



## JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

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### Center's Ninth Annual Community Banquet

Please mark this special date on your calendar. On Friday, March 1, 2019, the CICBVI is hosting our Ninth Annual Community Banquet, one of two primary fundraisers for the Center. Formerly titled the Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet, money raised from this event is used to provide needed services and technology to support individuals who are blind or visually impaired living in Central Illinois.

This year's banquet features Dr. Chieko Asakawa, a TED Speaker and IBM Fellow. Dr. Asakawa has been instrumental in furthering accessibility research and development for the past three decades. Challenging thinking on visually impaired technology usage, she leads development efforts in advancing web accessibility including digital Braille and voice browsers. In 2013, the Japanese government awarded the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon to Dr. Asakawa for her outstanding contributions to accessibility research, including the development of a voice browser. Today, with Carnegie Mellon University, she is working on how accessibility technologies can play a key role in creating opportunities for individuals with visual impairments to more actively participate in society.

Many of you will recognize our Master of Ceremonies. Mike Dimmick anchored NBC WEEK News 25 Nightside, the most-watched newscast in downstate Illinois, for more than 16 years.

The banquet is being held at Mt. Hawley Country Club in Peoria IL. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. with dinner, special remarks and keynote speaker to follow. Tickets are \$100 per plate. The Center is paying for patrons to attend, of course. Please contact the Center to reserve your seat, volunteer to help and/or sponsor this important event.

### **Sixth Annual Uftring Ambassadors Christmas Party**

Another year has come to an end and we wanted to send it off with a BIG PARTY! The Seventh Annual Christmas Party sponsored by the Uftring Ambassadors was held Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Uftring supplied the ham and all the trimmings.

The competition started after the meal. Prizes were awarded to the person who answered the most general and Christmas trivia questions correctly or was able to name the most tunes in a round. There were Christmas songs to be sung and good company all around. Even if a patron did not win, they did not go home empty-handed. All patrons received a gift card and a Christmas tin full of cookies. A great big THANK YOU to the Uftring Ambassadors and their families for donating prizes, cookies, and their time, making this a very special night for everyone who attended. You will never know how much you are truly appreciated.

### **Uftring Receives Dennis A. Steele Philanthropy Award**

As important as the Uftring Ambassadors are to the Center, their philanthropic efforts make enormous contributions throughout the Central Illinois Community. The Central Illinois Chapter of the Association

of Fundraising Professionals (AFP-IHQ) has honored the Uftring Auto Group with the Dennis A. Steele Outstanding Philanthropic Organization Award. The Uftring Ambassadors were recognized during the AFP National Philanthropy Day 35th Annual Awards Luncheon November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Each year, the AFP honors donors, volunteers and fundraising executives whose gifts of time, expertise and resources contribute significantly to the success of the non-profit agencies and institutions they serve. The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired could not agree more with the AFP's choice and would like to add our congratulations to the Uftring Auto Group Ambassadors for this richly deserved recognition. It is because of support from Uftring and others in our community who care that the CICBVI has been able to continuously serve people who are blind or visually impaired in Central Illinois since 1955.

### **CICBVI Receives Ameren Illinois Grant**

Thanks to a generous donation from Ameren Illinois, the CICBVI will offset a significant portion of the cost of replacing our antiquated heating and air-conditioning system, a project we completed earlier in 2018 when the system failed after many years of constant repair.

We are delighted Ameren Illinois has joined our community of supporters. Thanks to the generosity of Ameren Illinois and many other generous people in Central Illinois who care, the CICBVI will continue our mission of providing programs meeting the emotional, educational, training, social and cultural needs of people who are blind or visually impaired living in

Central Illinois. Since 1955, our building on Peoria's Garden Street has been the home of the programs and services we provide.

"Ameren Illinois' generosity helps ensure we continue to provide a comfortable and safe haven for Central Illinoisans who are blind or visually impaired to gather to enjoy and learn from one another," said Prasad Parupalli, CICBVI President.

### **Introducing the CICBVI's Intermediate White Cane Clinic**

Are you or someone you know in need of long white cane training? Are you unable to access services through the Department of Rehabilitation Services? Then this training is for YOU!

We are happy to introduce our first Intermediate White Cane Clinic! There is no minimum age requirement; however, you must have participated in a CICBVI hosted Basic White Cane Clinic. Two Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists will host the clinic at the CICBVI on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 from 9am-12pm. During this time, we will review information covered in the Basic White Cane Clinic and extend participants' knowledge further. Family members are encouraged to join; we ask that if you are bringing a family member that they transport you to and from the clinic. For those who are attending solo, the CICBVI will provide transportation if you need it within a 15-mile radius of the Center.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Center at (309) 637-3693 or [info@cicbvi.org](mailto:info@cicbvi.org) before February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to reserve

your place. Participants must bring the long white cane issued to them during the Basic White Cane Clinic. Space is limited, so call soon!

## **The Search is on for Our Next Executive Director**

The search is underway for the next Executive Director for the CICBVI. Installed as the Center's Director this past July, Katherine Gerontes has elected to resign to pursue opportunities more in line with her career aspirations. The Center will miss her energy, and we wish Katherine all the best in her future endeavors. Katherine's departure will be effective December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The job has been posted on Facebook and **Indeed.com**, but interested applicants should send their resume and a cover letter to the Center at **info@cicbvi.org**.

## **Thoughts and Prayers**

The passing of long time Center patron, Duane Hall, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 saddens us. Please keep Duane and his family in your prayers.

## **Center Closed During Christmas and New Years**

The Center will be closed starting December 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will reopen on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## **Upcoming Events, Meetings, Fundraisers, and Holidays**

Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 16th – Open House – Noon

Saturday, January 19th – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 23rd – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 30th – Open House – Noon

### **Meal Menus for January**

January 9<sup>th</sup>- Ham & Au Gratin Potatoes, Corn, and Peas, Salad, and Rolls, Cake & Ice Cream.

January 16<sup>th</sup>- Potato Soup with Crackers, Grilled Cheese, & Strawberry Shortcake.

January 19<sup>th</sup>- Jam Session- Ham & Beans, Cornbread, Fried Potatoes, Veggies, Banana Brownies, & Ice Cream.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>- Pork Chops & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Buttered Beans, Rolls, Ice Cream & Sundaes.

January 30<sup>th</sup> – Open House – Noon – Sloppy Joes, cream of potato soup, slaw, and pudding.

Bingo will be played at all Open House meals unless otherwise noted. Reservations must be called in no later than noon on the day before the Open House.

### **January Birthdays**

January 5 – Joseph Fehr and Berrenice Wessel  
January 6 – Anne Masters  
January 8 – Michelle Shute  
January 9 – Zoe Buchanan, Tom Vogel, and Becky Williams  
January 11 – Dennis Jurewicz  
January 16 – Nadine Palmer  
January 18 – Alice Bledsoe  
January 19 – Gary Williams and Verda Mullineaux  
January 20 – Edith Endress  
January 28 – Chuck Palmer  
January 29 – Carol Klockenga  
January 31 – Mrs. Jian Luo

### **Interesting Dates Throughout the Month of January**

**January 1 – New Year’s Day.** The most celebrated holiday around the world.

**January 1, 1892** – Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.

**January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday Celebrated.** Born on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. grew to become one of the greatest social activists the world has ever known. At 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, while making a speech from the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. His birthday, celebrated the third Monday of January, became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983.



Free Matter for the Blind &  
Visually Impaired

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**Quote of The Month** – “Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything it covers.” – By Kahlil Gibran.