

Reading is for Everyone...

Macomb Library for the Blind and Print Disabled @ CMPL

(586) 286-1580

Winter 2024

Macomb Library for the Blind Survey Results

We are pleased to share some results of the 2023 Survey, printed in our Summer Newsletter.

Seventy-five percent of you use our audiobook service with twenty-seven percent using our large print by mail service. Twenty-four percent use BARD (Braille and Audio Download service). Fifteen percent receive audio magazines.



Ninety-three percent of our patrons find our services easy to use. An interesting statistic shows that although seventy-two percent of you have a personal device, such as an iPad, android, or iPhone, seventy percent prefer to get their audiobooks and other materials by mail rather than using the BARD download service.

Out of the choices of excellent, good, fair and poor, eighty-eight percent of our patrons gave us an excellent rating and thirteen percent gave us a good rating. We did not receive any fair or poor ratings.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey. To all our patrons, please feel free to contact us any time with questions or concerns about your service. We find that people who are most satisfied with our library are the ones who call us on a regular basis to update their library services or ask questions when their service is not going according to plan.

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/

A Minute with Marie

So, after seven years of using a mobility cane by totally guessing, I have finally completed my O and M (Orientation and Mobility) Training. I spent a week at the Leader Dog for the Blind campus in Rochester Hills Michigan; staying overnight for the entire week, from Sunday night to Friday afternoon. Private rooms, all fabulous meals included and a multitude of folks ready to ensure that all needs are met.

I worked with my O&M instructor twice every weekday for a total of four to five hours daily; this included lots of walking outside in neighborhoods and field trips around the area. This is not the time to learn personal or computer skills, the focus is completely on orientation and mobility skills so you will feel and look confident no matter where you are. It should be noted here that your instructor is your instructor; all training sessions are done on a one-on-one basis, no group sessions or sharing of instructors. This is critical when working with a person who is teaching you how to move safely in busy and constantly changing environments. Students are placed in groups of five; these are your companions at each meal. During my week there was only our group on campus so it was easy to get to know everyone and swap stories.

A highlight of the week was "test driving" a Leader Dog. While I am

not in the market for a Leader Dog it was a fascinating experience. I can see how having a guide dog would greatly enhance one's life if your lifestyle supports it. Leader Dogs must be worked several times each day to maintain their skills, given time to romp and play, as well as normal dog things such as feeding, vet care and grooming. As I observed my instructor handling the dog I was impressed by the number of specific commands needed to communicate with the dog. Training to be a Guide Dog Handler (owner) requires an additional 30 days at the Rochester Hills campus and it is not a decision to be made lightly.



Now that I am back home, it is my job to practice the new navigation skills I have learned as often as possible, or, like the dogs, I may lose some of those newly acquired skills. This training was so worth the time and effort it took and changed my view of travel; I now feel that I can navigate safely in an unfamiliar environment and that opens a world of possibilities for me.

Did I mention that all of this is FREE? This is all done at no cost to the stu-

continued in next column...

continued on next page...

dents. Training, meals, snacks, canes and even the dogs, once approved, are free to students although there are the normal costs of caring for the dog once it comes into your home. I met volunteers who had been working with the Leader Dog organization for decades as well as a number of long-term employees. These are things that speak well of any organization.

For more information about the Leader Dog programs go to leaderdog.org or call at 888-777-5332. There you can learn more about the campus and programs offered as well as get help in completing the application process.

Detroit Radio Information Service

Many of you who are long-time patrons may remember the radio station DRIS or the Detroit Radio Information Service. They want you to know that they are still operating and available for patrons with disabilities. Here is information on DRIS taken from their website:

The Detroit Radio Information Service (DRIS) is southeast Michigan's Radio Reading/Audio Information Service for people with disabilities. It is a special audience service of WDET 101.9 FM — Detroit's NPR station and Wayne State University

DRIS is a comprehensive service provided by WDET- Detroit's NPR station, to visually impaired individuals

continued in next column...

connecting our community's most under-served population group to life changing information. Since 1978, DRIS has filled an information void in the blind and print-impaired population by offering a simple method of accessing printed and visual news and information published in hundreds of daily, weekly, and monthly periodicals. DRIS aspires to offer even more, including news and public affairs programming specifically for and about its target audience of blind and print-impaired people.

Any person, who is unable to see, hold or comprehend conventional printed matter because of a diagnosis of a disability, including a learning disability, may apply for a receiver. If qualified, receivers may be sent free of charge and are tuned to DRIS.

An applicant for a receiver must be 1) registered with a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped or 2) certified by a qualified healthcare provider such as doctor, social worker or rehabilitation counselor.

Qualifying conditions include blindness, vision impairment, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, severe arthritis, amputation, spinal cord injury, stroke and other physical conditions or dyslexia and other cognitive conditions to acquire a receiver.

For more information please call DRIS at (313) 577-4146 or use the following link to apply to use DRIS: <https://wdet.org/dris-listener-application/>

Kathy's Choice

Looking for a light, cozy read with recipes and a Northern Michigan location? I suggest Viola Shipman's book, *The Recipe Box*. Samantha Mullins grew up on a Traverse Bay area, family-owned apple orchard and learned the love for baking in its pie shop around all the important women in her life. After an unsuccessful escape to New York's culinary scene she returns home and allows herself to learn the history and secrets behind all of the recipes that were gifted to her on her 13th birthday. I enjoyed reading about an area that I loved visiting and imagining how tasty those deserts must have been. I could not help copying down a few new recipes for my collection. DB 90526 Some descriptions of sex. Also available in large print.

My second choice for this article is *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue. The United States is the new home of so many immigrants. We as long-time residents hear compelling stories of new lives after opportunity, as well as the difficulties of travel misrepresentation, and assimilation. This captivating, fictionalized story is of two New York families; one uprooted from Limbe, Cameroon and the other their employers. The setting is the time of the 2008 economic recession. I could feel the desire they all had to do their best for themselves even though they did not always know what was best. I wanted so badly for things to work out for them. The streets of America are not "paved with gold". Unfortunately, often times streets are muddied and processes are complicated. The author herself is a Cameroon native with a well-educated life of inspiration. The experience of this book stayed in my heart for days after. I highly recommend it. DB 85537 Unrated.

Technology Questions

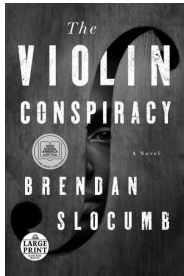
Technology can be frustrating at best and downright impossible to deal with at its worst. Our technology tutor, Marie, may be able to get you on the right path. If you have issues dealing with a Windows-based computer, need ideas to make your computer more adaptable, or have a question about your iPad, 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.

LIONS Blind Low Vision Outreach Committee of District 11-A1

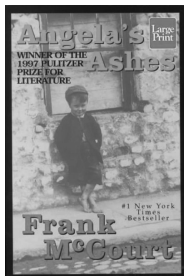
The Lions Outreach Committee has used assistive technology that they can offer to you, at no charge, through their recycle program. They have a variety of magnifiers and items for daily tasks for blind and low vision users. If they do not have what you need, they can help look for it, or direct you to 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

Book Discussion Group

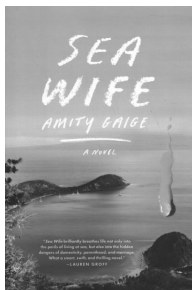
Our book group meets by phone the first Monday of every month except when a holiday falls on that Monday. We discuss a different book each month which we send you several weeks prior to the discussion. The following titles are planned for the months ahead:



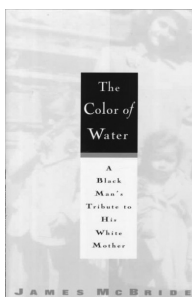
February 5: *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb DB 106851 Also available in large print.



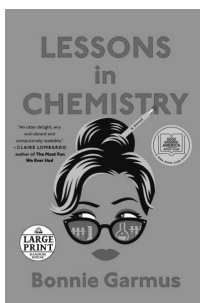
March 4: *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt DB 42805 Also available in large print.



April 1: *Sea Wife* by Amity Gaige DB 99402



May 6: *The Color of Water* by James McBride DB 42713 Also available in large print.



June 3: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus DB 107538 Also available in large print.

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.

National Library Service Updates Website

Have you visited the NLS website lately? Check it out—it has a new look and lots of new features: Front-page links to Talking Book Topics, Braille Book Review, and International Language Quarterly to help you find (and instantly download!) the latest additions to the collection. Easy access to the NLS catalog, BARD, and the NLS Spanish-language website, enhanced accessibility tools and much more. And if you know someone else who might benefit from NLS services and resources, let them know where to find us: www.loc.gov/nls.



40900 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038-2955

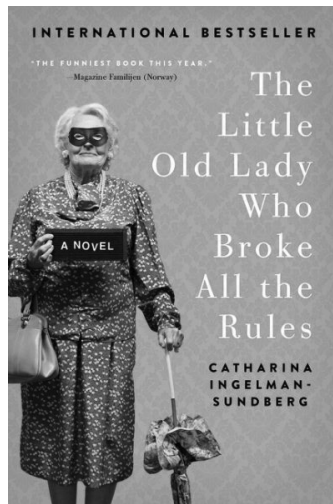
Free Matter for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped

Macomb Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped @ CMPL
40900 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038-2955

Please fold and staple before mailing

Reader Recommendations

Phyllis Gramza has two recommendations. *Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg. "Martha Andersson may be seventy-nine years old and live in a retirement home but still has plenty of life in her years. Fed up with the rules and over-cooked vegetables, Martha and her four closest friends set out to regain their independence and to make money they turn to white collar crime. What starts out as a simple robbery turns to an unsolvable heist at the National Museum, forcing the group to stay one walker length ahead of the authorities." Phyllis amusingly notes that this is a "how to" book on how to commit a crime – take care! You can fall into a trap. 11 hours, 27 minutes, **DBC 06241**.

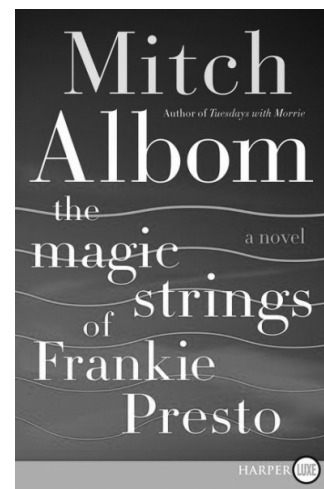


Uniform Justice by Donna Leon. "Commissario Guido Brunetti of the Venetian police investigates a student's death at an elite military academy. He realizes that the boy was murdered, but the school and the boy's father maintain it was suicide. As Brunetti digs further he uncovers political corruption and injustice." Phyllis felt this was a distressing and disturbing story, but a great story about the military and corruption in

continued in next column...

Italy. Well-written, an exceptional book. 8 hours, 39 minutes **DB 59975**.

Josephine DeMaria highly recommends *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom. "Music narrates the life of Frankie Presto, from his time in Spain after the Civil War, where he was raised by a blind music teacher, to his death in America. Frankie immigrates to America with only a six-stringed guitar. As he plies his craft, he realizes its effect on people." Josephine says this is an awesome story. She couldn't put it down. 9 hours, 54 minutes, **DB 83578**. Also available in large print.

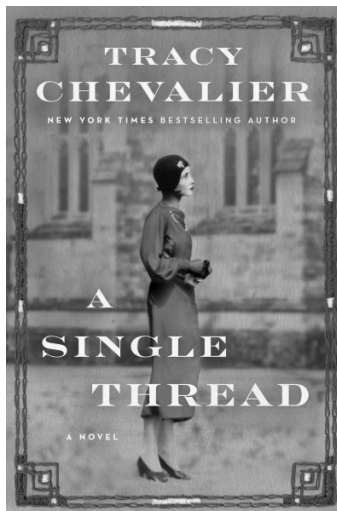


Franz Keck recommends *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle* by Jon Meacham. "This book tells the story of Lincoln from his birth on the Kentucky frontier in 1809 to his leadership during the Civil War to his tragic assassination in 1865: his rise, his self-education, his loves, his bouts of depression, his political failures, his deepening faith, and his persistent conviction that slavery must end. Unrated." Franz notes this is a very interesting book. 17 hours, 55 minutes, **DB 111374**. Also available in large print.

continued in next column...

Sharon Lotoczky recommends *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier. "1932.

Violet Speedwell, who lost both her beloved brother and her fiancée in the Great War, struggles as part of the lost generation of single women. She saves up enough to move out of her mother's home to



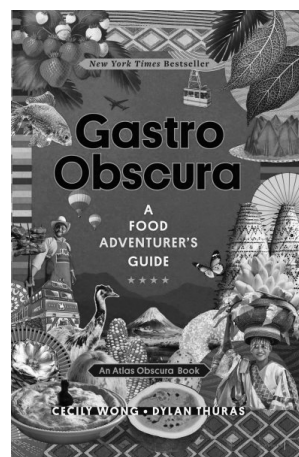
Winchester, where she becomes part of the cathedral's borderers and finds friendship. Unrated." Sharon says this is a very poignant, historical novel that will touch your heart. It has very interesting details about traditional embroidery work within the cathedral as well as the artistry of bell ringing patterns. 10 hours, 53 minutes, DB 96525. Also available in large print.

Sharon also recommends *Shadowplay* by Joseph O'Connor. "The tale of the relationship between theater owner and actor Henry Irving, author and theater critic--and one-time stage manager for Irving--Bram Stoker, and celebrated actress Ellen Terry unfolds. A serial killer terrorizing London, a tempestuous relationship, and enthrallment lead to the creation of Dracula. Unrated." Sharon says an intriguing novel with authentic characters and the renovation of a theatre that was in operation before the use of electricity. Sharon enjoyed the emotional interactions between the

actors, artisans and the physical environment of the theater. A book you can't put down, complete with mystery, angst and even a ghost light. 11 hours, 43 minutes, DB 99612.

Lawrence Robbins recommends *We Came, We Saw, We Left: A Family Gap Year* by Charles J. Wheelan. "What would happen if you quit your life for a year? . . . the Wheelan family decided to find out; leaving behind work, school, and even the family dogs to travel the world on a modest budget. Equal parts 'how-to' and 'how-not-to'. . . [this book] is the insightful and often hilarious account of one family's gap-year experiment. Unrated." Lawrence comments this story was both entertaining and insightful. The book becomes even more interesting when the family returns to their home. 10 hours, 20 minutes, DB 108450.

Lawrence also recommends *Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide* by Cecily Wong. "Taste the World! It's truly a feast of wonder: . . . this breathtaking guide transforms our sense of what people around the world eat and drink. Covering all seven continents.



Some strong language." Lawrence says this is a really interesting take on the origins of various foods by country. Also includes a bit of history. 18 hours, 10 minutes, DB 105998.

continued in next column...

Macomb Blind Bowlers

The MACOMB BLIND BOWLERS are always looking for legally blind bowlers as well as sighted bowlers/scorekeepers. Our 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 other questions feel free to call Karla (586) 465-2338.



MLBPD eNewsletter

Hopefully you have noticed a new addition in your email inbox! The Macomb Library for the Blind is now 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. This is just one way to keep everyone up-to-date. 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. We will appreciate any feedback you have on our new initiative!

New Materials at MLBPD

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

Finger Focus Reading Guide Strips: This reader strip helps to limit transposing of words and letters. Great for helping dyslexia and struggling readers avoid skipping lines and strengthening reading skills. A great tool for emerging readers and readers with special needs who have a reading problem such as re-reading lines, losing concentration, or reading too close to the page.

Word Building Educational Kit Braille and Tactile Alphabet: This learning aid is great for anyone wishing to learn braille. The kit consists of a plastic composing board with 60 tiles, representing each of the 26 letters of the English alphabet plus duplicate tiles for vowels and other commonly used letters. Each tile is marked with a letter of the alphabet in both capital and lower case as well as the letter in braille. All markings are raised for tactile reading.

LEGO Braille Bricks: Aimed at children aged six and up, this kit helps children with visual impairment practice their braille literacy skills. The set includes two baseplates and over 250 bricks in five colors with studs that correspond to numbers and letters in the braille code. Each brick also shows the printed version of the symbol, letter and number.

Staff Picks from Around the State

Looking for a good modern romance? Here are some recommendations from Michigan's libraries for the blind staff:

The Bromance Book Club by Lyssa Kay Adams. "Baseball player Gavin Scott's marriage is in trouble, and to fix things, he's going to need some assistance. He finds a secret book club of other men who have used romance novels to fix their own relationships, and they agree to help him win back his family. Unrated." **DB 97443.**

Rainy Day Friends by Jill Shalvis. "Widow Lanie Jacobs is rocked by the discovery that her husband left behind other women who also thought they were his only wife. She seeks a new start at the Capriotti Winery, finding a kind welcome and maybe even a new romance. Unrated." **DB 91637.** Also available in Large Print.

Happy Ever After Playlist by Abby Jimenez. "Sloan is still grieving the death of her fiancée when she rescues a dog who dashes in front of her car. Tucker's owner is a musician on tour, and as they exchange calls and texts, Sloan begins to feel more like her old self. Unrated." **DB 100113.**

Just Not That into Billionaires by Anika Martin. "Francine is stunned when she discovers she's been married for years to Benny, the nerdy frenemy she worked with one sum-

mer in Vegas. She tracks Benny down, surprised to find that he is now a billionaire. He'll sign the paperwork if she spends the next three weeks playing his adoring wife. Unrated." **DB 106746.**

The Winston Brothers – Books 1 – 3 by Penny Reid. "Three contemporary romances set in rural Tennessee. . . In Truth or Beard, Duane Winston sets his sights on Jessica James, but she doesn't want to be tied down. Also includes Grin and Beard It and Beard Science. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex." **DB 91317.**

Bet Me by Jennifer Cruise. "Thirty-three-year-old Minerva Dobbs's boyfriend not only dumps her right before her sister's wedding but also bets his buddy, Cal Morrissey, that Min will sleep with Cal. Min overhears them and although she plans revenge falls in love instead. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex." **DB 58276.** Also available in Large Print.

First Comes Like by Alisha Rai. "Beauty influencer Jia Ahmed decides it is finally time to meet Bollywood actor Dev Dixit, the man she has been chatting with for months online. When he doesn't know her, Jia realizes she has been catfished. To avoid embarrassment, she asks Dev to pretend to date her. Unrated." **DB 102474.**

continued in next column...

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.

Pop Up at Macomb Township Senior Center

Our outreach librarian and tech advisor will be at the Macomb Township Senior Center on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on the following dates to help seniors answer questions about their smartphones, tablets, social media, voice assistant and more: **Jan. 18, Feb. 22, March 14, and April 18.**

The Macomb Township Senior Center is located at 51210 Alma Drive in Macomb Township. 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 and have them call our library at (586) 286-1580. We will be happy to come to your area!

Music at Main

Stop by the Main Library for a free concert. Join us for a free hour of music open to all ages. **No registration is required to attend these concerts.**



Sun., Jan. 14 at 2 p.m.: Steve Somers Band (jazz-blues-Motown)

Sun., Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.: James Taylor, Jr. (singer-songwriter, piano/guitar)

Sun., March 10 at 2 p.m.: Royal Oak Blues Band (jazz/country/rock)

Sun., April 21 at 2 p.m.: Beats with Ben (steel drum)

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.