**Important: NFBNJ President Melendez Notes, Items of Interest and Dates to Keep in Mind Week Ending January 7, 2023**

Greetings all

Included in this email are the following:

1. New Affiliate Phone Number Reminder
2. 46th Annual Convention General Session and Banquet recording available
3. January Senior Division Book Club
4. About NFB Washington Seminar, 2023 Priorities & Fact Sheets
5. NFBNJ Calendar Fundraiser
6. Dates to Keep in Mind

Warmly,  
Linda Melendez, President  
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# **New Affiliate Phone Number Reminder**

Starting in mid-January, our old familiar number will be disconnected and has been replaced with the NFBNJ phone number 908-590-1747. This new number will be listed on our website and all other documents where our phone number is included. Please save to your contacts and share far and wide.

# **46th Annual State Convention General Session and Banquet recording available**

To access materials and highlights from our 2022 National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey State Conventions, please click on the links below.

[2022 State Convention – Ain’t No Stopping Us Now; We’re On The Move](https://nfbnj.org/state-convention/past-conventions/2022-state-convention)

# **January Senior Division Book Club**

Date: Monday, January 16, 2023  
Time: 5 PM Eastern Time  
Contact: Jane Degenshein, Senior Division President  
[jdegen16@comcast.net](mailto:jdegen16@comcast.net)

#### The lightkeeper's daughters DB108915

Pendziwol, Jean Reading time: 9 hours, 51 minutes.  
Dawn Harvey, Historical Fiction  
  
"Though her mind is still sharp, Elizabeth's eyes have failed. No longer able to linger over her beloved books or gaze at the paintings that move her spirit, she fills the void with music and memories of her family, especially her beloved twin sister, Emily. When her late father's journals are discovered after an accident, the past suddenly becomes all too present. With the help of Morgan, a delinquent teenager performing community service at her senior home, Elizabeth goes through the diaries, a journey through time that brings the two women closer together. Entry by entry, these unlikely friends are drawn deep into a world far removed from their own, to Porphyry Island on Lake Superior, where Elizabeth's father manned the lighthouse and raised his young family seventy years before. As the words on these musty pages come alive, Elizabeth and Morgan begin to realize that their fates are connected to each other. All are welcome to join us. . .

# **About NFB Washington Seminar, 2023 Legislative Priorities & Fact Sheets**

At our Washington Seminar, members of the National Federation of the Blind convene to learn about and advocate for legislative initiatives that will improve the lives of blind Americans.

Approximately three legislative initiatives are chosen for priority attention each year. These initiatives, which form the Washington Seminar priorities, are based on the official positions of the NFB adopted at the national convention and can address concerns related to civil rights, educational programs and services, rehabilitation of the blind for competitive employment, the operation of vending facilities by blind persons on public property, specialized library services for the blind, the organization and funding of federal programs, Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income programs, and other timely topics.

The first Washington Seminar took place in 1973. Today, more than five hundred people from the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico typically attend. To stay current with Washington Seminar please visit  
<https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar>

**2023 Legislative Priorities & Fact Sheets below:**

Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act

Issue--Websites are required by law to be accessible, but without implementing regulations most businesses and retailers have little understanding of what accessible means.

* [Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act (Word)](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2022-12/Website_and_Software_Applications_Accessibility_Act_Fact_Sheet_2023_FINAL.docx)
* [Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act (HTML)](https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar/websites-and-software-applications-accessibility-act)

Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act

Issue—Inaccessible digital interfaces prevent blind individuals from independently and safely operating medical devices that are essential to their daily healthcare needs.

* [Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act (Word)](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2022-12/Medical_Device_Nonvisual_Accessibility_Act_Fact_Sheet_2023_FINAL.docx)
* [Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act (HTML)](https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar/medical-device-nonvisual-accessibility-act)

Blind Americans Return to Work Act

Issue—Current Social Security law contains a policy that has the unintended consequence of discouraging blind Americans from maximizing their earnings potential.

* [Blind Americans Return to Work Act (Word)](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2022-12/Blind_Americans_Return_to_Work_Act_Fact_Sheet_2023_FINAL.docx)
* [Blind Americans Return to Work Act (HTML)](https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar/blind-americans-return-work-act)

# **NFBNJ Calendar Fundraiser**

Our popular Calendar Fundraiser is back and will run from January through July with the winner being announced on the last day of our 2023 National Convention. How does it work, glad you asked that question.

Donate $10 to the NFB of NJ and select your favorite date on the calendar or donate $25 and select three of your favorite dates. Only one person can select a date, don’t hesitate or your date may be taken. There are 366 date cards to choose from since we are including Feb 29 and you do not need to be present to claim your prize of $500.

To choose your dates send a text message to our affiliate phone 908-590-1747 please include your name and desired dates. If the date is available, it can be yours once your donation has been processed. Donations can be made through PayPal or by mailing a check to our affiliate treasurer Annemarie Cooke. If you’re attending Washington Seminar in-person we can process your donation using your credit or debit card. For questions, please send an email to [nfb.newjersey@gmail.com](mailto:nfb.newjersey@gmail.com)

# **NFBNJ dates to keep in mind**

* Monday, January 9 7 PM Technology Division Meeting
* Monday, January 16, 5 PM Senior Division Book Club
* Monday, January 16 7 PM Senior Division Meeting
* Wednesday, January 18 7 PM 1st Quarter Braille Committee Meeting
* Tuesday, January 24 7 PM At-Large Chapter Meeting
* Saturday, March 4 NJ Regional Braille Challenge
* Thursday, April 7 7 PM 2nd Quarter Diabetic Committee Meetings
* Wednesday, April 19 7 PM 2nd Quarter Braille Committee Meeting
* Saturday, April 29 10 AM to 1 PM Blindness & Diabetes Information Fair