



indow to the World

Fall, 2005

Vol. 9, No. 4

Ed Byrne, Editor

Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville TN 37243-0313

Phone: (615) 741-3915 or (800) 342-3308 **Fax:** (615) 532-8856

E-mail: tlbph.tsla@state.tn.us

TCB's Dr. Otis Stephens Serving on NLS Advisory Group

Tennessee is honored to have one of our own, LBPH patron Dr. Otis Stephens of Knoxville, currently serving on the Collection Development Advisory Group of NLS. Dr. Stephens, a longtime member of the Tennessee Council of the Blind (TCB), was named to the prestigious committee as the national representative of the American Council of the Blind (ACB).

A patron of LBPH since 1980, Dr. Stephens is a distinguished scholar of political science and constitutional law at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Among his many honors and awards is the 2001 Migel Medal from the American Foundation for the Blind, given to individuals whose dedication and achievements have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.

The twelve-member NLS Collection Development Advisory Group meets annually to review the growth of the NLS collection and to recommend guidelines for future improvement. Dr. Stephens welcomes suggestions on collections and development policy from TCB members and fellow LBPH patrons. You may contact him at (865) 524-4469 or ostephens@utk.edu.

Nationwide, only six people each year are selected for the Advisory Group. So the appointment of Dr. Stephens represents quite an honor for TCB and the blind community in Tennessee. Of course, we at LBPH had nothing to do with it, but we don't mind basking in some reflected limelight. Thank you, Dr. Stephens, for your illustrious and continuing service to the NLS and its libraries.

NLS Director Wins Award

Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, the branch of the Library of Congress that oversees LBPH services nationally, was recently awarded the Newel Perry Award for 2005 from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

This is the highest honor NFB bestows on an individual who is not a part of the federation, but who has partnered with it in efforts to achieve equality, security and opportunity for blind individuals.

Mr. Cylke has been director of NLS since July 1973, and has led the program through dramatic technological changes, including transition from

audiobooks recorded on records to cassettes and, currently, from a cassette-based to a digital talking-book system.

Please join with us in congratulating Mr. Cylke on a well-deserved honor and award.

LBPH Recommends

This issue features a special for our Large Print patrons. If these readers are looking for books that offer “everything you want in historical romance,” reader advisor Francine Sharpe recommends the Lakota Series from Janelle Taylor. Written in keeping with Native American traditions, the three volumes in this series -- *Lakota Winds* (LP 09351), *Lakota Flower* (LP 08565) and *Lakota Dawn* (LP 09353) -- offer “wonderful, clean stories with faith in God and humor too.” (Francine does advise that you read this series in order.)

Staff Profile

This month’s profile features our do-it-all player, LBPH Assistant Director Janie Murphree. Like the basketball player who can shoot, rebound, dish out assists and play rugged defense, Janie covers our whole court.

In addition to her duties as assistant director and supervisor of the reader advisors unit, Janie also manages our equipment inventories and pinch-hits as reader advisor, a role she was

performing full-time until your editor came on board in January.

A native of Humphreys County, Janie grew up near McEwen, site of the world’s largest barbecue, and graduated from McEwen High School. She attended Martin Methodist in Pulaski before graduating with a B. A. in Chemistry from Vanderbilt. After a short stint of teaching, she returned to Peabody University to earn her MLS in 1968 under library school director Dr. Ed Gleaves, who subsequently served 18 years as Tennessee’s State Librarian and Archivist before retiring last June.

Janie’s first library job was cataloguing for the Joint University Libraries in Nashville. She followed this post with tours in technical services at UT Nashville and as library director at Motlow State Community College.

Somewhere along the line, she discovered her greatest love, traveling. In 1981 she embarked on a second career in the travel industry, working for Piedmont Airlines and USAirways for nearly two decades.

When USAirways closed its Nashville reservations center in 1997, Janie re-entered the book world, first as Adult Public Services Librarian at the Looby and Bordeaux branches of Nashville Public library and then, in October, 2000, as Assistant Director of LBPH.

Nights and weekends, when she’s not attending Vanderbilt Commodore games, Janie and her cat, Mr. Aggie, enjoy relaxing with British mystery

authors such as P. D. James and Colin Wilcox. She also plans her travel itineraries, which have taken her to 49 of our 50 states, the British Isles, and Europe as far east as Moscow. Her great dream is to take the Trans Siberian railroad from Moscow to China, but she may have to wait a little while for that. She still has an awful lot of things to do around the Library.

TPAC Announces Audio Description for Coming Performances

The Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) in Nashville has asked us to include a special news release in this issue. Thanks to TPAC for inaugurating this service, and special thanks to the Mid-Tennessee Council of the Blind and its president, Dan Dillon, for helping to make it possible.

“TPAC is proud to announce a new service for blind and visually impaired patrons, made possible in part by a gift from the Mid-Tennessee Council of the Blind. Beginning with the tour of *Little Women*, starring Maureen McGovern, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, audio description will be available for select performances of the Broadway Series at TPAC. A trained describer will provide a live, objective narrative of the visual elements on the stage, in between the actors’ dialogue. Fifteen minutes prior to the performance, and during intermission, the describer will give additional commentary on the performance. Audio description headsets will be available from the floor manager at the entrance to Andrew

Jackson Hall. Among other accessibility services, TPAC provides wheelchair seating and sound amplification at every performance. Sign interpretation for hearing impaired patrons is provided on the Sunday matinee of each Broadway tour, including *Little Women* at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 20. For more information on accessibility services at TPAC, call Melissa Brett at 615-687-4292.”

OPAL Offers Online Book Discussions

LBPH has just learned of a new online service called OPAL (for *Online Programming for All Libraries*), which offers free online discussions of selected books.

Book discussions are informal and usually last about an hour. All you need to participate is a computer with an internet connection and a sound card. Readers can participate by text chatting in the online meeting room, or verbally through voice-over-IP. (If you want to participate through VOIP, you need to have a microphone connected to your computer.)

The session scheduled for Monday, November 21 at 7:00 pm CST/8:00 pm EST will discuss Homer Hickam’s *Sky of Stone* (RC 54699), a third volume by the author of *Rocket Boys* (RC 47833) and *The Coalwood Way* (RC 52009).

For more information, visit the OPAL website at <http://www.opal-online.org/progsbooks.htm>.

Holiday Music from Readings for Recovery

Readings for Recovery (R4R), a non-profit music library that lends music tapes through the mail, is featuring traditional music for the coming holiday season. All LBPH patrons are eligible for this service, which checks out music cassettes to members for up to 60 days. Members send back the cassettes using postage-free return labels, in the same way they return talking books.

Unlike LBPH, R4R does require a membership fee, but it's a rather modest \$10.00 per year. The service indicates that alternative memberships are available for those who cannot afford this fee. For more information, call 1-800-798-1192 or visit the R4R web site at www.r4r.org.

This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Tennessee.

Window to the World is published quarterly by the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State. It is available on cassette, in braille, and on the web at www.tennessee.gov/TSLA/lbph. Please call the Library at (800) 342-3308 to request alternate formats.

Administration and Staff

The Honorable Riley C. Darnell, Secretary of State; Jeanne Sugg, State Librarian & Archivist; Ruth Hemphill, Director; Janie Murphree, Assistant Director; Carmelita Esaw, Computer

Specialist; Ann Jones, Administrative Assistant.

Circulation and Repair Staff: Larry Conner, Materials Manager; Jerry Clinard, Dwight Davis, Terry Corn, Ron Gross, Billy Kirby, Ron Peaks II, and Kenneth Rainey.

Reader Advisors: Ed Byrne, Annette Hadley, Clara Ledbetter, and Francine Sharpe.

In providing information to readers, the announcement of products and services should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Library.

Department of State, Authorization No. 305224, 6500 copies, October, 2005. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.?? per copy.