

In Focus

Spring 2016



News from the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)

702 W Kalamazoo St., P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909

Helen Keller Exhibit

We are pleased to announce that BTBL will co-host the traveling exhibit “Child in a Strange Country: Helen Keller and the History of Education for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired” from the American Printing House for the Blind. This exhibit is designed to be fully accessible using tactile reproductions and authentic artifacts to uncover the keys to Helen Keller’s education, as well as the groundbreaking educational tools and techniques developed for people who are blind or visually impaired and/or deaf or hard of hearing. Please come view the **FREE** exhibit at your leisure in the rotunda area of the Michigan Library and Historical Center during business hours. No appointments or reservations needed.

Michigan Library and Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo Street,
Lansing MI, 48915.

April 6 – May 22, 2016

*Exhibit Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am-5pm

Saturday: 10am-4pm, Sunday: 1pm-5pm

*Note: BTBL open hours are Monday - Friday 10am-5pm

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Technology Corner

Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or norriss5@michigan.gov

BTBL Computer and Book Clubs

Computer and Book Clubs meet on the second Saturday of each month in the BTBL public service area on the ground floor of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across from the elevators. Computer Club meets from 10:30 to 12:30 followed by Book Club at 1:30. If you cannot attend in person, you may join either club by dialing **1-888-278-0296** and entering the access code 5836578, or by entering the BTBL Online Meeting Room at <http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs417aa6694fed>

Users of the BTBL online room may enter any username they wish. To enter the room as a participant, please leave the password field blank. A software plugin is required for full access to tcConference, the web conferencing software from Talking Communities. The entry page to the BTBL Online Meeting Room contains helpful information about the plug-in. A no-plug-in-required web interface also is available for Mac, Linux, and MS users who cannot install the software plug-in. Please note, however, that not all tcConference features are available through the web interface.

Club Schedules

- April 16: Cyber Security presented by Greg Sprout
April 16: **DB77672 / BR12850** *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
May 14: Accessible GPS presented by Scott Norris
May 14: **DB81896 / BR20919** *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee
June 11: Computer Club Topic To Be Announced
June 11: **DB81739** *The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy

Programs to be announced in future issues of InFocus for the following dates:
No club meetings in July or August. September 10.

VISIONS 2016

VISIONS 2016: WHAT'S NEW IN TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

10:00 am- 3:00 pm

Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building
4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Free admission, free parking, sighted assistants, special presentations, and vendor demos, with food & beverages available for purchase.

11 am: Guest of Honor: KAREN KENINGER, Director of The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

12 pm: LYLAS MOGK, Center for Vision Rehabilitation and Research of the Henry Ford Health System

1 pm: AT GUYS and Blind Bargains, What's New in Assistive Technology?

2 pm: JOSIE PARKER, Director of the Ann Arbor District Library and WLBDP @ AADL, NLS National Subregional Library of the Year!

Vendors: AAATA - AbleZone, Inc. - Ann Arbor Host Lions Club - AT Guys - BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library - Bureau of Services for Blind Persons - E. M. Vitu, Inc. - Eversight Michigan - Family Services Agency of Mid-Michigan - Glacier Hills Continuing Care Community - Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Guiding Eyes for the Blind - Learning Support Services, WCC - Low Vision Solutions - Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund - National Federation of the Blind of MI - Newsline for the Blind - NoIR Medical Technologies - Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind - Pilot Dogs, Inc. - Small Bizness Research and Development. LLC - United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan - UM Kellogg Eye Center - UM Taubman Health Sciences Library - VIABIL, Inc. - (Visually Impaired and Blind in Livingston, Inc.) - WKAR Radio Reading Service - Your Trusted Concierge

VISIONS 2016 is presented by the Ann Arbor District Library in partnership with the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons and Washtenaw Community College.

Local Recordings

Betsie Bush, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or bushb2@michigan.gov

True Crime:

DBC05897 - *Wicked Ottawa County, Michigan* by Amberrose Hammond, narrated by Jamila Jones. Annotation: True tales of sin, scandal, and crime including jilted lovers, Ku Klux Klan members, and gangsters in Ottawa County, Michigan. Some violence. 2011.

DBC03400 - *Murder in Battle Creek : The Mysterious Death of Daisy Zick* by Blaine L. Pardoe, narrated by Caitlin Wolfe. Annotation: Michigan's 1963 unsolved crime of the murder of Daisy Zick in Battle Creek, Michigan. Some descriptions of violence. 2013.

Mysteries:

DBC05925 - *Wichita Mountain Manhunt : Jenny-Dog and the Son of Light, Book 3* by D.M. Greenwald, narrated by Nicholas Colovos. Annotation: Joshua Travis and his dog team are asked to help find a Girl Scout stolen in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma. Sequel to Cody (DBC03431). Violence and strong language. 2015.

DBC05927 - *Death in the Choir Loft* by Richard L. Baldwin, narrated by Marion Contompasis. Annotation: The choir director and organist is the last person to see the murder victim alive, landing her at the top of the suspect list. To prove her innocence--and find the real killer--the budding detective must solve the case. 2013.

Michigan Notable Books:

DBC05929 - *Sweetie-licious Pies : Eat Pie, Love Life* by Linda Hundt, narrated by Lili Krezel. Annotation: Michigan-based bakery business offers recipes and stories behind 52 of their signature pies. 2013.

DBC03411 - *The Way North : Collected Upper Peninsula New Works* by Ron Riecki, narrated by Nicholas Colovos. Annotation: Poetry and stories about the Upper Peninsula. Some descriptions of sex and strong language. 2013.

For more Michigan-related books, call **1-800-992-9012** to order a copy of the Michigan BTBL's *Catalog of Locally Recorded Digital Talking Books*, or view an online copy on our website at: www.michigan.gov/btbl.

Youth Services

Stephanie Wambaugh, Youth and Outreach Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or wambaugh@michigan.gov

Spring is here, and it is time to start thinking about signing up for summer activities! Remember to check out the Youth @ BTBL link on our website at www.michigan.gov/btbl for more information on summer programs, scholarship opportunities, and more. Below are a few highlights:

BTBL Summer Reading Program

We will once again be offering a Summer Reading Program with chances to win fun prizes through the mail. The theme for the program is centered around wellness, fitness, and sports, with the slogan “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!” We will also be hosting our first ever summer reading event here at the library! More details will be announced in the next newsletter.

Leader Dogs for the Blind Summer Experience Camp

Are you a teenager who could use a week of fun, outdoor activity, and friendship this summer? If so, the Leader Dogs for the Blind Summer Experience Camp was designed with you in mind. The program combines outdoor activities with things exclusively Leader Dog – audible pedestrian GPS training and the opportunity to spend time with Leader Dogs in training and guide dog mobility instructors.

Summer Experience Camp is scheduled for June 25 – July 2, 2016. Applications are due by April 15, 2016. For more information call the Leader Dogs for the Blind Client Services department at **888-777-5332**.

NFB EQ: Embrace your Engineering Quotient Summer Program

Are you interested or know someone who might be interested in pursuing work in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) after high school? Do you enjoy investing your talent and energy in solving real-world problems? Join the National Federation of the Blind for NFB EQ, a FREE week-long engineering program for blind and low-vision high school students. To learn more and to apply, visit www.blindscience.org/NFBEQ. Program 1 will be held from June 19-25, 2016. Program 2 will be held July 31-August 6, 2016. Applications are due by Monday, April 25, 2016. For more information or questions, call NFB at **410-659-9314 ext. 2418**.

Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC) Open Forum Call

Members of the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC) and BTBL staff invite all library patrons to take part in an open forum to be held Wednesday, April 13, from 1-2 p.m. Access to the forum will be available by phone at **1-888-278-0296** (enter access code 5836578) or online at: <http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs417aa6694fed>
For more information on using the online meeting room, see page 2.

This is the third CIC open forum, and we want to encourage even broader participation from our patrons! BTBL has sponsored a CIC group for more than 20 years, consisting of 8 -10 patrons who serve in an advisory capacity. With this open forum format, we have now created the opportunity for all our patrons across the state to ask questions and raise concerns over the future direction of library services in Michigan. We want to hear from you!

Although staff will be on hand to respond, we may need to get back to you after following up on your concern or question. We will not be able to respond to requests concerning your individual account. Feel free to call a reader advisor at any time with those specific issues at **1-800-992-9012**.

Patron Survey 2016

BTBL will be sending out a Patron Satisfaction Survey this spring to those patrons within our direct service area (counties listed at the top of page 7 under Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Braille and Talking Book Library). This anonymous survey will help us better understand what patrons consider strengths and weaknesses of the library. We ask that all patrons that receive this short survey please take the time to fill it out and return it to us by the due date. All patrons will receive a paper survey in the mail but will have alternative options to fill out the survey either over the phone or online through a Survey Monkey link.

The survey will not be sent to patrons located in our subregional service areas at this time. If you are unsure if you will be receiving a survey, refer to the Michigan Talking Book Libraries county list on page 7.

Michigan Talking Book Libraries

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Braille and Talking Book Library

1-800-992-9012 Counties served: Alcona, Allegan, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Emmet, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Saint Joseph, Van Buren

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL

1-888-460-0680 Counties served: Washtenaw

Great Lakes Talking Books

1-800-562-8985 Counties served: Alger, Alpena, Baraga, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

1-800-774-4542 Counties served: Oakland

Genesee District Talking Book Center

1-866-732-1120 Counties served: Genesee

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-616-647-3988 Counties served: Ionia, Kent, Montcalm

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

1-877-931-8558 Counties served: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-800-272-8570 Counties served: Huron, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-231-737-6310, 1-877-569-4801 (Ottawa) Counties served: Muskegon, Ottawa

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

1-586-286-1580 Counties served: Macomb

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 Serving Wayne County

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-313-481-1702 Serving cities of Detroit and Highland Park

Around the State

The following programs may be offered only to patrons within the counties served for each library location. To find out if a program is available to you, refer to the library listings on page 7 or call the location in question to verify.

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **Grand Opening Celebration!** Taylor Community Library invites you to join us for the grand opening of “Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library” on Monday, April 11, at 11 a.m. The event will include a ribbon cutting, tours of the library, and light refreshments. Please call **1-734-287-4840** to reserve your space.

Great Lakes Talking Books

- **Outreach.** Talking Book Advisor, Lynn Buckland-Brown, would like to visit libraries in the Upper Peninsula, Alpena, and Crawford counties to meet with Talking Books patrons or anyone interested in our services. She has a presentation and materials ready to be shared. Call her at **1-800-562-8985, Ext. 0**, to schedule a date and time.
- **Need Help?** Call Lynn in Marquette at **1-800-562-8985 Ext. 0** on Mondays noon-5:00, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am - 2:30pm. Others are available to assist on other days and times. If you leave a message on the answering machine with your name and phone number, Lynn will return the call her next work day.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Book Discussion Group.** Macomb County residents looking for a social way to discuss books without leaving your home? Our library has a monthly book discussion group by phone. If you would like to join the lively and interesting conversation, just give us a call at **1-586-286-1580** and we will provide you with the details. New members are always welcome!
- **Assistive Technology Demonstration and Loan Program.** For those Macomb County patrons interested in knowing what products are on the market to make life a little easier for those with low vision or for those who are blind, the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition sponsors free demonstrations at our library. Products demonstrated range from lamps and magnifiers to writing guides, iPads and more. To schedule an appointment, please contact the library at **1-586-286-1580**.
- **Computer and Device Tutoring.** Macomb County residents who are interested in opening up a whole new world of access to information can make an appointment with our assistive technology tutor, Sharon. Whether you are new to computers or other devices such as iPads, iPhones, etc., or have used these in the past but your vision issues have discouraged you from going back to them, our library can arrange tutoring sessions that can get you on the way to a more independent way of communicating and accessing information. Call the library at **1-586-286-1580** to set up an appointment or for further information.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **Only a Phone Call Away.** If you prefer not to travel, OTBS is happy to announce a new virtual book discussion group that requires only a phone call. Every month, the group will discuss books via a conference call. To learn more about this brand new group, contact Michelle at **1-248-650-5681**.
- **Sensory Garden Coming Soon.** This spring, after several months in the making, the RHPL Library is excited to begin the first phase of making our already beautiful perennial garden a more sensory adventure. The American Printing House for the Blind is creating Braille plaques that will identify various plants and invite visitors to use their senses to enjoy the scents, textures, sounds and sights of the garden. So later this spring, summer or fall come take a walk through our lovely gardens, taking time to smell, touch and listen to the beauty that surrounds you.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Book Talkers Book Club.** Meets every other month at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron. The next meeting will be May 13, 6:30 p.m. The book selections are: **DB 81341** *Vesuvius: a Biography* by Alwyn Scarth and **DB 79693** *Station Eleven* by Emily St., John Mandel. Contact **1-800-272-8570** with questions.
- **The Blue Water League of the Blind (BWLB)** invites you to join their support group to have fun and help you cope with loss of vision. To find out more about the BWLB meetings or upcoming activities call Phyllis at **1-810-966-9185**.
- **Low Vision Support Group.** This group meets at St. John River District Hospital in East China, and they have some great speakers lined up. For more information call Paul Dailer at **1-810-329-5172**.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **Tuesdays at Two Book Club.** We hope everyone is anticipating a bright Spring and warm Summer. Regardless of the season, books are our business and so we are letting you know the selected Book club choices for our Tuesdays at 2:00pm discussions. All discussions take place in the McGuire Room on the main floor of our Woodmere Library location.

April 26 - **DB78187** *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

May 31 - **DB72385** *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much* by Allison H. Bartlett

June 28- **DB76947** *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler

- **Please call us directly!** Even though the Regional Library in Lansing sends out the majority of the books you receive, we in Traverse City are the contact source for your needs. Please don't hesitate to call us toll free at **1-877-931-8558** or **1-231-932-8558**. We always look forward to assisting you in any way to ensure you are getting excellent service. Happy Spring and Summer from: Jill, Mary and Lue in beautiful northern Michigan.

Library of Michigan Foundation

The Library of Michigan Foundation Howell Braille and Talking Book Library Fund was created in honor of Anna Brewer Howell following her death on May 20, 2007. In accordance with Ms. Howell's wishes a large donation totaling more than \$500,000 was provided for "services for the blind and physically handicapped for large type books and audio visual materials".

As the ninth anniversary of Ms. Howell's passing approaches, BTBL and the Library of Michigan Foundation want to take this time to reflect on the tremendous difference her generous gift has made to the library and patrons alike. Thousands of blind and physically handicapped individuals and their families have been provided with quality of life enhancing services due to Ms. Howell's financial support. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Libraries Without Walls biennial conferences
- Summer Reading Program services
- Descriptive videos
- Technology for the Local Recording Studio Program
- Adaptive technology for demonstrations and trainings, including Braille displays
- Quarterly InFocus newsletters

Ms. Howell was born and raised in Michigan and dedicated her life to public service as an educator and administrator for nearly 40 years. By recognizing the needs of those with visual and physical disabilities here in Michigan, she has managed to continue to serve her community even to this day. Of all the programs and services funded through Library of Michigan Foundation, nothing compares to the Howell Braille and Talking Book Library Fund in terms of appreciation from library staff, clients, and their families.

To continue this worthy cause many current patrons donate regularly, while others dedicate memorial contributions to be used along with the Howell funds to support the Braille and Talking Book Library. More information on how you can make a generous donation to this fund is located on the next page.

Library of Michigan Foundation

By making a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, donors can help the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) better serve thousands of Michigan residents statewide who are visually impaired or have other disabilities. Donors may also opt to provide for the Library of Michigan Foundation in their wills. By doing so, donors are able to make a larger gift than what might be possible during their lifetime, become eligible to receive tax benefits, and enjoy recognition and thanks now for their planned charitable contributions later. To make a gift of support, please send a check to the Library of Michigan Foundation, P.O. Box 30159, Lansing, MI 48909, or contact Carolyn Sparks at **(517) 373-1297**.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) program.

If you would like to receive future mailings and information from the Library of Michigan Foundation, please sign below and return to:

Library of Michigan Foundation
P.O. Box 30159
Lansing, MI 48909



LIBRARY OF
MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION

Check for further information:

- Gifts and Bequests
- Named Endowed Funds
- I have included you in my will
- Here is a gift of \$_____ to help enhance the BSBP Braille and Talking Book program.

Signature: _____

BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library
702 W Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

**FREE
MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND**

How to Reach the BSBP Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)

By Phone: 517-373-5614
1-800-992-9012 (toll free)

By Fax: 517-373-5865
1-800-726-7323 (toll free)

By E-Mail: btbl@michigan.gov

On the Web: www.michigan.gov/btbl

Online Catalog: www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks

BARD: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> (to download digital books)

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