



# *Window 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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## **LINE UP CHANGES**

A lot has changed since our last issue of *Window to the World* graced your mailbox. We've been through a budget slowdown, some significant personnel changes, and – in the cases of your editor and LBPH director Ruth Hemphill – jury duty. Now, like football's Green Bay Packers, *Window to the World* is making a comeback.

Let's look at the changes in personnel. Last March, former LBPH assistant director Donna Cirenza left the Library to move to Florida, where she has family. In early May, after flooding knocked out her bus link from Hermitage, reader advisor Francine Sharpe retired and headed to Arizona on vacation. At the end of June, LBPH administrative assistant Ann Jones joined Francine in retirement. (Ann only traveled as far as Georgia, so we're not quite as jealous of her as we are of Francine.)

It took us a while to get staffed back up to our previous level, and we're grateful for the patience you showed us during a long, very busy summer. Now here's our new line up.

We, your editor, have been appointed to replace Donna Cirenza as LBPH's assistant director. In addition to acquiring Donna's duties, I will also serve as administrator of the BARD download service for Tennessee patrons, and will continue to serve as *W2W* editor. (So I still get to be *we*, at least some of the time.)

Mr. Chris Jaco has replaced Francine as reader advisor for patrons whose last names begin with E--K. Chris comes to the LBPH with considerable experience in the library trade. He's worked for eight years as circulation clerk and cataloging clerk at Rutherford County's Linebaugh Public Library, and for the past five years he has also served as regional library clerk at TSLA's Highland Rim Regional Library in Murfreesboro. He's particularly knowledgeable about library computer systems and networks.

Chris continues to work on his undergraduate degree in psychology in the Honors Program at MTSU. His principal reading interests include comparative religions, classical fiction, and poetry. Chris is a life-long resident of Murfreesboro.

Mr. William Hooker is replacing your editor as reader advisor for patrons whose last names begin with A – D. He will also help Spanish-speaking patrons who are not comfortable with English. William holds a B. A. in English from the University of the South (better known to most of us as “Sewanee”) and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Lipscomb University.

In addition to playing basketball for Sewanee, William has worked as a technical writer, a fluid mechanics instructor and a technical services representative, and he also contributes articles to *American Songwriter* and *Nashville Style*. His principal reading interests lie in serious contemporary fiction. William grew up in Knoxville and now lives in Nashville.

The new voice you are most likely to hear, however, belongs to Deborah Puckett, who replaces Ann Jones as LBPH administrative assistant. Deborah graduated from Murray State University, just across the Kentucky border from her home town of South Fulton, Tennessee.

Deborah began her career in state government as a fiscal analyst for the legislature’s Fiscal Review Committee. She subsequently served for ten years as administrative assistant to our past two State Librarian and Archivists, Dr. Ed Gleaves and Jeanne Sugg, before throwing in her lot with us. Deborah’s particular reading interests are cookbooks and autobiography.

### **Digital Players: Get ‘Em While They’re Hot**

We now have greatly increased supplies of our new digital players, so we don’t have to hoard them any longer. If you are a TLBPH patron and would like to try the digital player, please let your reader advisor know. We’ll get one of the new players on the way to you right away.

### **Spotlight Sports: The Tennessee Association of Blind Athletes**

*By Tina Crownover*

What sport tickles your fancy? Cycling, goalball, bowling? Or do you prefer something more individualistic, such as yoga, strength training, or hiking? The Tennessee Association of Blind Athletes provides adapted competitive sports and recreational activities for blind and visually impaired children and adults.

**“TNABA means opportunity. Opportunity to grow physically and spiritually, opportunity to dream and to reach those dreams, opportunity to be active and build a better tomorrow for you and others,” stated Ricky Jones, TNABA Executive Director.**

The Nashville Chapter of TNABA offers a full slate of activities for its members: goalball on Sundays and Wednesdays, strength training and yoga class every other Monday night, and tandem cycling with the Harpeth Bike Club on Tuesday evenings. TNABA also partners with the Middle Tennessee Council of the Blind for a night of bowling on Thursdays. It’s all about leveling the playing field. By using adaptive equipment, detailed verbal description, and assistance when needed, the person who is blind or visually disabled participates fully in the activity.

For accessible tax forms in braille or text formats,  
<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=131773,00.html>

For accessible tax publications in braille or text formats,  
<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=98135,00.html>

For accessible Talking Tax forms,  
<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=98135,00.html>

For Tax Instructions in large print format,  
<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=200262,00.html>

For Tax Publications in large print format,  
<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=187685,00.html>

The IRS also offers customer service assistance for persons who are deaf or who have hearing disabilities. People with TTY equipment may call 800-829-4059, which is a toll-free number, for assistance.

People who are unable to complete their tax return because of a physical disability may get assistance from an IRS office, or through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) sponsored by IRS. Taxpayers can find a nearby location by calling 1-800-906-9887.

Publication 907, Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities, explains the tax implications of certain disability benefits and other issues, and is available at IRS.gov. Visit the IRS website, [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) and click on the word “accessibility” for help and information.

*The bad news? You still have to pay your taxes.*

### **Free Audio Books from LibriVox**

Thanks to reader advisor Chris Jaco, we now have a source for free audio books that you can download and play directly on your computer. It’s called LibriVox, and you can access this service on the internet at <http://librivox.org/>.

LibriVox only offers books that are in “the public domain.” Books in the public domain are books that were never copyrighted, or whose copyrights have expired. (Like the patents on drugs, copyrights expire after a certain number of years.) Shakespeare and Milton fit in this “public domain” category – they didn’t have copyrights that far back -- as do Charles Dickens, Mark Twain and many other nineteenth century greats.

As a general rule, LibriVox doesn’t offer works that were published after 1923. More recent favorites, like *Gone with the Wind* or *The Sun Also Rises*, haven’t made it into the public domain yet. They are still under copyright protection.

Now let’s be frank. If you’re waiting for the latest John Grisham thriller or Danielle Steel romance, or the newest installment in the *Twilight* series, LibriVox is not

## Music Has Charms...

As the English playwright William Congreve had it, "Music has charms to soothe the savage breast, to soften rocks or bend a knotted oak..."

Most of us don't need to soften rocks or bend knotted oaks, but almost all of us could stand a little soothing from time to time. And we often turn to music for solace or enjoyment.

If you're interested in just how music gets the job done, then you might want to try some titles from the NLS Music Collection, such as *How Music Expresses Joy and Sorrow* (CBM 220) or *Emotions in Music* (CBM 283).

The Music Collection includes a wide variety of instructional materials on music, music theory, and music appreciation. Want to learn to play the dulcimer or the dobro? The piano or the tin whistle? The Music Collection has materials that will get you started. Before you know it, you'll be performing your critically-acclaimed tin whistle concerto at Carnegie Hall.

The Music Collection circulates music materials on cassette, in braille, and in large print. We have catalogues of these materials available, and you can find a list of these in the NLS Music Factsheet, online at <http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/music.html>.

The Music Collection also includes several music magazines, which are listed in the "Factsheet" and in our *Magazines in Special Media Catalogue*.

***Note: The Music Collection only includes instructional materials and scores. It does not include commercial music albums or song performances intended strictly for listening.***

You may search for Music Collection materials on the NLS online catalogue at <http://nlscatalog.loc.gov>. Cassette materials are listed with the catalog prefix "CBM." Large print materials are listed with "LPM," and braille materials with "BRM."

If you have questions or requests for materials, don't hesitate to contact your reader advisor.

## Student Opportunities: College Scholarships for Blind Students

To recognize achievement by blind scholars, the National Federation of the Blind annually offers blind college students in the United States and Puerto Rico the opportunity to win one of thirty national scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$12,000.

The 30 winners will be assisted to attend the 2011 NFB Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. For further information, including eligibility requirements, the online application form, and the Scholarship Checklist detailing all required documents, go to [www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.nfb.org/scholarships). **Deadline: March 31, 2011**

## **Got the Empty Blues Blues!**

To paraphrase an old blues standard, “the blues ain’t nothin’ but an empty blue mail case.”

Our new digital books are mailed to you in slim blue mail cases. To date, we have had several dozen of these cases returned to us without a cartridge inside. (We’ve also had a good number returned with the wrong cartridge inside.)

Before you mail a digital book back to us, please double-check it to make certain that the correct cartridge is in the mail case. To ensure that you have the correct book cartridge in the correct box, please keep both parts of the set—case and cartridge—together. Or only open one book at a time.

Digital books cannot be checked in or circulated when one piece of the mail case/cartridge set is missing. If we don’t catch the mix-up in our mail returns – and we do miss some -- we’ll be passing the mix-up on to the next patron.

Just imagine that you’re settling down in your comfy chair to listen to a book you’ve been waiting weeks to get. You plug in the cartridge, take a sip of your fresh coffee --hmm, just right -- and discover you’re listening to the wrong book. Nothing is more irritating.

You wouldn’t want this to happen to you. So please make sure it doesn’t happen to your fellow patrons by double-checking all your returns.

## **Free Magazine Downloads**

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is proud to offer free downloadable editions of *Reader’s Digest*® and *Newsweek*® to eligible readers who are blind and visually impaired.

TLBPH patrons are now eligible to download digital copies of these two magazines in the same DTB format the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped uses for its digital book and magazines.

You can find out more and create a download account by visiting the APH website at <http://tech.aph.org/mags/>. Or contact the organization by email at [magazines@aph.org](mailto:magazines@aph.org) or by telephone at 1-800-223-1839 [option 3].

## **Good News/Bad News: Income Taxes**

*The good news? IRS provides assistance for people with disabilities.* Hundreds of the most popular federal tax forms and publications are available for download from IRS.gov for sight impaired individuals. These products range from talking tax forms to Braille formats, and are accessible using screen reading software, refreshable Braille displays and voice recognition software. Go to the links below to download these forms and publications:

“For the first time in my life, someone is explaining exactly how to do the exercises. Now I know how to do them correctly. It’s good to have the personal and individual attention,” commented Carol Francisco on the TNABA strength training class.

TNABA’s mission is to enhance the lives and health of all Tennesseans who are blind or visually disabled, to promote physical fitness through offering athletic and recreational opportunities, and to educate the public on the exceptional athletic abilities of blind people.

This organization is not just for people who are blind and visually disabled, but also for people who support the mission, such as parents, friends, coaches and volunteers. TNABA is currently looking to start active chapters across Tennessee. Check it out on the web at [www.tnaba.org](http://www.tnaba.org) or send an email to [tnaba@bellsouth.net](mailto:tnaba@bellsouth.net). Or try the old fashioned way: call (615) 390-4178 to get involved.

### **Spotlight Accessibility: Linebaugh Public Library**

Rutherford County’s Linebaugh Public Library offers a full slate of assistive technology options for people who are blind and physically handicapped, both at its central Murfreesboro location and at the Smyrna Public Library.

Both these locations offer fully-accessible desktop PCs equipped with large-screen monitors, large-print keyboards, and oversized trackballs suitable for users with dexterity problems.

Each PC is equipped with the **JAWS** screen reading program, **ZoomText** screen magnification software, and **Openbook**, a program that reads aloud books, newspapers, and virtually any other printed materials with the use of an attached scanner. Other available software applications include the Microsoft Office applications **Word**, **Excel**, **PowerPoint** and **Publisher**.

Each workstation features an adjustable table and chair that can be set to accommodate users of any size, and which can accommodate wheelchairs.

As part of its assistive technology package, the Linebaugh Library also offers the **Insight Solitaire** magnifier, which allows people with visual disabilities to magnify reading materials or to facilitate handwriting by enlarging forms and other papers.

First-time visitors should report to the Library’s Reference Desk for a short orientation session designed to help them take advantage of all the accessibility options these workstations offer.

The library circulates books in large print, braille, and a range of audio media, including cassettes, standard and MP3 CDs, and pre-loaded MP3 players. Patrons may also download audio and electronic books through the R.E.A.D.S. system.

The Linebaugh Library’s Main Branch is located at 105 West Vine St., Murfreesboro, 37130. For more information, please call the Reference Desk at 615-893-4131. The Smyrna Public Library is located 400 Enon Springs Rd. W., Smyrna, 37167. For more information, please contact the Reference Desk there at 615-459-4884.

the site for you. But if you are after classics like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, or *Little Women*, or *The Virginian*, you can find them on LibriVox.

Of course, you can usually find such well-known titles in our collection as well. Where LibriVox really shines is in its inclusion of the very old, the offbeat, and the once-popular books that have fallen by the wayside. Wandering through the LibriVox catalogue is a bit like wandering through a very large used book store run by an eccentric owner. You can find Aristotle and Tom Swift, Rafael Sabatini swashbucklers and the Douay-Rheims translation of the *Holy Bible*. There's Longfellow's *Song of Hiawatha* and Cervantes's *Don Quixote* (the latter in English, Spanish and Dutch versions).

As the different versions of *Don Quixote* suggest, LibriVox offers many titles in French, Spanish, German and other languages, as well as books that purport to teach you those languages. If you've been itching to learn Anglo-Saxon or Egyptian, LibriVox can fix you up.

LibriVox is completely free, and you don't need any special equipment or software other than a personal computer and an internet connection. It works with the standard media players like Windows Media Audio (WMA) on Windows computers or iTunes on Apple Macs.

Do be aware that the recordings are done are by volunteers, so they might not have the polish of professionally-recorded versions. But just searching the LibriVox catalogue is a kick. And there's a chance you may find that long-lost childhood favorite you thought you'd never read again.

### **Library Closings**

Friday, April 22

Good Friday

### **READER FEEDBACK**

How do you like our new one-column format? Let us hear from you, yea or nay, at 1-800-342-3308, 741-1171 (Nashville area) or Ed.Byrne@tn.gov.

**Breaking News!!!** We have just learned that LBPH patron Estelle Condra has been awarded Tennessee's highest honor in the arts by Governor Bill Haslam. Ms. Condra will receive one of three Distinguished Artist Awards to be given on April 12, 2011

Ms. Condra, a native of South Africa, is a professional actor, inspiring storyteller, teacher, and writer who has been legally blind since childhood.

We will include more information in the next issue of *Window to the World*.

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### **Administration and Staff**

The Honorable Tre Hargett, Secretary of State; Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian & Archivist; Ruth Hemphill, Director; Ed

Byrne, Assistant Director; Carmelita Esaw, Computer Specialist; Deborah Puckett, Administrative Assistant; Terry Corn, Library Assistant.

Circulation and Repair Staff: Larry Conner, Materials Manager; Jerry Clinard, Dwight Davis, Ron Gross, Bill Kirby, Frank Robinson.

Reader Advisors: William Hooker, Annette Hadley, Chris Jaco, and Amy Tangerstrom.

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