

Reading is for Everyone...

Macomb Library for the Blind and Print Disabled @ CMPL

(586) 286-1580

Summer 2024

Summer Series Vision Network Group

Please join us for an informal and informational series of meetings hosted by the Macomb Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. These meetings are for people with low vision or who are blind. Caregivers are also welcomed.

This summer, due to remodeling at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, we will be meeting inside the Clinton Township Senior Center which is located just down the street from our library. The Senior Center has graciously agreed to host our meetings in Room One for this summer. The Senior Center's address is 40730 Romeo Plank Road in Clinton Township. Our meetings run from 10 a.m. until noon on the second and fourth Tuesday of June, July and August.

Marie will once again be our facilitator and each meeting will feature a topic of interest for people with vision issues. No registration is required. For questions or more details, please call the library at (586) 286-1580. We hope you will join us, not only for some good information but for socializing as well. Meeting dates and scheduled presenters below:

June 11: Overview of Clinton Township Senior Center

June 25: Kashonia Graham on services offered at the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired

July 9: Cathy McAdam on services offered through the Lions Club

July 23: Leslie Verstraete on SMART Bus transportation services

August 13: Leslie Hoskins on services offered at Leader Dogs

August 27: Marie Woodcox on NaviLens, a New Labeling System

Contact Us

Phone: (586) 286-1580

Toll-free: (855) 203-5274

mlbpd@cmpl.org
www.cmpl.org/mlbpd

Staff is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.*

**Leave a message after 5 p.m. and we will return your call as soon as possible.*

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MLBPDatCMPL/

NLS Summer Reading Program

The 2024 National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled's summer reading program, "Adventure begins at your library", will run from Monday, June 24 through Friday, August 9, 2024 and includes an author talk, story time, music session, and interactive programs. All events will be held virtually—so anyone, anywhere, can attend! There is an age suggestion for each event but every program is open to all.



Here is the summer reading program schedule:

Monday, June 24 at 4 p.m. EDT: (All ages) Kickoff event with Dr. Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress who will read *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal (BR 22572, DBC08652).

Thursday July 18 at 4 p.m. EDT: Story time and music by Turtle Dance Music (Designed for K-3rd grade but all are welcome.)

Thursday, July 25 at 7 p.m. EDT: Author Talk with New York Times Best-selling Author Angeline Boulley with the moderator, Andrea L. Rogers. (YA and Adult): *Firekeeper's Daughter* (BR24040, DB102762) and *Warrior Girl Unearthed* (BR25116 in process, DB114761).

Patrons can also participate in an array of virtual activities:

- Accessible Virtual Tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress (YA and Adult)
- Choose Your Reading Adventure (YA and Adult versions)
- Whispering Library Escape Room (family or group activity)

Visit the NLS website, <https://www.loc.gov/nls/> and look for the 2024 NLS Summer Reading events registration links. These links will be available at the beginning of June. Please call MLBPD if you need assistance with registration.

MLBPD Summer Reading Challenge: Fiction and Nonfiction Book Pairings

Explore the world of fiction and non-fiction genres by reading two books that share the same topic. Call the library to hear a selection of fiction and non-fiction book pairings to choose from and we will send you the audiobooks, large print, or braille print depending on your preference. When you have finished both books, call the library and provide us with one factual event and one non-factual event that you wish were true and be entered into our drawing for a \$50-dollar Visa gift card before Friday, Aug 30. Two winners will be drawn the week of September 2 and will be notified by phone.

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Adventure Begins at Lansing's Braille and Talking Book Library

Lansing's Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) will be offering a summer reading program that all library for the blind patrons of any age can participate. Experiences include a virtual program with a park ranger describing the beauties and wonder of Michigan's Isle Royal National Park, Birding by Ear virtual program as well as access to the National Library Service's summer reading program virtual events.

BTBL will also feature adventure themed reading lists, craft ideas and more. There will be a Grand Prize Drawing for participants at the end of the program.

Specific details and registration information will be provided in the In Focus newsletter. You can also call Lansing's Braille and Talking Book Library for more information at (800) 992-9012.

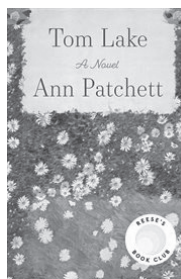
Pop Up at Your Senior Center

Our outreach librarian and tech advisor are available to visit your local Senior Center or Senior Living Facility to help answer seniors' questions about their smartphones, tablets, social media, voice assistant and more.

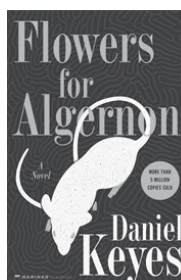
If you would like our outreach librarian and tech advisor to visit a Senior Center in your city or township, please contact your local Senior Center or Facility and have them call our library at (586) 286-1580. We will be happy to come to your area!

Book Discussion Group

Our book group meets by phone the first Monday of every month at 1 p.m. except when a holiday falls on that Monday. We discuss a different book each month which we send you several weeks prior to the discussion. The following titles are planned for the months ahead:



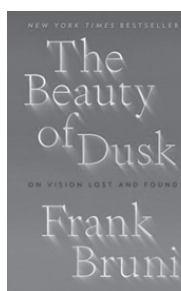
July 1: *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett DB 116555 Also available in large print.



August 5: *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes DB 33245



September 9: *Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly DB 86234 Also available in large print.



October 7: *The Beauty of Dusk* by Frank Bruni DBC 16707 Also available in large print.

A Minute with Marie

Do you remember back to your schooldays? If so, you may recall Highlights magazine. There were two characters the magazine used to present little fables about the right way and wrong way to handle things, Goofus and Gallant. I have my own story about the Goofus and Gallant characters I ran into during a recent trip.

Here's what happened to me on a flight to Seattle to visit my daughter and her family. Once we had taken off and the refreshment cart was coming down the aisle, I got out the brand-new water bottle I had brought to drink my water from. I like a covered container instead of those Styrofoam cups which are too tippy and don't hold enough. I handed the flight steward my open container to fill up and he said he couldn't do that. I apologized and took back the container and said I could fill it myself if he would just give me two cups of water. At that point he took back the container and filled it up for me and handed it back so I could replace the top on it. The cart moved forward so now the same flight steward was standing pretty much at my shoulder. I could see that he leaned forward to talk to his cart partner and whispered, in a stage whisper, "B-L-I-N-D". Everything in me wanted to respond, "Yes, blind but not D-E-A-F!" To this day, I still regret that I didn't actually say that!

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On the Gallant side of that trip I came across a lovely gentleman who assisted me, verbally, down the jetway. I don't use the airport wheelchair when walking down the jetway; I just preboard and walk slowly with my wheeled carry-on bag. This wonderful person saw my mobility cane stowed on top of my luggage and proceeded to let me know whether there was a handrail or not, an incline in the floor, and any other pertinent details about my journey down the jetway. It was an extraordinary act of thoughtfulness and kindness and was much appreciated.

No matter how well you plan your large trip or small outing you may well run into your Goofus and Gallant types. Don't let that stop you from venturing out! Think of these folks as part of the large mosaic of human behaviors that everyone runs into daily. I find that overall the Gallant types will certainly outnumber the Goofus types. Happy Travels!

Beach Read Recommendations

Here are some beach reads recommended by staff members of Michigan's Libraries for the Blind.

Murder on Cape Cod: Cozy Capers Book Group, book 1 by Maddie Day. "A Cape Cod shop owner and her book club must find a crafty killer in this charming new series from the Agatha-nominated author of the Country Store Mystery series." DB 109692

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City OF Brass: Daevabad trilogy, book 1 by S A Chakraborty. "In eighteenth-century Cairo, Nahri accidentally summons legendary djinn warrior Dara during a con job." **DB 89895**

Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty by Ramona Ausubel. "Uneasy with their inherited wealth but entirely dependent upon it, a young couple with three children suddenly discovers in the summer of the 1976 that they are penniless." **DBC 11592** Also available in large print.

Book Lovers by Emily Henry. "Cut-throat literary agent Nora Stephens agrees to go to Sunshine Falls, North Carolina, when her sister Libby begs her to accompany her on vacation." **DB 107926** Also available in large print.

Hard Day for a Hangover: Sunshine Vicram, book 3 by Darynda Jones "Some people greet the day with open arms. Sheriff Sunshine Vicram would rather give it a hearty shove and get back into bed, because there's just too much going on right now. There's a series of women going missing, and Sunny feels powerless to stop it." **DB 111258**

Out of the Clear Blue Sky by Kristan Higgins. "Lillie Silva knew life as an empty nester would be hard after her only child left for college, but when her husband abruptly dumps her for another woman just as her son leaves, her world comes crashing down." **DB 108658** Also available in large print.

Reader Recommendations

Lawrence Robbins recommends *Congo* by Michael Crichton. "A bright and beautiful woman computer scientist from a Houston-based corporation with global interests, a scientist accompanied by a gorilla who uses sign language, and a professional soldier/hunter all depart on a fearsome expedition into deepest Africa. Thanks to their knowledge of technology, history, gorilla language, and geography they are successful in their search for the lost city of Zinj and for the diamonds that are the raw materials for computer chips that will revolutionize the industry." Lawrence says this is a really good and interesting book that readers will enjoy. **DB 15813**, 8 hours, 50 mins.

Technology Questions

Technology can be frustrating at best and downright impossible to deal with at its worst, especially if your vision is compromised. Our technology tutor, Marie, may be able to get you on the right path. If you have issues dealing with a Windows-based computer, need ideas to make your computer more adaptable, or have a question about your iPad, iPod or iPhone, we will make an appointment for you with Marie so you can talk with her over the phone or meet with her in-person at our library. Please call the library at (586) 286-1580 for more details.



Vision Network Group by Phone

We encourage you to join our Vision Network Group by phone. This is an informal meeting of patrons with vision issues and/or their caregivers to talk about challenges one can face when vision is compromised. Bring your vision questions to the phone call or just listen to the conversation. You might just receive the support you are seeking and realize you are not alone! The group meets on the third Monday of every month from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Call the following number just before 10 a.m. to be placed into the conference call: 607-374-1189 and enter the access code 465124 followed by the # sign when prompted. For further information on the group, please call the library at (586) 286-1580.



LIONS Blind Low Vision Outreach Committee of District 11-A1

The Lions Outreach Committee has used assistive technology that they can offer to you, at no charge, through their recycle program. They have a variety of magnifiers and items for daily tasks for blind and low vision users. If they do not have what you need, they can help look for it, or direct you to other recycling programs. Items will be distributed through your local LIONS Club. For information contact Cathy McAdam at (313) 563-1412 or mcmcadam@gmail.com

Kathy's Choice

I suggest two remarkable novels for your summer reading. The first is *Still Life* by Sarah Winman. This story is a lot of wonderful things rolled into one: a family saga which covers four decades, a history of Italy in the post WWII years, art history and the love of art in all forms. It is a character-driven novel and there is a rich group of them whom you will grow to love as you read through this beautiful novel. **DB 105510**, 14 hrs., 56 mins.

My second recommendation is *Fire-keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother. When Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, she reluctantly agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source of a new drug. This was a very readable story appealing to adults as well as high school and young adult readers. The appeal to the younger readers will be the fact that the main character is the same. **DB 102762**, 14 hrs., 16 mins.

Macomb Blind Bowlers

The MACOMB BLIND BOWLERS are always looking for legally blind bowlers as well as sighted bowlers/scorekeepers. The bowling season runs from September till mid-May every Wednesday at Fraser Star Lanes. If you know of anyone that is legally blind or a sighted bowler/scorekeeper that is interested in joining us or have questions call Karla (586) 465-2338.

New Materials at MLBPD

We have new materials for check-out at the Macomb Library for the Blind.

Wheatly Tactile Diagramming Kit:

For patrons with low vision or who are blind and their caregivers, this kit allows one to diagram a room, a floor of a building or even a neighborhood street with tactile Velcro pieces that can be placed on the included felt board. Diagram someone's living room to indicate where a chair, sofa, and television set are located. Diagram the way from the front door to a classroom. These are just two examples on giving a person with low or no vision a tactile way to feel the diagram and then understand how to navigate the location. This kit has been used by mobility specialists to aid their clients in navigating spaces. Patrons or their caregivers can check out the kit with their valid library card in order to try it out at home.

QuickTalker: For patrons who are non-verbal, the Quick Talker speech device uses panels of pictures and sound to aid in communication with patrons unable to speak. Picture panels illustrate basic information for daily use such as "hungry," "thirsty," "help." Patrons or their caregivers can check out this device with their valid library card in order to try it out at home.

For further information on these items, please call the library at (586) 286-1580.

Main Library Construction

As you know, the Clinton-Macomb Public Library (CMPL) is home to the Macomb Library for the Blind. This June, the Main Library will begin renovations to improve the building. CMPL plans to keep the Main Library open and operational as much as possible during this renovation. However, there will be times when the building, or specific areas in the building, will not be accessible.

Phase one of the renovation work will begin in the staff parking lot where we will begin the process of updating the current HVAC system to a geothermal system, like the heating and cooling system at the North Branch. You may wish to use the Romeo Plank entrance to the Main Library during this time.

Phase one will also include exterior work on the parking lot and the new drive-thru window. The biggest impact of the first phase of renovations will be the closure of all meeting rooms and study rooms at the library. These rooms will be unavailable to the public beginning June 1 as the library works to shift staff and materials to these spaces while improvements are being made. Both branches have meeting rooms and study rooms available to schedule during the downtime at the Main Library. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Thank you for bearing with us as we work to improve the Main Library to ensure that it is a landmark community space for decades to come.

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

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED

Macomb Library for the Blind and Print Disabled is a public service
of Macomb County.

Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired

The Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired (GDABVI) is a valuable treasure right here in our community of southeast Michigan. Located in Southfield, the GDABVI offers a support group, orientation and mobility training, home visitation, Braille instruction, computer training and more! Their stated mission is: "to provide services and support that help blind and visually impaired individuals live productive, independent lives with confidence and dignity." If you would like to connect with them and learn more about their services, please call (313) 272-3900 or visit their website at <https://www.lifebeyondsight.org/>.

MLBPD eNewsletter

Have you noticed our MLBPD eNewsletter in your email inbox? The Macomb Library for the Blind is sending out monthly newsletter updates to our patrons who have listed their email address with us.

We want to keep you as informed as possible about our library. The eNewsletter should show up in your email the third week of the month. When you open your email, it will display in a newsletter format but should be compatible with screen-readers.

If you have not received an eNewsletter and would like to subscribe, let us know. Also, do not forget to look in your SPAM or junk mail folder in case it initially goes there.

MLBPD does not endorse any services or websites, outside of its own library, that may be referred to in this newsletter. Please call the MLBPD for your questions and comments at (586) 286-1580 or toll free (855) 203-5274.