

DEAR PEARL

October 2011 Volume XXXIX - Number 2

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

2011 Holiday Pizza Party Scheduled

We've decided that last year's Pizza Celebration was such a success that we are doing it again. Please join the BLTS Board of Directors and fellow braillists and tapists for a little holiday get-together.

When: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Where: BLTS
517 North Segoe Road

Time: 11:30 Social Time
Pizza arrives hot at 12:00 p.m.

BLTS will provide pizza, breadsticks, veggies, soft drinks, wine, coffee and desserts.

RSVP BLTS Office by November 28th 608-233-0222

As always – if you need a ride, please call the office.
We'll see to it that you get to and from the party.



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BLTS Begins New Fundraising Drive

Money, Money, Money. It's the title of a song by ABBA. It's said to be the mother's milk of politics. And it's essential to the existence of all nonprofits like BLTS. But in our current hard economic times, money is in short supply. The Wisconsin State Journal recently reported that Americans are adjusting to the times by cutting back primarily on three things: consumer spending (new

clothes, electronics, etc.), eating out at restaurants, and contributing to charities. Everyone is affected.

BLTS has been very fortunate over the years to have gained a loyal following of contributors – individual, corporate, and foundation – who have provided the mainstay of our funding, so that we have been able to continue our essential work of

braille and recording books for people unable to read with their eyes. Our contributions can be divided into three categories: large corporate or foundation grants of \$500 or more; community contributions (about 60% of our total), and membership contributions (about 36% of our contributions). All contributions are very much appreciated, of whatever amount.

(continued on next page)

BLTS Begins New Fundraising Drive *(continued from page one)*

This fall BLTS began an effort to widen our base of support and make new, long-lasting relationships with potential donors. Office Manager Aaron Konkol and I began contacting 150 of the Madison area's biggest and

newest corporations to see if we might establish some new partners for long-term financial support. Those of you who have been involved in fundraising know what a lonely job it can be, but even

one new contributor can be worth the effort. As we've all been told, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." We're beginning.

Steve Levine

BLTS Lending Library News

Increase Seen in New Users of the Lending Library: During the last few months we have seen an increase in the amount of new users of our lending library. While this could be due to several factors, it seems likely that the new name of our organization (Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.) has made it easier for people to find our services via the web. In various Google searches for braille lending libraries we are usually within the top five-to-ten hits. We have also had several

comments by patrons that they have noticed our name change and like it!

New Home for Brailled Children's Books: This summer the library assessed our children's braille book collection (non textbook) with the aim of eliminating those which are seldom used or are similar to others in the collection. Although this is needed due to space considerations, we wanted to make every attempt to have these books used by teachers or donated to libraries. With help from Sandy Adams, this

fall an email message was sent out to Wisconsin teacher's of the blind and visually impaired, and a notice was put in the "Wisconsin Braille" newsletter. These notices directed people to the BLTS website, where a list of available free titles were to be found. To date we have sent books to several teachers, both across Wisconsin and in Canada. It is satisfying to know that these books will continue to be enjoyed!

Sincerely,
Patricia Herrling, BLTS Lending Library Coordinator

Secret Courage

From my reading of *Secret Lives of the First Ladies, What Your Teachers Never Told You About the Women of the White House* by Cormac O'Brien, I learned a fact about Frances Cleveland that I thought would be of interest to you fellow brailleists.

She was the wife of Grover Cleveland, the 18th president of our United States, from 1886-1889 and 1893-1897. In this book, many interesting facts are given about each first lady and Frances Cleveland, Frank as

they called her, was the White House's first media star. Countless advertisers used her face and name to promote their products.

Late in life, Frank Cleveland began to suffer from blindness. But her mind and courage were such that merely accepting her fact passively was out of the question. She quickly (don't you wonder what this meant?) learned braille and not just for her own convenience—Frances spent a great deal of time transcribing literature in

braille for others with the affliction, a project she continued to do even after surgery successfully removed her cataracts.

A "Sound Bite" (as O'Brien called them) from Frances Cleveland read, "I can wish the women of our country no better blessing than that their homes and their lives may be as happy and that their husbands may be as kind and attentive, considerate and affectionate, as mine."

Vonna Johnson-Porter

Titles Done Since August 2011



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
(page counts follow names)



For children

Kittens and Friends (Sue Nelson, 2), *Can't Sleep* (Sue Nelson, 3)

For adults

Learn to Knit on Circle Looms (Patt Lang, 58), *Best Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, The* (Kathy Dorn, 201), *33-Year-Old Rookie* (Joel Devore, 492); *Chicken* (Judy Amacker, 250), *Crock Pot Cookbook* (Barbara Wegner, 82), *Crochet Around the Home* (Julie Schoepp, 102), *Our Favorite Desserts* (Sue Nelson, 110)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

Diabetes Self-Care Information Booklet (Connie Risjord, 24)

Special Projects

Daily Guideposts 1999 (Julie Schoep, 764), Harmony of Kenosha August Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 5), Easter to Easter (Bev Pfister, 928), Total Focus Workbook (Connie Risjord, 208), Baseball Digest Jan-Feb (Sue Nelson, 318), Total Transformation Program (Barbara Wegner, 200), Harmony of Kenosha Sept. Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 6), Letter (Bev Pfister, 6), Harmony of Kenosha Oct. Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 5), Rice Cooker Owner's Guide (Lori Hanson, 32)

The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty."

— Theodore Parker

Titles Taped since November 2010



Thank You to all of our Tapists:
Joseph, Carol, Steve, Lois, & Jean!



Joseph Lutz: 10 Electronics Owners Manuals

Carol Birch: *Satch, Dizzy, & Rapid Robert*, *Munson: The Life & Death of a Yankee Captain*, *The 33-year-old Rookie*, *Still A Kid At Heart*, Sony IC Recorder Manual; *Knit & Purl* (Jean Tretow-Schmitz & Carol Birch); *A Round-heeled Woman*, *Heir To Sevenwaters*

Steve Levine: 15 CD Booklets; *The Resurrection of Jesus*, *Odd Man Out*, *If God, Why Evil?*; A Creation-Order Theology

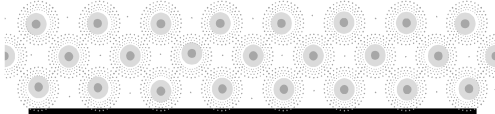
Lois Kibbe: *Tales from The Mound*, *Five O'clock Lightning*, *Sweet Lou & the Cubs*



DEAR PEARL

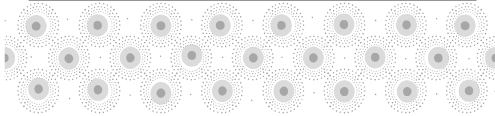


Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



Contributors

Sue Danz
Barb Henning
Patricia Herrling
Vonna Johnson-Porter
Aaron Konkol
Steve Levine

Vickie Warner, Editor

Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



Clip art provided by Microsoft Office

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired



Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Email: office.blts@tds.net
Fax: 608-233-0249
Phone: 608-233-0222
Madison, WI 53705
517 N. Segoe Rd. #200

Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.