

DEAR PEARL

March 2012 Volume XV - Number 1

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

BLTS 2012 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon April 11, 2012



Please join us at the 41st annual meeting and awards luncheon on April 11th at the Blackhawk Country Club. This year we have invited Dennis Helwig, head of Phoenix Braille and a former brailist from the Wisconsin Correctional Institution braille program to speak to us about his experiences and insights in becoming a brailist and starting a new business.

Also, we have invited Peter Feneht, a harpist, to entertain us during our social time.

And, as usual at our annual meeting, we will elect the new slate of officers for the BLTS Board of Directors and in our time-honored tradition, present awards to our volunteers.

We hope you can make it.

Social time begins at 12:30 p.m. and lunch is served at 1:00 p.m.

When: April 11, 2012

Where: Blackhawk Country Club, 3606 Blackhawk Dr., Madison, WI

Social Time: 12:30 p.m.

Lunch: 1:00 p.m.

Program and Awards to follow

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Menu Selections:

Names of those attending (spouse, friends, all guests are welcome):

___ Chicken and Mushroom Crepes with Wild Rice and Fresh Fruit Garnish – \$12.75

___ Fresh Baked Quiche Lorraine (bacon) Served with Fresh Fruit Garnish – \$12.75

___ Asparagus Stuffed Ravioli with Roasted Garlic Spaghetti Puttanesca – \$12.75
(Vegetarian)

All selections include Rolls and Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea or Milk and Dessert.

Cash Bar Available

Please make your meal selection(s) and return to BLTS with your check made payable to BLTS:
517 North Segoe Road, #200, Madison, Wisconsin 53705-3172

***RSVP - Please return or call by March 28, 2012**

If you have any questions or need a ride contact BLTS at 608-233-0222, or office.blts@tds.net

Message from the President

2011

The Year in Review

“My best friend is a person who will give me a book that I haven’t read.” —Abraham Lincoln

What a year! The year 2011 marked so many milestones for Braille Library & Transcribing Services. 2011 was the first full year of operation under our new name – Braille Library & Transcribing Services – BLTS! While I have to admit that I still slip into VBTL from time to time, the new name is easier to remember when I have a “senior moment.” (And they are coming more frequently these days!) I just think of the word “sandwich,” and, voila, BLTS pops into my mind.

The new name better explains our function and purpose, puts us high on the alphabetical list for those searching the internet for Braille services, and provides a refreshing change for the future. Change is good. But the change in name hasn’t changed our dedication or enthusiasm for our purpose and goal: to provide the joy of books to people who can’t read with their eyes. As Shakespeare wrote, “a rose

by any other name would smell as sweet,” and that is certainly the case with BLTS.

Money is not only the mother’s milk of politics, but it is the lifeblood of non-profit organizations, including BLTS. Like other nonprofits, we have seen a slowdown the past few years in contributions from both the community and our members. Fundraising efforts last year did see contributions from two new friends – Kaiser Ford and Ballweg Chevrolet. We thank them for their kind generosity and urge you to patronize these wonderful corporate contributors – whether you like your cars “Ford Tough” or want to “See the USA in your Chevrolet.” The bottom line is that our financial situation remains secure – due to our wonderful volunteers, frugal management, and generous contributors.

There are so many dedicated people to thank: Board members Barb Henning, Pat Herrling, Sue Nelson, Karen Perzentka, Pat Popp, Vonna

Johnson-Porter, Connie Risjord, and Barb Wegner. And special thanks to Sue Nelson for her financial expertise that helps keep us afloat. Pat Popp and Sue Danz keep the process moving by receiving orders for brailled materials, assigning transcribers for various projects, embossing, collating, and attending to all the details that allow us to serve our clients. Patricia Herrling and her library crew provide service to over 200 clients from a library of over 200 titles. Vickie Warner produces Dear Pearl. Carol Birch trains new tapists, and office manager Aaron Konkel makes sure everything runs smoothly. And special thanks to all our volunteers, members, contributors – and to the names I’ve no doubt omitted to mention.

So, thanks and congratulations to everyone, and on to another exciting year of providing brailled and taped books, so that everyone can experience the joy of reading.

Best,
Steve Levine, President

Reminder to Braillists

Reminder: At present the page count for books being brailled is 160-175 braille pages. Please try and keep the volumes to this size as they come unbound easily and are hard to handle when they get larger than that. Because of the bulk of a braille volume, division should always favor smaller volumes (this is a quote from the Instruction Manual, section 19.7).

Sue Danz, Braille Coordinator

**Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.
Annual Meeting, April 11, 2012
NOMINATING SLATE**

Returning Officers

President:	Steve Levine	2011-2013
Vice President:	Vonna Johnson-Porter	2013-2014
Secretary:	Barbara Wegner	2013-2014
Treasurer:	Sue Nelson	2013-2014

Returning Board Members

Barb Henning	2011-2013
Patricia Herrling	2011-2013
Karen Perzentka	2013-2014
Constance Risjord	2013-2014

New Board Member:

Betty Oakley	2013-2014
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Leaving Board:

Pat Popp	201-2012
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Office Staff:

Aaron Konkol	Office Coordinator
Sue Danz	Braille Coordinator

Dear Pearl

Vickie Warner	Editor
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NBA Professional Development Conference

The National Braille Association Professional Development Conference is being held in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac , April 26-28, 2012. Registration rates range between \$150.00 - \$200.00.

Transcribers, proofreaders, and others involved in the preparation of braille will gather for 2-1/2 days of continuing education and fun. Some of the workshops being offered are: Introduction to Braille Music, Nemeth Code Simplified, Formatting Back Material, Flowcharts, Tactile Graphics, Chemistry Intro, Foreign Language and many more. There are 5 sessions starting Thursday afternoon with a total of 25 workshops to choose from.

There will also be a silent auction, exhibitors, lunches, a President's Reception, a group tour to the Gateway Arch and the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) invites you to join them for their Open Forum on Saturday, April 28.

Please go to nationalbraille.org for complete information and registration details.

BLTS Lending Library News

The “New Adult and Children’s Books, January 2012” has been produced and is being sent out this month to our library readers and to teachers of the visually handicapped. This supplement includes all of the book titles and descriptions added to our library since the production of our print book catalog in January 2011. These selections are based on reader suggestions and assessment of the current collection of books.

All of these titles can be found on our website at

www.bltsinc.org.

Update on New Home for Brailled Children’s Books: Last 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. I am happy to report that all 160 titles have been claimed by schools and teachers of the blind and visually handicapped. We received many notes of

appreciation and thanks for adding to their children’s reading enjoyment. This has had two additional benefits for our BLTS library. Room has been made for our expanding collection of books, and the publicity has increased our visibility and resulted in new contacts with several schools which are making use of our lending collection.

Patricia Herrling,
Lending Library Coordinator

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.

— Booker T. Washington

Office Manager's Report

Updated website

Since the last Dear Pearl was published, the descriptions of the books are listed on the website for the first time since the website was launched! Ever since Patricia became the BLTS Librarian, one of her goals was to somehow include a short description of each book on the site so our readers could have a better understanding of the books in our catalog. Thanks for the motivation Patricia!

Membership reminder

It’s that time of year again, and—as always—we could use

your donations as soon as possible. Please remember to send in your membership dues, which again are remaining at a mere \$25. Any amount beyond that is very much appreciated, and for the first time ever we are offering an incentive...

BLTS canvas tote bags

For any donation over \$50 you can receive a BLTS Canvas Tote bag! The bag is a cream color with navy blue straps. The BLTS logo is emblazoned on the side in a matching navy blue, and below the logo is our new tagline:

Volunteers
braille,
lending, and
taping for the
blind since
1971.



If you are already a member, you should have already received this announcement along with our annual membership letter. If you are a member but did not get the letter, please contact the office and let us know.
Aaron Konkol,
Office Coordinator

Titles Done Since October 2011



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
(page counts follow names)



For children

You Can Do It, Sam (P/B) (Kathy Dorn, 6); *Pooh's Easter Egg Hunt* (P/B) (Kathy Dorn, 9); *3 Start to Read Books* (P/B) (Kathy Dorn, 7)

For adults

Scarecrow, The (Barb Schlinkert, 650); *A Celebration of Soups* (Kathy Dorn, 560); *Prayer Shawl Ministry, The* (Sue Nelson, 74); *Nine Dragons* (Joel DeVore, 614); *Lady in the Attic* (Barb Schlinkert, 384); *Handle With Care* (Barb Schlinkert, 920); *High Profile* (Barbara Wegner, 330); *Even Money* (Kathy Dorn, 602); *Knit Ponchos* (Patricia Herrling, 37); *Unnatural Exposure* (Barbara Wegner, 511); *Knit the Season* (Patricia Herrling, 386)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

Vocabulary Readers (Barb Henning, 677)

Special Projects

Sony VCR/DVD Quick Start Guide (Sue Nelson, 20); Harmony of Kenosha Nov. Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 5); Holiday Songs (Patricia Herrling, 12); 3 Knit Scarf Patterns (Julie Schoepp, 28); Super Spelling Workbook-Hooked on Phonics (Bev Pfister, 286); Letter (Bev Pfister, 8); Radio Frequency Information (Kathy Dorn/Joel DeVore, 254); The Midnight Watch (Kathy Dorn, 12); Harmony of Kenosha Dec. Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 5); Daddy Calls Me Doodlebug P/B (Kathy Dorn, 5); Frank's Pizza & Pasta Menu (Kathy Dorn, 42); Harmony of Kenosha Jan. Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 6); Memorial Card (Patricia Herrling, 2); Letter (Patricia Herrling, 1); Best of Baltimore Vol. 32 (Kathy Dorn, 7); 2012 Timesheet (Sue Nelson, 11); Agenda and 2 Mtg Minutes (Sue Nelson, 13); Letter (Bev Pfister, 3); Harmony of Kenosha Feb. Newsletter (Patricia Herrling, 6);

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same.

—Anonymous

Pat Popp Retiring from BLTS Board of Directors

There is no job at BLTS too small or too large for Pat Popp! In Pat's many years with us she has tackled all jobs with enthusiasm and accuracy. Some, like looking up descriptions for books in our library, are time consuming and receive little recognition. I

don't think there is any job that Pat hasn't done at some time and it was always with a smile. As Braille Coordinator, she juggled the assignments and kept the records necessary for keeping track of where everything was and who was doing what. I can say that she

is easy to work with (perhaps bringing in lots of candy helped) and hope that she will continue to be available in the future. Thank you for all of your work over the years and best wishes for the future.

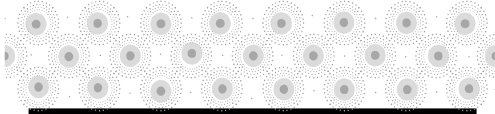
Sue Nelson



DEAR PEARL

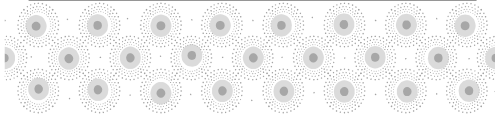


Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



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Barb Henning
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Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



Clip art provided by Microsoft Office

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired



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Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.