



The Sight-Loss Support Group of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.

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The OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 2013

**Official Newsletter of the Sight-Loss
Support Group of Central PA, Inc.**

NFB OF PA 2013 CONVENTION IN STATE COLLEGE!

No traveling to Harrisburg this year! The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of PA is holding their annual convention in State College from November 8th-10th at the Atherton Hotel. Be prepared for a meeting of the minds, a gathering of the canes, and a new worldview. A worldview free of "I can't" or "don't try"; one that assumes parity and equality for blind people. If you've never been to an NFB convention, it's an eye opening experience.

Highlights of Friday's offerings include a Parents of Blind Children Seminar, a meeting to discuss the special needs of deaf-blind persons, a PA Association of Blind Students Seminar, and a demonstration of new tactile graphic drawing software. On Saturday,

the main day of the convention, there will be a variety of speakers including reports from the national NFB and the Library for the Blind Services. An evening banquet wraps up the day. Find more information and register on-line at nfbp.org/convention.

PaTTAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2013

The PaTTAN Assistive Technology (AT) EXPO, held each November, is the perfect venue to see the latest offerings in assistive technology. Once again luck is with us and the EXPO is being held in State College. This is an opportunity not to be missed. The EXPO will be held on Wednesday, November 6th at the Ramada Inn on South Atherton St. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the exhibit hall is open from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Concurrent product presentations by exhibitors will be held in adjacent conference rooms from 10:30 am to 3:45 pm with a break for lunch from 12:15 to 1:00 pm. Anyone can attend and the EXPO is free!

The AT EXPO provides educators, families and service providers opportunities to explore a broad range of AT devices and software. Exhibitors include manufacturers of products for individuals with blindness/low vision including magnification devices and alternative computer access. Products for augmentative and alternative communication, as well as tools to support students who struggle with reading and writing will also be available. Consultants will be on hand to answer questions and provide insight into AT products and features.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch: Thursday, November 21, Mount Nittany Residences

The Lunch Bunch always shares a simple lunch and excellent conversation. All are welcome; just bring a sandwich – drinks are “on the house.” Mount Nittany Residences is located at 301 Rolling Ridge Drive behind Hills Plaza.

WEST SIDE STORY

More than fifty years ago, one musical changed theatre forever. Now it’s back and mesmerizing audiences again.

WEST SIDE STORY will be performed – and AUDIO DESCRIBED – at Eisenhower Auditorium on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:30 P.M.

From the first note to the final breath, WEST SIDE STORY soars as the greatest love stories of all time. The Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim score is considered to be one of Broadway’s finest, and features such now-classic songs in the American musical theatre as “Something’s Coming,” “Tonight,” “America,” “I Feel Pretty,” and “Somewhere.”

This revival, based on Tony Award-winning librettist Arthur Laurents’ Broadway direction, is as powerful, poignant, and timely as ever. An Associated Press critic writes, “WEST SIDE STORY remains Broadway’s best dance-driven musical. Five decades have not dimmed the extraordinary choreography or the score that pulsates throughout.”

To procure free tickets for this performance call the SLSG office as soon as possible (238-0132). If you have used our audio description services before and have an account set up with the Center for the Performing Arts, you may call Shannon Bishop at the Eisenhower Auditorium box office directly at 865-5011.

Those who would like to further enhance this theatrical experience are advised to stop at the Audience Services desk in the Eisenhower lobby by 7:00 P.M. to pick up earphones and receivers to use (FREE!) for the evening, be shown to their seats, and hear the special pre-show audio notes given by the audio describers. Pre-show notes, "setting the stage" for the evening, (so to speak!) will begin promptly at 7:15 P.M.

WEST SIDE STORY is recommended for ages 13 and older. Please be advised that there is strong language, violence, and some sensitive subject matter that is true to the story and plot. Parental guidance is suggested. A small portion of the lyrics and dialogue in this revival production are in Spanish, but it's not necessary to understand Spanish to understand the story line.

PAM'S CORNER

Santa is waiting for your wish list. Here are a few suggestions.

UNDER \$20

_____The 17" X 22" large print wall calendar for 2014 with space to log appointments costs \$3 for legally blind (free shipping) or \$8 for sighted (covers calendar cost at \$5 and \$3 shipping). Available from Susquehanna Foundation for the Blind (SFB), 244 N. Queen Street, Suite 301, Lancaster, PA 17603-3585. To order, phone SFB at 1 (717) 393-5894 or call the SLSG at 1 (814) 238-0132 to request an order form.

_____Cool Touch Microwave Bowl from Gold Violin Helpful Products for Independent Living is a 24 oz. capacity microwaveable bowl within a bowl. The Interior ceramic bowl heats food while the exterior plastic bowl with easy grip handles lets you grab meals straight out of the microwave. A lid prevents

splatters and is a great option for those with unsteady or weak hands or for kids. Even though the food is piping hot, the bowl stays cool! Item #92596 available in blue or red for \$12 by phone at 1 (877) 648-8466 or online at www.goldviolin.blair.com.

Talking Digital Tire Gauge from Maxi Aids, Item 151069 for \$19.95, clearly announces the tire pressure measurement and also displays the number on a large digital LCD display. It features an ergonomic pistol grip handle for easier positioning, measures pressure between 5-99 PSI, and runs on a button cell battery which is included. Order online at www.maxiaids.com or by phone at 1 (800) 522-6294.

PRODUCTS RECOMMENDED IN "THE OUTLOOK" 2013

NuWave personal induction cooktop, featured in February 2013 newsletter, is a stand-alone single burner cooktop which features customized temperature for cooking (from 100-575 degrees F.) with cool-to-touch cooktop, and simple controls which can be tactually adapted if desired. Check audio description out at www.nuwavepic.com. To order or ask questions call 1 (800) 676-5270. Warning—know the final price of your order to be charged to your credit card; they tack on lots of S&H for each item!

The iBill2 Paper Money Identifier, featured in March 2013 newsletter, is a small portable device which recognizes all US bills in circulation with clear announcement by speech, tone or vibration. Available from Blind Mice Mart for \$114.99. Protective case is available for \$6.25. Use www.blindmicemegamall.com for online orders or by phone at 1 (713) 893-7277

The Pikstik Pro, featured in the April 2013 newsletter, is a light-weight reacher designed for anyone who wants to retrieve or grasp items without killer stretching, bending, or straining. Purchase online at www.pikstik.com. Review various models with prices ranging between \$20.88-\$29.99.

AfterShokz headphones, featured in May 2013 newsletter, use bone-conducting technology to transmit audio waves to the inner ear through the skull, bypassing the eardrum completely. A great choice for visually impaired as one can remain aware of ambient sounds while using headphones. Review headphone products, videos, and reviews by customers at www.aftershokz.com. Order by phone at 1 (315) 218-0308, 9 AM-5 PM (EST). Price-\$79.86.

GREAT PRODUCTS \$\$\$\$\$

The next two products may be displayed at the PaTTAN Assistive Technology EXPO 2013. (See article above.)

ID Mate Quest is a well-designed portable “all-in-one” talking bar code scanner (5th generation) that aids visually impaired persons with the identification of products with bar codes or UPC labels. For items that do not have a bar code, customize your own description using adhesive, tag, and clothing labels. Simply scan the bar code and add a voice recording. At 6” tall and 2 ½” at the base, the unit is portable with a lanyard for hanging it around one’s neck. With 6 operation keys and good design, the device is easy to operate and is designed to be easily updated. The database contains nearly 3 million product bar codes and can recognize widely available commercial products including groceries, health and beauty aids, music CDs, films, book, and more. Speech is clear with adjustable speed and volume, and recognition is fast and accurate. It has other functions—MP3 player, currency identifier, and Skype capabilities; however, its value is primarily voice reading product bar codes. Available from Envision America for \$1,299 by phone 1 (800) 890-1180. Read an extensive review of this product at www.afb.org , Publications, “Access World”, September 2013 issue.

Pebble HD 4.3" Digital Handheld Magnifier
provides a crisp, clear, colorful, high definition picture with adjustable magnification from 1.25X -13.5X. Has an ergonomic lightweight compact design that fits in a purse or clips to your belt with the carrying case. VIPs can avoid the hassle of writing down information by using the camera to snap a picture of a label with the push of a button, saving the information for later. It features a rechargeable battery with up to three hours of continuous use. See your low vision specialist for an evaluation of this product for you.

FREEBIES with Santa's helpers
___If you are not already connected to NFB NEWSLINE which offers the "Centre Daily Times" and hundreds of other newspapers by phone, in your e-mail inbox, or now your I-phone; you may want to give it a try. Have Santa's helper get online to assist you in signing up, reviewing how to use "NFB Newsline", and reviewing participating newspapers. Through this service, you can also access 35 magazines (some examples include "AARP Magazine", "Diabetes Self-Management", "Rolling Stone", "PC World", "Science News", "Smithsonian", "Popular Science"). Those of you who are computer users can sign up on your own, but it certainly helps to have Santa's helper to assist. The menu provided allows the user to change the speed and voice settings, spell out words, or search for a particular word or subject. Call 1 (866) 504-7300 for more information or check it out at www.nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service

___Described TV listings are available online from the American Foundation for the Blind. Some popular TV networks are making certain prime-time and children's programs accessible to viewers with vision loss by adding video description. To learn more about video description and how to access it on your television, go online yourself or with Santa's helper to

www.afb.org , select "Living with Vision Loss", drop down menu to click on "Video Description". CBS TV Network publishes their own weekly video description



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program schedule at www.cbs.com/schedule/video-description

___The Smithsonian National Museum of American History has a new online exhibit titled "Everybody: An Artifact History of Disability in America". "People with disabilities have been present throughout American history, but rarely appear in textbooks or shared public memories. Curator Katherine Ott introduces a new online exhibition that helps us understand the American experience and reveals how complicated history really is." This on-line exhibition is fully accessible to JAWS users at <http://everybody.si.edu/>. A great freebie!

Have a merry one!

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