**Dots and Dashes**

**April 22, 2024**

# **Thank You from ACB Media!**

The American Council of the Blind and ACB Media warmly thank Allyson Bieryla, Science Center Astronomy Lab and Telescope Manager, Harvard University Astronomer, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and her team at Harvard as well as the network of volunteers who brought us a once in a lifetime experience of the April 8th total Eclipse of the sun utilizing the LightSound device.

The entire event as it was broadcast on ACB Media 2 and Zoom is now available as a podcast in the ACB Events podcast feed (RSS <https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-events>).

You can access this podcast directly at:

* [Play / Download Total Eclipse broadcast](https://pnc.st/s/acb-events/6885b334/20240408-experience-the-april-8-2024-total-eclipse-of-the-sun-the-lightsound-project)

You can also access this podcast with ACB Link and the ACB Media website:

* [Total Eclipse broadcast acbmedia.org](https://www.acbmedia.org/category/events/)

This event drew the largest audience in the history of ACB Media/Radio since the eclipse of 2017, which was audio-described on ACB Radio by the ADP Project.

We greatly appreciate the outpouring of thanks and gratitude that we’ve received since the broadcast. We all owe Harvard a huge debt of gratitude for their commitment to make this total eclipse accessible to us. This device has been in development since the eclipse of 2017, and was originally designed to aid blind students at Harvard with their labs. Harvard distributed over 900 LightSound boxes free of charge to members of our community across the country. We would also like to thank Elliot Richards, the electrical engineer who designed and built the LightSound boxes, for his expert technical assistance.

Thank you for your continued support of ACB Media, and as always, stay tuned!

— Rick, Larry and the entire ACB Media Team

# **Last Chance to Complete the Leadership Conference Survey!**

Last call to complete the D.C. Leadership Conference survey! If you participated in the conference in-person in Arlington or virtually at home, ACB would appreciate your feedback on this event. Complete the feedback survey online at [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6JDFP86**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6JDFP86). If you are unable to complete this survey online, call Kaitlyn Herrera at (202) 467-8967 to complete the survey over the phone. Responses will not be accepted after Sunday, April 28th.

# **A Note from the ACB Secretary:**

# **Delegate Information Needed**

Convention time is fast approaching and voting is a vital part of the convention experience. That means I need information from all of you.

What I need: the name, email address, and contact phone number of your affiliate delegate and alternate delegate. I also need to know if they will be attending the convention in person or virtually. I also need the name, email address and phone number for the person who will be representing your affiliate on the nominating committee.

The deadline for sending this information to me is **May 12, 2024.** Please email it to me at **colleyd1952@gmail.com**.

If you have any questions, contact me by email, or call me at (360) 280-0077.

# **Resolutions and Proposed Constitutional Amendments Due April 25, 2024**

Resolutions should be specific and measurable: why we need to take action; what action should be taken; who is responsible for the action; when it should be completed. Resolutions about the distant future are not as useful as those with specific actions to be taken during the next year or two.

Constitution and bylaws amendments should describe why the change is recommended and the expected impact.

You will be notified when the appropriate committee will consider your proposal and it is expected that you or someone representing your views will attend that discussion to give input.

All resolutions and constitution and bylaws amendments may be sent to **advocacy@acb.org**and will be distributed to the appropriate committee. Get them in by **April 25, 2024.**

# **Convention Corner – Marketplace**

If your affiliate has something to sell or information to hand out, consider purchasing a table at Marketplace. Read on for all the details.

* Are you an entertainer or author with CDs or books to sell?
* Do you sell crafts, cosmetics, toys, etc.?
* Is your affiliate looking for a fundraiser?
* Do you have information to distribute before a specific general session?

Consider ACB’s Marketplace if you will only be at the convention for one or two days, or the long hours of the exhibit hall are too much.

ACB’s Marketplace will be located near general session and is one of the highest traffic areas in the conference and convention. It is open before each morning general session begins, and is filled with something new and exciting every day.

Your Marketplace booth will include a draped 6-foot display table and two chairs. Space is limited, and tables will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables are $25 each, and you may reserve space for one or two days only; specify the days you prefer when registering. **No food items may be sold at Marketplace.**

Marketplace will be open Monday, July 8 through Thursday, July 11, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. To reserve a Marketplace booth, contact Michael Smitherman at (601) 331-7740.

# **Calling All Candidates!**

The ACB Board of Publications is pleased to announce the 2024 Candidates Pages. If you’re running for a position on the ACB board or on the Board of Publications, you get the opportunity to introduce yourself to the membership by responding to the four questions provided below. Your response to each question should not exceed 300 words.

1. Introduce yourself, and explain why you wish to serve as a director on the ACB Board of Directors or a member of the ACB Board of Publications.
2. What have been your strongest contributions to ACB at the national, state or special-interest affiliate, ACB Community, and/or local chapter levels, and why are these significant?
3. Like many not-for-profit, membership-driven organizations whose missions revolve around advocacy and support, ACB has chosen in recent years to adopt the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). How does ACB’s stated mission of supporting people who are blind intersect with these core organizational values? If elected, what specific actions will you take to increase diversity, promote equity, encourage inclusion, and support accessibility within ACB, and how will you persuade members who are reluctant to embrace these principles to support DEIA as core ACB values?
4. What is the most important challenge facing ACB? How will you work to address it?

Send your Candidates Page, either in the body of an email or as a Word attachment, to **slovering@acb.org**, with the subject line “My Candidates Page.” **The deadline for all submissions is 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Monday, May 20, 2024.** Visit [**www.acb.org**](http://www.acb.org) for more information.

# **Meet the 2024 BADIE Essay Contest Winners**

The Audio Description Project (ADP) and the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) are proud to announce the winners of the 2024 BADIE awards. Celebrating the Benefits of Audio Description In Education, the contest invites students who are blind or have low vision to watch an audio described (AD) video and write an essay evaluating the quality and usefulness of the AD.

This year’s winners are:

## **Grand Prize**

Lyla Duffy, Washington

Review of I Am Ruby Bridges

## **Seniors (ages 16 to 21)**

First place: Charles Johnson, Washington

Review of Little Bighorn: The Native American View

Second place: Cai Tague, California

Review of Vibrations

Third place: Agatha Holloway, Washington

Review of Getting a Job! For Students Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired: Introduction to Getting a Job!

## **Juniors (ages 11 to 15)**

First place: Avett Maness, Ohio

Review of Chip Taylor Communications Musical Moment

Second place: Errion Gary, Ohio

Review of I Am Ruby Bridges

Third place: Zara Gandhi, Ontario, Canada

Review of It's Okay To Be Smart: How Blind People See With Sound

## **Sophomores (ages 7 to 10)**

First place: Emi Constandache, California

Review of Star Wars, Episode 9

Second place: Deisy Jimenez, Ohio

Review of Mary Fisher

# **Apply Now for the Samuel Genensky - Carl Foley Magnification Award**

CCLVI has 3 iPads to award to individuals with low vision.

This annual award is in honor of Samuel Genensky, founding president of CCLVI, and Carl Foley, a very caring distributor of magnification devices, who took great care in providing the correct magnification device for each person he served.

To be considered for this award, applicants must have low vision, need the device to magnify print for educational, work, or independent living purposes, and be familiar with Apple products or demonstrate the ability to learn the technology required in order to utilize magnification available on the iPad.

Applications are being accepted through Friday, May 3rd, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. For more information, visit

[**https://cclvi.info/magnifier/**](https://cclvi.info/magnifier/).

# **Iowa Council of the United Blind**

# **Offers New Scholarship**

Iowa Council of the United Blind is now offering a one-year, non-renewable $2,500 college scholarship to be available for the 2024-2025 academic year. This scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior planning to attend a fully accredited community college, college, or university on a full-time basis. The ICUB membership invites eligible students with a broad range of business, professional, skilled/technical, or service career aspirations to apply. All application materials should be submitted to the ICUB Scholarship Committee by **May 15.**

Applicants for this scholarship must be:

* A 2024 high school graduate
* A legal resident of the state of Iowa
* Blind or legally blind
* Have a minimum high school cumulative grade of B

Applicants must submit to the Scholarship Committee:

* A completed ICUB scholarship application form
* Documentation of legal blindness by a certified medical professional
* Verification of acceptance by an accredited post-secondary institution
* An essay of approximately 650 words discussing briefly educational or career goals and explaining why the applicant should be considered for the scholarship
* Three reference letters from individuals sufficiently knowledgeable to address the applicant’s academic ability or other characteristics or experiences relevant to probable future success

You can find the application online at [**https://www.icublind.org/post/empowering-the-future-the-new-iowa-council-of-the-united-blind-scholarship**](https://www.icublind.org/post/empowering-the-future-the-new-iowa-council-of-the-united-blind-scholarship). Any questions may be addressed to **President@icublind.org**.

# **Virtual Poetry Circles**

National Braille Press will hold two virtual poetry circles tomorrow, April 23rd. The theme of this year’s poetry circles is “Connection.” What is connection? What does connection or being connected mean to you? If you sign up, then you will have the opportunity to share a poem about connection. It could be a poem written by yourself or another author.

This year, there are two sessions so that everyone has a chance to participate. One will be at noon, the other at 7 p.m. Eastern time. The noon session will be hosted by Peter Altschul, and the 7 p.m. by Deborah Kendrick.

For more information, or to register, visit [**https://share.hsforms.com/18UVSXpwTRmGMtnRDCBO\_pg1fsnq**](https://share.hsforms.com/18UVSXpwTRmGMtnRDCBO_pg1fsnq).

# **AAPD National Community Event**

The AAPD National Community Event will be held virtually tomorrow, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg will join the AAPD National Community Event as a Special Guest! Secretary Buttigieg will share with the disability community how the Biden-Harris administration is working to make transportation more accessible to all. Tickets for the event are free and open to everyone. Visit [**https://tinyurl.com/5n6zjb9n**](https://tinyurl.com/5n6zjb9n) to get your ticket.

# **Chicago Lighthouse Scholarships**

Applications are now being accepted for The Chicago Lighthouse’s Lader Family Scholarship Program for the 2024-25 academic year. The Lader Family Scholarship is open to Illinois residents who are blind, vision impaired or multi-disabled (vision impaired with an additional diagnosis) who are pursuing any type of accredited post-secondary education, including associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, professional certifications, or post-collegiate graduate studies.

Scholarships are between $1,000 and $5,000 and are based on a variety of factors, including need, area of study and overall strength of application. Scholarship recipients will be expected to attend the award ceremony on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at The Chicago Lighthouse.

Applications must be completed before **9 a.m. on April 29th.** You may apply online at [**https://chicagolighthouse.org/program/lighthouse-scholarship/?mc\_cid=a4e3736d9e&mc\_eid=22cf83ca70**](https://chicagolighthouse.org/program/lighthouse-scholarship/?mc_cid=a4e3736d9e&mc_eid=22cf83ca70).

# **Texas A&M Transportation Institute Survey**

Are you a member of the blind or low vision community who rides public transit? Are you at least 18 and live in the United States?

If so, you can help improve how transit information is provided to people who are blind or low vision by taking a Texas A&M Transportation Institute survey. To indicate your interest or learn more, call (979) 393-0168 or email **BLV-Info@tti.tamu.edu**.

You will be asked a few questions to confirm your eligibility and then you can fill out the survey online or by phone.

Complete the survey by the deadline, and you’ll get a $10 gift card of your choice and be entered to win one of five $100 gift cards!

The deadline to complete the survey is **April 30, 2024.**

To help us reduce fraudulent responses, please **do not post this invitation to social media.**

# **Student Survey**

Liora Haimoff and a few of her classmates are doing a survey, and would like your assistance. To take their survey, visit [**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1XjTFG34WF-z4KFCfIqGwDI3vR8X3fED93bQTT0evfDst0g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1XjTFG34WF-z4KFCfIqGwDI3vR8X3fED93bQTT0evfDst0g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)**.** The survey will close on May 13th. If you have any questions, or are unable to complete the survey online, contact Liora by email, **haimoffliora@gmail.com**.