

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

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

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Family Fun and Learning Day 2014

Family Fun & Learning Day will take place on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 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 2014 will feature a full day of special programs of interest to our patrons.

Family Fun & Learning Day 2014 will feature tours of OLBPD's Sensory Garden with flowers, herbs, and plants specially selected for their bloom, color, fragrance, taste, and texture. The Sensory Garden is open all year round.

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.

OLBPD is pleased to present two guest speakers for the day. Our first guest speaker is National Library Service (NLS) Network Services Section Head Vickie Collins. She oversees NLS network consultants who are assigned special liaison responsibilities to individual network libraries to facilitate communication between NLS and network libraries, and collects information on specific problems and conveys these issues to NLS. She will provide a network update and answer questions related to the NLS library service.

Our second guest speaker of the day will be local columnist and author Terry Pluto. He is a faith and sports columnist for the Plain Dealer and he has twice been honored by the Associated Press Sports Editors as the nation's top sports columnist for medium-sized newspapers. He is a nine-time winner of the Ohio Sports Writer of the Year. In 2005, he was inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame. He is the author of twenty-three books, including "Joe Tait: It's Been a Real Ball" which is being locally produced and will be available to patrons on digital cartridge and on BARD.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided for lunch. Exhibitors joining us this year include representatives from the Cleveland Sight Center's "Eye-dea Shop," Magnifiers and More, Veterans Administration, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Walmart Low Vision Center, and more. For further information or to register for Family Fun & Learning Day, please contact OLBPD.

Notes from the NLS Biennial Conference

In May, the National Library Service (NLS) hosted the 2014 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. During the conference, NLS offered quite a few updates that may be of interest to our readers.

The NLS Collection Development Section discussed efforts to expand the collection through the incorporation of more commercially produced audio books. Typically, NLS adds approximately 2,000 new titles to the collection each year, and they hope to add an additional 1,000 new titles received from commercial publishers. Collection Development also shared that approximately 22,000 cassette titles are still awaiting conversion to digital cartridge. NLS converts roughly 5,000 books from cassette to digital cartridge per year so it could take an additional four to five years to complete the RC conversion.

NLS reported that there are nearly 60,000 individuals and 2,000 institutions actively registered for BARD. In 2013, BARD users borrowed more than three million titles. Beginning this year, regional libraries will begin offering locally produced audio books in BARD, and NLS will be encouraging regional libraries to offer locally produced braille books through BARD as well.

The development of the BARD mobile Android app continues, and NLS is working to recode the app to improve accessibility. NLS has also been working with Google on braille accessibility for the Android platform but Google has not set braille functionality as a high priority for Android devices, and braille functionality remains a major challenge delaying the apps development and release. With respect to the BARD mobile Apple app, nearly 11,000 users registered over 17,000 Apple devices for use. NLS is developing the first upgrade to the Apple app – version 1.1 – that will feature improvements with braille connectivity, a sleep timer, continual downloading while the device is auto-locked, improved search functions, and stronger compatibility with VoiceOver not talking over the player's voice. Beyond version 1.1, NLS is exploring features such as syncing BARD mobile with multiple devices, an alert system notifying users when BARD is down or not working, multiple users on a single device, and automatic downloading of books on wish lists.

NLS also discussed long range plans and service in the future. In respect to braille books, NLS is committing research and development to explore offering refreshable braille display readers in place of hard copy braille production. NLS shared that current legislation would have to be changed in order for NLS to provide braille readers, and other factors such as cost and development remain as challenges to providing braille readers. NLS is also planning for the next generation of digital talking book players featuring wireless internet and Cloud connectivity. Other player enhancements being discussed include a built in text to speech engine capable of reading ebooks, and more BARD or electronically delivered titles versus physical cartridges through the mail.

Subscribing to Magazines on BARD

Patrons can now subscribe to magazines through BARD. Subscribing to a magazine means that the latest issue of that magazine will be added to your wish list automatically as soon as it becomes available. Patrons can subscribe to as many magazines as they want and can unsubscribe at any time. Patrons can also choose to receive email notifications when magazines are added to their wish list. Here's how to subscribe to a magazine:

1. Log into your BARD account.
2. Go to the Magazines by Title combo box, which is just below the heading that says, "Magazines by title."
3. Choose the magazine to which you want to subscribe.
4. Tab to the Go button, and press Enter. A page listing recent issues of your chosen magazine opens. There is a level 1 heading at the top of the page with the same name as your chosen magazine.
5. Just below the magazine title heading is a Subscribe button. Press Space on this button to activate it. A screen opens notifying you that you have been subscribed. This screen also includes a "Back to magazine listing" link, which returns you to the main page for your magazine, and an "E-mail notification options" link that users can follow to set up an "Alert me by e-mail when new issues of subscribed magazines are available" option.

Currency Readers

On June 7, 2013 the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its opinion in support of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) plan to use appropriated funds to purchase and give currency readers to blind and visually impaired individuals as part of its compliance with the federal district court order to provide such individuals with meaningful access to U.S. currency.

The BEP plans to begin roll-out of the program this summer at the national conferences of the American Council of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, and the Blinded Veterans Association. NLS is planning to announce the registration process in the Sept/Oct 2014 Talking Book Topics. The BEP national roll-out program will begin early 2015.

Currency readers will also address the transition that will occur during the co-circulation of notes with and without tactile features. Raised tactile features will be added to U.S. currency which are unique to each U.S. Federal Reserve note and will provide users with a means of identifying each denomination via touch. New currency notes will also feature high contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination as permitted by law.

Currency identification apps are also available to mobile device users. "The Ideal Currency Identifier" is a free downloadable app for Android users, and EyeNote is a free app available to Apple iOS users.

Recommended Reading from the OLBPD Staff

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

Fran: “A Week in Winter” by Maeve Binchy – DB 76309; Fiction

Mark: “The Fault in our Stars” by John Green – DB 74112; Fiction

Rose: “Operation Paperclip” by Annie Jacobsen – DB 78452; History

Will: “Trusting Calvin” by Sharon Peters – DB 77282; Biography

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why doesn't NLS change its name or remove “handicapped” from its name to something more contemporary and sensitive to people with disabilities?

A: The National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was established by an act of Congress and the program is referred to by its name in federal legislation. In order to change their name, it would require an act of Congress. NLS has received quite a bit of feedback about changing their name and they are investigating and have been exploring all the necessary details that are involved if they were to change the name of their program.



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