** InSights**

Center for Vision Loss’s Bimonthly Newsletter for Customers and Friends

**ISSUE 2 VOLUME 5*-We Look Beyond Vision-*MARCH-APRIL 2015**

**CONTACT US AT:**

**Allentown Office-610-433-6018**

**Monroe Office-570-992-7787**

**845 West Wyoming Street, Allentown, PA 18103**

[**information@centerforvisionloss.org**](mailto:information@centerforvisionloss.org)

[**www.centerforvisionloss.org**](http://www.centerforvisionloss.org)

**ACTIVITIES-COME JOIN US!**

This newsletter includes all the customer activities for both our Allentown and Monroe offices. We encourage all of our customers to check out the offerings and participate. In most cases, activities are open to all customers. If a reservation is required, it will be noted. **Reservations are ALWAYS required for transportation, 7 days in advance, please!**

Transportation tickets cost $3 each way. If you have your own transportation, you are usually free to attend any activity listed, whether at our Allentown or Monroe County office. Your driver is invited to stay with you for the program. Come join us!

**NEW!** Please note that each calendar entry will include one or more of the following abbreviations for the kinds of transportation available:

**TA**-Transportation Available from Center for Vision Loss. In

Allentown call Shirley at 610-433-6018, x 226. In Monroe

County call 570-992-7787.

**TOYO**-Transportation On Your Own

**LVCS**-Transportation by LANtaVan (Allentown only). Call

Shirley at 610-433-6018, x. 226.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ALLENTOWN ACTIVITIES-MARCH 2015**

**March 4-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**March 5-Support Group Meeting, 10-11:30 am.** Facilitated by

James Van Horn. **TA**

**March 9-Cooking Class-Creative Casseroles, 11 am-2 pm,**

Allentown Office. **See Combined Customer Activities, page 7.**

**March 10-Women’s Group, 1-2:30 pm.** Discussion of various

women’s issues with Rita Lang and Gretchen Evans.**TOYO, LVCS**.

**March 11-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**March 12-Men’s Club House, Breakfast Meeting, 10-11:30 am.**

Location to be determined. **TOYO LVCS**

**March 13-Visionaries Activity Group, 11:30 am-2 pm.**

This will be a planning meeting and a review of the Visionaries

Activity Group Bylaws. Bring a lunch. **TA**

**March 14-GLV/NFB Chapter Meeting, NEW LOCATION:**

**Emmanuel E.C. Church. 75 E. Union Blvd, Bethlehem,**

**Room 208, 10 am-Noon.** The building is wheelchair accessible

with a ramp leading to the meeting room level. A parking lot is

located one block south of Union on Center St. For more

information contact Eileen Hunger at **610-432-3276.**

**March 18-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**March 19-Caregiver Support Group, 10-11:30 am.** Discussion

for understanding and supporting a loved one when dealing with

vision loss with Gretchen Evans and Rita Lang. **TA 2**

**March 21-Lehigh Valley Council of the Blind Lunch Meeting,**

**10 am-1 pm. Holy Family Manor. Bring a bag lunch.**

**March 24-University of Penn Museum Ancient Egyptian**

**Collection Tour, 12-3:30 pm. See Combined Customer**

**Activities, page 7.**

**March 25-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**March 25-iOS Device Support Group, 11 am-1:30 pm**.

Better understand your device’s accessibility features and useful

apps. You must have an iOS device to participate. Bring money

for lunch. **TOYO, LVCS**

**March 27-Visionaries Activity Group, 11:30 am-2 pm.**

**Easter/Spring Craft.** Bring a lunch. **TA**

**March 31-Lunch & Bowling at Jordan Lanes, 11:30 am-3 pm.**

Lunch at the City View Diner followed by bowling. $1 per game.

Shoe rental is $1.50. **TA**

**ALLENTOWN ACTIVITIES-APRIL 2015**

**FYI: June 18, Hershey Park Trip. See Combined Customer**

**Activities, page 6.**

**April 1-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**April 2-Support Group Meeting, 10-11:30 am.** Facilitated by

James Van Horn. **TA**

**April 3-Office Closed, Good Friday**

**April 7-Rescheduled New Customer Orientation Program,**

**10-11:30 am.** Learn how theservices and programs ofthe Center

for Vision Loss can help you with your vision rehabilitation**. TA**

**April 8-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**April 9-Men’s Club House, 10-11:30 am.** AudioDarts**.**

**TOYO, LVCS 3**

**April 10-Visionaries Activity Group, 11:30 am-2 pm.** Add spring

to your step with this presentation of BlindAlive, a new audio-

described program for fitness. Bring a lunch. **TA**

**April 11-GLV/NFB Chapter Meeting, Emmanuel E.C. Church,**

**75 E. Union Blvd, Bethlehem, Room 208, 10 am-Noon.**

Contact Eileen Hunger at **610-432-3276.**

**April 13-Better Light for Better Sight, 10 am-12 noon.**

Allentown Office**. See Combined Customer Activities, page 7.**

**April 14-Women’s Group, 1-2:30 pm.** Join this forum todiscuss

various women’s issues**.** Facilitated by GretchenEvans and Rita

Lang**. TOYO, LVCS**

**April 15-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall**

**April 16-Community Resource Forum, 10-11:30 am.** Presenters

will include Seniors Helping Seniors, Meals on Wheels of Lehigh

County and Med Alert. **TOYO, LVCS**

**April 18-Lehigh Valley Council of the Blind Meeting, 10 am-**

**12 noon. Holy Family Manor.**

**April 22-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**April 23-Customer Newsletter Mailing Group, 10 am-3 pm.** Call

Rita at **610-433-6018, x. 231** if you want to help. **TOYO, LVCS**

**April 24-Visionaries Activity Group, 11:30 am-2 pm. Program**

**TBA**. Bring a lunch**. TA**

**April 29-Mall Walk, 9-10:30 am, Lehigh Valley Mall.**

**April 29-iOS Device Support Group, 11 am-1:30 pm.** Better

understand your device’s accessibility features and useful apps.

You must have an iOS device to participate. Bring money for

lunch. **TOYO, LVC**

**May 9-fishing Day, Moore Township Lions. See Combined**

**Customer Activities, page 6. 4**

**May 16-Sock Hop, 6-9 pm. Allentown office.** Sponsored by Emmaus Lions Lioness Club. More info in May-June newsletter.

**FYI-May 21-Bingo Bash at Burnley,** **See Combined Customer**

**Activities, page 5.**

**MONROE ACTIVITIES-MARCH 2015**

**March 2-Support Group Meeting, 10-11:30 am.** Facilitated by

James Van Horn. **TA**

**March 9-Cooking Class-Creative Casseroles, 11 am-2 pm**.

Allentown Office. **See Combined Customer Activities, page 7.**

**March 12-Bowling at Sky Lanes, 10-11:30 am**. **TA**

**March 24-University of Penn Museum Ancient Egyptian**

**Collection Tour. See Combined Customer Activities, page 7.**

**March 27-Nuvision Activity Group, 10-11:30 am. Program to**

**be announced. TA**

**MONROE ACTIVITIES-APRIL 2015**

**FYI-June 18-Trip to Hershey Park. See Combined Customer**

**Activities, page 6.**

**April 3-Offices Closed, Good Friday**

**April 6-Support Group,** **10-11:30 am.** Facilitated by James

Van Horn. **TA**

**April 13-Better Light for Better Sight, 10 am-12 noon.**

Allentown Office**. See combined Customer Activities, page 7.**

**April 15-Nuvision Activity Group Luncheon, SPRING FLING,**

**Noon-4 pm**, The Willow Tree Inn, 601 Ann St., Stroudsburg,

PA. Everyone welcome. Cost is $20. Makechecks payable to

Center for Vision Loss by April 1.There is also a gift exchange if

you wish to participate-give a gift, take a gift. **TA 5**

**April 24-Nuvision Activity Group, 10-11:30 am.** Program to be

announced.

**April 27-Exploring Innovative and Useful Devices, 10:30 am-**

**Noon**. Learn how Voxcom and Pen Friend can assist you with

labeling, setting up doctor appointments and keeping track of

phone numbers. Facilitated by Dianne Michels. **TA**

**May 9-Fishing Day, Moore Township Lions. See Combined**

**Customer Activities, page 6.**

**FYI-May 21-Bingo Bash at Burnley, See Combined Customer**

**Activities, page 6.**

**COMBINED CUSTOMER ACTIVITIES**

**FYI LISTINGS**

**FYI-June 18, Hershey Park Trip.** Depart Center for Vision Loss Allentown office at 9 am and return at 8 pm. Pre-season

Discounted Ticket Rate: Regular: Ages 9-54, $33.50;

Junior/Senior-Ages 3-8 & 55-69, $28.50; Senior Plus, Age 70+,

$21.95. Because we are using an outside source for

transportation to and from the Park, there will be a $30

transportation fee added to each individual ticket price.

Participants must provide their own transportation to and from the

Allentown office. Call Rita at **610-433-6018, x. 231** to order tickets

by April 13 to get these rates. Center for Vision Loss must receive

payment by May 31.

**FYI-July 18-28, Beacon Lodge.** The group from our region will go

to Beacon Lodge for the Adult Session, July 18-28. Those

interested should make application before the schedule fills up.

Bus transportation is normally arranged from Allentown (cost and

details not yet confirmed). Local Lions Clubs often sponsor

campers. To contact Beacon Lodge call **814-542- 2511**. If **6**

you need help with application, contact your caseworker.

**FYI-July 7-Whitewater Rafting Trip, 10 am.** Trip includes a 2-hour

rafting trip and lunch. Cost is $48.50 per person-everyone must

register and pay on their own. When calling company to pay

at 570-839-2265 inform them that reservation is under Kathie

Hayes/Center for Vision Loss, Reservation #165875. Consider

paying by debit/credit card as a check takes 2 weeks to clear and

all payments must be received by June 20, 2015. Company will

provide life jackets and rafts. There will be one guide per raft.

Note: This is an outdoor adventure activity that will require

moderate to high physical exertion. To register Allentown

customers call Rita at **610-433-6018, x. 231**; Monroe customers

call **570-992-7787**. **TA**

**REGULAR CALENDAR LISTINGS**

**March 9-Cooking Class-Creative Casseroles, 11 am-2 pm.**

Bring your own knife, cutting board and measuring cups and

prepare to make a few meals in one pan! Also bring your own

containers as we will divide up whatever we make-after, taste-

testing them, of course! If you have a favorite casserole recipe,

please feel to contact Dianne Michels, our instructor. Class

limited to 12. Allentown Customers call Rita at **610-433-6018,**

**x. 231**; Monroe Customers call **570-992-7787**. **TA**

**March 24-University of Penn Museum Tour of Ancient Egyptian**

**Collection, 9:30 am-5:30 pm.** One-hour docent-led touch tour of

6 objects. Braille and large print info about the tour will be

available. Space limited. Cost is $9 per person. Transportation is

on your own to and from Allentown office. The Penn Museum will

transport us to the Museum. Bring a lunch. Allentown customers

**7**

call Rita at **610-433-6018, x.** **231**; Monroe customers call

**570-992-7787.**

**April 13-Better Light for Better Sight, 10 am-12 noon.** Discover

how a variety of lighting sources can help you use your

remaining vision to complete everyday tasks. Facilitated by

customers call **570-992- 7787**. **TA**

**May 9,Fishing Trip.** The Moore Township Lions are again offering

their day of fishing. The event includes breakfast, fishing, lunch

and transportation—all for free! Rain or shine. Call Shirley in

Allentown at **610-433-6018, x. 226** or the Monroe Office at

**570-992-7787** if you plan to attend by April 24 so we can give the

Lions adequate notice for their planning.

**May 21-Bingo Bash at Burnley**. At our “special” bingo/pizza

luncheon you can try your luck at winning special items that make

doing everyday tasks with low vision easier. Please contribute $3

for lunch. Allentown customers call Rita at **610-433-6018, x. 231**;

Monroe customers call **570-992-7787. TA**

**THE LOW VISION BUZZ**

**penNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (PAB) TO CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The PAB will be conducting a needs assessment of people who are blind and visually impaired in 2015. Their goal is to have a current needs assessment specific to Pennsylvania for the purposes of identifying program and service needs, estimating changes in demand for services and assessing the PAB service delivery system. As a PAB member agency, the Center for Vision Loss will be cooperating with this process. Some of you may be randomly chosen as one of the 600 interviewees and asked to **8** complete either a 12 minute telephone survey or be part of a focus group.

Analytic Insight ([www.analyticinsight.org](http://www.analyticinsight.org)) will conduct the assessment. While we hope you are willing to give your opinions, participation is entirely voluntary if you are called. If you wish to opt out entirely from a potential list of participants statewide, please call our offices at **610-433-6018** and let us know.

**FREE CURRENCY READER NOW AVAILABLE**

The Department of the Treasury’s Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is now accepting and processing applications nationwide from blind or visually impaired individuals who wish to receive a free currency reader. This initiative is one of a number of steps the BEP is taking to introduce technologies and features to make our nation’s paper currency accessible to all individuals.

The reader, called iBill® Currency Identifier, provides a convenient means for blind or visually impaired individuals to identify all Federal Reserve notes (US currency) in circulation. It uses a single AAA battery, which is included, and denominates the note in one of three modes: a clear natural voice, a pattern of tones, or a pattern of vibrations for privacy. The vibration mode also assists people who are deaf and blind.

The US Currency Reader Program is a component of the BEP’s initiative to provide meaningful access to Federal Reserve notes. Interested individuals can download the application from the BEP’s website at <http://www.bep.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html>. It must be filled out completely, signed by a competent authority that can certify eligibility, and returned to the mailing address provided on the form. If you are a Center for Vision Loss customer, we can **9** download and provide the application to receive an iBill if you need this assistance.

Please direct questions or comments about the US Currency Reader Program to the BEP toll-free number (844-815-9388) or email at [meaningfull.access@bep.gov](mailto:meaningfull.access@bep.gov). More information about the US Currency Reader Program and the BEP’s meaningful access initiative is available at [www.bep.gov](http://www.bep.gov).

In 2011, the BEP also introduced EyeNote®, an app that scans and identifies note images on mobile devices operating on the Apple iOS platform. BEP also assisted the Department of Education in developing the IDEAL Currency Reader app for Android phones. To date, these apps have been downloaded more than 20,000 times

**NEW VIDEO MAGNIFIER**

Along with other models, the Center for Vision Loss has obtained one of the most current tabletop video magnifiers that not only enlarges printed material but can also scan and read that material back to you. To see the Optelec Clearview “C” with speech, call our office at **610-433-6018** for a demonstration of this technology or some of the other items now on hand. We also have some used CCTV models at bargain prices!

**PARTNERSHIP WITH APPLE**

We are pleased to report that the Center for Vision Loss has developed a partnership with Apple. In the coming months, look for classes and demonstrations of iPad and iPod technology including some Accessibility Workshops in cooperation with the Apple store in the Lehigh Valley Mall!

**10**

**CENTER FOR VISION LOSS VISION AIDS STORE**

When thinking about exploring various kinds of low vision aids, don’t forget to visit the Vision Aids Store in our Allentown office at 845 W. Wyoming St., Allentown, PA. We carry old favorites such as 20/20 pens, magnifiers and talking clocks and new items including various kinds of floor lamps. Give us a call at **610-433-6018** to set up a time to stop by.

**GIVING PAGE**

The Center for Vision Loss is the region’s only non-profit agency dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by vision loss and promoting healthy vision. Help us continue our work in Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties with a tax-deductible gift. Send your gift to: Center for Vision Loss, 845 West Wyoming Street, Allentown, PA 18103.

You can also go to our website at [www.centerforvisionloss.org](http://www.centerforvisionloss.org) and click on the **Donate Now** icon to print out a Giving Page or make your gift by PayPal. You may also wish to consider a legacy gift such as a Bequest (Gift by Will) as a gift option to help ensure the agency’s future and financial health. Contact your tax and/or legal advisor for more details.

Find out more about legacy giving through our new The Helen Keller Society on our website by clicking on the Support Us tab and then clicking on Legacy Giving.

**11**