

Reading is for Everyone...

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

(586) 286-1580

Fall 2016

Programming at Your Macomb Library for the Blind

We offer the following on-going programs at the library. For details or to arrange an appointment, please call us at (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274.

Our Book Discussion Group meets once a month, by phone. No need to come to the library as this is a by-phone-only program! Each month the library selects an audiobook for the group to read and discuss at the following month's meeting.



Adaptive computer tutoring is available by appointment. In addition to software such as ZoomText and JAWS screen reader, we offer tutoring in VoiceOver technology on Apple products, such as iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. Select tutoring is available on Android products.

Personalized device demonstrations, including such items as magnifiers, writing tools, lamps, and more are available by appointment at the library. These items are designed to make life a bit easier if you have vision issues. Since we do not sell any of these items, there is no pressure to purchase, just an easy way to test out a product. This free program is sponsored by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition and is hosted at the Macomb Library for the Blind. To find out more information on any of these programs, please call the Macomb Library for the Blind (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274.

Contact MLBPH

Phone: 586-286-1580
Toll-free: 855-203-5274

www.cmpl.org/mlbph

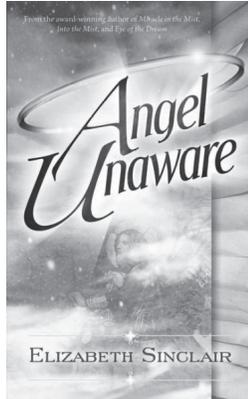
Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday* 1 - 6 p.m.

* September-May

Reader Recommendations

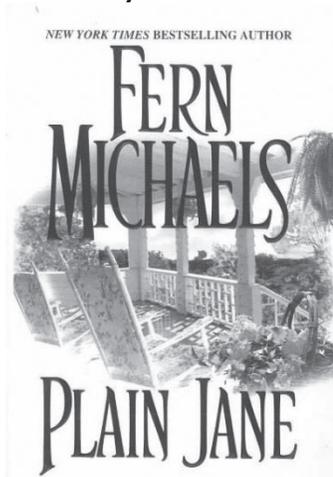
Rita Taylor recommends *Angels Unaware* by Dale Evans Rogers. A singer tells of her love for a daughter born with Down's syndrome and of the child's short life. Includes an introduction by Norman Vincent Peale.



Rita says this is so beautiful and all about faith. It is uplifting. You might find it hard to listen to, but you'll want to listen again.

The author is the wife of Roy Rogers, both famous for their films and television shows. **DB 09980**

Florence Brogden recommends *Plain Jane* by Fern Michaels. When frumpy,



overweight college student Jane Lewis and another coed, Connie, were attacked by five men, only Connie was raped. Later Connie committed suicide. Now a successful psychiatrist, Jane is treating a

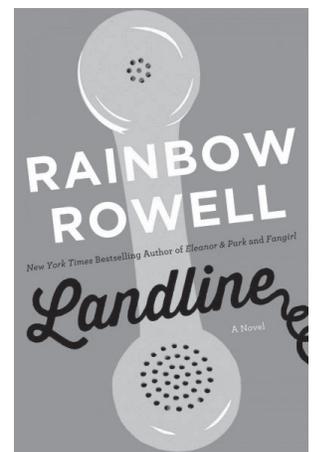
patient who stirs up memories of that night. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Florence says this book put her in a frame of mind of forgiveness. Forgiveness is the key. **DB 51989**

The Woman Who Heard Color by Kelly Jones is Barbara Kosulinski's pick for a very good book to read. It was an invitation into the past for Lauren O'Farrell, an "art detective" who made it her mission to retrieve invaluable works stolen by the Nazis during the darkest days of World War II. Lauren's quest to learn more about the activities of a Munich art dealer has led her to the Manhattan apartment of eighty-two-year-old Isabella Fletcher, a woman with a startling secret. Fragile but enduring, the wealthy Isabella lives in the shadow of a terrible history; her mother was rumored to have collaborated with the Nazis.

Barbara thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was very intriguing, well written and kept her interest throughout the novel. **VDB01297** (Idaho Shelf Project)

Russell Allgaier recommends *Landline* by Rainbow Rowell. Georgie McCool's career as a television writer is taking off, but her marriage to Neal is in trouble. Missing the Christmas trip with her family is the last straw, and they go to Omaha without her. When Georgie tries to phone Neal, she somehow calls the past. Some strong language.



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Russell really liked the narrator, Elisabeth Rodgers, who reminded him of another narrator he likes, Pam Ward. Russell says the book is very romantic, but also has suspense which leaves you on needles and pins on the edge of your chair. You won't want to put it down! **DB 81845**

James Rutt says if you want to read a good book that has a different twist on the typical Amish story, try *The Photograph* by Beverly Lewis. After the death of their parents, sisters Eva, Frona, and Lily face big changes.

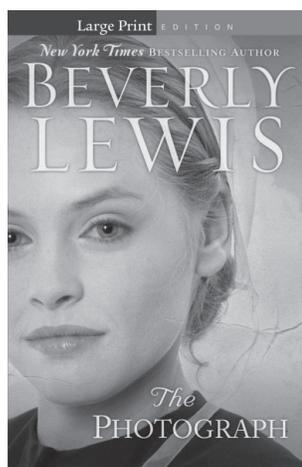
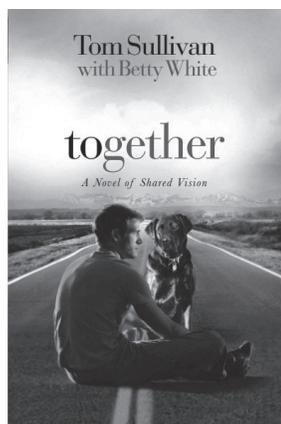
Lily runs away from their Amish community, and Eva feels herself drawn to Jed, a buggy maker newly arrived in town. He carries a photograph of a young woman Eva recognizes.

James thought this was an interesting story with a happy ending! **DB 83549**

Helen Walczak recommends

Together: A Story of Shared Vision by Tom Sullivan. Twenty-five-year-old Brenden McCarthy is a first-year

medical resident and an avid mountain climber until a climbing accident blinds him. Now Brenden's widowed mother wants to care for him and his fiancée considers leaving him, while Brenden enters



rehabilitation and gets a guide dog-thrice-rejected black Labrador Nelson.

Helen found that although there are tears, this book is wonderful to read. The relationship that developed with the guide dog made for an inspiring story which touched all the emotions. **DB 67040**

For Crew And Country: The Inspirational True Story Of Bravery And Sacrifice Aboard The USS Samuel B. Roberts by John F Wukovits, comes highly recommend by patron **Charles Spindler**. This story recounts the actions of the crew aboard the destroyer escort USS Samuel B. Roberts when they unexpectedly encountered a Japanese armada off the Philippines on October 25, 1944. Though badly outnumbered, the men attacked before having to abandon ship. Commercial audiobook.

Charles says from the Captain on down to the crew, their courage was medal of honor type courage! **DB 76855**

Music at Main

Join us for a free hour of music open to all ages at the Main Library. No registration is required to attend.

Tues., Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.: Crossroads

Sun., Nov. 6 at 2 p.m.: LL7

Sun., Dec. 4 at 2 p.m.: Classical Bells

Sharon's Corner: Contacts, Calendars and Such

Many of us find that, as our vision changes, it becomes more difficult to keep track of addresses and phone numbers. Well, there are many options available to us.

Using a large print address book with a dark pen may be all you need. Other patrons have found that they can use a device called the PenFriend with their existing address book. The PenFriend is a small recording device that is simple to use. Information such as names, addresses, phone numbers and directions are recorded onto small round tabs that can be placed right near the print addresses. You simply use the PenFriend to listen to the information so that you can make phone calls.

Of course, those of you who are familiar with cell phones know that the contact list feature can hold all sorts of information including names, addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, emails and any other information you might want to keep. This information can be typed or dictated into the contact list.



Keeping appointments is also easy in your phone or computer calendar feature. Entries can be made in your phone right when you are in places like the doctor's office or hair salon. As always, if you have questions, please call the library and set up some time to learn how to use these features at (586) 286-1580 or toll free (855) 203-5274.

New High Volume Player Available

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has made available a new High-Volume Player and headphones designed for use only by patrons who are hearing impaired. The player will produce a sound level of up to 120 dB in adults.

A warning accompanies this machine as it can cause permanent damage to your hearing if not used in accordance with its instructions. In order to receive this type of machine, a patron must complete a special application form that needs to be signed by a physician or an audiologist.

Please call the library, at (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274, if you would like further information or want to receive an application form.

Notes from Barb – the 2016 National Library Conference

On April 2-7, I had the opportunity to attend the 2016 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals held in San Francisco, California. The five-day conference was filled with presentations, workshops, and hands-on training sessions geared toward improving library services for the blind and physically handicapped community. The 2016 conference theme, Gateway to Knowledge, focused on enhancing the National Library Service (NLS) online systems to improve patron access to materials. According to Karen Keninger, director of the NLS, the goal for this year's conference "is to create more and better access to the world's knowledge through the gateway of the NLS network."

Technology was the buzzword at this year's conference. NLS announced their five-year technology plan which includes the development of a virtual library that support on-demand service for patrons. NLS is transitioning from servers to a Cloud-based model allowing patrons to request, receive, and return audiobooks in real-time. The Cloud also will allow patrons to listen to books on multiple devices. For instance, patrons can stop and continue where they left off regardless of what device they are using. Furthermore, NLS announced a plan to revamp its talking book player to synchronize with Cloud-based computing. The new player will include wireless capabilities which allow books to be sent directly to a patron's player. With wireless the new talking book player can automatically update when new features are available.

On the library collection front, NLS is increasing their digital reference book collection in BARD – stay tuned for more reference books to request or download! In addition, NLS is working on a literary Braille and tactile project that includes more tactile in Braille books with pictures, allowing Braille readers to read the content as well as the pictures in the book. There also was a lot of discussion of the new Unified English Braille (UEB). The new UEB eliminated nine contractions, changed some spacing rules, and adopted some new symbols. Earlier this year, NLS has begun producing books (beginning with Bk#212266) and magazines in the new Unified English Braille. NLS doesn't expect braille readers to encounter much difficulty with the new braille code. Braille books with the new UEB code are available on the BARD web site ready to be downloaded. A list of books produced in UEB also can be found in the Braille book review.

At the end of the conference, I walked away with a wealth of knowledge and insight of the role and mission of the NLS. Their dedication and commitment to serve the blind and physically handicapped has inspired me to provide the best library service to our MLBPH community.

Visions 2016 Notes

On May 11, 2016, the Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled hosted a Visions Vendor Fair at the Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor. There were many interesting speakers and vendors to meet with to hear about the latest in vision products and services.

The National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) director, Karen Keninger, updated the audience on NLS initiatives. NLS hopes to have their talking book players wired so in five to seven years books can be downloaded directly to the player on demand. The profile can also be set to autoselect so there will always be a new book coming to the player if patrons do not choose to request a particular title.

Karen also mentioned that the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) website will have a new utility in the future called BARD Express. This utility will simplify the process of downloading books to your computer to be played on your talking book player.



Last year, Karen noted, 3,000 new titles were added to the library's collection. This surpasses the norm which was 2,000 books per year.

In addition, Karen highlighted a section of the collection devoted to musical scores in Braille along with audiobooks on how to play various instruments as well as music appreciation material. For example, the Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings offers folk song selections and most recently a patron discovered audiobooks highlighting interviews with the Beatles (DBM 00578 and DBM 00065) as well as a book devoted to the Liverpool scene (DBM 00629).

Another presenter, Dr. Lilas Mogk, from Henry Ford Ophthalmology, spoke on various vision issues. Dr. Mogk specializes in vision rehabilitation and offered tips on how to reduce the risk of vision loss. Tips included: refrain from smoking; wear sunglasses; avoid packaged/processed foods; eat dark green vegetables; avoid artificial fats.

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Dr. Mogk briefly spoke on Charles Bonnet Syndrome. This is a benign condition wherein a person sees visions that are not really there. For example, a common vision is children playing or flowers. The visions are typically pleasant, but can be disconcerting to the person. It is like a phantom vision just like a phantom pain that occurs long after an arm or leg is lost. This condition often goes unrecognized due to many caregivers and physicians being unaware of this syndrome plus patients' reluctance to discuss it with their eye care specialist. More physicians need to be aware of this condition so that patients can feel comfortable discussing it.

J.J. Meddaugh, from the AT Guys company, spoke about his weekly podcast, Blind Bargains Qast, which features interviews, presentations, and updates on the latest in technology. You can download this for free from the free App, Blind Bargains. J.J. said you can also search for it on your Victor Reader Stream.

J.J. recommended two websites that provide technology information for people with visual issues. One is applevis.com, which provides information on Apple products, such as iPhones, for blind and low vision users. The other site is inclusiveandroid.com, for blind and low vision users of android products.

Technological improvements are coming in the form of voice commands, such as Google Now and Amazon Echo. With such products you can verbally search the internet.

J.J. had much information about the latest in technological trends. His company's website, AT Guys, features this information. Visit www.atguys.com

Macomb Blind Bowling League

The Macomb Blind Bowling League offers fun and friendship for visually impaired, blind, and sighted bowlers. The group meets on Wednesdays from 11:30 am until 3:00 pm at Fraser Lanes. The cost is \$10 per week. Besides bowling, there are 50/50 raffles, mystery jackpots, and an end of season banquet.



The league is sponsored by eight different Lions Clubs. Sighted persons are also invited to join in the fun of bowling and to help with scorekeeping and pin placement.

To join and to get information on transportation to Fraser Lanes, please call Nathan at (586) 296-2675.

MLBPH @ CMPL
40900 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a public service of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

Vision Network Group Update

This summer's Vision Network Group is going strong with two more summer meetings as this Newsletter edition goes to print. We have had a solid turnout so far of patrons and guests who discuss various vision issues of interest, along with listening to various speakers. The group meets at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library's Main Library, which also houses our Macomb Library for the Blind.



Presenters included Kara Marsh from the Macomb County Health Department who talked about future plans the County is working on for an emergency disaster plan. Leslie Hoskins spoke to the group about the Accelerated Orientation and Mobility Training offered at Leader Dogs. Although offered at Leader Dogs, this particular program does not involve guide dogs, but white cane mobility and orientation.

As of this writing, we have two more meetings before we adjourn for the Fall. If you've missed your chance to join us, we look forward to meeting you next year!

The Macomb Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped does not endorse any services or websites, outside of its own library, that may be referred to in this newsletter.