



LOUD & CLEAR

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In this issue:

Updates

- **New NLS Director**
- **NLS Anniversary**
- **Updated FCPL Hours and Services**
- **Staffing Update**

[Friends Helping Friends](#)

- Focus on our Patrons
- Jennifer's Salad Pizza
- COVID-19: Locating Reliable Information and Reporting Misinformation

[Technology Corner](#)

- Magnification Feature on Mobile Devices

[Reader's Corner](#)

- 2021 Reading Roundup

[Youth Corner](#)

- Holiday Gift Ideas

[Community Corner](#)

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 31st Anniversary

- **Fairfax County COVID 19 Testing and Vaccine Resources**
- **Free 2022 Calendars in Accessible Formats**
- **Service and Payment Assistance Programs**

Events

- **Access Services and FCPL Events**
- **Beyond Access Services and FCPL**

Access Services Library Holiday Schedule

Updates

New NLS Director- Mr. Jason Broughton has been appointed Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), Library of Congress.

Mr. Broughton is the 11th Director and the first African American to serve in this capacity since the inception of the program on March 3, 1931. Prior to joining NLS, Mr. Broughton held leadership positions in South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia; and recently served as Vermont State Librarian.

Mr. Broughton holds several degrees including an M.S. in Library and Information Science, an M.S. in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in Biology.

NLS Anniversary- The year 2021 marks the 90th anniversary of the Pratt-Smoot Act which prompted the establishment of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. For more information, including a timeline of Braille and Talking Book Service as well as historical perspectives, please visit www.loc.gov/nls/90th-anniversary .

Updated Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) Hours and Services – All FCPL

branches are currently operating with new hours, with no time limits or capacity restrictions. Meeting rooms are open for public bookings, and public computers are available for 30-

minute sessions.

New hours for the regional branches are Monday through Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The community branches are open Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. All community branches are closed on Sundays.

Curbside pickup is available Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and “Ask Your Library” chat support is available Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Access Services Library is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Curbside service is not provided at this location.

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for a full list of library locations and associated services.

Staffing Update -

Farewell from Masuma Sarwar: After three wonderful years of being a reader advisor at Access Services Library, I am moving to the Dolley Madison branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system to be an Information Services Assistant. Thank you for sharing your reading interests and joy for reading with me. I will miss our conversations over the phone and by email. Take care always. Masuma.

Friends Helping Friends

FOCUS ON OUR PATRONS: JUDY A.

Judy has been a member of our Talking Book program since 2017. When asked about the program, Judy said, “I love it! It is terrific! It is the very best thing!” Judy grew up in rural Pennsylvania near the town of Saint Mary’s. She recalls a lovely childhood, with a family of three brothers and one sister. Their house was situated on a mountaintop with panoramic views, and their nearest neighbor was a mile away. Elk would routinely come into their yard to eat apples from the trees, leaving a few less for her mother’s apple pies. During her first year of college, Judy passed the Civil Service Exam and received a job offer from the Office of Personnel Management, Federal Investigations Program in Washington, D.C. She seized the opportunity and moved to the city. She loved her job and worked there for 28 years. She later worked for the National Children’s Center and American Vets.

When asked how she is currently doing, and how she is dealing with the pandemic, Judy said “If the weather is good, sometimes I will go out for a walk, three days a week.” Trips to the grocery store and the local park are also helpful to break up the monotony of quarantine. Fellow church members have been very supportive; paying her visits, bringing household supplies, and sending thoughtful cards.

Judy recently reviewed her list of favorite authors and was surprised to discover that her top two authors, Stuart Woods

(Stone Barrington series) and Fern Michaels, had lost their position to someone else. With true astonishment, Judy questioned, “What? How did that happen? How did she get in there? She is not supposed to be in there!” Anne George and her “Southern Sisters” mystery series now holds the top honor. Of the series, Judy says, “They are funny stories, laugh out loud, family stories. They are mysteries. Nothing that puts you on the edge of your seat and scares you. Nothing real tense.” Another discovery that she finds very funny is James Herriot’s semi-autobiographical “All Creatures Great and Small” series, which chronicles the adventures of a veterinarian in the English countryside. She loves David Rosenfelt’s Andy Carpenter mystery series. She thinks they are well crafted stories, with lots of humor, and reveal the author’s love of dogs. She intends to write Mr. Rosenfelt and encourage him to write faster. Other Judy favorites include Lee Child’s Jack Reacher series, Jan Karon’s Mitford series, and the Donald Bain/Jessica Fletcher “Murder She Wrote” series.

We would like to thank Judy for sharing her time and telling her story, the depth and breadth of which extend well beyond the confines of this article. It shows that the Talking Book program is truly made great by our patrons and their stories.

Jennifer’s Salad Pizza -

If you are ready to “think green,” this pizza is for you! Lots of green vegetables layered on top of pizza dough reminds me of growing up in Pennsylvania where French fries are put on top of sandwiches and salads.

Ingredients:

Your favorite store-bought pizza dough. (Pre-made, refrigerated pizza dough can be found in most grocery stores)

1 TBS extra-virgin olive oil

½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese and provolone cheese

2 cloves of chopped garlic

¼ tsp oregano

½ small red onion, thinly sliced

4 cups baby spinach

½ cup chopped roasted red peppers

¾ cup quartered marinated artichoke hearts, drained, and halved

1 TBS red wine vinegar

Salt, pepper, & red pepper flakes

Directions:

Preheat oven according to the store-bought pizza dough instructions or 475 degrees Fahrenheit. Stretch out the dough on parchment paper. Transfer to a baking sheet or pizza stone and bake for 10 minutes.

Top pizza dough with cheese and garlic and bake for 2 minutes or until the cheese has melted.

Make the salad by soaking red onion in vinegar and olive oil. Toss the spinach, roasted red peppers, artichoke hearts and

red onion in a large bowl with vinegar and olive oil, season with salt and pepper.

Top the pizza with the salad and enjoy!

COVID-19: Locating Reliable Information and Reporting Misinformation

The internet provides access to information on COVID-19, its effective treatments, and vaccines. In some cases, the sources are unreliable and the information misleading. We introduce three resources addressing the COVID-19 “infodemic”:

1. The Fairfax County Health Department’s website offers up to date information on COVID- 19 including vaccine updates, community case and vaccine data as well as recommendations based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus .
2. John Hopkins Medicine offers an online “Myth versus Fact” resource to review and refute information circulating about COVID-19 vaccines. For more information, visit www.bit.ly/3tBmzg8 .
3. The World Health Organization’s (WHO) webpage on “How to Report Misinformation Online” serves as a resource for users who wish to report false or misleading content to the hosting social media platform. For more information visit www.bit.ly/2R7vmJG .

Technology Corner

Magnification Feature on Mobile Devices-

The magnifier accessibility feature on the iPhone and iPad allows you to use the device's camera as a magnifying glass. To use the magnifier in your Apple device, go to the Accessibility menu in your device settings, select "Magnifier", and toggle the button next to Magnifier to turn it on. This will allow you to reach the magnifier quickly on your device. Click the "Home" button three times to access the magnifier.

You can adjust brightness and contrast while using the magnifier, invert colors, and use the device's flashlight. The iOS 14 has new additional features that makes the magnifier controls easier to access. Another new feature is the multi-shot option. This allows you to take multiple photos or screenshots at a time and then review the screenshots together instead of individually.

If you have an Android device or would like a separate magnification application on your phone and tablet, check your device's app store for free magnifiers. One popular app is Magnifying Glass + Flashlight, which allows for magnification while using your device's flashlight and helps you read small fonts such as those found on prescription bottles and restaurant menus. You can also take photos of what you are magnifying and save them in your photo library to view later.

Reader's Corner

Our 2021 reading roundup is curated from recent editions of Talking Book Topics. It includes a bit of everything for everyone. Reader's discretion is advised.

The best American mystery stories 2019, edited by Jonathan Lethem (DB 97389)

The twenty stories in this edition were chosen from more than three thousand. Includes Harley Jane Kozak's fast-paced Sherlockian entry "The Walk-In," in which an American woman is plunged into a British intelligence scenario while trying to find her twin in London. Fiction. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex. 2019.

Channel kindness: stories of kindness and community by Born This Way Foundation Reporters and Lady Gaga (DB 100867)

Stories of kindness, bravery, and resilience from young people all over the world collected by the Born This Way Foundation and introduced by Lady Gaga. Young Adult Nonfiction. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2020.

Everything beautiful in its time by Jenna Bush Hager (DB 100952)

The former first daughter and co-author of *Sisters First* (DB 89560) shares personal anecdotes about both sets of

grandparents, including George and Barbara Bush, through a series of essays. She discusses the lessons all four individuals taught her and looks to the future and the lessons she hopes to teach her own children. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Nonfiction. Bestseller. 2020.

How to lead: wisdom from the world's greatest CEOs, founders, and game changers by David M. Rubenstein (DB 100664)

Author of *The American Story* (DB 97695) presents a collection of interviews with leading businesspeople, innovators, politicians, athletes, entertainers, and nonprofit leaders about what makes them successful in their chosen professions. Individuals interviewed include Oprah Winfrey, Yo-Yo Ma, Jack Nicklaus, Renee Fleming, and Warren Buffett. Nonfiction. 2020.

They wish they were us by Jessica Goodman (DB 100505)

At an exclusive prep school on Long Island, Jill eagerly anticipates her role in the school's most elite clique, the Players, until new evidence surfaces about the murder of a classmate. Young Adult Fiction. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

Thick as thieves by Sandra Brown (DB 100485)

Twenty years ago, four individuals almost pulled off a half-million-dollar heist. But by daybreak, their plan had been shot to hell. One of them was in the hospital, one in jail, and one dead. However, one got away—presumably with the money. The now-grown daughter of that man decides to investigate.

Fiction. Unrated. Bestseller. 2020.

Troubles in paradise by Elin Hilderbrand **(DB 100979)**

After uprooting her life in the States, Irene Steele has just settled in at the villa on St. John where her husband Russ had been living a double life. But a visit from the FBI shakes her foundations, and Irene once again learns just how little she knew about the man she loved. Unrated. Fiction. Bestseller. 2020.

Monster and boy by Hannah Barnaby **(DB 100758)**

When a monster, who lives under the bed, learns that the little boy in the room isn't afraid of monsters, he decides to surprise the boy. But the situation quickly spirals out of control. Juvenile Fiction. For grades K-3. 2020.

The President's daughter by Bill Clinton and James Patterson **(DB 103817)**

Former president—and one-time Navy SEAL—Matthew Keating's worst nightmare has come to pass. His teenaged daughter Melanie has been kidnapped. As the nation watches, Keating embarks on a one-man special-ops mission to retrieve Melanie and stop a madman from wreaking further havoc. Fiction. Unrated. 2021.

Puberty Is gross but also really awesome by Gina Loveless. **(DB103153)**

An inclusive and humorous guide to understanding the changes a teenager's body goes through when they reach puberty. Topics covered include the physical aspects, sleep, nutrition, mental health, bullying, and confidence. Juvenile Nonfiction. For grades 5–8. 2021.

Youth Corner

Welcome to the cool kids' corner! This is where we put a spotlight on resources and information for kids, teens, and families.

The holiday season is around the corner and most households are on a different level of quagmire.

Kids are in a predicament about what they want versus what they need, and most importantly, what is in vogue, while parents are assessing household needs and costs. Here we come to the rescue with ten suggestions for a variety of gifts, ages, and budgets. Prices may vary depending on where and when the item is purchased.

1. Accessible tactile, Braille, or large print games.
2. A book or free library card which equals a passport to knowledge.
3. Hand operated drone for kids.
4. L.O.L. surprise toys.
5. LEGO sets.
6. Video game consoles such as PlayStation, Xbox, or Nintendo switch/ switch lite.
7. Pop it or fidget toys.
8. Smartphone or smartwatch.
9. Tablet or iPad.
10. Tie - dye kit.

Community Corner

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 31st Anniversary -

The year 2021 marks the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Passed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, the ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. It is modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. An overview of the ADA is provided in *Enabling acts: The hidden story of how the Americans with Disabilities Act gave the largest U.S. minority its rights*, by Lennard J. Davis, (DB 82272). For more information on all things ADA, visit www.ada.gov .

Fairfax County COVID 19 Testing and Vaccine Resources-

The Fairfax County Health Department provides resources on COVID-19 to individuals and healthcare providers. People who need vaccination registration assistance should call 703-324-7404. For more information on testing and vaccines call 703-267-3511; email ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/ .

Free 2022 Calendars in Accessible Formats for Eligible Individuals-

American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. Call 410-659-9315 to request a Braille 6" × 6.5" calendar. This calendar includes a listing of major holidays and a personal day page.

JBI Library. Call 800-433-1531 or email admin@jbilibrary.org to request a large-print 11" × 17" or a Braille 11" × 17" 16-month calendar. Both are in English and Hebrew. They include weekly candle-lighting times, as well as secular and Jewish holidays.

The Jewish Heritage for the Blind. Call 800-995-1888 or email services@jewishheritage.org to request a large-print 8.5" × 11" weekly Jewish wall calendar.

Lutheran Braille Workers. Call 800-925-6092 or email lbw@lbwloveworks.org to request a tactile/ Braille 8.5" × 11" scripture calendar or a large-print 8.5" × 14" calendar.

Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund. Call 517-780-5096 or email cindymbtf@gmail.com to request a 4.5" × 6" Print/Braille calendar.

National Federation of the Blind Independence Market. Call 410-659-9314, ext. 2216 or email IndependenceMarket@nfb.org to request a 6.5" × 6.5" Braille calendar. Catalog number: BBC21B.

Service and Payment Assistance Programs

Utility Payment Plans and Energy Assistance:

Coordinated Services Planning – Options include programs that help with urgent needs – including emergency food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, employment, financial assistance, rent and other essential needs. For more

information, call 703-222-0880. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Social Services- Options include various programs to assist customers with energy bills. For more information, call 855–635-4370.

Dominion Energy - Options include the “Energy Share” program. For more information, call 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.211virginia.org/> for a referral.

Washington Gas - Options include plans and programs to help with billing and service disruption. Call 844-927-4427, option 2 for enrollment information.

Fairfax Water - Options include payment relief for customers affected by COVID-19 in Fairfax County, and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. For more information, call 703-698-5800 (TTY 711) or email COVIDrelief@fairfaxwater.org.

Cox - Options include participating in the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit program. For more information, call 703-378-8422.

Verizon - Options include the “Lifeline” program and waiving of late fees with no service disruption for customers experiencing economic hardships because of COVID-19. For more information, call 1-888-262-1999.

Patient Assistance for Diabetes Care:

Lilly- options include various programs for patients with or without insurance. For more information, call the Lilly Answers Center at 1-800-545-5979, Monday – Friday.

Novo- Nordisk - options include programs that provide patients with various affordability options for their medication including the Cash Card Program, the Patient Assistance Program, and the Co-pay Savings Card. For more information, visit www.novocare.com or call 1-800-727-6500.

SANOFI - options include the “Valyou” and “Sanofi Patient Connection” programs. For more information, call 1-888-847-4877 or 1-855-984-6302

Events

Access Services and FCPL Programs:

All Fairfax County Public Library events are free except where otherwise indicated. Please contact Access Services at 703-324-8380 or the host library location for event information including registration help and ADA accommodations.

All Access Book Club (Virtual) – meets on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. via free conference call.

To join the event:

- Call **703-324-1800** or toll-free number **1-877-862-8112**.
- At the prompt, enter the code **389887**.

January meeting on January 6, 2022 -- Book talks session.
You are invited to share your favorites and books you hate.

Book title for the **February meeting** on February 3, 2022 --
The body: a guide for occupants by Bill Bryson (DB 96770 and
DB 101923 (Spanish))

Book title for the **March meeting** on March 3, 2022 -- True grit
by Charles Portis (DB 44219 and BR 19212)

Lunch & Learn: Foster Care and Adoption (Virtual)
Thursday, January 20, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Registration, which is required for this event, starts on
Thursday, January 6, 2022. Register at www.bit.ly/30ZPbHR .

Keep This, Toss That: January Organizing Jumpstart
(Virtual). Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
Registration is required for this event. Register at
www.bit.ly/3l5n29a .

Meet Children's Author and Illustrator Ben Clanton
(Virtual). Friday, January 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Registration, which is required for this event starts on
Saturday, January 1, 2022. Register at www.bit.ly/3r2CJlf .

Meditation as Medication - A Doctor's Perspective (Virtual).
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Registration, which is required for this event, starts on
Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Register at
www.bit.ly/3DObdel .

Model Investment Club (In person, multiple date event).

Tysons-Pimmit meeting rooms 1 and 2. Tuesday, January 11, 2022, and April 12, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

VIP Reston and Vienna Meetings – The VIP groups are back in session! For more information, contact Access Services Library at 703-324-8380 or email access@fairfaxcounty.gov .

Beyond Access Services and FCPL:

Community Caregiver Support Group (Virtual)

Thursday, December 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration is required for this event. Call 703-204-4664, or email markita.brown@insightmcc.org for more information and to register.

NFB of Virginia Silver BELLS Independent Living Skills Training for Individuals with Visual Disabilities (In Person, Multiple date, and session event) – Session 1 is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2022, through Monday, February 21, 2022. Registration is required for this event. Call Sandy Halverson at 703-400-6890 or email sjh300@outlook.com for more information and to register.

Access Services Library Holiday Schedule

Please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for current information on Fairfax County Public Library closing dates and times.

Thursday, December 23, 2021 - All FCPL locations will close at 12:00 p.m.

Friday, December 24, 2021 - Christmas Eve.

Saturday, December 25, 2021 - Christmas Day.

Friday, December 31, 2021- New Year's Eve.

Saturday, January 1, 2022 – New Year's Day.

Loud and Clear: A Newsletter is published by Access Services, Fairfax County Public Library. It is available in audio, large print, email, and online formats. Contact Rose Asuquo at 703-324-8380 or email access@fairfaxcounty.gov for address change, questions, suggestions, and format changes.

Caveat Lector: Announcements of goods and services are for informational purposes only and should not be deemed as endorsement by Access Services, Fairfax County Public Library.

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