

DEAR PEARL

July 2012 Volume XL - Number 2

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

BLTS 2012 Fall Frolic

Friday September 7, 2012

Social Time 11:30 in the Library

Lunch 12:00 in the Conference Room

BLTS invites you to attend a "Fall Frolic" on Friday September 7th, 2012. Please join us in the BLTS Library for social time at 11:30 with beverages and appetizers provided by the Board. At noon we will move to the conference room for a delicious lunch of Milio's Sandwiches and homemade desserts from Board members.

This luncheon will follow the morning Braille Formats Workshop conducted by Julie Sumwalt. We expect quite a few Braillists to attend, and we would love to see the Tapists as well as all volunteers and past Braillists. As always, spouses and guests are welcome. We promise the air conditioner will be on!

Don't miss catching up with friends and of course talking all things BLTS. Put it on your calendar.

Please RSVP by **August 27th** – 608-233-0222. Let us know if you need a ride, and we'll make the arrangements.



NBA Fall Professional Development Conference

WHAT: The NBA Fall Professional Development Conference

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 25 – Saturday, Oct. 27th

WHERE: The St. Anthony Riverwalk Wyndham Hotel, San Antonio, Texas

The National Braille Association invites you to join them for this fall's Professional Development Conference. The conference starts on Thursday, Oct. 25th, with the first of six workshop sessions. The workshops provide opportunities for networking and refreshing skills, as well as learning more efficient methods when producing Braille. There is an assortment of workshops being offered including: mathematics, music, textbooks, and tactile graphics. Please go to the website for details: <http://www.nationalbraille.org/Conference/>



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Thank You for “Making a Deposit”

You can never predict where life will lead, what impact you will have on others, or what impact they will have on you. Last Sunday morning I was lying in bed at 7:00 a.m. watching television as my favorite TV pastor delivered a message entitled, “Make a Deposit.” The point of the message was that for everywhere you go and everyone you meet, you should “make a deposit” – do something that will improve the situation and the lives of people with whom you come in contact. By the end of the sermon, I had teared up a few times by his examples and been inspired (despite my way-too-hectic life) to slow down and “make a deposit.” At this point, you may be asking, what does a TV pastor have to do with BLTS?

I am not a religious person, but over the past several years, a good number of the books I have recorded for BLTS clients have been about religion – religious history, religious philosophy, religious whatever – and they have led

to my reading and listening to more books and programs on the subject. The books led to my watching Sunday religious telecasts, and ultimately to the “Make a Deposit” message last weekend. And, as I watched the message last Sunday, it occurred to me that there are many of you who have influenced BLTS with your deposits – financial and otherwise – and who, like me, have had your lives enriched by your contributions to BLTS.

So, as fall approaches and a new season of activity begins, I want to thank all of you for the deposits, of whatever nature and whatever size, that you have made to BLTS – which have both enriched the lives of others and have come back to add so much to your own lives. Thanks to the foundations, community contributors, and members who have provided the finances which make our operation possible. Special thanks to those who *have* remembered and *will* remember BLTS in their wills. Keep the deposits coming. Thanks, too, to the board members, brailleists,

proofreaders, transcribers, tapists, librarians, managers, volunteers, coordinators and people who contribute their time and talents in so many ways. Keep your deposits coming, too. And if you have friends and acquaintances that you think might enjoy becoming new “depositors,” send them our way. We can use their time and talents.

Finally, a super-special nod of appreciation to those who compose and contribute to the wonderful newsletter we call “Dear Pearl” that keeps us in contact with each other and up to date on latest developments: Vickie Warner, Michelle Rueckert, and Janesville’s “Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.” Thanks for a very professional, high-quality publication. So, as the first cool morning breezes of fall approach, its time to reflect on the deposits we’ve both made and received, and the satisfaction of both giving and receiving. See you September 7!

Best,
Steve Levine, President

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

— Henry Ford

Recruiting New Volunteers, Members, Brailleists, and Board Members

As part of our long-range planning, the BLTS Board of Directors is brainstorming on the idea of how to recruit new staff, directors, and volunteers, and we are very interested in your ideas.

Do you know of any people who might be interested, or organizations (perhaps churches, civic clubs, etc.) which might have members who are interested in becoming involved in BLTS?

We have a need for everyone from brailleists to office staff to board members. Life is a relay race, and we're looking for the next set of runners to pick up the baton. Any ideas will be much appreciated.

Braille Formats 2011

Braille Formats 2011 Section 1 introduces the concept of t-pages, which are transcriber-generated. These include the title page, secondary title page(s), special symbols page, and transcriber's notes page. Any other pages gleaned or compiled by the transcriber, such as a table of contents for a menu, also fall under this category. They are numbered

in the lower-right corner as t1, t2, t3, etc.

The definition of p-pages now includes only the front matter that is actually in the print book, such as tables of contents and dedications. These pages have the braille page numbers of p1, p2, p3, etc., as before. They will also have print page numbers in the upper-right corner if they are shown or implied in print.

This means that page change indicators may need to be used, and the material should be presented in the same order as it is in print.

On the title page, braille pages listed include all t-pages, p-pages, and braille pages. Print pages include the p-pages if print page numbers were given. For volumes after volume 1, if the table of contents and other content were repeated, they must be listed on the title page.

Canvas BLTS Bags Still Available

The canvas bags with BLTS logo that we offered as a "premium" for a \$50 donation were a big hit! We've gotten many compliments on the quality, and from personal experience I can concur (I use

mine almost every day). Thank you to everyone who upped their regular yearly donation to get one of these bags!

We still have some left, so if you didn't get one before, or if you'd like another, we're only

asking \$10 for the first, and \$5 for each additional bag. Just call, email, stop by, or send a check to the office and you'll get your bag as soon as possible.

New! Braille Formats 2011

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) has published Braille Formats 2011, now available online at www.brailleauthority.org. This manual replaces Braille Formats 1997. The changes in formatting guidelines are extensive, affecting everything from headings to notes to crossword puzzles, making it easier to navigate on a page and differentiate between elements. Braille will follow print much more closely, indicating emphasis (italics, bold, underlining, color, etc.) more frequently and more

precisely than before, as well as other things like colored boxes and bulleted lists. This will give braille readers more information about what the print is showing and enable them to follow along and reference things in class or groups more easily. Transcribers may begin using these new guidelines immediately or wait until the official implementation date of January 1, 2013. During this transition time, readers will still be able to easily read materials that follow either the old or new way.

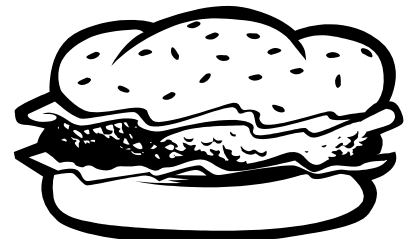
Workshops for BLTS began in June, but you can still come even if you have not been attending from the beginning or can't make all of them. We meet the first and third Fridays of the month from 9:00-11:00 am. The workshop PowerPoint presentations and handouts are sent out via email after the workshop date for those who are unable to attend or would just like an electronic copy. If you would like to be on the workshop email list, please contact me.

–Julie Sumwalt

julie.sumwalt@wcbvi.k12.wi.us

Braille Buns

In a viral YouTube video, South African fast-food chain Wimpy shows sesame seeds being placed with tweezers onto hamburger buns, forming Braille words, before the buns are baked. You can see it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YAChE0-o-o>

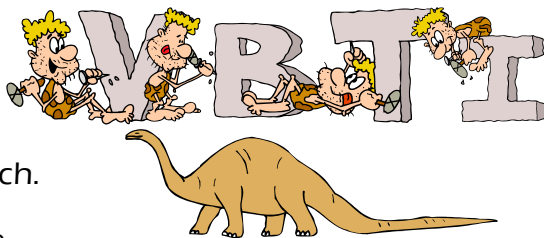


BLTS Helping Past and Present

PAST

Some time ago – 20 years to be exact, Katie Watson was 3-years-old. She and BLTS were the subjects of an interesting story published in the *Wisconsin State Journal* titled “Raising Interest in Reading Braille.” The story involved Katie’s hands being guided by her mom, Margie Watson, over a branch. This was for a project Katie and other kids used to make raised tree pictures in their dinosaur books.

A sweet photograph of Katie’s little hands being guided was taken at the BLTS Library and included in the article.



PRESENT

Katie Watson is now 23 years old and is a May 2012 graduate of University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, majoring in Journalism. She is hoping to become a certified proofreader through NFB. As a prerequisite requirement she will be studying the current Braille manual rules in a weekly class with Betty Oakley.



In Memory of Marion Hong



Marion Hong died on June 14, 2012 in Shelburne, VT. She was born on April 3, 1930 in Pautucket, Rhode Island.

She is survived by Richard, her husband of 60 years, one daughter, three sons and nine grandchildren.

Marion attended the Northwestern School of Nursing in Chicago. Her nursing career included work in operating rooms in Northwestern University’s Wesley Memorial Hospital and intensive care units of the University of Wisconsin transplant service. She put that career on hold while raising her children and used her energies in transcribing standard text to Braille for the visually impaired in both Minneapolis, Minn. and Madison.

In 1970, Madison Brailleists started with four students around Marion’s dining room table. They incorporated in the spring of ‘71. In the fall of 1972, she wrote to the class the following:

“My deep gratitude to all you ‘oldies’. You are truly beautiful people and such a wonderful present to me is your warmth, good fellowship, and constant help. As an organization we could not be what we are, or see such quick results to ‘dreams’ without your hard work and sacrifice. You are the nucleus, the charter class, and certainly ‘backbone’ to a productive future. I can hear the braille rolling off the machines.”

And Brailleist Mary Harshaw wrote in Dear Pearl’s 1974 newsletter, showing Marion’s wry sense of humor:

“Last week Marion cast a cold eye in my direction. ‘Mary,’ she said calmly (Marion is always calm - it comes of knowing the gods are on your side). ‘Are you getting the NBA bulletins?’ ‘Yes, ma’am,’ I said, smiling brightly, twirling my correcting pencil frantically, looking busy. . . busy. And then in a wild Promethean plunge, I decried ‘How am I ever to get my brailing done if I must spend valuable time reading that mickey-mouse? I joined this group to actually do something and now...’ (Marion

never blinked. Marion can go for a day and half without blinking, if necessary). ‘Mary,’ she said, ‘read them.’ Pausing in the doorway, she looked back at me thoughtfully. ‘Mary,’ she said, kindly, ‘you can take them to the bathroom with you.’”

And in an excerpt from Helen Hay’s 1974 “Ode to Marion” Helen wrote:

‘Here’s to our teacher, whose first name is Marion.

She gave us the strength to carry on.

Here’s to our teacher, whose last name is Hong.

With her fine example, we shouldn’t go wrong.”

“For your help along the way to our hoped-for certification,

We present this little gift to express appreciation.

It says a simple thank you, and much, much more.

From each and every member of the class of ‘74.”

It was a great privilege to have had Marion as our teacher and mentor.

Titles Done Since March 2012



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
(page counts follow names)



For adults

Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell (Joel DeVore, 248), *Honor Thyself* (Barb Schlinkert, 392/Lori Hanson, 106), *Home to Holly Springs* (Judy Amacker, 615), *Chicken & Fish* (Sue Nelson, 212), *Low Calorie & Low Fat Recipes* (Barb Schlinkert, 256), *Pontoon* (Barb Schlinkert, 388), *Knitted Prayer Shawls* (Patricia Herrling, 32), *My Sister's Keeper* (Bev Pfister, 628), *Eragon* (Kathy Dorn, 900)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

Wisconsin Lions Camp Handbook & Waiver (Kathy Dorn, 42), Appreciation Award (Patricia Herrling, 1), Access Service Agreement (Sue Nelson, 30), 14 song lyrics (Joel Devore, 14), Family Care Member Handbook (Bev Pfister, 184),

Special Projects

Chinese Restaurant Menu (Kathy Dorn, 32), Clarity XL45 User Guide (Kathy Dorn, 48), School Project (Kathy Dorn, 13), Denon Turntable Operating Instructions (Sue Nelson, 26), Letter (Sue Nelson, 4), Hymns Modern and Ancient (Joel Devore, 145), Trees Poem (Sue Nelson, 1), CC Radio SW Instruction Manual (Sue Nelson, 58), Panasonic Microwave Oper Instruc (Kathy Dorn, 114), Memorial Card (Sue Nelson, 2), Harmony Newsletter March (Patricia Herrling, 6), Message for wedding (Kathy Dorn, 1), Harmony Newsletter April (Patricia Herrling, 5), Puppy Love Latch Hook Pattern (Julie Schoepp, 17), Harmony Newsletter May (Patricia Herrling, 6), Harmony Newsletter June (Patricia Herrling, 6), Harmony Newsletter July (Patricia Herrling, 6), Top Restaurant Diner & Lounge Menu (Julie Schoepp, 40)

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.

—Helen Keller

BLTS Library Update July 2012

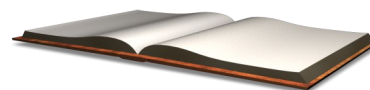
The BLTS library continues to grow, with several new print/braille books being added to our collection. This is nicely timed, as our lending to schools has increased, with BLTS shipping books to schools in Madison, Mount Horeb, and Belleville, Wisconsin as well as schools in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, and New Hampshire. We also have had increased circulation of children's books due to several students who are new to Braille and wanted to start with simpler books.

The BLTS Library Committee continues to assess our book collection and recommend additions based on client requests and interests. In the past year we have completed or committed to 19 adult fiction/non-fiction books, three children/young adult books, seven cookbooks and two handicraft books. We had several recommendations from clients for books for the future.

Our circulation has been up the last several months with many requests for knitting and crochet books, as well as adult fiction/non-fiction. The higher

visibility of our website and the addition of more descriptions to our book lists have resulted in quite a few new clients as well as more requests from our regulars. We have had several clients who started with BLTS as youngsters returning as adult borrowers after a few years off. It is nice to see their reading habits continuing.

Patricia Herrling,
BLTS Library Coordinator

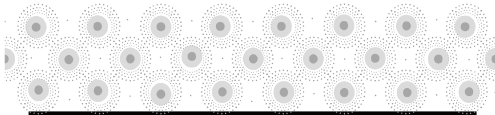




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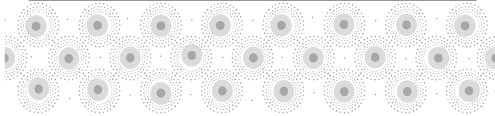


Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



Contributors

Sue Danz
Barb Henning
Patricia Herring
Aaron Konkol
Steve Levine
Betty Oakley
Julie Sumwalt

Vickie Warner, Editor

Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



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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@tlds.net

Fax: 608-233-0249

Phone: 608-233-0222

Madison, WI 53705

517 N. Segoe Rd. #200

Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.