

Window to the World

Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH)

Winter 2016

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Staff Changes:

In order to better serve you, we are reorganizing some staff positions here at the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (TLBPH).

Heather Fach, formerly reader advisor for the A-D group, is the new content access specialist. She is responsible for improving delivery of materials to all patrons. Her first project will involve ramping up the inter-library loan process for large-print titles. The growing demand for creating digital cartridges from BARD will be her next focus. Watch the newsletter for more information as these plans develop.

Erin Savage started work as our new reader advisor for the A-D group on January 19, just in time for our big winter storm the next day. Erin is from Sparta and worked at White County Public Library. A graduate of Tennessee Tech with a degree in English, Erin enjoys travel and movies. She attended the Cannes Film Festival in France last year, then spent a week in Paris. Although it pains some of us to include this, she asked that her biography mention that she's an Alabama football fan...Roll, Tide!

In late-breaking news, Clayton Altom recently joined the staff as the new assistant director of TLBPH. Clayton comes from the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library. We will introduce him in more detail in the next issue

Emergency Preparedness

For most of Tennessee, Christmas weather was unseasonably warm. While I'm sure many of us enjoyed it, for some people it just didn't feel like Christmas! The month of December was full of unusual weather, including heavy rains causing flooding, tornado warnings, and 75-degree temperatures. Then we had the afore-mentioned snow storm in January.

We mention the fickle weather because the federal government's Disability.gov website (www.disability.gov) has many resources to help people with disabilities and their families prepare for emergencies, including:

- Tips and tools for creating a support network
- Advice on completing a personal assessment of needs and resources in a disaster
- Information about community warning systems, community disaster plans, and disability assistance programs
- Guidance on making a plan for yourself, your service animal and your pets

For a copy of this publication, go to:

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240199_A4497.pdf.

If you do not have internet access, call your TLBPH reader advisor for a large print copy.

There are many other items available on the www.disability.gov website, including guides to disability benefits, civil rights, community life, education, more emergency preparedness publications, employment, health, housing, technology, and transportation.

How It All Began

Did you know talking books have been available to U.S. residents with print disabilities through the Library of Congress since 1933? There were a few braille libraries long before that, but after World War I, many U.S. veterans returned home with injuries which made it difficult for them to read standard print. U.S. Representative Ruth Baker Pratt, of New York, and U.S. Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, introduced a bill authorizing the Library of Congress to appropriate funds to establish a collection of embossed books to circulate among adult blind residents of the United States. Known as the Pratt-Smoot Act, it was subsequently amended, in 1933 to include audio books, which were produced on records back then. The act was later amended to make books and magazines available to children, people with low-vision, people who have difficulty holding a book and turning pages, and people with reading disabilities.

To honor the program's illustrious history, the TLBPH has set up an exhibit of historic items related to our service, including early audio books on records, a talking book record player, a book on reel-to-reel tape (a precursor to cassette books); some books on cassette, a cassette player, and a few other items of assistive technology along with

some early promotional brochures and pictures of patrons and staff from years gone by. If you happen to be in downtown Nashville, why not drop by to visit this exhibit? Our hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m Central Time, Mondays through Fridays.

Calling All Tennessee Artists With Disabilities:

The Tennessee Disability Mega Conference 2016 Art Contest is now open, and the deadline for entries is very soon! Artwork that illustrates the 2016 MegaConference theme, “Collective Action for Strong Communities” should be submitted to Lori Israel at lisrael@thearctn.org by April 22. Each submission will be printed and displayed during the MegaConference, May 26-May 27 at the Nashville Airport Marriott hotel.

The contest winner’s artwork will be included on the conference website and on the cover of the program book, along with a picture and biography of the winner. The artwork will also be printed on conference t-shirts and the winning artist will be given a complimentary table at the conference exhibit areas, if the winner wishes to sell any of his or her artwork during the conference.

New Magazines!

We are very happy to announce new audio magazines are now available to patrons. First, there’s *AARP: The Magazine* (a bimonthly publication) and *AARP Bulletin* (10 issues/year)—this is a joint subscription. If you register for either one, you will get both. The second one is *O, The Oprah Magazine*, which is a monthly publication, and, lastly, but definitely not least, there’s *Rolling Stone*, a biweekly magazine which has been available in braille for years, but is now available for people who read audio magazines. If you would like a subscription to any or all of these magazines, call your reader advisor.

Like all audio magazines, you must return them to continue getting issues mailed to you. However, if you are a BARD patron, you can download them. You can even set a subscription to them, and to any of the NLS magazines on BARD. This will automatically add new issues to your BARD “wish list” as soon as they become available on BARD. (You can also unsubscribe, too, if you get tired of any magazine.) You have the option of receiving an e-mail notification when a new issue is available. Just call your reader advisor for instructions.

Book Awards

Each year the American Library Association (ALA) presents awards to books for children and young adults from books published in the previous year. According to a January 11 news release from ALA, the 2016 Award winners are:

John Newbery Medal for most outstanding contribution to children's literature – *Last Stop on Market Street*, by Matt de la Pena, which is available as a print/braille book (BR 21056). It will probably be produced in audio format soon.

Coretta Scott King Book Award recognizing an African-American author of outstanding books for children and young adults – *Gone Crazy in Alabama*, by Rita Williams-Garcia, which is available in audio format (DB 81548).

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement – Jerry Pinkney, whose five decades of work offer compelling insights into the legacy of African American storytelling and experience. He also won the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for making a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. We have a number of his titles in both audio and braille formats.

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults – *Bone Gap*, by Laura Ruby, which is available in audio format (DB 81401).

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Award for excellence in non-fiction for young adults – *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*, by Steve Sheinkin, which is available in audio format (DB 82850).

Guideposts magazine:

For many years, TLBPH patrons were able to obtain subscriptions to *Guideposts* magazine through the library in audio and large print formats. However, a few years back, expenses forced the company to stop supplying them to our library for redistribution. Everyone could still purchase subscriptions from *Guideposts* in large or standard print for \$16.97/year, but the audio version was not available.

However, the manager of *Guideposts* outreach services recently told us that *Guideposts* in audio format is now available, free-of-charge through NFB-NEWSLINE®. As with other items on NFB-NEWSLINE®, it is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day and can be obtained using a touch-tone telephone, through the NFB-NEWSLINE® website, by email or with a portable device, such as an iPhone, iPad or iPod. Like the more than 400 other publications, including newspapers from around the world, and over 50 magazines, they are all always free!

If you would like to subscribe to *Guideposts*, or learn more about other publications available through NFB-NEWSLINE®, call the organization's toll-free telephone number, 866-504-7300, or go to its website www.nfbnewsline.org.

Staff Picks:

Ron Gross is a materials handler in the TLBPH's circulation section who reads a wide variety of books with emphasis on military history. He enjoys some lighter reading, too. Here are some recommendations from Ron:

Fighter Pilot: The Memoirs of Legendary Ace Robin Olds, by Robin Olds with Christina Olds and Ed Rasimus. An unrated commercial audio book from Blackstone audio recordings, the book number is DB 77607.

Rocket Boys: A Memoir by Homer Hickam is a memoir of a young man who grew up in a coal-mining town in West Virginia, but, with the encouragement of his high school science teacher won medals in the 1960 National Science Fair and became a NASA engineer after graduating from Virginia Tech and serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. This title is available in braille (BR 16411), audio (DB 47833), and large print (LP 07132) formats.

For lighter reading, Ron reads some fantasy, including Jim Butcher's "Dresden Files," a series of 15 books about a private detective who is also a wizard, available in audio formats. The first book in the series is *Storm Front* (DB 67342).

Ron also enjoyed the "Song of Ice & Fire" series by George R.R. Martin, which are the books that started TV's "Game of Thrones" series. They are available in audio format. The first book is *Game of Thrones* (DB 45742) and the braille format is coming (BR 21103). In addition, the companion book, *The World of Ice and Fire: The Untold History of Westeros and the Game of Thrones*, by George R.R. Martin, along with Elio M. Garcia, Jr. and Linda Antonsson, is also available in audio format (DB 80183).

Ron also enjoys detective stories such as Tana French's "Dublin Murder Squad" series, available in audio formats and Dee Henderson's "O'Malley" series in audio and braille formats.

Upcoming Holidays:

TLBPH, along with most other state agencies, will be closed on the following holiday:

Friday, March 25 Good Friday

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Administration and Staff

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and Physically Handicapped

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