



Issue: WINTER 2026

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AADO Board of Directors Update:

January 2026

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

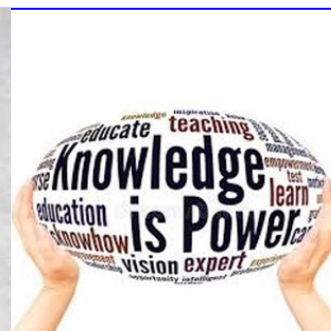
Attention all Arizona Opticians-

AADO is Proud to Announce- All Continuing Education Credits Sponsored by AADO are now FREE to Current Regular Members of the Association.

* Food & Beverage Charges will apply at In-Person Events

All New LDOs Receive 1 Yr Free Membership Upon License Approval by Arizona State Board of Dispensing Opticians.

*Sign in and create your password upon receiving your notice of membership.

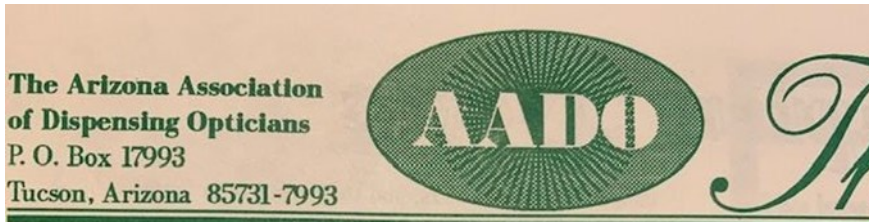


HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!

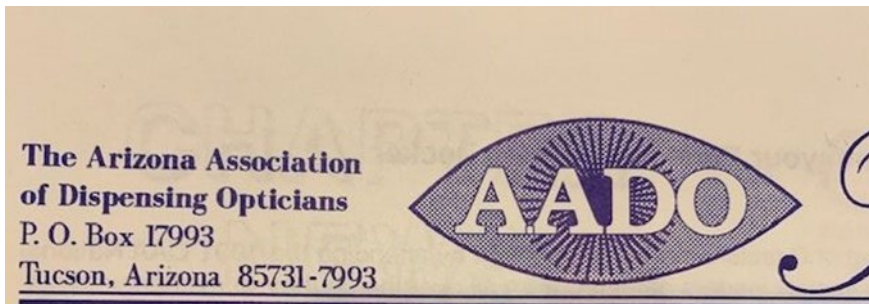
EYEWIRE LOGO HISTORY



1968



1990



1991



2012



2016

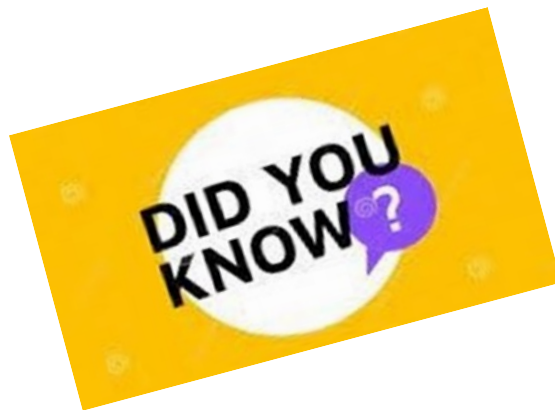


2025

FYi



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Did you know that your optic nerves are not actually nerves?

They are literally portions of your brain that form cylinder-shaped extravasations and extend into the back of the eye, where all the information gathered from the eye is transported back to the brain and processed to recreate your vision as you see it.



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF
Ophthalmology

FYi AADO Eye Trivia

What does it mean when someone says you have dancing eyes?

Description: Dancing Eye Syndrome (DES; also known as Opsoclonus Myoclonus Syndrome, OMS) is a rare condition characterized by unusual eye movements, which are almost always present, along with unsteadiness, jerky movements of the trunk and limbs, irritability and sleep disturbance. Opsoclonus myoclonus is thought to be an autoimmune disorder although further research is needed to prove the actual mechanism of how the condition develops. It was first described in the 1950s by Kinsbourne and Sandifer, neurologists at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London.

Dancing eye syndrome (DES) or Opsoclonus myoclonus syndrome (OMS) is a very rare neurological condition which usually develops in the second or third year of life. The syndrome gets its name from the very unusual and characteristic eye movements, which are almost always present.

FREE CE For AADO Regular Members!

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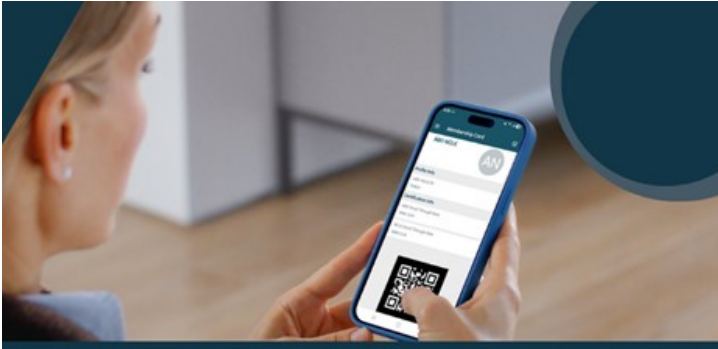


ABO-NCLE UPDATE!!

ABO_NCLE has launched their new Phone App. The App is available on both **Android** and **Apple Phones**.

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Lee Holland LDO

Licensed in 1999 and a current member of AADO, Lee passed in November 2025.

Our condolences to the Holland Family. Lee will be missed in our community.

March 16, 1938:

Katharine Blodgett patents anti-reflective coatings

Patenting anti-reflective coatings

Many things became much clearer in 1938 after Katharine Blodgett developed anti-reflective coatings for glass. Uncoated glass is far from invisible. It reflects a significant amount of the light that hits it, creating distortion and glare. Blodgett, a physicist at General Electric laboratories, developed a method of coating glass with a soapy film that would eliminate most of those reflections. Her insight led to the practical anti-reflective coatings that now coat picture glass, windshields, eyeglasses, camera lenses and much more. Blodgett received a patent for the process in March 1938, and GE announced the discovery in December of that year.

Katharine Burr Blodgett was born in Schenectady, NY, in 1898. Her father, a patent attorney at General Electric, died shortly before she was born, and the family moved several times during her childhood. She attended Bryn Mawr College, and during her senior year, Blodgett visited GE to tour the labs. Her tour guide was Irving Langmuir, who had known her father. He encouraged her to pursue further studies in chemistry and physics. After receiving a master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1918, Blodgett returned to GE to work as Langmuir's assistant. Langmuir, who went on to win the Nobel Prize in chemistry, was at the time opening up a new field of research by developing a way to produce uniform one-molecule thick oily films on a water surface.

After Blodgett had worked for a few years as his assistant, Langmuir encouraged her to continue her education still further. In 1924 she went to Cambridge University, where she worked with Ernest Rutherford and wrote a thesis on the topic of gaseous electronics. She was the first woman to receive a PhD in physics from Cambridge. She returned to the United States in 1926 and rejoined the staff of GE as a research scientist. At first, she collaborated with Langmuir on some improvements to light bulbs, and then in 1933 they began working again on surface films. The monolayer films were well understood by this time, so Blodgett and Langmuir began building up thicker films to study. Blodgett developed a way to transfer the soap film from a water surface to a solid surface such as metal or glass, and found that by repeating the process she could build up films of barium stearate layer by layer, up to about 3000 layers. These became known as Langmuir-Blodgett films.

Blodgett then began looking for some applications for the films. She noticed that even the clear-

(Continued on page 8)

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Membership prices as of January 1, 2026

Regular Membership – Licensed Optician- **\$125.00 per year** or **3 years** for **\$275.00**.
Associate (ABO/NCLE) certified, Industry Partner- **\$65.00 per year**.
Student/ Apprentice/ Sales Associate/ other— **\$50.00 per year**.
Professional Membership- **\$250 per year** (call for Information).

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est glass reflected as much as 10 percent of incident light, making it difficult to see through. Blodgett realized her soapy films could solve that problem. Since she could precisely control the thickness of the soapy films by building them up one molecular layer at a time, and could easily deposit the films on a glass surface, Blodgett figured out that she could develop a coating of just the right thickness to cancel out most reflections from the glass surface. She built up a film with thickness equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ the average wavelength of visible light (about 1388 Angstroms). This way, any light that reflected off the glass surface would have traveled half a wavelength farther than light that had reflected off the film surface, so most of the reflections would cancel out. Blodgett also tweaked the chemical composition of the film to adjust its index of refraction to enhance the reflection-canceling, and she was able to eliminate almost all of the reflection, making the glass nearly invisible.

On March 16, 1938, Blodgett received US patent #2,220,660 for the “Film Structure and Method of Preparation.” This was one of six patents Blodgett received in her lifetime. She also published a paper titled “Use of Interference to Extinguish Reflection of Light from Glass,” in the *Physical Review* in 1939.

General Electric announced the discovery in December 1938, and it immediately caused a lot of excitement. Blodgett and her “invisible glass,” as the popular press called it, were featured in *Time*, *Life*, and *The New York Times*. The public’s fascination with Blodgett and her work may have been due in part to the fact that she was a woman in science, which was still very unusual at the time.

During WWII, Blodgett contributed to the war research by developing poison gas absorbents, a method for de-icing aircraft wings, and improved smokescreens. She also developed a “color gauge” to measure the thickness of coatings, conducted more research on films, studied electrically conducting glass, and developed a way to use electrical discharges in gases to clean solid surfaces of impurities, a method that is used in semiconductor device fabrication. Blodgett retired in 1963 after a long career at



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VOLT-Virtual Opticians Learning Track

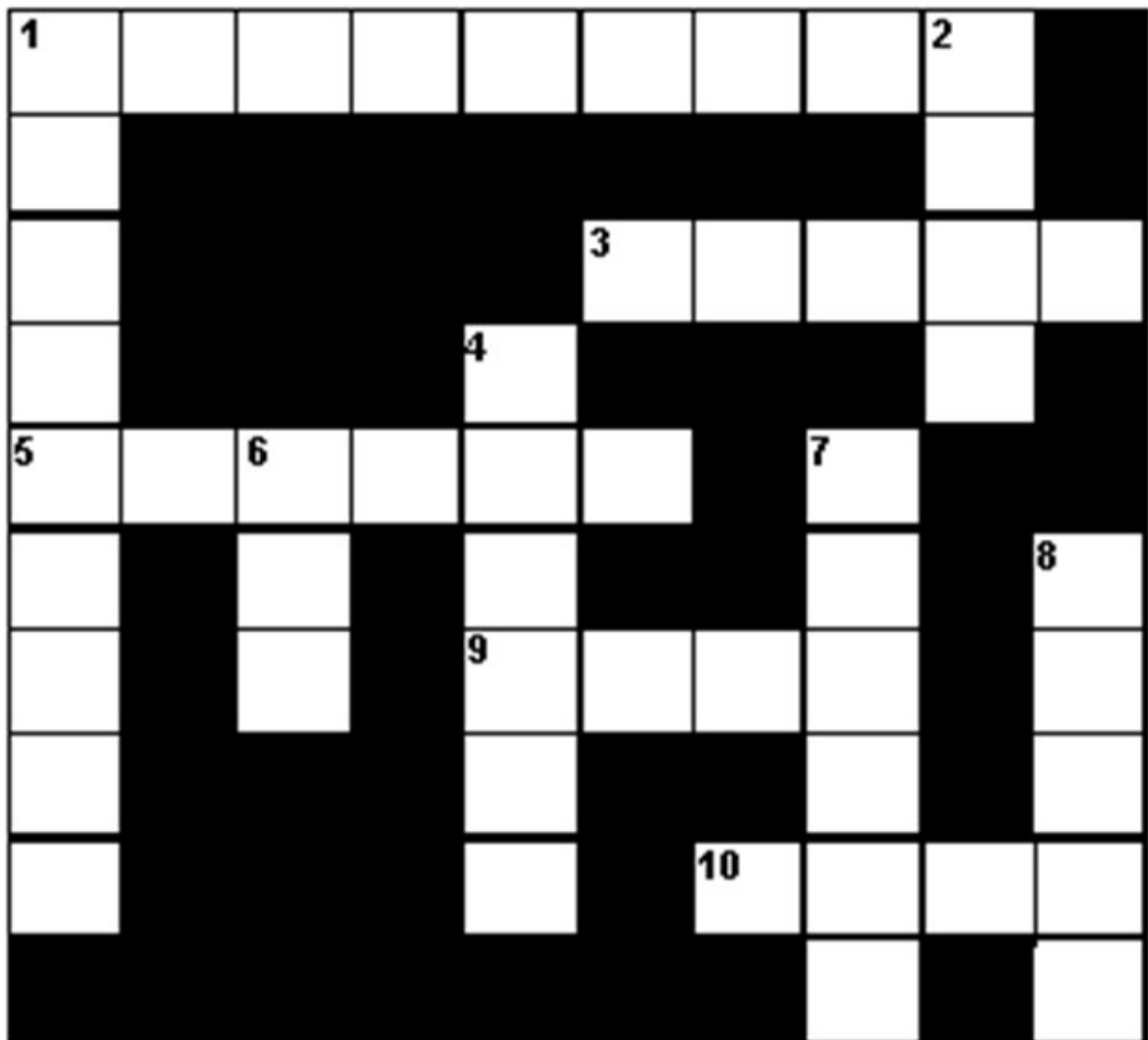


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GE. She died in 1979 at age 81, having received numerous awards for her work, though she was conspicuously left out of a 1953 article in Science celebrating 75 years of research at GE laboratories.

Blodgett's original soap coatings were not useful for commercial products because they were too soft and could easily be wiped off the glass surface. Soon after her announcement, however, other groups developed durable coatings and improved methods of production. These coatings have been reducing reflections from eyeglasses, picture glass, camera lenses, microscopes, windshields, televisions and computer screens ever since.



Clues

ACROSS

- 1 Cortical lobe that receives visual information
- 3 The absence of sight
- 5 Transparent outer coat of the eyeball
- 9 Muscles that control the size of the pupil
- 10 Photoreceptor for color vision

DOWN

- 1 Where axons of retina leave the eye (2 words)
- 2 Focuses light
- 4 Contains photoreceptors
- 6 Photoreceptor used in dim light
- 7 The process of seeing
- 8 Central region of the retina