



January 1, 2018



Bluegrass Council of the Blind, Inc.
1093 South Broadway, Suite 1214
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JANUARY COMMUNITY OUTING

The BCB January Community Outing will be an easygoing lunch at Charley Brown's Restaurant and will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 8th. Charley Brown's has been a Lexington and Chevy Chase tradition for over 30 years and is a rustic spot for sandwiches, appetizers & beverages in a cozy setting with books, a fireplace & a patio. The restaurant is located at 816 E Euclid Avenue. To RSVP for the lunch, call the BCB office at (859) 259-1834.

JANUARY PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The BCB Peer Support Group Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 24th from noon to 2 p.m. in the BCB Community Room. Lunch is still to be determined, and Ms. Vanessa Snowden, with Lexington Parks and Recreation will be the guest speaker. If you plan on attending, please RSVP by January 22nd by calling (859) 259-1834.

FOR LOVE & SIGHT – A TRIBUTE DINNER CONCERT, BENEFITING BCB



On February 9, 2018 Talon Winery and entertainer Ralph Curtis and The Nashville Impostors are hosting a Glen Campbell tribute dinner concert, benefiting Bluegrass Council of the Blind (BCB).

The event will take place on Friday, February 9th, 2018 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Ca"Barn"et Barrel Barn at Talon Winery, 7086 Tates Creek Rd, Lexington, KY 40515.

This romantic evening is not only the celebration of the love of Valentines or the beautiful music of Glen Campbell, but also to help bring awareness to f the growing needs of services for people affected by vision loss. Talon Winery is providing one of the most unique venues in the area, great food and wonderful wine paired with the memorable music of Ralph Curtis and The Nashville Impostors to make this a magical and charitable Valentine's event! General admission tickets include one glass of wine, dinner and the concert and are priced at \$57.50 per guest. To make the evening more memorable, a limited number of reserved tables will be available for \$500 (seating 6 guests) and will include additional benefits such as a table placed in the best position in the room for sight and sound of the show, early event entry, valet parking, and complimentary wine tasting. For more details and a link to purchase tickets today, please visit the BCB Special events page at http://bcbky.org/special-events/.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018



Members are crucial to the development and leadership of our organization. Our members provide guidance and direction for BCB staff and programs. For as little as \$10 per year, you can become a part of the community that is changing lives of the blind and visually impaired. Membership with BCB also includes membership with the American Council of the Blind (ACB). Together, you will be

connected with thousands of individuals who provide support and share information about issues related to vision loss. If you can and want to contribute more to the membership fund, please accept our heartfelt thanks. Your dollars will be put to the best possible use helping assist blind and visually impaired people lead safe, healthy and independent lives! Please call the office to update us on any changes in your personal information. If you are new to BCB, call our office today at (859) 259-1834 to request a membership application by mail or visit our website at bcbky.org to download and print an application from home. Thank you for being a vital part of our community!

If you would like to become a BCB member, or would like to renew your membership but cannot afford dues, we have a limited number of scholarships available. For information on 2018 membership scholarships, call (859) 259-1834.



“COOKING WITH TESS” – BCB COOKING CLASS

On Thursday, February 8th, BCB’s very own Tess Flynn will be leading a cooking class from 1 – 2 p.m. where she'll be focusing on measuring ingredients and using the oven. Limited space is available so RSVP soon by calling (859) 259-1834.

CCLVI SCHEIGERT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

Application materials must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Time March 15, 2018. Scholarship monies will be awarded for the 2018-2019 academic year. To access the guidelines, application and vision certification form, visit <http://cclvi.org> and click on Scheigert Scholarship link.

Applications will be available to complete and submit online from January 1, 2018 to the March 15 deadline. Questions may be directed to scholarship@cclvi.org or call (844) 460-0625.

BOOK OF THE MONTH



Bunnicula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery

Book Number: DB65299

Access: Downloadable talking book.

Location: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.nls/db.65299>

By: Howe, Deborah; Howe, James.

Reading time: 1 hour, 46 minutes.

Read by Virginia Kearns.

Harold, the family dog, recalls the time the Monroes brought home a cute baby bunny they found at a Dracula movie and named him Bunnicula. But Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that the rabbit is really a vampire. The first in a series of fun, family-friendly stories.

Disclaimer: The book recommendations and opinions from staff and others do not reflect the opinions of Bluegrass Council of the Blind, Inc.

If you have an audio book recommendation from Kentucky Talking Books Library, please let us know.

SEEING AI APP UPDATE

With the latest update, Seeing AI offers new features and customizable options! The app now boasts more currency recognition, adding British pounds, US dollars, Canadian dollars, and Euros to its tally. Going beyond the color in a scene, it can also spot the color of specific objects, like clothes. Plus, it's no longer restricted to just short printed text, with handwriting recognition now part of its skill set. You can also customize the voice that it uses to speak its observations out loud, and set how fast it talks. Finally, a musical light detector alerts you to the light in an environment with an audible tone -- Microsoft claims the tool will save users from having to touch a hot bulb or LED battery to check if it's on. Despite the big update, there's still no word on an Android launch. To learn more about the app or to schedule a demo, call the BCB office at (859) 259-1834.

THANK YOU TO BCB VOLUNTEERS!



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers that helped out this past year! Our volunteers helped in so many ways from cleaning the office, working at BCB fundraisers, helping at events and meetings, assisting with the newsletter and mailings, ordering food for the meetings, soliciting donations and so much more!

BCB is very honored that our volunteers believe in what we are doing and wish to be an important part of giving to the blind and visually impaired in the region! Many thanks for your kindness and generosity in 2017! You are the reason for the great success and accomplishments of Bluegrass Council of the Blind!

LYFT IS MAKING THE APP MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED RIDERS & HERE'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Article provided by: Joey Couch via Kcbnews

Lyft has made accessibility a priority in 2017. First, in April, it announced its partnership with the National Association of the Deaf, along with changes to the app that would make it more accessible for deaf and hard of hearing riders and drivers. Now Lyft is embracing its visually impaired riders by announcing its new partnership with Aira, which will make Lyft more accessible for visually impaired riders.

Aira "develops transformative remote assistive technology that connects the blind with a network of certified agents via wearable smart glasses and an augmented reality dashboard that allows agents to see what the blind person sees in real time." Folks who sign on with Aira receive a pair of sleek silver glasses equipped with Aira technology. If they need assistance, they simply tap the side of their glasses, and one of Aira's trained agents will be able to assist them, through microphones and cameras set into the glasses, with tons of tasks, including navigation, reading everything from restaurant menus to books, and, thanks to the new partnership, calling and taking a Lyft.

A press release from Aira explains that Aira agents will now be able to initiate Lyft rides for Aira users - called "explorers" - as well as "convey important information about the ride, including the location of designated pick-up spots, estimated time of pick-up, and the estimated fare." Aira agents will also be able to tell explorers their driver's name and vehicle information, "provide navigational information to users as they walk the last 50 feet to their destination," a Lyft rep tells Bustle, and will be able to track the ride from their Aira dashboard to ensure the rider arrives safely. You can see the Aira-Lyft partnership at work in this video.

Finding reliable transportation is one of the biggest challenges facing people with visual impairment, and though some cities make navigation easier for the blind and visually impaired, ridesharing has been an independence-boosting game-changer for folks who are blind or visually impaired. Considering Lyft is available to 95 percent of Americans, and Aira serves 300 million blind and visually impaired folks around the world, according to a press release from Aira, the partnership is set to help millions of people access rides they can count on.

Suman Kanuganti, Aira founder and CEO, said in a press release that "Lyft is committed to be a model for the type of community we want our world to be: diverse, inclusive, and safe. Aira's mission is to give people who are blind or low vision the power of information. I am psyched about this partnership as it's designed to provide an end-to-end enhanced experience that makes traveling more accessible to the blind and low vision community, anytime and anywhere."

Aira operates using Wi-Fi data powered by AT&T, so users have widespread access to agents through plans starting at \$89 per month for 100 minutes of agent help time (glasses included). The only limitation is that Aira agents are not

available 24/7; instead, they're available from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. CST, seven days a week.

Gyre Renwick, vice president of Lyft Business, tells Bustle in an email that Lyft is excited to partner with Aira "to reach a new population of underserved riders." Renwick added, "Our mission is to improve people's lives with the world's best transportation, and to better connect communities, and our work with Aira enables us to do just that."

Renwick calls this "another very important step in our efforts to provide better transit solutions, and ultimately better experiences, for those who are hard of hearing or low vision."

While plenty of companies talk up their commitments to diversity, it's absolutely vital they make useful, quantifiable changes to their apps that will make them equally as accessible to disabled folks as they are to abled folks. Lyft has pledged to continue making changes that will add to its accessibility, opening transportation opportunities for more and more people in the months to come.

Article Link: <https://www.bustle.com/p/lyft-is-making-the-app-more-accessible-for-visually-impaired-riders-heres-why-its-important-7640659>

UNITED WAY 2-1-1

There's 411 and 911, but you can text or call 211 when you need help and don't know where to turn. 211 is a contact center connecting people with available resources like food, housing, health care, senior services, child care, legal aid, volunteer opportunities, and much more.

Instead of multiple calls leading to dead ends, with one text message or call to 211, people can reach a trained specialist who will assess the full scope of their needs and match them to the right services. 211 also assists during times of disaster, providing critical information about evacuation routes, food, and shelter. Need help? Text your 5-digit zip code to 898211 or dial 2-1-1.

Also – Beginning January 17th, Kentuckians living in Fayette and many surrounding counties can dial 2-1-1 to find information on free tax preparation sites near them. For information about tax preparation sites outside the 2-1-1 calling area, taxpayers may call Community Action Kentucky at (800) 456-3452.

BCB WINTER WEATHER PLAN



BCB follows Fayette County School delays and closings in the winter. In the case of bad weather or public holidays, it is best for you to call the office, (859) 259-1834, the morning of an event to be sure we are open before you venture out. PLEASE STAY SAFE!!!

Beginning this month, BCB will be changing the audio format of the monthly Newsletter and Events Calendar. We will be moving into the 21st century and offering the Newsletter on USB flash drive instead of cassette tape. Flash drives can be played easily on a Kentucky Talking Book Library digital audio player. If you would like to sign up to receive the BCB Newsletter via flash drive or would like assistance in applying for a Kentucky Talking Book Library digital audio player, call the BCB office at 859-259-1834.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:



JANUARY 8, 2018 – The BCB January Community Outing will be an easygoing lunch at Charley Brown’s Restaurant and will be from noon to 1:30 p.m.

JANUARY 24, 2018 – The BCB Peer Support Meeting will be from noon to 2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 8, 2018 – “Cooking with Tess” Cooking class will be from 1 – 2 p.m. at BCB. The topic of the class will be measuring ingredients and using the oven.

FEBRUARY 9, 2018 – For Love & Sight Benefit Dinner Concert at The Barn at Talon Winery will be from 7 – 9 p.m. Proceeds from this special event will go to BCB!

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**FREE MATTER FOR
THE BLIND AND
HANDICAPPED**

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