

Reading is for Everyone...

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

(586) 286-1580

Winter 2013

Library Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will have been almost one year since we have moved into our new location at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. The year has gone by quickly.



We have welcomed a lot of new patrons into our service since our move. Many of them have come to us by word of mouth from our current patrons! Thank you for spreading the word about our library service. We have also attended various local health fairs in the area to let the community know about us, and our library has even been featured on a local television program. We do presentations at local organizations such as Rotary and Lions Clubs. If you think of groups who could benefit from hearing about our service, please let us know. We are happy to pay them a visit.

We are in the process of trying to update our patron records. If it has been a while since you have used our service, you may be getting a call from us just to see if you are still interested in receiving our materials. Also, if you would like a change in the types of books you have been receiving, for example if you would like to try different authors or explore different subjects, please contact us. It is never too late to update your reading preferences so that you receive books you enjoy!

Have a safe and healthy winter.

2013 Calendars

We have a list of organizations that produce calendars in braille, print/braille, or large print. Some organizations charge a fee and others do not. If you are interested in obtaining this list, please call us at 586-286-1580.

Hours

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

* September-May

Cassette Players and Digital Players

As many of you already know, it has been a few years since the National Library Service (NLS) stopped recording new books on the old four-track tape format and is now recording all new books on the digital cartridges that the majority of you are using. At this point, we have many patrons who will not even know what a four-track tape player is as all our new members receive the digital machines!



LBPH digital players.

If you happen to have our four-track tape player and are no longer using it because you are using the new digital player, we urge you to send your old tape player back to us. Simply pack it up in its original container and mail it back, postage free, or if you no longer have the container, give us a call at 586-286-1580 and we will send you an empty box and address label. Consequently, if you do not yet own a digital player, please give us a call so we can send one to you. We have been busy trying to contact those of you who do not have a digital player, but in case we missed you, please get in touch with us.

By the way, for those of you with a digital player, here are some tips for using it:

- If you reach the "end of book" announcement on your digital book and want to go back to the beginning of the book to reread it, you can use the following shortcut: when you hear the announcement "end of book," press the Play/Stop button again and the book should restart from the beginning.
- Also, those of you who were used to the old four-track cassette players and always rewind your tapes before sending them back may not realize that there is no need to "rewind" the digital cartridges you receive for your new digital player. It is the machine itself that remembers where you left off in your book as opposed to the cartridge. Therefore, there is never a need to rewind your cartridge before sending it back to the library. A very nice time saver for us all!

Computer Classes for Spring

For those of you interested in learning how to use the computer with adaptive technology software such as ZoomText, which enlarges the words on the computer screen, or JAWS, which audibly reads what is on the screen, you can sign up for free one-on-one computer classes through our library.



Our tutor, Sharon, will help you reach your computer goals by meeting with you at our library for one hour a week for ten weeks. Class sessions will begin in March. Please call the library for more details or to register for the class. Our phone number is 586-286-1580.

Michigan Commission for the Blind – New Name

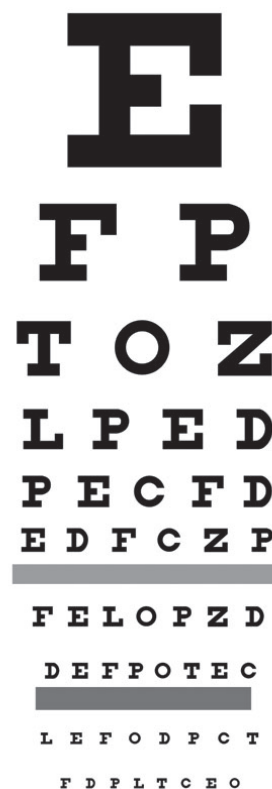
Recently, the agency known as Michigan Commission for the Blind changed its name. It is now the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. The Bureau's new director is Edward F. Rodgers II. He assures all clients that there will be no interruption of services which include vocational rehabilitation, services for seniors, services for youth, and DeafBlind services. The nearest office of the agency is located in Detroit and the phone number is 313-456-1646. If you would like to learn more about their services, please give them a call.

NVDA – Screen Reader

NVDA stands for NonVisual Desktop Access and is a free screen reader for your computer, if you use Microsoft Windows as your operating system. A screen reader is a software application that allows you to hear what is on your computer screen. Visit the website at www.nvda-project.org where you can learn more about NVDA and find instructions for downloading the software to your computer.

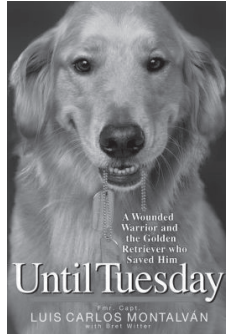
VisionAware.org Website

The American Federation for the Blind and Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation have teamed up to host a free and informational website, www.visionaware.org. Its mission, quoted from the website, is to, "...help adults who are losing their sight continue to live full and independent lives by providing timely information, step-by-step daily living techniques, a directory of national and local services, and a supportive online community." The site also features information for Veterans coping with vision issues. The website again is www.visionaware.org.

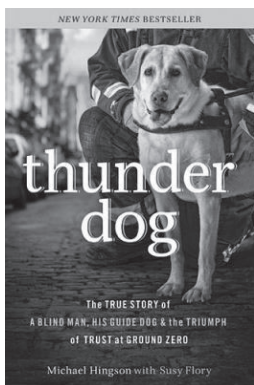
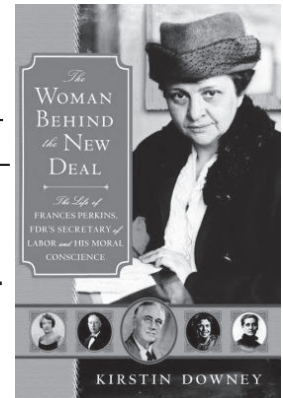


Reader Recommendations

Rita Taylor recommends Until Tuesday: a Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him by Luis C. Montalvan. This biography recounts the former army captain's experiences when returning to the U.S. with numerous injuries after serving two tours in Iraq. Rita notes this is a real wonderful story about the injured soldier and the dog that saved him. **DB 74020**



Phyllis Gramza recommends The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience by Kristin Downey. Phyllis found it intriguing that a woman was behind all of the new deal policies. Ms. Perkins was an interesting woman in her own right. **DB 68910**

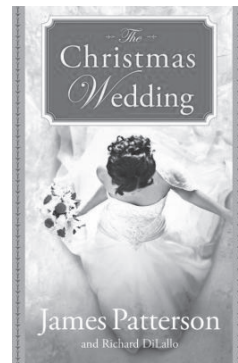


Rita also recommends Thunder Dog: the True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust at Ground Zero by Michael Hingson. The author, who has been blind since birth, tells about

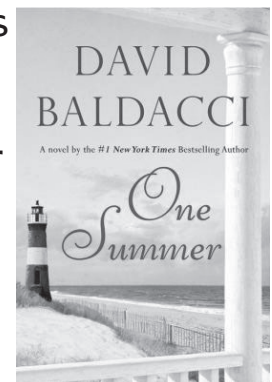
his escape from the World Trade Center Towers on September 11, 2001, as his guide dog led him down the 78 flights of stairs to safety. Rita found this to be a fantastic story about the survivors of 9/11. **DB 73300**

Clare Fletcher recommends The Case of the Missing Books: A Mobile Library Mystery by Ian Sansom. Israel Armstrong starts his librarian job in Tumbum, Northern Ireland and finds himself the driver of a decrepit bookmobile, only to discover that all of the books are missing. Clare found this book to be a laugh a minute! **DB 71841**

Nancy Paul recommends two books that are good reads about families. The first is The Christmas Wedding by James Patterson. Widow Gaby invites her grown children to her farm for Christmas for her wedding, but will not tell them who the groom is until the ceremony. **DB 74075**



Nancy also recommends One Summer by David Baldacci, a story about a dying ex-army ranger whose wife is killed in an accident and his three children sent to live with various relatives. **DB 73451**



Gentle Reads

"Gentle Reads," as they are popularly known, are books brimming with a simple, old-fashioned flavor and populated by endearing, intriguing, and very often eccentric characters. The stories generally contain little graphic violence or sex and provide a pleasurable reading experience.

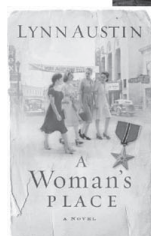
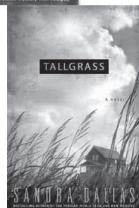
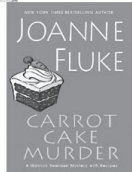
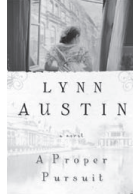
Here are some authors who write in this style:

Lynn Austin takes a thoughtful, heartfelt approach to her award-winning Christian Fiction. Her novels can be enjoyed by readers of mainstream and inspirational fiction alike. Try:

A Proper Pursuit, DB 67039
Though Waters Roar, DB 72932
Woman's Place, DB 67644

Joanne Fluke's culinary mystery novels are as delicious as their titles. Sprinkled with recipes, Fluke's books are known for their quirky characters, humor, clever plots, and twist endings. Try:

Carrot Cake Murder, DB 68803
Cream Puff Murder, DB 68778
Plum Pudding Murder, DB 70865



Kristen Heitzmann is a bestselling author. An artist and music minister, Kristen lives in Colorado Springs with her husband, Jim, and their family. Try her Diamond of the Rockies trilogy:

Rose Legacy, DB 72461
Sweet Boundless, DB 73353
Tender Vine, DB 73398

Sandra Dallas writes evocative historical tales. Dallas's comfortable, satisfying tales often raise provocative issues, as they take readers back to another time and celebrate the country's past. Try:

Prayers for Sale, DB 69184
Tallgrass, DB 68342

Adriana Trigiani brings engaging and animated characters, humorous descriptions, and lots of love, both familial and romantic. Readers may be pleasantly surprised by her occasional bawdy humor and her unexpected plot twists. Try:

Very Valentine, DB 68757
Brava Valentine, DB 71048

Television Shows Now Audio-Described

Did you know that some television shows are now Audio-Described? According to the Federal Communications Commission an audio-described show, "is audio-narrated descriptions of a television program's key visual elements. These descriptions are inserted into natural pauses in the program's dialogue. Video description makes TV programming more accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired." So, for example, when the actors are not speaking, a narrator describes the action or scenery.

The FCC rules now state that basic cable station must provide 50 hours per a calendar quarter, which translates to 4 hours per week, of described programming. Some of the shows already providing audio-description are CSI, NCIS, Modern Family, Glee, Bones and 30 Rock, to name a few.

Here is an excerpt from the American Council of the Blind's website that speaks further about the descriptions:

"If you receive your signal over the air (not by cable or satellite), then there should be an audio setup menu on your TV. The audio description audio channel might be labeled SAP, MTS, or maybe even Spanish or Español. It would usually be active only for described shows. If you have an analog TV and are using a Converter box, there may be a SAP option on it to access the alternate audio channel. If you use regular cable or satellite service, then the signal must be selected from the audio menu on your cable box, generally by selecting SAP or "Spanish" or "Español." However, this approach may or may not work on HD channels."

The American Council of the Blind's website www.acb.org/adp/index.html has more details.

Vision Network Group

The Vision Network Group had a chance to socialize during their holiday get-together at the library. The group meets over the summer to discuss vision issues and to learn about new trends and ideas. More details regarding the Summer 2013 meetings will be in the next newsletter. Call 586-286-1580 for more information.



BARD – Braille and Audio Reading Download

BARD has changed. For those of you on BARD, you may have noticed some enhancements to the system. For those of you who are unfamiliar with BARD, it is a website from the National Library Service on which you or a family member or friend can download books for your digital player for free. Here is a brief description of the new materials and features on BARD:

Braille books, magazines, and music scores are now available on BARD. If you wish to set your search and browse preference to display only audio or only braille, you may do so by selecting your preference from the combo box labeled "Display results." Access this option by selecting the "Update Account Settings" link from the BARD main page.

Special collection materials, music books and scores, and foreign-language books produced abroad, are also available on BARD. You can access these materials from links on the BARD main page.

Every book and magazine title now links to a page with further details and additional links. The additional links lead to lists of more titles that are by the same author, read by the same narrator (audiobooks), and/or in the same subject categories. Links to additional books in the same series (if applicable), a link to download the title, and a link to add the title to your wish list, are also available on the details page. Your wish list can be accessed from the BARD main page.

If you would like more information about BARD, please call the library at 586-286-1580.

Music at Main

Come to the **Main Library** for a free hour of music open to all ages. Join us at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

Sunday, January 13: Fifth Michigan Regiment Band.

Sunday, February 10: The Ramblers

Sunday, March 3: Metro Jazz Voices

Sunday, April 7: Full Throttle A Cappella

Macomb LBPH Holiday Closures

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

Sunday, March 31:
Easter

Saturday, May 25-
Monday, May 27: Closed for Memorial Day



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.

NFB Free White Cane Program

The National Federation of the Blind has a Free White Cane Program for any individual who is blind. The canes are straight fiberglass (they do not collapse) and are available in a variety of lengths. To request a cane, you can use the online application form at: freecane.nfb.org. Alternately you can download a form from:

www.nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/free_white_cane_application.pdf
and mail it to:

Free White Cane Program
National Federation of the Blind
200 East Wells Street
at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD 21230

Questions regarding the program can be emailed to freecane@nfb.org.

