

In Focus

Spring 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

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 1, from 1-2 p.m. Access to the forum will be available by phone at 1-888-278-0296 (enter access code 5836678) or online at <http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs417aa6694fed> For more information on using the online meeting room, see page 2.

BTBL has sponsored a CIC group for more than 25 years, consisting of 8 -10 patrons who serve in an advisory capacity. Current CIC members would like to encourage broader participation by providing opportunity 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. This is an opportunity to help shape future services. 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.

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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 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

March 14: Sneak peak at Android BARD mobile, presented by Scott Norris

March 14: DBC03339 *Frozen Moon: A Jenny-Dog and the Son of Light novel* by David Greenwald - We are excited the author, David Greenwald and the narrator Nicholas Colovos will join us!

April 11: Cyber Security presented by Greg Sprout

April 11: DB50271 *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick

May 16: Bring your own device: A Question and Answer Session, presented by Scott Norris and Accessible TV: Part two, presented by Diana Engle

May 16: Book choice is to be announced.

Programs to be announced in future issues of InFocus for the following dates: June 13 July 11 August 8

Technology Corner

KNFB Reader for iOS is Here

The long-awaited KNFB Reader scanning app for the iPhone finally arrived last September. The app allows you to scan and read a print document using the cell phone's camera and flash. The KNFB Reader first appeared on a cell phone in early 2008 on the Nokia N82 phone. When the iPhone appeared with its popular VoiceOver screen reader the next question was "Where is the KNFB Reader?" The app was not released until recently because of an insufficiency with the phone's processor, camera, and flash.

When you open the app, a large "Take Picture" button appears on the left side of the screen. Double tapping it takes a picture of your document and begins the recognition process. This all takes a few seconds and the KNFB Reader app begins reading the scanned document.

KNFB Reader has the following features: A Field of View Report button that allows the user to determine if the camera is focused correctly by telling you which edges of the page are visible; The tilt button helps you maintain the phone in a flat plane by producing a series of vibrations that indicate whether the phone is tilted off of horizontal (I find this feature somewhat distracting when I'm trying to scan something); Batch operation which allows multiple scans to be added to a file.

The KNFB Reader can be purchased from the App Store. The cost is regularly \$99, but has gone on sale for \$50. The app works on the iPhone 4S and newer. Owners of the 4S phones might find it works rather sluggishly. I have used it on the iPhone 5 and now the iPhone 6 and I'm very impressed with the speed and accuracy.

Android for BARD Mobile is Coming Soon

The long awaited Android BARD Mobile App is almost here. Beta testing on the Android BARD Mobile App began on Thursday, February 26. Android users have been waiting for BARD Mobile since the iOS version was released in September 2013. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) expects to release this free app sometime in May. You will need to have Android 4.1 or later on your device to run the app. Android users can watch the Google Play Store for this great addition to BARD Mobile.

Around the State

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **Tuesdays At Two Book Club.** March 31st, *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom, DB75504. April 28th, *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline, DB76746.

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

- **Assistive Technology (AT) Center.** AT training available Tuesdays 1-6 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on a walk-in basis. Call 888-460-0680.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Book Talkers Book Club.** March 27th at 6:30pm at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military, Port Huron. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford, DB71540, and *Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline, DB76746.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **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.

Oakland Talking Book Service

- **Book Discussion Group.** The book discussions are held at the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Pontiac from 1-3pm. The Church is conveniently located at 517 W. Walton Blvd. and is accessible by the SMART bus system. The April 13 selection is *Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie, DB 77188.

Wayne County Braille and Talking Book Library

- **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, March 17th and Tuesday, April 21st, noon to 2 p.m.
- **V .I.P. Support Group.** Tuesday, March 24th, Noon to 2 p.m. Explore how to maintain relationships with friends and relatives.

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Douglass Technology Center in Detroit Public Library's Douglass Branch for Specialized Services reopened to the public February 23, 2015 after renovation. We are again able to offer computer use and training, braille classes and our book club. Detroit LBPH recently became an Advisory and Outreach Center and now serves all zip codes in Detroit. Stop by 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday.

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

1-810-732-1120 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

News

Knitting Group

Join Knitting Group on the 1st Friday of every month in the BTBL Lobby in Lansing from 12pm-2pm. Drop in any time. Relax with us while we enjoy each other's company with our knitting or other crafts. Upcoming dates include: April 3, May 1, June 5.

Michigan's Locally Recorded Digital Book Catalog

Coming this summer: Michigan's Local Digital Book Catalog. The catalog will include a list of digital talking books available for request from the Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library. It will also include a list of our locally recorded books that are available for download from BARD. Reserve your copy of the catalog by calling 1-800-992-9012.

Lead On, Pup!

Welcome to BTBL's newest "staff" member in Lansing! Cinder is a black Labrador retriever and future Leader Dog for the Blind. Follow her adventures on her blog, maintained by BTBL Reader Advisor Betsie Bush, at <http://leadonpup.blogspot.com>



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
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Check for further information:

- Gifts and Bequests
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- 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
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**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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