



June 15, 2017

Bluegrass Council of the Blind, Inc.
1093 South Broadway, Suite 1214
Lexington, KY 40504
info@bcbky.org 859-259-1834

JUNE COMMUNITY OUTING, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017 6:45 – 8:15 PM

For our June community outing we will go to the Lyric Theatre for the Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour. This will be on the evening of June 19, the third Monday of June. The doors open at 6:15 and they ask everyone to be seated by 6:45 for the 7:00-8:15 p.m. show. The show will consist of two performances - The Looping Brothers: A Bluegrass band from Germany, and Still on the Hill: a duo playing traditional Appalachian music. Normally tickets sell for \$10, but we will receive tickets at a discount of \$5 each. Everyone is responsible for their own ticket and will purchase their ticket at the box office when they arrive. Be sure to mention that you are with the Bluegrass Council of the Blind to receive your discounted ticket for \$5. The Lyric Theatre is located at 300 East Third Street in Lexington. To attend please RSVP at 859-259-1834, by Thursday, June 15, 2017, and Susan will contact you by phone with specific meeting instructions. Please pay for your Wheels ride and BCB will reimburse you after you arrive at the theatre.

LUNCH AND LEARN SESSION, JUNE 21, 2017

TITLE: Accessing Professional Counseling

FOR WHO: Open to Everyone (specifically recommended for BCB Mentor Participants)

WHEN: Wednesday, June 21, 11:30 – 1 PM

WHERE: 1093 S. Broadway Suite 1220 (BCB Community Room)

On Wednesday, June 21 we will host a lunch and learn session with Jeremy Smith, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, specializing in counseling people with disabilities. This session will be for all current BCB Mentors, for anyone interested in the mentoring program, and open to anyone else who may be interested in the topic of professional counseling.

The BCB Mentoring Program pairs people up one on one to help address issues related to blindness and vision impairment. However sometimes there may be issues that are best addressed by referral to an outside professional therapist or counselor. Jeremy will talk about what professional counseling is and how the process of counseling works. He will also address who might be appropriate for referrals and how to go about making referrals.

We will meet on June 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the BCB Community Room. A lunch will be provided. Please RSVP at 859-259-1834 for this event by Monday, June 19 if you plan on attending. This Lunch and Learn session is presented as a Follow-Up Training for current BCB Mentors, but is open to all consumers, professionals or anyone interested in learning more.

BCB MEMBERSHIP MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

The BCB quarterly membership meeting will be from noon until 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 15th. This is open to all BCB members and potential members or guests. We will have fried chicken from Lees, door prizes and a 50-50 drawing. Come and have fun, meet others, and learn more about BCB. If you would like to become a member and be eligible to vote in the September meeting, just ask and we will give you an application. Annual dues are \$10 and we also have sponsorship money available for those who cannot afford this. Please consider joining us for this picnic lunch and meeting which will be in our air conditioned community room.

JUNE PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

The June Peer Support meeting will be Wednesday, June 28, 2017 from noon – 2:00 pm. Rebecca Shepherd-Smith, a registered dietician and personal chef will be our June Peer Support guest speaker. Rebecca will be working with BCB to begin discussions on health and nutrition. RSVP at 859-259-1834 by June 26th.

NUTRITION DISCUSSION GROUP

Rebecca Shepherd-Smith, our June Peer Support speaker, will be offering small group discussions on the topic of diet and lifestyle including nutrition consultation and advice on meal planning. These discussions will be held at the BCB office. We do not yet have a start date but the groups will likely be held on Thursdays. Susan Ament will be coordinating this activity and needs to know if there is sufficient interest. For information call Susan at 859-259-1834.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

We will do food distribution after the Peer Support meeting for those who qualify for God’s Pantry Food Bank. If you received food last month, please bring your reusable grocery bag to the Peer Support meeting on June 28th.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH EXCEPT NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR WHEELS PASSES

1. When you RSVP for an event, please state how many passes you will need.
2. Please get your Wheels passes upon arrival at BCB events and outings.
3. When attending outings, you will need to pay for your ride when boarding Wheels and we will provide reimbursement passes to you at the event.

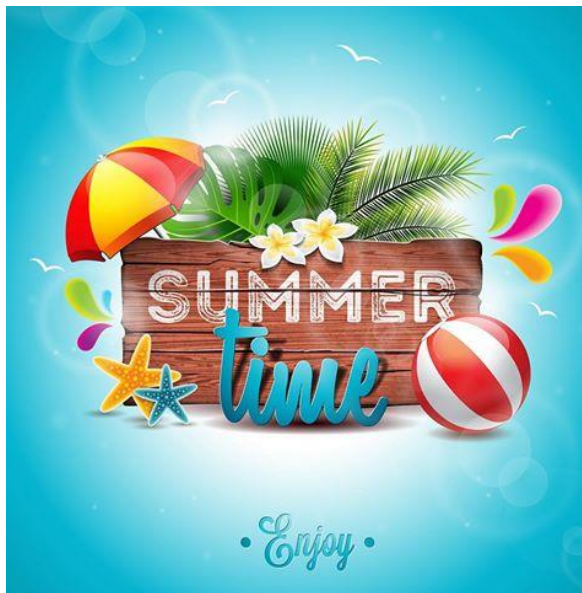
As a courtesy to the BCB staff, we respectfully ask that you schedule your Wheels rides or other transportation as close to the beginning and ending times of your appointment or BCB event. This allows the staff enough time to get their work done with minimal interruptions. Thank you.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Our Thursday Night Live fundraiser is approaching quickly – August 17!
We need volunteers to pour beer, work the information stand and the booth selling water and drinks, and to give away BCB free items. We need 20 volunteers to fill two shifts -10 for first shift and 10 for second shift. The hours are 4:30 to 9:30 and the location is the Fifth Third Pavilion at Cheapside Park (251 W. Main Street in Lexington. If you are interested and or know anyone interested in volunteering, please call 859-259-1834.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- Patsy Rose – June 2**
- Ada Hall – June 7th**
- Joan Bostrom – June 8th**
- Olive Christmyer – June 12th**
- Gail Klement – June 12th**
- Carla Ruschival – June 17th**
- Yvonne Helm – June 18th**
- Jeff Spoon – June 19th**
- Lawana Taylor – June 20th**
- Shawn Childers – June 24th**
- Fred Ament – June 25th**
- Cindy Foster – June 28th**
- George Mills – June 30th**



AT LENDING SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

There are several great technology items for demonstration and lending at BCB. Due to insuring the protection of BCB technology items, we will only be able to loan items to smoke-free environments, however there are items for distribution that you can keep. For more information, call Sam Seavey at 859-259-1834.

ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

The BCB Assistive Technology Access Center (ATAC) has some extra cassette and CD players for distribution. We also have iPhone 4 and 5 cases for distribution. If you are interested in these or other items, call 859-259-1834.

DISTRIBUTION UPDATE:

BCB has acquired a donation of batteries in various sizes that are available to our consumers for distribution from the Assistive Technology program. If you are in need of batteries for devices such as: task lamps, cassette players, hand-held magnifiers or other helpful devices, please contact our office. We also have 9 Volt batteries available for smoke detectors. Please check to see what size batteries you need and contact Sam at 859-259-1834. We will have these available for distribution at the June Peer support meeting, or by appointment with Sam.

PHONE APPS FOR DISTRIBUTION

We still have KNFB Reader and Digit Eyes phone apps available for distribution.

1. The **KNFB Reader** app is an essential tool for anyone with low vision, visual impairments, difficulty reading, reading disabilities such as dyslexia, as well as blind individuals. It reads anything from menus, bills, documents, signs, mail, PDFs and JPEG files and more for immediate and easy access!

How It Works: Simply take a picture of any text with your device and the app reads it aloud or displays it with a connected Braille display. The app uses high-quality speech to text and OCR for accuracy. The app helps you get a good photo with viewfinder assist, tilt assist, and automatic text detection. It navigates by line, sentence, word, or character and has synchronized text highlighting. It can read multiple pages and is fully accessible using Google TalkBack.

2. **Digit-Eyes** - Scan UPC / EAN codes and hear the names of over 37 million products! Make your own QR code labels on the Digit-Eyes website and print them on inexpensive address labels. These barcoded labels may contain text that VoiceOver reads aloud or they can be used to record audio on your phone or tablet that is played back whenever the bar code is scanned.

Record your own labels. Make text-based labels. Use the manufacturer's product code to find out what the item is. Print labels directly from your phone on your Bluetooth-connected printer. Use Digit-Eyes with any blue-tooth connected laser scanner, integrated as a single unit. Use of the free Digit-Eyes website comes with the product. The website contains extensive tutorial material designed for users who are low to no vision. There is also included free online support and tutoring. For more information or for a demonstration of the KNFB Reader or Digit Eyes app, call Sam Seavey at 859-259-1834.

The KNFB Reader and Digit Eyes apps were purchased with grant funds due to the generosity of The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels and funding from the Blue Grass Community Foundation Early Childhood and Literacy Grant.

HISTORY OF THE CCTV (Information from Access World Magazine)

When Sam Genensky, inventor of the closed-circuit television (CCTV; also known as a video magnifier), was a boy in the 1940s, he had a powerful pair of binoculars adapted, so he could use his one good eye to look down the left side to read books and down the right side to see the chalkboard. Genensky eventually earned a doctorate in mathematics. At that time, William Feinblum had not yet developed the first low-vision lenses.

The period 1946-1949 saw an explosion in the purchase of television sets by the general public, but it was the following decade that witnessed the birth of color television, the remote control, and interesting uses of the transistor. It was during this time that the technology that was used in the first CCTV-video magnifiers reached maturity.

NEWS FROM ITN (Independent Transportation Network)

If you are a member of ITN, your rides to a medical eye care professional are now free. This is possible thanks to a generous grant from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. Just let the ride coordinator know the doctor's name and the name of the practice. For your convenience, ITN ride coordinators can make detailed notes with special instructions for their drivers. For example, will you be waiting in the lobby or up in the suite? Should the driver call you when he or she arrives? Will you be riding alone or accompanied by a relative or a pet (at no extra charge)? Is there a suite number at your destination where they can more easily locate you? This information helps drivers customize every ride to best serve you. If you are not currently a member of ITN and want more information you can contact them at 859-252-8665. Membership costs include an annual fee of \$50 and then individual rides are billed at less than the cost of cab fare.

AMAZON LAUNCHES A LOW-COST VERSION OF PRIME FOR CUSTOMERS ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

(<http://tcrn.ch/2rQS0XP>) Article from June 6, 2017 at www.techcrunch.com

Amazon announced today it's making its Prime membership program more affordable to customers on government assistance programs, including food stamps. The program, which requires that customers have a valid Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card to qualify, will bring the cost of Prime down from \$10.99 per month to just half that, at \$5.99 per month instead.

The program will be available to any U.S. customer with a valid EBT card – the card that's commonly used to disburse funds for a number of government assistance programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC). The card will only discount the cost of using Prime – it cannot be used to make purchases on Amazon.com, nor can it be used to pay for membership. The discounted membership will have all the perks associated with Prime, including free streaming video and music, free photo storage, access to the Kindle lending library, ability to shop from Amazon's Essentials – the retailer's low-cost line of everyday products, access to Prime Now (where available), and more.

Finally, there's the fact that Amazon, along with a number of online retailers, are working with the government on a program that will allow customers for the first time to use their food stamps (SNAP) via e-commerce websites.

Announced earlier this year, the USDA-led program is working with Amazon, Walmart, Thrive Market, FreshDirect, and other grocers to test how SNAP benefits could be used to pay for qualifying items – largely fresh goods, like those from Amazon's Fresh grocery delivery service, as well as some packaged goods, like cereals, which are also available through Amazon Pantry. The pilot begins in early 2018.

Customers can learn more about the program and sign up for a 30-day free trial at amazon.com/qualify.

JUNE CALENDAR:

Thursday, June 15, 2017 from noon – 2:00 pm – BCB Quarterly Membership Meeting at BCB, 1093 S. Broadway, Suite 1214, Lexington.

Sunday, June 18, 2017 – HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!!!

Monday, June 19, 2017 from 6:45 – 8:15 pm – Community Outing at the Lyric Theatre, 300 East Third Street, Lexington.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Lunch and Learn at BCB, 1093 S. Broadway, Suite 1214, Lexington.

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 from noon – 2:00 pm – Peer Support Meeting at BCB, 1093 S. Broadway, Suite 1214, Lexington.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Beginning in July, we will be sending the Newsletter on the 1st of the month only. On the 15th of each month we will send a Calendar of Events to keep you updated with what is going on at BCB.

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**FREE MATTER FOR
THE BLIND AND
HANDICAPPED**

**«Name»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»**