

Keeping you  
"in THE"  
know.



---

1/8/21

## Happy New Year!

-Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year! Another brand-new year is here so recharge your energies and get set to enjoy. Thanks for your great work in 2020 and all the best in 2021!

## Did You Know?

-Did you know World Braille Day is celebrated every January 4th in honor of Louis Braille's birthday, who at the age of 15 invented the tactile system for reading and writing for use by people who are blind or visually impaired. Braille is read by passing one's fingertips over an arrangement of between one to six embossed dots, which represent letters, numbers as well as musical and mathematical symbols. World Braille Day is a reminder of the importance of accessibility and independence for people who are blind or visually impaired and was established by the UN General Assembly in December 2018.

## What's Happening at CSC:

-The Outreach team was interviewed by Brunswick Area Television's Golden Years senior program in November. Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer speak about CSC programs and services in a 30-minute feature which airs eight times per week during the month of January. To view the segment, click here: <https://bat.viebit.com/player.php?hash=vsNTZXYF65O2>

-Students in Bright Futures Preschool resumed their virtual classroom this week after enjoying their winter break. This week they listened to an adapted story about "The Mitten" and made their own mitten crafts. They also began preparations for their next student unit about "Bread" in the next couple weeks.

[Image of preschool student at home watching "The Mitten" story on her television]

-Members of the Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) team including Barb Williams, Keith Filip and Monica Owen are planning and presenting a monthly Zoom educational session on Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) that is open to CYAS staff, CYAS families, outside therapists and teachers starting January 21st.

Topics will include CVI: An Overview (January 21st), Featured Family: A Guided Interview with a Family of a Child with CVI (February 18th), CVI Range Report: "I have this report, now what do I do?" (March 18th), DIY: Adapting Toys, Activities and Spaces for CVI Needs (April 15th) and CVI & Communication Needs (May 20th).

For more information, contact Monica Owen ([mowen@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:mowen@clevelandsightcenter.org) or x8776). Additional thanks to Laurie Schlickman and Judith Weyburne who have been part of the series planning.

-The January 2021 Recreation Schedule is available and includes:

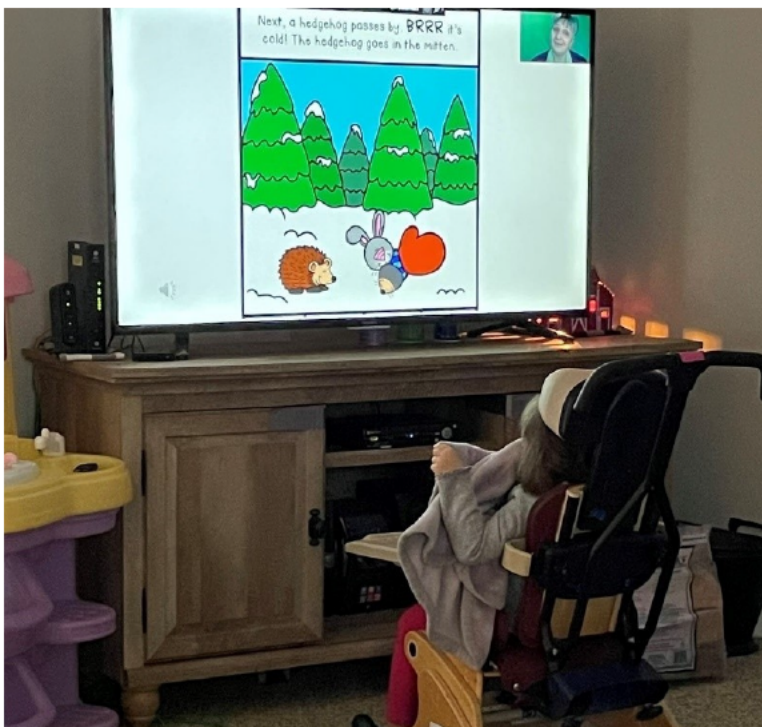
### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday:

10am Stretching & Meditation (please note that this is an hour later than we previously held this activity)  
6pm Health Chat (1/18), Happy Hour (1/25)

Tuesday:

11:30am Meditation



5:30pm Yoga

Wednesday:

10am Coffee Chat

2pm Improv (1/13 and 1/17)

Thursday:

10am Activities Vary

Friday:

10am Fun Friday

2pm Trivia (please note that this is a different day and time than we previously held this activity)

Additional upcoming activities include:

January 12th at 12pm: Book Discussion

January 12th at 6:45pm: Music Group

January 13th at 6pm: Sing It Out

January 14th at 2pm: Speaker Series: Disability Advocacy

January 15th at 6pm: Open Mic Comedy Night

January 21st at 2pm: Poetry with Katie Daley and the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

January 25th at 1:30pm: Poetry with Shayna Sharpe

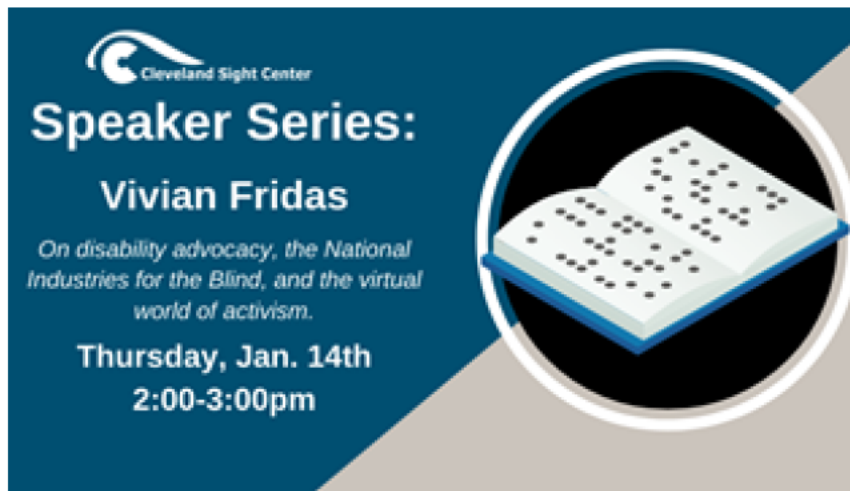
For information on how to log-on or call-in to these programs, please contact Recreation Specialist Bobbie Szabo at [bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org) or 216 658 4597, or call the Recreation Information Line at 216-658-4600.

-Upcoming Book Discussion Group virtual gatherings and books are:

January 12th: Bel Canto: a novel by Ann Patchett

February 9th: The New Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

For more information on Book Discussion Group, contact Bobbie Szabo (x4597) or Alicia Howerton (x4587).



-The Leisure and Lifestyle Services Department is excited to announce the latest session in the Speaker Series! Vivian Fridas, Public Policy Specialist at National Industries for the Blind, will speak about her background with disability advocacy and international development, the work she does with NIB, how things are changing or evolving in 2021 and tips and tricks for us all to stay active with our advocacy in a virtual world. This event will be held over Zoom.

For information on how to log-on, please contact Recreation Specialist Bobbie Szabo at [bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org) or x4597 or call the Recreation Information Line at 216-658-4600.

[Graphic of upcoming Speaker Series]

-The Leisure and Lifestyle Services team recently received a donation courtesy of the parishioners at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Aurora, Ohio! Led by friend of CSC Suzy Harper, the parishioners held a "Scavenger Hunt" for various items that can be used in Recreation and at Highbrook Lodge, including arts & crafts materials, games and more!

[Photo of donated goods lined up on tables inside the Recreation Room at CSC]



-Happy New Year from Volunteer Services! As a CSC community, we have so much to be thankful for. From near and far, friends, staff, volunteers and clients have shared a note about what they are feeling grateful for in the New Year. Add your voice or the voices of clients or volunteers you work with to this virtual gratitude wall: <https://padlet.com/mmauk2/jrasskksfu8oyttf> as a way to chime in on the fun! Submissions via email are also welcome.

-A call for volunteer requests! As the New Year begins please be sure to contact CSC's Volunteer Team with any requests for volunteer support. With three major recruitment pushes throughout the year, January is a great time to think about the projects you want to accomplish or determine how you'd like to grow or nurture your programs, or improve administration and services. Please contact Melissa Mauk (x4581) with requests for individual or group volunteer support or for questions about how you might be able to utilize volunteers. Requests can be one-time, project-based, or ongoing in nature.



**One-Time:** One-time projects are short and sweet, but can also be varied in nature. They can be applicable to individuals or groups of volunteers. One-time projects can include a number of things, like a single performance (singing, skits or instruments) to task-based items like creating packets and sending letters, painting or cleaning rooms, landscaping, supporting/staffing events, or preparing for projects, activities and events.

**Project-Based:** Project-based volunteers are recruited for a specific project – one that has an end. Project-based volunteers can help with tasks like organizing and analyzing a specific set of data, assisting with the rollout and recruiting/marketing of a program or service, building items needed for clients or planning an event. In the past, project-based volunteers have frequently supported skills-based creative tasks like creating high contrast CVI books, building cornhole boards, installing lights into a reading cube, and more. Please see below for some photos of past project-based items created by CSC volunteers.

[Picture of a reading cube with lights at the top and cushions on the back and bottom]



**Ongoing:** Ongoing volunteers participate more regularly at Cleveland Sight Center, typically volunteering weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Some ongoing volunteers at CSC participate on an as-needed basis. Examples of ongoing volunteers include volunteers that lead activities like yoga, improv or music sessions, those that help with administrative duties like conducting client surveys, making reminder or thank you calls or organizing files or volunteers that record for our radio station or translate materials into braille. The possibility for how one can use ongoing volunteers is comprehensive!

-Cleveland Sight Center's Young Professionals group, the Visionaries, are holding a virtual recruitment event as we turn the calendar to 2021. Thursday, January 14th from 7-8pm, young professionals are invited to ring in the New Year virtually with the Visionaries while enjoying a complimentary glass of champagne/sparkling cider, meet the group, hear what is planned for 2021, and learn a bit of braille with a sweet treat! RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/34kJym3> by January 10th to receive your box of goodies for this event.

If you know of someone that might be interested in attending and joining the Visionaries, please send them this information. For more information about the Visionaries, please click here: <https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/content/visionaries>.

## Items of Note:

-Amazon recently released new features and ways Alexa can help people stay connected. To read the article, click here: <https://bit.ly/2XojUZC>

-Cleveland Sight Center will continue the Friday main building closure through the end of March. This means that on Fridays, the main building will not be open to staff, clients or walk-ins.

-A reminder the agency's building operating hours have changed to 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Moving the building opening back a half hour will allow our colleagues in Facilities and the snow plowing contractor to prepare the building and grounds to be as safe as possible.

## Did You Know Part 2:

-Most carrots used to be purple in color. The familiar orange color of carrots is the result of 17th-century farmers cultivating mutant strains in their carrots.