



# indow to the World

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Ed Byrne, Editor

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**Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped**

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## Summer Reading Proposition

Admit it, kids. As good as it feels when school lets out, life can get a teeny-weeny bit boring as summer wears on. It gets awfully hot outside, and watching daytime TV all the time -- well, let's not even go there.

So LBPH has cooked up a special proposition for all our young readers. For the first time ever, Tennessee's LBPH is conducting its very own Summer Reading Club. Here's how it works: you read books, you earn prizes. It's really that simple. The more books you read, the more prizes you earn. And, the more books you read, the better your chances of taking home our grand prize at the end of the summer.

We'll soon be sending all our student patrons a letter asking them to participate in our summer reading program. The theme will be the "Rompin' Stompin' Reading Roundup."

If you decide to sign up, we'll send you a packet of materials that will include suggested reading lists, a reading log, and a deadline for submitting your log.

The payoff part is simple. For every five books you read, you receive a prize. (We'll tell you more about these prizes in your letter.)

Next, for every single book you read, we'll enter your name in a drawing for our "Boss Reading Wrangler" prize -- three books in either large print, audio, or braille formats, your choice. The "Boss Reading Wrangler" prize will be presented at the end of the program. The more books you read, the more chances you will have to be our grand prize "Boss Reading Wrangler" winner. The person who reads the most books will have the best chance of taking home the three books in the format of his or her choice.

Finally, everyone who gives the program a try will get an official LBPH Certificate of Participation in print/braille, signed by Tennessee Secretary of State Riley Darnell and Tennessee State Librarian & Archivist Jeanne Sugg.

So, three ways to win prizes, and two of them are sure bets.

Julie Duke, the TSLA Children's Services Consultant for the entire state regional library system, will coordinate the summer reading programs for us. She's already preparing lists of awesome books for you to consider, but you won't have to restrict yourself to our suggestions. You'll be able to count any book you read, whether you get it from LBPH or your local school or public libraries. So saddle up your cassette player and get ready to read.

## **OOPS!**

We're embarrassed. In our last issue, we announced our new "LBPH Patrons Recommend" feature along with our first patron recommendations. Somewhere between our computer and your mailbox, the first paragraph of this article got scrambled. It should have read:

"For those who like their suspense with a sense of darker menace, and maybe a vampire or two, reader advisor Annette Hadley recommends *The Historian* (RC 60713). The complex tale of a search for Vlad the Impaler, the historical figure behind the Dracula legend, was recommended to Annette as "delicious" by Patricia Meadowcroft, wife of TLBPH patron James J. Meadowcroft."

We apologize to the Meadowcrofts and to Annette.

## **LBPH Patrons Recommend**

Speaking of which, we have received several new recommendations from our patrons.

Becca Brasfield of Burns calls Rennie Airth's *River of Darkness* (RC 61517) and *Blood-Dimmed Tide* (RC 61793) "two of the best English murder mysteries ever written." She cites a confirming endorsement from an authoritative source, retired LBPH assistant director Janie Murphree.

On the non-fiction side, patron Gloria Davis recommends *Piece of Cake: A Memoir* (RC 62657) by African-American author Cupcake Brown. This frank account of the author's journey from childhood sexual abuse, drug addiction and prostitution to a successful career as a lawyer and motivational speaker is, however, not for the faint of heart.

## **Daring Adventures**

That's what blind and visually-impaired Memphis teens can enjoy this summer. The Clovernook Center is sponsoring two sessions of its Discovery Camp of Dreams and Success: June 4-15 for girls and July 9-20 for boys. The camp sessions are open to blind or visually-impaired students who will be entering grades 7-12 in the fall of 2007.

The camp sessions will run from 8:00am to 3:00 pm Monday through Fridays, and will feature field trips, safe travel instruction, activities of daily living, recreation, and computer training. Clovernook will provide transportation, lunch and snacks for camp participants.

To register or find out more, call Arwen at 901-523-9590.

## **Braille Matters**

We came across a striking statistic last month that strengthened the case for braille, a subject dear to LBPH director Ruth Hemphill's heart. According to an item we saw, more than 80 percent of the blind or visually-impaired adults who are employed say they use braille every day. But today only about 10 percent of blind or visually-impaired students are learning braille. Sounds like the students who learn braille today might stand a better chance of being employed and independent tomorrow.

These statistics came from the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC), a group that had just received one of the 39 James Patterson Page Turner Awards. These awards, named for mystery writer James Patterson, honor organizations and individuals that encourage reading across the United States.

NOPBC was honored for its efforts to promote leisure and scholastic reading for blind children, including the Braille Readers are Leaders Contest. That's where the local angle comes in.

In February, LBPH patron and Lakeland Elementary second-grader Miller Ballard traveled from his Memphis-area home to Nashville to participate in the Braille Institute's regional Braille Challenge, a contest that tests the spelling, proofreading and reading skills of kids from kindergarten through high school.

Competing in the Apprentice Category, Miller placed third behind two older braille novices. Because he finished higher than any other first or second-grader, Miller has earned an invitation to compete in the national Braille Challenge scheduled for Los Angeles in June, one of only 60 students in the nation to be invited. Watertown High sophomore Heather Rasmussen has also earned an invitation to Los Angeles in the Varsity Category. We'll tell you more about Heather, and how she and Miller did in Los Angeles in our next issue.

At Lakeland Elementary, Miller gets 30 minutes of individual braille instruction a day. Otherwise, he takes the same courses and the same tests that his sighted classmates do. He also plays piano, studies Tai Kwan Do and competes in T-ball. Sounds to us

like Miller is a good bet to find a rewarding job when he graduates. In fact, he sounds to us like a good bet to be elected President.

### **The Other R.E.A.D.S.**

We've just learned that we're not the only library in Tennessee that has a computer system named "READS." Many of Tennessee's local and county libraries participate in this other R.E.A.D.S., the *Regional eBook and Audiobook Download System* maintained by the Tennessee State Library and Archives in cooperation with the Tennessee Regional Library System.

R.E.A.D.S. allows patrons of these libraries to download reading materials from a list of about 3300 audio books (sound recordings like our RC titles) and 3100 eBooks (electronic files you would read like regular text) over the Internet. If you are clever, you can then copy these files over to your digital music player (unless it's an iPod) or personal digital assistant. Super techies may even be able to transfer these files to their cell phones, but those of us in the over-30 bracket probably should not try this maneuver at home.

R.E.A.D.S. works in a very similar way to the NLS Web-Braille service, but you don't need brailing hardware like an embosser. What you will need is the proper software on your personal computer. But you can download the required programs free of charge at the R.E.A.D.S. web site, <http://reads.lib.overdrive.com>.

To find out more about this service, please contact your local public library. And do note that while libraries in our largest cities aren't participating in the R.E.A.D.S. service, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville now offer similar services of their own. If you live in these cities, please contact your local public library for more details.

### **Staff Profile**

Will return next issue.

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## **Administration and Staff**

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