The Subregional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped of Southwest Georgia is a part of your public library and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas and Webster counties.

We do not endorse any product or service mentioned in this newsletter.

(229) 248-2680, 1-800-795-2680, or lbph@swgrl.org

Staff: Susan Whittle, Director and Subregional Librarian, Kathy Hutchins, Supervisor, Arlene Freeman, Tammy Lindsey

**October 2009**

**National Observances**

October contains several national observances such as Fire Prevention Week, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Teen Read Week, and National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

**What is National Disability Employment Awareness Month?**

Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Office of Disability Employment Policy has the lead in planning activities and materials to increase the public’s awareness of the contributions and skills of the American workers with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed. This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.”
Did You Know?

Almost everyone will develop physical or other disabilities at some point. We are all “temporarily abled”. Many disabilities, including learning disabilities, diabetes, and psychological disabilities, are invisible.

Depending on how disability is defined, between 15 and 20 percent of US citizens have some limitation due to a disability-between 38 and 52 million people. More than 7 million of us use devices to compensate for mobility impairments: 4.8 million use canes, 1.8 million use walkers, 1.6 million use wheelchairs, 1.7 million use back braces. Among working people in 1995, people with disabilities earned on average only 72 cents for every dollar earned by non-disabled people.

People with disabilities are four to ten times more likely to be assaulted, robbed, or sexually attacked than people who are not disabled. One recent study found that more than 70 percent of women with developmental disabilities are sexually assaulted in their lifetimes, which represents a 50 percent higher rate that the rest of the population.

Why Celebrate It?

- To learn about an important group that is struggling for full inclusion in US society.
- To understand why laws were created to protect people with disabilities, and how they work.
- To appreciate the great and small contributions people with disabilities make to our society.
- To help improve attitudes and eliminate stereotypes that hold back people with disabilities.
- To learn to separate people from their disabilities, so accomplishments are recognized without an inappropriate focus on disability.
- To recognize that we are all just a heartbeat away from becoming disabled through illness or accidents.
White Cane Safety Day

White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States, celebrated on October 15 of each year since 1964. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence, the white cane.

On October 6, 1964, a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress, HR 753, was signed into law as 36 U.S.C. § 142. This resolution authorized the President of the United States to proclaim October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day".

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first White Cane Safety Day proclamation within hours of the passage of the joint resolution.
Hours:
Monday 9am to 8pm
Tuesday 9am to 6pm
Wednesday 9am to 6pm
Thursday 9am to 7 pm
Friday 9am to 6 pm
Saturday 9am to 4 pm

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Take a virtual tour of our libraries
and Subregional Library
for the Blind and Physically
Handicapped by clicking on
www.swgrl.org/handicap.php

Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats upon request.

Online Catalog for ordering library books: www.klas.com/glass
Call the library for your log-in and password.

NOTE: Please submit information or news that you would like to share to Kathy Hutchins.