
In Focus

Fall 2018



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

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

NLS Expands Outreach

The National Library Service (NLS) initiated an advertising campaign in February, 2018 which is expected to run through late 2019. For the first time ever, ads are airing on major television and radio stations such as National Public Radio (NPR), the History Channel, and Hallmark Channel to advance the awareness of Braille and Talking Book services across the country. In the first three weeks alone, BTBL received an additional 53 contacts for information as a result of NLS advertising. At six months, applications for service have increased by 16% state-wide.

With the success of the current advertisement campaign and thoughts of continuing it into the future, NLS is gearing up to improve and expand the server infrastructure to handle increased simultaneous downloading from BARD. Additionally, patrons will see an increase in the number of titles made available on an annual basis in both electronic braille and digital audio formats. See the NLS Conference article on page 6 for more NLS updates.

Although the NLS campaign is working well, we continue to see numerous referrals for service because of word-of-mouth from satisfied patrons. Keep talking about the service. People are listening!

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BTBL Calendar

BTBL Club Info

Clubs meet in the BTBL lobby on the ground floor of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across from the elevators. Computer and Book Club meet the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 and 1:30, respectively. Knitting Club meets the first Friday of the month at noon. Most club sessions last around 2 hours. Club dates are always subject to change, especially around the holidays. Please contact the library prior to the program to confirm the date and time. If you cannot attend in person, you may join most of our clubs by dialing 888-278-0296 and entering the access code 5836578.

BTBL Calendar of Events:

- October 13: **Technology Club** – Voter Assistance Terminal (VAT), hands-on demonstration presented by representatives of the Lansing City Clerk’s Office.
iOS update, presented by Al Puzzuoli
- October 13: **Book Club** – *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’engle (BR9403/DB48972)
- October 5: **Knitting Club**
- November 17: **Technology Club** – Holiday shopping, presented by J.J.Meddaugh
- November 17: **Book Club** – *The Feather Thief: Beauty, obsession, and the natural history heist of the century* by Kirk Johnson (DB90801)
- November 2: **Knitting Club**
- December 8: **Technology Club** – Gmail with JAWS, presented by Scott Norris
- December 8: **Book Club** – *Ordinary Grace* by William Krueger (DB78187)
- December 7: **Knitting Club**

Technology Corner

Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or norriss5@michigan.gov

Aira, Real time Access to Sighted Assistance

Aira (pronounced EYE-ruh) is a monthly subscription service for the blind that connects users with a trained sighted Aira agent. Aira agents assist users to locate destinations, read directions on a package for food preparation, a computer screen, recipes, and more.

How it Works:

Upon subscription, users receive a pair of Aira glasses with attached camera, a MI-FI device, and insurance on the equipment. This equipment is connected to a smart phone app. With a touch of a button on the Aira glasses, the user is connected to a real-time Aira agent. The agent sees on their computer monitor a view of whatever the camera on the Aira user's glasses sees. Since the interaction is live, the user receives real-time instructions on such tasks as cooking directions, reading a restaurant menu, or locating a specific business while walking down the street.

According to the Aira website, monthly subscription fees range from \$89 to \$329 per month. The basic plan provides 100 minutes of time with an Aira agent. The higher fee provides unlimited time. Agents are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. According to the Aira website, "it is like having vision in your pocket."

For more information, contact Aira at 1-800-835-1934 or on the web at www.aira.io.

Local Recordings

Betsie Branch, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or branchb1@michigan.gov

The following biographies about Michiganders were recorded by volunteers at the Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library and are available on digital cartridge or for download from the National Library Service's (NLS) online Braille Audio Reading Download (BARD) database: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/>

Michigan Biographies

DBC11211 - *The Legend of Rainbow Jim* by Orie F. Wells, read by Michael P. Donovan. Account of the life of James F. Coster, III, known as Rainbow Jim and legendary fishing guide on the Manistee River in Michigan. (4h 28m)

DBC11173 - *Ladies of the Lights : Michigan Women in the U.S. Lighthouse Service* by Patricia Majher, read by Lili Krezel. A detailed look into the lives of the inspiring women keeping the lighthouses of the Great Lakes in Michigan, including anecdotes, facts, maps, photographs and more. 2010. (2h 50m)

DBC11057 - *Foundation for Living : the Story of Charles Stewart Mott and Flint* by Clarence H. Young, read by Michael P. Donovan. Biography of Charles Stewart Mott and his contribution to automobile history with General Motors in Flint, Michigan, in the early 20th century. 1963. (12h 31m)

DBC11184 - *Thank God Ahead of Time : the Life and Spirituality of Solanus Casey* by Michael H. Crosby, read by Adrienne Thelen. Capuchin monk, Father Solanus Casey, was the first man born in the United States to be declared "Venerable" by the Catholic church. 1985. (10h 1m)

DBC11164 - *Feather Brained : My Bumbling Quest to Become a Birder and Find a Rare Bird On My Own* by Bob Tarte, read by Tracey Dolinar. This funny, heartfelt memoir will appeal to birders of all skill levels as well as to anyone who knows and loves a birder. A 2017 Michigan Notable Book. 2016.

DBC11093 - *Never Turn Your Back on an Angus Cow : My Life as a Country Vet* by Jan Pol, read by Tracey Dolinar. The star of the TV show The Incredible Dr. Pol shares his amusing, and often poignant, tales from his four decades as a vet in rural Michigan. 2014. (7h 55m)

Youth Services

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

Summer Reading Program: Libraries Rock!

July was the kick-off for our youth Summer Reading Program. Over the course of 6 weeks, kids under 18 participated in challenges and completed activities for the chance to win prizes! The theme of the program this year focused on music. We are proud to announce that twenty-seven students participated with impressive contest entries.

BTBL would like to congratulate everyone who joined the program and rocked their summer. For joining the fun, each participant received a certificate and a small gift card provided by Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach. Two participating kids were randomly chosen to receive \$25 gift cards, and one was chosen for a Seedlings braille gift card. There was a lyric writing contest, an instrument making contest and, of course, a reading contest.

The Lucky Winners Are:

- Acer B. (Seedlings Gift card)
- Jayla P. (\$25 Amazon Gift card)
- Jaidyn R. (\$25 Amazon Gift card)

New Seedlings Preschool Board Books Available to Borrow!

MB5095 *Moo Baa La La La* by Sandra Boynton

MB5085 *I Love You because You're You* by Annie Alexander

MB5100 *Biscuit's Pet and Play Bedtime* by Alyssa Capucilli

MB5099 *Clifford's Noisy Day* by Norman Bridwell

MB5104 *Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

MB5114 *Go Dog Go* by P.D. Eastman

MB5056 *Llama Llama Hoppity Hop* by Anna Dewdney

MB5166 *That's Not My Duck* by Fiona Watt

MB5155 *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw

MB5177 *Napping House* by Audrey Wood

News

NLS Conference Update

The conference of librarians serving NLS patrons was held in Nashville, Tennessee, in June. This is an especially exciting time with many changes in how service will be provided in the future. Here are some of the highlights:

- NLS is initiating the process to officially change its name (new name to be determined).
- The efforts to move libraries and patrons to a wireless distribution environment will be called Future Access Reimagined (FAR).
- Braille eReaders (refreshable braille displays) are coming soon. They will be available to any patron subscribed for braille services.
- Readership will expand due to outreach efforts and simplified eligibility requirements.
- Regulations will be changed to ease access for people with dyslexia and other reading disabilities but not until the capacity exists to serve them.
- NLS will expand audio and braille content.
- NLS expects to have a new talking-book machine/playback system in five years. The features are yet unknown, but the following are expected: wireless connectivity; a voice user interface; an “easy mode” for automatic download of books from a patron’s wish list; onboard text-to-speech; and an emphasis on user experience.

We Need You: The RUB Project: Rating Unrated Books

How would you like to volunteer with your library from the comfort of your own home? The National Library Service (NLS) contracts with commercial audio producers to obtain more books at a faster pace. However, these titles are not rated under the NLS standards, and are listed as “unrated” in our system. RUB volunteers are needed to rate these books for violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex, so our patrons continue to receive the materials they want, without worry of reading something they find offensive or inappropriate. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Shelley

Roossien at Kent District Library for more information at

616-647-3988 or mroossien@kdl.org.

Around the State

The following programs may be offered only to patrons within the counties served for each library location. To find out if a program is available to you, refer to the library listings on page 10 or call the location in question to verify.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **New AOC Librarian**, Mary Howard, joined St. Clair County Library on August 6th. She has both private and public library experience and served as an activities director in her most recent position. Mary is excited to work with the community providing outreach to patrons.
- **Celebrate our 40th Anniversary**, Wednesday, October 10th at 2 pm. Port Huron established LBPH services in 1978 and currently serves St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola, and Huron Counties. We currently serve nearly 300 patrons and plan to expand outreach to provide service to more. Please join us at 210 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron, Michigan 48060. Call 810-987-7323 for details.

Muskegon Area District Library for the Visually and Physically Disabled

- **New AOC Librarian**, Sarah Mahoney, has started at the LVPD. Sarah previously worked with the LBPH in Kent County. Call and say hello!
- **New Adaptive Technology** is coming soon as we expand services in our newly renovated space. A refreshable braille display, Victor Reader Stream, and more will complement the CCTVs already on hand. Stay tuned for more.
- **Senior Community Day** was our biggest outreach of the year. It was wonderful to meet so many seniors and share our service with them.

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **World Sight Day @ TCL** - WSD is an annual day of awareness focusing global attention on blindness and vision impairment. On Thursday, October 11th, we'll host a special event, free of charge to the public. From 12pm to 4pm visit vendors specializing in services and technology for the blind and visually impaired, and listen to leaders in the blind community present on upcoming advancements in the world of assistive tech and specialized resources.

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Internet & Word Processing Training with Assistive Technology.** Meets Tuesdays, 10 am-2 pm. Keyboard instruction is also offered. Limited to Detroit and Highland Park residents.
- **Braille Instruction.** Tuesdays, 1-3 pm. Learn to read and write Braille.
- **Descriptive DVD Day.** Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 12-2 pm. Visually impaired and blind persons can watch a movie that includes a narrative description of the screen action. Light refreshments.
- **Nifty Knitters.** Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 12-2 pm. Learn to knit on a loom, and enjoy knitting with others. Supplies are provided, or bring your own.
- **Book Club.** Meets 4th Wednesday of the month, 1-2:30 pm. Two books are discussed at each meeting. Call or attend to receive a digital copy of the books to be discussed. Light refreshments.
- All programs are offered free of charge, but you must register in advance. Participants must provide their own transportation.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **World Sight Day 2018.** Join us for a program and social time on Wednesday, October 10th, 4:30 pm-7 pm, in the McGuire Community Room. We will hear from Traverse City ophthalmologist Dr. Kean Oh on developing trends in sight research, followed by light refreshments and a chance to ask questions of your librarians (and each other)
- **Book Discussion.** Our Tuesdays @ Two book discussion group is going strong. This fall, we will be reading across several genres, from non-fiction war stories to humor. We meet the last Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the McGuire Community Room. Program is open to the public, and we encourage a mix of TBL and public library patrons.
- **Outreach to Assisted Living Facilities.** We are piloting a new outreach program for our patrons who reside in assisted living facilities in Grand Traverse County. Our goals for the program are to expand library access and stimulate intellectual curiosity. Visiting librarians will sign-up patrons for TBL services and bring talking books for patrons to check out. We may also do some fun programs to engage minds. Ask your Activities Director if Amy is scheduled for a visit to your facility.

Great Lakes Talking Books

- **UP Recordings** - We are working on recording Cully Gage's, Love Affair with the UP and hope to have it ready for distribution spring 2019.
- **Upper Peninsula Newsletter** - Now available in audio format. The Fall/Winter 2018 edition on audio cartridges have been sent to patrons who requested them in a survey last spring. Call Lynn, your Reader Advisor, to request an audio version. 1-800-562-8985, extension 0.
- **Staff Change in Progress** - Nick, who many of you may have spoken to when you've called our office, is pursuing his dream and has moved to the west coast. We will all miss his pleasant demeanor and knowledge of technology. Hopefully, he will be replaced soon.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Adjusting to Vision Loss Seminar** - The upcoming fall seminar explores ways to accept vision loss and then move forward by doing things differently. Open to persons with vision loss, families, and friends. Tuesday, October 30th, 10-12 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Rd, Clinton Township.
- **Technology Assistance**
 - ◆ Free tutoring on Windows-based computers using JAWS screen reader or ZoomText magnification software.
 - ◆ Tutoring on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch speech features.
 - ◆ Demonstrations on devices such as lamps, magnifiers, and more are available through the Assistive Technology Demonstration Service, sponsored by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition.
- **For more information**, call (586) 286-1580 or toll free (885) 203-5274.

Genesee District Library Talking Book Center

- **Open House** - Come see what the Talking Book & Homebound Center has to offer Thursday, Sept. 27th, 12-3 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Genesee District Library, 4195 Pasadena Ave, Flint.
- **Upcoming Assisted Living Facility Visits**
 - ◆ Thursday, Sept. 20th at 2 pm - A Touch of Home, 2376 Long Lake Rd, Fenton
 - ◆ Wednesday, Oct 3rd at 2:30 pm - Kith Haven Skilled Nursing Care, 1069 N. Ballenger Hwy, Flint
 - ◆ Thursday, Oct. 4th at 3:15 pm - Lockwood of Burton Senior Living, 2173 S. Center Rd, Burton

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

1-734-327-4224 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

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 Serving 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 11027, Lansing, MI 48901, or contact Darlene at **(517) 373-2977** or Mary 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.

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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



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 Library program.

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M I C H I G A N
F O U N D A T I O N

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: 1-800-992-9012 (toll-free)
1-517-284-2880 (local)

By Fax: 1-800-726-7323 (toll-free)
1-517-284-2885 (local)

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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