

Loud & Clear

WINTER 2009 • Volume 21, No. 1

Low Vision Resource Fair

The Access Services branch of the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) and the Fairfax Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) are cosponsoring the Fairfax Area Low-Vision Resource Fair on January 24 at the City of Fairfax Regional Library. The fair will begin at 10:30 a.m. with speakers and presentations continuing until 4:30 p.m. A long white cane will be given to fair participants who need one. Area blindness and low-vision providers will discuss their resources and services that help those coping with vision loss retain their independence.

The organizations scheduled to be represented include the following: Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), FCPL Access Services, Metropolitan Washington Ear, NFB-Newsline, Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. For parents of blind or low-vision children, there will be resources available from Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) and the Virginia Division of Parents of Blind Children.

For questions or more information, please contact John Bailey, president of the Fairfax chapter of the NFB, at 703-994-2040 or e-mail john_bailey17@hotmail.com.



Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365
FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Survey Participation

We thank everyone who has taken the time to respond to our brief survey about the upcoming transition to the new digital talking book players. Many of you are aware and interested in the new technology. If you have not responded, it is not too late. Please call us at 703-324-8380 and we will complete the survey questions with you.

Any Unused Talking Book Players?

With the transfer to digital technology approaching, the manufacture of cassette players has been discontinued. There are still many machines available at our state resource center, and the cassette players are continually being repaired. However, in anticipation that there will be a greater need for machines, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is requesting that any player that is not currently being used and won't be used in the near future be returned. Please return them to Access Services so someone else can enjoy them. If you need a box, please call Access Services, 703-324-8380 or e-mail us at access@fairfaxcounty.com and we will send it out to you. Thank you for your assistance.

Organizations for the Blind

In its summer newsletter, The Kentucky Talking Book Library published contact information about organizations serving the blind. Access Services thanks our Kentucky colleagues for permission to reprint this article. Local and regional contacts have been added.

American Council of the Blind (ACB). Members include individuals interested in the well-being and rights of the blind. ACB focuses on education, legal advocacy and public awareness. Their monthly newsletter "The Braille Forum" is available through their Web site or in

Braille, cassette, large print and e-mail formats. Contact ACB at:

National

1155 15th St, N.W., Suite# 1004

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-467-5081

E-mail: **info@acb.org**

Web site: **www.acb.org**

Local

Old Dominion Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired

Charles S. P. Hodge, President

1131 South Forest Drive,

Arlington VA 22204

E-mail: **charleshodge@comcast.net**

Web site: **http://www.acb.org/olddominion**

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB). AFB has promoted technology and information since 1921 to help the blind lead healthy, independent lives. AFB's centers for literacy, vision loss and employment have a strong presence in public policy. Helen Keller worked with AFB for more than 40 years. AFB houses archives devoted to her life and writings at its headquarters. Contact AFB at:

National

11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300

New York, NY 10001

Phone: 212-502-7600

E-mail: **afbinfo@afb.net**

Web site: **www.afb.org**

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA). Formed after World War II, BVA provides services for legally blind veterans regardless of whether they were blinded on duty or after completing their service. Representatives, who are themselves blinded veterans, travel the country to counsel veterans and their families about rehabilitation services, assistive devices and other programs. The quarterly newsletter BVA Bulletin is available on the Web site, on cassette and in large print. Contact BVA at:

National

477 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2694
Phone: 202-371-8880
E-mail: bva@bva.org
Web site: www.bva.org

Local

Mid-Atlantic Regional Group
Blinded Veterans Association
Web site: www.margbva.org

In the highest civilization, the book is still the highest delight. He who has once known its satisfactions is provided with a resource against calamity.
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Founded in 1940, NFB is an advocacy organization with 55,000 members. NFB offers public awareness, scholarships, research initiatives and operates NFB-Newsline, a news service for the legally blind that makes local and national newspapers available over the phone. Patrons who are legally blind can sign up for Newsline by calling toll free at 1-800-252-9605. Contact NFB at:

National

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230-4998

Phone: 410-659-9314

E-mail: nfb@nfb.org

Web site: www.nfb.org

Virginia

Fredric K. Schroeder, President

9522 Lagersfield Circle

Vienna, VA 22181

Home: 703-319-9226

E-mail: fschroeder@sks.com

Web site: <http://www.nfbv.org/>

**Never judge a
book by its movie.**

– J. W. Eagan

Note: Local Fairfax chapter, President John Bailey, 703-994-2040,
e-mail: john_bailey17@hotmail.com.

VITA Tax Assistance

The Fairfax County Public Library will offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at selected libraries again this year. IRS-certified volunteers will help taxpayers who have earned up to \$42,000. The program begins the week of January 17 and continues through April 15, 2009. The service will be available at the following libraries: Chantilly Regional Library, Kingstowne Library, Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library and Woodrow Wilson Library. You can call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or one of the participating libraries to learn the days and hours the program will be available.

Enhance Your Library

Please consider the Access Services library as part of your charitable giving. Private donations are critically needed to maintain high-quality library services. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax deductible.

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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.

Five to Save: Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/>

Library of Congress: Science Reference Services. The Library of Congress maintains this site designed for persons looking for science reference material online. Visitors can view webcasts on creating a school garden, look over research guides and learn about "Everyday Mysteries." The "Everyday Mysteries" feature provides answers to questions such as "Who invented electric Christmas lights?" From The Scout Report, Copyright Internet Scout 1994-2008.

<http://scout.wisc.edu/>

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsb/serviceanimals.htm

Service Animals

Information about guide dogs, hearing dogs and other service animals.

<http://www.vdbvi.org>

Department for the Blind & Vision Impaired, Virginia

The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) is committed to providing quality services to assist Virginia's citizens who are blind, deaf/blind or vision impaired in achieving their maximum level of employment, education and personal independence. The department provides an array of specialized services to blind Virginians of all ages to assist them in attaining the skills, confidence and positive outlook that are critical to independence.

Visually Impaired and Hard of Hearing Product Catalogs

<http://www.lssproducts.com/>

LS&S, LLC. "We try because you try" is their guiding motto. Offers products for sale.

<http://www.independentliving.com/>

Independent Living Aids, Inc. "Can-do vision products for your active independent life." Offers products for sale.

Independent Living Project Seminars

The Independent Living Project, sponsored by the Department of Family Services' Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, continues a series of workshops and classes for older adults and adults with disabilities that focus on maintaining safety and gaining independence. The hour-long programs currently take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday mornings at the Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Rd. in the Burke/Springfield area.

The free seminars are:

- January 7 CVS Pharmacy Consults/Preparing for Your Doctor's Visit/
Effective Use of Your Medication
- January 14 Transportation Options in Fairfax County
- January 21 Access Services: Hidden Gems in the Fairfax County
Public Library
- January 28 Improving Your Nutrition

Translation services will be available if requested in advance.

Preregistration is required. For more information, please contact Jennifer Edge at 703-324-7210 or e-mail

Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov

Reading Roundup

Non-fiction Cassettes

At a time of new political beginnings, a chance to reflect on (local/regional) history and some other stuff.

The Founders: the Thirty-Nine Stories Behind the U.S. Constitution

by Dennis Brindell Fradin **RC 63361**

Biographical sketches of the men who wrote and signed the Constitution in Philadelphia, 1787. Includes the full text of the Constitution.

From the Hood to the Hill: A Story of Overcoming

by Barry C. Black **RC 64514**

Autobiography of the African-American U.S. Senate chaplain and retired U.S. Navy rear admiral. Black describes growing up in a Baltimore housing project and finding his way to spirituality and success. Shares lessons he learned about faith, love and family.

Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789–1989

by Michael Beschloss **RC 64647**

To illustrate examples of wisdom and courage, the presidential historian details decisions made by nine American leaders during times of crisis.

George Mason: Forgotten Founder

by Jeff Broadwater **RC 64668**

Biography of landowner, lawmaker and influential member of the Virginia gentry, George Mason (1725–1792). Emphasizes Mason's authorship of Virginia's Declaration of Rights and the state's constitution. Explains his opposition to ratifying the U.S. Constitution because of the absence of a Bill of Rights.

The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court

by Jeffrey Toobin **RC 64971**

Author of **A Vast Conspiracy (RC 49966)** profiles the men and women on the U.S. Supreme Court since the beginning of the Reagan administration. Highlights the issues and internal wrangling.

Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself

by Alan Alda **RC 64972**

Actor Alan Alda muses about what is really important and examines the turning points in his life.

God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything

by Christopher Hitchens **RC 64651**

Journalist and atheist argues a philosophical case against religious faith. Scrutinizes sacred Talmudic, Koranic and Biblical texts and highlights the historical role of religion in war and despotic regimes.

The Boys of Winter: The Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team

by Wayne Coffey **RC 62247**

Sportswriter explains how coach Herb Brooks of the University of Minnesota devised a plan using his amateur players to defeat the professional Soviet hockey team at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid. Includes play-by-play descriptions and biographical sketches of the participants in the surprising upset during the Cold War.

Fiction Cassettes

The Red Hat Club

by Haywood Smith **RC 60263**

Georgia, Diane, SuSu, Linda and Teeny have been friends since high school. Once a month they don purple clothes

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and red hats and meet at Atlanta's Swan Coach House to discuss the latest gossip. When Diane discovers her husband is cheating on her, they plan revenge. Some strong language. Available through FCPL branches in large print and CD formats.

Firetrap: A Novel of Suspense

by Earl Emerson **RC 64112**

Fire strikes a Seattle club, killing 14 African-American patrons. When controversy over the city's ineffective response prompts allegations of racism, black firefighter Trey Brown investigates. But to resolve this mystery, he must confront a painful incident from his past. Strong language, some descriptions of sex and some violence.

Topaz

by Leon Uris **RC 64416**

In the 1960s a Russian defector reveals the existence of "Topaz"— a Soviet spy network operating inside the French government — and the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. French Secret Service agent and diplomat André Devereaux finds his loyalties tested when he analyzes conflicting intelligence reports of threats to both France and America.

White Lies: An Arcane Society Novel

by Jayne Ann Krentz **RC 64478**

Clare Lancaster, a psychic, meets her biological father and begins working for his family's company. Suspected of killing her brother-in-law, Clare searches for the truth while she falls for Jake Salter, a mind reader from the Arcane Society. Available through FCPL branches in large print and e-audio formats.

The Hounds and the Fury: A Jane Arnold Mystery

by Rita Mae Brown **RC 64491**

Septuagenarian "Sister" Jane Arnold, master of Virginia's Jefferson Hunt Club, matches wits with Crawford Howard when he starts a rival event with dangerous hounds. They investigate an insurance scam and a murder. Available through FCPL branches in eAudio format.

Bad Luck and Trouble: A Jack Reacher Novel

by Lee Child **RC 64752**

After the murder of a former army colleague, ex-military cop Jack Reacher contacts his old special investigation unit only to learn that there are more deaths among them. With the help of retired sergeant Frances Neagley and other survivors, Reacher searches for the cause. Violence and strong language. Available through FCPL branches in large print, CD and eAudio formats.

The Tooth of Time: A Maxie and Stretch Mystery

by Sue Henry **RC 64779**

Senior citizen Maxie McNabb's cross-country RV adventure brings her and her miniature dachshund Stretch to Taos, New Mexico, where she befriends divorcée Shirley Morgan. Having lost her savings to a con man, Shirley has apparently attempted suicide. But when Shirley is murdered and Stretch dognapped, Maxie investigates. Available through FCPL branches in CD format.

Books for Children

Shark Life: True Stories About Sharks and the Sea

by Peter Benchley **RC 60894**

Author of Jaws relates his sea-diving adventures and close encounters with creatures of the deep. Discusses what he's learned about shark

behavior, mistakes he's made and advice about avoiding shark attacks and swimming safely in the ocean. For grades 5-8.

Cats to the Rescue: True Tales of Heroic Felines

by Marilyn Singer **RC 64129**

Relates incidents of cats performing amazing feats, from pointing out a gas leak to locating a needed asthma inhaler. Features accounts of cats as war heroes, hunters, world travelers, survivors and fictional characters. For grades 4-7.

Robert and the Practical Jokes

by Barbara Seuling **RC 63344**

As a boys-versus-girls war of practical jokes escalates in his third-grade classroom, Robert finds it difficult to ask a girl's help in learning to dance before a family wedding reception. For grades 2-4.

A Small White Scar

by K.A. Nuzum **RC 64474**

Colorado, 1940. Fifteen-year-old Will Bennon has his heart set on entering his first rodeo. He's fed up with his father's rules and with acting as caregiver for his twin brother Denny who has Down's syndrome. But when Will sets out on his horse, Denny follows him. For grades 6-9.

Happy Belated Birthday, Louis Braille

Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809. The National Braille Press (NBP) celebrates Louis Braille's bicentennial and has launched several projects to honor the 200th anniversary of his birth. More information on these and other bicentennial activities sponsored by NBP is available at **LouisBrailleBicentennial.com** or by calling 1-800-548-7323.

MetroAccess Door-to-Door Service

MetroAccess began door-to-door Services on June 30, 2008, changing their service from curb-to-curb to door-to-door. Under the new initiative, drivers will escort MetroAccess passengers from the first exterior door of the customer's pick-up address into the vehicle and from the vehicle to the first exterior door of the customer's destination address.

Metro wants to remind customers with disabilities that Metrobus and Metrorail are great travel choices for getting around the region. To learn more about MetroAccess, visit http://www.wmata.com/MetroAccess/access_form.cfm.

**She is too fond of books,
and it has turned her brain.
– *Louisa May Alcott***

Bye-Bye Television “Rabbit Ears”

All major television stations will begin broadcasting exclusively in digital on February 17, 2009. People with analog TVs (ones that use antennas to pick up broadcast waves) must install a converter box, subscribe to cable/satellite or purchase a new digital set to continue watching TV. Older adults or adults with disabilities who are having difficulty preparing their analog television for the digital transition can receive assistance from Fairfax County. Telephone assistance, covering questions about the transition process or how to install a TV converter box, is available from the county's Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection. ■ **continued on page 14**

Please contact 703-324-5900, TTY 711, **www.cprd@fairfaxcounty.gov** or visit **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable**.

Some county residents may also be eligible for free assistance to install the converter box from the county's Volunteer Solutions program. Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions program will dispatch volunteers to county residents who fulfill the following criteria:

1. Fairfax County residency;
2. Reached a minimum of 60 years of age or have a disability and are 18 years or older;
3. Unable to install the box and cannot find help;
4. Do not have another television in the home that is digital-ready or connected to cable/satellite.

To request a volunteer, call 703-324-7118(TTY 703-449-1186) or e-mail **DFSAAVOLUNTEER@fairfaxcounty.gov**. Volunteer Solutions is a program of the Department of Family Services' Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and the Division of Adult and Aging Services. For reasonable accommodations call 703-324-5406 (TTY 703-449-1186).

**Books to the ceiling,
Books to the sky,
My pile of books is a mile high.
How I love them! How I need them!
I'll have a long beard by the time I
read them.**

– Arnold Lobel

Upcoming Library Closings

Access Services will be closed on the following days:

Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King's Birthday (Holiday).

Tuesday, January 20, Inauguration Day.

Monday, February 16, George Washington's Day.

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 us at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

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FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual PT.138

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