

In **Focus**



Spring 2010

*News from the Library Service for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped (SBPH)*

SBPH Transfers to Michigan Commission for the Blind

The Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) was officially transferred to the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) under an executive order, which became effective October 1, 2009. All SBPH services, staff, equipment and funding moved with the program, which continues to operate from the same location in the Michigan Library and Historical Center in downtown Lansing. Pat Cannon, MCB director, advocated for the transfer after Governor Granholm announced that the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) would be eliminated in an effort to reduce the number of state departments.

Director Cannon has committed resources to SBPH for the continuance of service to all who qualify under the law. "It is my hope that we may continue to work together in a collaborative, unified effort to ensure that this transition is effective and seamless, in the best interests of SBPH and MCB customers. We are confident that the transfer poses exciting possibilities for common consumers of the agencies and could open new doors for more effective collaboration in the future." MCB is an agency within the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG).

Inside this issue:

Digital Update	2	Locally Recorded Books . .	4-5
Happy Digital Patrons	3	Technology Corner	6

Digital Update

We are happy to report that digital machines and books have been issued to over 1,800 individuals in Michigan since October. With about 12,000 patrons to go, it will be 18-24 months before all have their new machines. Although we have over 1,300 titles in digital format, the cassette collection will be needed for its roughly 60,000 titles for the next few years. We urge you to continue using the cassette player as well as the digital player until the number of titles in digital can meet demand. There is no plan to convert magazines from cassette to digital for mailing purposes. Magazines in digital format can be downloaded from the NLS BARD website. See related article on page 6.



(Above) 1,300 digital titles available



(Above) Digital machine and book



(Above) Cassette machine



(Above) Over 60,000 cassette titles

Happy Digital Patrons

“I received my new machine 2 weeks ago. Fearing the stress of learning new technology, I didn’t even open it until I knew I had time to deal with frustration. I opened the box, plugged it in, and like magic, it told me everything I needed to know! So simple, so ingenious! Great job by those who had the foresight to do it right the first time! . . . Please send my gratitude and, I expect, the gratitude of all blind users to who ever deserves it. I plan to take the machine to our new blind support group on January 5.”

Gerri Taeckens

“Just a quick line to let the library know that I think NLS has done a fine job in producing the new advanced digital player. As far as easibility I think it’s great. The audio of this machine is the best I’ve ever heard. Better sounding than any of the cassette players. Updating the firmware is very easy to do for those who have a computer. . . . Congratulations on a job well done!”

Raymond Rokita

“Knowing that this [machine] is just coming out, I am quite pleased. I haven’t found any bugs so far. I have also found that when the battery is getting low that it tells you. It told me I had 1 hour left and is still going after 2 hours. I’m very pleased!”

John George

“I really appreciate the new player that I received for my talking books. I can’t tell you how much I really am going to enjoy it. I like all the features it has. It was very easy to learn how to use. I did just exactly what I was told and it’s working great. The buttons are lined up in a row and easy to use. The clarity is wonderful. Thank you very, very much! I’ve been getting talking books since I was 6 years old and I’m over 60 now. This is the best thing the government has ever done!”

Beverly Hunt

Volunteers Record Books of Local Interest

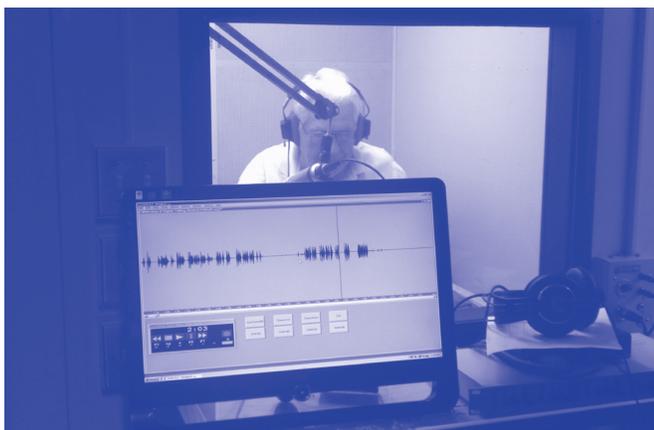
Call 800-992-9012 to order

2009 Michigan Notable Books

- LM 8231** *The Expeditions* by Karl Iagnemma, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8232** *Ravens In The Storm: A Personal History Of The 1960s
Antiwar Movement* by Carl Oglesby, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8234** *Ninety Years Crossing Lake Michigan: The History of the Ann
Arbor Car Ferries* by Grant Brown, Jr., narrated by M. Donovan
- LM 8235** *The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry* by Don
Faber, narrated by M. Donovan
- LM 8236** *The Model T: A Centennial History* by Robert Casey, narrated
by M. Donovan
- LM 8237** *“Jiffy” A Family Tradition: Mixing Business and Old-Fashioned
Values* by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds, narrated by K. Glaser
- LM 8238** *Looking for Hickories: The Forgotten Wildness of the Rural
Midwest* by Tom Springer, narrated by T. Dolinar
- LM 8241** *Summer Dreams: The Story of Bob-Lo Island* by Patrick
Livingston, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8244** *Roadie: The Misunderstood World of a Bike Racer* by Jamie
Smith, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8246** *A Picturesque Situation: Mackinac Before Photography,
1615-1860* by Brian Leigh Dunnigan, narrated by M. Donovan
- LM 8248** *When the Church Becomes Your Party: Contemporary Gospel
Music* by Deborah Smith Pollard, narrated by M. Donovan
- LM 8250** *Who’s Jim Hines?* by Jean Alicia Elster, narrated by R. Vogt

Books Requested by Patrons

- LM 8229** *The Metz Fire Of 1908, Presque Isle County, Michigan* by Herbert Nagel, narrated by M. Donovan
- LM 8230** *Living A Healthy Life With Chronic Conditions* by Kate Lorig et al., narrated by K. Glaser
- LM 8239** *Draycott Legacy: Enchantment & Bridge of Dreams* by Christina Skye, narrated by K. Glaser
- LM 8240** *Draycott External: Dreams May Come & Seasons of Wishes* by Christina Skye, narrated by K. Glaser
- LM 8242** *The Lighthouse Murders* by Richard Baldwin, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8243** *Murder In Thin Air* by Richard Baldwin, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8245** *Memoirs of Elise* by David L. Gurnee, narrated by K. Glaser
- LM 8247** *A Shipment of Tarts* by Edmund G. Love, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8249** *Hanging On, or, How to Get Through A Depression and Enjoy Life* by Edmund G. Love, narrated by R. Vogt
- LM 8251** *The Piano Recital* by Richard Baldwin, narrated by R. Vogt



Narrator Andy Andersen (left) is introduced to the new digital studio, made possible by your donations to the Library of Michigan Foundation.

Technology Corner

Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Librarian
517-373-5516 or norriss5@michigan.gov

Downloading Talking Books to NLS Digital Players

If you have a computer, Internet access, and an e-mail account, you can sign up to download books to your computer and transfer them to a USB thumb drive for playback on the new NLS digital talking book machine. A thumb drive plugs into the USB port located to the rear of the headphone jack. Thumb drives can be purchased for less than \$10.00 from stores selling office supplies or electronics. Signing up to download NLS digital books is easy. Just go to <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> and click on the BARD application instructions link. Fill out the online application and submit it. You will receive a return e-mail with your user name and temporary password, usually within two business days. Currently there are over 16,000 books available for download. For more info, call Scott.

Twitter SBPH

Read the latest SBPH updates at www.twitter.com/lmsbph.
Your comments are welcome!

SBPH Computer Club 2010

The SBPH Computer Club meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30-12:30 in the SBPH public service area on the first floor of the Library of Michigan across from the elevators. Meetings are open to everyone no matter their computer expertise. Call to register.

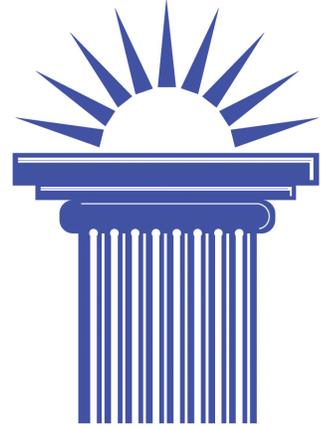
Computer Club Schedule

Apr 10: Mobile Speak for cell phones
May 8: How to Purchase a Computer
Jun 12: Facebook

Library of Michigan Foundation

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



L I B R A R Y O F
M I C H I G A N
F O U N D A T I O N

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 SBPH program.

Signature: _____

By making a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, donors can help SBPH better serve thousands of visually impaired and handicapped residents across the state. 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 Joyce Ruttan at (517) 373-2977.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the MCB Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) program.

Library Service for the Blind &
Physically Handicapped
702 W Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

**FREE
MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND**

How to Reach the MCB Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH)

By Phone: 517-373-5614
1-800-992-9012

By Fax: 517-373-5685
1-800-726-7323

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

By E-Mail: sbph@michigan.gov

On the Web: www.michigan.gov/sbph

Online Catalog: www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks

The *In Focus* newsletter is made possible by a grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation. The Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH); Michigan Commission for the Blind; Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, is an equal opportunity employer/program. Alternative formats, auxiliary aids, services, and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.