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# In Focus

Summer 2015



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

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

## **BTBL Named the 2014 NLS Library of the Year**

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The Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) was named the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) Library of the Year during a luncheon at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on Friday, June 19, 2015. This prestigious award commends excellence, innovation, and special achievement in providing library service to individuals who are blind or have a physical disability.

Nominations were evaluated on the following criteria: the extent to which the library reached or exceeded the *American Library Association Standards and Guidelines of Service*; the extent to which the library developed new patron services or marketed existing services in an exceptional manner; the extent to which the library met the needs of its patrons during the year.

Nominations were reviewed by a committee consisting of six members: the chief of the NLS Network Division; one representative from each of three consumer groups (American Council of the Blind, Blinded Veterans Association, and National Federation of the Blind); and two representatives from public libraries. A winner was chosen from a list of finalists submitted to the NLS director and four regional librarian peers.

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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 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 is also 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

July 11: TBA

July 11: **DB72129** *Unbroken: A World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand.

August: Club meetings will not be held in August.

September 19: Adaptive Technology Loan Fund: How you buy the technology, presented by Brenda Henige.

September 19: **DB78744** *While Beauty Slept*, by Elizabeth C. Blackwell.

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

October 10<sup>th</sup>

November 14<sup>th</sup>

December 12<sup>th</sup>

# Local Recordings

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

## Michigan's Locally Recorded Digital Book Catalog

The catalog of digital talking books recorded by the Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library will be mailed out by the end of July 2015. Reserve your copy of the catalog by calling 1-800-992-9012.

## Michigan Notable Books

**DBC00113** - *Bootstrapper: From broke to badass on a Northern Michigan farm* by Mardi Jo Link, narrated by Sonya Schryer Norris – Memoir of a Michigan author who, after ending her nineteen-year marriage, staves off a perpetually empty bank account, saves her century-old farmhouse from foreclosure with the help of her three young sons, and reclaims her life. A 2014 Michigan Notable book.

**DBC00118** - *I Invented the Modern Age: The rise of Henry Ford* by Richard Snow, narrated by Andy Andersen - This in depth account of Henry Ford and his invention of the Model-T vividly shows Ford using his innate mechanical abilities, hard work, and radical imagination to transform American industry. A 2014 Michigan Notable book.

**DBC03415** - *Roses and Revolutions: The selected writings of Dudley Randall* by Dudley Randall, narrated by Michael P. Donovan - Collection of essays, poems, and stories of long-time Detroit resident Dudley Randall who was the founder of Broadside Press, which published many well-known Black poets. A 2010 Michigan Notable book.

## Recommend a Michigan Book

The Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library records books and magazines about the Great Lakes region and books by Michigan authors. If you know of a Michigan-related book that you would like to recommend for recording, please contact Betsie Bush.

# News

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## Libraries Without Walls 2015 Success

This event hosted by the Braille and Talking Book Library was held Tuesday June 2, 2015, at the Lansing Community College West Campus. The day offered presentations on a variety of adaptive technology items, including a keynote address by the President of the National Braille Press, Brian MacDonald. Other topics discussed at the event included Android products, Jaws, Mac computing, Apple iOS, and E-Readers.

Over 150 patrons, librarians, BSBP staff, teachers, and other interested parties gathered together for Libraries Without Walls 2015. We would like to thank everyone who participated in making this day a success.

## Overdue Book Notices to be Issued this Fall

The BTBL Overdue Book Notice Program will begin this fall for books not returned in a timely manner. If you have overdue books, please return them now so that someone else can enjoy what you have enjoyed.

Please note: There will NOT be fines associated with this program. The overdue notice will simply be a reminder that you have had a book for over 4 weeks. To renew your books or to obtain more information about your overdue materials, please call 1-800-992-9012.

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.

11,446	Michigan residents who borrow digital books
135,403	copies currently on the shelf in Lansing
53,478	copies checked out to patrons
2,868	digital books loaned in 2009-2012 not yet returned
2,986	digital books loaned in 2013 not yet returned
9,348	digital books loaned in 2014 not yet returned
1,497	digital books loaned in 2015 that are 4 weeks overdue
4	weeks allowed for each book on loan

## NLS Revises Digital Magazine Loan Periods

NLS has increased the loan period on magazines circulated on cartridge (in red containers) to allow subscribers more time to enjoy their publications. Allotted reading time for weekly cartridges (those containing weekly magazines only) has increased from 1 week to 3 weeks, and reading time for monthly cartridges (those containing monthly and weekly magazines) has increased from 4 weeks to 7 weeks.

## Leader Dogs for the Blind is Accredited

Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan, has been accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC) for applying best practices and delivering services that focus on positive outcomes for its clients. Leader Dog is the first guide dog organization to achieve accreditation by NAC, who found Leader Dog's Accelerated Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Training and Summer Experience Camp programs met or exceeded industry standards.

Accelerated O&M Training is a free, seven-day residential training which empowers people who are blind with the skills needed to travel safely using a white cane.

Summer Experience Camp is a unique summer camp for boys and girls ages 16 and 17 who are legally blind that combines summer fun, an introduction to guide dogs and the opportunity to spend time with peers who are facing similar challenges.

For more information visit [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org) or call 1-888-777-5332.

The photo to the right depicts Cinder, a 5 month old black Lab pup being fostered by Betsie Bush of BTBL, as she practices "sit...stay" while walking on the sidewalk along the roadway. Follow Cinder's development at <http://leadonpup.blogspot.com>.



# Youth Programming

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

## Summer Reading Program 2015

If you are between the ages of 0-18 and are a member of the Braille and Talking Book Library, we invite you to join the Summer Reading Program.



## Every Hero Has a Story!

Activities are completed via mail so kids all across Michigan can participate.

**The program will run from June 22- July 31.  
Call or e-mail to register.**

## Free Prizes just for registering

That's right – whether the participant completes the following challenges or not, everyone that signs up will automatically win free prizes.

### Reading Challenge

Read any 3 books during the program; report back the titles, authors, and book formats (digital, braille, or other) to be entered to win our Grand Prize Gift Card!

There will be 2 winners in this category, 1 for braille reading and 1 for other formats. Enter both drawings! Max entry of 1 time per drawing.

### Essay Challenge

Answer 1 of the following questions in 1 to 3 paragraphs to be entered to win our Essay Contest Gift Card.

- Who is your real-life hero and why?
- If you could be any superhero, who would it be and why?

# 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.