**Dots and Dashes**

**February 26, 2024**

# **January’s Volunteer of the Month**

Congratulations to Monica Svopa, who was voted Volunteer of the Month for January!

# **Bringing Your Kids to Convention?**

In the past ACB has offered our Kids Club to convention attendees for children ages 5 to 13. Before we confirm the hiring of kids club leaders and begin scheduling events, I’d like to determine if there is interest in our holding kids club.

If you are considering bringing your children to Jacksonville, please email Janet by March 15 at

[**Janet.dickelman@gmail.com**](mailto:Janet.dickelman@gmail.com), or call her at (651) 428-5059.

# **Register Now for the Audio Description Institute**

ACB’s Audio Description Project’s 23rd Audio Description Institute will be held virtually April 8-12, from 1 to 5 p.m. each day.

Participation is strictly limited. The Institute will issue ACB-sponsored certificates to all successful participants confirming completion of this professional description training program.

To register, visit [**https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E144393&id=94**](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E144393&id=94).

# **A Reminder from the Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee is searching for nominees who you feel are deserving of national recognition for their work in ACB or the blindness community. Awards will be presented at the 2024 conference and convention in Jacksonville, Fla. For the full list of awards, and their criteria, visit [**https://www.acb.org/call-nominees-2024-acb-awards**](https://www.acb.org/call-nominees-2024-acb-awards).

All nomination letters must be received electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on April 1st, 2024. Letters received after that date **will not be accepted.** We ask that letters be limited to no more than 750 words. Email your nomination letters to [**acbawards1@gmail.com**](mailto:acbawards1@gmail.com).

# **BOP Seeks to Award Writing Excellence**

The ACB Board of Publications proudly recognizes excellence each year with three annual writing awards. We are seeking nominations for the Ned E. Freeman Excellence in Writing Award, the Vernon Henley Media Award, and the Hollis Liggett Braille Free Press Award.

For a list of the awards and their criteria, visit [**https://www.acb.org/bop-seeks-award-excellence-writing-media**](https://www.acb.org/bop-seeks-award-excellence-writing-media).

All nominations must be submitted to the ACB Braille Forum Editor, Sharon Lovering, with a postmark of **no later than April 1, 2024.** You may also submit your nomination electronically to [**slovering@acb.org**](mailto:slovering@acb.org). All submissions should be accompanied by a cover letter providing details about the nominee, including name, address, telephone number and email address of the nominee, if known, and details about the submission, its origin, and any other pertinent information. The return address of the person making the nomination should be included in the cover letter.

# **Call for Nominations for the 2024 ADP Awards**

What do a chef, a museum, and a very large telescope have in common? They were all recipients of a 2023 ADP Award! The ADP Awards recognize achievement in audio description in seven categories, including media, performing arts, museums, the public sector, and research and development. Nominations will be accepted now through April 21, and the winners will be announced in July at the ACB convention.

Any person, organization, or institution that fits in one of the categories below and is involved in the research, development, production, design, creation, and/or delivery of great audio description is eligible. You are welcome to nominate yourself, your local theatre or museum, or a well-known institution.

Help us celebrate the people and organizations that are contributing significantly to the growth of audio description. [**Submit your nomination online**](https://forms.gle/AUTytxnPRdHUxbbr8) **before April 21, 2024.**

# **ICDR Launches Research Portfolio**

The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) recently launched the Interagency Rehabilitation and Disability (IRAD) Research Portfolio. The IRAD Research Portfolio is a searchable, government-wide inventory of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research. Its purpose is to enable trend and data analysis across federal agencies, with a goal of aiding collaboration and coordination.

The Research Portfolio currently features data from five federal agencies: the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Veterans Affairs (VA), Administration for Community Living (ACL), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) from fiscal years 2016 to 2023. The ICDR plans to expand the Research Portfolio to include data from more years and agencies.

# **University of Washington Research Study**

Researchers at the University of Washington are investigating if technology can play a supplementary role in how blind or low-vision parents or adult relatives and their children discuss or co-create physical artwork. Arts and crafts play an integral part of many children’s lives, through school projects, extra-curricular activities, and more. However, many of these art pieces are often 2D visual creations, which can be inaccessible for blind or low-vision relatives. We are conducting a study to understand blind or low-vision parents' or relatives' current practices of engaging with their children's visual artwork.

We are looking to recruit English-speaking adults who are blind or low-vision and have children relatives who create visual artwork. If you're interested, fill out the form at [**https://forms.gle/FiBD2KNpmbWgQcxc6**](https://forms.gle/FiBD2KNpmbWgQcxc6). Or you may email Arnavi Chheda-Kothary at [**chheda@cs.washington.edu**](mailto:chheda@cs.washington.edu).

# **Stargardt’s Summit**

The Stargardt’s Summit will be held on Thursday, February 29 at 1 p.m. Eastern time. Learn about the newest research, explore adaptive living resources, hear impactful patient stories, and connect with others going through a similar journey! This year’s event is hosted by The Carroll Center for the Blind, in partnership with Foundation Fighting Blindness, Prevent Blindness, and The Blind Life.

The summit will have a patient panel, a medical/research panel, and an accessibility and adaptive strategies panel. To learn more, or to register, visit [**http://tinyurl.com/bp6xaevs**](http://tinyurl.com/bp6xaevs).

# **AAPD 2024 Fall Internship Program**

The 2024 AAPD Fall Internship Program Application is now accepting applications! AAPD’s Internship Program places students and recent graduates with disabilities in paid internships.

The Fall Internship Program will be fully virtual. Ten interns will be selected to complete remote internships at placement sites. Interns will work part-time for 15 hours a week, and be paid $18/hour. The program will run for 14 weeks from September 3 to December 6, 2024.

Interested potential applicants can join a virtual information session on Monday, March 4 from 4 to 5 p.m. Eastern to learn more about the program and the application process and get your questions answered. CART and ASL will be provided. The session will be recorded and available on the AAPD website.

For more information, visit [**https://www.aapd.com/fall-internship-program/**](https://www.aapd.com/fall-internship-program/). If you have questions, send an email to [**internships@aapd.com**](mailto:internships@aapd.com), or call (202) 975-0241.

# **Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability Conference**

The 24th annual Multiple Perspectives On Access, Inclusion & Disability Conference will be held April 8th and 9th at the Columbus campus of the Ohio State University. Featured speakers include Scot Danforth, Siva Priya Santhanam, and others.

For more details, go to [**https://ada.osu.edu/multiple-perspectives-conference/multiple-perspectives-2024**](https://ada.osu.edu/multiple-perspectives-conference/multiple-perspectives-2024). To register, visit [**https://web.cvent.com/event/b7d98b63-e0ec-44c2-81b6-07eafa19c85f/summary**](https://web.cvent.com/event/b7d98b63-e0ec-44c2-81b6-07eafa19c85f/summary).

# **Envision Conference East**

Envision Conference East 2024 is scheduled for April 11-13, at the Salus University campus in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. This unique conference, co-hosted with Pennsylvania College of Optometry and the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center, stands out as a pivotal event for professionals in vision rehabilitation and research, offering a comprehensive variety of interactive sessions and presentations.

Envision Conference East is an in-depth gathering of professionals that aims to bridge practice gaps while showcasing the latest in rehabilitation techniques, research and technological advancements. It is the only event of its kind that fosters multidisciplinary collaboration among vision professionals across the United States. **Participants are encouraged to take register by March 3, with details available on** [**the Envision Conference website**](https://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=u001.OeNQQx94k7h3waa9l6Gv49ulNEYy64Va-2FW-2F9xD2CbV-2F7G6st56I8VEWqX7bTboCq7P8QkOMGMYgFcpdFVXRvAWQbvupc7dRKFUwAgYajJQ4x9i3ZHqHSIdBUkAKtxgszxIm1-2F7sLYOV-2BdomvEujSN8TUEhvUqqSITG-2FDZnFRAX-2BBJoS85hsvz-2BxtK0d5CO01X45h_rcnaa-2BKefzfQtrToCf2aeXF-2BwJzDEGdlxLqOc1xlJYgIjOY3qokeocxbSWoNsyeDN8T1fywb-2FMGYttiAW8zbvhrX-2BNf7gd72PFpKhQpxTGnQNAU7WPHns-2BdCkoDVP-2F6WLIFT-2Fak59e7GaFp0dcsxGoG6kbBXV3GzWFSw8IbzNoAX4QhfKVQxZ1YfKfghVTRiOEe75VWevr81HlBtzgaPRHKFyrhLe06-2FBC0RHmeysXZbiw-2F6UINFGT2vRguaScKi0SYRaCSGmJr0dtwj2-2Fb8FNVwVrGOB3Os4A5bKZqtwUytFIfi97KXucYuGn2d2ruhg45UDK7HgcFhoRYGQx8JkmlRTyZJ2-2BGfSYGL0erXi-2BpXKWYkF1W-2FMiZvBCpr-2Bi6qumEuRM-2FXk50TE7c8N5Dc4w-3D-3D)**.**

# **Stick & Poke**

Zachary Blair is a filmmaker and artist from New York City, who is currently working on a short film titled “Stick & Poke.” It's about a visual artist who is diagnosed with LHON and rediscovers her creative path after she’s lost her vision. I have found many inspiring stories about artists who have found a creative life after their vision loss, and that's exactly the kind of story I want to tell. We would love to speak to people with LHON to make sure our material is an accurate and positive representation. If you are interested in sharing your personal experiences with LHON, you can reach me via email at [**zrblair@flicksbyzeebz.com**](mailto:zrblair@flicksbyzeebz.com). I can send you questions, or we can schedule a phone call. To learn more about me and my work, visit Flicksbyzeebz.com.

# **Best and Worst States for Eye Health**

[RX-Safety](http://www.rx-safety.com) today released a study on the [Best & Worst States for Eye Health](https://rx-safety.com/2024/01/best-and-worst-states-for-eye-health/) after analyzing seven key factors in all 50 states and D.C. using the most recent data from the CDC, KFF, and BLS.

The 10 best states are Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Iowa, New York, Utah, Maryland, Colorado, and Alaska.

The 10 worst states are West Virginia, Kentucky, D.C., Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

# **Air Carrier Access Act Survey**

At the recommendation of the US Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee, a working group is examining barriers and solutions for passengers with disabilities who need disability-related assistance during air travel, which may require them to ask for help, or “self-identify” their needs to a service provider. A “service provider” may be an airline, an airport, or a contractor that provides accessibility services. The working group’s goal is to help passengers with disabilities let service providers know that they need help during the travel process.

The purpose of this survey is to identify barriers and solutions that will help with the working group’s creation of best practices and guidance.

When completing questions about possible solutions, we ask that you use each question's text field to provide information on potential issues, best practices, implementation, and timelines for those solutions.

The survey is designed to work well with screen readers and other assistive technologies, but if you experience accessibility difficulties due to the survey’s formatting, an alternative format of this survey can be made available upon request at (202) 626-4211.

Access the survey here:

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZP6TJQ**](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/___https:/www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZP6TJQ___.YzJ1OmE0YTpjOm86YzRhNmY1NTgyYmVlNDQ3OWJiOTMwMmM5NTZlMTcyZTY6Njo2NzcwOmYzMjYzN2VkMzllODFjMGE3YzA2MDA0OTNkMTBiMjRhNTY3OTJmMmZlMGJiZjQwYzRiMTEzNTllMmFmZWUxMjM6aDpU)