

Vision Access

**A Magazine by, for and about
People with Low Vision**

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Vision Access welcomes submissions from people with low vision, from professionals such as ophthalmologists, optometrists, low vision specialists, and everyone with something substantive to contribute to the ongoing discussion of low vision and all of its ramifications.

Submissions are best made as attachments to email. Submissions may also be made in clear typescript. Vision Access cannot assume responsibility for lost manuscripts. Deadlines for submissions are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Submissions may be mailed to Joyce Kleiber, Editor, 6 Hillside Rd., Wayne, PA 19087, jmkleiber@hotmail.com

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From the Editor

My life has changed. My husband has Alzheimer's disease. So I no longer have time to edit Vision Access. More than ever, my husband wants and needs my attention and care.

I've truly enjoyed being editor and gathering and sharing information about low vision. It's been fun and often inspiring to meet people who have some connection to low vision. I've experienced CCLVI as a community of people

who work together. I could not have done this job without the many people who have supported and contributed to this work. To all of you, especially the members of our Publication Committee, I am grateful.

I expect there is another member of CCLVI who will enjoy editing Vision Access as much as I have. In 1995, Teresa Blessing, then president of CCLVI, asked me if I would take on this task as co-editor with Herb Guggenheim. I said "Yes." Teresa asked me to do this simply because I live in the Philadelphia area near the Pennsylvania College of Optometry; she thought this college would be a good source of material for our publication. And I grew into the job. I will miss all of this, but I feel I've made the right decision at this time for me and for my husband. JMK, 6/5/2012

Organization News

President's Message

By Richard Rueda

This past March while on business for work in Southern California, I experienced a vitreous hemorrhage in my right and only functional eye. In the blink of an eye, I lost all remaining vision. At that point I was functionally blind. Having been around a supportive family and friends has certainly aided me during those initial first few weeks of adjustment.

Although I am beginning to regain some of my functional vision, I cannot help but be in awe of how I, even with extreme low vision, have taken what I do have for granted. Every day as I go to work and to visit with friends, I am gleefully noticing colors and other small things I would have never observed and absorbed had I not

had this unfortunate experience.

For thirty-three years now the Council of Citizens with Low Vision International has been on the front lines advocating for the low vision community. As we approach another summer season, we also embrace the change of our organization's leadership. As your president for the past two-years, it has been a pleasure talking with many of you and working together to advocate for many issues. As I step aside to begin to fulfill other goals on my bucket list, I ask that you, our members and readers of this publication, commit to CCLVI an article for Vision Access, join a committee, step up to join our board and generally support our mission by telling those you come across about CCLVI and its many programs, scholarship offerings, publication and commitment to grass roots advocacy. Sam Genensky, our organization's

founder, had these values for CCLVI and it's up to us to carry forth CCLVI's legacy.

Taking for granted what CCLVI is and what CCLVI offers, as I did with my functional vision prior to my hemorrhage, is not a direction we want to head towards. If it's getting the publication in formats other than what you are receiving it and or if it's an environmental issue that can impact the lives of many with vision loss, it's up to us and not our neighbor to take those initial steps. Before long we will notice that we are not alone and that collective support will gain momentum.

As there is a lot that I would like to accomplish both personally and professionally in this world, the time I spent as your president will always stand out.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the hard work and passion of our Vision Access editor, Joyce Kleiber. This will be Joyce's last issue as editor of Vision Access and let's each take a moment to reflect on her commitment and dedication to this publication which has gone on to receive awards and outstanding praise from the blind and low vision community. Joyce, thank you and know that your work as editor has truly impacted the lives of hundreds of people.

Metropolitan Council of Low Vision Individuals Reports on Activities

By Ken Stewart

In May the chapter tried having a meeting via a conference call for the first time. A total of eleven members and chapter friends participated in a discussion of several advocacy issues followed by a lively and extended exchange of helpful information about services,

agencies and equipment available to assist people with low vision.

In March, PASS, Pedestrians for Accessible and Safe Streets, achieved a major victory in New York City when the City Council passed legislation mandating installation of 25 accessible pedestrian signals each year. That law, of course, would have been even better if it had stated "at least 25..."! The Metro Chapter and its coalition partners are especially grateful for the untiring work by Council Member Gail Brewer and the Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee James Vacca. They both continue to be very responsive to all of our pedestrian safety needs.

NCCLV Lighting Committee Produces Results

By Barbara Milleville

The Lighting Committee at the National Capital Citizens with Low Vision (NCCLV) chapter continues to be busy advocating for the lighting needs of transit riders in the Washington, DC metro area. Our partnership with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is strengthened as we share in detail how poor lighting impacts our ability to travel independently and as we offer solutions via best practices. In turn, we learn from lighting experts about the intricacies of running such a massive rail operation.

We are pleased to report that at this writing, the lighting has vastly improved in approximately 25 rail stations. And more stations will be added to this list. This is quite impressive as we have heard there have been lighting issues for

over 20 years! Of course, there is more work to be done, but our committee thinks it's very cool to navigate through brightly-lit stations and know we played a large part in making this happen.

Come visit DC soon! Our transit system has been rated as one of the best in the world for people with disabilities. Springtime is especially nice as we welcome warmer weather. And the cherry blossoms are quite a treat for your eyes!

**How Did the Committee Come Up with Our New Large Print Guidelines?
By Tom Lealos, Chair, Large Print Committee**

The answer to this question begins with the make-up of our committee. The Large Print Committee is comprised of six CCLVI members, five of whom have numerous years of experience

working with low vision issues, including those involving large print. I'm the sixth member and all I brought to the table was a long-time question of who decided what large print was. I volunteered to chair the committee, which meant I got to develop the agendas for our meetings, write up the minutes, and be the referee of our sometimes, very lively and passionate discussions, this owing to the fact that each of us has a Type "A" personality.

As we began meeting, our focus was to write a mission statement and come up with some sort of structured process towards accomplishing our task. Our goal was to develop "Best Practices and Guidelines for Large Print Documents Used by the Low Vision Community." This mission statement ultimately became the title of our final document.

To accomplish this task, we first identified and collected existing documents that spoke to the large print issue. We then reviewed each of them, often, one line at a time, and identified the important, and in many cases, similar, points which eventually became the basis for the bulleted items of our final document. I then boldly took on the task of writing the first draft of our document. The long and tedious editing phase came next. This is when the lively and passionate discussions mentioned above took place. The knowledge and expertise gained by collective decades of involvement in low vision issues by the members of this committee proved to be invaluable as we carefully and painstakingly debated each word, line, sentence and bullet point.

Formatting the document, to bring it into compliance with our new guidelines was

somewhat surprising, at least to me. For example, our choice of font size and line spacing produced a document with many more pages than expected. I mention this point to emphasize the necessity for all of us to be strong advocates for these guidelines when presenting them to those who actually produce the large print documents for us to read, as increased printing costs are inevitable.

During the process, we felt it would be important to seek the input of our members on some of the debatable points in the document. We accomplished this by conducting two in-house surveys, one during the 2010 Convention and the other in the Fall 2010 issue (Volume 17, No. 3) of Vision Access. The information provided by our own low vision members from these surveys helped us confirm our conclusions on many of the bulleted guidelines.

The hundreds of hours of committee work produced a document that gained the approval of the Board and ultimately the acceptance of the CCLVI membership at the 2011 Convention.

We are currently in the process of distributing our document to appropriate individuals, agencies, organizations, publishers, and printing houses. We prefer to send the guidelines out as a hard-copy document, but we will send them out electronically if the situation is warranted.

There is no doubt that these guidelines will take some time to be embraced by those who produce large print documents for the low vision community, but as they say, "You have to start somewhere." To this end, we feel that we have taken an important step forward.

Readers Want to Know

By Valerie Ries Lerman

Here is our next question for our readers.

“I'm emailing you just to mention an interest that I have and I know others with vision impairments may share. I am wishing for an exercise class or group for visually impaired people. I feel like most exercise classes are not accessible because instructors provide visual, not auditory direction. Does anyone have any ideas or know of any way to find classes that would work for me?

Lisa”

If you have suggestions that would be useful to Lisa, email to Valerie Ries-Lerman at sacramentovalerie@yahoo.com.

In Memoriam

Paula Warren-Peace

By Catherine Schmidt-Whitaker

It is with sadness that I learned of Dr. Paula Warren-Peace's death on January 31, 2012 after a lengthy struggle with cancer. Paula was a passionate educator and a CCLVI Scholarship winner. In 2010, Paula received her doctorate in counseling from Mississippi State University where she continued on to teach. Paula was an active member of the CCLVI Scholarship Committee from 2009 – 2011. She had a passion for supporting others and believed being part of the CCLVI Scholarship Committee was a meaningful experience in her life. She loved learning and her optimism was contagious. Scholarship Committee members missed her engaging and caring interest in students in this year's scholarship process.

Quality of Life

Congress Rules on Accessible Prescription Drug Labeling

**By Eric Bridges, ACB's Director of Advocacy
and Governmental Affairs**

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) has learned that the accessible prescription drug labeling language that was included in the Senate's version of the FDA Safety and Innovation Act has made its way into the final conference package! It is expected that this package will pass through the House of Representatives on June 21 and the Senate next week.

We want to thank Rep. Ed Markey for his staunch advocacy of this critically important issue. The bill that he introduced, H.R.4087, Accessible Prescription Drug Labeling Promotion Act served as the foundation for our negotiations with the

Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

A special thank you also goes to Chairman Tom Harkin and Ranking Member Mike Enzi for their willingness to lead on this issue in the Senate. Without the support of these champions along with the tireless advocacy of the ACB membership this most certainly would not have happened.

Well done everyone!

More Audio Description on Television

Starting July 1, the four major broadcast networks and the top five-rated cable networks will begin offering four hours a week of video described programs. Networks will be meeting the guidelines set forth by the Federal Communication Commission regarding the

implementation of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. This ruling applies to the four major networks and their affiliates in the top 25 markets and to cable and satellite systems with at least 50,000 subscribers. Video descriptions have been part of broadcasting, cable, and home video, but never to the extent as they now will be. These described programs are the culmination of a 12-year battle by the FCC and advocacy groups including the American Council of the Blind.

**ABC plans to provide descriptions on "Last Man Standing," "The Middle," "Suburgatory," "Modern Family," "Happy Endings" and "Don't Trust the B-
--- in Apt. 23." In the fall, ABC will likely add audio description to a new sitcom "The Neighbors" and to a new drama "Nashville."**

CBS has been providing audio descriptions for

several programs since 2002. The lineup is "CSI," "Criminal Minds," "NCIS," "Los Angeles," plus movies and miniseries.

NBC has broadcast many shows with descriptions, including the Betty White reality show "Off Their Rockers," the drama "Grimm" and the summer series "Saving Hope."

Described sitcoms include "The Office," "Up All Night" and "Parks and Recreation."

At Fox, "The Simpsons" has been audio described for several years. Fox has not announced what additional audio described programs it plans to offer.

Disney Channel's described shows will include "Jessie," "A.N.T. Farm" and "Phineas and Ferb."

Nickelodeon will offer descriptions for "Dora the Explorer" and the preschool educational show "Team Umizoomi."

Turner Broadcasting will have described movies as well as TV series including TNT's "The Closer" and TBS's "House of Payne" and "For Better or Worse."

USA's described programs will include "NCIS" and "Law & Order," "SVU," "Royal Pains" and "Suits."

Producing the descriptions costs between \$2,000 to \$4,000 per hour. According to broadcasters, it costs stations from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to install the equipment necessary to handle the extra audio channel. Networks can potentially increase their revenue from these changes as advertisers may appreciate the larger audience to which to market their products.

Walmart Offers Talking Prescription Containers

By Lainey Feingold

Walmart announced that it is offering the ScripTalk Talking Prescription program on a pilot basis to its mail order customers with visual impairments across the country and to Walmart pharmacy customers in three stores. The press release is available at:

<http://lflegal.com/2012/06/walmart-prescription/>

This is the first time in the United States that a national retailer has offered talking prescription labels to the blind community on a national basis. Walmart is working with the American Council of the Blind, the American Foundation for the Blind and the California Council of the Blind through the Structured Negotiations process on this important health, safety, and privacy initiative.

We are also working with the other national pharmacies on these issues.

Inquiries about talking pill bottles or accessible prescription information in connection with Walmart or any other retailer or prescription provider should be directed to Scott Grimes at prescription.access@gdblegal.com or at 800-822-5000.

Walmart mail order customers or customers at the three pilot stores (listed in press release) may contact En-Vision America at 800-890-1180 for a free ScripTalk Talking prescription reader.

Walmart's mail order pharmacy can be reached at: <http://www.walmart.com/cp/Pharmacy-Home-Delivery/1042239> or at 800-273-3455.

Library Service Increases Reading Options

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is making some positive changes. Readers will be able to read talking books on iPhones, iPads, and Android based mobile devices. All NLS files will be encrypted so that only devices authorized by NLS and used by registered patrons will be able to access books.

NLS also plans to distribute audio magazines including Talking Book Topics on digital cartridges. At least three magazines can be put on a single digital cartridge. Because of the higher cost of these cartridges, users will be asked to mail them back to the library so that they can be reused.

Because NLS hopes to be joining forces with commercial audiobook producers, its collection will have a broader selection of materials with

synthetic-speech narration. NLS still has to be granted permission from the rights holders to use commercial audiobooks.

In recent years, audiobooks have come from one producer, Brilliance Audio. NLS has only had the money to obtain 200 audiobook titles a year.

Now, NLS is reaching out to other audiobook publishers. It costs \$4,500 to produce a talking book from scratch. However, it costs much less when using the master files of a commercial audiobook. With a master file, NLS adds navigational markup and metadata and then converts the files into digital talking books.

Because the commercial audiobooks cost less to produce, NLS could have more funds to produce more books each year.

Working with commercial audiobook producers will also allow NLS to make books available much faster. And patrons will get to hear a wider

variety of narrators.

In the months ahead, NLS will evaluate the quality of various text-to-speech programs and begin to experiment with producing books using that technology--not to take the place of live narration, but to augment current resources. For example, it could be used, by patron request, to produce download-only audio versions of books that are not in the collection.

Finally, in early 2012 a remote control unit will be available for those with limited mobility and dexterity issues.

Disability Website

Disability.gov is the place to receive the latest updates on events and information regarding innovative accessible technologies! This website is the federal government website for

comprehensive information on disability programs and services in communities nationwide. The site links to more than 14,000 resources from federal, state and local government agencies, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations.

The site is organized into 10 main subject areas – Benefits, Civil Rights, Community Life, Education, Emergency Preparedness, Employment, Health, Housing, Technology and Transportation.

In the Technology section, you can find information on assistive and accessible technologies (such as communication devices, screen readers and equipment to improve mobility); emergency communications systems; the accessibility features of new technologies like digital books and smart phones; and guidelines and standards related to technology

accessibility for people with disabilities. Use the information by state drop-down menu, located on the left side of any page on Disability.gov, to find local resources that can help you pay for your assistive technology needs.

Disability.gov is managed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy in collaboration with 21 federal agency partners.

People

Meet Yevgeny Avdyshe

Introductory Note by Jane Kardas: I hope this article by Yevgeny Avdyshev will encourage others to broaden their view of how people throughout our world cope with vision loss. If you would like to join CCLVI's International Committee, contact me, Jane Kardas, 810 Maple Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482. My phone numbers is

707-468-5510 or email me at janecalvert35@yahoo.com. I receive my email via Voice-on-the go, a service which reads my email to me. A volunteer from the Ukiah Senior Center transcribed this story from cassette tape to the computer for me.

My name is Yevgeny Avdyshe. I was born on September 24, 1951 in the city of Rostov-on-Don located in Southwestern Russia. I still live in Rostov with my wife Svetlana, her daughter Karen and our grandson Max who is now four. This city is one of the major cultural and industrial centers in Russia. It's a multi-national place. It's often called the gate to the Caucasus because that region is nearby. Interesting places in our town include monuments, museums, theaters and cinemas. We are amazed at the size and the beauty of the buildings of Rostov State University. We are

very proud of our musical theater, one of the very best in this country. Our main thoroughfare is called Bolshei Sedovia or the Big Park Street in English. Rostov is famous for its tractors and harvesters which are sold around the world. The population of Rostov exceeds one million. The weather here is rather changeable but on the whole quite good in fall and spring. Winters sometimes are cold. In summer it's always hot and sticky. So welcome to Rostov which is evergreen.

When I was three months old, I began to lose my eyesight due to meningitis. I became totally blind at the age of three. My eyes cannot function due to optic nerve atrophy. I was the younger child in our family. My older sister Alla became totally paralyzed after a blood transfusion. She couldn't walk, talk, use her hands, or even hold her head upright. She was

unable to feed herself. Yet she could see, hear and understand everything. When I turned 12, I began helping my parents take care of her. She passed away at the age of 46. When my sister was alive, I was the happiest man in the world despite the hardships.

My father, David, was an Assyrian while my mother, Alexandra, was Russian. I am so grateful to them for all they have done for me. For instance, thanks to them, I have an education in music and I have worked with sighted people. At first I studied braille as well as music at a special boarding school for blind and visually impaired children here in Rostov. In 1967 when I was in the ninth grade, my mother took me to a music school for sighted children. I spent three years there. At the same time, I continued attending the special school in

which I had been learning various subjects for 11 years.

In 1970 I left both schools simultaneously. A year later, I entered the Art College and in four years I graduated from this college. The Russian folk instrument that I can play is called Bayan or Russian accordion. On its right hand side it has three, four or even five ranks of round buttons. In English it could be called the Russian Button Accordion. I can also play the piano a little bit.

When I left the Art College in 1975, I was given a job at the Teacher's House, a kind of club with various courses such as singing, cutting and sewing, knitting, learning English and playing the piano. These courses were offered for children and adults and we had an amateur

theater. I worked there for 22 years and then I worked as an accompanist for amateur singers.

In 1997 I lost my post after the class closed.

While I have been unemployed, I knew I had to do work of some sort related to music. So I went to the local Society for the Blind in my region. They offered me a job where I am responsible for organizing concerts. For this work I get only 500 rubbles, a little over 12 dollars per month. Just a tiny benefit. I do similar work in another organization called The Society of the Disabled. For this job I get 36 dollars every three months. The amount of money I get is so small but I sometimes receive some clothing or food or something else as a humanitarian aid; and therefore I have no reason to express displeasure.

I met my wife Svetlana, or Sveta, in 1980 at the Teacher's House where she was a student. To

be perfectly honest I felt really happy being with her but she didn't take any interest in me. Eighteen years later in 2000, I learned about Sveta quite by chance through another student who went to the Teacher's House as well. In a phone conversation she asked me "Do you remember Sveta?" " Oh yes, sure," I replied. I couldn't believe my ears! She is back again. What a surprise! That news really made my day. Now this time I didn't miss my chance and took the bull by the horns. In 2002 we had our wedding ceremony in church. Thank goodness, inspite of the obstacles, we manage not to lose our love and devotion and we know very well we are under the protection of God who helps us all of the time. This actually is my second marriage. My first one lasted three month.

This is how I learned English. I began learning the language back at school in the fifth grade.

But I first heard some English sounds when I was six or seven years old. I can't explain why in my childhood I got interested in listening to those English sounds. I listened to radio broadcasts on short and medium waves. One day I came across an American radio station where I heard a program in English. I didn't understand anything, but English sounds attracted my attention. I loved them very much indeed. A little later I was trying to imitate the sounds exactly. I don't want to brag about it but I was quiet good at pronouncing them more and more correctly. I didn't really know the meanings of English words but I was saying them over and over again. It is hard to say why. At school, English was my favorite subject and I really did well in it. With time, English became my hobby. After leaving school I kept on studying the language on my own using various sources. Nevertheless, I still think that English

teaching courses by the BBC and The Voice of America were most useful and helpful to me. From time to time I deal with literature in braille to improve my English spelling. Since I prefer to remember things by ear, cassette tapes of the Matilda Zeigler Magazine, Vision Access, and The Braille Forum are very important to me in terms of developing my listening comprehension. English isn't spoken in my family at all. My wife Svetlana however can read and write some English and I sometime ask her for help. On occasion, I have to speak to myself to make my speech more fluid. I still like listening to some radio programs from the BBC, The Voice of America, Radio Canada and some others. Even now I don't try to understand everything word for word; I listen for the gist, the main idea.

The story would not be complete if I failed to mention the Hadley School for the Blind where I

have taken many courses in English, in braille and in Personal Psychology. Now I am taking basic conversational French, but so far my French is very poor. From the local Library for the Blind I have borrowed a great version of an Italian course. Very frequently I keep in touch with some Hadley instructors.

Among my pen pals is Jane Kardas with whom I've communicated for over twelve years. Jane is my best and reliable friend. She is a wonderful person--very friendly and helpful. We talk to each other by telephone as well as by tape letters which are sent free of charge.

Science and Health

NEI's Strategic Plan for Vision Research

By Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Eye Institute

The National Eye Institute, NEI, has developed a document that is a compilation of needs, gaps,

and opportunities in eye and vision research. It reflects the intellectual energy of over 300 individuals representing expertise in all areas of vision research.

This document is the critical first step in NEI's efforts to identify vision research priorities. With a thorough accounting of the state of vision research in place, the next phase of the planning process will extend and expand NEI's efforts to obtain broad and diverse input from academia, industry, foundations, and other agencies and individuals worldwide. New ideas and approaches will energize research efforts, increase public awareness of vision research, and make important contributions to planning, priority setting, and operations at NEI in support of our mission to reduce the burden of ocular disorders and diseases worldwide. We encourage you to check our Strategic Planning

website frequently and participate in this ongoing process as we continue to expand and enhance our planning efforts.

Visit NEI's Strategic Planning webpage: NEI Strategic Planning webpage:
<http://www.nei.nih.gov/strategicplanning/>

Advocacy

New Carney, Inc. Seeks Focus Group Participants

Carney was founded in 1994 with a single mission--to help individuals, teams, and organizations accelerate their performance. We produce training products for the federal government workforce. Our primary product consists of web-based or computer-based training. As such, we have to ensure our product is 508 compliant.

At Carney, we want to be able to not only meet 508 standards but also create products that are designed with the disabled learner in mind.

This new focus group will be comprised of learners who have disabilities and who will test our web based and computer based training solutions. Then they will provide feedback to our development teams on how our products can better meet their specific needs.

If interested in participating, call (703) 836-2400 or send an e-mail message to carol.kroeger@teamcarney.com.

Assistive Technology

Smart Phones for People with Low Vision

By Matt Kickbush

Editor's Note: This article is based on a "Let's Talk Low Vision" Teleconference with Dr. Bill

Takeshita on April 17, 2012. The teleconference featured guest speaker Julian Vargas, who discussed the differences between various smart phones. Future Teleconferences are Tuesday, July 17th, "My Favorite Cell Phone Applications," Tuesday, August 21st, "What's New in Video Magnifiers," and Tuesday, September 18th, "The Latest Medical Treatments for People with Low Vision." Call 218-339-2699, ID# 764516 at 5:30pm Pacific time, 8:30pm Eastern time.

There are three main operating systems for smart phones: i-operating system (Apple), Android operating system (which is used by many different providers) and Microsoft Windows Phone 7. Currently the Windows 7 operating system for smart phones does not have any built-in or downloadable accessibility features to assist users who are blind and visually impaired.

The Android and iOS platforms offer many built-in or downloadable accessibility features.

The latest accessible Apple iPhones are: Apple iPhone 3GS, Apple iPhone 4, and the newest model, the Apple iPhone 4S.

If an individual has a low income, the Apple iPhone 3GS may be the way to go. Since it's the oldest model, the phone can often be acquired very inexpensively or sometimes for free with a two year contract. However, the Apple iPhone 4 and 4S provides a much better camera and higher processing speeds, which will increase the quality of ocular character recognition software for scanning colors, currency, bar codes, etc.

The Apple iPhone 4S currently offers a program called Siri, which is still in its testing (beta) stage. This is a voice operated system. You can verbally ask the phone questions, such as, "What

is the weather in Milwaukee?" or "Where is the nearest Italian restaurant?" and Siri will gather the information and speak the answers to you. You can also use Siri to set reminders for specific times or appointments. Siri also allows you to activate and operate features/options of the phone. You can also use voice dictation on the Apple iPhone 4S, instead of typing text for e-mail or text messages. You can then send the message out to anyone that you have in your contact list by speaking the name of the person to whom you want to send your message. With the iPhone 4S, you'll find yourself performing less typing tasks on the on-screen keyboard or wireless keyboard.

You can use many apps with iPhones, such as LookTel Money Identifier, which will identify the respective denominations of bills. There are also many different types of color identifiers; one that

is recommended is called VizWhiz, a free app. VizWhiz allows you to take a picture of any item; then the picture is sent out to an online data base that will compare the image to other pictures in the data base to help identify the color in the picture for you.

Another helpful app from LookTel is called the LookTel Recognizer. This app allows you to teach the app to recognize an image; you can take a picture of the image and give it an audio label, so that the next time you take a picture of the item, it will give you back the audio label of the picture.

The iPhone is also very useful for guided or directional GPS apps and orientational GPS apps. Navigon is a recommended app for the directional GPS system and the Sendero Look Around app is recommended for orientational

GPS systems. Ariadne is an app that works as an address lookup, or you can use it for marking points of interest and doing virtual map exploration.

The cost of the iPhones will vary; a major factor will be the storage capacity. For example, the 4S offers 16, 32, and 64 gigabyte storage. The 16 GB phone will cost \$199, 32 GB sells for \$299, and the 64 GB will sell for \$399 with a two year contract; prices do not include taxes. The iPhone 4 will generally be available for \$99 or less with a two year contract. It offers only 8 gigabytes of storage. The 3GS may be available for free with the price of a two year contract. It is good to purchase an extra battery and charger for your iPhone, especially when using GPS software; GPS software will quickly drain the battery of your iPhone. The series of iPhones are typically ready to use right out of the box.

Unlike Apple, which makes one type of phone, the Android operating system is a free and open system used by different manufacturers with many different phone models. Unfortunately, the accessibility features are tricky for this phone; many of the accessibility features must be downloaded, which may cost money. Check with your phone carrier to see if they offer free mobile accessibility software if you are registered with their disabilities department. Some of the accessibility functions can be broken when new updates are added to the Android system. If purchasing an Android phone, the Vanilla Android is recommended. This version is pure Android without other overlays, but with fewer choices. The Vanilla Android offers a built-in screen reader called Talkback. The Android is ideal for the individual who is more technically inclined or likes to tinker.

To contact Julian Vargas who offers iPhone training and is happy to answer your questions email prtblaccess@gmail.com or call 818-794-9554.

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.

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