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THE MAGNIFIER Issue #49, November, 2006

Newsletter from the Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 531313 Henderson, NV 89053
<http://www.eyesight.org>

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JUST PUBLISHED:

An Indispensable Book For Everyone Adjusting To Life with Low
Vision:

THE FIRST YEAR

Age-Related Macular Degeneration
An Essential Guide for the Newly Diagnosed
by Daniel L. Roberts

Set in larger type for easier reading, The First Year – AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION includes a glossary of ophthalmic terms; a comprehensive reference section of more than 100 resources for low-vision devices, audio books, research publications, financial assistance, local and national organizations; and first-hand account of living well with AMD.

About the Author:

Daniel L. Roberts, a visually-impaired educator and musician, has devoted the past twelve years to researching and helping others with age-related macular degeneration. The recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Service Award presented by the American Optometric Association Low Vision Rehabilitation Section, he lives in Grandview, Missouri. Visit Daniel Roberts online at www.mdsupport.org For our subscribers that do not have internet access, you may call our toll-free number 888-633-3937 and we can process your order request for you.

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BOOKS ON TAPE

The National Library Services offer free Books On Tape for qualifying clients with vision impairment. You may call the toll-free number (888) 657-7323 or inquire at your local library. URL: www.loc.gov/nls

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RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC - AUDIO BOOKS /
AUDIO LEARNING CENTER

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB) offers an online catalog of the best audio book and audio learning opportunities on the internet. www.rfb.org/

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NEW PRODUCTS: If you are currently getting “books on tape” and would like to look a smaller, more compact cassette players, call Independent Living Aids, Inc. at (800) 537-2118. They will send you a catalog (free of charge) or help you order by phone.

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AURORA MINISTRIES offers free cassette Bibles, Bible Studies - non -denomination. P.O. Box 621, Bradenton FL 33206. Phone: (941) 748-3031

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VISION LOSS AND HALLUCINATIONS?

We have had many phone calls over the years regarding AMD patients’ concerns over hallucinations. Many times this condition is

misinterpreted as a possible psychological condition. However, it is very common with the severely vision impaired patient. It is also compared to a phantom limb syndrome. There are pages of documentation regarding this common condition. This is a short text describing what happens:

Subject: Charles Benet Syndrome

Question: What is Charles Benet Syndrome?

Answer: CBS affects people with dramatic visual loss, usually from AMD. The patients actually 'see' things (people's faces, objects), when they 'know' the people are not physically present. The patients are quite sane. Neurologists believe that the brain is storing images throughout our life, and when the occipital lobe is not being stimulated by the visual system, then the brain 'starts generating its own images'. The images usually resolve in 1-2 years. Answered by: David Watt, M.D.

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STUDY WILL LOOK AT FISH OIL IN FIGHT AGAINST LOSS OF VISION

www.KSL.com October 27th, 2006 @ 3:24pm Ed Yeates Reporting

"The National Institutes of Health is recruiting people for a new study. They want to see whether a combination of vitamins, minerals, and fish oil can slow the progression of vision loss. The large nationwide study is looking for four thousand people to test the formula. Fish oil will now be added to a formulation which, in previous studies, already appears to reduce the progression of macular degeneration. Why the fish oil? The omega three fatty acids, one especially identified as DHA, nourishes and strengthens the macula, that small area in our eyes responsible for central vision. In Macular Degeneration that central vision blurs and fogs, leaving only peripheral vision. Paul Bernstein, M.D., University of Utah Moran Eye Center: 'If you don't have enough DHA, we think that the cones and rods are malfunctioning. We even have some families we've been studying here in Utah who have a deficiency of an enzyme that produces DHA in the eye. And they have an early onset of macular degeneration.'

And we found the people who consumed the most fish were the ones who had the best vision in the family.’ This fish oil phase of the study, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the National Eye Institute, will most likely reinforce earlier studies that already show that high doses of certain antioxidant vitamins and minerals, taken by mouth, can produce some dramatic changes in the eyes of those at high risk for age-related eye disease.”

To take part in the Fish Oil Study call: 1-877-273-3780. For a list of study centers, eligibility requirements and other information visit:
<https://web.emmes.com/study/areds2/locations/locations.htm>

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CONTACTING MDF

To speak to a support representative directly, you may call 1-888-633-3937. If you reach our voice mail, please speak slowly and distinctly.

ORDERING BOOKS & TAPES

When purchasing items from Amazon.com, please remember to use the MDF search box located at <http://www.eyesight.org/Books/books.html> . By simply originating your search from our website, Amazon rewards the Foundation with a small commission from each product you order. Thank you.

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please make checks payable to Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 531313, Henderson, Nevada 89053, or you may use your credit card on our web site <http://www.eyesight.org/Donations/donations.html> . Your contributions make our services available as a support system for macular degeneration patients in the following ways:

1. We provide toll-free lines for personal contact assistance.
2. We mail brochures and other printed materials upon request.
3. We support an award-winning web site that provides the latest up-to-date information.

4. We fund research proposal grants to provide therapies for both the wet and dry form of AMD. Contributions marked "research" are used 100% for research.

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MDF was founded in 1992 by Edmund J. Aleksandrovich Ph.D (a victim of macular degeneration). It provides MD patients and their families with the information necessary to understand the disease, the latest news concerning ways to cope with the disease, and supports the efforts of researchers to find a cure.

Subscribers who wish to cancel their subscription or change their email address may visit:

<http://www.eyesight.org/Newsletter/newsletter.html> .

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