

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

**Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled
At Cleveland Public Library**

17121 Lake Shore Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44110

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Family Fun and Learning Day 2012

Family Fun & Learning Day will take place on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Family Fun & Learning Day will be held at the Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled, 17121 Lake Shore Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44110.

All OLBPD patrons, along with their family and friends are invited to join us for the day. Family Fun & Learning Day 2012 will feature a full day of special programs of interest to our patrons.

Family Fun & Learning Day 2012 will begin with a special gardening program and tours of OLBPD's Sensory Garden led by our caretaker Ben Zaremba. The Sensory Garden features flowers, herbs, and plants specially selected for their bloom, color, fragrance, taste, and texture. The Sensory Garden is open all year round and is free to the public.

Beverly Cain, the State Librarian of Ohio, will visit to share updates with patrons from the State Library of Ohio. Also, Tracy Grimm, the Head of the Talking Book Program at the State Library will share information and answer questions about digital talking book players and equipment.

The OLBPD reader advisory staff-Brandon, Michael, Rose, and Stephanie- will host a panel discussion to review and talk about the book service and answer questions from patrons about their book and machine service.

OLBPD patron Vic Leanza will be this year's keynote speaker. He will chronicle his fascinating and inspiring sailing ship adventure as a crew member aboard the "Tenacious," a three-mast barque.

OLBPD patron Irwin Hott will speak and answer questions about adaptive technology and computers for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Pizza and soft drinks will be available during lunch for a freewill donation. Patrons are also welcome to bring their own lunches. Exhibitors will also be on hand all day long for patrons to try all the latest adaptive technology and assistive devices available for people who are blind or have low vision. OLBPD patrons can enjoy a hassle-free approach and have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from Universal Low Vision Aids, the Cleveland Sight Center's "Eye-dea Shop," and Magnifiers and More.

For further information or to register for Family Fun & Learning Day, please contact OLBPD at 216-623-2911 or 1-800-362-1262 or by email at OLBPD@cpl.org.

Family Fun and Learning “Days” in 2013

OLBPD is currently planning to host three Family Fun and Learning Day events in 2013. Traditionally, OLBPD hosts one event in Cleveland, but in 2013 OLBPD will also host two additional Family Fun and Learning Day events in Columbus and Cincinnati. The dates and locations for all three events in 2013 will be announced in the next issue of the OLBPD Dimensions Newsletter.

Magazines on Digital Cartridge

The National Library Service (NLS) has announced plans to transition magazines on cassette to digital cartridge by the end of the year. Digital magazine service will feature a customized cartridge unique to each patron with all of their subscriptions on one cartridge. Patrons will need to return magazine cartridges so they can be updated with the latest issues and returned to readers. Each cartridge will also feature audio help instructions on how to use the new magazine format at the beginning of each cartridge as well as a reminder to return the cartridge when finished. Digital magazines will have different color cartridges and containers from the digital talking books. Once NLS begins full production of magazines on digital cartridge, magazines will no longer be available on cassette.

OLBPD will also begin distributing local magazines on cartridge once NLS begins full production of magazines on cartridge. Local magazines will be set up in the same manner as NLS magazines, and will also need to be returned on a routine basis to receive the most current issues. Similar to NLS, once OLBPD begins distributing magazines on cartridge, magazines will no longer be available on cassette. Patrons without a digital talking book machine can request one by contacting OLBPD or the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program at 1-800-686-1531.

Overdue Notices

OLBPD distributed overdue notices for digital talking books on loan to readers longer than six months. OLBPD does not issue due dates on books but simply asks that patrons return books when finished. Patrons are not being charged fines for any of the books listed on their overdue notices. OLBPD does not collect fines on books.

If patrons still have the digital books listed on their overdue notice, these items should be returned if finished or renewed. If patrons have returned books listed on their overdue notice, then they should contact OLBPD to clear these items from their record. Overdue notices will continue to be distributed periodically. Patrons can contact their librarian with any concerns or questions about overdue notices.

BARD Update

NLS is moving toward its first program upgrade for BARD, which includes the incorporation of Web-Braille. In preparation for this upgrade, NLS will be cleaning up inactive accounts. BARD accounts that have an “Active” status but have not been used for one year or longer will be changed to “Suspended.” If accounts are not reactivated within a year, they will be automatically deleted. Patrons with suspended accounts cannot access BARD and will receive an e-mail requesting that they contact their local library for reinstatement. An alert will be posted on BARD to let users know when this will happen.

NLS is developing a new BARD web site. The new BARD web site will feature a patron wish list to build a reserve list of books to download. A patron’s wish list can be viewed in chronological order of when books were added and can also be displayed in reverse order. The new BARD site will also feature a previous downloads page where patrons can track items they have downloaded from BARD. Furthermore, author name, narrator, series, and subjects will be offered as links in book records so patrons can easily jump to additional titles of interest. BARD will also host updated help files and frequently asked questions.

NLS reported that BARD is busiest between noon and mid-night, and peaks in the later afternoon and mid-evening times. BARD can host up to 300 simultaneous downloads and it is the heaviest used server at the Library of Congress. BARD averages eight to twelve thousand downloads daily. The average time to download a book is ten minutes. NLS plans to offer patrons an option of downloading parts of a book in increments rather than the whole book all at one time.

NLS is planning to modify BARD to browse, download, and play books on smart phones like I-phones and Android phones that boast improved accessibility for patrons with disabilities. There is no expected release dates for smart phone support.

Recommended Reading from OLBDP Staff

Here are new reading recommendations from OLBDP staff. Remember that staff may recommend books that contain sex, strong language, or violence, so be sure to check before ordering.

Michael: “The Deceived” by Brett Battles – DB 72450; Spy Stories and Series

Rose: “Zero Day” by David Baldacci – DB 73993; Suspense

Stephanie: “The Historian” by Elizabeth Kostova – DB 60713; Suspense

Will: “Jamie’s Food Revolution” by Jamie Oliver - DB 71108; Cooking

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: The round grips came off the bottom of my digital talking book player. Can I get replacements?

A: Yes. The State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program has “sticky feet” to replace any that have become detached from the bottom of the player. Contact the State Library of Ohio at 1-800-686-1531 to request replacement sticky feet.

Q: I’m worried that I’ll accidentally bump and break my USB drive when it’s plugged into the side of my digital talking book player.

A: State Library of Ohio has USB elbow adapters for patrons plugging USB flash drives into the side of their digital talking book players. The elbow adapters keep flash drives tucked close to the player so they do not stick out away from the machine and exposed to possible accidents and damage. Contact the State Library of Ohio at 1-800-686-1531 to request a USB elbow adapter.

Q: When are new books added to BARD?

A: Books are added to the downloadable collection soon after they have been approved to be added to the general collection. If you don't see books on the site right away, please check back later.



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