

Reading is for Everyone...

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

(586) 286-1580

Fall 2018

Adjusting to Vision Loss Seminar

Adjusting to vision loss is an ongoing journey. If we lose the ability to do different things in our lives, with our families, or in the way we live, we need to stay on top of the changes AND LEARN HOW TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY. Join us for a fall seminar that explores ways to accept and then move forward. This seminar is open to persons with vision loss as well as their families and friends. Come to the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township 48038 on Tuesday, October 30 from 10 a.m. - Noon. Call the Macomb Library for the Blind for more details at (586) 286-1580 or toll free (855) 203-5274.

It's Time to Vote

The Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. assists people with disabilities. From their website: "Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) is the independent, private, nonprofit organization designated by the governor of the State of Michigan to advocate and protect the legal rights of people with disabilities in Michigan."



The website also features a section on voting that you can access with the following link: <http://www.mpas.org/contact-mpas/voter-rights>. There is also an Election Protection Hotline to call to report any incidents you encounter at the polls. The hotline phone number is (866) 687-8683.

Contact MLBPH

Phone: (586) 286-1580
Toll-free: (855) 203-5274
mlbph@cmpl.org

Hours

MLBPH Staff is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
www.cmpl.org/mlbph

VISIONS 2018: WHAT'S NEW IN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED: My Thoughts by Kathy Nuss

On May 18, 2018 I helped to represent Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped by attending the 2018 VISIONS Vendor Fair held at the Ann Arbor District Library. The event was cosponsored by the Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled and the State of Michigan's Bureau of Services for Blind Persons.

A room full of adaptive product vendors and four presentations were available from 11 am until 4 pm. I would like to share my thoughts on three of the speaker presentations which really impressed me.

William Robinson, III

Director, Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Mr. Robinson started by sharing his story of vision loss in 2001 as the result of a hunting accident. He was the former CFO of National Linen Service. As a result of determination, wonderful family support and rehabilitation, he found a wealth of services available to him so that he could rise from what could have been a devastating accident to serve in a vital capacity in the state agency that provides needed services to Michigan's 200,000 blind and visually impaired citizens. He is a wonderful example of using his experience to help others.

Sina Bahram

Technologist, researcher, and entrepreneur. Prime Access Consulting.

Mr. Bahram spoke about how his company works with museums and other organizations around the world so that they can become more inclusive to all audiences, especially those with disabilities. It was amazing for me to be reminded how easy it is to just add some simple elements to displays so that all folks can equally benefit. Being blind and a computer scientist was the right combination to bring this information to the companies who need it.

Camila Chiriboga

Recent graduate of New York's Parsons School of Design at the New School and winner of the 2017 "Disrupt Aging Design Challenge" sponsored by AARP.

Ms. Chiriboga shared some wonderfully, innovative clothing designed with those with disabilities in mind as well as newer, better quality hospital gowns that could become available in the near future. Having personal sewing and home arts as hobbies, I was particularly interested in ways that can help those with disabilities and hospital stays feel competent, good looking and comfortable at all times.

2018 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals: Notes from Barb Shipman

On June 16-21, I had the opportunity to attend the 2018 National Library Services conference held in Music City U.S.A., a.k.a. Nashville, Tennessee. While in Nashville, I enjoyed the southern hospitality, southern cooking, and air-conditioning. With temperatures reaching well over 90 degrees, I was glad to have spent a majority of my time indoors. This year's conference was filled to the brim with presentations, training sessions, and meetings.

The big buzz at this year's conference was the future of audio book delivery. In addition to the Digital Talking Book Machines (DTBM), NLS is looking for faster and more efficient methods to deliver audio books to patrons. Currently, NLS is developing a fourth generation player which will include a voice user interface similar to Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant that will allow patrons to request audio books with the sound of their voice.

The conference also included training sessions which gave attendees the opportunity to learn more about specific NLS services. The sessions that I attended were the Assistive Technology Petting Zoo and BARD Mobile. At the Assistive Technology Petting Zoo,

I had the opportunity to play with various electronic devices such as the Victor Stream, Amazon Echo, and Refreshable Braille Display.

The BARD Mobile session gave an overview of new and updated features that are available for both Android and iOS devices. The new features include sorting books by popularity, with the most popular book listed first, and the ability to browse magazine titles in their chosen format which are listed in alphabetical order. In addition, patrons can now access all available magazine issues, with the most recent one listed first.

The 2018 National Conference was full of energy and insight as the future of NLS was presented before us. I am excited about the future plans that NLS has in store and how it will enhance library services that will benefit our library patrons.

Holiday Hours

The Library for the Blind will be CLOSED on the following dates:

Sat., Sept. 1 - Mon., Sept. 3
Mon., Oct. 8

Wed., Nov. 21 - close at 6 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 22

Mon., Dec. 24 - Tues., Dec. 25
Mon., Dec. 31 - Tues., Jan. 1

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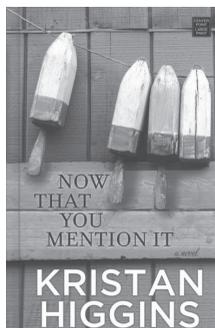
Reader Recommendations

Gloria Price recommends *If I Run* by Terri Blackstock. Suspected in the murder of journalist friend Brent Pace, twenty-five-year-old Casey Cox disguises herself under the name Grace Newland and flees. Brent's parents hire another friend of his, PTSD-afflicted veteran Dylan Roberts, to track Casey down. Meanwhile, Casey may risk everything while trying to help a kidnapped girl.

Gloria says this is her all-time favorite book! **DB 87410**

Beverly Lauzon recommends *The Lightkeeper* by Susan Wiggs. Washington coastline, 1876. Jesse Morgan, mourning the loss of his wife and unborn child, lives a monk's existence at the lighthouse. When beautiful, pregnant Mary Dare is washed ashore after a shipwreck, he tries to avoid her. But Mary needs his help while she waits to deliver her baby. Slowly Jesse rediscovers the joy of life. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

Beverly reports that this was such a good story that it kept her reading past her bedtime to get to the end! A wonderful book and well-written. It holds your attention. **DB 47540**



Lori Murphy says to try *Now That You Mention It* by Kristan Higgins. After getting in an accident, successful Boston doctor Nora Stuart returns to her hometown of Scupper

Island, Maine, hoping to mend her relationships with those she left behind. Although she doesn't get the warmest welcome, an unexpected ally might even bring romance.

Lori rates this a five-star book. Parts of the story are funny and parts are serious. Easy to read and touches your emotions of the soul with tragedy and humor. **DB 89960**

Rita Taylor recommends *Gentle Gunman* by Max Brand. A killer and thief, El Tigre was feared and hated by many, including the wealthy Senor Valdivia. Twenty years earlier El Tigre had stolen Valdivia's bride-to-be. Driven by unrelenting desire to even the score, Valdivia enlists the help of Charles Dupont, an honorable man, who wishes to show his gratitude for a past favor. The two concoct what they believe to be a foolproof plan to shoot El Tigre.

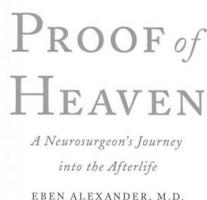
Rita says there are so many twists and turns, plus a surprise ending in this story. Sometimes it surprises you who the good guys are! Rita also liked the narrator. **DB 21435**

Rita also says to try *The Proving Trial* by Louis L'Amour. Young Kearney McRaven has plenty of courage, but tracking his father's killer is almost too much for him, especially since he himself is being trailed by mysterious gunmen in long, black coats.

Rita notes that this story also has a great narrator and L'Amour is a master storyteller. This book about fam-

ily betrayal is a good page turner. A book you will listen to again with a good ending. **DB 78736**

Sabina Borowicz recommends *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander. Account of fifty-four-year-old Harvard-educated neurosurgeon Alexander and his 2008 recovery from a coma induced by bacterial meningitis. Describes his near-death experience--including a feeling of unconditional love and acceptance--that convinced him of the existence of heaven and a personal God.



Sabina says this uplifting, short read of a positive view of heaven, is beautifully presented from a neurosurgeon's perspective. **DB 75791**

Lawrence Robbins recommends *American Minute: Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred* by William J. Federer. A collection of historical vignettes, one for each day of the year. Includes details of well-known holidays, achievements, and lesser-known events. Topics discussed include Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Lindbergh's solo flight, the Battle of Midway, the Red Cross, the Tuskegee Institute, and Paul Revere's midnight ride, among many others.

Lawrence says this book includes interesting facts in short segments. Lawrence learned quite a bit of great historical facts. **DB 87449**

Lawrence also recommends *Beer Money: A Memoir of Privilege and Loss* by Frances Stroh. The author reveals the complexities of her childhood as a member of the Stroh's beer family. Once in possession of the largest private beer fortune in America, the iconic Detroit label's decline paralleled that of the slow unraveling of the author's family and the city. Strong language. A 2017 Michigan Notable book.

Lawrence was born and raised in Detroit, so he found this book about the city and its ties to the beer industry very interesting. **DBC 11163**

Sharon Lotoczky recommends *Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan. Wisconsin journalist examines the ecological impact of dense human habitation on the Great Lakes, which contain twenty percent of the Earth's fresh water. Discusses industrial practices, invasive species, connections between the lakes and the ocean, and more. Presents policy recommendations to improve the health of the lakes.

Sharon says this is a must read if you are interested in the development of the Great Lakes and its connection to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The book covers the efforts to create an economic environment for the people who have settled here over time. It also explores the efforts to create an ecologically healthy environment for the people who live here now. **DB 87702**

BARD Mobile Updates

For those patrons who use BARD Mobile on an iOS or Android device, you may already have discovered that updates were recently released for this app. Many of you may have your devices set to automatically update your apps or your device may have alerted you that update apps were available.

This update includes the following features on both operating systems:

- Previously downloaded books and magazines will be listed under a new category called My Previous Downloads on the Get Books screen.
- Also on the Get Books screen, there now is a new Most Popular category, which lists the most popular downloads on BARD.
- Users will be able to browse magazines by title with the new Browse Magazines category in the Get Books screen.
- Bug fixes and performance improvements.

iOS only:

For those using a refreshable braille display, once enabled in Settings, braille will reflow to break lines to match the display's length.

- New VoiceOver actions on Bookshelf items will allow users to delete or access items directly from the Bookshelf.
- Total reading time and number of braille volumes will now appear in the item summary listings.
- Users will no longer need to tap "Load more" for long scrolling lists of results. The application will automatically reload the next 50 items.
- VoiceOver users will be able to use gestures to restore default settings for Tone and Speed.

Android only:

- Total reading time will display below author's name in Bookshelf screen.
- Users will be able to delete books and magazines more easily by swiping right for a delete feature in Bookshelf.
- On the Settings screen, a new global audio setting feature allows users to set Tone and Speed.

NLS recommends that users update the applications. However, the current versions will continue to work.

The new iOS version requires iOS 8 or later. Its user guide has been updated and can be found at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/BARDMobile.userguide.iOS.1.2.html>.

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The new Android version requires Android 4.2 or later. Its user guide, when ready, will be available at https://nlsbardpractice.loc.gov/LOC_02/BARDAndroidUserGuide.html

For those patrons unaware of BARD and BARD Mobile, BARD stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download. It is a website created by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It allows patrons to download audiobook files to a computer, and those files can be transferred to a flashdrive for use in the talking book player you receive as part of our service.

Therefore, patrons can have access to over 100,000 audiobooks right in their own home, at any time, by accessing the BARD website.

Likewise, if patrons own a device such as an iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch or Android phone or tablet, these patrons can download a free app called BARD Mobile. This app allows patrons to download audiobooks directly to their device so they can listen to their books on their device.

If you have any questions on BARD or BARD Mobile, please call the library at (586) 286-1580 or toll free at (855) 203-5274.

Tips from Patron

Our patron, Barbara Geib, has two ideas to share with you.

If you have a hard time hearing your TV set, and you do not necessarily want to turn up the volume, Barbara suggests the following. Place a baby monitor by the TV speaker and place the accompanying handheld device by your chair or close to your ear. It will help you hear the TV program without disturbing others.

Barbara also recommends if you happen to get your hearing aids wet, place them in a bag of rice and leave them overnight. That should do the trick to dry them out.

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 a.m. until 3 p.m.** 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 please call Frank at (586) 465-6694.

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.

Technology Assistance

For patrons with visual impairments interested in learning how to use a computer, free tutoring is available on Windows based computers using the screen reader JAWS or the magnification software ZoomText.

Tutoring is also available for iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touch. You can learn how to use your device with its own built-in feature that talks to you.

Some of your questions may be answered over the phone, but tutoring is also available in person at the library. Please call (586) 286-1580 to set up an appointment.

Hands-on demonstrations of various devices, such as lamps, magnifiers, and more, are available through the Assistive Technology Demonstration service. For a one-on-one appointment to learn what types of equipment are available for people with vision issues, please call the library at (586) 286-1580. This free service is sponsored by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition.

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.

