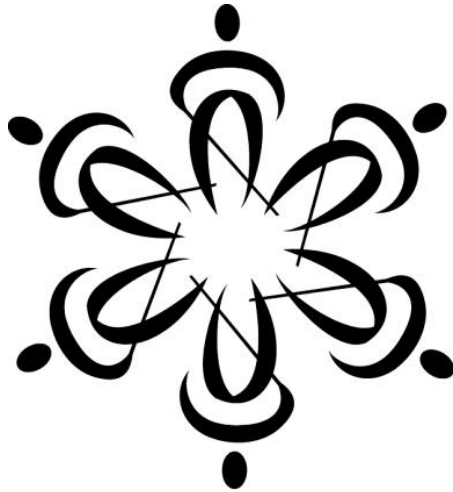


**The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention**  
**National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**



**DON'T STOP BELIEVING!**

Thursday through Sunday  
October 24, 25, 26, & 27, 2024

**Crowne Plaza Edison**  
2055 Lincoln Highway  
Edison, NJ 08817

**Linda Melendez, President**  
908-590-1747  
[president@nfbnj.org](mailto:president@nfbnj.org)  
[nfb.newjersey@gmail.com](mailto:nfb.newjersey@gmail.com)  
[www.nfbnj.org](http://www.nfbnj.org)

## Who We Are and What We Do

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB), established in 1940, is the oldest and largest organization of and for the blind in the US and its territories. The NFB is made up of blind and low vision people of all ages, and their families and friends. We help 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 the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey (NFB of NJ)

Since 1976, the NFB of NJ, an affiliate of the NFB, has been providing invaluable information and resources to blind/low vision people throughout the state. Our members work together for a brighter tomorrow by raising expectations for blind people everywhere so that blind people can live the life they want. Our five chapters meet monthly; committees and groups meet at various times throughout the year. Please join us—we would welcome your participation and membership. For more information on the affiliate, chapters, committees, groups, programs, and projects, visit

[www.nfbnj.org](http://www.nfbnj.org).

## **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 can 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. To read the NFB Code of Conduct, visit [www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct](http://www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct).

## **NFB Mission Statement**

The NFB advances the lives of its members and all blind people in the United States and its territories. We know 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. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

## **NFB 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.

## **Fragrance-Free Policy**

The NFB of NJ's goal is to be sensitive to members with perfume and chemical sensitivities who, as a result, may suffer potentially serious health consequences. In order to address this concern, members and participants at conventions and other meetings should refrain from wearing scented products, including, but not limited to perfumes, colognes, aftershave lotions, or similar products. We want to ensure full participation in all of our statewide activities.

## **Accessibility Statement**

The NFB of NJ holds itself to the highest standards of inclusion in all our work. This commitment encompasses our in-person events as well as our virtual communications. To make accessibility-related requests or report barriers, please contact Clarke King 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, NFB of NJ at [czking30@gmail.com](mailto:czking30@gmail.com).

## Announcements

### Exhibit Hall

#### ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Visit our array of vendors and outreach resources on Friday, October 25 from 8 AM to Noon. Be sure to thank them for participating in our convention.

### Become a Convention Sponsor

Companies and individuals can support the programs and projects of the NFB of NJ by becoming a convention sponsor. There are four levels of sponsorship. Get details by clicking the link below. You can use PayPal or a credit/debit card online or write a check to NFB of NJ and mail to Affiliate Treasurer at NFB of NJ, PO Box 2202 Vincentown, NJ 08088. Please write "Convention Sponsor" in the memo section.

<https://nfbnj.org/state-convention/sponsor-registration>

### Affiliate Membership

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Would you like to become a member of a committee, group, program, or project but are not yet a member of a chapter? Then come pay your dues and become a member of the affiliate on Friday, October 26 from 8:00 to 8:25 AM. Annual dues are \$10. You can also join by clicking on the link below and use PayPal or a credit/debit card online or write a check to NFB of NJ and mail to Affiliate Treasurer at NFB of NJ, PO Box 2202 Vincentown, NJ 08088. Please write "NFB of NJ dues" in the memo section.

<https://www.nfbnj.org/nfbnj-affiliate-membership-form>

### Affiliâte Auction—New Day & Time!

#### ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Our annual auction, which raises funds for the work we do as an affiliate, is set for a single time block on Friday, October 25 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, following our Federation Family Dinner. Bring your cash, checkbook, or credit card to bid on items of varying values. Everyone, budget-conscious or not, is bound to find a treasure to take home! Donated auction items are welcome and can be dropped off in the Studio Room when it is open for registration and packet pick-up (see below).

## Affiliate 50/50 Raffle

Support the affiliate by purchasing 50/50 raffle tickets, 1 for \$10; 3 for \$20. Watch for opportunities to purchase during the convention or look for Linda DeBerardinis, Chair, Raffle Committee.

## Door Prizes

Door prizes will be drawn for pre-registered conventioners and announced throughout the technology seminar, general sessions, and banquet. You must be inside the room when your name is called in order to claim your prize. Donated door prizes are welcome and can be dropped off in the Studio Room when it is open for registration and packet pick-up (see below).

## Host Chapter

We are pleased to announce this year's host chapter is the Central Jersey Chapter whose members have aided with our Exhibit Hall and various convention activities. Only a host chapter is permitted to fundraise during the convention. Please support them

## Pre-Registration Pick-Up and On-Site Registration

### *Studio Room*

Wed., Oct. 23—7:30 to 8:00 PM **Pre-Registration pick-up only**

Thursday, Oct. 24—10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Thursday, Oct. 24—6:30 to 7:00 PM

Fri., Oct. 25—6:00-6:30 AM **Pre-Registration pick-up only**

Friday, Oct. 25—8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sat., Oct. 26—7:30 AM to 2:00 PM

## Convention Meals

All convention meals must be pre-purchased during the pre-registration period. **No meals will be sold onsite.** Pre-purchased meals include Thursday through Sunday Breakfast Buffet, Friday and Saturday Boxed Lunches, Friday Federation Family Meal, and Saturday Banquet. Aides, PCAs, or SSPs may join you at meals; however, if they want to eat a meal, one must be pre-purchased for them. Lost tickets will not be replaced. For lost and found meal tickets, please see Annemarie Cooke, Chair, Convention Hotel Food Services.

## **Pre-Purchased Breakfast Buffet**

You will receive your pre-purchased breakfast buffet tickets when you pick up your pre-registration packet. Tickets will display valid dates. Buffet will be served in convention space by hotel staff. Check the agenda for each day's location. Bring the correct day's ticket with you to exchange for a buffet bracelet. Service will be provided only to individuals wearing bracelets. Again, lost tickets will not be replaced. For lost and found meal tickets, please see Annemarie Cooke.

## **Pre-Purchased Boxed Lunch**

### ***Garden Ballroom***

Your pre-purchased lunch tickets will be in your pre-registration packet. Lunch tickets will be marked for Friday or Saturday and will indicate which meal you ordered. Pre-purchased boxed lunches will be available beginning at noon in the Garden Room. Bring the correct day's ticket with you to exchange for your meal. Lost tickets will not be replaced. For lost and found meal tickets, please see Annemarie Cooke.

## **Pre-Purchased Friday Federation Family Meal & Saturday Banquet**

### ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Bring your pre-purchased ticket with you and enjoy these meals with our Federation family. You must have a pre-purchased ticket or be an aide, PCA, or SSP accompanying a person with a pre-purchased ticket to be seated. Aides, PCAs, SSPs who would like to eat will need a pre-purchased meal ticket.

## **Pre-Purchased Saturday Banquet Ticket Exchange**

### ***Windsor Ballroom***

For a smooth seating process, we use a "Banquet Ticket Exchange." Bring your pre-purchased ticket to the ticket exchange table, (see agenda for exchange hours) where you will trade it in for a ticket with a table number. If you would like to sit with friends, gather **all** tickets and exchange them together (you must have everyone's ticket when you go to the exchange). Let them know at the exchange table if you are bringing an aide, PCA, or SSP, so seating can be arranged. If you do not exchange your ticket, you will be seated where space is available. Open seating will begin promptly at 7:45 PM, no holding of seats permitted!

## **Identifying Pre-Purchased Meal Tickets**

Meal tickets will have Braille on them. This request can be done during the pre-registration or by sending an email with the subject line Braille My Meal Tickets to [nfbnj.convention@gmail.com](mailto:nfbnj.convention@gmail.com).

Breakfast Buffet Tickets will be 3 by 5 size and colored in the blue family. Lunch Tickets will be 4 by 6 size and colored in the green family. Family Federation Meal and Banquet tickets will be 5 by 7 size and white. Friday meal tickets will have no hole punch, Saturday meal tickets will have one hole punched in the upper left-hand corner. Sunday breakfast buffet tickets will have two holes punched in the upper left-hand corner.

## **Membership Friendship Appreciation Pizza Party** ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Registered conventioners join us for an appreciation pizza party sponsored by the NFB of NJ on Thursday, October 24 at 5:00 PM.

## **American Printing House ("APH") Abacus Bee**

APH Abacus Bee is a fun and engaging competition designed to ignite a passion for mathematics in students who are blind or have low vision. By allowing the use of various formats like print, braille, UEB math, or Nemeth code, the competition ensures that participants can use methods that suit their individual learning styles. The Abacus Bee encourages the use of mental math and abacus skills, unlocking students' full mathematical potential. The NFB of NJ is partnering with VISTAS Education Partners to provide this event, and it will be held on Sunday, October 27 as one of our 2024 community service programs

## **Kustom Canes "You Cane Give" Program** ***Studio Room***

Kustom Canes, founded and operated by a blind entrepreneur, uses spare cane parts to create new mobility canes for free distribution in countries where obtaining such a cane is difficult or impossible. You can help: drop off your old cane parts in the collection box in the Studio Room when you come in to pick up your pre-registration packet or register. This collection has become a regular part of our state convention and helps spread the gift of independent mobility outside the US.

## **Guide Dog Relief Instructions**

The guide dog relief area can be found in the courtyard at the back of the hotel. Beginning from the front desk, face away from the desk and take a left to walk toward the double doors to get outside. You will be walking on tile; when you reach a carpeted texture again, you are at the outside doors.

Please note that if you tell your dog to target the door to the outside, there is another set of double doors directly across the lobby leading to the front exit that your dog may try to find. The front exit has a large covering over it, so if you see this covering or cars, you are on the wrong side of the hotel.

When exiting the hotel on the courtyard side, you will encounter two sets of doors to get outside. Both sets are double doors, so you do not have to switch sides with your dog unless you want to. When you are heading out of these doors to go outside, the elevators to get to your room are on your left side, while the entrance to the Exhibit Hall is on your right side. Once exiting the doors, one of three trash cans can be found immediately to your right. If you keep walking straight, you will feel a brick pathway under your feet. When you feel the brick change to a flat surface, it is time to take a left to find the grass. This is located approximately 40 steps away from the doors. If the flat concrete turns back into a brick texture, you missed your left and have gone too far.

After taking a left onto the sidewalk, take about 32 steps and you will reach a large grassy area. The courtyard is shaped like a diamond, and there are bushes around the perimeter. There will be a light post with a trash can on either end of this grassy courtyard.

Once you are finished relieving your dog, if you tell your dog to target the door inside, the double doors are the only option available. When heading back inside, if you did not locate either trash can by a light post, there will be a final trash can directly on your left before entering the hotel again.

## **Portrait Studio**

**5:30- to 7:00 PM**

***Lincoln Room***

Come and have your picture taken in your Banquet finery.



## Pictures and Recording

We will be taking pictures throughout the convention and recording convention segments, which will be available on the website.

## Streaming

We will also be streaming the Thursday, October 24 Resolutions Committee Meeting at 7:00 PM, Friday, October 25 Afternoon General Session, Saturday Morning General Session and evening Banquet. Participation details are listed below.

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUI1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21H UT09>

## One tap mobile

+16468769923,,6477660103#,,,,\*460994# US (New York)

## Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
 +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
 +1 646 931 3860 US  
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
 +1 309 205 3325 US  
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
 +1 386 347 5053 US  
 +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
 +1 564 217 2000 US  
 +1 669 444 9171 US  
 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
 +1 719 359 4580 US  
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 647 766 0103

**Passcode:** 460994

## Thursday, October 24, 2024

### **6:00 AM—Pre-Purchased Breakfast Buffet Opens**

#### ***Hotel Restaurant***

Bring the correct day's ticket with you to exchange for your meal.

### **10:00 AM to 12:30 PM—Pre-Registration Pick-Up and On-Site Registration**

#### ***Studio Room***

### **1:15 to 4:30 PM—Technology Seminar**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

1:15 PM Opening Remarks—Jane Degenshein, NFB of NJ Board Member and Chair Technology Committee

1:20 PM Navigating and Understanding the New and Improved NFBNJ Website—Rick Fox, NFB of NJ Board Member and President Northern Chapter

2:20 PM What's new in iOS 18—Tony Santiago, NFB of NJ Board Member

3:20 PM Interactive AI Discussion—Tech Committee Panel

4:30 PM Closing Remarks & Announcements—Jane Degenshein, Chair Tech Committee, and Linda Melendez, President NFB of NJ

### **5:00 PM—Membership and Friendship Appreciation**

#### **Pizza Party; Sponsored by the NFB of NJ**

#### ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Eat and mingle with fellow conventioners.

### **6:00 to 6:30 PM—Pre-Registration Pick-Up Only**

#### ***Studio Room***

### **7:00 PM—Resolution Committee**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Come witness the development of resolutions, which become the policy statements of NFB of NJ. This meeting is open to all; however, only appointed committee members are eligible to vote. Membership voting takes place during the Saturday, October 26 at the Affiliate Business Meeting. In addition, the proposed Affiliate Constitution will be publicly read for the first time.

### **8:15 PM—Mingle and Open Chat**

#### ***Lincoln Room***

Meet new people and see old friends.

## **Friday, October 25, 2024 Morning**

### **6:00 to 6:30 AM—Pre-Registration Pick-Up Only**

#### ***Garden Room***

Need your meal tickets? Stop in to pick up your pre-registration packet only!

### **6:00 to 7:30 AM—Pre-Purchased Breakfast Buffet**

#### ***Garden Room***

Bring the correct day's ticket with you to exchange for a buffet bracelet. Service will be provided only to those with bracelets.

### **8:00 AM to 2 PM—Pre-Registration Pick-Up and On-Site Registration**

#### ***Studio Room***

### **8:00 AM to Noon—Exhibit Hall**

#### ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Visit our array of exhibitors to view the many fine products and learn about services and resources available for those with blindness and low vision. Speak to representatives directly and have all your questions answered.

### **8:00 to 8:25 AM—Pay Affiliate Membership Dues**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Our annual dues are \$10; place your dues in an envelope with your name and best contact number.

### **8:15 AM—NFB/NFB of NJ, Social Media, and You!**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Stephanie Cascone, Director of Communications, NFB HQ  
Jason Resnik, Social Media Coordinator, NFB of NJ

### **8:15 AM—Thriving Together: Exploring Traveling and Cultivating Connections**

#### ***Lincoln Room***

Lia Stone, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, NFB of NJ; Bree Douglas, VP, Northeast Chapter

### **9:30 AM—The NFB: Why Do We Do What We Do?**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Denise Avant, Esq., Chair Membership Committee, NFB; HQ  
Melissa Lomax, Chair, NFB of NJ Membership Committee

### **11:00 AM Exhibit Hall**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Last chance to visit resources and vendors

**Noon to 12:20 PM—Pre-Purchased Lunch Pick-Up**  
***Garden Room***

Pick up your pre-purchased lunch. You must bring the correct day's lunch ticket with you to exchange for your meal!

**Friday, October 25, 2024 Opening Session**

**1:15 PM Music from our NFB Album "Rhythm of the Movement"**  
***Windsor Ballroom***

**1:30 PM Welcome and Call to Order**

Linda Melendez, President, NFB of NJ

**1:40 PM—Opening Ceremonies**

Jane Degenshein, NFB of NJ Board Member

Pledge of Allegiance

NFB Pledge

Invocation

Honoring Veterans

**2:00 PM—National Representative's Report: Don't Stop Believing**

Patti Gregory-Chang, Esq., Director of Outreach, NFB HQ

**2:45 PM—Nominating Committee Report**

Annemarie Cooke, Chair Nominating Committee

**3:00 PM—Membership: Together We Transform Dreams into Reality**

Denise Avant, Esq., Chair Membership Committee, NFB; HQ

**3:20 PM—Fit Break**

Stephanie Cascone, Director of Communications, NFB HQ

**3:35 PM—Moving Forward Together in NJ**

Kaylee McGuire, Deputy Commissioner, Aging and Disability Services, NJ Department of Human Services;  
 Charles Patterson McKenna, Esq Assistant Division Director, NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**4:05 PM—What's New at the TBBC?**

Adam Szczepaniak, Director NJ Talking Book and Braille Center

**4:15 PM—What's New with Access Link?****4:45 PM—Announcements****5:00 PM—Adjourn****Friday, October 25, 2024 Evening Program****5:00 PM to 5:15 PM—Banquet Exchange*****Windsor Ballroom*****5:30 PM—Federation Family Meal****Talmadge Ballroom**

Bring your pre-purchased meal ticket to enjoy a meal together as we meet new members and reconnect with old friends. Everyone must have a pre-purchased ticket to attend and be served.

**7:00 PM—Affiliate Auction—New Day & Time!*****Talmadge Ballroom***

This is it—the moment you've been waiting for! Bring your cash, checkbook, or credit card to bid on items. With prizes varying values, everyone, whether on a budget or not, is bound to find a treasure to take home! Donated auction items are welcomed and can be dropped off in the Studio Room during open registration hours. Please come and support our affiliate!

**8:30 PM—Entertainment—The Sing-Down!*****Windsor Ballroom***

Come show off your music IQ in a group competition! Can you name a song that has the word "love" in the lyrics? How about "baby" or "door?" If you can, then this event is for you! In each round, teams will be given a word by the judges and will have time to come up with as many songs as possible that contain this word. Then, the sing-down begins as teams sing a portion of their songs, until only one team remains. The team with the most victories wins! Audience members are strongly encouraged to enjoy the music, help judge the accuracy of the songs, and, of course, laugh! There will be a cash bar and plenty of time to socialize with friends old and new.

## **Saturday, October 26, 2024 Morning General Session**

### **6:00 to 7:30 AM—Pre-Purchased Breakfast Buffet**

#### ***Garden Room***

Bring the correct day's ticket with you to exchange for a buffet bracelet. Service will be provided only to those with bracelets.

### **8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Pre-Registration Pick-Up and On-Site Registration**

#### ***Studio Room***

### **8:00 to 8:25 AM—Banquet Ticket Exchange**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

### **8:30 AM—Pre-General Session Music**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

### **9:00 AM—General Session**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Welcome and Call to Order

Linda Melendez, President NFB of NJ

### **9:05 AM—Presidential Report**

Linda Melendez, President NFB of NJ

### **9:40 AM—Introduction of Scholarship Class of 2024**

Lia Stone, Director of Youth Programs, NFB of NJ

### **9:55 AM—National Association of Blind Students Report**

Zachary Ledford, NABS

### **10:10 AM—NJABS Committee Report**

Natasha Ishaq, Chair Student Committee, NFB of NJ

### **10:20 AM—Marching Together on Capitol Hill**

Clarke King Facilitator; Panelists Lauren Altman and Bree Douglas

### **10:50 AM—Fit break**

Denise Avant, Esq., Chair Membership Committee, NFB; HQ

### **11:05 AM—Landing in Orlando**

Lia Stone Facilitator; Panelists Nimisha Rani and Isabelle Nutt

### **11:35 AM—I'm Powered!**

Krystle Boateng, Children's Book Author

### **11:55 AM—Announcements**

### **12:00 PM—Adjourn**

### **12:00 PM to 12:15 PM—Banquet Ticket Exchange**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

## Saturday, October 26, 2024 Lunch Break-Out Sessions

### **12:00 to 12:20 PM– Pre-Purchased Lunch Pick-Up**

#### ***Garden Ballroom***

Pick up your pre-purchased lunch. You must bring the correct day's lunch ticket with you to exchange for your meal!

### **12:10 PM to 1:10 PM–NJ Association of Blind Students Gathering**

#### ***Lincoln Room***

Students, join us to learn about NJABS and enjoy free pizza

### **12:15 PM–NFB Courtesy Rules of Blindness Discussion Garden Room**

Jane Degenshein, Facilitator. Grab your lunch and join us!

To view Courtesy Rules of Blindness please visit:

[Courtesy Rules of Blindness | National Federation of the Blind \(nfb.org\)](https://www.nfb.org/courtesy-rules-of-blindness)

### **12:15 PM–Parents of Blind Children—NJ Meet and Talk Windsor Ballroom**

Carol Castellano, Founder & Facilitator, POBC-NJ, Come meet new people and see old friends at this informal session. We can talk about your child's education and development, ways to deal with challenges, and any other things that may be on your mind. Hope to see you there!

## Saturday, October 26, 2024 Afternoon General Session & Evening Activities

### **1:15 PM–Afternoon General Session**

#### ***Windsor Ballroom***

Welcome, Call to Order, Announcements

Linda Melendez, President, NFB of NJ

### **1:25 PM–Fundraising and Outreach**

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

### **1:45 PM–NFB Branding, Communications and Social Media**

Stephanie Cascone, Director of Communications, NFB HQ

### **2:30 PM–Fit Break**

Aubrey Bird, President NFB of NY

## **2:45 PM—Affiliate Business Meeting: What We've Accomplished, What's Ahead**

Linda Melendez, President NFB of NJ

Chapter and Committee Reports, Resolutions, Financial Report, Elections. Proposed Affiliate Constitution will be publicly read for the second time and voted on.

## **4:45 PM-Announcements and Closing Remarks**

Linda Melendez and Patti Gregory Chang

## **5:00 PM—Adjourn**

## **5:10 PM to 5:25 PM—Final Banquet Ticket Exchange *Windsor Ballroom***

## **5:30- to 7:00 PM—Portrait Studio**

### ***Lincoln Room***

Stephanie Cascone, Director of Communications, NFB HQ  
Come and have your picture taken in your Banquet finery.

## **7:30 PM—Banquet** Doors open at 7:15 PM

### ***Talmadge Ballroom***

Bring your pre-purchased banquet exchange ticket with you! Everyone must have a ticket to be served! There will be a cash bar. Food and bar service will not be available during keynote address.

**Maestra of Ceremonies**—Jane Degenshein, Board Member, NFB of NJ; Chair, Senior and Technology Committees

**Invocation**—Denise Avant, Esq., Chair Membership Committee NFB HQ

**Keynote Address**—Patti Gregory-Chang, Esq., National Representative, Director of Outreach, National Federation of the Blind

**Recognition of Contributors** to State Scholarships

**Presentation of State Scholarship Awards** —Lia Stone, Director of Youth Programs, NFB of NJ

**Door Prizes**



**Sunday, October 27, 2024**

**7:00 to 8:30 AM—Pre-Purchased Breakfast Buffet**  
***Windsor Ballroom***

Bring the correct day's ticket with you to exchange for a buffet bracelet. Service will be provided only to individuals wearing bracelets.

**8:30 AM APH New Jersey Regional Abacus Bee**

For additional information

Monique Coleman EdD, TVI

President at VISTAS Education Partners

Phone [732-835-6672](tel:732-835-6672)

Mobile [201-349-5074](tel:201-349-5074)

Email [monique@vistaseducation.com](mailto:monique@vistaseducation.com)

Website [www.vistaseducation.com](http://www.vistaseducation.com)

**9:30 AM Affiliate Networking and Socializing**

**\*Agenda subject to change\***

## **Meet our National Representative: Patti Gregory-Chang**

Development Director, Attorney, Advocate, Mother

After graduating from Harbor Springs High School in Michigan, Patti planned to attend college and become a teacher of blind students. 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 began a 28-year career in the City of Chicago Law Department. She began her tenure in the Traffic Division and worked her way up to Assistant Corporation Counsel, where she prosecuted housing court matters and handled collection matters.

Patti became Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Law Department in 1998, prosecuting cases, supervising attorneys, coordinating law clerks and externs, and serving on many committees and task forces.

Patti has devoted much of her free time to the National Federation of the Blind since joining in 1981, over the years serving on the National Board of Directors, the national scholarship committee, and currently as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the NFB of Illinois. In 2016 Patti embarked on a second career, accepting the position of Director of Outreach for the NFB.

Patti and her husband Francisco love to travel, dance, and spend 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 December 1**

Every year, the National Federation of the Blind awards more than \$250,000 to blind scholars across fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, in recognition of their academic achievements and professional aspirations. Each scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, community service, and leadership. For information on eligibility, requirements, application, checklist, and FAQs, please visit: <https://www.nfb.org/programs-services/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-program> Let others know about this program that invests in the future of blind people.

## **Pre-Authorized Contribution Plan (PAC Plan)**

The PAC Plan helps fund important projects such as the NFB Free White Cane program, and is also used to take care of “rainy day” expenditures that may arise unexpectedly.

Contributors designate an amount, which can be as little as five dollars per month, to be automatically deducted from a checking or savings account or charged to a credit card.

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 get payment information. You can also call 877-635-2711 or email [pac@nfb.org](mailto:pac@nfb.org) to enroll.

## **Exhibitors, Resources and Sponsors**

The NFBNJ thanks all our exhibitors and sponsors for your continued support. You help us raise expectations so that we can live the life we want. Please visit our website and view the list of this year’s exhibitors and sponsors.

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

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey expresses appreciation to all members and non-members who attended our 48<sup>th</sup> annual state convention.

Thank you for coming.

Linda Melendez, President  
National Federation of the Blind of  
New Jersey 908-590-1747

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We are grateful to all those who contributed time, effort, and ideas to the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey Don’t Stop Believing!