

Hawaii Association of the Blind

Quarterly Newsletter

August 1, 2022

ACB Angels Yolanda Phelan and Vicki Johnson

By Kenny Johnson and Anthony Akamine

The ACB Angels Memorial Tribute is an opportunity for ACB members and friends to honor their loved ones and guide dogs who have passed on and who played an important role in the American Council of the Blind, its affiliates, and/or its members. The memorial includes a permanent, individualized page on the ACB website. In addition, a Wall of Angels will be displayed at future ACB conferences and conventions. This display will consist of a plaque with large print and braille representing each memorialized person.

This year, thanks to contributions from HAB members and friends, Hawaii was able to recognize Yolanda Phelan and Vicki Johnson during the opening night of the general session in Omaha, Nebraska. It was a heartfelt, memorable moment. After the general session it brought smiles, tears, and laughter listening to folks talk about memories of Landa and Vicki. The process for recognizing these 2 angels was a collaborative effort that took several months and we did it together, Hawaii. A warmest mahalo. Thank you all for your kokua for making this possible. Warmest appreciation to Art Cabanilla and Sharon Ige for helping with developing the heartfelt informational write ups for both Yolanda and Vicki. These are stories that touch the heart. And a thank-you to ACB for helping to produce the angel tributes.

A thank-you message to HAB from Kenny Johnson:

It was an overwhelming time of reflection and gratitude towards all the many hearts that made this effort possible for Vicki. I am "highly appreciative of all the efforts made by everyone to honor Vicki as an ACB angel. Thank you for all the time, love, energy, and devotion that was put into this effort. I believe Vicki is smiling down at all of us. She has so much love for her family and Hawaii." Appreciate you all!

Kenny

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Yolanda Phelan: Hawaii's ambassador for the blind

Landa Phelan was truly one in a million. She was such a true treasure. She was loving, caring, and passionate about justice and equality for the blind. When diagnosed with macular degeneration in 1997, rather than feel sorry for herself, she made it her mission to help better the lives of the blind. She especially took interest in Hawaii's keiki; volunteering and sharing with them what it was like being a guide dog handler. She also participated on various boards and councils, assuring that the voices of the blind were heard. Once introduced to ACB, she found greater ways on how she could get her own voice heard. She was small but mighty, and dedicated to her advocacy for what was right and just. We will truly miss her. Here's knowing that she is at peace, feeling good, and enjoying everything her friends and colleagues do to keep her spirit alive.

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Vicky Johnson

Vicki was born in La Porte, Indiana on July 21, 1955. She attended the Indianapolis Indiana School for the Blind. After several moves, she settled in Hawaii in 2007 with her best friend and now husband of 20 years, Kenny.

Besides having a no-nonsense personality, she was a woman with a great love of family, a strong faith, generous nature and a heart to help others, especially blind people with technology. She was also an avid braille reader who believed braille skills were important.

Vicki's days were filled with connecting through phone calls with friends, bible study, and frequent conversations with her kids and grandchildren. She loved all kinds of chocolate, making desserts and going on dates with Kenny to their favorite restaurants.

Vicki passed gracefully and peacefully at home on March 12, 2021 and is waiting for us in heaven.

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Ohana Day At The Beach

By Roberta Tomas

The Parents and Youth committee put on its first Beach day event on May 14, 2022, which was held at Ala Moana Beach Park near Magic Island.

This event was more of a social activity where the youths were able to meet other Blind members of HAB.

The event was scheduled from nine a.m. to two p.m. Although many youths and HAB members arrived early and didn't leave until closer to 10 p.m.

The event kicked off with everyone learning how to make Ti-leaf lei's. Each participant made at least one lei a piece.

Some people brought their ukulele's and guitars, so the kids had a blast singing songs. Crata Mizutani, a student, did a facebook live video. Justin Tomas taught our youths some safety tips before BBQ on the grill. Each youth, with sighted volunteer supervision, successfully cooked their own hotdogs. Mona Yamada had also made goody bags for the participants.

The food, drinks, tent, BBQ Grill, Charcoal, tables, and chairs were all provided for use via donation. Vickie and Jim Kenedy donated chips, while other members brought dishes to share.

This was a wonderful social activity. The kids as well as the adults favored having more fun and relaxing events like this.

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Throw the Shaka Wherever You Go!

By Terri Lynn Higashi

In Omaha I attended a leadership training called Moving from Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces. One of the panelists mentioned that we are always rushing through life and that we need to slow down sometimes to get a different perspective. It was a thought-provoking statement that I wanted to apply at the convention because one must move beyond what is comfortable. I use the concept of throwing the shaka because to apply the shaka, you must stop, hang loose, make your shaka sign, and wait for a response from another person. If practiced, I feel confident people will feel a change in themselves and in the responses they receive.

Here are a few gems on how throwing the shaka works:

I had a shaka experience of connecting with a bellman. People can get around Omaha by walking but may not want to carry all their stuff around. When I first met the bellman, I gave him a shaka in the form of a tip and Hawaiian macadamia nuts. A few days later, I needed to go somewhere, but did not want to carry all my belongings back to the room. I saw the same bellman and I asked him, "Can you please hold my bags for a little while?" He replied, "I remember you from the other day with the candy yes, sure, no problem."

Another shaka experience was at the Brenda Dillion Memorial Walk Tailgate Party. I noticed two of the committee members with all these canvas bags. I thought this would be the perfect time to throw a shaka. I went over to them and said shaka and howzit (this is hi in pidgin). They told me about how they needed to pass out canvas bags to all the walkers. I offered to lend them a hand. After all the bags were passed out, I was directed to the walk chairperson. I went over to her and threw her the shaka. I told her I could bring the extra walk supplies back to her room. She was very appreciative and reciprocated a shaka back to me and asked if I could help pass out walk plaques at the general session.

Finally, I experienced another shaka moment in the form of a serving opportunity. I knew that the convention needed extra assistance on a few tours, so I threw a shaka and expressed I was available if needed. My offer was accepted and I was thrown a shaka in the form of a volunteer opportunity to serve at the Outlook Rehabilitation Services tour.

It was amazing to see the different occupations and areas of rehabilitation that the agency provides. One highlight was being able to meet one of the directors at the Outlook Services by the name of Paulette Monthei, who is the sister of HAB's own Amy Monthei.

Those are just some examples of my shaka stories, although I did experience a lot more. One can easily get caught up in the busyness of the convention, but I found it most beneficial to just slow down and add a bit more time and energy into the people and events currently happening around me.

Till next time keep throwing those shakas!

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A Home away from Home

By VICTOR ROY

Dear HAB Friends

It is me, Victor Roy, sharing some reflections of my visit to Hawaii. During the spring of 2022 I tapped my shoes and there I was. Hawaii always feels like a home away from home.

I arrived Thursday evening, March 17, St. Patrick's Day. The very next day, I was on the City Bus from the westside heading to Ala Moana for a day of Hawaiian-style shopping. I met up with HAB President Art Cabanilla and Lourdes Marcus, who was also visiting from the mainland. We went to the mall's top level Mai Tai's where we had refreshments and pupus in the early afternoon.

On Saturday, Anthony and I went to the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet where I found Leolani Ukulele and gave them a potential order of 5-6 ukes for my San Diego musician friends; we hope to buy and have them shipped. I bought three bags of Lion 100% Kona coffee beans. It was a good deal, as it is very expensive in San Diego!

Terri and Anthony later dropped me off at Ala Moana Park at 3:00 pm at the Lion's Friendship Tree. I was able to stake a place for the HAB Sunset Picnic which would start at 5:00 pm. This particular spot known as Magic Island was an outdoor tropical delight. It was a good time with many HAB friends, food, photos, and good fun. There were lots of smiles and stories and surprises. I think James and Sharon thought they were being pranked upon their arrival when they were told to go find ACB Victor. Their mouths dropped open when I approached them and said, "Aloha, I'm Victor. Have we met?!" Everyone was thankful that we were all finally emerging out of COVID's isolationism, and getting back to some good times together.

On Sunday morning I attended church with Terri and Anthony. Afterwards, we hung out with President Art for an afternoon cook-out of freshly speared fish by Lokale, Art's nephew. Justin Tomas was the chef and cooked up a storm. We were all so full that Roberta Tomas gave us a raincheck for hula lessons! Art also serenaded us by playing Over the Rainbow on his uke. I told Art we need that Hawaiian music at the ACB Performing Arts Showcase, where I'd be stage manager.

On Monday Anthony & I visited the historic Plantation House. Our tour guide was great. We picked cotton from a cotton bush. That turned out to be our free souvenir! A hundred years ago, workers from other nations had to sign a 5-year worker's contract which included their ship passage to Hawaii, food, and shelter. Once here, they worked in the extensive sugar cane fields.

Lourdes and I will be attending the July ACB Omaha Convention. We hope to see everyone there.

Aloha Oe,

Victor Roy

Oceanside, California; & ACB sighted Volunteer

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A Message of Aloha and Mahalo from the DKM Fund Committee

By Kenneth Semien Sr.

Special thanks to the Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) for being a faithful DKM Elite Partner! The Durward K. McDaniel (DKM), Fund committee appreciates Hawaii's continued support. Your financial contributions to our programs have empowered ACB members around the nation for many years.

While honoring the legacy of ACB's founding father, Durward K. McDaniel (DKM), since 1996, the Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) Fund Committee seeks to identify and honor 2 ACB members on an annual basis, who demonstrate leadership potential, with the DKM First-Timers Award, one from east and one from west of the Mississippi River. The First-Timer's program has assisted in providing leadership development training, information and opportunities for 26 years as we honored 60 recipients.

It is one of the finest privileges that I have been given to undertake and serve with such a fine group of committee members for 10 consecutive years as a committee member and 7 years as chair of the committee. We have been honored to have Anthony Akamine of HAB to be one of our most caring and thoughtful members serving with us. Anthony takes his service to others seriously and makes those he has been asked to mentor feel valued and appreciated. He has also shared innovative ideas as we work to select an annual theme and activities to make the experience positive and memorable for recipients.

Since 2016, the committee accepted the additional responsibility of identifying and honoring 5 ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows. We have honored 38 recipients within the 7 years the Leadership Fellows program has been active.

In closing, the DKM Committee would like to extend special thanks to HAB member, TerriLynn Higashi Akamine for her willingness to provide unwavering support to our work and that makes a huge difference. In addition, thank you to Art Cabanilla, James Gonsalves, and Norman Ota for sharing stories of how Durward K McDaniel made a difference in Hawaii. Thanks to HAB and its members for all your meaningful contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Semien, Sr.

Chair, Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) Fund Committee

Member, ACB Board of Directors and HAB Affiliate Liaison

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ACB 2022 Convention

By Roberta Tomas

This year at the ACB Convention I attended workshops related to advocacy and leadership. For advocacy, there were many accessibility issues raised, but the one I focused on was the Audible pedestrian signals since we here in Hawaii only have the traffic signal that chirps, beeps, tics, or makes the coo-coo sound. Each state has an opportunity to apply for a United States Government Grant that will award up to 50 million dollars to put towards audio signals in their state. These traffic signals would verbally let one know what street corner they're currently on. If it is not safe to cross, the audible signal will advise you to wait. When it is safe to cross the signal will alert you that it is now safe to cross the street.

This particular grant is offered yearly, and the deadline to submit is September 15, 2022. It should be noted that not all applicants receive funds on their first try, but this is an opportunity that HAB should pursue. I did network with a few people who are involved in this venture and many of them had offered me support and guidance when writing for the grant. For HAB's part, it is up to us to do the legwork in order to gain the support of the Department of Transportation, the state's four counties, as well as the support of the City and County mayors. I was also informed it would be beneficial to work with other blind agencies and organizations that support and assist Hawaii's blind community.

In other areas, the leadership workshops I attended didn't yield information that I thought useful to HAB. The information was geared more towards new formed groups or affiliates. I also missed part of one of the leadership workshops that was held while I was on a tour. It was safe spaces to brave spaces. Unfortunately, I was not able to get in touch with the host for that workshop. I did attend in person the first 4 days of the sessions and tours, however I was caught in a thunderstorm the night of July fifth and unfortunately spent the rest of the week in the hotel room. However, I was able to still join the convention via zoom the rest of the week.

Overall, I made a lot of network connections with important ACB members who have been involved with the organization since its inception. The experience was a fruitful one. My one hope for

next year for those HAB members planning to attend is that we work to coordinate flights so that we travel together as a unit.

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ACB Summer Auction, more than bidding...its Building Community

By Leslie Spoon and Terri-lynn Higashi

How is a bridge built? One block at a time, just like how do you build a community? One heart and one opportunity at a time.

The ACB summer auction continues to be a fun and engaging event. This year the bidding excitement is a part of the virtual convention experience leading up to Omaha. Every year at the ACB national convention, there is a thrilling auction to help raise funds for the American Council of the Blind. 2022 proceeds from the event will help to support the ACB community and membership engagement. For example, many of us in Hawaii enjoy participating in the different interactive ACB community calls that come out regularly.

The summer auction is a thrilling experience that takes months to prepare. It is always fun to see many people from Hawaii taking part in the bidding frenzy. There are times the excitement is so intense people end up bidding against each other. The back and forth of the bids are quite comical. Everyone seems to have a good time.

Thank you to The Hawaii Association of The Blind and its members for your continued support of the ACB Auction. Your contribution means a lot to the committee and to ACB. The unique collection of items that Hawaii provides truly helps share the Aloha spirit and adds to the fun of the event. A special mahalo (thank you) to Amy Monthei, Brian Huffman, and Stephine Tsai for helping to put together the items and create the engaging descriptions for this year's HAB items that was packed with many local flavors. In addition, thank you to others within the Hawaii Ohana (family) that provided additional auction items individually and to those that bid on the items.

As President Dan Spoon says, "HIP, HIP, HIP Hooray!" It truly takes a village to build a community. We hope you all stay tuned for information about the ACB Media Holiday Auction.

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ACB Convention 2022

By Keao Wright

July 21, 2022

The 2022 ACB convention was a little different as sessions were both in person and virtual.

The tours were amazing! I first went to the Mormon trail and saw one of my good friends Donna Browning from Virginia. This tour was very interesting because we got to feel some of the artifacts that the pioneers used on their travel to Utah.

On Friday, July 8, we had our final tour which was the crime dinner. The guest speakers told about the Jail, and the criminals, and even the crimes that were committed in the past.

While at convention I also met one of my other friends, Jessica Daile, who is from Detroit, Michigan.

The general sessions were very interesting. There were speakers from Vanda Pharmaceuticals, comcast, and Microsoft to talk about their products and services. We also had the talking book Narrator, Ray Foushee, from the American Printing House for the Blind.

In the exhibit hall, I met people from Freedom Scientific, Spectrum, APH, Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and many other vendors. I even bought a cane from Guide Lights and Gadgets.

At the Humanware booth I saw a Braille Embosser called the Juliet 120. This Embosser will print on both sides of Braille Paper, making it easy for me to read notes and other materials.

Another booth featured a phone called the Blind Shell 2. This phone has tactile buttons on it so you can use different apps like text messaging, Aira, and others. This phone is for people who aren't use to using a touch screen, or those still wanting to feel actual buttons. The phone also has speech output that is easy to understand and hear.

This first hybrid convention was a great experience to be shared and enjoyed!

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ACB 2022 Convention

By Art Cabanilla

As I look back on this year's national convention in Omaha, I am happy to say that Hawaii's presents at convention was once again well represented.

There were nine HAB members traveling to Omaha, with most flying together, while the rest flew on different flights arriving on different days and times.

As usual, all of Hawaii's members came prepared with omiagi to share with ACB friends old and new. Needless to say, Hawaii was a hit; everyone kept asking where did you get that Kona coffee or chocolate candy?

Also given out were shell and paper leis. They were definitely a favorite. Many ACB members wore their Lays proudly while going from meeting to meeting or just heading on out for a tour to the zoo or simply wore them for good luck while they were at the casino.

During the week it was always easy to know where our Hawaii folks were at any given time. I would constantly be hearing folks saying, "I just got leied, Hawaiian style," "Love those flowers in your hair!" Or, "Aare you with the Hawaii contingent?"

By those remarks, you can tell that during the week, HAB was everywhere.

As usual, the members of HAB were good about watching over one another by making sure no one from Hawaii was left out or lost when trooping around the hotel. Folks would say to me that it was really great how Hawaii's members look out for each other, and how refreshing to see everyone so connected. My only response to that is to tell them that we are ohana and that's what makes HAB a strong organization.

One thing that was a bit of a let-down was the exhibit hall. It just didn't have the same hustle and bustle like in year's past. Many of the vendors who would normally be in attendance had not shown up; making the exhibit hall lackluster. The usual vendors such as Freedom Scientific, Humanware, and Hims were present. Other popular vendors like Guide Dogs, Vanda pharmaceutical, Guide Lights and Gadgets along with A.T. Guys were also in attendance. But that was about it. There wasn't much to see in terms of new products or services. I was able to visit all the vendors I was interested in on my 1st day.

In terms of the convention's hybrid format it made the experience of attending convention very different. One example was the seating. Each affiliate was not seated in the usual manner according to their state. Instead, folks were seated according to their preference over being masked or unmasked. And of course, there were those that chose to attend the general session via Zoom while resting in their hotel rooms. The whole convention experience seem strange when compared to pre-pandemic times.

Overall, the idea of a highbred convention was moderately successful. Meeting up with old friends and making new ones during convention is something you cannot really achieve virtually; these experiences are usually best achieved when in person.

In spite of the challenges of a highbred convention, I believe President Spoon, the board of officers, and the many others who participated in the planning and executing of this year's convention did a fantastic job in working out any technical hiccups.

Hopefully, next year we will be able to return to a more normal kind of in person convention. One where, the threat of Covid will not be a concern for most.

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Read

By Sajja Koirala

I wish I could make everybody read,

I wish people considered reading a need,

I can't stand it when people TicToc and Facebook all day,

Even though it's not my life and I shouldn't have anything to say.

If you allow it, reading will change you in many good ways,

It will bring you joy that will fill your days,

Ability to read is a privilege you should cherish,

Please think of books as something that will perish.

Read like your life depends on it,

Believe that book is your survival kit,

Know that books will take you to amazing feats,

As Gary Paulsen said, read like a wolf eats!

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Washington, D.C. Headquarters

Office of Communications & Legislative Affairs

May 19, 2022

EEOC REPORT ANALYZES SITUATION OF WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

WASHINGTON – In a newly issued report, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) shows that opportunities for persons with disabilities in the federal workforce are improving, but that further progress is needed on retention and representation in leadership positions.

The study examined federal workers with disabilities' demographics, their hiring, advancement, and separation from employment at federal agencies, discrimination complaints based on disability, and ways that federal agencies are improving accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Representing 9.4% of federal employees, the participation by people with disabilities in the federal workforce is increasing. In FY 2014, persons with disabilities represented 8.68% of federal workers. This increased by more than 8% to 9.42% in 2018. Accordingly, federal agencies are raising awareness of accessibility for persons with disabilities and are improving their technological resources to make their workplaces more accessible to people with disabilities.

The study also found that persons with disabilities are promoted at a rate similar to what would be expected based on their governmentwide participation rate.

“The EEOC is delighted to see that our support of people with disabilities has borne fruit in so many ways,” said Carlton Hadden, director of the EEOC’s Office of Federal Operations. “Clearly, though, more progress is needed. The EEOC will continue to work to advance the opportunities and well-being for this still too underutilized and underappreciated segment of our population.”

The report other findings include the fact that persons with disabilities are still underrepresented in federal sector leadership. Among persons with targeted disabilities, 10.7% are in

leadership positions and 89.3% are in non-leadership positions. Among persons without disabilities, 16.4% are in leadership positions, and 85.6% are in non-leadership positions.

Targeted disabilities are the most severe ones, including blindness, deafness, partial and full paralysis, missing extremities, dwarfism, epilepsy, intellectual disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities. Individuals with these disabilities typically have the greatest difficulty finding employment. As a matter of policy, the federal government has a special emphasis on recruiting, hiring, and retaining people with targeted disabilities.

Further, the report illustrates that people with targeted disabilities involuntarily left federal employers at more than twice the rate of people without disabilities, and people with any disability were 53% more likely to involuntarily leave than persons without disabilities. Similarly, persons with disabilities and targeted disabilities were more likely to voluntarily leave federal employers than persons without disabilities.

“There’s something wrong with this picture when so many more people with disabilities leave the government than those without,” Hadden said. “Our government needs to be the best workplace it can be for everyone. Federal managers and policymakers need to take a good look at this situation and figure out ways to improve this picture.”

The report also reveals that over a five-year period, federal sector physical disability-based complaints increased by 22% and mental disability-based complaints increased by 72%, outpacing the overall increase in federal sector EEO complaints. This may be due to increased discrimination against persons with disabilities or increased comfort with filing an EEO complaint among persons with disabilities, the report said.

By using 2018 data, this report provides a baseline to measure the impact of EEOC’s final rule, “Affirmative Action for Individuals With Disabilities in the Federal Government,” which clarified that federal employers must take proactive steps to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities.

For more information on disability discrimination, please visit <https://www.eeoc.gov/disability-discrimination>.

The EEOC advances opportunity in the workplace by enforcing federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. More information is available at www.eeoc.gov. Stay connected with the latest EEOC news by subscribing to our email updates.

www.eeoc.gov

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Congratulations to Keaopuniokaloa Wright in Hawaii on her new job!

By Leah Neumann

Keao recently accepted a full-time position at Access to Independence as their new Independent Living Services Coordinator!

Her success involved a great collaboration from both field services and the Center. Keao attended the Professional Learning and Leadership Institute internship at HKNC in the technology department and passed her JAWS certification test at the Center. While at the Center she also took part in the Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program. She then received job readiness training and supported employment services in the field. Congratulations again to Keao!

Leah Neumann | Employment Specialist

Helen Keller National Center

helenkeller.org

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Access To Independence VAAIA Program

By Keao Wright

Aloha HAB Readers,

In March 2022, I started my first job for a company called Access to Independence, as an Independent Living Services Coordinator (ILSC).

I am in charge of a Program Called VAAIA, which means to be seen.

This program is for the blind and visually Impaired. The program will help the blind and visually impaired consumers gain independence using assistive technology.

The other services we provide through this program is Assistive Technology Assessments, Peer group support, Advocacy training, Technology training for hardware and software, and Introduction to braille.

To be eligible, you must have a disability to access any Access to Independent services. For the VAAIA program, you must be blind or low vision.

This program is completely free of charge.

If you want more information, you can contact me, Keao Wright, at my email address at kwright@accesstoindependence.org

You can also call me at 808-731-0878

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PAY Event at Windward Mall

By Keao Wright

On January 15, 2022, HAB members went to windward mall for a youth event held by the Parents of youth group with five kids and several adults.

The first few activities were with Amy Downard, Leah Neumann, and Chloe. Other activities included Human guide techniques, Money folding, and changing of cane tips. The keiki were also supplied with a \$100.00 gift card shopping spree. After that was lunch at Rubi Tuesdays.

I would like to thank Roberta Thomas, and her team for sponsoring this event and spreading awareness through out the community.

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HAB 2022 Virtual Convention Wrap-Up

By Roberta Tomas

This year the Hawaii Association of the Blind hosted a virtual convention due to the high numbers of Covid cases here in our state.

The convention committee was tasked with gathering informational speakers which matched the theme "Traveling Through Barriers".

The morning session began with music, opening prayer, followed by president's remarks and announcements. We had Barron Baroza former LBPH Librarian who gave his final remarks about the library and he introduced Matthew Brown as the new LBPH Librarian. We also heard from Lea Dias Branch Administrator, Ho'opono Services for the Blind and Maureen Bates DVR Administrator. Both Ho'opono and DVR stressed the importance of employment and successful graduates who have gone on to fulfill their employment endeavors. On behalf of the DOE, Amy Downard introduced her supervisor, Michelle Arakawa, TVI Administrator. Michelle spoke of how the Blind Children in our state have adapted to the Covid pandemic and how many of them were able to use devices at home which were

purchased by DOE funds which were donated by HAB.. As HAB continues to support these agencies and organization that assist the Blind in attaining independence, employment and Daily living Skills, we as an organization continue to fulfill our part in support of all Blind in our State.

Some of the highlights of our convention were our presenters who gave grate and informative speeches that many of our attendee's made such exciting compliments. Dr. Brett Oppegaard gave an update on the Uni Description project and how his team has been venturing out and creating descriptive profiles for Blind as they send out emails or use this profiles for social media. He also shared about the Descript-a-thon happening on October 18-20 2022. If anyone is interested please contact Brett at Mobile phone 360-521-8150 or email: brett.oppegaard@hawaii.edu.

Leah Neumann, from I-Can-Connect, shared some videos of clients who successfully used Amplification devices which can be paired with Smart phones, tablets and computers and the Braille Touch Plus. Following Leah was a visitor from Turkey, Dr. Onder Islek, who lost his sight due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. He was here studying with the TVI's as a Research Instructor. The research Dr. Islek did was to gather information on Orientation and Mobility as well as daily living skills. Dr. Islek was also on our panel of blind travelers.

The TVI's gave their tips and tricks followed by our remarkable panelist of Blind Travelers. Our panelist were given questions relating to travel and some of the barriers they faced while taking public transportation, para-transit, airplanes, trains and other means of travel. We had 4 adults and 2 students. The students shared their experiences and struggles with the barriers they faced while in the DOE system.

Also speaking to our convention was Ray Prentice, an Alaska airlines representative. Ray was very descriptive in his personal description of himself. Ray spoke of the updates to the website that anyone with visual impairments or total Blindness would be able to navigate in order to purchase airline tickets. He also shared about the mock trial air flights they conducted with the Blind and how they try to continue to make the flights more accessible for peoples with disabilities.

Our keynote speaker was ACB treasurer David Trott. In the program's morning portion, David shared the ACB Report. Later in the day, he spoke about what it takes to motivate and boost membership. Many of our attendee's said that Brett Oppegaard, Ray Prentice and David Trott gave very good insightful information during their time to speak.

The next highlight was the tribute to Landa Phelan and the plaque that was given to Sajja Koirala in honor of Landa Phelan. The rest of the program was followed up by the proclamation's given by political figures of our city and state, donations from HAB to the DOE, Library for the Blind and Print

Disabled and to other various organizations. The final portion of our program was the awards portion followed by closing remarks from our president.

Overall, HAB had received so much help from ACB media from start to the finish. Special thanks to ACB Media Guru's Rick, Morin and Cecily Nipper.

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How to Use Door Detection in iOS 16

By Jeff Butts

People with difficulty seeing or judging distances can have issues with doors. They may not see them at all, or maybe can't tell how far away the door is. Such folks may struggle to determine whether the door swings open, where the door knob is, and so forth. That's where Door Detection, a new Accessibility feature in iOS 16, comes in.

Where to Find Door Detection in iOS 16

Apple has included Door Detection in its Magnifier app. You can access Magnifier in a couple of ways, including using a Spotlight search or adding it to Control Center. The most convenient way to access Magnifier is by adding it to Control Center via the Settings app.

Setting up Door Detection

Once you've got Magnifier open, you may want to adjust the settings for Door Detection in iOS 16. Tap the gear icon in the bottom left and tap Settings. Next, scroll down until you see Door Detection, and tap it.

From here, you can change how the detection feature works to best suit your needs. For example, you can turn sounds, speech, and haptics on or off. You can adjust what color Magnifier

outlines the door in and whether the app provides more detailed information about the door. You can also disable the feature providing details about door decorations like text and signs on or near the door.

Using the New Feature

Once you've got it configured how you want, it's all a matter of putting Magnifier in Door Detection mode. The frame icon, usually right beside the flashlight button, does this for you.

Using the Door Detection Feature

Once you tap the Detection mode button, make sure Door Detection is turned on. The emblem of a door will be yellow. Once that's done, just point your iPhone's camera in the direction you're moving. When your device detects a door of some sort, it will outline it in the color you chose and provide important details about the entry or exit.

When you're done, tap End and Magnifier will exit Detection mode.

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American Printing House for the Blind

April 6, 2022

Imagine reading an interesting article or editing a hefty document with no way to navigate by page or heading, only able to scroll down one line at a time. Braille readers experience this tedium whenever they access digital braille files, making reading at home, in the classroom, and in the workplace a slow process. We think it's time to take the braille file into the 21st century. In collaboration with leaders from across the field, APH is developing a new, revolutionary braille file standard that will be accessible on both braille displays and embossers and will change the way students, teachers, and transcribers interact with braille and tactile graphics. We're calling it the eBRF.

Why is there a need for an eBRF?

Today, the standard braille file accessible on braille displays and embossers is known as the Braille Ready File or BRF. This braille txt file is formatted entirely using just blank lines and spaces. As a result, readers can't easily navigate through a big file or take advantage of other conveniences, like links for footnotes and endnotes. There are also no ways to join braille content and embossed graphics in the same electronic experience. The eBRF will solve these issues by providing braille text and tactile graphics in one file with enhanced navigation.

This new standard will build on information already being added by the transcriber. We don't have to reinvent the workflow of getting the content from the transcriber to the braille reader to take advantage of this existing information. We just need to change how files are saved and opened. The ideal eBRF will be easy to create for transcribers, fit within an existing file standard, greatly improve the navigation experience, and empower users by bundling tactile graphics and braille.

What is the eBRF project?

The goal of the eBRF project is to create a new braille file standard that seamlessly contains both braille and tactile graphics. This interactive file will include formatting, like headings, tables, and glossaries. Enhanced navigation will allow students to effectively jump to sections, chapters, or pages and utilize links to access footnotes or other referenced material. Users can also decide the format they would like to view tables in, whether it be spatially or in a listed form. The eBRF will be easy to create and open and will work on single- and multi-line braille displays, and embossers can emboss both braille and graphics in a single print job. The eBRF, used with displays like our upcoming Dynamic Tactile Device (DTD), will display full pages of braille text, graphics, and even braille music, giving students access to instructional materials at the same time as their sighted peers. Read our DTD blog to learn more.

A field-wide effort

APH has been working collaboratively with international braille authorities and organizations,

such as The DAISY Consortium, National Library Service (NLS), Braille Authority of North America (BANA), International Council on English Braille (ICEB), Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), Austrian Association for the Blind, Duxbury Systems, National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS), and many more, to seek their input and feedback.

Access for all

While APH is spearheading this work, it is ultimately the braille community that will own this standard. At present, we have received great feedback from our partners on the first draft of the eBRF. However, this draft is only the beginning. Many changes will be required before we get to the final specification.

We hope to have the eBRF ready for all to access without too much delay as a new file standard is needed for those who utilize electronic braille.

“The effort that has been undertaken to create an eBRF format for braille reading is truly ground-breaking. With so much braille being read on electronic devices, efficient navigation is critical to the success of electronic braille for students, professionals, and even the casual braille reader,” said Judy Dixon, President, International Council on English Braille. This new eBRF standard will not only benefit users of the Dynamic Tactile Device, but it will also help braille readers everywhere read more efficiently regardless of the device used. It puts power in the hands of braille readers in a way that was not previously possible.

Stay tuned to aph.org and APH News for updates on the eBRF and the Dynamic Tactile Device.