**Dots and Dashes**

**December 2, 2024**

# **Exercise Your Creativity and Help Make National Park Brochures Accessible**

Join the 2025 Descriptathon and help make national parks more accessible! ACB, the National Park Service, and UniDescription (UniD) are recruiting volunteers on the blindness spectrum to create audio descriptions for selected national park brochures. Teams are composed of people who are sighted and people who are blind or have low vision, all of whom will collaborate to describe maps, paintings, and visual images within park brochures. All meetings are held remotely, so you might find yourself learning about a park in your state or across the continent.

The Descriptathon will take place February 25–27, 2025. Volunteers are expected to attend all three full-day sessions. Participants will likely spend ten hours of prep time in the five weeks before the kick-off on February 25 (approximately two hours a week). During this prep time, team members will learn about audio description, how to use the UniD tool to describe their brochure, and get to know their teammates. Four to six hours might be needed to finalize the brochure description after the three-day event. Volunteers should have solid computer skills and be comfortable learning new technology.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in the creation of accessible materials and demonstrate the power of "nothing about us without us." It's a chance to meet new people, develop technical and communication skills, learn about national parks and audio description, build confidence, and have fun.

If this sounds great and you're ready to commit and join a team, please complete this short online form: [**D11 Registration form**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A//mandrillapp.com/track/click/31066765/forms.office.com?p=eyJzIjoiSnJTdWtEaXFpTWhoU0VHNTkwRFN4R3Q0OVBrIiwidiI6MSwicCI6IntcInVcIjozMTA2Njc2NSxcInZcIjoxLFwidXJsXCI6XCJodHRwczpcXFwvXFxcL2Zvcm1zLm9mZmljZS5jb21cXFwvcGFnZXNcXFwvcmVzcG9uc2VwYWdlLmFzcHg_aWQ9dXJXVEJoaExlMDJUUWZNdlFBcFVsTzlLa1lOWjN4bER0ZGE5eHZqd3dWTlVRMFJaVGtwYVRrNDVRMUpLUWpGYVZrdzRUVVkzTWtRelR5NHUmcm91dGU9c2hvcnR1cmxcIixcImlkXCI6XCIyNjM2ZjhjYWQ4MDI0NWM2YTg4YmExNDBhYTUyZWFmNVwiLFwidXJsX2lkc1wiOltcIjY3MGQ0MjYwNGEwMjZkNzhjMWU5MWIzMjBjMzgzZTU1OGMxYjhjOTlcIl19In0__;!!PvDODwlR4mBZyAb0!S0Rwcjj3EuV0ZgiEtvPGqCvN7k_5NTfwHhpHi_3eD3SwKry55SZaPIvl97zomI6pi0zBMztub9AoDatOlgtoWoRk48gkBUiSJg$) or email **brett.oppegaard@hawaii.edu**and tell him ACB sent you!

# **2025-2026 CCLVI Scheigert Scholarships**

The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI), an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, annually awards four scholarships in the amount of $3,000 each to full-time college students. Scholarships are awarded to freshman, undergraduate, and graduate students, all of whom must be low vision, maintain a strong GPA and be involved in school/local community activities.

Application materials must be received by **11:59 p.m. Eastern time February 15, 2025.** Scholarship monies will be awarded for the 2025-2026 academic year. To access the guidelines and application, visit [**http://cclvi.org**](http://cclvi.org) and click on the Scheigert Scholarship link.

Applications will be available to complete and submit online from **January 1, 2025 to the February 15 deadline.** Questions may be directed to 1-844-460-0625. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

# **ACB-Ohio 2025 Post-Secondary Scholarships**

The American Council of the Blind of Ohio offers several scholarships each academic year. The application and reference forms may be accessed at [**www.acbohio.org/scholarships**](http://www.acbohio.org/scholarships). See the included checklist at the end of the cover letter for a full list of requirements.

The scholarships are:

* $1,000 Friends of Freshman Scholarship: Presented to a blind or low vision entering freshman in any field of study.
* $3,000-$5,000 ACB-Ohio Scholarships: Awarded to one or more blind or low vision student in any field of study, or sighted student in a field of study directly benefiting the blind and low vision community. This scholarship is open to students in trade or technical schools, 2- or 4-year undergraduate degree programs, graduate degree programs, or other post-secondary study, such as for continuing education, special certification, or licensure. If the applicant does not have a visual impairment, they should clearly indicate how their course of study will benefit the blind and low vision community.

Applicants must:

* Be an Ohio resident or attend an Ohio postsecondary school.
* Be blind, low vision, or in a field of study directly benefiting the blind and low vision community.
* Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale

## **Application Process:**

Following the application deadline (March 31, 2025), the scholarship committee will reach out to you via e-mail to schedule an interview with two committee members. This interview will take place via Zoom or phone call during the second half of April on a mutually agreed upon date and time.

Finalists will be notified by May 15.

All scholarship recipients will be asked to complete a short audio recording with a scholarship committee member for use during the ACBO state convention.

## **Additional Information:**

Past scholarship recipients are eligible; however, an application must be completed each year to be considered. Additionally, all scholarship recipients will be given complementary or discounted admission to an ACBO event or an event of one of the five ACBO chapters (located in Cleveland, Medina, Stark County, Columbus, and Cincinnati).

Send completed forms to **scholarships@acbohio.org**with your last name and "Scholarship Application" in the subject field, or send application packet to:

ACB-Ohio Scholarships

3805 N. High Street

Suite 305

Columbus, OH 43214

Degree of financial need is not the sole determinant in the selection process. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2025, if mailed, or no later than 11:59 p.m. on that date if e-mailed.

# **Welcome the Holidays with Sunday Edition and Friends in Art**

The holidays are almost upon us, and Sunday Edition host Anthony Corona is inviting Friends in Art back on Sunday, December 22 from 1 to 3 p.m. Eastern time. The show will be dedicated to musical or spoken word holiday themed content.

How to submit your recording:

The deadline to submit is **December 15**. The family-friendly contribution must be five minutes in length or less. Performances can be: spoken word, a cappella, piano or guitar accompaniment; all other musical performances must contain the meta-data to be played at the holiday showcase. The file name must include your last name and the title of the piece, i.e., "Santa song jones." Send your submission to **showcase@friendsinart.org** and include "submission for Sunday Edition" in the subject line.

Deadline for submissions is midnight Eastern time on December 15, 2024. Late submissions will not be included.

Here's Ho-Ho Hoping to hear from you.

Questions or comments? Contact FIA president Annie Chiappetta, **president@friendsinart.org**.

# **California Elects First Legally Blind Representative in 12th District**

Lateefah Simon is the first legally blind woman to be elected to Congress representing California's 12th Congressional District, which is home to over 750,000 people across Alameda County, and includes Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and San Leandro. You can find her biography here: [**https://www.lateefahsimon.com/about**](https://www.lateefahsimon.com/about)

# **Sight Tech Global**

The Sight Tech Global conference will be held virtually December 4th and 5th. One of the featured events is a virtual ride-along with two Vista Center staff members in a Waymo autonomous vehicle. Learn about the accessibility features available for blind and low-vision riders, such as turn-by-turn audio navigation to the car, as well as descriptive audiocues describing what's happening during a ride, and where to find controls.

You also will hear from some of the most interesting leaders in digital accessibility and assistive tech – people who are thinking about making the world more inclusive one groundbreaking solution at a time.

To register, visit [**https://sighttechglobal.com/**](https://sighttechglobal.com/).

# **Blind Health Expo**

The 3rd annual Blind Health Expo will be held Friday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern. The Blind Health Expo is the world's largest virtual expo of healthcare information, products, and services for individuals, organizations, and companies in the health, blindness, and disability communities. The event is free to attend. To register, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/3xy6yze8**](https://tinyurl.com/3xy6yze8).

Some of the exhibitors include ACB Diabetics in Action, the Pennsylvania Council of the Blind, APH, The Blind Kitchen, Penny Forward, and Vanda Pharmaceuticals.

For more information, visit [**https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blind-health-expo-2024/**](https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blind-health-expo-2024/).

# **Jam with the Fil**

The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School is hosting an event called "Jam with the Fil" on Saturday, December 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. Eastern time. This event is free and open to new students ages 16 and up.

Under the guidance of FMDG’s faculty, we’ll learn a song (or two) and perform it together as a group. If you've never picked up an instrument before (or you're a little rusty), that's no problem at all. We’ll have a variety of ways to get involved in the groove and allow you to discover where you best fit in!!

After jamming out, we'll have pizza, refreshments, and time to mingle with your new friends.

Location: 92NY, Room S251, 1395 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10128

To register, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/3uwrtsmd**](https://tinyurl.com/3uwrtsmd).

# **Many Faces of BARD**

The next edition of the Many Faces of BARD will be held Thursday, December 12, 2024. The topic will be "Advanced Searching: A Deep Dive into the NLS Catalog." The program will begin with a presentation by Dominick Spinelli, head of the NLS Collection Development Section. After the presentation, we will entertain questions about the presentation or anything else relating to BARD.

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time and last for one hour. NLS will record this program. The session can be joined by going to [**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1619779493?pwd=ATouY0yZdgcnFyoUtqHT43HkSoJwGc.1**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/loc.zoomgov.com/j/1619779493?pwd=ATouY0yZdgcnFyoUtqHT43HkSoJwGc.1__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!YeflHq_Z2rqccDZuvV-PwCvRlkbBv2cJ72hFLZTbyir9FlyAJ_ELyiaNd4x4E54XzZ626WbMFkhfY0aHyqdARHV2m1EPHXt6a2H7UQ$).

If you're using your telephone to participate in the call, dial

1-669-254-5252 and use meeting ID 161 977 9493. For Spanish, dial 1-646-964-1167, and use the same meeting ID. The passcode is 7323464.

# **News from the Xavier Society**

The New American Bible (Revised Edition)is now available on BARD andin Talking Book! Professionally recorded, this format is compatible with the Talking Book machines provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. To find it on BARD, look up [Old Testament DBC30100](https://nlscatalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1197118) and [New Testament DBC30101](https://nlscatalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1197120).

# **Holiday Cards from NBP**

National Braille Press has brought back a classic favorite holiday card this year. The front has the words "comfort and joy" in red print and braille, below a small, cozy cabin nestled among snow-covered trees, under a snowy sky. The cabin is decorated with festive holiday lights, and its windows glow with warm light as the chimney emits smoke. Inside reads: "May the spirit of the season fill your heart and home" in green print and braille.

For more information, visit [**https://shop.nbp.org/products/holiday-cards-comfort-joy-2024**](https://shop.nbp.org/products/holiday-cards-comfort-joy-2024).

# **Screen Reader Users Needed for Paid Research Study**

uTest, a leading platform connecting freelance software testers with top global brands, is currently partnering with a client on a crucial accessibility initiative and looking for your assistance. They are seeking individuals in the United States who are blind and rely on screen readers to participate in a paid research study. Participants will be compensated $200 for a 60-minute session. Additionally, there's a $50 referral bonus for each person you refer who successfully completes the study. To qualify, participants must use a specific financial institution.

If you are interested in participating, visit [**http://link.utest.com/inclusive-banking-study**](http://link.utest.com/inclusive-banking-study).

# **Retrospective Study on Social Isolation of B/VI Students**

Jonathan Karli is a doctoral student at Drake University, and he is conducting a retrospective study to examine the levels of social isolation students with visual impairments experience during high school. He seeks feedback from adults with visual impairments whose last year of high school was 2004 or later. The survey should take 15 minutes or less to complete.

**Survey Link:** [**https://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_6Jqp8kDZiJ9322a**](https://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Jqp8kDZiJ9322a)

# **Invitation to Participate in Research on Accessible Video Games**

Leonard Grill, a current student at the [St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences](https://www.fhstp.ac.at/en) in Austria, is working on his bachelor's thesis. He plans to develop a game that can be enjoyed by folks who are blind. He would really appreciate the feedback of blind and visually impaired players or game developers. The survey is brief (10-15 minutes), and includes questions about your gaming experiences and preferences. It has an option to participate in an evaluation by playing the game that he is developing.

**Survey Link:** [**https://forms.gle/ri9XTCUwf1itDrBt7**](https://forms.gle/ri9XTCUwf1itDrBt7)

If you have any questions, contact Leonard via email, leonard.grill@colorado.edu.

# **Graduate Student Team Needs Your Input**

Yujiao Liu and her team of graduate student researchers at Georgia Institute of Technology is exploring how to design inclusive, user-friendly digital solutions that empower visually impaired artists to express their creativity. As designers who also have vision impairments, we want to create a solution to a problem space that requires better accessibility.

While there are many ways for people with visual impairments to consume art, we want to create an accessible solution for those who are interested in utilizing digital software.

We are interested in hearing about your experiences with creating digital art. The survey link is below. Selected interview participants will be rewarded with a $20 Amazon gift card.

**Survey Link:** [**https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_0CFXa5NCstPqYnA**](https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0CFXa5NCstPqYnA)