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Table of Contents

From the Editor's Desk by Mike Keithley..........................2
The President's Corner..................................................3
Introducing the 2013 CCLVI Fred Scheigert Scholarship
Winners.................................................................4
Mardi Gras ACB Style..................................................7
Blind Dragon Boat Team Prepares to Race in the National
Harbor Regatta..........................................................8
Sunglasses and Filters...................................................12
Free Audio Podcasts for the Blind and Dyslexic...............13
Device from Israeli Start-Up Gives the Visually Impaired a Way
to Read...............................................................14
New Initiative................................................................17
Tidbits........................................................................18
Request for Contributions..............................................19
CCLVI Membership Application.................................20
Officers and Board of Directors.................................22

From the Editor's Desk
by Mike Keithley

Well, King was playing around my desk with several of his friends and knocked it over. It was outdoors at the time, and he says no one saw it.

Likely story, but I did discover that no one was wearing sun glasses or filters, which is a topic in the Quality of Life section. We'll also read about the Out of Sight Dragon Boat team were a number of NCCLV members participate. And there's more if I can get King to help me uncover it all. "Ah shucks, never trust a human!"

Happy reading!
Welcome to the fall edition of Vision Access. As I begin my second and what promises to be final year as president, we are just one week and two days removed from the ACB Conference and Convention that took place in Columbus. Congratulations to ACB of Ohio, this year's host affiliate and its host committee, for a remarkable job putting together a week that many conventioneers found to be a rousing success. Likewise, a special and hardy thank you to CCLVI's convention committee, Kathy Casey as chair, with members Jane Kardas, Ken Stewart, and Richard Rueda, for the tireless work and effort they contributed in making the programming unique and informative to those that attended CCLVI sessions. If you have ideas for next year's program in Las Vegas, please either call us at 800-733-2258 or email info@cclvi.org. Lastly, I need to acknowledge the services of our delegate to the ACB Conference and Convention. Thank you to Lindsey Tilden for representing our interests in a positive, professional and dignified manner. As she has expressed an interest in not assuming the role of delegate in Las Vegas, dare I say next year's delegate to the convention has some big shoes to fill?

Before I continue, I want to congratulate those officers and directors that were elected at the annual membership meeting. Following the unfortunate resignation of Lucinda Talkington as First Vice President, Dan Smith of San Lorenzo, California will be completing the two years remaining in her term. Charles Glaser of Stone Mountain, Georgia will be completing the two years Dan had remaining in his Director position. Given the resignation of Reba Landry last fall, Kathy Farina of Albany New York will be completing the remaining year left in Reba's Board position. Elected to a full three year term on the Board were Grady Ebert of Natchitoches, Louisiana and Melody Banks of Cincinnati, Ohio. Welcome aboard and congratulations to all that were elected. And as Brian Petraits chose not to seek re-election to the Board given the press of other matters, I, on behalf of CCLVI, wish to thank him for his service and dedication to the organization during his tenure.

In the last issue, it was reported that our new publication,
"Insights into Low Vision" would be unveiled in Columbus and that a chance raffle on a 22 inch Merlin CCTV donated by Enhanced Vision would be conducted. I am pleased to say that the book, three years in the making, seemed popular, orders are coming in and $580 was raised in the raffle. Congratulations to Lynn Powers of Indianapolis, Indiana on purchasing the winning ticket. We sincerely hope you enjoy your new Merlin. If you are a CCLVI member and have not yet received your book, or know of someone wanting to purchase one, call our office at 800-733-2258 to place your order.

In Conclusion: Little Amber was in the garden filling in a hole when her neighbor peered over the fence, interested in what the cheeky-faced youngster was doing. He politely asked, "What are you up to there, Amber?" "My goldfish died," replied Amber tearfully without looking up, "And I've just buried him." The neighbor was concerned, "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Amber patted down the last heap of earth then replied, "That's because he's inside your cat."

Until the next issue, get out and enjoy the cool fall crispness.

Introducing the 2013 CCLVI Fred Scheigert Scholarship Winners by Mike Gravitt, CCLVI Scholarship Committee Chair [photo: Mike Gravitt, CCLVI Scholarship Chair with Connor Bost and Bianca Knight, 2013 scholarship recipients]

One of the more exciting activities that occurs each year during the ACB convention is the presentation of scholarships to enthusiastic and hard working students. Thanks to the generosity of CCLVI Board member Fred Scheigert, three low vision students are presented with scholarships each year. They are unique in that one does not have to be legally blind to qualify. However they are required to use low vision equipment in their daily lives. Each year, there are three winners: one entering college freshman, one undergraduate student, and one post-graduate.

This year's freshman winner is Connor Bost, who is beginning his major in nursing at Appalachian State University In Boone, NC. Connor's home is in Faith, NC, and
Connor was able to attend the ACB convention for the entire week, and it was a real pleasure to work with him as he is a true gentleman. In his application, Connor writes:

"My ultimate goal is to earn a Masters of Sciences in Nursing degree. My true passion in life is service. I want to use my life to help others. I have always had a patient caring attitude towards others, which I believe will help me in my future career as a nurse. I will use the knowledge and skills that I learn to help serve those in need everyday."

The undergraduate winner is Tiffany Swoish, who is beginning her senior year as a Criminal Justice major at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan. Tiffany hails from Taylor, MI, and is a repeat winner of the Fred Scheigert scholarship. She won as an entering freshman in 2010, and attended the ACB convention in Phoenix. Unfortunately, this year she could not be in Columbus due to an internship, and could not get time off to attend. In her application, Tiffany writes:

"By studying criminal justice for two and a half years, I have developed an interest in intelligence analysis, and I am currently looking at graduate schools which offer programs that will prepare me for a career in homeland security. Because extensive research is required in most of my criminal justice courses, I consider critical thinking and report writing to be two of my strongest skills. Through my research, I have become especially interested in analyzing patterns in criminal behavior and using criminological theory to predict future criminal activity."

The post-graduate winner is Bianca Knight, who attends Belmont University and hails from Nashville, Tennessee. Her goal is to become an attorney, with a focus in disability law. Bianca is a repeat winner, having won last year in 2012. Since attending the 2012 ACB convention, Bianca has involved herself in both CCLVI and ACB, serving on the CCLVI board, and is active in her local and state ACB chapters. Thankfully, Bianca was able to accept her scholarship in person in Columbus, and was
gladly sharing her time and talents with CCLVI. In her application, Bianca writes:

"Since childhood, I have wanted to be a lawyer. Losing my sight at age 28 was devastating. When I finally accepted my fate of 95% loss of central vision with barely functional peripheral, I decided to pursue my dream and focus on disability law to help others with the frustrations I now face."

Connor and Bianca were made welcome by members of CCLVI as well as the ACB Scholarship Committee. I want to thank Michael Garrett, chair of the ACB Scholarship Committee, for allowing the CCLVI scholarship winners to be part of ACB's scholarship activities. Because of ACB's open arms, Connor and Bianca participated in the ACB dinner and reception functions for scholarship winners, and accept their scholarships during the ACB general session alongside other ACB winners.

I wish to also thank Cathy Schmitt-Whitaker, who chaired the CCLVI Scholarship Committee prior to me. She served as a great mentor, and I appreciate her trust in me to take the baton. She did a stellar job chairing this committee, and I have learned a lot by working with her.

Also, behind every committee chair is an even better set of committee members. Without the hard work and dedication of the following individuals, my first year chairing this committee would have been much more difficult. My sincere thanks and gratitude go to Allen Casey (NC), John McMahon (ME), Fred Scheigert (NY), Leslie Spoone (FL), Janis Stanger (UT), and Lindsey Tilden (CA).

I also wish to thank Jim Jirak (CCLVI President) and Mike Godino (CCLVI Treasurer) for all of their support. I also owe a huge thanks to CCLVI webmaster Annette Carter for all of her time and attention to detail, which was essential to making the scholarship process go smoothly. Finally, my sincere and heart-felt thanks go to Fred Scheigert for his very kind generosity, and making a difference and positively affecting the lives of our scholarship recipients.

Now it is time for our committee to regroup and organize for 2014. One of our goals for next year is to move closer to a fully electronic process. I wish to welcome two new members: Sarita Kimble (PA) and Kathy Farina (NY). Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. If you have any questions, comments, or
Conferences and Tours

Mardi Gras ACB Style
By Jim Jirak

The most famous place to celebrate Mardi Gras in the United States is in the city of New Orleans. But it is not the only place to go for a carnival atmosphere. Mardi Gras tradition is strongest in America where French and/or Catholic communities settled. The popularity of the New Orleans' Mardi Gras party atmosphere has also meant that many big cities and communities throughout the U.S. now celebrate Mardi Gras as a way of getting through the last cold days of winter and looking forward to spring.

While Mobile, AL has the oldest Mardi Gras, St. Louis claims to have the biggest Mardi Gras event outside of New Orleans. Soulard is St. Louis' best known Mardi Gras party. But there are a number of other balls and parades that take place all over St. Louis when it's Mardi Gras time.

Building on the momentum of this conference and the successful national Leadership Training held at the 2012 ACB Conference and Convention in Louisville, KY, several individuals from the states of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and Oklahoma have gotten together to discuss having another Midwest conference Mardi Gras weekend in 2014. The host hotel is the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, 315 Chestnut St. Room reservations are now available and can be made online at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/MidwestLeadership or by calling (888) 421-1442. The conference dates are February 28-March 2 and the group rate is $99 plus 16.741% taxes.

This time, we are reaching beyond the Midwest to invite affiliates and persons who can possibly benefit. Please begin thinking about who can benefit most from suggestions, please feel free to e-mail me at mgravitt2@gmail.com.
a program such as this. Guidelines for consideration include, but are not limited to having a scholarship winner who has expressed genuine interest in and follow-through with projects. Perhaps you, or Board members, are new and need to share the experiences of others.

The festivities begin Friday, February 28 with an ice breaker. Some of the topics being discussed Saturday, March 1 include running an effective meeting, protocol and etiquette, membership recruitment and retention, legislative advocacy fund raising and public relations. We will conclude with a Saturday evening banquet.

A singularly effective means of increasing affiliate membership, training tomorrow’s leaders, improving the ability of current leaders, and creating a vibrant, active and empowered state affiliate is in the holding of leadership training seminars such as is being planned.

If you have further questions, would like to help in the plenary process, or need more information about the conference in general, please contact the committee at acbmlc2014@gmail.com or Jim Jirak by calling the ACB of Nebraska Omaha chapter's Share A Fare line at (402) 827-9814.

When you mention Mardi Gras in St. Louis, many Missourian's think of Soulard, home to one of the largest Mardi Gras celebrations outside of New Orleans. The Soulard festivities last for weeks, ending on Fat Tuesday. And while the Midwest Leadership Conference’s festivities won't last indefinitely, it is hoped the knowledge, wisdom and benefits gained help to create "tomorrow's leaders today."

Quality of Life

Blind Dragon Boat Team Prepares to Race in the National Harbor Regatta by St. John Barned-Smith

[From the Metro section of the Washington Post, August 23, 2013,
Winifred "Winkie" Day leans against the long steering paddle of a 40-foot dragon boat, preparing to prod her team, the Out of Sight Dragons, into action.

"Attention!" Day calls out one recent day on the Potomac River in Southwest. Maybelle Kagy, sitting near the dragon boat's prow, waits for the final signal as Day's command ripples down a line of paddlers. They lean forward, their paddles horizontal to the water. And then, "Go!"

In front, Kagy starts pounding a steady tattoo onto the drum she carries, and the blades bite into the water. In a quick series of strokes, the boat surges forward. "Bury your blade! Get your hand wet!" Kagy yells.

It is the last practice for the Out of Sight Dragons before they race at Saturday's National Harbor Dragon Boat Regatta. The local team is one of 35 from around the country to compete in the regatta. In dragon boat racing, teams are composed of 20 paddlers, a drummer and a sweep, or steersman. What distinguishes the Out of Sight Dragons is that its members are all blind or visually impaired.

The origins of the sport trace back millennia, historians say. Now dragon boat racing has spread across the globe and become one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States, drawing dozens of teams to a rapidly expanding calendar of regattas across the country, enthusiasts say.

"There's tremendous interest and excitement about the sport from small town America to large urban cities," said Siv Somchanhmavong, president of the Eastern Region Dragon Boat Association, which oversees many dragon boat teams, clubs and races on the East Coast. In the past year, he estimates that the association has grown by 10 to 15 percent and from overseeing 12 festivals to 15.

Ginny Perrin, president of the United States Dragon Boat Federation, said there are about 6,000 serious paddlers around the country, and many more paddlers who compete but aren't ongoing paddlers. They start by joining corporate or charity teams, such as those for survivors of breast cancer. "Then they start to want to put more time in the boat," she said. The sport also appeals to
people of all ages, she said -- with divisions for kids as young as 12 up to seniors. "You don't see people aging out," she said. "You see them taking their skills and continuing at an older division."

"In D.C., from 12 to about 20 novices show up at the Gangplank Marina on Water Street in Southwest to give the D.C. Dragon Boat Club's free Saturday morning practices a try," said Jeffrey Kuhn, the club's president. The National Harbor Regatta is two years old but has signed up the maximum 35 teams for this year's competition, according to Kuhn, one of the regatta's organizers.

Out of Sight Dragons will be one of them. The inspiration for the team came four years ago, according to founder Kagy. She had been working at Lions Camp Merrick, a camp for deaf, blind and diabetic people located in Southern Maryland. Kagy's son, who was the director of the D.C. Dragon Boat Festival at the time, first suggested she start a team for blind and visually impaired paddlers, she said. Kagy said she soon realized that unlike many team sports, dragon boat racing might be one that visually impaired athletes could compete in, needing little more than a spot to sit and the ability to paddle to the beat of a drum.

The team is made up of a spectrum of paddlers, according to team member Sarah Presley. "There are people who can see pretty well, and people who are totally blind," said Presley, who has "a little bit of vision" but lost most of her eyesight to congenital cataracts and glaucoma. There is also a wide range of ages. At 37, Regina Crisafulli [who is an NCCLV member] is one of the youngest Out of Sight Dragons. Oral Miller, 80, on the other hand, is among the team's oldest paddlers.

For Out of Sight's paddlers, the sport has provided the thrill of athletic competition but also something more. It gives paddlers a "can-do attitude," increased physical stamina and an increased will to advocate for themselves, Crisafulli said.

Kagy assembled a group of potential paddlers with the help of Miller, then head of the D.C. Council of the Blind, and members of the D.C. Dragon Boat Festival, who brought personal flotation devices, paddles and a drum to do a tutorial in a conference room. Soon after, they had a practice on the water.

"How will they become a team?" she remembers wondering. But after just three practices on the water, the team competed in its first regatta. "We showed
ourselves and the public that blind people are really capable of doing something and being on a team," said Kagy, remembering the other paddlers cheering for them after they finished their race. "We really felt like rock stars. ... On that day, we broke some stereotypes and showed the blind and visually impaired can participate in a team sport," she said.

"It was a little chaotic to get everyone in sync," said Sarah Presley, 46, of her initial practices with the team, which receives significant support from the D.C. Dragon Boat Club. "It's definitely a good sport for the visually impaired," said Presley, one of the team's paddlers. "When the drum beats, you know the paddle goes into the water."

That concept is one that sighted paddlers use as well, according to [Amy] Somchanhmavong of the Eastern Region Dragon Boat Association. "One component of training is to paddle with your eyes closed, so paddlers will wear bandannas to focus on hearing and timing," Somchanhmavong said.

On Saturday, Kagy said, the team will be using 13 blind paddlers and seven sighted ones, hoping to finish its 500-meter races in less than four minutes. "We're competing with ourselves this time. We still have much older people on the team," she said. "We cannot expect to be like a young competitive team."

Other members on the team are wondering how they will stack up against Blind Ambition, another team of blind paddlers traveling from Portland, Ore. "I'm looking forward to competing against them, because I think we can more accurately evaluate our performance in competing against paddlers experiencing the same vision issues we have," Miller said.

Back on the Potomac, the boat cruises by a weeping willow, and Day calls for a series of practice sprints just before the hour-long session winds down. The team is tired but digs in for a couple of final 500s. Day, the coach, calls a start, and the boat lurches forward, momentarily unbalancing her. She wobbles, eyes widening, then rights herself, before steering the boat through the sprint. "They all about knocked me off the boat," she said.

[editor's note: Barbara Milleville, NCCLV president writes that several chapter members are involved with the Out of Sight Dragon Boat team, either through fund-raising or direct participation.]
Sunglasses and Filters by Mike Keithley

This is a short summary of the July, 2013 Let’s Talk Low Vision conference with Dr. Bill. It featured a discussion of sunglasses and filters with an interview with Dr. Bruce Rosenthau, OD, FAAO, Chief of Low Vision Programs at Lighthouse International.

It seems that many low vision people will need more than one all-purpose pair of glasses to carry on in everyday living, and changes will often be required as vision changes. So put patience in the mix!

We had an in-depth description of why sunglasses and filters are important, both to keep eyes healthy and improve quality of life. It is very clear that people working outdoors need to protect their eyes from retinal burning from ultraviolet light and the development of cataracts, and sunglasses can do that. But it was pointed out that just wearing sunglasses is rarely sufficient for low vision people as the darkening of the environment usually causes visual contrast to be lost, and we’re essentially blind. Filters of different colors, including yellow, amber, brown, and even red can help people with low vision to see under various lighting conditions. It does appear that Polaroid sunglasses are more effective than garden variety glasses as these polarize light, thus reducing glare, and are extremely helpful in reducing reflected glare from the windshields of cars or light reflecting from water.

Filters help here. They are lenses that remove bands of light-wavelength that cause glare, reduce visual contrast and are harmful to the retina. In many cases, removing blue light is important, especially under florescent lighting. And since many eye diseases inhibit the perception of some wavelengths, it is often desirable to remove them to improve visual contrast and reduce light sensitivity. There are also "transition" lenses that help cope with changing lighting. In addition, we can have bi and tri-focal lenses to cope with changing conditions and life tasks.

It was strongly advised that when you need glasses, deal exclusively with optometrists and Ophthalmologist familiar with low vision problems and effects. It not only keeps eyes as healthy as they can be, but probably costs less in the end with less frustration.
Dr. Rosenthau's email address is brosenthau@lighthouse.org.

In closing, buying glasses was featured in the July Consumer Reports, which is on BARD. It covers both frames and lenses, and we'd probably want to ignore the lens section and get some cheap, cool frames. But we really need to know what we're doing.

Free Audio Podcasts for the Blind and Dyslexic
Edited Press Release

Millions of people are not able to read printed information due to dyslexia, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa and other eye disorders. AIRSLA.org is a non-profit organization that provides free audio recordings of today's most popular magazines, including Reader's Digest, People, Sports Illustrated, Scientific American, and Oprah. AIRSLA.org also has recordings of research seminars that discuss the latest in treatments for people with low vision, discussions on the best in computer and assistive technology for people with vision impairment, and programs from organizations including Foundation Fighting Blindness, Braille Institute, National Federation of the Blind, and the Council of Citizens with Low Vision International. Since it was established in 2007, AIRSLA has grown and has listeners from across the world.

AIRSLA consists of volunteers from across the country. Professional voice-over artists read and record articles from current magazines, while audio engineers travel to conferences and seminars to record lectures presented by researchers and scientist. Doctors and therapists volunteer their time to record programs that help people to learn to cope with vision loss and to learn how to use the latest in technology. "People who have not been able to read magazines for years can now go to their computer, Smart phone, iPad, or other digital media player and listen to over 10,000 podcasts at no charge. Some of the most popular podcasts are recordings that talk about the latest in cell phones, video magnifiers and other high technologies for people with low vision. "The popularity of cell phones such as the Apple iPhone has resulted in the development of our AIRSLA application for the iPhone, where users can easily download their favorite podcasts and listen anywhere they go," said Joe Jurca, chief engineer at AIRSLA. "We will soon release an
application program for users of the Android Smart phones."

Anyone who is visually impaired or unable to access printed information may go to www.airsla.org and listen to podcasts for free. The web page requires that you register with a user name and password to become a free member. It is easy to access and is designed for people with vision loss. If you have any questions about AIRSLA or would like to volunteer or make suggestions of materials you would like recorded, please contact AIRSLA at www.airsla.org.

Science and Health

Device from Israeli Start-Up Gives the Visually Impaired a Way to Read
By John Markoff

[From the New York Times, June 3, 2013

[photo: Liat Negrin, an employee at OrCam, wears a device made by the company that consists of a camera and a small computer.]

Liat Negrin, an Israeli who has been visually impaired since childhood, walked into a grocery store here recently, picked up a can of vegetables and easily read its label using a simple and unobtrusive camera attached to her glasses.

Ms. Negrin, who has coloboma, a birth defect that perforates a structure of the eye and afflicts about 1 in 10,000 people, is an employee at OrCam, an Israeli start-up that has developed a camera-based system intended to give the visually impaired the ability to both "read" easily and move freely.

Until now reading aids for the visually impaired and the blind have been cumbersome devices that recognize text in restricted environments, or, more recently, have been software applications on smartphones that have limited capabilities. In contrast, the OrCam device is a small camera worn in the style of Google Glass,
connected by a thin cable to a portable computer designed to fit in the wearer's pocket. The system clips on to the wearer's glasses with a small magnet and uses a bone-conduction speaker to offer clear speech as it reads aloud the words or object pointed to by the user.

The system is designed to both recognize and speak "text in the wild," a term used to describe newspaper articles as well as bus numbers, and objects as diverse as landmarks, traffic lights and the faces of friends. It currently recognizes English-language text and beginning this week will be sold through the company's website [www.orcam.com] for $2,500, about the cost of a midrange hearing aid. It is the only product, so far, of the privately held company, which is part of the high-tech boom in Israel.

The device is quite different from other technology that has been developed to give some vision to people who are blind, like the artificial retina system called Argus II, made by Second Sight Medical Products. That system, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in February, allows visual signals to bypass a damaged retina and be transmitted to the brain. The OrCam device is also drastically different from Google Glass, which also offers the wearer a camera but is designed for people with normal vision and has limited visual recognition and local computing power.

OrCam was founded several years ago by Amnon Shashua, a well-known researcher who is a computer science professor at Hebrew University here. It is based on computer vision algorithms that he has pioneered with another faculty member, Shai Shalev-Shwartz, and one of his former graduate students, Yonatan Wexler.

"What is remarkable is that the device learns from the user to recognize a new product," said Tomaso Poggio, a computer scientist at M.I.T. who is a computer vision expert and with whom Dr. Shashua studied as a graduate student. "This is more complex than it appears, and, as an expert, I find it really impressive."

The advance is the result of both rapidly improving computing processing power that can now be carried comfortably in a wearer's pocket and the computer vision algorithm developed by the scientists. On a broader technology level, the OrCam system is representative of a wide range of rapid improvements...
being made in the field of artificial intelligence, in particular with vision systems for manufacturing as well as fields like autonomous motor vehicles. (Dr. Shashua previously founded Mobileye, a corporation that supplies camera technology to the automobile industry that can recognize objects like pedestrians and bicyclists and can keep a car in a lane on a freeway.)

Speech recognition is now routinely used by tens of millions of people on both iPhones and Android smartphones. Moreover, natural language processing is making it possible for computer systems to "read" documents, which is having a significant impact in the legal field, among others. There are now at least six competing approaches in the field of computer vision. For example, researchers at Google and elsewhere have begun using what are known as "deep learning" techniques that attempt to mimic biological vision systems. However, they require vast computing resources for accurate recognition.

In contrast, the OrCam technique, which was described in a technical paper in 2011 by the Hebrew University researchers, offers a reasonable trade-off between recognition accuracy and speed. The technique, known as Shareboost, is distinguished by the fact that as the number of objects it needs to recognize grows, the system minimizes the amount of additional computer power required. "The challenges are huge," said Dr. Wexler, a co-author of the paper and vice president of research and development at OrCam. "People who have low vision will continue to have low vision, but we want to harness computer science to help them."

Additionally the OrCam system is designed to have a minimal control system, or user interface. To recognize an object or text, the wearer simply points at it with his or her finger, and the device then interprets the scene. The system recognizes a pre-stored set of objects and allows the user to add to its library - for example, text on a label or billboard, or a stop light or street sign - by simply waving his or her hand, or the object, in the camera's field of view.

One of the key challenges, Dr. Shashua said, was allowing quick optical character recognition in a variety of lighting conditions as well as on flexible surfaces. "The professional optical character readers today will work very well when the image is good, but we have additional challenges - we must read text on flexible
surfaces like a hand-held newspaper," he said.

Although the system is usable by the blind, OrCam is initially planning to sell the device to people in the United States who are visually impaired, which means that their vision cannot be adequately corrected with glasses. In the United States, 21.2 million people over the age of 18 have some kind of visual impairment, including age-related conditions, diseases and birth defects, according to the 2011 National Health Survey by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics. OrCam said that worldwide there were 342 million adults with significant visual impairment, and that 52 million of them had middle-class incomes.

For more info or to watch or listen to a video demonstration: laughingsquid.com/orcam-a-google-glass-like-aid-for-the-visually-impaired/

New Initiative

The International Academy of Low Vision Specialists is pleased to announce the launch of a stand-alone website, www.lowvisioneyedoctors.com, dedicated to educating consumers about low vision and its solutions. The site was created to serve as an online resource for people with

vision impairment due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and other eye conditions often associated with aging. The initiative aims to answer questions that those with low vision and their loved ones and caregivers, may have by addressing its causes and warning signs as well as vision-enhancing devices and medical solutions.

The website design is fully functional for low vision users. It offers an easy-to-navigate layout and incorporates several specialty functions, including font size and contrast buttons, a doctor locator called "Find a Low Vision Specialist," and a Low Vision Resource feed.

In addition to the website launch, consumer outreach efforts promoting it to key aging publications such as Mature Living, Lions Club Magazine, Good Old Days, and Living Well are underway. To learn more about The International Academy of Low Vision Specialists' low vision website, contact Dr. Richard Shuldiner, Founder, International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at Doctor@lowvisioncare.com or visit www.lowvisioneyedoctors.com or www.ialvs.com.
Here is a blog for those looking to use an Android phone with large print (or why you might consider Android as a large print user): qchristensen.wordpress.com/

AI Squared has just launched a ZoomText Certification Program. There are two tiers of certification: Essentials and Professional. More information is available at www.aisquared.com/news/more/zoomtext_certification_program_lunched.

SeeingAssistant-Home LITE is a free iOS App developed by Transition Technologies S.A. that performs color recognition, light detection, magnification, scanning, and generating bar and QR codes. Access applevis.com/apps/ios/utilities/seeingassistant-home-lite.

IBUG, the iOS Blind Users Group, offers weekly training, a conference, calls, podcasts, and other events. Access www.ibugtoday.com/. There is a new program where Microsoft technicians repair sick computers. Call 800 936-5900.

A new national non-profit organization called RespectAbility has just launched with the mission of reshaping attitudes of American society and empowering people with disabilities so that they can more fully participate in and contribute to society. The organization has announced trainings for disability leaders and funders and fellowships for future disability leaders. More information is available at respectabilityusa.org.


Accessibility.tv is the only Internet TV station dedicated to accessibility and assistive technology products. This website is not selling anything but shares videos divided into two categories: Vendor and product. The service is operated by volunteers; and if you are interested in helping us, please call Pat Fisher at 866-539-4357.

NIHSeniorHealth.gov is a senior-friendly website from the National Institute on Aging and the National Library of Medicine, both part of the National Institutes of Health. Maintaining your vision as you get older is vital to health and well-being. Even if you enjoy good
vision now, it's important to practice good eye care to make sure your vision is as good as it can be as you age. To learn about ways to keep your eyes healthy, visit the new "Healthy Eyes" topic on nihseniorhealth.gov.

**Request for Contributions**

CCLVI gratefully accepts contributions from readers and members to help pay for the costs of publishing Vision Access, the costs related to our 800 line and Project Insight, and for funding the Carl E. Foley and Fred Scheigert Scholarships. Please send contributions to CCLVI Treasurer, Mike Godino, 104 Tilrose Avenue, Malverne, NY 11565-2040. Our Tax ID number is 1317540.
CCLVI Membership Application
(revised 9/22/2013)

Name__________________________________
Address________________________________
City______________ State _____ Zip Code ____
Country __________
Main Phone _____________________
Alternate phone __________________
Main E-Mail __________________________
Alternate E-Mail ______________________

Preferred method of being contacted:
□ Phone □ email □ large print postal mail

Membership Status: I am ...
□ New member at large.
□ Renewing member at large.
□ New chapter member. (specify chapter)
□ CCCLV □ DVCCCLV □ FCCLV
□ MCLVI □ NCCLV □ NYSCCLV
□ Renewing chapter membership. (specify chapter)
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