

# Reading is for Everyone...

## Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

(586) 286-1580

Fall 2013

### We're Now An Advisory Outreach Center

The Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL has recently become an Advisory and Outreach Center through the National Library Service. The only change that was made is that your audio books now ship from the Braille & Talking Book Library in Lansing. This allows Macomb LBPH staff more time to better serve you through reader's advisory and outreach events. We will continue to take calls, manage accounts, and process new applications and book orders. Please continue to call Macomb LBPH staff directly at 586-286-1580 or toll free at 855-203-5274.



For walk-in patrons, while there is not a physical collection of audio books on the shelf to choose from, we do have the ability to download books on demand. As it does take time to download books on demand, we do ask that you try to call ahead with your order and limit your choices to 1 or 2 titles. If you would like more titles, we would be happy to order more from the Lansing Library to be sent to you in the mail.

You may also download books at home through the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) program. You must first register for this program at <http://nlsbard.loc.gov>. You will create an account with an email address

and password and will need to have your registration approved by the Macomb LBPH before you can begin to download. A free flash drive is available through this Library for BARD patrons who would like one.

#### Hours

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

\* September-May

[www.cmpl.org/mlbph](http://www.cmpl.org/mlbph)

## Library Without Walls Report

On June 4, 2013, Lansing's Braille and Talking Book Library hosted the Library Without Walls Conference, held at Lansing Community College, West Campus. The keynote speaker, Karen Keninger, director of the National Library Service which provides all our wonderful equipment and audio books, updated the audience on her top priorities for future library service.

Her first priority is to maintain the quality of the National Library Service (NLS) program. NLS produces a higher quality product than commercial audio companies, yet at the same time, Karen recognizes the need to expand the audio book collection in a timely manner. She will try to add commercial audio books to the collection when appropriate.



The second priority on her list is to add locally produced audio books on the BARD system. BARD is the Braille and Audio Reading Download website where patrons can download their audio books at home and listen to them on their talking book players. Several libraries for the blind will digitally record regional books and share them with the rest of us. This will add nice variety to the collection.

The third priority is to add more audio books in other languages.

The fourth priority will be to expand the NLS readership using surveys to understand how the service can add more patrons.

Finally, her fifth priority is to have NLS staff use the new technology available on the market today to make the service better for all our patrons.

Karen also noted that the Talking Book Topics catalog may be changing to expand the annotations and possibly to organize the catalog by subject.

Braille is another area on which Karen wants to focus. She is hoping that in five to ten years, NLS may be able to send free Braille e-readers to patrons; however, the technology is not quite there yet to make it affordable for the service.

NLS is also working on a BARD application (app) for iPhone and Android users. It is in pre-BETA testing at the moment. The app features a display that looks just like the talking book player. As of now, the pre-BETA app can

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only download audio books that the user has stored on their BARD wish list. However, once the app is approved, a patron would be able to download and listen to an audio book right on their iPhone or Android. A patron will also be able to download a Braille book that can be read on a Braille notebook connected to an iPhone.

Other conference sessions included a demonstration on the Sara Scan and Read machines. The stand-alone unit reads aloud printed documents, including books. A newer unit can connect and scan to a computer which allows the user to manipulate the audio files to read the documents. It will display the text on a monitor too and read along with the screen. The Sara machines do not read handwritten materials or graphics.

Other presentations included a demonstration of Apple products such as the iPhone and iPad. Apple products feature VoiceOver technology which allows the user to "hear" what is on the screen.

These devices are not exactly computer replacements yet, but if users just need to perform internet searches or check and send e-mails, these products work well. With Apple's Siri Voice Recognition technology, users are able to ask questions of their device and receive verbal feedback.

Android products are different from Apple or iOS products, although the concept is the same. Both produce what are commonly known as Smartphones. Androids include names such as Samsung Galaxy, Galaxy Note, Motorola Droid, etc. The built-in screen reader is called TalkBack.



One advantage Android products have over Apple products is that you can change features on your Android, whereas Apple products narrow your choices to their selections. Like the iOS products, there are apps for navigation and voice commands.

Although there are a lot of technological changes out on the horizon, our libraries are devoted to providing materials in a format that is most comfortable for our patrons to use. Please feel free to call us whenever you need information on how to use your talking book player or if you have questions about our programs and service.

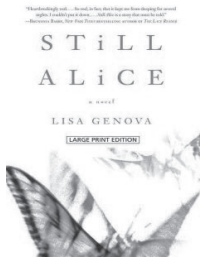
Have an enjoyable Autumn!

## Reader Recommendations

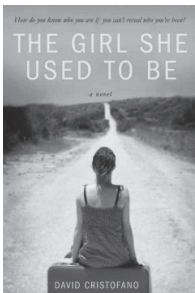


**Russ Allgaier** recommends Somewhere to Belong by Judith Miller. Amana colonies, Iowa; 1877. Johanna yearns to leave her German Christian cooperative community and join her brother Wilhelm in Chicago. Meanwhile seventeen-year-old Berta, a new Amana resident, rebels over leaving the big city for a simpler, more devout life. **DB 72196**

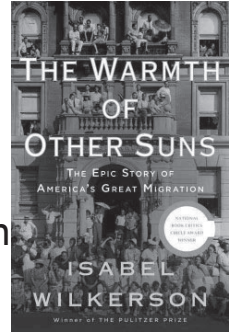
**Russ** also recommends Still Alice by Lisa Genova. As she turns fifty and begins experiencing odd lapses of memory, Harvard psychology professor Alice Howland gets the life-altering diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Some strong language. Russ says this book is a real eye-opener in learning about dementia. **DB 68429**



**Clare Fletcher** recommends The Girl She Used To Be by David Cristofano. Melody has been in the federal witness protection program since she was six. Now, weary of living a lie, twenty-six-year-old Melody begins an unlikely romance with the son of the mob boss who had her parents killed. Clare could not put the book down. Good characterization. Remember to have a box of tissues handy! **DB 72220**

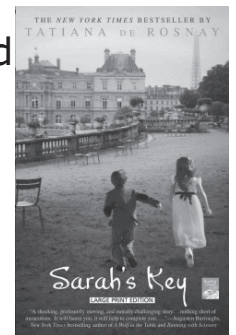


**Phyllis Gramza** recommends The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson. A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist chronicles the migration of African Americans from the South during 1915-1970. Some violence. Phyllis felt this book was written well, researched well, and she liked the way it was framed. **DB 71929**



**Nancy Paul** recommends Manhunting by Jennifer Crusie. Thirty-five-year-old management consultant Kate Svenson seeks romance after three failed engagements. Kate heads to a resort to find a wealthy man but instead meets Jake Templeton, a guy with no ambition. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Nancy felt the narrator did a great job. She could not stop listening as the reader was very entertaining. **DB 69418**

**Nancy** also recommends Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay. Paris, 2002. When American journalist Julia Jarmond discovers that her French in-laws' home was acquired from dispossessed Jews, she resolves to find out what happened to the former occupants. Nancy thought this was a very profound, historical novel. Emotional without being as graphic as other holocaust books. **DB 67934**

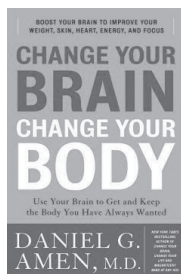


**Susan Perry** recommends two books by Dr. Daniel Amen. She says both



are excellent and give you ways to change your brain and keep it young!

Change Your Brain Change Your Body (DB 71340) and Use Your Brain to Change Your Age (DB 74839) are both available now.



Rita Taylor recommends Evidence of Mercy by Terri Blackstock. Mounting debts following the death Linda Barrett's father make it necessary for her to sell her plane, which she lovingly calls "Solitude." Rita notes this work is first and foremost a good story, a good mystery and has a happy ending. Keep a hanky handy! **DB 53763**

Rita also recommends the following youth book:

Cold Case by Julia P Leonard. When thirteen-year-old Oz finds a dead body in his family's Santa Fe restaurant, he is determined to solve the mystery – especially since his older brother Dave is a suspect. Some violence. Rita notes this was a good mystery with factual background on Los Alamos. **DB 75449**

### Assistive Technology Demo

For those interested in having a one on one demonstration of various devices that assist people with vision issues, Sharon Lotoczky will be available to meet with you to show you the ins and outs of all types of products. Sharon will be here on **Tuesday, September 17**. An appointment is necessary, so please call the library to register at 586-286-1580.

### DVDs Are Here!

Our library now offers audio described DVDs. We have closed our audio described VHS collection as so many of our patrons no longer have a VCR or only have a DVD player.

Our collection of audio described DVDs is small at the moment, but contains many current movies and will grow. The audio description is set within the DVD menu, so some patrons may need assistance from a family member or friend to turn the audio description on through the remote control.

Borrowing a DVD works the same way as borrowing audio and large print books. We will mail you your DVD in a canvas bag. When you are done with the DVD, simply return it to the canvas bag, flip over the mailing card in the front pocket, and return it in the mail, postage free. Please call if you would like a list of available DVD titles.

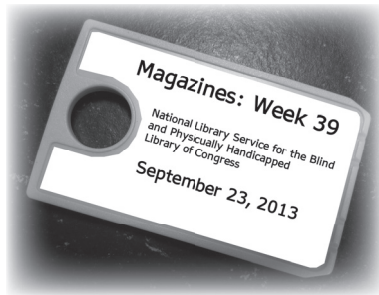
### Coping with Vision Loss: Tell Them What you Need

This workshop, presented by Sharon Lotoczky, LMSW, from the Troy Work/Life Solutions LLC, is for people with visual impairments and their friends and family. Attendees will learn effective communication skills to express their needs while coping with vision loss. The workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 24** and will run from **9:30 am to noon**. To register, please call the library at 586-286-1580.

## Magazine Subscribers

In the spring of 2013 NLS launched its transition of the magazine program from analog cassettes to digital cartridges. Now all NLS-produced magazines are circulated on digital cartridge. We hope you enjoy the enhanced sound quality and navigation capabilities.

As with books on digital cartridge, the magazines need to be returned. New magazines will then be recorded onto these returned cartridges. This helps keep costs down and allows room to expand the magazine program.



The cartridge loan period for weekly publications is one week after you receive them. The cartridge loan period for monthly, bimonthly, and quarterly publications is one month after you receive them.

Please treat magazine cartridges the same as book cartridges: read your publications, return the cartridge to the red container, flip the mailing card on the container, and place it with your outgoing mail. Timely reading and returning of magazine cartridges will help NLS continue to provide the high-quality audio-magazine program you have enjoyed.

In some cases you may receive a magazine cartridge that has more than one magazine on it. The NLS

digital talking-book player is equipped with a bookshelf feature to assist you in navigating your digital cartridge. To activate the bookshelf feature, press and hold the green, rectangular Play/Stop button on your player until you hear a beep, then use the back and forward arrow keys to navigate to your desired issue. Complete audio instructions for using the bookshelf feature are included on all cartridges that contain more than one magazine issue.

Keep in mind that any magazine cartridge that has a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly publication on it—even if it also has a weekly publication on it—will have a loan period of one month after you receive it.

Enjoy your audio magazines but again please remember to return them. If your subscription has stopped, call the library. In many cases, subscriptions will stop if three magazine audio cartridges are overdue.

One last tip for magazine users: if you would like to navigate between articles in an easier manner, you may want to consider trading in your standard digital talking book player for an advanced model. The menu feature on an advanced player will allow you to move and/or skip through various parts of the magazine including departments, sections, or articles.

If you have any questions or would like to receive an advanced digital player please call us at 586-286-1580 and we will be happy to help.

## Vision Network Group

The Vision Network Group consists of patrons with low vision or patrons who are blind and their guests. This summer, six meetings were held on the second Tuesday of each month. The group listened to speakers regarding such current topics as how to protect oneself from identity theft and phone and mail scams. Participants also had a chance to discuss their own issues of interest during open meetings. Members seem to agree that this interaction provides awareness of solutions for various concerns as well as a chance to network with other members of the community.



Although the group only meets during the summer months, please keep these meetings in mind for next year if it sounds like something you might like to attend.

## Macomb LBPH Holiday Closures

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library, and LBPH, is closed on the following dates for holidays:

**Sat., Aug. 31-Mon., Sept. 2**

**Mon., Oct. 14**

**Wed., Nov. 27-close at 6 p.m.**

**Thurs., Nov. 28**

**Tues., Dec. 24 and Wed., Dec. 25**

**Tues., Dec. 31 and Wed., Jan. 1**

## Attention Bowlers!

The Macomb Blind Bowlers League is welcoming new members to have a fun time with great people at the Fraser Star Lanes located at Garfield and 14 Mile Road.

Bowlers can be sighted, partially sighted or blind. The league bowls on **Wednesdays at 11:30 am**; the season starts September 4th and runs to May. Members can join throughout the year. It costs only \$10 per week and there are always chances to win weekly prizes. The league will even help you set up transportation!



For over 40 years, the league has provided bowling and a great social time for members. Teams are sponsored by the Lions Clubs. Two banquets are held during the year: one at Christmas time and one at the end of the season when prizes are awarded. There is a State Tournament that the league participates in each year as well.

To sign up or for further details, please call Nathan at 586-360-9543.

## Summer Reading Program

As this newsletter is being printed, we have a good number of patrons participating in our summer reading program. If you happened to miss out on the summer reading program this year, please stay tuned to future newsletters for a chance to participate in other events of interest to you.

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.

## Computer and iPad Classes

Our computer tutor, Sharon, will be back this October to teach one-on-one classes for those interested in learning adaptive technology software for the computer.

Beginning students are welcome as well as those who want to add to their computer skills. Sharon works with Zoom-Text, a screen magnifying software, and JAWS, a screen reader. Many of her students have gained the confidence to move on to advanced classes with various agencies for the blind or have made better use of their home computers with the skills they have learned.

This year, Sharon will add iPad training to the list. For those who want to learn about the iPad and its VoiceOver feature, Sharon will have one-on-one classes for it as well. iPhones are welcome also, but patrons will need to bring their own iPhone to class.

If you are interested in signing up for computer classes or would like more information, please call the Library at 586-286-1580.

