

# E-CONNECTOR



## BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: [copobc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:copobc.newsletter@gmail.com), attention Julie Hunter, editor.



### **2015 DAY AT THE CAPITOL: A Review**

On Tuesday, January 20, the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado held its annual Day at the Capitol. The purpose of the NFB CO Day at the Capitol is to communicate the legislative priorities of blind Coloradans to our state senators and representatives. The group of about 70 loyal NFBers gathered at 8:30 a.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chambers for a briefing on the issues to be presented to the legislators and then divided into teams. Before setting out to visit the offices, the group headed to the House gallery to observe the opening of the joint session where we were warmly welcomed by the legislators. Then the teams headed out to present the following issues to the senators

and representatives and/or their aides.:

Issue #1: We thanked the Colorado General Assembly for past support of NFB-NEWSLINE®, and asked for their continued support. NFB-NEWSLINE® allows those who cannot use print to access nearly 400 newspapers and magazines via their telephones or electronic devices.

Issue #2: Blind Coloradans and those with other disabilities are not adequately or effectively served by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation--DVR. The waiting list for services has been reduced, but remains at about 1,000. Only one full time student at the Colorado Center for the Blind, out of 31, is being funded by Colorado DVR! The other students are from other states.) The NFB is asking that the General Assembly form an interim study committee to examine the Colorado Division

of Vocational Rehabilitation and make recommendations for the needed reforms.

Issue #3: Third, we called upon the Assembly to adopt a Joint Resolution urging Congress to eliminate the practice of paying subminimum wages to workers with disabilities. H.R. 188, also known as the TIME Act of 2015, has been introduced in Congress. (TIME stands for Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment) H.R. 188 calls for responsibly phasing out the use of Special Wage Certificates under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which allows entities employing persons with disabilities to pay as little as 20 cents per hour.



### **BRaille/PRINT BOOKS**

Free books combining full-color illustrations for the sighted family member, and interleaved transparent sheets with Braille text and picture descriptions are available from Christian Record Services for the Blind. The latest book is "Max Moves In" by Linda Porter Carlyle. To order "Max Moves In" or other Full-Vision books in the series, contact [linda.martin@christianrecord.org](mailto:linda.martin@christianrecord.org) or call 402-488-0981, ext. 227.



### **BE MY EYES APP**

Be My Eyes is a new free IOS app which uses video chat software to connect blind persons with a sighted volunteer to provide assistance with any number of visual tasks, for example, reading the instructions on a prescription bottle or identifying the color of a piece of clothing. What a great idea! Be My Eyes is seeking sighted iPhone users to volunteer as remote sighted assistants. The sighted volunteer may easily refuse a request when it is not a convenient time to help and the request moves on to another volunteer. More information about the app and how to get involved can be found at:

<http://www.bemyeyes.org>.



### **BRaille VALENTINES**

Every year National Braille Press introduces a valentine with the text in Braille along with a Braille description of the cartoon...this year it's a ketchup bottle spouting hearts... "Hey Valentine, let's ketchup!" On the back of the valentine is a brief description

of Louis Braille. To order, go to [NBP.org](http://NBP.org).

Or how about a chocolate bar with "I Love You" in Braille dots? The Braille can be read through a light plastic cover before it is eaten. A musical chip can be added for a musical valentine. Order from [Choco Braille](http://ChocoBraille).

For a more "grown-up" valentine go to the [Braille Superstore](http://BrailleSuperstore). Choose one of 27 Valentine's Day messages and then choose a greeting card picture to go with it. Some cards have space for you to add your own message.



### **INSIDE THE ORCHESTRA**

Tiny Tots gets children inside the orchestra by seating everyone on the floor, quite literally surrounding them with a 30 piece orchestra. Designed for children six and under, this 45-minute program gives young ones the chance to interact with the conductor and the musicians and learn about the instruments in the process. To register and purchase tickets, go to the Inside the [Orchestra website](http://Orchestra website). All performances are from 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Tiny Tots Concerts will take place on the following dates:

February 4 - Temple Emanuel,  
Denver  
February 9 - Wildlife  
Experience, Parker  
February 10 - Temple Emanuel,  
Denver  
February 18 - Mile Hi Church,  
Lakewood  
February 21 - McNichols  
Building, Denver  
February 23 - Boettcher Hall,  
Denver  
April 28 - Temple Emanuel,  
Denver  
May 30 - McNichols Building,  
Denver



**FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

**\*\*\*\*\*SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 -**

CAER invites you to Saturday morning **Ice Skating!** The event will take place in downtown Denver at the Southwest Rink @ Skyline Park, located at 16<sup>th</sup> and Arapahoe, by the "Clocktower" on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall. Ten a.m. to noon is the open skating session or come for FREE skating instruction between eight and ten a.m. Skate rental for Vision students is FREE! All others \$2 skate rental. There is no cost for skating. If you come to the rink, please check in at CAER table upon arrival! CO-POBC families plan to join the fun. Hope to see you there!

**\*\*\*\*SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
(Also on Feb. 15 & Feb. 22)

**Goalball for Kids**  
3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Colorado Center for the Blind  
2233 W. Shepperd Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80120

**\*\*\*\*\*SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Phamaly Theatre Company presents **"The Fantasticks"**, a hilarious musical tale of two young lovers and their meddling fathers.

2:00 p.m.--Audio Described Performance  
(Tactile tour is at 11:00 a.m. To ensure a space on the tactile tour, please RSVP by emailing [ghartke@phamaly.org](mailto:ghartke@phamaly.org) or [register here.](#))

Aurora Fox Theatre  
9900 E. Colfax  
Aurora, CO

**\*\*\*\*SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**FAST Saturday** 10 am – 2 pm  
Colorado Center for the Blind  
Youth Program--all ages

Join Brent and mentors on Valentine's Day. The group will be making Valentine's Day gifts for the parents and baking cookies. Lunch is included. Colorado Center for the Blind 2233 W. Shepperd Ave. Littleton, CO 80120

For more information contact Brent Batron:

[bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130, ext. 222

**\*\*\*\*\*SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**"Cinderella"**

Audio described performance at the Buell Theatre at 2:00 p.m.

"This lush production features an incredible orchestra, jaw-dropping transformations and all the moments you love--the pumpkin, the glass slipper, the masked ball and more--plus some surprising new twists!"

A limited number of \$20 tickets are available through Brent Batron at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Contact Brent at [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130, ext 222.

**FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1**

**Snowshoe trip** for kids 8 and up. The price for the entire weekend is only \$42. Space is very limited at this point. If interested contact Brent at the Center. [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130, ext 222.

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COMING NEXT MONTH: Full details about the Colorado Center for the Blind summer youth programs. Registrations are being accepted now if you are ready to sign up. Contact Brent for more information. [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or 303-778-1130, ext. 222