**Granite State Connection**

November, 2021

Editor, Sheryl Dutton

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**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality opportunity, and security of the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation: and to abide by its constitution.

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**President’s Corner:**

To all my NFB family – welcome to the coolest time of the year! Summer is finally past, the temperatures have broken, families are back to their autumn routines, and we can look forward to the much needed holidays and, hopefully, a bit of good cheer.

This is the final issue of the Granite State Connection for 2021. Next year, we will do one newsletter every quarter. Your participation is needed. We need material to fill the newsletter. If you like to write, submit a feature. If you have ideas, submit them. Send in your recipes. Help keep the newsletter alive.

Happy holidays! I wish you and yours the best of the season and will be back with you in January.

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**Affiliate News:**

We had a great convention in September. Pam Allen, the first Vice President of the NFB was our national representative.

New untitled board members elected: Marie Johnson and Linda Piekarski.

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**Spotlight:**

This month’s spotlight comes to us from Marie Johnson.

Hello to the NFB membership! Happy Fall!

For those of you that have not known me for a half a century or more!! I would like to start out by saying that my first and foremost station in life is that I am a 71-year-old Mom of 2, Grammy of 2 and great- Grammy of 1.

I hail from Concord and with the exception of a few wonderful and exciting journeys, in which I had the pleasure and opportunities to amble through greener grasses, I found that there is truly no place like home here in NH!

My family, at one time, was the largest family in the state of NH to have Retinitis Pigmentosa. I, myself, was considered visually impaired all through childhood and my school years. At the age of 48, I had lost all my usable vision and any light perception that I once had.

It was also at that point in my life that, knowing my impending fate, I made my very first NFB connection, seeking advice and wisdoms from the most knowledgeable people of all.

Ed Meskys and John Parker, (my unconditional heroes), not only filled those shoes, but exceeded my expectations of learning to live my life as a full and capable blind individual.

As a result of their mentorship, I was privileged to hold the position of NH state affiliate President for a few years and form many, many wonderful relationships over an additional span of 25 years.

With the blessings of great family role models, my NFB kin, fantastic mobility instructors and a host of educational opportunities, I think my feet are on fairly firm ground! (Smiles.)

Other than loving to spend time with family and friends, I seriously enjoy cooking and taste testing all kinds of delectable recipes, listening to Judge Judy!! (lol) and of course, my noticeable obsession with technology. Oh, did I mention, taste testing delectable recipes? (grinning)

I consider myself extremely fortunate to make my way, still occasionally working as a vendor for the state of NH as a tech trainer and consultant and push out a few braille transcription pages, via my business called Vision and Braille Technology.

I do indeed look forward to kicking up my heels and making good and fun memories with all of you and our incredibly caring and attentive President Deanna!

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**Tech Tip:**

From Marie Johnson:

 [**OCR Directly to Microsoft Word in JAWS and Fusion 2021**](https://www.toptechtidbits.com/27.html)

These tips are courtesy of Freedom Scientific

The Convenient OCR (Optical Character Recognition) feature has been enhanced to support sending recognized text directly to Word.

Convenient OCR enables you to access images containing text that is part of the image and displays this information in the Results Viewer.

This includes onscreen images such as the graphical setup screen for an application, an inaccessible PDF opened in Adobe Reader, a currently selected image file in Windows Explorer, or a document acquired by the PEARL camera or a flatbed scanner.

If Microsoft Office is installed on your system, you can now:

Use the new command INSERT+SPACEBAR, O followed by R to perform OCR on a selected image file in File Explorer or the Desktop and place the recognized text directly into a Word document.

You can also press the APPLICATIONS key and choose Convenient OCR to Word with JAWS or Fusion from the context menu.

Use the new Open in Word link that appears at the bottom of the Results Viewer once the OCR process is complete.

For more information about using Convenient OCR, press INSERT+SPACEBAR, O followed by QUESTION MARK or refer to the Convenient OCR topic in the JAWS help.

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**Calendar of Events:**

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**Calendar of Events (NFB national and affiliate):**

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**National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire, Monadnock Chapter Monthly Meeting**

Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021,

Time 10:30 AM

Location: Anywhere and Everywhere, virtual

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/93669651975

Meeting ID: 936 6965 1975

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,93669651975# US (New York)

+13017158592,,93669651975# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,93669651975# US (Chicago)

Reminder Zoom information will be provided to chapter members

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**National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire, Lakes Region Chapter Monthly Meeting**

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2021,

Time 10:30 AM

Location: Anywhere and Everywhere, virtual

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/93669651975

Meeting ID: 936 6965 1975

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,93669651975# US (New York)

+13017158592,,93669651975# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,93669651975# US (Chicago)

Reminder Zoom information will be sent out.

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**National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire, Great Northwoods Chapter Monthly Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2021.

Time 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Unless otherwise notified.

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**Important Dates for the National Organization**

December 2, 2021: Presidential Release, 8:00 p.m. Eastern, CC and Spanish translation available

February 7-February 10, 2022: Washington Seminar

March 24–March 25, 2022: Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, Baltimore, MD

July 5-10, 2022: National Convention, New Orleans, LA

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**Calendar of Events (Future In Sight tech workshops (fun events follow the list of tech workshops)):**

Below is the listing for the remaining 2021 technology workshops, which are all held on the Zoom app. by Future In Sight.

Just please email Stephanie back and sign up for what you’d like to do, and as it gets closer to each workshop, she will email you the Zoom link.

(Stephanie’s email follows the list.)

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\*Wednesday, November 10

10:30-12:30 EST

Introduction to blogging

We welcome a guest blogger who is visually impaired, Lupin Thurrott. We’ll start us off at the beginning, answering such questions as: What is a blog and why should you create one? Then we will move into learning about terminology and such beneficial tools as WordPress, Ghost, Google Trends, Blog Ideas Generator, and how to tie everything together and what is accessible.

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\*Wednesday, December 1

10:30-12:30

Streaming Apps

This workshop will take a look at several streaming apps, such as Netflix, Hulu, and Disney Plus for their accessibility, layout and ease of navigation.

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\*Wednesday, December 8

10:30-12:30 EST

Uber and Lyft

We’ll learn how to download and sign up for both Uber and Lyft, how to navigate each app, and some safe practices and tips to maximize a successful experience when it comes to independent travel.

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\*\*\*Please reply with your sign ups as soon as possible.

Thanks so much,

Stephanie

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Stephanie Hurd

Assistive Technology/Activities Specialist

Future In Sight

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***Calendar of Events (some fun Fall 2021 activities for those with vision loss from Future In Sight):***

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Match Game and Chain Reaction

November 18 @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm EST

These classic TV games are lots of fun and laughs. Now it’s your chance to be the contestants, as we bring these games to you so you can play them both! This event is online via Zoom, please register and you will receive an email with the Zoom link information.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/212445632327149>

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Hurd at shurd@futureinsight.org or 603-545-4345

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Gingerbread Houses and Pizza Party

December 2 @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm EST

Looking for something fun to make and display this holiday season? Join us in person as we make gingerbread houses together followed by a celebratory pizza party!

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/212446026406145>

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Hurd at shurd@futureinsight.org or 603-545-4345

This event will be held at Future In Sight 25 Walker Street, Concord, NH

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Kaila’s Craft Corner – Christmas Fun!

December 7 @ 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EST

In this workshop we will make a few different ornaments and a gingerbread house magnet. All the crafts are great for decorating your home for the holidays or giving as a gift.

Projects include:

* Materials to make a cute gingerbread house magnet
* Wreath ornament made of buttons with a small bow.
* A red winter hat out of yarn.
* A hot cocoa ornament with little puff ball marshmallows.

Materials needed:

* Christmas fun craft kit
* Glue stick
* Elmer’s or other liquid glue
* Scissors

 Cost $12.00. Please order by November 25th.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/212984981949174>

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Hurd at shurd@futureinsight.org or 603-545-4345

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Online Holiday Party!

December 16 @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm EST

Games with a peppermint twist such as The Holiday version of the classic game “Password” and fun group games such as “Most Likely” will be played. Bring a recipe for your favorite holiday dessert to be compiled and shared with all. Grab a cup of your favorite hot chocolate and settle in with us, as we celebrate the season together!

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/212446038035146>

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Hurd at shurd@futureinsight.org or 603-545-4345

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**Here’s a little bit of humor:**

For Halloween: Some say zombies get smarter with every brain they eat. Just some food for thought.

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**This Month’s Recipes:**

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# MEXICAN STUFFED SHELLS

**Prep time:** 15 mins

**Cook time:** 30 mins

**Total time:** 45 mins

**Yield:** 20 SHELLS

My whole family loves these Mexican Stuffed Shells! It’s super easy to throw together and comes out great always. You can make this in advance, and it freezes well as a casserole. Shells stuffed with seasoned taco beef and topped with taco sauce and cheese baked to perfection! If you want a break from your usual chicken, fish, and veggies, this dish is your top choice!

**INGREDIENTS**

1 lb. ground beef (or ground turkey)

1 package low-sodium taco seasoning

4 oz. cream cheese

20 jumbo pasta shells (about 6 oz.)

1-1/2 c. salsa

1 c. taco sauce

1 c. cheddar cheese (or just use all of one kind of cheese)

1 c. Monterrey jack cheese

**Toppings:**

3 green onions

Sour cream

**How to make Mexican Stuffed Shells**

Step 1: Prepare the oven. Preheat it to 350 degrees.

Step 2: Cook the ground beef in a pan until brown. Add the taco seasoning and prepare following the package directions. Now, add the cream cheese and cover the pan with the lid. Let everything simmer until the cheese has melted. Stir well until combined and set aside to cool completely.

Step 3: In the meantime, cook the pasta shell following the package directions. Drain when done. On a cutting board or baking sheet, set the shells individually.

Step 4: On the bottom of a 9 x 13-inch baking dish, pour the salsa. With 1 to 2 tbsp meat mixture, stuff each shell and place them open-side-up on the prepared dish. Pour the taco sauce over so it evenly covers the stuffed shells. Using foil, tent the dish. Place in the preheated oven and bake for about 15 to 20 minutes.

Step 5: Uncover after 15 to 20 minutes and sprinkle the shredded cheese on top. And resume baking for another 5 to 10 minutes until the cheese has melted. Remove from the oven when done, and if desired garnish with green onions or olives. Enjoy with sour cream and/or extra salsa.

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## **The Best Brownies In the WORLD!!!**

Ooey, gooey, fudgy brownies that will become a family favorite. I rarely make any other brownie recipe because we love this one so much!

Prep Time 10 mins

Cook Time 35 mins

Total Time 45 mins

Course: Dessert

Cuisine: American

Keyword: brownies, chocolate brownies

Servings: 8

 Calories: 329kcal

 Author: Kim Beaulieu

### **Ingredients**

1/2 cup butter

2 oz [unsweetened chocolate](https://amzn.to/2GE7F6F)

1 cup [sugar](https://amzn.to/2FL8UjN)

2 eggs, beaten

½ tsp [vanilla](https://amzn.to/2BLBK0V)

½ cup [semi-sweet chocolate chips](https://amzn.to/2IjFSJ8)

¼ cup [flour](https://amzn.to/3m4aLj8)

¼ tsp [salt](http://amzn.to/2IFZPW6)

### **Instructions**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Line your pan with parchment paper. I find wetting it gets it more pliable.
3. Melt the butter and unsweetened chocolate together over low heat in a medium saucepan. Stir with a wooden spoon.
4. Remove from heat and add the sugar. Stir well.
5. Now add your eggs and vanilla, stirring until it’s smooth.
6. Add chocolate chips, flour and salt. Stir until well blended.
7. Pour into pan and place in oven. I always tap my pan to get out any bubbles and make it even.
8. Bake for 35-45 minutes, toothpick inserted should come out clean when done.
9. Remove and cool on a rack.

Serve with a smile.

### **Notes**

Recipe makes 16 brownies, depending on how you cut them. If you cut them larger it makes 9 large brownies.

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**A penny for your thoughts**

From Marie Johnson:

“A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at them.”

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Remember, we want your inputs!

Please send recipes, events, tech tips, jokes, questions, and your feedback.

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Phone Deanna O’Brien at 603-864-8847.

You can also email Deanna’s husband Dennis at dpobrien7920@msn.com .