

# DEAR PEARL

March 2013 Volume XLI - Number 1

*Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired*

## BLTS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon April 3, 2013



BLTS' Annual Meeting and Awards luncheon will be held on Wednesday April 3rd at the Blackhawk Country Club. This year we have invited Mike Helland, a radio personality, to speak to us about himself and his experiences. Mike is a radio host for a Saturday and Sunday morning music show on WIBA-FM 101.5.

Also, 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 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at 12:00 p.m.**

When: **April 3, 2013**

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

Social Time: **11:30 a.m.**

Lunch: **12:00 noon**

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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 – \$13.75

\_\_\_Chicken Ala King Over Patty Shells with Fresh Fruit Garnish – \$13.75

\_\_\_Asparagus Stuffed Ravioli with Roasted Garlic Spaghetti Puttanesca – \$13.75  
(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 25, 2013\*\*\***

If you have any questions or need a ride contact BLTS at 608-233-0222, or [office.blts@tds.net](mailto:office.blts@tds.net)

## President's Page

**"My best friend is the person who will give me a book I haven't read."**

**Abraham Lincoln**

What a year 2012 was – so many milestones for both BLTS and myself. Where to begin? We have been operating under our new name – Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc. – for about two years, so that it now comes natural to my mind. I no longer have to play word association games by thinking of the word "sandwich" to remember the name BLTS. The year 2012 also marked my second year as president of this wonderful group.

The good news is that we are in pretty good shape, both from an input and an output viewpoint. Due to some very nice contributions from our members and faithful friends as well as excellent financial husbandry (a fancy term for the hard work and financial expertise of our treasurer, Sue Nelson), we are in good financial shape. Thank you so much. Both our checking account and our investments seem to have weathered the economic dark clouds of the past few years. That's not a reason to let up in our fundraising efforts, but as the Beatles sang, "Here comes the sun... and I say it's all right." We have been blessed.

We also continue to run on all pistons in turning out brailled and taped books. In 2012 we contributed a total of more than 4,027 volunteer hours (braille transcribing, tape recording, service hours, and library). We have 2,158 book titles on master inventory, with 71 new adult, children, and print/braille books added in 2012. We loaned 1,358 books to 190 borrowers in 34 states and Canada, with 25 of the borrowers new this past year – our largest circulation of lending braille books since 2005! Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to make this possible, whether through dollars, volunteer hours, or both.

We continue to look for new sources of funding. Last year our solicitation of new corporate groups and foundations yielded mixed results, so this year we are turning to some community philanthropic groups which we haven't approached before: such organizations as American Legion, VFW, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Jaycees, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Eagles, Moose, etc. Some of these groups are specifically oriented toward helping children, and they may wish to contribute to help meet the reading needs of blind children.

There are so many dedicated people to thank: Board members Barb Henning, Patricia Herrling, Sue Nelson, Betty Oakley, Karen Perzentka, Vonna Johnson-Porter, Connie Risjord, and Barb Wegner – with Patricia and Sue doing double duty to keep our library and finances running. We would be nowhere without Carol Birch; office manager Aaron Konkol; braille coordinator Sue Danz; Vickie, Barb, and crew who produce Dear Pearl; and our many braillists, tapists, and other volunteers who transform the written word into the books that our clients can read with their fingers and ears. (I always manage to leave out names. Please forgive me if you're my victim this time).

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

*Best,*

**Steve Levine,  
President**

## BLTS Library Update

With 190 borrowers and a collection of 2,158 books, the BLTS Library continues to be busy lending braille materials to schools and individuals. In fact, our circulation this year is the highest it has been since 2005.

We added 25 new borrowers in 2012, including several new schools. We also added 71 new books to our collection. The BLTS Library Committee does a good job of making sure we have a nice balance of adult fiction/non-fiction, cookbooks, handicrafts, and children's materials.

We continue to improve our computer database and our website catalogs to improve access to our collection for library patrons.

We often get comments and suggestions from those people who borrow materials from our lending library. Here is one from a person using our children's Print/Braille collection:

*"I love 'Sammy the Seal'. It was cute. What I really liked was the labels on the pictures. The National Library Service could learn a thing or two about doing print/braille books from you guys. You do a good job! Keep up the good work."*

Patricia Herrling,  
Library Coordinator

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## Continuing Workshops at BLTS

Formatting workshops are continuing at BLTS on the first Friday of every month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the conference room on the second floor by the office. In January, those of us who use Braille2000 software did our best to program some SpeedBraille® shortcut keys into our computers. First we had to figure out our computers! In February, we discussed the formatting of front matter according to Braille Formats 2011. We looked at t-pages and p-pages for a book, a cookbook/magazine, and an appliance manual. In March, we dove into the brand-new way of doing notes—new symbols, new placement, and new indentions. Near-future topics will cover headings, font attributes, tables, sidebars, and all sorts of things. Electronic copies of the handouts are available after workshops. If you would like to be on the distribution list, please email me at [julie.sumwalt@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:julie.sumwalt@wcbvi.k12.wi.us).

Julie Sumwalt

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## Office Manager News

2012 was a great year for BLTS! We sold more than twice as many books as 2011, we have fewer past due invoices than any year since I started in 2008, we added 71 books to our library, we were able to donate children's books to schools, libraries and individuals, and we had the highest circulation of lending library braille books since 2005. All of this and more information can be found in the 2012 annual report which is available to be picked up at the office.

2013 is off to a great start too with no past due balances and three grant applications to add even more books to our library: the Madison Rotary Foundation, the Evjue Foundation, and the Alliant Energy Charitable Foundation. Keep your fingers crossed!

The Preliminary Pages Format Booklet is also completed, and is available in the office. Please feel free to come on by to grab the annual report, booklet, or just to say, "Hi."

Aaron Konkol

## Titles Done Since August 2012



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!  
(page counts follow names)



### For children

6 Print/Braille books (Sue Nelson, 58), *Oh the Places You'll Go* (Sue Nelson, P/B 12)

### For adults

*The Patriarchs* (Julie Schoepp, 642), *Learn to Knit on Long Looms* (Sue Nelson, 86), *Miracles Through Our Lady* (Kathy Dorn, 526), *Crashing Through* (Julie Schoepp, 554), "I Have A Dream" speech (Sue Nelson, 12), *100 Poems to Lift Your Spirits* (Barb Henning, 272), *Chicken* (Pillsbury) (Barb Schlinkert, 272), *Among the Imposters* (Barb Schlinkert, 221), *Sandra Lee Semi Homemade Cooking* (Barbara Wegner, 277), *Fun to Wear Tube Scarves* (Patricia Herrling, 30), *Sock Loom Basics* (Sue Nelson, 56), *Good Food for Good Health* (Barb Schlinkert, 102)

### For schools, non-profits and businesses

*The Cent\$ible Nutrition Cookbook* (Bev Pfister, 600), 8 Classroom documents (Patricia Herrling, 66), MG&E billings (Kathy Dorn, 27), Easter Seals Brochure (Patricia Herrling, 3), 2 classroom documents (Patricia Herrling, 19), classroom documents-meeting board lessons (Patricia Herrling, 86), MG&E billings (Kathy Dorn, 24), Holiday Songs (Patricia Herrling, 8), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 10), classroom documents (Patricia Herrling, 96), MG&E billings (Kathy Dorn, 20), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 12), MG&E billings (Kathy Dorn, 20), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 14),

### Special Projects

Two Way Voice Unit (Julie Schoepp, 16), Baseball Digest May/June 2012 (Julie Schoepp, 74), Confirmation Handbook (Patricia Herrling, 44), Baseball Digest Apr/May 2012 (Bev Pfister, 36; Julie Schoepp, 269), Demons, Devils & Deliverance (Patricia Herrling, 46). Under the Umbrella of God (Sue Nelson, 82), 21 Print/Braille Books for Ghana (Sue Nelson, 200), 19 Print/Braille books for Ghana (Patricia Herrling, 124), 20 Print/Braille books for Ghana (Kathy Dorn, 174), Square Lap Loom Instructions (Sue Nelson, 32), Borderline Menu (Barbara Wegner, 34), Signs of the Times magazine (Julie Schoepp, 132), I Am Not Alone (Julie Schoepp, 98), Oasis Restaurant Menu (Barbara Wegner, 56), 3 Print/Braille books (Patricia Herrling, 26), 3 Print/Braille books (Kathy Dorn, 19), 1 Print/Braille book (Sue Nelson, 6) Companion Book (Sue Nelson, 24), Gospel Centered Life (Julie Schoepp, 158), Crime Report (Kathy Dorn, 9), Small Graces (Julie Schoepp, 43)

## Formatting Help on Video

I've begun a new venture that I hope will be helpful to transcribers and vision teachers. Short videos pertaining to braille formatting are being posted online, with the goal of becoming an extensive library of informative, focused clips. Currently, there are four videos available: how to get the new *Braille Formats 2011* manual, features of the manual, what is defined as "technical material," and an overview of the major changes. Topics coming soon will be Nemeth indicators, emoticons, and cell-7 headings. Comments of any kind would be welcome and can be posted on the website or sent privately to my email address. To get these videos, go to [www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us](http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us). Click on the Outreach Services tab, and choose Training & Professional Development from the menu. Then click the link to the Online Training Room and choose a video. This will be a long-term project, so check back frequently.

Julie Sumwalt

## Braille Formats: Headings

In Section 4.6 of *Braille Formats 2011*, we're introduced to a new kind of heading, called the cell-7 heading, which is blocked in cell 7. This gives transcribers greater flexibility with headings, enabling us to better follow print and provide much more clarity for the braille reader.

The heading hierarchy is now centered, cell-5, cell-7, paragraph. Cell-7 headings work very much like cell-5 headings.

Cell-7 headings generally have a blank line before them, but not after, with a few exceptions:

They may immediately follow a cell-5 heading, in which case there would not be a blank line before them.

There is never a blank line immediately after a top box line, so a cell-7 heading following a top box line would not have a blank line before it.

Multiple columns may follow a cell-7 heading. A single column would not have a blank line between the heading and the column, but multiple columns need a blank line between the heading and the columns so that the heading is not mistaken for a column entry.

Cell-7 headings cannot be immediately followed by a centered, cell-5, or another cell-7 heading. Only paragraph headings may immediately follow a cell-7 heading.

Julie Sumwalt

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“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination.  
They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and  
achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.

Libraries change lives for the better.”

— Sidney Sheldon

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## NBA Spring Professional Development Conference

The National Braille Association (NBA) invites you to join them for this spring's Professional Development Conference. The conference starts on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and ends on Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. The workshops provide opportunities for networking and refreshing skills, learning more efficient methods to do our work, and discussing our unique skills with others working in the same field. All aspects of braille transcription will be covered including mathematics, music, textbooks, tactile graphics, and more.

The conference will be held at The Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg. Reservations should be made on or before March 25, 2013, to receive the special room rate of \$139.00 per night (single or double occupancy). Call 301-977-8900 and reference the event to make your reservations or visit [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org) to make your reservations online.

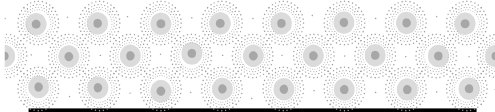
NBA is excited to once again be offering the opportunity for individuals to re-certify in braille textbook formatting. If you currently hold certification based on the 1997 Guidelines and want to become certified based on the 2011 Guidelines, please visit [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org) for more information.



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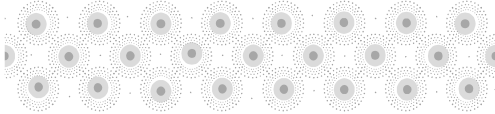


*Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.*



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



## **Contributors**

Sue Danz  
Barb Henning  
Patricia Herrling  
Aaron Konkol  
Steve Levine  
Julie Sumwalt

Vickie Warner, Editor

Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



Clip art provided by Microsoft Office

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*Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired*



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

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**Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.**