

LIBRARY AT THE TOUCH OF A FINGER

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL

919 NEWS

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

NO. 67

SPRING, 2009

NOTES FROM THE LBPH INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Philadelphia Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped participated in a planning project from May 2008 through April 2009. One of the activities of the project was to hold a focus group for users of the LBPH service. On August 8, 2008, eight patrons participated in the session and gave us important feedback.

They told us, among other things, that they appreciated our service and particularly valued access to Newline, the telephone news service from the National Federation of the Blind that is available to our registered patrons.

These avid users also told us that many of them would like to receive messages, announce-

ments, and even this distinguished newsletter, 919 News, in electronic format, that is, through email. We are therefore developing a process for sending email communications to those who desire them. First, we will need to survey all of you, our readers, to tell us your preference. Note please that the 919 News is available on our web site, <http://lbph.freelibrary.org> and select the 919 News from the menu.

One thing that is lacking, the members of the groups told us, is more large print for children and teens, as well as more print-Braille books. We are taking these comments seriously and are developing our plans to accommodate

more of you in more ways.

We thank the focus group participants for their time and ideas and we encourage all of you to let us know what you like about us in particular and what needs to be done to improve our services. You don't need to wait for a formal survey. Please send your comments to:

Nancy Laskowski, Interim Director
Philadelphia Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
919 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
or call at 215-683-3213 or email
laskowskin@freelibrary.org

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Although the Philadelphia Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is funded primarily by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is a department of the Free Library of Philadelphia. As such, its operations have been affected by the recent budget problems of the City of Philadelphia resulting in some shifting of staff and positions.

However, there is no threat to the services we provide. We will continue to send out books—large print, cassette, and Braille—as usual. We are preparing for the new players and book cartridges as soon as the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Library of Congress, delivers them later this year.

If you are interested in ensuring stable funding for the Philadelphia Library for the Blind, you can contact Governor Rendell, and your

local state legislators. Please call us at 215-683-3213 if you need names and contact information.

In these tough budget times, there are many interests clamoring for public dollars. We can add our voices. In the meantime, be assured that we plan on working smarter on your behalf so that your library needs are met in the best possible way.

~HOLIDAY CLOSINGS~

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2009
Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2009
Columbus Day, Monday, October 12, 2009
Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2009
Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2009

You may contact us by mail, fax, telephone or email. We are located at 919 Walnut Street (first floor), Philadelphia, PA 19107; (fax) 215-683-3211; (toll free) 800-222-1754 or (local) 215-683-3213; and flblind@freelibrary.org

919 NEWS is published by the Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Free Library of Philadelphia. It is available in large print, cassette and in braille. Call the Library for the braille or cassette version at 215-683-3213 (in Philadelphia) or toll free at 800-222-1754. We welcome news and comments from our readers.

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

LIBRARY FOR BLIND AND
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
919 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107
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FREE
READING MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND OR PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED

WEB BRAILLE

Web Braille is a web-based service provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). This service provides the opportunity to eligible readers to download materials to your computer or to use online with a Braille output device. Web Braille offers all of the books and magazines listed in Braille Book Review, in addition to the thousands of books that can be located through the online catalog at the NLS web site, www.loc.gov/nls.

Copyright laws require that access to Web Braille be limited to NLS patrons and eligible institutions such as schools for the blind, public and private schools serving blind children and non-profit organizations, whose primary purpose is the production of Braille books. To register for Web Braille, please call the Library at 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213.

BRAILLE BICENTENNIAL SILVER DOLLAR

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) recently shared the report with the nation, "The Braille Literacy Crisis in America: Facing the Truth, Reversing the Trend, Empowering the Blind".

NFB celebrates the release of the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar. A portion of the money from sales of the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar, will be used to support the NFB "Braille Readers are Leaders" campaign.

The campaign is a national initiative created to double the number of blind children learning Braille by 2015. For more information about the campaign please visit www.braille.org.

Those interested in ordering a coin should visit www.usmint.gov or call 800-872-6468.

NLS BRAILLE MAGAZINE PROGRAM

Braille magazines are a good way to keep up your literacy skills and have fun with words. Did you know Conundrum magazine has Sudoku, crossword puzzles, and other word games? Why not try these word games as a fun way to keep up your Braille skills? Warm days are ahead and there is nothing like spending time outdoors, reading for pleasure and relaxation. We have 29 magazines available for free distribution to your home. Also, if you are a sports fan, we have schedules to send you for all of your favorite major teams. Consider taking advantage of our free Braille magazines by calling us to subscribe today.

Call us Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213 to take advantage of any of the free Braille magazines below. You should receive the first issue of your free subscription 7 to 9 weeks after your call. Enjoy!

Magazines available:

Boys' Life (for children and teens, monthly)
Braille Book Review (bimonthly)
Braille Chess Magazine (British quarterly)
Braille Music Magazine (British monthly)
Conundrum (British monthly)
Cooking Light (10 issues)
ESPN: The Magazine (biweekly)
Harper's (literary; monthly)
Health Newsletters (includes Harvard Health Letter, Mayo Clinic Health Letter, and University of California at Berkeley Wellness Letter, monthly)

Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine (monthly)
Ladies' Home Journal (monthly)
Martha Stewart Living (home and entertaining; 10 issues)
Muse (for children; 10 issues)
The Musical Mainstream (quarterly)
National Geographic (monthly)
The New York Times Large Type Weekly (weekly)
Parenting (monthly except January and July)
PC World (personal computing; monthly)
Playboy (monthly)
Poetry (11 issues)
Popular Communications (monthly)
Popular Mechanics (monthly)
Popular Music Lead Sheets (irregular)
Rolling Stone (popular culture; 24 issues)
Science News (weekly)
Seventeen (for teens; monthly)
Short Stories (British monthly)
Spider: The Magazine for Children (monthly)
Stone Soup (children's writings; 5 issues)

The following sports schedules are available in Braille:

American Baseball League Schedule
National Baseball League Schedule
National Basketball Association Schedule
National Football League Schedule
National Hockey League Schedule
Women's National Basketball Association Schedule

FLP TECHNOLOGY CORNER

BOOKSHARE

BookShare books are still available through the Verizon grant for institutional membership, secured by the Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP). It is not too late to participate. Include your name, address, phone number, email address and birth date in an email to bookshare@freelibrary.org and we will add you to our subscriber list. Once your registration is complete, go to <http://bookshare.org>, select the books you want and send your list to us at bookshare@freelibrary.org. We will download the books and email them to you. It is free to you and easy. Remember, if you are a student you are eligible for your own direct free membership.

FLP/ACCESS TECHNOLOGY WORKSTATION (ATW) TRAINING

Free basic access technology orientation and introduction to computers is available at LBPH or one of the nine FLP branches housing Access Technology Workstations (ATW). Mr. Dan Simpson, FLP/LBPH Access Technology Consultant is available by appointment for training sessions. Please call Susan Horvath at 215-683-3213 or 800-222-1754 and be prepared to leave your name, telephone number or email address for Mr. Simpson. No-shows are inconsiderate.

BRAILLE REVIVAL LEAGUE

Jenny Beck Chapter

The Jenny Beck Chapter of the Braille Revival League promotes the teaching, awareness and use of Braille. JBC has existed for more than twenty-

five years. Some of the things that JBC has brailled for companies and individuals are theater programs, restaurant menus and recipes. JBC holds Braille awareness events in the community. If you would like to have more information about JBC or need some things put into Braille, please call 215-829-9997.

ABE/GED PROGRAM UPDATE

We would like to graciously acknowledge a grant from the Joseph B. Godwin and Bertha Wurts Godwin Memorial Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation. We are deeply appreciative of the generous grant that financed the instruction and paratransit transportation expenses for the ABE/GED Program's Summer Session, 2008, at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped/FLP.

The Adult Basic Education Program at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is proud to announce that we have a new graduate. Mr. Sean O'Hara has just passed his GED examinations with exceptionally high scores. Sean has been accepted into the diploma program of The Philadelphia Art Institute. We are very proud of Sean and wish him the best of luck with his endeavors.

If you would like to join the group of students who are working diligently to earn their high school equivalency diploma, contact Ms. Jill Gross at 215-683-3213 or 800-222-1754. You may also receive information by writing to literacy@tactitus.com or flpblind@freelibrary.org

PENNSYLVANIA'S TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (TDDP)

Is it difficult to make a phone call? There is a program that gives free phones to eligible people who live in Pennsylvania and need a phone with features to help with a disability. A variety of equipment is available through Pennsylvania TDDP.

Some of the phones that are available have large buttons or Braille numbers on the keys that speak the numbers as they are pushed. Amplified phones are also available.

The TDDP is implemented by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). For more information, contact the TDDP at 215-204-5966 (voice/TTY), toll free at 800-204-7428 (voice), 866-268-0579 (TTY), tddp@temple.edu (email), or visit www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/tddp.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Benefits of Volunteering as a Family

During these challenging economic times, families are looking for things to do together with a minimal cost. Volunteering is an excellent choice. Whether it is to solve a community problem or help a worthy cause, volunteering can help your family:

- **Make important networking contacts**
- **Learn about social issues**
- **Increase communication and problem solving abilities of family members**
- **Encourage children to continue to volunteer into adulthood**

So, I am reaching out to families and offering them a unique way to spend quality time together. Consider volunteering at the Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Please call Ms. Angel Chambers-Gilliam at 800-222-1754.

NLS AUDIOCASSETTE MAGAZINE PROGRAM

Magazines help you think about aspects of life that you may not have thought about for a long time. Sometimes they provide a fresh perspective on something you thought you had your mind made up about. After listening to a few magazines, you may find yourself enjoying the thoughts of particular magazine contributors. Once a week, monthly, or every couple of months (depending on the magazine) you can listen to your favorite magazine writers give you some thoughts on the world to expand your mind and add some joy to your day. Why not give our free magazines a try?

OUR MAGAZINES

- do not need to be returned
- come to you in a paper or cardboard mailer
- are designed so you can easily fast forward between articles by listening for a high pitched tone
- typically come on one cassette

We have 39 free magazines in English that span many topics from cooking to rocket science. In addition to a German, Spanish, and French Reader's Digest magazine, we offer Buenhogar, a popular Spanish magazine and Journal Francais, a popular French magazine. Please call us Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213 to try out any of our magazines. You will receive the first issue of your free subscription 7 to 9 weeks after your call.

Magazines available:

- American Heritage (8 issues)
- Analog Science Fiction and Fact (11 issues)
- Asimov's Science Fiction (11 issues)
- The Atlantic Monthly (11 issues; combined issue July–August)
- Bon Appétit (monthly)
- Choice Magazine Listening (on loan from cooperating libraries; bimonthly)
- Consumer Reports (monthly)
- Contemporary Sound Track: A Review of Pop, Jazz, Rock, and Country (bimonthly)
- Cricket (for children, on one cassette with National Geographic World (monthly)
- Diabetes Forecast (monthly)
- Discover: The World of Science (monthly)
- Ebony (monthly)
- Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (11 issues)
- Foreign Affairs (6 issues)
- Good Housekeeping (monthly plus special issues)
- Health and Nutrition Newsletters (includes Dr. Andrew Weil's Self Healing, The Johns Hopkins Medical Letter—Health after Fifty, Mayo Clinic Health Letter, and Nutrition Action Healthletter; monthly)

- Horticulture (6 issues)
- Magazine of the Month (monthly)
- Money (monthly plus special issues)
- The Musical Mainstream (quarterly)
- The Nation (47 issues)
- National Geographic (monthly)
- National Geographic World (for children and teens, on one cassette with Cricket; monthly)
- National Review (25 issues)
- The New York Times Book Review (weekly)
- Odyssey (11 issues; February–December)
- Outdoor Life (10 issues; combined issues June–July, December–January)
- People (weekly plus special issues)
- QST (monthly)
- Quarterly Music Magazine (quarterly)
- Smart Computing (monthly)
- Sound & Vision (10 issues)
- Spider: The Magazine for Children (monthly)
- Sports Illustrated (weekly plus special issues)
- Sports Illustrated for Kids (monthly)
- Talking Book Topics (bimonthly, also contains selections From NLS News irregularly)
- Travel & Leisure (monthly)
- True West (monthly)
- U.S. News and World Report (monthly)
- The Writer (12 issues)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE MAGAZINES:

- Selecciones del Reader's Digest (Spanish; monthly)
- Sélections du Reader's Digest (French; monthly)
- Das Beste aus Reader's Digest (German; 12 issues)
- France-Amérique (French; monthly)
- Buenhogar (Spanish; monthly)

OPAC

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) of the Pennsylvania libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) is available on our web site. A link to this catalog can be found at <http://lbph.freelibrary.org>

The catalog lists recorded cassettes, Braille and large print books in our collection. You may search this catalog by **author, title, book number, word in title, subject or narrator.**

Anyone can search the OPAC, but you must be a registered patron of the Philadelphia LBPH to borrow books through the OPAC. If you are a registered patron and you want to sign up for the OPAC, please call the Library at 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213. You need to call to receive your User **ID** and select a **Password** to borrow books through the **OPAC.**