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# In Focus

Winter 2014



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

## One State – One Region

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Since the early 1930's when the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) was established as the result of an act of Congress, Michigan has supported two regional libraries: one region covering Wayne County and another covering the rest of the state. Recent reductions in the Wayne County Regional Library (Westland) budget made the consolidation of services under one region the most viable option for going forward.

The most obvious change is that books that were shipping from Westland and Detroit are now shipping from Lansing. This has become the norm for most of Michigan's patrons whose service comes from one of several subregional libraries across the state. To accommodate the increase in free matter mailing to and from the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) in Lansing, we have been working closely with representatives of the U.S. Postal Service. Although books are largely shipping from a centralized location, patrons will continue to call the subregional library site that has been their point of service for many years. One exception is that all residents of the City of Detroit who previously contacted Westland will now call the Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. See the listing of subregional library sites on page 5 for more detail.

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# Technology Corner

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**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 via the BTBL Online Meeting Room using this link: <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**

December 13: What's new with iPhone 6 and iOS 8, presented by Scott Norris and Al Puzzuoli

December 13: BR3328, DB43546 *Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

January 10: Overview of Android and accessible T.V. remote Apps, presented by Scott Norris, Caitlin Wolfe, and Diana Engle

January 10: DB32968 *Canticle for Leibowitz* by Walter Miller Jr.

February 14: Panel discussion on the future of adaptive technology

February 14: Book choice is to be announced.

Programs to be announced in future issues of InFocus for the following dates:            March 14                    April 11                    May 9

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# Local Recordings

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

## Featured Michigan Author: **D.E. Johnson**

D. E. (Dan) Johnson is a history buff who writes historical mysteries set in early 20th century Detroit, Michigan. Dan has lived and worked in Southwestern Michigan most of his life and currently resides near Kalamazoo with his family. The books in Johnson's Will Anderson mystery series have been widely and favorably reviewed in the publishing industry and have twice appeared on the Michigan Notable Books list. This fast-paced historical mystery series will keep you guessing right up to the end. (Includes some violence and strong language.) All books in the series were read by volunteer narrator Nicholas Colovos in the BTBL recording studio in Lansing.

### DBL8306/DBC00005 - ***The Detroit Electric Scheme (Book 1)***

Set in 1910 Detroit, Will Anderson is being framed for a murder he did not commit. He attempts to find the killer while protecting the woman he loves. A 2011 Michigan Notable book. 2010.

### DBL8307/DBC00128 - ***Motor City Shakedown (Book 2)***

A thrilling ride set in 1911 Detroit. Will Anderson is looking for justice for the death of his best friend, while battling the Detroit criminal underworld, a corrupt police department, and his own personal demons. A 2012 Michigan Notable book. 2011.

### DBL8381/DBC00129 - ***Detroit Breakdown (Book 3)***

Will Anderson fakes an illness and is admitted to the Eloise Insane Asylum outside of Detroit in order to investigate the murders of patients. 2012.

### DBL8382/DBC03336 - ***Detroit Shuffle (Book 4)***

Will Anderson and Elizabeth Hume get caught up in the political turmoil over women's suffrage in Michigan. 2013.

\*DBC numbers are locally recorded titles that are available for download on BARD. To order from our collection, continue to use the DBL number.

# Around the State

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## Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

• **Tuesdays At 2 Book Club.** January 27th selection is: *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson, DB75820. On Tuesday, February 24th, we will be discussing *Age of Miracles* by Karen T. Walker, DB74890.

## Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

• **Assistive Technology Center.** Tuesdays 1-6 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Assistive Technology training is available during the above times on a walk-in basis. Call 888-460-0680 with questions.

## The Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Book Club.** Join this new monthly book discussion that Macomb residents can participate in by phone. Just call the library for more details: 586-286-1580 or toll-free 1-855-203-5274.
- **Computer Training with Sharon Lotoczky.** Now offering one-on-one classes this spring for patrons interested in learning how to use the computer with adaptive technology software. Call 1-855-203-5274 to schedule an appointment with Sharon.

## Wayne County Braille and Talking Book Library

- **Brown Bag Book Club.** Tuesday, January 13, noon to 2 p.m. Discussion on *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, DB78079, and *Toxin* by Robin Cook, DB46224.
- **Itch-to-Stitch Knitting and Crochet.** Bring projects and get help from other crafters. At the meeting, hats and scarves will be collected for donation to a local shelter. Tuesday, December 16, noon to 2 p.m. and Tuesday, January 20, noon to 2 p.m.
- **V.I.P. Support Group.** Tuesday, January 27, noon to 2 p.m. The Senior Alliance will give an overview of Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) program. Call Vanessa at 734-727-7311 to reserve a spot.

## Who Should You Call?

Most books are now being shipped from Lansing, but that doesn't mean your service is provided by Lansing. Please, always call your designated service center which is based on your county of residence as listed on page 5.

# Michigan Talking Book Libraries

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## **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**

**1-810-732-1120** Counties served: Genesee

## **Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

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

## **Grand Traverse Area 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**

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

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

**1-586-286-1580** Counties served: Macomb

## **Wayne County Braille and Talking Book Library**

**1-888-968-2737** Counties served: Wayne (except the City of Detroit)

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

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

## **Leader Dogs for the Blind Accelerated Orientation & Mobility Training**

Since 2002, Leader Dogs for the Blind has offered free Accelerated Orientation & Mobility Training (O&M) to adults wishing to quickly improve their travel skills. Leader Dog's O&M training will help increase a person's ability to confidently travel in new environments during a seven-day course.

The training covers many areas of O&M including: using a white cane or utilizing a human guide, re-orienting oneself (or "what to do when you get lost"), soliciting assistance when needed, and much more!

Accelerated O&M Training is a residential program, so clients stay on Leader Dog's campus in Rochester Hills, Michigan, and train in the surrounding area. Leader Dog pays for all costs associated with the training. For more information visit the website at [leaderdog.org](http://leaderdog.org) or call the client services department at 1-888-777-5332.

## **Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC)**

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming CIC conference call on March 19, 2015 at 1pm. This call provides our patrons with the opportunity to ask questions regarding library procedures and make suggestions for service. More information will be provided in the spring issue of the newsletter.

## **Visit our Website at: [www.michigan.gov/btbl](http://www.michigan.gov/btbl)**

The Braille and Talking Book library has recently updated our website and it now has more information than ever to help patrons get the most from our service! Updated weekly, our website is a great place to go for news, youth programming and scholarships, BARD tips, and more!

## **Large Print 2015 Calendars Available Upon Request**

BTBL is offering free large print calendars to patrons (while supplies last). If you are interested in obtaining a calendar, please call 1-800-992-9012.

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

**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)

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