



**We Serve All Ages &  
All Stages of Vision Loss**

# ILLUMINATIONS

**The quarterly newsletter of The Lighthouse of Houston**

**Spring 2022**

## MAY IS HEALTHY VISION MONTH!

According to the a study from the [American Academy of Ophthalmology](#), approximately 37 million adults in America have some degree of macular degeneration, cataract, glaucoma, or diabetic retinopathy, all of which can cause some form of visual impairment or blindness. However, studies have shown that making healthy choices and getting regular eye exams can help reduce an individual's risk of vision loss. Contact our team of clinicians at our Vision Rehabilitation Clinic if you have questions about your eye health.

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Our [Vision Rehabilitation Clinic](#) is staffed by a team of clinicians skilled in the care of low vision and blind patients. The clinic provides low vision evaluations, adaptive visual aids, training and education to those with impaired vision. All ages and all stages of vision loss are welcomed! Call us at 713-284-8402 to make your appointment today!



## Supporters in the Spotlight!

The Lighthouse of Houston welcomed volunteers from BP to our facility during the Thanksgiving season. A team of BP volunteers, led by Lighthouse Board Member, Kim Colburn, entertained our clients in the [Adult Day Program](#) by leading them in games of BINGO, followed by the serving of a lunch composed of traditional Thanksgiving fare! We thank our friends at BP for their generosity and seasonal spirit! if your company is interested in volunteerism, contact us by email at [socialmedia@houstonlighthouse.org](mailto:socialmedia@houstonlighthouse.org) for more info!

# Meet Blind Artist John Bramblitt

When John Bramblitt lost the last of his vision in 2001, due to complications from epilepsy and Lyme disease, he thought his dreams of becoming a creative writing teacher had vanished. But that was far from where the Denton, TX-based artist's story would take him.



Today, John Bramblitt is a celebrated author, speaker, visual artist and even the subject of a documentary! Along his vision loss journey, John discovered painting. He learned to paint **AFTER** going blind, by teaching himself the method of haptic visualization - a way of being able to "see" through touch. John paints incredible portraits and murals using paints that he can distinguish by feel and by raised lines that help him navigate his canvas. He travels the country, sharing his art and his story as a message of hope. John is a believer in the mission of The Lighthouse of Houston, and gave a recorded testimonial to share with our friends.

**HEAR JOHN BRAMBLITT'S MESSAGE ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE MISSION HERE!**

## Beep Baseball World Series 2022 Coming to Beaumont!

The National Beep Baseball Association will take the field in the 2022 World Series in Beaumont, Texas from July 24-31. The event will be hosted and coordinated by the Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau. Teams from across the U.S., including Houston's own Houston Hurricanes, will gather in East Texas for a week of competition and comradery, with the winning team to be crowned World Series Champions.



The NBBA World Series has a history dating back to 1975. The reigning champions are Indiana's Indy Thunder. As the closest Lighthouse to Beaumont, The Lighthouse of Houston is proud to cheer on all the teams from around the country as they take the field this Summer. Visit NBBA.org to learn more about both the NBBA and the 2022 World Series.



## Your Donations Help Us Shine Brightly!

The mission of The Lighthouse of Houston is to assist people who are blind or low vision to be independent members of society. Each year, approximately 5,000 persons receive services from The Lighthouse. The donations received from our caring network of companies, foundations and individual donors enable us to provide world-class services and programs. To show your support by making a donation online, simply visit [www.houstonlighthouse.org/donate](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/donate).

# Sight Into Sound

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

## Service Provider Overview

The Lighthouse of Houston is proud to highlight the programs and services offered to our blind and low-vision clients through other non-profit and community organizations. In this issue, we profile Sight into Sound, formerly Taping for the Blind, a non profit serving those who cannot read print due to a disability. All services are provided at no charge.



Sight Into Sound was founded in 1967 in Houston. The organization is a radio reading and information service for people who cannot read print due to a disability. Listeners are blind or suffer from age-related vision loss, Others find it difficult to hold print material due to arthritis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, temporary illness, ALS, injury to the spinal cord, or Parkinson's Disease, among other disabling conditions in addition to cognitive disabilities.

Sight Into Sound is supported by over 150 volunteers who help read and produce programs, including local and national newspapers, magazines, and also local grocery ads and catalogs. Listeners can hear programs broadcast on the radio, online, smartphones or via streaming. Content is also available on channel 8.5. on [Houston Public Media](#). Sight Into Sound produces over 12,000 hours of programs each year and serves more than 7,000 listeners.

Sight Into Sound's Executive Director, Kari Musgrove, provided this statement when asked how the organization had coped with difficulty from the COVID pandemic: "Sight into Sound has not missed a beat during this unprecedented time. Our 24/7 programming remains both current and relevant. Tune in to channel 8.5, or use your smartspeaker, or smart device or go to our website for streaming and podcasts. Our custom recording area remains busy and we are able to turn requests around quicker than ever. Our dedicated team of volunteers and staff remain committed to our mission and continue to meet the needs of the blind and print impaired community regardless of there being a pandemic! I am so very proud of our efforts and encourage you to tune in to Sight into Sound or request custom reading. We are here for you!"

To learn more about Sight Into Sound's services or to apply as a listener, please visit their website at [www.sightintosound.org](http://www.sightintosound.org) or call (713) 622-2767.

The panel at right is provided courtesy of Sight Into Sound, and describes the various ways that listeners can access their programming.

### How Listeners Tune In

	We provide <b>special radios</b> that can pick up the subcarrier at no charge to listeners.		On Ch 8.5 TV Houston Public Media		Houston area listeners with an <b>HD radio</b> can also hear us on HD- 4 channel 88.7.
	On our <b>website</b> , listeners can hear the live feed and download individual shows on demand.		The free Sero <b>mobile app</b> conveniently brings Sight into Sound to a smartphone.		<b>Smart speakers</b> like Amazon Echo or Google Home play Sight into Sound via TuneIn radio.

# HAVIN Virtual Insight Expo 2022 Announced!

The Houston Area Visually Impaired Network (HAVIN) has announced its intention to host the annual Virtual Insight Expo 2022! This year's theme is "BYOB: Be Your Own Boss". Topics will include how those in the blind community can take charge of their lives through work, hobbies, and still have fun. The event's keynote speaker will be HAVIN board member, Naomi Panarella.

HAVIN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a goal to unify the visually impaired community in the Greater Houston area.

The HAVIN Insight Expo will take place on Saturday, April 30. The main program will be from 9 am CST to 12 pm followed by a virtual exhibit from 1 pm CST to 3 pm. At the virtual exhibit hall, you can visit with several of the organizations and companies that serve the blind and low-vision community. Visit [www.havintx.org](http://www.havintx.org) for more info.



## Let Our Second Sight Be Your Guide!

The Lighthouse of Houston carries a wide selection of gently-used donated CCTVs and digital magnifiers to assist those with vision loss in tackling everyday tasks from reading the mail to applying makeup. These amazing tech tools are offered through our Second Sight store at a fraction of their original retail prices. To connect with us for a demo of a CCTV, please send an email to us at [socialmedia@houstonlighthouse.org](mailto:socialmedia@houstonlighthouse.org)



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