

In Focus

Summer 2016



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

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

Summer Reading Event

This year, for the first time ever, BTBL is hosting a Summer Reading Event for patrons, family, and friends of all ages! The event will follow the wellness and fitness theme of the Summer Reading Program, and will feature a Sports Talk by patron Larry Powell. As an athlete with a visual impairment, Mr. Powell has a long history participating in numerous sports (most notably, wrestling), and has given back to his community by passing on his sports knowledge as a successful tutor and coach for many years. After the Sports Talk, attendees will also have the opportunity to visit various sports and wellness themed stations. Explore the adaptive equipment used for athletics and speak with representatives to learn more.

Registration is requested, but not required. To let us know you plan on attending this event, please call the library at 1-800-992-9012. We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Reading Event!

Michigan Library and Historical Center
Braille and Talking Book Library Lobby (1st floor)
702 W. Kalamazoo Street,
Lansing MI, 48915
August 18th, 2016
1pm – 3pm

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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 by dialing **1-888-278-0296** 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

***No July or August Book or Computer Club meetings.**

September 10: Cyber Security presented by Greg Sprout

September 10: **DB80616** *Elephant Company: The inspiring story of an unlikely hero and the animals who helped him save lives in World War II* by Vicki Croke

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

October 8 November 12 December 10

The Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) is a great way to get your books at cyber speed! Tired of waiting for your books to reach your mailbox? Sign up for BARD today, and your book is no more than a quick download away. Membership to BARD is available to all individuals who are patrons of the library. You only need a high-speed Internet connection and an email address to utilize this service.

To sign up follow these easy steps:

1. Go to www.nlsbard.loc.gov
2. Click on 'Bard Application instructions'
3. Click on "link to bard application for individuals" or "link to bard application for institutions": whichever is appropriate
4. Choose the library location where the patron is registered
5. Click the submit button
6. Fill out the second part of the application that appears
7. Click submit

Once approved, you will receive two emails. The first will acknowledge that we received your application. The second contains a welcome message, user name, and temporary password. To utilize your new BARD account, log in by going to: www.nlsbard.loc.gov and log in using your user name and temporary password. Create a permanent password making sure to follow the password requirements.

Congratulations! You can now start downloading books.

Once you have a BARD account, you can choose to download the books to a flash drive to play on the digital machine we loaned you (the flash drive port is located on the right hand side of the player near the headphone jack). Or get the free BARD Mobile app and utilize a personal device for another great way to read your books and magazines. Compatible on:

- iPod Touch, iPhone, iPad
- Android
- Amazon Kindle Fire

Signed up but needing assistance with your BARD downloads?
Help is just a phone call away! Call the library at **1-800-992-9012**.

Local Recordings

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

In honor of our Sports/Wellness/Fitness Summer Reading theme, as well as our Summer Reading Event in August that will feature a Sports Talk, below are a few Michigan-Interest sports books available in our collection. Enjoy!

DB77552 - *The Bird: The Life and Legacy of Mark Fidrych* by Doug Wilson, narrated by Patrick Downer. Annotation: Biography of baseball pitching phenomenon Mark “The Bird” Fidrych (1954-2009), nicknamed after Sesame Street’s Big Bird. Highlights Fidrych’s 1976 rookie season with the Detroit Tigers and the injuries that ended his career. 2013. A 2014 Michigan Notable book. (10h 9m)

DBC05890 - *A Place for Summer: a Narrative History of Tiger Stadium* by Richard Bak, narrated by Michael P. Donovan. Annotation: Narrative history of the Tiger Stadium in Detroit, home to the Tigers baseball team. The history from its beginnings in the 1850s through the Tiger’s 1997 season. 1998. (20h 4m)

DBC00117 - *Wish* by Jake Smith, narrated by Andy Paris. Annotation: The story of a nine-year-old boy with cancer whose dying wish is to see his dad play in a major league baseball game. For high school and adult. Commercial audiobook. 2014. (9h 45m)

DBC05912 - *Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare* by Patricia Polacco, narrated by Danielle E. Ward. Annotation: Richie and his younger sister Trisha face off in a contest to see whose hobby—ice hockey or ballet—is more challenging. For grades K-3. 2006. (20m)

DBC00123 - *Just Call Me Joe Joe* by Jean Alicia Elster, narrated by Danielle E. Ward. Annotation: Reading a library book about the old Negro Baseball Leagues and the talented men who played in them gives Joe Joe the strength and self-esteem to do something difficult. For grades 4-7. 2001. (24m)

Additional Books in the Joe Joe series include:

DBC00124 - *I Have a Dream, Too!*

DBC00125 - *I’ll Fly My Own Plane*

DBC00126 - *I’ll Do the Right Thing*

For more Michigan-related books, call **1-800-992-9012** to order a copy of the Michigan BTBL’s *Catalog of Locally Recorded Digital Talking Books*, or view an online copy on our website at: www.michigan.gov/btbl.

Youth Services

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

BTBL Summer Reading Program

All patrons between the ages of 0-18 are invited to join us for the third annual BTBL Summer Reading Program from July 11th- August 19th. The theme for our program is Sports/Wellness/Fitness and the slogan is **“On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!”** The entire program is done through the mail, so kids all across Michigan can join! Participate in the Bingo Reading Challenge and/or the Pedometer Challenge to get entered into drawings to win gift cards. Details on these challenges will be included in the initial Summer Reading Packet which will be mailed to all participants at the start of the program.

To Register: Call, email, or mail back the paper registration below. Everyone that signs up will receive free prizes in the mail just for registering!

Email: wambaughs@michigan.gov (Youth Librarian, Stephanie Wambaugh)

Call the library: 1-800-992-9012

OR

Return the following registration via mail:

Braille and Talking Book Library
Attention: Stephanie Wambaugh
702 W. Kalamazoo St.
PO BOX 30007
Lansing, MI 48909



Cut below the line to mail back registration

Program Registration – Return prior to July 11, 2016

Name _____

Phone _____

Participant's Address _____

Parent or Teacher Name _____

Parent or Teacher Email _____

News

BTBL Knitting and Support Group

Due to popular demand, we are extending our Knitting and Support Group to patrons across the state by allowing participation via phone conference! Join by dialing **1-888-278-0296** and entering the access code 5836578.

Please join us as we get to know each other better while completing craft projects. As always, feel free to join in person and drop in any time during the program—it is not mandatory to attend the entire meeting. The meetings are usually the first Friday of every month from 12-2pm in the BTBL lobby in Lansing, Michigan. The next meeting will be Friday, July 8th (due to holiday scheduling) from 12-2pm. We look forward to seeing – and hearing—from everyone!

InFocus Newsletter Format – Did you know?

Although all patrons get the newsletter in large print, did you know it is also available on our website in both audio and text formats? It's true! Visit www.michigan.gov/btbl and click on the “News and Events” link. In addition, if you would prefer the newsletter in an alternative format, such as braille or via email, please call us at **1-800-992-9012** to be put on a list for that format.

Take the MDE – LIO Summer Reading Challenge

Schools out... let the reading adventures begin for school-aged children!

Step 1: Contact Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach with reading level of the student and we will send you five books in either braille or large print. There is no charge, just fun and learning.
(Phone: **888-760-2206** Toll Free, Email: msdb-outreach@michigan.gov)

Step 2: Sign the provided sheet verifying your child or student read the books.

Step 3: When they have completed reading the five books you may simply mail them back labeled, “Free Matter for the Blind” if they are in braille. If they are large print we will provide a shipping label at no cost.

Step 4: Upon receipt of the books, we will send you a prize in the mail! Take the MDE-LIO Reading Challenge and your name will be entered to win a grand prize. The more times you complete the reading challenge the more times your name will be entered to win! It's a Win Win for all!

Feel free to participate in both the BTBL Summer Reading Program AND the MDE-LIO Summer Reading Challenge for extra fun—and prizes—this summer!

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.

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **Support Group for Visually-Impaired People (VIPs).** On Wednesday, July 27, from 12-1:30 P.M, the Taylor Community Library will be hosting its first VIP (Visually-Impaired People) Support Group. The VIP Support Group's focus will be on resource-sharing and introducing local services of interest to people with vision impairments. The group welcomes caregivers, friends, and drivers, in addition to VIPs. Meetings will be held monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each subsequent month. July's theme will be "Meet the VIPs", where the group discusses vision disabilities affecting our lives and common challenges. We'll also highlight in-library resources, like the Braille and Talking Books program and Assistive Technology Lab. If you would like more information, or want to reserve your spot for the VIP Support Group, please email Vanessa Morris at vmorris@taylor.lib.mi.us or call us at **734-287-4840**.

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Muskegon County Low Vision Support Group.** Meetings held at United Way Lakeshore (31 E. Clay, Muskegon) on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:15 AM.
- **Ottawa County Low Vision Support Groups**
 - ◆ **Grand Haven:** 1st Presbyterian Church (508 Franklin St.) the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - ◆ **Holland:** Village at Appledoorn (630 Hastings Ave.) the fourth Monday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - ◆ **Zeeland:** Royal Park Place (500 Parkside Dr.) the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - ◆ **Call 1-800-466-8084** for more information regarding any of the support groups.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **Tuesdays at Two Book Club.** We always meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm at the Traverse Area District Library. During June and July we will meet upstairs in the Thirlby Room. August through November we will gather in the McGuire Room.
June 28 - **DB76947** *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler
July 26 - **DB22959** *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry
August 30 - **DB36414** *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- **Please call us directly!** If you are interested in learning about BARD on your iPhone or iPad, or wish to borrow our iPad, please call and schedule an appointment with Lue, our techie guru. She trains by appointment and her number is: **231-932-8558 ext.307.**

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Vision Network Group to Meet in Summer.** Meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesdays of June, July and August from 10am - noon. Macomb County residents who are blind or who have low vision meet to share concerns, experiences, and solutions to vision issues. The upcoming meeting dates are: June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, August 9 and 23. We meet at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038.
- **Schedule a Device Demonstration at the Library.** Residents of Macomb County can schedule an appointment for a personalized demonstration of devices, including items with sound and high contrast visual feedback, telephones, magnifiers, items labeling medication, reading and writing tools and more. This demonstration gives you an opportunity to learn about and try devices without the pressure of having to purchase anything. We do not sell any products. This free program is sponsored by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. Call the library at **586-286-1580** or toll free at **855-203-5274** to make an appointment.

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Colleagues International Visits KDL!** This past April, the KDL Wyoming Branch was delighted to host dignitaries from the Middle East and Africa as part of a project with Colleagues International, a nonprofit organization in Kalamazoo. As recent recipients of the Community Champions Award from Disability Advocates of Kent County, KDL is recognized as a role model for other libraries in regard to accessibility. The Wyoming Branch was specifically chosen for the tour to showcase our accessible spaces and programs for people with disabilities, including the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped service. The representatives were impressed with our efforts and came away with several ideas. We are so pleased to be part of the international endeavor to raise awareness for persons with disabilities. Read about the visit in the Grand Rapids Business Journal at: <http://www.grbj.com/articles/84991-feds-single-out-library-as-international-model-for-disabled-patrons>. To learn more about Colleagues International, visit their website at <http://colleaguesinternational.org>.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Book Talkers Book Club.** Meets every other month on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron. The next meeting will be on July 22, 2016. The books to be discussed are: **DB64558** *The Thurber Album* by James Thurber, and **DB81198** *The Bare Foot Lawyer* by Guangcheng Chen.
- **The Blue Water League of the Blind (BWLb).** Meets every third Thursday of the month from 1-4 pm at the Carriage House, 1723 Military St., Port Huron, MI. For more information call Phyllis at **810-966-9185**.
- **Low Vision Support Group.** Meets at River District Hospital on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Guest speakers are often present. All are welcome to attend. For more information call Paul at **810-329-5172**.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **otbs.rhpl.org Has a New Look.** The IT staff at the Rochester Hills Public Library has worked very hard to make otbs.rhpl.org accessible to our customers. Please visit otbs.rhpl.org sometime soon for all the latest program information as well as helpful links to services and organizations serving the low vision community. Look Again: News From OTBS is available from the website in audio and print version. This quarterly newsletter can now be sent directly to your email. To subscribe to future editions of Look Again, visit otbs.rhpl.org and scroll towards the bottom of the page where you will find an option to subscribe by sending us your email address.
- **Follow OTBS on Facebook.** Would you like to be connected to other members of the OTBS Community? If so, please consider following OTBS on Facebook by selecting the link at the bottom of the otbs.rhpl.org home page. Or, simply type in OTBS Facebook in the Facebook search bar to find our page. Hope to see you soon.
- **Adaptive Technology Support.** If you want to learn more about downloading from BARD, using JAWS and other screen readers or how to make your smart phone accessible, please give us a call at **1-800-774-4542**. Our OTBS staff and adaptive technology specialist, Marsha are always happy to help.
- **VictorReader Streams for Loan.** Looking for a digital player that is more compact than the NLS player? OTBS does have several VictorReader Stream devices for loan. These devices are about the size of the larger smart phones and allow you to listen to your digital books while you are mobile. Call **248-650-5681** for more information on these devices.

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ DPL

- **Internet and Word Processing Training Using Assistive Technology.** Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m. Learn to use computers and improve your skills using assistive technology. Keyboard instruction is also offered. Limited to Detroit and Highland Park residents.
- **Braille Instruction.** Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Learn to read and write Braille.
- **Descriptive DVD Day.** Meets 1st Tuesday of the month, 12:00 - 2:30 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 Tuesday of the month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Learn to knit on a loom and enjoy knitting with others. Supplies are provided or bring your own.
- **Book Club.** Meets 4th Tuesday 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 to and from the Library. Please call **1-313-481-1702** for more information and to reserve your space.

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

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 Serving Wayne County

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

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

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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