

Loud and Clear

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Access Services Open House

Access Services wants to extend to you and your family or your caregiver an invitation to our Open House on Thursday, June 20, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Open House will take place in the Fairfax County Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA. The opening remarks will be in Conference Room 2 / 3 and one-on-one training for downloading books and magazines will occur in the Access Services offices, Suite 123.

Kara Zirkle, the Information Technology Accessibility Coordinator from the Assistive Technology Initiative at George Mason University will begin the event with a presentation on the challenges people with disabilities face when using modern personal technology devices and the solutions to be found.

Ms. Zirkle will provide an overview of the built-in technology, including the accessibility tools and features that are now available in computers and mobile devices. She will explain the differences and similarities between items such as the iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, Android, etc. Finally she will discuss some inexpensive accessories or apps that may provide greater utilization of these devices. And, there will be opportunity for your questions!

After Ms. Zirkle's opening, Access Services staff members will offer one-on-one training on how to download books and magazines from the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) database. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you or a family member to learn how to utilize this resource so you have a greater selection of books available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Appointments for this segment of our Open House will be scheduled beginning Monday, May 20.

We look forward to meeting you and to answering your questions.

BARD Features

If you haven't been to the BARD database lately, do check out these highlighted features:

For the latest books and magazines that are available to download click on 'Recently added books and magazines.' This lists the titles that have been added to BARD within the last 30 days, with the latest additions on the top of the list.

Another fun and interesting search is to explore the 'most popular books' and see what other BARD users are downloading.

If you, a family member, or a friend has a computer with a high speed Internet connection, an email address and a blank cartridge or a storage device called a 'flash' or 'thumb' drive you can take advantage of the BARD database. If you have questions, please give us a call at 703-324-8380, send us an email at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov** or come and visit us at our Open House on June 20.

Palliative Care Program at Chantilly Library

On Thursday, March 7 Chantilly Regional Library will host a program entitled: **How Can Palliative Care Help Me and My Family?** Dr. Tom Sullivan will lead the program. Dr. Sullivan graduated from George Washington University School of Medicine in 1982 and is the Director of Palliative Care at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

Palliative Care helps families with difficult discussions and decisions throughout the process of a serious disease. A team of doctors, nurses and other specialists work together, often with a focus on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of the illness--- whatever the prognosis. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage of the illness.

This free program will take place in the Meeting Room of the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, Virginia on Thursday, March 7 at 11:00 a.m. For more information or to register for the program please call 703-502-3883, ext. 4.

Fairfax County Transportation Survey Please Help

Fairfax County wants to better understand the travel patterns and transportation needs of people with disabilities and older adults who live in Fairfax County, and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Your answers will help the county improve transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities.

The questionnaire consists of 27, mostly multiple choice questions. It is estimated that it should take about 10 minutes to complete. Someone can help you complete this survey, but please ensure that the responses are from your perspective. To take this survey online please go to the following address: **<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mobilityoptions>** For a print version or a different format of the survey please contact Jill Clark at 703-324-5874, TTY 703-449-1186.

The survey is sponsored by the Fairfax Area Mobility and Transportation Committee, which reports jointly to the Fairfax Area

Disability Services Board and the Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council.

Reading Roundup

Love was in the air (Valentine's Day)... Favorite Romance writers you may not have discovered (Thanks to staff member **Susan O'Boyle** for the author tips.) These authors have many titles that have been recorded. I have highlighted their most recent recording.----Ken

Contemporary Romances

Head over Heels by Jill Shalvis **DB 74672**

In this sequel to **The Sweetest Thing DB 73376**, the youngest Traeger sister, Chloe, is used to doing things her own way in her own time, but Sheriff Sawyer Thompson is about to put a stop to that. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language.

On Lavender Lane: A Shelter Bay Novel by Joann Ross **DB 74604**

Humiliated after her philandering husband's sex video goes viral, television chef Madeline Durand returns home to Shelter Bay to help turn her grandmother's farm into a restaurant. Former Navy Seal, Lucas Chaffee--who broke Madeline's heart years ago--is also on the project. Some violence and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Other Contemporary authors to explore: Sherryl Woods, Susan Andersen

Historical Romances

To Desire a Devil by Elizabeth Hoyt **DB 74077**

London, 1765. Beatrice Corning is hostessing a tea for her uncle when a wild-looking man staggers in. Reynaud St. Aubyn, thought to have been killed in battle, is the rightful heir to her uncle's title. Now a traitor's target, Reynaud fascinates Beatrice. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence.

This Is All I Ask by Lynn Kurland **DB 73366**

England, 1249. Gillian is terrified when the knight known as the Dragon of Blackmour proposes to her, unaware that the Dragon is blind--and that he had promised her late brother he would rescue Gillian from their abusive father. Descriptions of sex, some strong language, and some violence.

Other Historical Romance authors to explore Lisa Kleypas, Julia Quinn

Reading Roundup (Part 2)

....Or, perhaps, your February heart is more apt to be captured by these words.... "Pitchers and catchers report..." check out these titles about the Grand Old Game.

Wherever I Wind Up by R. A. Dickey **DB 74762**

Autobiography of the journeyman knuckleball pitcher, who was cut from his first professional team, the Texas Rangers, when doctors discovered that Dickey lacks a ligament in one of his elbows. Describes his impoverished Nashville upbringing, his quest for a career, and his Christian faith. 2012

The Captain: the Journey of Derek Jeter by Ian O'Connor **DB 74217**

Biography of New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter (born 1974) chronicles his childhood in Kalamazoo, Michigan; his 1995 major-league debut; and his career highlights, which include five World Series rings and five Gold Glove awards. Also recaps Jeter's contentious late-2010 contract negotiations. Some strong language. 2011.

The Last Hero: a Life of Henry Aaron by Howard Bryant **DB 73047**

Biography of baseball legend Henry "Hank" Aaron (born 1934), who broke Babe Ruth's home-run record in 1974 while playing for the Atlanta Braves. Examines Aaron's childhood in segregated Mobile, Alabama; his

1954 debut with the Milwaukee Braves; and indignities he and other African American athletes endured. Some strong language. 2010.

Field of Screams: Haunted Tales from the Baseball Diamond, the Locker Room, and Beyond by Mickey Bradley and Dan Gordon **DB 73223**

The authors continue their anecdotes about weird happenings in the world of baseball begun in **Haunted Baseball (DB 67877)**. In "New York's New Jersey" a construction worker recalls burying Red Sox paraphernalia under the new Yankee stadium's freshly poured concrete in 2007. 2010.

Fill your late winter days with whatever wonderful reading you most want. Contact Access Services at 703-324-8380 today.

Staff News

Join us as we toast two members of our staff and celebrate their Fairfax County Government Service Awards:

Susan O'Boyle, Reader Advisor, has been working in the Fairfax County Public Library for 25 years...and

Sandy Japikse, Reader Advisor, has been working for the Library for 35 years (24 of those 35 years have been with Access Services).

Congratulations and a job well done, ladies.

Applause, Applause

We at Access Services want to thank the many customers who have donated monetary gifts in order that we may improve our services to our customers. We are grateful for every gift.

With your donations we have purchased hundreds of blank digital cartridges which we use for the digital recording of LOUD & CLEAR. There are also plans to expand and update the marketing material that Access

Services uses to publicize our programs in Fairfax County. There will be new posters, flyers, and magnetic notepads. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Foundation Fighting Blindness VisionWalk Northern Virginia

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness will be hosting its 8th annual VisionWalk on Sunday, April 21 at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax, VA. VisionWalks are the signature fundraising events of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and are held throughout the country. This event provides support, information and resources to community members affected with vision impairment due to retinal diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and related conditions.

Join with hundreds of other supporters for the Northern Virginia 5K VisionWalk. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the Walk starts at 10:00 a.m. It is a morning the entire family can walk together on the behalf of blindness research and awareness.

For more information on participating, visit the website: www.FightBlindness.org/NoVaVisionWalk, or contact Heather Medina, the local Events Manager, at HMedina@FightBlindness.org, or 410-423-0625.

Web Corner

Online Tip: One to Improve Internet Viewing

Did you know that when you are online, if you hold down the Ctrl key, while pressing the + key once or more, the on-screen font size will increase for each press of the + key? Conversely, Ctrl - will decrease the font size for each press of the - key.

This works on any website and in many browsers, including Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Internet Explorer. Also, the browser *should* remember your preferred font size for each website when you revisit it.

Many folks (of any age) will find this method faster and more convenient than using the browser menu to adjust the font size.

Digital Magazines Update

In the last issue of **Loud and Clear** an article mentioned that “Early in 2013 the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) will convert audio magazines from cassette tapes to digital cartridges.”

At this time, there has been no further information regarding digital magazines. They will still be forthcoming, but the timeline has been adjusted to ‘sometime in 2013.’

If you currently enjoy magazines on a recorded cassette, you will eventually need a digital talking book player to enjoy them in the future. If you need a list of titles or other information on magazines please call Access Services at 703-324-8380.

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.