

In Focus

Winter 2015-2016

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

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

A Holiday Reflection on Those Who Give

Peace on Earth, Good Will to All! The holiday season has a way of drawing out positive thoughts and well-wishes to everyone we meet, be they family, close friends, co-workers, or total strangers. For some, the urge is not limited to the cold, sunless months of the year. Volunteers donate their time and expertise to enrich the lives of our library patrons every week. Do you ever wonder who repairs all the equipment that is malfunctioning, or who records the local books you listen to? Good works are being performed right here and now! Gerry Garvelink and John Myers toil away every



Monday in the Wyoming Branch of Kent District Library repairing cassette players. Ken Warshaw contributes to machine repair in Lansing. They are now embarking on a new adventure, conquering 21st century technology, and with coaching from Bob Blakes, learning to repair digital players as well. With over 1,450 volunteer hours between them last year, their efforts are greatly appreciated. Photo on left shows Bob Blakes demonstrating the repair process to volunteers.

Inside this issue:

Technology Corner	2-3	Around the State.	7-9
Local Recordings	4	Talking Book Library List. . .	10
Youth Services	5	LM Foundation	11
News.	6		

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 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

- January 9: Exercise & Diet Apps and Devices presented by Scott Norris
January 9: **DB79182** *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
February 13: App Smackdown with audience participation
February 13: **DB51968** *Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand
March 12 : To Be Announced
March 12 : **DBC3431** *Cody: A Jenny-Dog and Son of Light Novel*
by D. M. Greenwald

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

April 16

May 7

June 11

Audio Description Offered with Netflix Online Video Service

Movie and TV shows with an additional audio track, using a narrator's voice to describe the action on the screen, are nothing new to the community of people who are blind. Netflix is now broadening the choices available to its streaming video customers to include audio description to a select number of movies and TV shows. To initiate this service, an existing subscriber needs to contact Netflix support. Once set up, select the "Audio Description" link located at the bottom of the Netflix Streaming home page. This will launch a search displaying all videos that are currently available with an audio description track. After making your selection and launching the video player screen, select the "Languages" Menu button and select "English-Audio Description". Be aware that the "Languages" menu button is not compatible with screen readers and may require help from a sighted friend. Netflix hopes to soon add a keyboard shortcut to compensate for this problem. Having Audio Description gives a person who is blind or visually impaired a richer viewing experience.

Cassette and Digital Machines

If you no longer wish to use our service, you must return the equipment to your BTBL Library. The equipment is the property of the U.S. Government and should be returned so that it may be used by other patrons. Do not sell, give away or throw away. Machines can be sent "Free Matter" and we are happy to ship empty boxes and return labels as needed. Contact Sue Greene at **1-800- 992-9012** if you have questions.

Multiple Books on one Cartridge

When multiple books are on one cartridge or thumb drive, the way to select a title is by using Bookshelf Mode. To access Bookshelf Mode, hold down the rectangular Play/Stop button for about five seconds. There should be a beep, and then a voice announcing "Bookshelf" and the number of books on the cartridge or thumb drive. You can move through titles by using the Fast-Forward and Rewind buttons, located to either side of the Play/Stop button. Once the title you want is found, select it by pushing the Play/Stop button. To switch to another title, just hold down the Play/Stop button, enter Bookshelf Mode again, and make a new selection.

Local Recordings

Betsie Bush, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or bushb2@michigan.gov

Recording Studio Volunteers

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who contributed more than 1,400 hours of their time to recording, editing, and reviewing locally recorded audiobooks for our library patrons in 2015.

Narration Volunteers

Andy Andersen
Danielle E. Ward
Karen Glaser
Lili Krezel
Marion Contompasis
Michael P. Donovan
Nicholas Colovos
Sonya Schryer Norris
Sue Dixon
Tracey Dolinar

Editing Volunteers

Christine Fisk
Fred Campbell
George Allen
James Conroy
Jamie Hannah
Joe Ross
Judy Phillips
Krista Abdul-Hameed
Marilyn McKenzie
Michael McCormick

Narrators translate print material into spoken language that is both consistent with the author's intent, and intelligible and agreeable to the listener. Reviewers and editors provide objective quality control in the production of audio books and magazines by editing errors found in the sound track and noting errors that require re-recording by the narrator. They also proof for accuracy of the narration against the print text, including maintaining the artistic integrity of the author's intent as well as the exact word sequence.

While we are not accepting new narration volunteers, if you are comfortable working with a computer and have spare time to volunteer with audio editing, please contact Recording Studio Coordinator, Betsie Bush, at bushb2@michigan.gov or 1-800-992-9012.

Youth Services

Stephanie Wambaugh, Youth and Outreach Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or wambaugh@michigan.gov



Heroes A2Z series

by David Anthony and Charles David Clasman

Join three extraordinary heroes—Abigail, Andrew, and Baby Zoë—on their adventures to save Traverse City, Michigan from the clutches of evil villains and creepy monsters. For grades 2-4. 2007-2013.

Locally recorded by volunteers in Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library's Lansing recording studio.

- DBC05898 - *Alien Ice Cream*, Book 1, read by Lydia Hiller
- DBC05899 - *Bowling Over Halloween*, Book 2, read by Lydia Hiller
- DBC05900 - *Cherry Bomb Squad*, Book 3, read by Lydia Hiller
- DBC05901 - *Digging for Dinos*, Book 4, read by Lydia Hiller
- DBC03422 - *Easter Egg Haunt*, Book 5, read by Mark Simonis
- DBC03343 - *Fowl Mouthwash*, Book 6, read by Sami George
- DBC03344 - *Guitar Rocket Star*, Book 7, read by Sarah Matthews
- DBC03345 - *Holiday Holdup*, Book 8, read by Laura Chall
- DBC03346 - *Ivy League All-Stars*, Book 9, read by Katie Maggart
- DBC03347 - *Joey Down Under*, Book 10, read by Paige Conway
- DBC03348 - *Kung Fu Kitties*, Book 11, read by Melissa Mercieca
- DBC03349 - *Lost Puppy Love*, Book 12, read by Dan Inglese
- DBC03350 - *Monkey Monster Truck*, Book 13, read by Beau Bielski
- DBC03351 - *Nursery Rhyme Crime*, Book 14, read by Jamila Jones

News

Three New Digital Magazines Available

Three new audio magazines are available to patrons via BARD or by subscription through the Magazine on Cartridge (MOC) program. The magazines, their frequency, and their NLS publication codes are:

- AARP The Magazine (bimonthly) and AARP Bulletin (10 issues/year). These will be bundled as a single subscription (AAP4).
- O, The Oprah Magazine (monthly, OPR4).
- Rolling Stone (biweekly, RST4).

Call the library serving your county, or **1-800-992-9012** to subscribe.

Mismatched Books

Each day between 30 and 50 books come back to the Braille and Talking Book Library in the wrong case. When this happens, the books are set aside to be sorted out or to wait until the proper case is returned. Over 900 books are currently waiting to be matched up with the proper case. This can cause a delay in getting them checked back in, which means that it could take longer for new books to be sent out to replace them. This also keeps other people who want to read that book from getting it right away. Of course accidents happen, and it's not a big deal if you occasionally send us a book in an incorrect container. But please keep in mind that it helps the whole system run more smoothly if you take a little extra time to make sure that the books are in the correct cases when returning them to us. One way to keep track of books is to only have one out of its case at a time. That way, you know that you are returning it to its proper case.

Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC)

The Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library CIC met twice in the past year in an innovative, open-forum environment. Committee members are charged with providing input to BTBL management on issues concerning state-wide library service to Michigan residents. In that light, Mike Ellis, Committee Chairperson, moved to provide anyone with an interest in library matters the opportunity to take part in those discussions by way of dialing in to a live conference call. Meetings were held on April 1 and October 28, 2015. The next forum-meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2016 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Call **1-800-992-9012** for instructions on dialing in.

Around the State

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL

- **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2016.** The theme of the 2016 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads program, a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book, is: "A Very Good Read." This year we will read *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez. This title is available in digital format (DB79170), and for WLBPD@AADL patrons, in large print.
- **Save the Date for VISIONS 2016!** Ann Arbor District Library will present the *VISIONS 2016 Vendor Fair: What's New in Technology and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired* on Wednesday, May 11, at Washtenaw Community College. Cosponsored by the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons and Washtenaw Community College, the event will feature a variety of Michigan exhibitors who will demonstrate and discuss the latest products and services for the blind and visually impaired. There is no admission charge and ample free parking is available.
- For information on either event, call (734) 327-8327 or email wlbpd@aadl.org.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Assistive Technology Demonstration and Loan Program**
For those Macomb County patrons interested in knowing what products are on the market to help make your life a little easier, the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition sponsors free demonstrations at our library. Products demonstrated range from lamps and magnifiers to writing guides, iPads and more.
- **Join Our Book Discussion Group**
Looking for a social way to discuss books without leaving your home? We have a monthly, phone-in, book discussion group. New members are always welcome!
- **Historical Vision Equipment Displayed at Macomb LBPH**
MLBPH is putting together a display to commemorate National Glaucoma Awareness Month and National Age-Related Macular Degeneration/Low Vision Awareness Month. The display will showcase and describe various vision exam tools and eye ware from the archives of the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology (DIO). Visit the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Main Branch, in January or February to enjoy. Thank you to the DIO for lending us this fascinating exhibit.
- **Computer and Device Tutoring**
Macomb County patrons interested in gaining access to information can make an appointment with Sharon, our assistive technology tutor, Whether new to computers or devices such as iPads, iPhones, etc., or have used these in the past but your vision issues have discouraged you from going back to them, our library can arrange tutoring sessions that can get you on the way to a more independent way of communicating and accessing information.
- For more information on any of the above offerings call **586-286-1580**.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ Rochester Hills Public Library

- **OTBS Book Discussion Group**

You are invited to join this group of OTBS patrons for a stimulating discussion of some great books. Book discussions are held at the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Pontiac, located at 517 W. Walton Blvd. and are accessible using the SMART bus system. *Casting the First Stone* by Kimberla Lawson Roby (DB 60028) is the spring title scheduled for discussion on April 4, 2016 from 1-3 p.m.

- For more information call OTBS at **248-650-7150**

Grand Traverse Area District Library, Talking Book Library

- **Tuesdays @ Two**

We hope you enjoyed the holidays and are ready to join our book discussion group. We would love to have you with us for the many facets of discussion generated from these books. Meetings are from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the McGuire Room. January 26th: *100 Days of Happiness*, by Fausto Brizzi (DB82342), February 23: *Big Magic*, by: Elizabeth Gilbert (DB82605), and March 29, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway (DB70447 and BR18138).

- **Visually Impaired Support Group**

This newly formed service is doing well. Melinda Hollands, chairperson, is blind and welcomes your phone calls and/or emails so that she can update you on the direction of this committed support team. So far, the group has generated great interest and provided needed education. Activities are ongoing. Contact Melinda at **231-932-7862** or imhollands@charter.net.

- **iPad Available for Loan**

Thinking about purchasing an iPad? Call the library to have your name put on the waiting list to check one out for a designated “try out” period. Lue takes appointments to assist you with your devices, too! Call to set up a time for learning. **1-800-932-8500, ext. 307**.

- **Call for Assistance**

Call the Traverse City Talking Book Library at **1-877-931-8558** or **231-932-8558**

for any assistance you need if you reside in: Grand Traverse, Antrim, Benzie, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, or Wexford Counties.

- **Happy 2016, and keep on reading! Jill, Mary and Lue.**

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- The grand opening celebration for Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library is tentatively scheduled for April, in conjunction with National Library Week. Look for an announcement in the next newsletter with the specific date and time.
- The new advisory and outreach center will serve Wayne County residents living outside of Detroit. Direct questions or comments to Vanessa Morris, Assistant Director of the Taylor Community Library. **734-287-4840** vmorris@taylor.lib.mi.us

Great Lakes Talking Books Advisory Center

- **New Leadership in Superiorland**

The Great Lakes Talking Books Advisory Center welcomed Pam Christensen as Subregional Librarian effective December 14th. Formerly the director of Peter White Public Library, Pam took over as director of Superiorland Library Cooperative when Suzanne Dees retired. Suzanne has served as Subregional Librarian since 1980 when the service was transferred from the State Library Branch in Escanaba to Marquette. Suzanne served on the Michigan Commission for the Blind for six years. She describes her work in this program as the most meaningful and enjoyable part of her 40-year career in public library service. She will be missed by everyone at Superiorland. We are fortunate to have Pam as her successor. Pam has been a long-time advocate for Talking Book Services and we look forward to continuing our outreach program under her leadership.

- **Book Club**

Winter travel in the UP makes book club gatherings difficult. Therefore, February's book, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* (DB75599) will be discussed over the phone. On Thursday, February 11th, simply dial **1-866-740-1260**, then the access code 2287697# and you'll be able to join in the conversation. I haven't read the book yet, but it's a best-seller and I'm anxious to hear what you think of it. Call us if you're interested in receiving a copy of this audio book at **1-800-562-8985**.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Book Talkers Book Club.**

Book Club meets every other month at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron. January 15th selections are *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (DB79182) and *Cherry Cola Book Club* by Ashton Lee (DB76695). For more information, call **810-982-3600** or **1-800-272-8570**.

- **The Blue Water League of the Blind (BWLb)**

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.

- **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 information call Paul Dailer at **810-329-5172**.

- **Advisory and Outreach Center**

In the coming months you will notice that all of your Talking Books are being shipped from Lansing. That's because St. Clair County Library LBPH is going to be spending more time working with you, our patrons, in an advisory capacity, and getting the word out about this wonderful service. More information will be sent to you in the mail.

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

1-866-732-1120 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

1-313-481-1702 Serving cities of Detroit and Highland Park

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 (Coming Soon to Wayne County)

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

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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