

# LOUD and CLEAR

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## Summer Reading Program

**"Read to the Rhythm" June 19 - September 5**

Once again, beginning June 19, it will be time for the Summer Reading Program. Preschoolers through high schoolers can earn a coupon book, including free and discounted items, by continuing to read

during the summer. Preschoolers through sixth graders read 15 books. Pre-school children can have books read to them. Students in grades 7-12 read eight books. Participants keep a log of their reading and return the log to their local library branch by September 5.

Activities are planned for families, preschoolers, school-age youngsters, teens and adults throughout the summer. Go online to the library Website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>. Click on Summer Reading Program and then click on the Calendar of Events and see what activities are at your local libraries or visit a branch and pick up a hard copy of Free Events.

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## **Low Vision I-pad Workshops**

Access Services will host two workshops for people with low vision who are curious about the Apple I-pads. The programs will be presented by Moira Williams, Founder of Envision Technologies. The first one is called An I-pad Test Drive and it is for people who are wondering if the I-pad is a tool that they can effectively use. It will be held on Thursday, October 22 at George Mason Regional Library from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.. Participants will see low vision features and apps such as font magnification and voice commands demonstrated.

The second workshop is for more experienced I-pad users and will take place on Thursday, November 19 at the same time and place. Ms. Williams encourages participants to bring their own devices to the second workshop. No registration will be needed for the first program and we are still making that determination for the second. Do mark the dates on your calendar.

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## **Friends Helping Friends Part 1**

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.

This issue we take a look at three area performance centers and their resources and programs for working with the blind or disabled community. We look at Wolf Trap, George Mason University Performance Center for the Arts and the Kennedy Center. Cheryl Piper and Kathleen Tozer have researched and compiled the information for this article.

## **Access to the Arts Part 1**

### **George Mason University Center for the Arts**

GMU's Center for the Arts is located on the campus of George Mason University and is a great place to go if you want high-quality performances at a reasonable price. The Center offers a wide selection of performances including international orchestras and world renowned musicians, modern, folk and classical dance groups, opera, theater and much more.

Ticket manager, Betsy Yancey, is happy to work with individuals with special needs and offers accessible seating, and seating for the vision impaired, at all price levels. In most cases, this seating is available up to the date of the performance, though it is always wise to order tickets as early as possible. Audio descriptive performances and sign language are available with advanced notice (at least two weeks is desirable). Also, large print or electronic playbills, compatible with a screen reader, are available on request. Vision impaired individuals can also request an electronic copy of the season brochure "Great Performances at Mason".

On request, ushers are available to help special needs patrons to their seats, and offer assistance at intermission.

To purchase tickets, or to request any other service discussed above, please call Betsy directly at 703-993-8881.

## Wolf Trap

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts is a 117 acre park in Vienna which is graced by a beautiful outdoor amphitheater, called the Filene Center. Each summer, the Filene Center hosts over 100 performances, including artists who are legends and chart-toppers, as well as the National Symphony Orchestra, The Wolf Trap Opera, dance companies, traveling musicals and more. The Filene Center has about 3500 seats under a roof open to the outdoors, plus about the same number of lawn seats. Patrons can bring their own food, drinks and even alcohol, which they can enjoy before and during the performances on the spacious lawn.

Wolf Trap offers accessible seating for patrons in wheelchairs in three sections of the Filene Center; the front orchestra, rear orchestra and boxes. The seats in the front orchestra and boxes also accommodate customers who wish to transfer (move from a chair to a theater seat).

Seating for vision impaired customers who desire to sit close to the stage is set aside in the front orchestra, and not sold to the public unless the concert is a sellout. Even then, sometimes these tickets are held back for awhile to accommodate vision impaired patrons. If a vision impaired person is interested in a popular concert, it is best to buy these tickets as soon as possible after they are offered to the public.

For the best service, it is recommended that special needs customers buy these tickets directly from the Wolf Trap ticket office @703-255-1849. However, they can also be ordered from the Wolf Trap website. Wolf Trap offers sign language interpretation, with two weeks notice, by calling the same telephone number. The availability of audio descriptive services is currently being investigated and hopefully will be available in a not so distant future.

Parking for individuals with a handicap plate, or placard, is available on a first-come first serve basis for both the orchestra and box/loge levels. For access to these parking areas, simply inform the park traffic directors of your needs on your arrival.

Ushers are available to aid the vision impaired or wheelchair clients in getting to their seats from the various entrances to the venue. The ushers are very accommodating and will also help patrons to the restrooms and in exiting the venue after the performance. Handicapped restroom services are provided and priority is given to customers with special needs.

For those using public transportation, a shuttle is available to Wolf Trap from the West Falls Church Metro stop for \$5. The shuttlebus conveniently drops you off and picks you up at the main entrance to Wolf Trap.

(Part 2 with information about the Kennedy Center appears later in the newsletter.)

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## Holidays

Access Services will be closed on the following days.

Fourth of July---Friday, July 3, 2015

Labor Day---Monday, September 7, 2015

Columbus Day---Monday, October 12, 2015

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## Fairfax County Book Club Conference

On Saturday, September 19 the Fairfax County Public Library and the Friends of Reston Regional Library will co-sponsor the 2nd Biennial Book Club Conference. The conference will be from 9:00 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Join book club members from around the area to learn more about starting, running and enhancing book clubs while networking with fellow readers. There will be a keynote speaker

followed by workshops. Lunch will be provided. Registration begins August 22. Sign up online or call 703-324-8428.

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## Notes from NLS

Android Application for BARD— NLS is making progress on creating a BARD application for Android products. A version is in the final phase of development and is being tested by staff members at various NLS network libraries. If all goes well, there should be a version available to the public sometime in 2015.

Bookshelf Feature—The ‘bookshelf’ feature is used to navigate between multiple magazines or books on a single cartridge. Follow these steps:

- 1.) Insert the cartridge into the player.
- 2.) Press and hold the play button until the player says. “Bookshelf - # of books.”
- 3.) Use the fast forward button to advance to the next book/magazine on the cartridge.
- 4.) Use the rewind button to return to the previous book/magazine.

When you hear the title you want, push the play button again and your selected story should start. AS Note: Please remember, we are glad to schedule a hands-on demonstration of this feature.

Extended Magazine Loan Period—If you like to read magazines but were annoyed by the short loan period there is some good news. The cartridges still have to be returned but the loan period has been extended. The National Library Service has increased the loan period for magazines circulated on cartridge. For cartridges containing only weekly magazines the loan period is now three weeks, and the reading time for monthly magazines is seven weeks.

Change of Address, Change of BARD Account?-- If a move is in your future, or if you change e-mail addresses for any reason, you do NOT need to create a new BARD account with a new e-mail address as your user ID.

Instead, log into your BARD account and choose the Update Account Settings link that is located about two-thirds of the way down the BARD main page. This will take you to a page of options, including a link to Change Your E-Mail Address. Once you change your e-mail address/user ID, you will be required to reset your password to protect the security of your account.

Gentle Reminder -- The Talking Book Machines are the property of the U.S. Government and if for any reason you discontinue the program the machines and any cartridges should be returned to us. Please feel free to return your cassette player if you are no longer using it. We will gladly send you an empty box for your player if you need one.

And finally, if you are experiencing problems with your machine or with the number of books you are receiving (too many, not enough) please call us at 703-324-8380 or email us at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov). We want to keep you reading.

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## Reading Roundup

These are some recently recorded titles. Please note that some titles list DBC in the book number. These titles were recorded at state or regional libraries and have been added to the NLS collection. The producing library has been noted.

### Grades K-2

**The Red Lemon** by Bob Staake **DBC05102** (A production of Kansas State Library, Kansas Talking Books Regional Library.)

Farmer McPhee's yellow lemons are ready to be picked and made into lemonade, pies, and muffins, but when a red lemon is found in the crop and discarded, it eventually yields some surprises. For preschool-grade 2.

**Punia and the King of Sharks: A Hawaiian Folktale** by Lee Wardlaw  
**DBC 05098** (A production of Kansas State Library, Kansas Talking Books  
Regional Library.)

Clever Punia, a Hawaiian fisherman's son, finds different ways to trick the King of Sharks and take his tasty lobsters away from him. For grades K-3.

Grades 2-4

**All Hail the Queen** by Erica David **DB 80597**

With the castle gates finally open, Queen Elsa and Princess Anna excitedly rush to visit with the citizens of Arendelle. But even with Elsa's magic, the sisters hadn't realized how much work running a kingdom is. For grades 2-4. 2015.

Grades 3-7

**Next Top Villain** by Suzanne Selfors **DB 81268**

Unlike her classmates, who include the daughters of Snow White, Cinderella, and Rapunzel, Duchess Swan does not have a happily-ever-after waiting for her. But her class in General Villainy, taught by Mr. Badwolf, could change her destiny. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6. 2015.

**House of Robots** by James Patterson **DB 81080**

Fifth-grader Sammy struggles to fit in when his inventor mother requires him to take her latest creation, a robot named E, to school with him. Much to Sammy's horror and his classmates glee, he is supposed to show E how to be a regular student. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6. 2014.

**From Texas With Love: The Genius Files** by Dan Gutman **DB 80690**

Having ditched the family RV, Coke and Pepsi McDonald continue on their cross-country road trip to the Southwest in a convertible. But between visiting weird American landmarks, they must dodge nefarious villains. Sequel to *You Only Die Twice* (**DB 80399**). For grades 4-7. 2014.

## Young Adult

### Before They Were Movies.

Several books that were written with a Young Adult audience in mind have been released or will soon be released as movies. Some are classics and some are more modern but all that are young-at-heart can enjoy these books. NOTE: Movies may be adaptations based on the original stories and characters.

Look for these to arrive on the screen this summer or later in 2015.

**Fallen** by Lauren Kate **DB 71182**

After her boyfriend mysteriously dies, Luce is sent to reform school. When she meets Daniel Grigori there, she feels she has known him intimately before. But he resists her pursuit and she discovers he harbors a dark secret. For senior high readers. 2009.

**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley **DB 25835**

Classic horror story. A monster, endowed with life by a young scientist named Frankenstein, later turns on his creator. Originally published in 1818.

**The Jungle Book: The Mowgli Stories** by Rudyard Kipling **DB 63091**

Eight stories about the adventures of Mowgli, a boy reared by a pack of wolves in a jungle in India. Presented in Kipling's preferred arrangement. Includes a ninth non-Mowgli tale "Rikki-tikki-tavi," about a valiant mongoose.

**Paper Towns** by John Green **DB 68404**

During senior year, Margo, the girl next door, entices Quentin into a night of mischief--and she then disappears. Quentin and classmates Radar, Ben, and Lacey follow the clues Margo left while they worry about her state of mind. Strong language. For senior high readers. Edgar Award. Commercial audiobook. 2008.

These books have already been released as movies in recent years.

**Fault in Our Stars** by John Green **DB 74112**

A miracle drug may have given sixteen-year-old cancer patient Hazel a few more years, but she is still depressed. Then Hazel meets cute Augustus during a support-group meeting and her world shifts in unexpected and inspiring ways. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

Divergent Series by Veronica Roth **Divergent DB 73203, Insurgent DB 74836, Allegiant 77550, Four: A Divergent Collection DB 79626**

Hunger Games Series by Suzanne Collins **The Hunger Games DB 68384, Catching Fire DB 69689, Mockingjay DB 71734**

Adult

What have you missed? These are the most circulated Talking Book titles so far in 2015.

**Gray Mountain** by John Grisham **DB 79768**

**Irish Americans: A History** by Jay P. Dolan **DB 68852**

**Unbroken** by Laura Hillenbrand **DB 72129**

**Sycamore Row** by John Grisham **DB 77720**

**The Target** by David Baldacci **DB 78495**

And these are the top circulating titles from 2014.

**Dorchester Terrace** by Anne Perry **DB 74881**

**Sycamore Row** by John Grisham    **DB 77720**

**I, Sniper** by Stephen Hunter    **DB 70523**

**Death of Yesterday** by M. C. Beaton    **DB 77193**

**Daddy's Gone A-Hunting** by Mary Higgins Clark    **DB 76343**

**Longest Ride** by Nicholas Sparks    **DB 77603**

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## Staff News

Kudos! **Yadira Fernandez**, Reader Advisor, was recently recognized as a Distinguished Partner by Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services(NCS). NCS has categorized Ms. Fernandez an 'Everyday Hero'. Yadira's dedicated service to three Hollin Hall Senior Center book clubs has enabled NCS to provide meaningful opportunities to individuals. According to Julie Ellis, the Director of the Hollin Hall Senior Center for Creative Retirement, "This program keeps our center members engaged, happy and enthusiastic. Yadira has a positive attitude and there is never a 'no' and always, 'how can I support you'". We couldn't agree more. Congratulations, Yadira!

More kudos! Volunteer **Gloria Sussman** was nominated for the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award. The Volunteer Service Awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs. Ms. Sussman was not the individual award winner but she deserves our recognition as a nominee. The following is an excerpt from the nomination:

"... has championed the cause of the visually challenged and blind community for the past thirty plus years... Gloria understands firsthand what it is like to have vision loss and how to cope and workaroud the loss. Her vision loss did not prevent her from leading a positive, active and rewarding life [and] this is the message she imparts to people who may have recently faced [a loss of vision]."

Gloria has been instrumental in the formation and facilitation of several vision support groups throughout Fairfax County. She continues to directly lead the Vision Impaired Persons (VIP)-Reston group. She is active in the Friends of Access Services, the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington and a strong supporter of the Talking Book Program.

Gloria, we salute you! We are honored and fortunate to have you in our community!

Access Services, together with our Library Administration colleagues, recognized all the volunteers of both departments at a volunteer luncheon which was held Thursday, April 30. Our volunteers perform many tasks from supplying subject headings for the Talking Book cartridges to delivering books to our deposit site partners. We appreciate all they do to help us “Keep You Reading”.

Our Outreach Manager, **Ken Plummer**, has visited the Greenspring Retirement campus nearly every month. He, **Dr. Elaine Sorensen**, a resident of Greenspring, and often, Ivelisse Figueroa-Gonzalez, Assistant Branch Manager at the Richard Byrd Community Library have conducted several ‘clinics’ for this community. The clinics provide the residents with an opportunity to learn about Access Services, to register for library cards as well as to ask questions about downloading e-books or e-audiobooks. Ken thanks Dr. Sorensen for her strong advocacy and states that without Dr. Sorensen’s leadership this excellent example of community outreach would not be possible.

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## **Friends Helping Friends, Part 2**

### **Access to the Arts**

(This issue we take a look at three area performance centers and their resources and programs for working with the blind or disabled

community. We look at Wolf Trap, George Mason University Performance Center for the Arts and the Kennedy Center. Cheryl Piper and Kathleen Tozer have researched and compiled the information for this article.)

## The Kennedy Center

### Kathleen Tozer

The Kennedy Center, located on the Potomac River in Washington D.C., is a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy and a world renowned, first class cultural center. The Center is committed to providing accessible facilities and performances to its patrons. There is so much to choose from, including plays, dance, opera, renowned musicians and vocalists, as well as the terrific National Symphony Orchestra. In addition there are many wonderful children's programs.

Now for the best part. I have not attended another venue that provides such considerate, friendly and practical service to its patrons. From the moment of your arrival at the Kennedy Center, there are people who can assist and direct you. There is an accessibility desk where you can get the devices you need. From there, if needed, you can be escorted not only to the proper theater, but right to your seat. The same person will return during intermission, if requested, and, again, at the end of the show to assist you as you leave the Center.

There are far too many details to mention in this article; but, I will highlight some of the accessible features offered. For more detailed information, please call the **Office for Accessibility** at: **202- 416-8727**.

**Special Priced Tickets (SPT's):** A limited number of half-price tickets are available for certain performances and to persons meeting eligibility requirements. Individuals with a permanent disability may be eligible to purchase 2 tickets at 50% off the regular ticket price.

Audio Description: Many performances are audio described. If the one you are going to is not, you may request it by calling the accessibility office. While they do require that this be done 3 weeks in advance, they will try to accommodate shorter time requests, if possible. A schedule of described performances is available on-line or you may request that you receive e-mail notification of up-coming audio described performances. Listening devices are available for those requiring amplification.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Courtesy wheelchairs are available to visitors while in the Center and must be reserved in advance by calling the **Friends of Kennedy Center Public Service Desk** at **(202) 416-8340**.

Accessible Movement Into and Around the Kennedy Center: There are accessible entrances into the building and, once inside, there are elevators, escalators, and ramps allowing access to visitor areas without having to use stairs.

Miscellaneous: Accessible restrooms are conveniently located. Accessible seating is available in all theaters. Large print and braille programs are available for most shows.

Almost finished but, before closing I would like to throw in a couple extras...

Please NOTE: While tours are offered daily, you may schedule an accessible tour by calling the Friends Desk. This is very informative and interesting. If vision impaired, they allow you to touch many objects and describe things very well. The Center houses paintings,

sculptures, gorgeous chandeliers, tapestries and other works of art, many given as gifts from other countries.

Lastly, if you get hungry during your visit, there is the KC Café, which is cafeteria style. This I would not find easy to use without a sighted companion. A more elegant and expensive dining experience and bar is available in the Roof Terrace Restaurant.

During intermissions, there are food carts outside each theater where you may purchase food and beverages.

You may be asking what in the world all this costs. Well, it can range from, what I would consider, a lovely, affordable treat to an out of reach extravaganza. While parking in the garage is a whopping \$22, some may be able to use paratransit or, the metro. The Kennedy Center provides continuous shuttle service which includes a lift, from and to the Foggy Bottom station. With my half price tickets, I have attended symphony and concert performances for as little as \$20.

If a visit to the Kennedy Center is not possible, there are free performances on The Millennium Stage which can be accessed via internet at [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

Again for information on accessibility or special priced tickets, call: the **Office for Accessibility** at: **202- 416-8727** or the **Friends of Kennedy Center Public Service Desk: 202- 416-8340**. You can also check the following website, [www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility](http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility), which lists all of the accessibility features available.

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## Library Friends Honored At Volunteer Fairfax Service Awards

The Friends Groups of the Fairfax County Public Library won the Group Volunteer award at the 2015 Fairfax County Volunteer Service

Awards on Friday, April 24. The Volunteer Service Awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs.

For over half a century, library Friends Groups have played a pivotal role in the support, expansion and enhancement of the Fairfax County Public Library and its 23 branches. Friends Groups support the libraries in a variety of capacities, most notably through their facilitation of used book sales which raise money to sponsor library programs, support the collection and provide needed supplies. Friends groups annually donate a quarter of a million dollars to the Fairfax County Public Library in addition to giving enormously of their time and resources.

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## **Be Active, Have Fun, Meet Friends!**

### **Beep Ball Baseball**

Do you like baseball? Come join the Northern Virginia Pioneer Beep Ball League. All are welcome! Beep Ball is played similar to the game of baseball, consisting of 2 teams of players. However, the ball and bases are electronically controlled to emit sound waves to assist the players.

This is a free program for any individual from age 8 to adults. The games take place on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., from July 1, 2015 through August 26, 2015 at the Falls Church High School. The high school is located at 7521 Jaguar Trail in Falls Church, Virginia. If you have questions or need more information call Mary Navarro, Program Coordinator at 571-275-7973.

Please return your registration to:

Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community  
Services

Therapeutic Recreation Services

12011 Government Center Parkway, 10<sup>th</sup> floor

Fairfax, Virginia 22035

703-324-5532 / TTY 711

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs)

**Bowling---**Capital Area Rail Blazers (CARB) Blind Bowlers of the  
Greater Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

This is a bowling league made up of sighted, partially and totally blind bowlers. You are invited to join them for a night of fun and excitement each week. They are looking for both sighted and blind/visually impaired bowlers.

The league meets on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Meyer Bowling Center in Fort Meyer, Virginia. The season begins on September 14 and lasts for 25 weeks, ending in mid-April. The cost to participate is \$10.00 per night for regular bowlers and a onetime \$15.00 per season fee for substitutes. The co-ed teams consist of two or three members.

The Rail Blazers are always looking to expand. Regular and substitute bowlers are needed. Please tell all your visually impaired friends about the league. There will be a start-up party sometime in August. For more information or to register please call either Richard Benham at 703-451-5372 or league president, Marie Brinas at 571-419-7737. And, of course, your spouses are welcome to join in the fun as well.

The Fort Meyer Bowling Center is located at 224 McNair Road,  
Building #411, Fort Meyer, VA 22211

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## **The Friends of Access Services**

The Friends of Access Services are always looking to grow their membership. Who are the Friends?

They are Talking Book and Home Delivery Access Services customers and the people who care about them. They are other interested parties. They are advocates for providing library services to people who cannot read standard print or cannot access their local libraries due to

vision impairment or physical limitations. They are people interested in sharing their favorite books and authors, their technological discoveries and their practical advice and coping strategies with each other and with you.

The Friends meet quarterly, usually at the Fairfax County Government Center and usually from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Their next meeting is scheduled for July. Call Access Services at 703-324-8380 for more information about their next meeting or to join this fun and active group.

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## 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](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).



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Suite 324  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)



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