

# HOUR GLASS

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## Atlanta home to first retail store for blind and visually impaired in Southeast

by Empish J. Thomas

December 2007 kicked off the grand opening of VisAbility, the first retail store in the Southeast to sell products for the blind and visually impaired. VisAbility is housed inside the Center for the Visually Impaired (CVI), a comprehensive rehabilitation facility serving the blind community in Atlanta, Georgia. VisAbility offers the unique opportunity for people to shop by touch and auditory information for hundreds of items previously available only through catalogs and Web sites. "We saw the need to open VisAbility after completing a strategic plan to enhance and increase our services to clients and the blind community," said Subie Green, president.

The store is fully accessible for an independent shopping experience providing price tags in alternative format

and the ability to touch and feel each product sold. Items are thoughtfully displayed throughout the store, making it easy for a blind or visually impaired person to shop. Large items are displayed on the outer perimeter of the room, while small items along with the cash register are in the center. Additionally, the store has blind and visually impaired volunteers on hand to personally assist and offer purchasing advice. "We believe in treating people with dignity and respect," said Green. "Each person who comes to the store is a guest instead of a customer. We want to create a welcoming atmosphere where guests can decide for themselves if they want to purchase products or not."

VisAbility will be Atlanta's source for low-vision aids, assistive technology and other adaptive devices that promote

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## Store

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independent living. Items for sale include: Braille and talking watches, various kinds of magnifiers, luggage locators, large-button TV remotes, adaptive telephones, and games and sports equipment. There is also an area designated for baby and children's products and a high-tech area that provides items such as GPS systems and Braille note takers. Lastly, there are items for the kitchen and health care such as talking food scales, bath scales and blood pressure cups.

Since VisAbility is located inside CVI, store hours correspond with the operational hours of the center. The store is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. For more information, contact the Center for the Visually Impaired at 404-875-9011 or log on at [www.cviga.org](http://www.cviga.org). ■

## MARTA makes changes in bus service to GLASS

MARTA has made some minor changes to the bus service to GLASS. The bus from the Oakland City Station is now number 193. This MARTA bus runs between the Oakland City and East Point MARTA stations. Thank you to everyone who has supported the bus stop at GLASS by using MARTA. ■

## DisABILITY Link offers free income tax preparation

Each Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in February, DisABILITY Link is offering free tax preparation to individuals with disabilities, their family members or service providers who earned less than \$41,000 in 2007. You should bring a photo ID, W-2 forms, social security card for each family member, 1099 forms, voided check for direct deposit, documentation of disability-related expenses, child care provider information and student expense documents. You may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit of up to \$4,716. DisABILITY Link is located at 755 Commerce Drive, Suite 105, Decatur, GA 30030. Call Sue at 404-687-8890 to schedule your appointment. ■

## Advisory council meets

The quarterly meeting of the Library Consumer Advisory Council, LCAC, met Dec. 3. Garrick Scott, president of LCAC, called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance included: Katey Glass, Thelma Godwin, Donald Grier, Betty Hasan-Amin, Patrice Johnson, Anil Lewis, Vanessa Meadows, Sara Randall, Shirley Robinson, Adam Shapiro, Ann Sims, Beverly Williams and Stella Cone. The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. March 3, at the GLASS office, located at 1150 Murphy Avenue, SW. ■

## **New February selections for Black History Month**

**RC 39321**

### **Carter G. Woodson: A Life in Black History**

**Author:** Jacqueline Goggin

**Description:** The first full-length biography of the Harvard-trained historian known as the father of black history. Born in Virginia in 1875 to parents who were former slaves, Woodson became enthralled with the “history of the race” while working in the mines of West Virginia. Goggin chronicles Woodson’s education, his career and his continuing battles to promote the study and teaching of black history.

**Narrator:** Jake Williams

**RC 50032**

### **A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America**

**Authors:** Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson

**Description:** A chronology of diverse African-American women’s lives across the United States from colonial times to the late 20th century. Uses first-person narratives, where available, to recall efforts to resist oppression, improve education, impart religious values and assume leadership roles in the community and the nation.

**Narrator:** Robin Miles

**RC 37841**

### **Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr!**

**Author:** Eleanora E. Tate

**Description:** Fourth-grader Mary Elouise Avery has low self-esteem — she hates being African-American, loathes her dark complexion and is embarrassed about slavery. She is unhappy when she is chosen to narrate the new black history segment at her school’s annual Presidents’ Month play — until two storytellers help make her proud of her African-American heritage. Fiction, for grades 4-7.

**Narrator:** Nona Pipes

**RC 32994 and BR 08351**

### **Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America**

**Author:** Lerone Bennett

**Description:** In this classic history of African-Americans, Bennett traces black history from West Africa through the transatlantic journey into slavery, the founding of the nation, to the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and 1970s.

**Narrator:** John Stratton

**RC 38260**

### **Flying Free: America’s First Black Aviators**

**Author:** Philip S. Hart; with a foreword by Reeve Lindbergh

**Description:** This book surveys the

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# Books

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history of black aviators, including Bessie Coleman, the Chicago Flyers and the Tuskegee Airmen. For grades 5-8.

**Narrator:** Robert Sams

**RC 19932**

## **Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy**

**Author:** Jules Tygiel

**Description:** Story of the desegregation of professional baseball, centering on Dodger manager Branch Rickey's hiring of black player Jackie Robinson in the 1940s.

**Narrator:** John Stratton ■

# HourGLASS

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