

E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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TREATY TO ALLOW SHARING OF BRAILLE BOOKS IN JEOPARDY

Consider this: The 256 million visually impaired people in under developed countries have access to less than 1 % of all published books. In wealthy developed nations, such as the U.S., less than 5% of published works are available in accessible formats. Although 5% is an appallingly low number, an effort is being made to help developing nations gain access to those books already available in wealthier countries. Under existing copyright law, poorer countries can't access translated works already in circulation in other countries. For example, Spain has well over 100,000 books that have been translated into Braille that they would like to send to Latin American countries, but they can't because of this copyright barrier. Libraries in five Latin American countries – Colombia,

Nicaragua, Mexico, Uruguay and Chile – have fewer than 9,000 accessible books in total! (according to Dan Pescod of the Royal National Institute of Blind People) and yet those Spanish Braille books that are ready to go, currently cannot be shared over international boundaries. A treaty being considered at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) conference to be held June 17-28, 2013 in Morocco, would change that situation. A binding agreement would mean people in other countries could get immediate access to books that have already been translated into accessible formats in another part of the world. A treaty would also lead to enormous cost savings, since, as it now stands, expensive translation has to be replicated in every country that wants to produce an accessible form of a given book. The treaty being considered at the WIPO conference ([The Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities](#)) is in jeopardy. Here is a letter sent out by the NFB explaining the situation further.

Editor's Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.

Dear Friends:

Blind and print-disabled people in the United States and across the world need your help to relieve the worldwide book famine. The World Intellectual Property Organization is considering a treaty that would make more books available to blind and print-disabled people all over the world by promoting an exception to copyright law allowing books to be produced in special formats like Braille and to be shared across international borders. This treaty is called the Treaty for the Blind or the VIP Treaty. Unfortunately, publishers, big media, and other rights holders like GE and Caterpillar, some of whom have nothing to do with the publishing of books at all, are complicating the negotiations in an attempt to water down or kill the treaty. You can help by sending a strong message that you support a treaty that helps the blind and print disabled get access to more books. Please sign the petition at <https://nfb.org/civicrm/petition/sign?sid=2&reset=1> Also, please share the petition link with your family, friends, and others who you feel will support this effort. Thank you for your support.

John G. Paré Jr.
Executive Director for Advocacy and Policy NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



SUMMER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

RUNNING AND WALKING

Achilles-Denver is a volunteer group dedicated to engaging people with disabilities in running and walking. Their mission is to promote personal achievement, enhance self-esteem and lower barriers to living a fulfilling life. People of all ages and disabilities are welcome.

WHERE: [Washington Park](#), Denver
WHEN: Mondays at 6 pm.
To sign up or find out more about our Monday runs go to www.meetup.com/coloradoruns or contact Michael Oliva runningmeetup@gmail.com

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GOALBALL

WHERE: [East Boulder Rec Center](#) Boulder, CO
WHEN: Friday, June 14th
6-8 PM

Goalball practice will be held Thursday June 6th from 6-8PM at the East Boulder Rec Center in Boulder. Vision impaired players age 12+ and their sighted family members are

welcome. Beginners welcome. Please bring elbow and knee pads and a water bottle. Balls, court layout, and goggles will be provided.

Contact: Annette Kissinger at 203-984-0676 or annette_k@pipeline.com

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HORSEBACK RIDING

WHERE: Palomino Recreational Riding Double T Stables.
9850 E. Parker Road
Parker 80138

Free Bi-weekly Horseback Riding Program for children with Special Needs (Eight 30 minute sessions). One trainer and 2 volunteers with each child.

Contact: Terri Thomas at 303-840-3698 or email: Hatanaka23@msn.com



BRAILLE CARNIVAL

Come one, come all...to the Braille Carnival at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Children of all ages and abilities are invited to join the fun. Games and activities that incorporate Braille will entertain an amuse

young and old alike. Don't be surprised when Louis Braille himself makes an appearance to tell us just how he came to invent this most wonderful method of reading and writing.

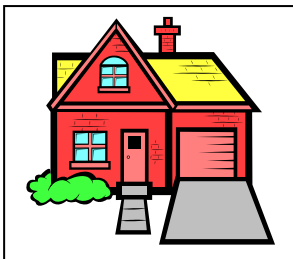
WHEN: Tuesday, June 18

TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
(Pizza lunch is included.)

WHERE: Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd
Littleton, CO 80120

For more information phone
303-778-1130.



**HOME AND GARDEN TOUR:
FUNDRAISER FOR THE CCB
YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Save the date! Saturday, June 15th is the Littleton Home and Garden Tour. Here is a chance to tour eight of Littleton's finest homes. A variety of architectural styles and periods will be showcased including an early 1900's Denver foursquare (the only one in Littleton), a 1920's bungalow, and a 5,000 square foot Mountain Contemporary. In addition to the self-guided home and garden tour itself, ticketholders are encouraged to tour the Center where freshly brewed coffee, pastries, sack lunches, and soft drinks will be available

for purchase. Purchase home tour tickets in advance at the Colorado Center, located at 2233 W. Shepperd in Littleton, or online at www.cocenter.org. On the day of the tour, ticketholders will stop at the Center to receive a Tour Map and a V.I.P. wristband which will allow access to the homes on the tour. Tour tickets are \$20 per person (children 12 and over are welcome.) Tickets can also be purchased the day of the tour at the Center for \$25. For more information, please contact Stacey at 303-778-1130, ext. 213.



**COOL NEW PRODUCT FOR
BLIND AND VISUALLY
IMPAIRED**

Blind people become pretty good at differentiating items in the home by shape, feel, smell or taste. But labels are often necessary to know what is what. Most blind people will confess that they have opened a can of beans when they were looking for corn, or put on a pair of brown socks when they thought they were wearing white. Labeling things with Braille tags is one way of keeping on top of the organizational challenges. And now there is a nifty new

labeling option available. The Pen Friend is a hand held pen-shaped recorder which can transfer spoken words to special labels. You can identify an item by name, but also give a full description if you wish. The Pen Friend can be used to label cans and jars in the kitchen, CD's and DVD's, paperwork, clothing and just about anything else in the home or office. There is no limit to the length of the recording so, for example, the full instructions for a cake mix could be recorded on a label. When you come back later and touch the Pen Friend to the label your recorded description or instructions are heard. You can see a demonstration on youtube by [clicking here](#). This new device is available from the [National Federation of the Blind Independence Market](#). It sells for \$140...a little pricey, but it opens new doors for independence for the blind.

**CALENDAR OF
UPCOMING EVENTS**



June events that have been described in this issue:
June 15: Home & Garden Tour
June 18: Braille Carnival

June 22: Please join us at the NFB of Denver Chapter meeting
10:00 a.m. to Noon
2233 W. Shepperd, Littleton