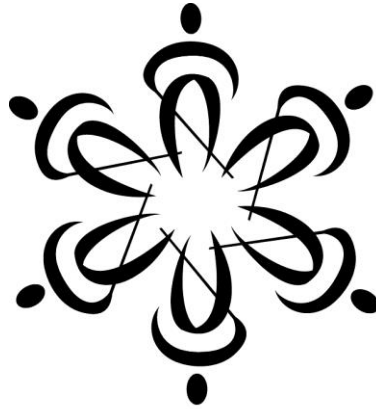


The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention  
**National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**



**LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT—  
WE ARE MORE THAN THE SUM OF ONE**

Anywhere and Everywhere  
Wednesday through Saturday  
November 10, 11, 12, 13, 2021

Linda Melendez, President  
732 421 7063  
[president@nfbnj.org](mailto:president@nfbnj.org)  
[www.nfbnj.org](http://www.nfbnj.org)

## Who We Are & What We Do

The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of and for the blind in the US, is made up of blind/visually impaired people of all ages, and their families and friends. We help newly blind people adjust to eyesight loss, assist parents and teachers of blind children, and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities. Our activities include:

- Assisting blind persons in acquiring the skills of independence and developing confidence in themselves
- Supporting parents and teachers of blind children with information, mentoring, role modeling, and training
- Preparing blind students for careers and self-sufficiency through mentoring, training, and academic scholarships
- Encouraging blind seniors to continue to live active and meaningful lives
- Advocating for policies that eliminate discrimination, promote civil rights, and guarantee equal access to high quality educational and rehabilitation programs
- Sponsoring information campaigns and legislative action at the state and national levels
- Educating the public through community activities and publications

## Spotlight on NFB of New Jersey

Since 1976, the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey, an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, has been providing invaluable information and resources to blind/visually impaired people throughout the state. Our members work together for a brighter tomorrow by raising expectations for blind people everywhere so that blind persons can live the life they want. Our seven chapters meet monthly; our five divisions hold meetings and events at various times throughout the year. Please join us— we would welcome your participation and membership. For more information on the affiliate, chapters, divisions, committees, programs, and projects, visit [www.nfbnj.org](http://www.nfbnj.org)

## **Live the Life You Want**

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

## **The National Federation of the Blind Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

## **It's not too late to register**

You still can register for the 45th State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey until Friday, November 5 to be eligible for door prizes. This event, the major gathering of our state's blindness community, will be held virtually via the Zoom platform from Wednesday, November 10 through Saturday, November 13. Registration is FREE!! Click on the link below to register.  
<https://www.nfbnj.org/state-convention/registration>

## **Integrity and Respect**

To allow all attendees the chance to benefit from all aspects of the convention, we are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone. We appreciate your assistance in cultivating an atmosphere in which participants from diverse backgrounds may learn, network, and share with each other in an environment of mutual respect. Thank you for doing your part to contribute to our community and the high expectations we strive to maintain.

Please visit the following link for the code of conduct:

[www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct](http://www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct)

## **Virtual Exhibit Room**

Please be sure to visit our virtual Exhibitor Room which will open on Wednesday, November 3 and close on Wednesday, December 15.

<https://www.nfbnj.org/state-convention/exhibitors-and-sponsors/exhibitors>

We are grateful to all our exhibitors for their time, dedication, and generosity to the NFBNJ, so please do support them and visit their virtual booth.

## Door Prize Details

Door prizes will be drawn and announced throughout the convention. Winners must be present to win. If you hear your name called, you can claim your prize in one of these ways: raise your hand, or call or text Ellen Sullivan at 302 333 8146. Winners must provide their convention registration name, email address, and best contact number. Out of respect for attendees, we ask that only those in attendance at the time their name is called make claims for the prize.

## NFBNJ Eligible Voters

Current 2021 dues-paying members who are registered for the convention and enrolled to vote have received emails with instructions and the phone number to cast their votes when announced. Please consider adding the voting number to your contacts for easier voting.

## Zoom Window Commands

Mute/Unmute your audio: Alt+A

Turn your video camera on/off: Alt+V

Display Participants, users: Alt+U

To collapse the list of users and show other Zoom controls: press escape

Raise/lower hand: Alt+Y

To quit: Alt Q

Please allow the host to lower your hand

## Zoom Mac Keyboard Shortcuts

Command + Shift + A: Mute/unmute audio

Command + Shift + V: Start/stop video

Hold Space: Push to talk if your audio is muted and the host allows it

Option + Y: Raise hand/lower hand

Command + U: Display/hide participants panel

Command + Shift + H: Show/hide in-meeting chat panel

Command + Shift + F: Enter or exit full screen

Ctrl + Option + Command +H: Show/hide meeting controls

Command + W: Prompt to End or Leave Meeting

## Zoom Telephone Commands

To mute or unmute: Star+6

To Raise or lower your hand: Star+9

Please allow the host to lower your hand

## Zoom iPhone Tips

To raise your hand, tap on the more button and tap the option to raise your hand

To unmute when you wish to speak, tap on the mute/unmute button

## Instructions for listening on an Echo device

Wake word Alexa: call 646 876 9923

Just like calling on the phone, you will hear "welcome to Zoom" say the meeting id 647 766 0103 when prompted followed by pound

Then say wake word Alexa: say the passcode 460994

Then say Alexa Press pound to enter the meeting

## Miscellaneous Details

Our convention will be recorded.

All state convention activities will be held at Eastern Standard Time via the Zoom platform unless otherwise indicated.

JAWS users can use Heading 1 to navigate between announcements and days and heading 2 for presentations.

## Convention Zoom Participation Details

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUI1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21HUT09>

Meeting ID: 647 766 0103

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Passcode: 460994

## **Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

Join Zoom Meeting

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 647 766 0103

Passcode: 460994

### **10:00 AM to 10:55 AM—New Jersey Association of Senior Blind (NJASB) Business Meeting**

Jane Degenshein, President

We will review 2021, hold elections, share about the National Senior Division virtual retreat, and plan for next year.

To subscribe to our NFBNJ Senior Division listserv click on the link below

[https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfbnj-seniors\\_nfbnet.org](https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfbnj-seniors_nfbnet.org)

To subscribe to our National Senior Division listserv, click on the link below:

[https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfb-seniors\\_nfbnet.org](https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfb-seniors_nfbnet.org)

### **11:00 AM to 11:55 AM—New Jersey Association of Blind Technology Users (NJABTU) Business Meeting**

Jane Degenshein, President

We will review 2021, hold elections and discuss what's ahead in 2022. In addition, David DeNotaris from Pennsylvania will share some tech tips with us.

To subscribe to our NFBNJ tech division listserv click on the link below:

[http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/njtechdiv\\_nfbnet.org](http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/njtechdiv_nfbnet.org)

### **1:00 PM to 1:55 PM-NFBNJ At-Large Chapter Business Meeting**

Joseph Ruffalo, President

Our meeting will review the past year, highlight plans for 2022, and discuss the importance of membership involvement in the chapter.

### **2:00 PM to 2:55 PM–NFBNJ Sports and Recreation Division Business Meeting**

Linda Melendez, President

Join us as we review 2021, hold elections, and discuss ideas as we plan for 2022. Blind Athletes Inc. will share about their organization and how to get involved.

To learn about our National Sports and Recreation Division visit

<http://www.nfbsportsandrec.org>

To join our National Sports and Recreation Division listserv visit

[http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/sportsandrec\\_nfbnet.org](http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/sportsandrec_nfbnet.org)

Find our National Face Book Group by searching National Sports and Recreation Division

### **3:00 PM to 3:50 PM–NFBNJ Braille Committee Business Meeting**

Mary Jo Partyka, Chair

We will discuss Braille mentoring, the Braille Challenge, the BELL In-home Edition, and the NLS E-reader. Our next steps will consist of determining our goals for 2022 at our February meeting. We will have two guest speakers this year: Deborah Kent Stein from the NFB of Illinois and Zora Stover, a bright inquisitive eight-year -old who participated in our BELL Program and two NJ Regional Braille Challenges (she won first place this year in her age category.)

Our Braille committee website is

<https://www.nfbnj.org/projects/>

Our national website is:

NFB—Braille-Discussion

**4:00 PM to 4:50 PM—NFBNJ Diabetes Committee Business Meeting**

Ed Godfrey & Angela Perone, Co-Chairs

An overview of 2021 and plans for 2022. Debbie Wunder, President of the Diabetes Action Network, (DAN), our national division, will provide information about their purpose, goals and objectives, and how to join. We will also discuss various accessibility products.

**7:00 PM to 7:50 PM—NFBNJ Guide Dog Committee Business Meeting**

Brianna Murray, Chair

During this annual meeting we will reflect on our activities as a committee in 2021 and discuss plans for the year ahead. We will also enjoy remarks from a guest speaker who is influential in the guide dog movement. This will be a valuable time to gather with local guide dog handlers, offer feedback and suggestions, and maybe even learn something new that will benefit you or your dog. To learn more about our committee email Brianna Murray, Chair, at [brianna2393@gmail.com](mailto:brianna2393@gmail.com)

To join our email list, send a blank email with subscribe in the subject line to [njagdu-request@nfbnet.org](mailto:njagdu-request@nfbnet.org)

To be involved with our NFB on a national level visit guide dogs [www.nagdu.org](http://www.nagdu.org)



## Thursday, November 11, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUI1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21HUT09>

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 647 766 0103

Passcode: 460994

### 10:00 AM to 10:55 AM Resolutions 101

Sharon Maneki, Chair, NFB Resolutions Committee; Director of Legislative and Advocacy, NFB of MD; and immediate past President of 24 years, NFB of MD, will discuss the resolution process and the role of resolutions in our national organization and affiliates.

### 11:00 AM to 11:55 AM Audio Description & Advocacy

Everette Bacon, Member, NFB Board of Directors; President, NFB of Utah and Chris Danielsen, NFB Director of Public Relations

### 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM— Technology Seminar

Jane Degenshein, President, New Jersey Association of Blind Technology Users

### 1:05 PM—JAWS/Fusion

Sharky and smart OCR features. Tony Santiago, Vice President, Technology Division

### 1:25 PM—Navigating Websites in Windows

Tracy Carcione and Rick Fox, Members, Technology Division

**1:50 PM—Scriptalk App Demo**

Anne Marie Harris, Member, Technology Division

**2:05 PM—Goodreads App Demo**

Mary Jo Partyka, Secretary, Technology Division

**2:20 PM—IOS 15 New Phones Features**

Tony Santiago, Vice President, Technology Division

**2:40 PM—Navigating the web with IOS**

Andy Smith, Board Member, Technology Division

**3:00 PM—Everything Apple**

Matt Vollbrecht, Certified Apple Instructor; Owner, The Tech Juggernaut

**3:40 PM—Q and A**

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

**4:00 PM—Breakout Rooms****4:00 PM to 4:45 PM Breakout Room****Room 1: All About Newsline**

Members Tracy Carcione, Annemarie Cooke, and Andy Smith will discuss all ways to access Newsline, followed by Q&A

**Room 2: Social Media**

Members Zoraida Krell and Mary Jo Partyka will discuss Facebook and Twitter basics

**Room 3: Louie App Update**

Hands free access to many apps on Android and coming soon to Apple  
Aneesh Karuppur, Freshman, Duke University

**4:45 PM—Technology Seminar Conclusion**

Jane Degenshein, President, New Jersey Association of Blind Technology Users

**6:00 PM—Resolutions Committee Meeting**

Ryan Stevens, Chair

Open to all; take part in witnessing the development of resolutions, which become the policy statements of NFBNJ.

**7:30 PM to 8:00 PM-How to Maintain a Strong Social Life as an Adult**

Lia Stone and Carley Mullin, Facilitators

In this talk, we will hear from two active and successful Federationists, who will be letting us in on how they keep their many hobbies and social activities thriving while also juggling their busy work schedules. They will remind us all that a healthy social life as an adult is not only possible, but essential.

**8:15 PM to 9:00 PM-A Climber's Guide to Ascending the Career Ladder**

In this session we will hear from three successful blind professionals with work experience in the private and nonprofit sectors. They will be giving their best advice on how to identify and pursue professional goals for advancement, how to find the best workplaces where that advancement can take place, and how to rise through the ranks without burning out. If you're looking to move on up in your career, you won't want to miss this one!

## Friday, November 12, 2021–Morning General Session

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUI1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21HUT09>

Meeting ID: 647 766 0103

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Passcode: 460994

### 8:30 AM–Traditional Pre-Convention Music

### 9:00 AM–Welcome, Call to Order

Linda Melendez, President, National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

### 9:05 AM–Opening Ceremonies

Jane Degenshein, President, Senior and Technology Divisions

Pledge of Allegiance

The National Federation of the Blind Pledge:

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

Invocation—Jane Degenshein, Member, Temple Ner Tamid

Moment of Silence for members, family and friends who have passed away

Honoring Veterans—Joseph Ruffalo, US Army Veteran; immediate past president, NFBNJ; current 1st Vice President, NFBNJ; President, NFBNJ At-Large Chapter

God Bless America—Vocal rendition by Mary Fernandez, Member, NFBNJ Board of Directors

**9:20 AM—Introduction of Our Scholarship Class of 2021**

Lia Stone, Chair, Scholarship Committee; Member, NFBNJ Board of Directors

**9:30 AM—Presidential Report**

Linda Melendez, President, National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

**10:00 AM—National Representative’s Report: We Are More than the Sum of One**

Patti Chang, Esq., Director of Outreach, National Federation of the Blind

**10:30 AM—NFB Advocates for Equality, Opportunity and Security for the Blind**

John Pare, Executive Director, Advocacy and Policy, NFB

**10:55 AM—Together We Make a Difference!**

Dr. Elisa Neira, Deputy Commissioner, NJ Department of Human Services; Dr. Bernice Davis, Executive Director, NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; C. Pat McKenna, Assistant Division Director, NJCBVI; Dr. Michelle Whitmore, Acting Assistant Division Director, NJCBVI discuss our looking forward together to continuing services, programs, and interactions in the coming year.

**11:40 AM –NFBNJ Sounding Board Update**

Annemarie Cooke, Chair, Sounding Board Editorial Committee

**11:45 AM—NFB PAC Plan**

Mac Biggers, Chair, PAC Plan Committee. Hear how your monthly contribution to the Preauthorized Contribution Plan, no matter the size, helps grow the programs and projects of the NFB.

**11:50 AM—Announcements**

Linda Melendez, President, NFBNJ

**12:00 PM—Adjourn**

## **Friday, November 12, 2021–Afternoon General Session**

### **1:00 PM–Afternoon Announcements**

Linda Melendez, President, NFBNJ

### **1:10 PM–New Jersey State Library – Talking Book & Braille Center**

Adam Szczepaniak, Director, Talking Book & Braille Center; Deputy State Librarian, New Jersey State Library, will highlight the past year’s accomplishments (yes, even in a pandemic!) and share plans for next year.

### **1:20 PM–Hadley: Personalized Learning Opportunities for Empowerment**

Marc Arneson, Director of Community Engagement, Hadley, brings us the latest on how Hadley helps blind and visually impaired people thrive at home, at work, and in the community.

### **1:35 PM–Seedlings: From Seed to Harvest**

Learn about Seedlings and their programs including children’s books in Braille and print together.

### **1:50 PM–Accessible Voting**

Mary Ciccone, Esq., Director of Policy, Disability Rights New Jersey. Find out how accessible voting went during the 2021 election season and hear plans for moving forward.

### **2:10 PM–The Blind History Lady**

Peggy Chong, the Blind History Lady, will share some little-known lore about blind New Jerseyans of the past.

### **2:30 PM–NFBNJ Northeast Chapter Raising Expectations**

Zoraida Krell, Member, NFBNJ Board; Vice President, Northeast Chapter; and Northeast chapter members Alice Bogoshian, Cynthia DeJulia and Nagui Khouzam will discuss going outside of their comfort zone!

### **3:05 PM–Fit Break; sponsored by the NFBNJ Sports and Recreation Division**

It’s likely you’ve been sitting for a while today so stand up and get the blood flowing again in those quads and glutes!

### **3:15 PM—Working Together for the Rights of the Blind**

Ryan Stevens, Legislative Director, NFBNJ; the Honorable Yvonne Lopez, New Jersey Assemblywoman, 19th Legislative District. Our legislative director will again welcome our affiliate's long-time champion for the rights of parents who are blind or have other disabilities to provide an update on our parental rights legislation NJ:A5517 and its continued importance in our civil rights efforts.

### **3:55 PM—Reaching the Public: NFB Communications and Social Media**

Danielle McCann, Social Media Coordinator, NFB

### **4:05 PM—The Braille Challenge**

Monique Coleman, Ph.D., President, VISTAS Educational Partners, will provide an overview of recent competitions and the coming 2022 Braille Challenge.

### **4:20 PM –The Braille Enrichment Learning & Literacy (BELL) Academy: Still Successful in the Virtual Version**

Linda Melendez, President, NFBNJ, and Mary Jo Partyka, Coordinator, NFBNJ BELL Academy, along with BELL Academy team members and BELL students and parents.

### **4:45 PM—Announcements**

Linda Melendez, President, NFBNJ

### **5:00 PM—Adjourn**

### **5:30 to 6:45 PM—Entertainment**

Can you name a song that has the word, "love" in the lyrics? How about "baby" or "man?" Can you sing? If you can, then this event is for you! In each round, three teams will be given a word by the judges and will have time to come up with as many songs that contain this word. Then, the sing-down begins as teams sing a portion of their songs until only one team remains with ideas. The team with the most round victories wins! Audience members are strongly encouraged to attend and enjoy the music and help judge for accuracy of the songs!

### **7:00 PM—Business Meeting of the NFBNJ 2021 Convention**

This meeting is perhaps the most important one of the NFBNJ affiliate. All are welcome. NFBNJ President Linda Melendez will provide an overview of the past

years activities and plans for the future. Chapter reports will be given and elections to the affiliate board will be held.



## **Saturday, November 13, 2021–Morning General Session**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUI1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21HUT09>

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Passcode: 460994

### **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM–General Session and Two Breakout Opportunities!**

#### **9:00 AM–Opening Remarks**

Linda Melendez, President, NFBNJ

#### **9:10 AM–Invocation**

Sanjay Gupta, International Society of Krishna Consciousness

#### **9:15 AM –NFB Blindness Initiatives**

Patti Chang Esq., NFB National Representative

#### **9:35 PM –Business Opportunities Update**

Nicky Gacos, President, National Association of Blind Merchants.

#### **10:00 AM–Safe Streets**

Richard Fox, President, NFBNJ Northern Chapter; Ellen Sullivan, Vice President, Northern Chapter; Tracy Carcione, Member, Northern Chapter. Learn what members of the Northern Chapter are doing to make our streets safer for blind and other pedestrians.

### **10:20 AM–Blind Iron Man**

Dave Wilkinson of Louisville, KY shares how his unexpected brush with serious injury set him on the path to the Iron Man competition. We CAN live the life we want; blindness doesn't hold us back.

### **10:40 AM-Fit break; sponsored by the NFBNJ Sports and Recreation Division**

### **10:50 AM-Call to Action: Every Member Has the Power**

Mary Fernandez, Carley Mullin and Melissa Lomax, Co-Chairs, Membership Committee, will highlight how every member of the Federation has a key role to play and has the power to help our organization grow.

### **11:00 AM-NFB Teacher of Tomorrow**

Rosy Carranza, Director, NFB Teacher of Tomorrow; and Sarah Scapardine, participant, NFBNJ Teacher of Tomorrow, will provide information on this important national program.

### **11:20 AM-Friend Raising Plus Fundraising Equals Success**

Kenneth Viado, Mythicos Studios, will talk about a fun and exciting gaming event that helped support the programs and projects of the NFBNJ.

### **11:40 AM-Announcements**

Linda Melendez, President NFBNJ

### **11:45 AM–Morning Session Adjourns**

### **11:00 AM to 12:50 PM–NFBNJ Student Division Business Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8728160447?pwd=cnRwVkZGOGpTNDJwRHRlcnBHNlRKZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 816 0447

Passcode: 460994

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 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
 Meeting ID: 872 816 0447  
 Passcode: 460994

### **12:00 PM—Open Chat Session**

Jane Degenshein, Facilitator. Grab your lunch, stay on the Zoom line, and join us!

### **12:00 to 12:50 PM NFBNJ Parents of Blind Children (POBC-NJ) Skills for Success**

Carol Castellano, Founder, Parents of Blind Children-NJ; Secretary, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. We'll look at the fundamental skills blind and visually impaired children from birth on up need to acquire in order to function well at home, in school, at work, and in the community.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81036439445?pwd=TDNkcGcxeVQ0aTYxVlpMWTa0L2djZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 3643 9445  
 Passcode: 326416

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 Meeting ID: 810 3643 9445  
 Passcode: 326416

## **Saturday, November 13, 2021–Afternoon General Session**

### **1:00 PM- Announcements**

Linda Melendez, President, NFBNJ

### **1:10 PM-Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the NFB**

Colon Wong, Co-chair, National Diversity and Inclusion Committee; panelists Richard Fox, Vincent Elorza, Jocelyn Santiago, Nimisha, Rana and Clarke King, Members, NFBNJ. Learn about the committee's mission, how families and cultural backgrounds shape our attitudes about blindness both positively and negatively, and how we can share Federation philosophy with people of all backgrounds.

### **1:55 PM –The Student Perspective**

Treasa Perino and Kaleigh Brendle, National and State Scholarship Winners

### **2:15 PM –TTJ: The Tech Juggernaut**

Matt Vollbrecht, Certified Apple Instructor, Owner, The Tech Juggernaut

### **3:00 PM-Fit break; sponsored by the NFBNJ Sports and Recreation Division**

### **3:10 PM–Making Lemonade Out of Lemons during the Pandemic**

Carley Mullin, Mary Jo Partyka and Annemarie Cooke, Members, NFBNJ, share how they used their new-found time to hone and share their skills which include singing/songwriting, technology, and cooking.

### **3:40 PM— Why Choose an NFB Center?**

Lauren Altman, graduate, Louisiana Center for the Blind; Klaus Zechner, graduate, Colorado Center for the Blind; and Brian McGrath, graduate, BLIND INC discuss how they have raised their own expectations and acquired critical blindness skills.

### **4:20 PM–Why I Am A Federationist**

Carol Castellano, Founder, Parents of Blind Children-New Jersey; author; and long time member.

### **4:35 PM-NFB and NFBNJ Fun Facts**

Joseph Ruffalo, immediate past President, NFBNJ; current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, NFBNJ; President, NFBNJ At-Large Chapter

### **4:50 PM-Announcements and Closing Remarks**

Linda Melendez, President NFBNJ

### 7:00 PM—Banquet

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUI1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21HUT09>

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Master of Ceremonies—Nicky Gacos, President, National Association of Blind Merchants

Invocation—Fr. Maximilian Buonocore, Monk of Newark Abbey

Keynote Address—Patti Chang, NFB National Representative

Presentation of Awards—Rick Fox, President, NFBNJ Northern Chapter

Recognition of Contributors to State Scholarships—Lia Stone, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Presentation of State Scholarship Awards—Lia Stone

Door prizes

*\*Agenda subject to change\**

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey expresses appreciation to all members and nonmembers who attended the 45<sup>th</sup> virtual state convention.

Linda Melendez, President  
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey  
732 421 7063  
[president@nfbnj.org](mailto:president@nfbnj.org)

For the list of affiliate board members, chapters, divisions, committees, projects and programs, please visit the state website at [www.nfbnj.org](http://www.nfbnj.org)

### **Meet our National Representative: Patti Gregory-Chang, Director of Outreach, Attorney, Advocate, Mother**

After graduating from Harbor Springs High School in 1981, Patti planned to attend school with hopes of becoming a teacher of the visually impaired. After earning her teaching certificate at Michigan State University, she discovered a passion for law and enrolled in the University of Chicago Law School. Patti graduated from law school in 1988 and worked in the City of Chicago Law Department for twenty-eight years. She began her tenure in the Traffic Division and worked her way up to Assistant Corporation Counsel. In this position she prosecuted housing court matters in the Circuit Court of Cook County and handled collection matters for the Building and Land Use Litigation Division of the City of Chicago Law Department.

Patti became Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Law Department in 1998. In this role she prosecuted cases, supervised attorneys prosecuting cases, coordinated law clerks and externs, and served on various committees and task forces. She belongs to several professional associations including the National Association of Blind Lawyers, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and the Illinois State Bar Association. Patti currently serves as Secretary of the Disability Law Committee of the Illinois State Bar Association and as a member of the Administrative Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association.

In 2016 Patti embarked on a second career, accepting the position of Director of Outreach for the National Federation of the Blind, the largest organization of blind people in the world.

In fact, Patti has devoted much of her free time to the National Federation of the Blind since joining in 1981. Patti currently serves as the 2nd Vice President of the Illinois affiliate of the NFB and has served on its National Board of Directors as well as working as national scholarship committee chair for some years.

Patti lives in Chicago. In her spare time, Patti and her husband love traveling, dancing, and enjoy spending time with family and friends. They boast of two successful adult children, Johnathon and Julia, and a wonderful grandchild, Kayla Ma Chang.

### **National Scholarship Program—Call for Applications Begins November 1**

Every year, the National Federation of the Blind awards more than \$120,000 to blind scholars across the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in recognition of their achievements and professional aspirations. The scholarship program is our commitment to academic excellence and leadership among blind students, and each winner is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, community service, and leadership. The application process opens November 1. Review the online scholarship application checklist and the scholarship program FAQs. Share this opportunity that invests in the future of blind people. To learn about the eligibility and requirements of the 2022 scholarship program visit <https://www.nfb.org/programs-services/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-program>

### **NFB T-Shirts for Sale**

Maybe some of your chapter members are new, maybe some members haven't yet purchased one for their wardrobe, and maybe some members and nonmembers are looking for a spare.

Our t-shirts are heather red with white print. The top left on the front has our logo and in two lines beneath, The National Federation of the Blind. The back in two lines says, Live the Life You Want. Shirts are available in sizes small, medium and large. Price is \$18. To get your shirt contact Anne Marie Harris at [love1160@gmail.com](mailto:love1160@gmail.com) or 856 589 8747.

## **Pre-Authorized Contribution Plan (PAC Plan) and a raffle opportunity for increased or new PAC Plan pledges during convention**

PAC-ING FOR THE NFBNJ CONVENTION? Since our convention is virtual over Zoom, you won't need to pack a suitcase for the next few days. The only PAC-ing you'll need is by starting a PAC plan or adding to your monthly contribution.

PAC stands for Pre-Approved Contribution. Each month, the amount you have designated automatically is deducted from your checking or savings account. That sum, as little as \$5, helps fund projects like NFB Free White Cane program and also is used to take care of "rainy day" expenditures that may be unexpected.

There's something additional in it for you this year! Anyone who opens a new PAC plan or adds at least \$5 to their existing PAC plan will have their name entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. The drawing will be held at our banquet on Saturday evening. Contact Mac Biggers, NFBNJ PAC Plan Coordinator, at 801 916 9753 to be entered into the drawings..

To arrange for PAC Plan contributions go to [www.nfb.org/pac](http://www.nfb.org/pac) and fill out the form. The National Center will call you to take payment information. You can also call 877 635 2711 or email [pac@nfb.org](mailto:pac@nfb.org) to enroll.

The National Center will contact individuals for financial and banking information following the convention. For additional assistance contact Mac Biggers, NFBNJ PAC Plan Coordinator, at 801 916 9753. Again, visit [www.nfb.org/pac](http://www.nfb.org/pac)

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey thanks the following sponsors and vendors for their continued support with raising expectations to live the life we want.

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Patti Chang  
Tom Browne  
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Deborah Stein

## Exhibitors

### **American Printing House for the Blind Connect Center**

Olaya Landa-Vialard, Director

1839 Frankfort Ave.

Louisville, Kentucky 40206

713-542-1401

[olvialard@aph.org](mailto:olvialard@aph.org)

<https://aphconnectcenter.org>

The APH Connect Center is a one stop shop for information about visual impairment/blindness. We have an Information and Referral line staffed from 8 – 8 EST M-F. We have a suite of websites: [familyconnect.org](http://familyconnect.org); [visionaware.org](http://visionaware.org); [aphcareerconnect.org](http://aphcareerconnect.org). Take a look at our Community Calendar to be in the know about events happening near you. Access our Getting Started Guide for those new to vision loss. Visit us: [aphconnectcenter.org](http://aphconnectcenter.org)

[Click here to view American Printing House for the Blind Connect Center's audio/video clip](#)

### **C TECH**

Chuck Cohen, President

2 N. William St.

Pearl River, New York 10965

845-735-7907

[chuck@magnifyit.com](mailto:chuck@magnifyit.com)

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C TECH is a leading distributor of quality products for THE blind and visually impaired. OrCam, Envision, Reinecker, and Eschenbach to name a few.

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[getorcam@gmail.com](mailto:getorcam@gmail.com)

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OrCam is the world's most advanced AI tech for people who have vision loss, impairment, and reading difficulties. OrCam takes a picture of something visual & converts it into audio in real time. Small, lightweight, discreet and portable, use anywhere as no WIFI or connectivity is needed. OrCam understands voice commands and can be fully operated by saying Hey OrCam. OrCam's Smart reading feature increases efficiency by telling it what to read.

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### **SW Unlimited**

Sherlock Washington, President

1033 Chandler Avenue

Linden, New Jersey 0703

732-290-1677

[sherlock@swunlimited.com](mailto:sherlock@swunlimited.com)

<http://www.swunlimited.com>

Dealer in adaptive technology products and services for blind and visually impaired individuals. from low tech to high tech, such as Screen readers, refreshable braille devices, computers, note takers, and digital devices.

[Click here to view SW Unlimited's audio/video clip](#)

### **The Seeing Eye**

Chelsea White, Outreach Specialist

P.O. Box 375

Morristown, New Jersey 07963

973-539-4425

[whitec@seeingeye.org](mailto:whitec@seeingeye.org)

<https://www.seeingeye.org>

The Seeing Eye located in Morristown NJ is the oldest dog guide school in the world. If you are interested in partnering with a dog guide come and see what we have to offer.

[Click here to view The Seeing Eye's audio/video clip](#)

### **Vanda Pharmaceuticals**

Maggie Felton, Clinical Nurse Educator  
2200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 300 E  
Washington, District of Columbia 20037  
202-579-8035

[maggie.felton@vandapharma.com](mailto:maggie.felton@vandapharma.com)

<https://vandapharma.com>

Vanda Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community. To learn more about Non-24 or to request a speaker, please contact Maggie Felton- Clinical Nurse Educator.

Business Hours: 8am – 5pm

Phone: 202-579-8035

Email: [>maggiefelton@vandapharma.com](mailto:>maggiefelton@vandapharma.com)

[Click here to view Vanda Pharmaceutical's audio/video clip](#)

To view the most current listing of this year's sponsors, please visit  
<https://www.nfbnj.org/state-convention/exhibitors-and-sponsors/sponsors>.

We are grateful to those who contributed time, effort, and suggestions to show  
We Are More Than the Sum of One!