

LIBRARY AT THE TOUCH OF A FINGER

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL

919 NEWS

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

NO. 62

SUMMER, 2007

NLS NETWORK LIBRARY AWARD

Hip, hip, hooray for the Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped! The staff, volunteers, and Friends of the Library were honored to receive a recognition award for providing innovative programs and services.

Highlights of the exemplary service award include: the **Adult Basic Education and General Educational Development Program** – possibly the only one of its kind in the U.S. – that provides visually impaired adults with the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma and enjoy improved career possibilities; the **LBPH on-site Recording Studio** uses volunteers to produce audio books and magazines focused on Pennsylvania and has created an impressive collection of local materials; and the **Touch Gallery** is a unique collaborative concept for visitors to enjoy art created by artists with visual disabilities.

Past winners of this prestigious award include Braille Institute Library Services of Los Angeles and the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service of Springfield.

NEW “DISCOVERY CORNER”

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped launched the Discovery Corner in the LBPH Talking Book Center. The Center is an intergenerational learning place for listening and sharing ideas and cultural programs including poetry, literature, and music. The Discovery Corner is side by side with the Touch Gallery and the Access Technology Workstations that provide computer resources via Braille, large type, and synthesized speech.

On Thursday, June 21, children’s book author Alix Berenzy, a local Pennsylvania author, read her book entitled Sammy, the Classroom Guinea Pig to a mesmerized audience of children, parents, and grandparents, including a giant stuffed turtle, Shelly, who resides in the space. In addition to print-braille copies, Alix Berenzy’s earlier title, The Frog Prince, has been recorded by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. A box of Tactile Learning Toys were provided as a treasure chest for young children linked in with Pennsylvania’s “One Book, Every Young Reader” campaign.

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 flpblind@library.phila.gov

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
215.683.3213
(TOLL FREE) 1.800.222.1754

**FREE
READING MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND OR PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED**

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The summer brings about some changes in personnel in the volunteer department. A lot of the regular volunteers take vacations during this time and the summer youth program makes up the majority of the volunteer department at this time.

The Summer Youth Works is a program that has been in existence at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped/Free Library of Philadelphia for over 25 years.

The Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition and Communities in Schools are two of the agencies with which the Library partners. A team of thirty youth workers, work a five-hour day for six weeks. Youth workers assist in such tasks as sorting incoming books, shelving books, processing materials to be mailed to patrons, inspecting the quality of incoming books, as well as assisting the staff in updating the inventory. These young people are energetic and a joy to work with.

NFB-NEWSLINE

The NFB-Newsline is a free service that provides automatic "Talking Newspapers" over your telephone. Easy to use Newsline is ready with each day's latest edition usually by 8:00AM. You can use the service to read your favorite newspapers 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

Tired of channel surfing aimlessly? Local TV listings are now available on Newsline. By simply entering the zip code, your cable or satellite provider and time zone, you will have quick and easy access to your local TV listings.

The listings are interactive, allowing you to navigate and choose between date, time and/or channel listings.

To register for this FREE service provided by the National Federation of the Blind and the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation call the Library at 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213.

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS VISIONWALK

Saturday October 6, 2007

The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) will be pounding the pavement nationwide this spring to increase awareness and research dollars through **VISIONWALK**, FFB's signature fund-raising event. **VISIONWALK** will raise money to support cutting-edge research to find the preventions, treatments and cures for retinal degenerative diseases. Join us and the **LBPB Susan Horvath Team** in this 5K (3.1 mile) walk that is designed to raise both awareness and dollars. All walk routes are wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Become a sponsor of a Walk, make a donation to a Walker, volunteer at the Walk, bring your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. For more information please contact Susan Horvath at 800-222-1734 or horvaths@library.phila.gov.

NLS MAGAZINES ON AUDIOCASSETTE

There are many magazines produced by NLS on audio- cassette free to our patrons. These magazines will continue to be produced by NLS on audiocassette. If you would like to begin a subscription of any of the following magazines, please contact us at

800-222-1754, 215-683-3213 or

flpblind@library.phila.gov.

Cassette Magazines:

American Heritage; Analog Science Fiction and Science; Asimov's Science Fiction; Atlantic Monthly; Bon Appetit; Consumer Reports; Contemporary Sound Track: A Review of Pop, Jazz, Rock and Country; Diabetes Forecast; Discover: The World of Science; Ebony; Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine; Foreign Affairs; Good Housekeeping; Health and Nutrition Newsletters; Horticulture: American Gardening at Its Best; Magazine of the Month; Money; Musical Mainstream; Nation; National Geographic; National Review; New York Times Book Review; Outdoor Life; People; QST; Quarterly Music Mainstream; Smart Computing; Sound and Vision; Sports Illustrated; Teen People; Travel & Leisure; True West; U. S. News and World Report; Writer; and Young Adult Magazine of the Month.

Cassette Magazines in Foreign Languages:

Das Beste-Readers' Digest/German

Buenhogar; Buenhogar-Spanish;

Journal Francais-French

Selecciones del-Readers' Digest/Spanish

Selections du Reader's Digest/French

NEBA AWARD WINNERS SELECTED

National Exhibits by Blind Artists (NEBA) has announced its two dimensional and three dimensional winners for the 2007-2008 "Art Beyond Sight" show. A panel of jurors, chaired by Jan Baltzell of Philadelphia's Academy of Fine Arts, awarded the following:

NEBA Award Winners 2007-08

Two Dimensional

First place: Tracy Mosman -
"Untitled #3"
Second place: Frank Valliere -
"Soon Will be the Blackflies"
Third place: Charles Blackwell -
"From the Voice of the Village, Jazz"
Honorable Mention:
Kurt Weston "Eye of the Beholder"
Arlene Innmon "On the Bus"
John Caperton "High Winds"

Three Dimensional

First place: Marcia Springston -
"Ledges"
Second place: Frank Madison -
"Horse and Rider"
Third place: Passle Helminski -
"Turning Into Gold"
Honorable Mention:
Plato Nickens "The Dance"
Martha Cowden "Out & About"
Ashby Saunders "Rose"

The show is scheduled to open at the Wayne Art Center in the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Gallery on September 23 and close on October 21, 2007. The Wayne Art Center is located at 413 Maplewood Avenue in Wayne, PA. Additional information is available at www.wayneart.org. The Artists' Reception will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2007, 5:30 – 7:30. Call 1-800-222-1754 by October 1 for information. In the fall the virtual NEBA exhibit will be available at www.nebaart.org.

INDEPENDENCE STARTS HERE (ISH)

A Festival of Disability Arts and Culture ~ October 18 – November 20, 2007

Starting with a gala kickoff event at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia and culminating with the unveiling of the Mural Arts Program's Disabilities Mural located in Center City Philadelphia, the Festival promises delight after delight of music, theater, talent, and treasures. Sponsors include the VSA Arts of Pennsylvania, Art-Reach, Inc., the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities, and many others. The participants include the Free Library of Philadelphia, Amaryllis Theatre, National Exhibits by Blind Artists, Walnut Street Theater, Arden Theater Company, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and many more.

For more information, including event listings, how to get tickets, and why this is the "don't miss" event of fall in Philadelphia, check the website at <http://www.independencestartshere.org>, or contact VSA Arts of Pennsylvania, 2030 Sansom Street, Third Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215-564-2431). info@independencestartshere.org.

ON-LINE BOOKSTORE

Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired has an on-line Bookstore, which lists over 400 braille titles including cookbooks, mysteries and children's books. It also lists twenty-four popular magazines on audiocassette such as: *Taste of Home Cooking*, *Oprah* and *Forbes*. Check out the ASB&VI website at www.asb.org/bookstore. If you do not have a computer, call 215-627-0600 ext. 3219 for the ASB&VI catalog of audiocassette magazines.

AN AUDIO DESCRIPTION (AD) TRAINING WORKSHOP September 14-16, 2007

The workshop is sponsored by the VSA Arts of Pennsylvania. The workshop is designed to train audio describers for community members who are blind and low-vision to describe at arts/cultural, educational and other events held during and beyond the **Independence Starts Here** Festival. To register for this dynamic two-day workshop, please contact VSA Arts of Pennsylvania at www.vsapa.org.

WEB BRAILLE

Web Braille is a web-based service that provides in any electronic format, many braille books and all braille magazines produced by NLS (National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped).

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 nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is the production of braille books.

To register for Web Braille, please call the Library at 1-800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213.

JENNY BECK CHAPTER OF THE BRAILLE REVIVAL LEAGUE

The Jenny Beck Chapter of The Braille Revival League promotes the use and awareness of Braille. They braille items such as menus, recipes, patterns, etc. They also offer one-on-one braille instruction. There are tee shirts, purses, and dishcloths for sale now. For information about BRL or to inquire about the items for sale, please call 215-829-9997.

BLIND SPORTS ORGANIZATION (BSO)

BSO is a thirty-three year old non-profit agency that promotes, provides and advocates fitness, recreation, sport and social events for blind and visually impaired youth and adults. For calendar of events or more information please contact BSO at www.blindsports.org.

OPAC

The Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Online Public Access Catalog (**OPAC**) is available on our web site. A link to this catalog can be found at <http://lbph.library.phila.gov>. This catalog lists recorded cassettes, braille and large print books available from us. You may search this catalog by **Author, Title, Word in Title, Subject, or Narrator**.

Anyone can search the OPAC. However, only registered patrons of the Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped can borrow books through the OPAC. Registered patrons should contact the Library at 1-800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213 to receive a **User ID** and **Password** necessary to borrow books through the **OPAC**.

AMTRAK SERVICES

Amtrak offers rail fare discounts for passengers with disabilities, and has made numerous accommodations to their trains to make rail travel accessible to people with disabilities. For more information, please contact Amtrak at 800-872-7245 or www.amtrak.com.

FRIENDS of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ I wish to join the FRIENDS of 2007/2008 and I am enclosing \$10.00 for an individual membership.

_____ I wish to join the FRIENDS of 2007/2008 and I am enclosing \$25.00 for a family membership.

_____ I wish to make a donation to the FRIENDS and I am enclosing the following amount \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **“FRIENDS of LBPH”**.

For more information, please call Vickie L. Collins or Renee Snowten at 800-222-1754.

Please return this form to: Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
919 Walnut Street, First Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107