
In Focus

Winter 2018-2019



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

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

New Year, New Service Model

Out with the old; in with the new... so the saying goes. The Braille and Talking Book Library will be moving to a new software system that will change how we order and deliver books on cartridges to patrons. Over the coming year, we will gradually move from sending multiple cartridges holding a single book each, to a single cartridge holding multiple books. Advantages include:

- No more waiting for a requested book to be returned by another patron – books are downloaded and ready to ship on demand.
- In many instances, series can be sent in correct order on a single cartridge.
- When “end of book” is announced, simply pressing the Play/Stop button begins the next title.
- Book Shelf will continue to be available to jump to another title if desired.
- NLS will have funding to acquire more titles when there is no longer a need to provide multiple hard copies to each participating library in the country.

For more on how it will work see page 6.

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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:

- January 4: **Knitting Club**
- January 12: **Technology Club – To Be Announced**
- January 12: **Book Club – *The Final Day* by William Forstchen (DB92103)**
- January 15: **OrCam Demo Day – call the library if interested in participating. See page 3 for more information.**
- February 1: **Knitting Club**
- February 9: **Technology Club – To Be Announced**
- February 9: **Book Club – *The Road to Character* by David Brooks (DB81325)**
- March 1: **Knitting Club**
- March 9: **Technology Club – Accessing Information presented by Caitlin Snyder**
- March 9: **Book Club – To Be Announced**
- April 18: **Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC) Meeting – This call is open to all patrons and we encourage your participation! Use the dial in information listed above and join us from 1-2:30 p.m.**

Technology Corner

Scott Norris and Bridgid Turner, Adaptive Technology Librarians
1-800-992-9012 or norriss5@michigan.gov

Fixes for BARD Mobile on Apple iOS

Recently, I received a call from a patron experiencing problems with their BARD Mobile app on one of their Apple devices. This fix worked for her situation, and it can also be used to troubleshoot situations where a book is not downloading correctly.

The patron who called was not able to access BARD Mobile on her new phone because she changed her BARD Mobile email and password prior to getting the phone. When she brought up the BARD Mobile app on her new phone she was asked for a password only. Since the e-mail address and password had changed she was unable to log in.

There are two options for instances where BARD Mobile can be repaired. The first is to delete the app from your mobile device and reinstall it. The drawback to this option is that you lose all the books downloaded to your device and must redownload them. A better option is to reinitialize the app.

You can reinitialize the app by going to settings on your device Home screen, open Settings, move down to BARD Mobile and open it, move to Setting Initialization, toggle off and double tap the control to reinitialize your BARD Mobile app.

Now open your BARD mobile app in the usual way. You will be asked for your e-mail address and password. Enter the information and you will be taken to the BARD Mobile main screen. All your books will still be there.

OrCam Demo Day

OrCam is a wearable camera device that allows a person who is blind to read print, scan bar codes, identify money, and more. The library is hosting a demo day for this device on January 15. If you are interested in participating, call Scott Norris to schedule a 45 min one-on-one demo.

Local Recordings

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

These mystery series by Michigan authors were recorded by volunteers at the Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library. They are all available on digital cartridge from the Library or for download from the National Library Service's (NLS) online Braille Audio Reading Download (BARD) database: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/>

Psychic Eye series by Victoria Laurie, read by Caitlin Wolfe

Cozy mysteries set in Royal Oak, Michigan, private investigator relies on her psychic abilities. Some violence and some strong language.

- DBC11147 - *Abby Cooper: Psychic Eye*. 2004. (7h 39m)
- DBC11148 - *Better Read Than Dead*. 2005. (9h 34m)
- DBC11149 - *A Vision of Murder*. 2005. (8h 16m)
- DBC11150 - *Killer Insight*. 2006. (7h 56m)
- DBC11151 - *Crime Seen*. 2007. (7h 37m)

Jenny-Dog series by D.M. Greenwald, read by Nicholas Colovos

Suspense mysteries featuring search and rescue dogs. Some violence and some strong language.

- DBC03339 - *Frozen Moon*. 2013. (9h 44m)
- DBC03431 - *Cody*. 2014. (7h 34m)
- DBC05925 - *Wichita Mountain Manhunt*. 2015. (9h 52m)

Steve Martinez series by Henry Kisor, read by Nicholas Colovos

Crime mysteries set in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Strong language, violence, and descriptions of sex.

- DBC11201 - *Season's Revenge*. 2003. (8h 27m)
- DBC11202 - *Venture into Murder*. 2005. (9h 43m)
- DBC11203 - *Cache of Corpses*. 2007. (9h 43m)
- DBC11204 - *Hang Fire*. 2013 (8h 25m)
- DBC11205 - *Tracking the Beast*. 2016. (8h 58m)
- DBC11206 - *Riddle of Billy Gibbs*. 2017. (9h 29m)

Youth Services

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

Scholarships and Grants for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

While the following is not an exhaustive list of organizations offering scholarships to students with visual impairments, it can be a good place to start if you are interested in applying for financial assistance to attend college. Each organization has different timelines for awarding scholarships, so be sure to start looking early and take note of requirements and deadlines!

- American Council of the Blind Scholarships
- Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Christian Record Services for the Blind
- George Mason University, Barry and Velma Berkey Scholarship
- George Washington University, Barbara Jackman Zuckert Scholarship for Blind Part-time Students and Mei Yuen Hoover Scholarship for Students with Disabilities
- Joseph Roeder Scholarship
- Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic)
- Lighthouse International, Scholarship and Career Awards
- Lions of Michigan White Cane Scholarship
- Michigan Elks
- National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program
- Roy Johnson Scholarship Application
- The Springboard Foundation

Santa Letters

Every December, the National Federation of the Blind helps Santa send letters in braille to young blind children across the country. Along with the braille letter, Santa includes a print letter so that parents who might not read braille can follow along. He also includes a fun tactile coloring sheet. Requests can be made using the form from November 12, 2018, through December 14, 2018 at <https://nfb.org/santa-letters>.

New Year, New Service Model (Cont'd)

Rolling out the change to multiple-book cartridges will begin gradually once we have converted to the new software and are fully equipped. When speaking to a Reader Advisor, a patron may indicate the titles wanted on a single cartridge. Favorite authors, subject categories and request lists will still be there for automatic selection if you prefer to let the system choose for you. Requested books will be automatically downloaded and saved to a single cartridge. A list of titles on the cartridge will be included. In most cases, the cartridge will leave Lansing within the next two work days.

Our roll-out plan is still under development. It will likely take several months to complete the transition for all Michigan patrons. We ask for your patience as staff learns the new system.

Reminders for the New Year

- **New Phone Numbers:** As previously announced, our local phone and fax numbers were updated in late July. The new local number for the BTBL Main Line is 517-284-2880. The 1-800-992-9012 toll-free number did not change. Soon, calls to the old phone numbers will not be forwarded.
- **Free Large Print Calendars:** A free large print calendar is only a phone call away. Anyone that received a calendar from us in the past will automatically get the 2019 calendar- these are already on the way! If you have not received one before and would like to get one this year, please call 1-800-992-9012.
- **Change to the InFocus Newsletter:** Next year we will be transitioning from a 12-page quarterly newsletter to an expanded 16-page version released 3 times a year. This change comes after careful consideration and discussion with our Consumer Involvement Committee (see the BTBL calendar of events on page 2 for the next CIC meeting date and time – all are welcome to attend).

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.

Library for Assistive Media and Talking Books (St. Clair County)

- **Traveling Outreach Kits.** We received a \$2,000 grant from the Metro Detroit Book and Author Society. The grant will allow us to develop 6 traveling kits for area agencies on aging, our outlying library branches, caregiver groups, assistive living centers and other organizations that cater to seniors or those with mobility issues within our community. This project will enhance outreach and be a visual example of the items available for checkout, as we believe that many users may not be familiar with all of the fantastic assistive products that can be checked out of the library. All kits will have a large print book, a braille book, a descriptive video and audio book.
- **Fidget Quilts.** The library distributed over 25 Fidget Quilts to patients suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's associated issues. A "Fidget" quilt is a small lap quilt or blanket that provides sensory and tactile stimulation for the restless or "fidgety" hands of someone living with Alzheimer's or related issues. Bags of buttons, ribbons, lace and other items were distributed along with lap quilts. Volunteers sewed the contents of the bags to the quilt and got creative with some fun designs. We will be distributing the quilts to those in need starting in December. Due to the success of the program we will be offering it again.

Great Lakes Talking Books

- **Local Recording soon available.** *Love Affair with the UP* by Cully Gage will be available as an audio book by spring! It is now being edited by Jeremy, our new Reader Advisor.
- **New Blog, please join.** We have also set up a blog for readers to discuss books online. Visit us at <http://yooperbookclub.blogspot.com>.
- **The Great Lakes Talking Books newsletter is now available in audio format.** If you would like to receive the Spring/Summer 2019 newsletter on cartridge, please call us.

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Adult Winter Reading Program.** KDL's winter reading program for adults returns with a collectible mug reward! Adults who read six books between January 2 and March 31 will receive a Let It Snow ceramic mug. Complete an additional four books to become eligible for iPad and Costco membership drawings. Call our office at 616-647-3988 or visit your local KDL branch or kdl.readsquared.com for details

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **Brown Bag Book Club.** January 9 and February 13 @ 12pm. January's books are *Once Upon a River* by Bonnie Jo Campbell (DBC11083) & *The Lost City of the Monkey God* by Douglas Preston (DB87296)
- **Assistive Tech Talks.** January 16 and February 20 @ 12pm. January's topic is All Things BARD
- **Visually Impaired Support Group (VIP).** January 23 and February 27 @ 12pm. January's topic is Braille: Put to work for you!
- To access the above programs remotely, please use our conference line: Number: (712)775-7031 Access Code: 965803

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **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.
- **Descriptive DVD Day.** Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 12:00 - 2:00 pm. Visually impaired and blind persons can watch a movie that includes a narrative description of the screen action. Light refreshments.
- **Braille Instruction.** Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Learn to read and write Braille.
- **Book Club.** Meets 4th Wednesday of the month, 1:00-2:30 pm. Two books are discussed at each meeting. Call or attend to receive a digital copy of the books to be discussed. Light refreshments.
- **Nifty Knitters.** Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Learn to knit on a loom and enjoy knitting with others. Supplies are provided or bring your own.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **Phoney Friends Book Group.** If you are looking for an opportunity to discuss great books and network with other OTBS patrons, please consider joining the next Phoney Friends Book Group. Every month, the group will discuss books via a conference call so you can participate from the warmth of your own home. To learn more about the group, visit otbs.rhpl.org and select programs. The next discussion is Wednesday, January 16, 1:30-3pm. *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. To obtain a digital copy of the book, call Jennifer at 248-650-5680.
- **Closed Circuit Television Magnifiers (CCTV).** If you would like to borrow a gently used CCTV, please give OTBS a call. We will do our very best to match your needs with donated equipment in our inventory. We cannot transport the equipment to your home, so arrangements will have to be made for pick up at the Rochester Hills Public Library in downtown Rochester. For more information, call OTBS at 1-800-774-4542.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Book Discussion Group.** The Macomb Library for the Blind hosts a book discussion group once a month by phone for Macomb County patrons. The library chooses the title to read and distributes the audiobook weeks prior to the discussion date. If you would like to join in on our fun and informal discussion, please call the library at (586) 286-1580 for more details.
- **Technology Assistance.** For Macomb County patrons with visual impairments interested in learning how to use a computer, free tutoring is available on Windows based computers using the screen reader JAWS or the magnification software ZoomText.
- **Tutoring** is also available for iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touch. You can learn how to use your device with its own built-in feature that talks to you. Some of your questions may be answered over the phone, but tutoring is also available in person at the library. Please call (586) 286-1580 to set up an appointment.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **Holiday Open House 2018.** Join us for our favorite annual event, the TBL Holiday Open House! We'll be socializing, making crafts, eating great cookies, and saying "see you around" to librarian Amy, who is moving on to new adventures in 2019. The event is free and open to the public, and will be held on December 6th from 12 to 2:30pm in the McGuire Community Room at Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Ave.
- **Book Discussion.** Our Tuesdays @ Two book discussion group is going strong! This winter, 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 p.m. in the McGuire Community Room (Note: We do not meet in December. See you in January!). Program is open to the public, and we encourage a mix of TBL and public library patrons.
- **Support Groups.** The Traverse City Visually Impaired Persons group meets monthly, contact Melinda Hollands at 231-590-0986 or mhollandstc@gmail.com. This is a very active group that is interested in getting out and exploring pertinent topics and trends. The Cadillac Area Low Vision meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Wexford County Council on Aging, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Contact Connie Payne at 231-779-0149.

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Descriptive Videos.** Join us for our first descriptive movie showings on April 17 and May 1. We will be showing "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" at 1 pm. The movie will be shown with descriptive audio so even if you can't see the projector you can still enjoy. Light refreshments will be provided.

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

Library for Assistive Media and Talking Books (St. Clair County)

1-800-272-8570 Counties served: Huron, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola

Muskegon Area District Library for the Visually and Physically Disabled

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 11027, Lansing, MI 48901, or contact Darlene at **517-335-1488**.

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 48901



Check for further information:

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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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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)

By Fax: 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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