished them or have decided a particular book is not right for you. Other people

may be waiting for them or we may need to reuse the cartridge if we copied a title for you.

If you have one of the yellow cassette machines that you are no longer using, one just gathering dust, please return it to us so we can return it to the Library of Congress. We will be happy to send you a box to facilitate any returns.

“Walk Our Way” Family Fun Day

Our friends at DBVI (the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired) are sponsoring an event, the WOW Family Fun Day, to raise awareness of blindness and low vision. Some of the activities include: games, technology displays, and exhibition booths. One can walk a lap with visual simulators and receive FREE vision and hearing screenings by the Lions Club. The event takes place at Westfield High School on Saturday, October 24 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Westfield High School is located at 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly, Virginia.

WOW Agenda and Activities

11:00 – Registration begins

11:15 – Welcome/Introduction

11:20 – 12:20 – Ongoing activities

Lions Club Hearing/Vision Screening

Face Painting

Experiential/Adaptive Games – to include tennis, goal ball, beeper ball, jump rope, and tethered walks/runs

Low vision/Simulator table

Vendor Exhibits

Hula Hoop contest – prizes awarded

12:20 – 12:40 - Goal Ball Exposition/Demonstration

12:45 – Vendor Passport prize award – Two prizes awarded

1:00 – 1:20 – Beep Ball Exhibit/Demonstration

1:30 – Walk begins with vision simulators

2:00 –Thank you/end of event

Participation is FREE! All ages are welcome! For more information call DBVI-Fairfax (703) 359-1100. We will see you there!

Staff News

Michael Skalecky, a page at AS has been promoted to a Library Aide position at Fairfax City Regional Library. Thank you Michael, and Congratulations!

The staff of Access Services thanks you for your patience as we have been learning the 'ins and outs' of our new operating system, Web-Reads.

Voting 2015 from the Fairfax County Office of Elections

There's already a lot of attention on the 2016 election, but there is an **important election this year for our local and state officials**. Each voter in Fairfax County can make choices for one State Senate district, one House of Delegates district, the Clerk of the Court, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Sheriff, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the District member to the Board of Supervisors, and the Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for 3). There will also be bond referendums for the School Bond for \$310 million and for a Public Safety Bond for \$151 million.

Before Election Day, Tuesday, November 3 you may want to:

1.) Check your voter registration status. This can include your correct polling location.

2.) Check to see if you are eligible to absentee vote. You can vote absentee by mail or in person. Will you be out of town on Nov. 3 or have a really long commute? Are you a caregiver or person with disabilities? These are a few of the reasons to vote absentee. For more information see [Fairfax County Absentee voting](#).

3.) Check to make sure you have a valid photo ID. You will need a photo ID to vote, so check the Virginia Department of Elections list of valid IDs. ([Virginia voting valid photo IDs](#)).

If you have any questions please call the Fairfax County Board of Elections at 703-222-0776 or email them at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also feel free to visit their website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>.

Enhance Your Library

In recent months, Access Services has received several gifts that we are very grateful for. We use these to support our programs, outreach efforts and services. We thank you for thinking of us and for your kind generosity.

Please consider the Access Services branch as part of your charitable giving. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax deductible. Checks may be sent to Access Services, made payable to the Fairfax Library Foundation with “for Access Services” specified in the memo line or cover letter. For more information, contact Access Services or call the foundation at 703-324-8300.

Web Corner: Three to Investigate

Free Computer Tutorials at GCFLearnFree

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers>

The Goodwill Community Foundation (GCF) offers numerous online courses as a way to help users learn the essential skills needed for living and working in the 21st century. Here, readers will find a compendium of

courses designed specifically for users who don't quite feel comfortable in the world of computers.

Health and wellness information for older adults from the National Institutes of Health. <http://nihseniorhealth.gov/>

Go4Life <https://go4life.nia.nih.gov/mygo4life>, an exercise and physical activity campaign from the National Institute on Aging at NIH, is designed to help you fit exercise and physical activity into your daily life. Most people tend to focus on one activity or type of exercise and think they're doing enough. The goal, however, is to be creative and choose all four types of exercise — endurance, strength, balance and flexibility.

Foundation Fighting Blindness Event

On Saturday, October 17, 2015 the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness will host its speaker series at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, VA 22044-7409. This free program begins at 10:00 a.m., with registration at 9:30, and is brought to you by The Chatlos Foundation Public Health Education Program. Attendance is open to the public.

The speakers are Ben Shaberman, Director of Science Communications at the Foundation Fighting Blindness and his topic will be **“Is There a Clinical Trial for Me?”** Stan Gowin, an expert in the field of low vision technology will speak on **“Getting Around When You Can't See Where You Are Going.”**

For more information, please call 800-683-5555 or leave a message if calling after business hours. You may also email mdigaetano@FightBlindness.org.

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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