

LOUD & CLEAR

Winter/Spring 2016

Volume 28, Issue 1

In This Issue

[AS Staff Retirements](#)

[Foundation Fighting Blindness Walk](#)

[Friends Helping Friends](#)

[AS Friends Meeting](#)

[High Volume Digital Talking Book Machine](#)

[Keeping You Reading, Keeping You Informed](#)

[Income Tax Information/Assistance](#)

[Reading Roundup](#)

[More Staff News](#)

[Ford's Theatre *110 in the Shade*](#)

[Web Corner: Expanded](#)

[Upcoming Holidays](#)

[Contact Us](#)

AS Staff Retirements

Two longtime Access Services staff members, Sandy Japikse and Susan O'Boyle, have recently retired, leaving us with holes not only in our staff operations but also in our hearts. We wish both of these fantastic ladies well as they pursue other adventures.

Together these ladies worked nearly 70 years for the Fairfax County Public Library. Susan O'Boyle worked 29 years for the library system, the last nine for Access Services. Many of our customers have benefitted from her endless knowledge of popular mystery and romance writers. All of us have benefitted from her love of books and inexhaustible enthusiasm.

As wonderful as Susan has been, Sandy may have an even more impressive history. She worked for the library for 39 years, 37 with Access Services. Sandy journeyed with Access Services as it has traveled around the county from John Marshall Community Library to Sherwood Hall Regional Library to our current location at the Fairfax County Government Center. She endured the name change from Special Services to Access Services. Sandy was the liaison with the Fairfax County Public Schools and our proofreader extraordinaire.

As the retirement dates loomed closer, I asked each lady what they would be doing. Sandy responded, with her characteristic smile, that the first thing she had to do was clean her house. She also looked forward to enjoying her grandchildren in their academic, sports and theatrical activities. She hoped to do some traveling, perhaps by train, perhaps out to Salt Lake City for some ancestry research. Susan also has grandchildren and she will spend more time with them. She planned to enjoy staying in bed on weekday mornings and attending more Nationals baseball games. They were both glad not to worry about winter driving!

These wonderful ladies will be missed but we are sure that their many new journeys will be filled with laughter, smiles and joy. Come back and visit us any time!

Foundation Fighting Blindness Walk

The Eleventh Annual Northern Virginia VisionWalk takes place at Cameron Run Regional Park on Sunday May 1, 2016. The park is located at 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria VA 22304. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 10:00 a.m.

VisionWalks are the signature fundraising events of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and are held throughout the country. Over 10 Million Americans are affected by blinding retinal diseases including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa and Usher syndrome. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is working to find treatments and cures for these devastating diseases. This event provides support, information and resources to community members.

For more information contact Jo Adams at (703) 437-1935.

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.

New members are welcome! For more information contact Access Services at 703-324-8380.

The Never-Ending Value of Support Groups

By Gloria Sussman (assisted by Nancy Riley)

Over the years, the concept of self-help has grown tremendously. In the world of the visually impaired, the need to be understood and to seek help for our singular problems has been uppermost in many of our minds.

In the early 1980's, after I could no longer read regular print, my husband would drive me to the Special Services library in Alexandria (Fairfax County) to help me select Talking Books and to chat with the branch manager and her one assistant about library services. She had observed that there were quite a few customers of that branch, now called Access Services, who would like to explore the kinds of help which would be available to them. We quickly decided to meet on a regular basis. There were so many things to learn! An invitation was extended to all visually impaired persons who used the Talking Books service. And so a support group was born.

It was decided that regularly scheduled gatherings would be the most effective way for our members to receive and exchange information.

For example, meetings could provide updates on the latest advances in adaptive technology. From hand-held magnifiers to the most sophisticated computers, technology has proved to play a vital role in enabling the visually impaired community to maintain independence. With the advent of the electronic magnifier (CCTV), all kinds of printed material could be read. Today, there are machines which not only magnify the words but also speak them. Vendors are frequently invited to attend meetings and to demonstrate their products.

In addition, a wide variety of pertinent subjects have been explored at our meetings. Over the years we have been given good insight into solutions for our daily needs by professionals such as retinal specialists, low vision optometrists, occupational therapists, transportation providers and representatives from reading services. We have also heard about individuals' personal journeys in dealing with their own vision loss.

We are grateful for the many organizations in this area which supply us valuable information about living a fuller life. And now, in the digital age, we have many more ways to keep up with our peers. To be able to share our concerns and find solutions to our immediate problems is a great reason to be a part of a support group.

Editor's Note:

The Fairfax County Public Library assists and facilitates support groups in Vienna and Reston. They are called VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) and they always welcome new members. The support group in Reston meets at the Reston Regional Library on the first Friday of most months from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and the support group in Vienna meets at the Patrick Henry Community Library on the third Monday from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. NOTE: Both groups do not meet in the summer months. Call Access Services for more information at (703) 324-8380.

AS Friends Meeting

Mark your calendars now. You are invited to attend the next Friends of Access Services Friends meeting on Thursday, April 28. The meeting will be held in rooms 9/10 of the Government Center and will begin at 1:00 p.m. All are invited as this is an open meeting. Come join us!

High Volume Digital Talking Book Machine

NLS has developed a high-volume version of the digital talking-book machine (DTBM) for use by patrons who are hearing impaired. The high-volume player, which is paired with a headset, is available as a standard or advanced (DS-1/DA-1) model that has been programmed to have an amplified volume up to 120 decibels. It can be issued only by NLS and will bear a warning label. The high-volume feature only works with the set of stereo headphones that NLS provides. The pairing replaces the amplifier/headset accessory.

To receive a high-volume player and headset, a patron must provide certification of hearing impairment by a physician or audiologist. An agency may assist an eligible patron with obtaining a high-volume player and headset by downloading a high-volume player application from the following link: [High-volume player application](#) and returning the patron's completed and fully signed application to the NLS.

PLEASE NOTE: We have just received the notification about these machines at the end of March 2016 and we are not sure when they will be available for our customers. Please call us at the general telephone number for Access Services, 703-324-8380, to find out more information about this expanded service.

Keeping You Reading, Keeping You Informed

We strive to get you the material that YOU want to read. If you are getting too many books or not enough books or the books you are receiving are not to your liking please call us and let us know. The general Access Services telephone number is 703-324-8380.

You may have noticed that some book titles are preceded with an additional letter, DBC, rather than just DB and wondered what that meant. A book number beginning with DBC has been digitally recorded by a regional or local library (Not the National Library Service). These titles have met the quality standards of the NLS but are generally titles that reflect the locality where they have been recorded.

Income Tax Information or Assistance

There are many sites throughout Fairfax County where people can receive FREE Income Tax Preparation. If you worked and earned less than \$54,000 then you may qualify. Please call AS at 703-324-8380 for the locations and their hours of service before April 15. Information is also available at the following website: www.nvcash.org.

Reading Roundup

In this issue we feature some of the favorite authors and books from our recent retirees, Sandy and Susan.

The Thin Woman by Dorothy Cannell **DB 66292** (Mystery)

Ellie Simons, beautiful but overweight, hires escort, Bentley Haskell to pose as her betrothed on a visit to her Uncle Merlin's imposing estate. Ellie encounters unexpected romance and a treasure hunt when Merlin suddenly passes away, leaving his fortune to her and Bentley--provided that she sheds sixty pounds. 1984.

Into Thin Air by John Krakauer **DB 44525**

A journalist's first-hand report on the ill-fated Mt. Everest expedition of May 1996 in which a freak storm claimed the lives of nine adventurers. Describes the grueling ascent of the climbers, their sense of elation at reaching the peak, and the tragic events that followed. Strong language. Bestseller.

The Windflower by Sharon & Tom Curtis **DB 71027** (Historical Romance)

During the war of 1812, eighteen-year-old American spy, Merry Wilding is kidnapped by pirates but refuses to divulge any information. Devon Crandall, a British agent on board, resists the temptation to ravish Merry even as she falls in love with him. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 1984.

Concannon Sisters Trilogy by Nora Roberts

Born in Fire **DB 39873**

Maggie Concannon is a glass artist who pours her heart and soul into her creations and enjoys working alone. Then her work comes to the attention of Rogan Sweeney, an art gallery owner, and her world is turned upside down. Maggie quickly becomes an international sensation but wonders if her new-found fame is worth the change in her lifestyle. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

Born in Ice DB 41122

In this sequel to **Born in Fire (DB 39873)**, Maggie Concannon's sister, Brianna, has turned the family home into a bed-and-breakfast. Brianna is excited to have a paying guest for the cold winter: American mystery writer Grayson Thayne. She also discovers that her late father has a third child in America and that he made one last long-shot investment before he died. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

Born in Shame DB 41996

The Concannon sisters, Maggie and Brianna, **Born in Fire (DB 39873)** and **Born in Ice (DB 41122)**, finally meet the half-sister they recently discovered. Shannon Bodine, having just learned her true father was an Irishman, accepts the offer to travel to Ireland to learn about her roots. It is there Shannon begins to dream of storms, white horses, and a circle of standing stones. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller.

Reflections from the North Country by Sigurd Olson DB 58735

Collection of essays by conservation activist and award-winning nature writer Sigurd F. Olson (1899-1982). Olson's recollections of his wilderness adventures in the northern United States and arctic tundra reflect his "understanding of man's long relationship to nature, all living things, and the universe itself." 1976.

Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway DB 70447

Sarajevo, 1992. A cellist plays Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor as a memorial on each of twenty-two days following a mortar attack that kills twenty-two citizens who are standing in a bread line. The music deeply affects a sniper, a father, and an older man. Inspired by historic events. 2008.

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline DB 76746

Foster teen, Molly, is sent to ninety-one-year-old Vivian Daly's house on coastal Maine to perform community service. As Molly cleans the attic,

Vivian reminisces about emigrating from Ireland, losing her family, and being sent to Minnesota on an orphan train--and the two connect. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas **DB 58685**

Author recollects her family's adjustment to American culture after moving from Iran to California in 1972 when she was seven. In a series of vignettes, Firoozeh describes her father's amusing attempts to assimilate, her uncle's penchant for fast food, and their experiences during the Iranian revolution. 2003.

Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka **DB 73858**

In the early 1900s a group of Japanese women, mainly daughters of Buddhist farmers, sail to San Francisco as mail-order brides. Most discover a life of hard labor and prejudice. Their children grow up American--but then come the World War II internment camps. PEN/Faulkner Award. Bestseller. 2011.

The ladies also listed as favorites books by M. C. Beaton, particularly those with the Scottish detective, Hamish Macbeth, and Anne Hillerman who is carrying on her father's (Tony Hillerman) stories about Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee.

More Staff News

Two new staff members, Jerry Herrera and Rob Harsher, have joined the Access Services staff as Reader Advisors. Jerry has been with the Fairfax County Public Library for 16 plus years and has most recently been the Circulation Manager at the Burke Center library (8 years). Rob has been either a volunteer or a part time staff member for Access Services for over 10 years. He has helped AS by selecting and delivering books to retirement communities and senior centers around the county. Please help us welcome them as they settle into their new positions. Both gentlemen are excited to be joining us and look forward to serving you. As always, we want to keep you reading!

Ford's Theatre *110 in the Shade*

In the summer 2015 issue of Loud and Clear the 'Friends helping Friends' article featured the accessibility of several performance centers. Ford's Theater, located at 511 10th St NW in Washington, DC 20004, has performances that can be enjoyed by the blind and hard-of-hearing communities also. Their theater season ends with the current production *110 in the Shade*. A synopsis follows:

In sweltering 1950s Texas, headstrong and eternally single Lizzie Curry dreams of a romantic life with someone who is her equal. When a charming stranger named Starbuck swaggers into town, he vows to end the region's drought and awakens Lizzie to the promise she holds within. Ford's Theatre presents this classic American musical about cowboys, confidence and courtship, based on *The Rainmaker* and featuring a lively score from the creators of *The Fantasticks*. Local favorite Tracy Lynn Olivera stars as Lizzie.

110 in the Shade

Sign-Interpreted: Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Captioned: Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Audio-Described: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday April 30, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Ford's Theatre offers audio-described, captioned and sign-interpreted performances. Seats for an audio-described, captioned or sign-interpreted performance can be purchased through Ticketmaster [online](#), via phone at 800-982-2787, or in person at the Box Office.

Web Corner: Expanded

Fairfax County Services for Older Adults

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsThe Division of Adult and Aging Services, Adult Protective Services, Adult Services, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging invite you to investigate these programs and services: Adult Day Health Care, Adult Protective Services, Care Management/Social Work, Caregiver Support and Respite, In-Home Care, Health Insurance Counseling, Meals on Wheels, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living, Recreation, Transportation, and More!

Information specialists can discuss these and other services for older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers in the Fairfax area. Call **703-324-7948** for more information.

National Federation of the Blind-NEWSLINE <https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service>

This is a FREE service to those who cannot read regular newsprint! There are over 300 newspapers available. Every day, a subscriber can choose that day's, the previous days', or the previous Sunday's issue of any newspaper in the service. On NFB-NEWSLINE[®], the user can easily choose which newspaper, section, and article to read using a standard touch-tone telephone. The menu provided allows the user in addition to the 300 newspapers there are 40 magazines. NFB-Newsline now has TV listings, weather reports, Target store circulars, and job listings. Each state has an Information Channel with announcements of upcoming events, and other items of interest to blind and visually impaired people. Originally, the only access was by telephone but there is also an accessible website that enables the user to read articles online, or to download to a computer or stand-alone player. It is <http://www.nfbnewslineonline.org/>.

Anyone who cannot read printed newspapers due to vision loss, dyslexia, or a physical disability is eligible to receive NFB-NEWSLINE[®]. Register by calling the National Federation of the Blind toll-free at 1 (866) 504-7300 to request an application. After your registration is processed, you'll receive a letter containing your activation codes and instructions on how to begin reading the newspaper with NFB-NEWSLINE[®].

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-866-504-7300 for more information.

Upcoming Holidays

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2016

Fourth of July, Monday, July 4, 2016

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.



Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Suite 324
Fairfax, VA 22035
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



A Fairfax County, Va.,
publication

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