

---

# In Focus

Fall 2015



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

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

## Consumer Involvement Committee Open Forum No. 2

---

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, October 28, 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 second CIC open forum, and we want to encourage even broader participation on this call! BTBL has sponsored a CIC group for more than 20 years, consisting of 8 -10 patrons who serve in an advisory capacity. This is an 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. 1-800-992-9012.

### **Inside this issue:**

Technology Corner . . . . .	2	Overdue Notices . . . . .	7
Local Recordings . . . . .	3	Around the State . . . . .	8-9
Summer Reading Program	4-5	Talking Book Library List . . .	10
News . . . . .	6	LM Foundation . . . . .	11

---

# Technology Corner

---

**Scott Norris**, Adaptive Technology Librarian  
1-800-992-9012 or [norriss5@michigan.gov](mailto: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 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**

October 10: iOS 9 presented by Al Puzzuoli

October 10: **DB72129** *Unbroken: A World War II story of survival resilience, and redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand

November 14: Holiday Shopping presented by JJ Meddaugh

November 14: **DB66787** *Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

December 12: Computer Club Topic To Be Announced

December 12: **DB54190** *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

Programs to be announced in future issues of InFocus for the following dates:

January 9

February 13

March 12

# Local Recordings

**Betsie Bush**, Studio Coordinator Librarian  
1-800-992-9012 or [bushb2@michigan.gov](mailto:bushb2@michigan.gov)

## Featured Michigan Author: Loreen Niewenhuis

Loreen Niewenhuis grew up in Michigan and has lived here most of her life. She earned both Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees and worked in various hospital and science research positions. While taking a break from this work to raise her young sons, Loreen began writing fiction. This evolved into a passion, and she returned to school to earn her Master of Fine Arts from Spalding University.

From the time she was a young girl climbing sand dunes and splashing in its cool waters, Loreen has felt connected and drawn to Lake Michigan. She decided to explore the lake fully by walking around it. For her second adventure, Loreen decided to explore more of the Great Lakes system by walking along the shores of all five Great Lakes. Loreen recently completed her third 1,000-Mile Great Lakes Adventure in which she explored many of the islands of the Great Lakes.

For more information about the author and her journeys, please visit her website at <http://www.laketrek.com/>

**DBL8325/DBC05891** – *A 1000-Mile Walk on the Beach : One woman's trek of the perimeter of Lake Michigan* (Book 1). 2011.

**DBL8345/DBC05892** – *A 1000-Mile Great Lakes Walk : One woman's trek along the shorelines of all five Great Lakes* (Book 2). 2013.

COMING SOON! – **DBC05893** – *A 1000-Mile Great Lakes Island Adventure : One woman's epic journey exploring the diverse islands of the five Great Lakes* (Book 3). 2015.

\*DBC numbers are locally recorded titles that are available for download on BARD. To order from our collection, use the DBL number if available. 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](http://www.michigan.gov/btbl).

# Summer Reading Program

**Stephanie Wambaugh**, Youth and Outreach Librarian  
1-800-992-9012 or [wambaugh@michigan.gov](mailto:wambaugh@michigan.gov)

The 2015 Summer Reading Program that began in June came to an end on Friday, August 28th. This was the third year the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) offered a summer program to youth throughout Michigan signed up for our service. Over 20 BTBL kids from all over the state between the ages of 0-18 participated in this year's theme "Every Hero Has a Story". Each randomly selected challenge winner received a \$25 gift certificate to Amazon or Seedlings Braille Books.

## **Congratulations to the following winners!**

Reading Challenge (braille format) winner: **Nasko C.**  
Reading Challenge (audio format) winner: **Marcus W.**  
Essay Challenge winner: **Autumn M.**

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's program. Each week provided new and exciting surprises for both the kids and the library staff! Youth all across Michigan are welcome to participate, so don't forget to watch for next year's Summer Reading Program. Keep up to date on information that pertains to youth on our Youth @ BTBL page by visiting: [www.michigan.gov/btbl](http://www.michigan.gov/btbl)

Photo caption:  
Reading Challenge winner, Marcus, smiles in front of the new Star Wars Lego set he purchased with his gift card.



---

Six young readers chose to participate in the Summer Reading Program Essay Challenge by answering the question: *Who is your real-life hero and why?; or, If you could be any superhero, who would it be and why?* Their responses were thoughtful, creative, and all extremely unique! Read below to see a few short excerpts from the essays submitted.



**Autumn’s real-life hero is her former teacher aide:**

“My super hero is Mrs. Richard. She used to be my aide. Her and I like to hang out together. Mrs. Richard and I like to make things when we are together and keep busy she teaches me lots of stuff some of the things are listed below cooking, making pillows and crocheting. All of these activities make me feel happy... Overall Mrs. Richard is a really cool super hero.”

**If Lucas could be any super-hero, he would be the Flash:**

“My favorite super-hero is the Flash. He has a wife. Her name is Iris. He is the fastest super-hero there is. If you ask me, the Flash can be the greatest super-hero... The Flash always looks for the good in supervillains. I always look for the good in people but there is bad in people as well as good and sometimes I have to do things about that just like the Flash. I would ask them nicely to stop. I would never go to physical violence.”

**An anonymous participant’s real-life hero is her birth mother:**

“I had a mom when I lived in Ethiopia.... A hero is someone who does something very brave and helps others. My mom was very brave to help keep us kids from starving. My mom died when I was 3 because she didn’t get enough to eat. My brother and sisters and I did get food and so we lived. Now I have a new mom and dad and more brothers and sisters. We have food and I am healthy... I can do all this because my mom was a hero.”

## Large Print 2016 Calendars Available Upon Request

BTBL is once again offering free large print calendars to patrons around the state. The 2016 calendars will be sent, upon request, beginning mid-November. If you are interested in obtaining a calendar, please call 1-800-992-9012 and place your name on the waiting list.

## Choice Magazine Listening

For more than 50 years, Choice Magazine Listening (CML) has been sharing its special selections of literature free of charge with people who have visual impairments or physical disabilities. The CML editors choose short stories, poems, interviews and articles, which are then recorded by professional narrators. CML compiles the recordings into 12-hour anthologies, which it sends four times a year. All NLS qualified patrons are eligible to receive CML. Call 1-888-724-6423 or 516-883-8280 for more information.

## BARD Outage

The Library of Congress performed an important annual data center maintenance task, which required BARD to go offline for a short time. When operations were restored on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, the data center had a major equipment failure that affected various systems. This included BARD, which remained offline until September 8, 2015. Unfortunately, this outage affected both the ability to download from BARD, as well as magazine services. Back issues of any missed magazines will be sent, and service should resume as normal going forward. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to deal with the effects of this outage.

## Computers for the Blind

Computers for the Blind (CFTB) is a Texas-based volunteer organization devoted to providing computers to persons who are blind or visually impaired. According to their web site you can purchase a laptop or desktop computer for \$160 or \$110 respectively. These donated computers are loaded with standard and adaptive software such as Windows 7, Internet Explorer, Magic, and a demo version of JAWS. You can contact CFTB for more information at 214-340-6328 or [www.computersfortheblind.net](http://www.computersfortheblind.net).

# Overdue Notices

This is a reminder that the BTBL Overdue Book Notice Program will begin this fall for books not returned in a timely manner. If our records show you have overdue books, you will receive a postcard indicating that you have one or more overdue digital talking book cartridges. The notice will not include specific book information, as this would violate patron confidentiality and Free Matter for the Blind and Visually Handicapped postage regulations. If you are uncertain as to which of your books is overdue, please call your local talking book library to go over your account records.

We understand that some people will receive notices for materials that never made it to them, were returned but have not yet made their way back to us, or were returned in mismatched cases and have yet to be matched up correctly. Simply call your library to rectify your account accordingly. This program will help us clear up our inventory so we can better serve our patrons in the future.

**Please note: NO fines are associated with this program.** The overdue notice will simply be a reminder that you have had a book for over 4 weeks, and that you should return the book so someone else can enjoy what you have already enjoyed.

Please help us make this program a success by being mindful of how long you keep your books. See the statistics below for a better picture of how overdue books may be affecting your service.

11,506	Michigan residents who borrow digital books
146,310	copies currently on the shelf in Lansing
53,603	copies checked out to patrons
6,868	digital books loaned in 2014 not yet returned
16,115	digital books loaned in 2015 that are 4 weeks or more overdue
\$83,184	approximate cost of lost materials in the last few years
4	weeks allowed for each book on loan

# 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 10 or call the location in question to verify.

## **Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library**

- **Tuesdays at Two Book Club.** October 27<sup>th</sup>: *Station Eleven* by Emily St John Mandel, DB79693. November 24<sup>th</sup>: *The Storied Life of A.J Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin, DB78978. Meetings are at 2:00pm in the McGuire Room.
- **Save the date for World Sight Day.** This Brown Bag Luncheon on Thursday, October 8 will be held at the Traverse Area District Library in the McGuire Room from Noon-1:00pm as we focus on World Sight Day. This annual day of awareness is held to generate global attention on blindness and vision impairment. We hope you can join us! Call 1-231-932-8558 or 1-877-931-8558 (toll free) with questions.

## **Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL**

- **Book Club.** Patrons can join our monthly book discussion by phone. Call 586-286-1580 or toll-free 1-855-203-5274 for more information.
- **Assistive Technology Demonstrations.** For Macomb County residents with vision loss. Registration required. Call the library toll-free 1-855-203-5274 for more detail. Sponsored by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition.
- **Macomb Blind Bowling League** meets on Wednesdays from 11:30am - 3:00 pm at Fraser Lanes. The cost is \$10 per week. To join and to get information on transportation to Fraser Lanes, please call Nathan at 586-296-2675.

## **Great Lakes Talking Books**

- **Book Club.** October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00pm: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel* by Rachel Joyce, DB76196. Join in the discussion in person or via phone. Call 1-800-562-8985, Ext. 0 with questions.
- **Outreach Presentation.** Join us at the Peter White Public Library on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm and again at 7:00pm for a presentation about our library service, including a BARD demonstration!
- **Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) group** will meet with Reader Advisor Lynn Buckland-Brown at Bayliss Public Library on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

## **Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL**

- **Named NLS Subregional Library of the Year,** WLBPD@AADL's model of expanded service through partnership has won rave reviews from our patrons! We would not have received this award without your feedback. Thank you for letting us know how we're doing, and even more importantly, thank you for helping us spread the word...That All May Read!

---

## Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **Can't Locate the Descriptive Track on your DVD?** To make the process as simple as possible, OTBS is now including customized printed instructions on accessing the descriptive track with every movie sent through the mail. OTBS customers with an RHPL library card can now request over 300 described movies from the RHPL collection.
- **Sensory Kits.** The Braille Institute offers free materials to visually impaired children and qualifying organizations. Our first kit includes a Curious George book (contracted Braille), *Now I eat my ABCs* (large print, board book), and Braille Alphabet letter blocks. The library will add to the collection throughout the year. For more information on these kits, call Mary at 248-650-7152.
- **Playaway: An Audio Book on the Go.** Playaway is a simple and portable way to listen to an audio book. This light-weight device is about the size of a digital cartridge but only requires an earphone to enjoy. No downloads or digital players required! OTBS@ RHPL has approximately 250 Playaway audio books for you to enjoy. If you would like to request one of these audio books, call Jennifer at 248-650-5680 or 1-800-774-4542.

## 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 November. Call with questions: 810-982-3600 or 1-800-272-8570.
- **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 810-966-9185 or any of the officers on their website: [www.bwlblind.com](http://www.bwlblind.com).
- **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 810-329-5172.

## Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Large Print Book Service.** Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will offer large print books through the mail in addition to our talking books, braille, and described movies. As with other materials, large print books will be mailed to your home and can be returned back to us free of charge. We hope that by offering large print books, we can bridge the gap for those of you that qualify for LBPH services, but are not quite ready to entirely give up print materials. We will be limiting the amount of books to 2 to 3 books per shipment and will only be shipping books out once per week. **This service will be open to all qualifying LBPH patrons in our service area, including all of Kent, Ionia, and Montcalm counties**, and a library card is not required to enroll. Please contact our office at 616-647-3988 if you would like to add large print materials to your account.

# 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, Wayne County (except the city of Detroit).

## **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

## **Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

**1-313-833-5494** Serving cities of Detroit and Highland Park

**COMING SOON!** Braille and Talking Books @Taylor Community Library serving Wayne County (except the City of Detroit)

# 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](mailto:btbl@michigan.gov)

**On the Web:** [www.michigan.gov/btbl](http://www.michigan.gov/btbl)

**Online Catalog:** [www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks](http://www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks)

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

The *In Focus Newsletter* is made possible by your generous donations to the Library of Michigan Foundation. The Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL); Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP); Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA); is an equal opportunity employer/program.