

DEAR PEARL

April 2014 Volume XLII - Number 1

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

New Developments At BLTS

Spring is here at last. Whew! What a long winter. The winter that began last November is finally over, and visions of the beautiful spring view from the Blackhawk Country Clubhouse have been filling my head. I hope many of you will be able to join us there on April 8 for the BLTS annual meeting and program. As usual, there will be the delicious Blackhawk food, harpist Peter Feneht – who has provided us with beautiful music for the past two years – and a super-interesting program. Our speaker, Lisa Tomberlin, will make a presentation about her experience teaching Braille to K-12ers in the Monona School District. It should be an enjoyable and informative afternoon. Hope to see you there.

We were blessed with a very good year in 2013, from a financial standpoint. Total contributions were up compared to 2012, including a substantial grant from the Allen Foundation and many generous contributions from individual members and friends of BLTS. Financial support like this is the foundation for the personal efforts of our braillists, tapists, the people who run our office and library, board members, and everyone who makes BLTS work. Thank you all so much. (A full list of contributors since those listed in last summer's Dear Pearl is contained inside.)

BLTS also began this year with a big bang by venturing into the reality television business. Well, not exactly. But we vaulted onto the airwaves when WKOW-TV visited our offices on January 3, 2014, to film what we do and to interview former Board member Karen Perzentka. The segment ran a week later on both morning and evening programs and hopefully conveyed to the public a bit of what we do and how we do it. While perhaps not on the scale of The Kardashians or Duck Dynasty, the segment was great publicity for BLTS. If you missed the airing, you may be able to contact Aaron at the BLTS office for a link. Enjoy.

Finally, BLTS is looking for a few good men or women – two to be specific. Retirements from our board of directors have left two vacancies to be filled for the upcoming term. Board meetings are held every two months for a total of six each year. So, if you enjoy volunteering, like to work with other



In this issue

In Memoriam Gail Yu	2
Contributors to BLTS in 2013	2
BLTS Lending Library Report	3
Formatting Lists	4
Canvas BLTS Tote Bags Still Available	5
Slate of Officers	5
Titles Done	6
Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon	7

(Continued on next page.)

people, and are willing to share your experience and wisdom to help bring the joy of reading to those who cannot see, please call Aaron at the BLTS office – 233-0222. Thank you.

As the Beatles sang, "It's been a long, cold, lonely winter." But, "here comes the sun, and I say it's alright." See you April 8th.

Steve Levine
President



In Memoriam

Gail Yu

Gail Yu, an icon in the history of BLTS, passed away on November 29, 2013, at home in Blue Mounds.

Gail was a member of BLTS/VBTI since 1974, when she was certified as a brailist by the Library of Congress, was awarded both the Founding Mothers Award in 1997, and the Distinguished Service: Diamond Award for over 5000 hours of Braille & Service in 2003. She also served on the Board of Directors and was employed as the Office Manager for several years.

Gail was born in 1938, raised in Wykoff, N.J., graduated from Oberlin College, and received a Master's in history from Columbia University. She met Hyuk Yu, at Dartmouth College and married him in 1964 in Washington, D.C. They moved to Madison in 1967, when Hyuk joined the Chemistry Department of UW-Madison. In 1990, after their three sons had grown up and left home, Gail and Hyuk moved to a country home in Blue Mounds, Wis. Gail loved animals, antiques, knitting, gardening and collecting 19th century English ceramics.

Gail is survived by her husband, Hyuk; sons, Jeffrey of Pelham, Mass., Steven of Yosemite, Calif., and Douglas of Madison; and three grandchildren, Alexander in Massachusetts and Atticus and Diana Gail in California.

Gail will be very much missed by everyone in the BLTS family. Her memory is an inspiration to all of us.

Sweet is the memory of distant friends!
Like the mellow rays of the departing sun,
it falls tenderly, yet sadly, on the heart.

—Washington Irving

Contributors to BLTS in 2013

(since last August)

Friends and Members

Frank E. Burgess

Norm & Barbara Mittelstaedt Berven

Memee Chun

Gerald Ring

Maureen Skelton

Foundations

Allen Foundation Trust

Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation

Claremont Jackman Foundation

Faircrest Association HealthFund

BLTS Lending Library Report 2013

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
Loaned	2000	300	375	675
	2001	354	437	791
	2002	451	544	995
	2003	688	581	1,269
	2004	705	560	1,265
	2005	874	517	1,391
	2006	773	547	1,320
	2007	810	450	1,260
	2008	755	468	1,223
	2009	847	454	1,301
	2010	836	347	1,183
	2011	801	340	1,141
	2012	706	652	1,358
	2013	708	656	1,364

2013 Borrowers

Active: **146** New: **13**

Lender's covered **34** states, including the District of Columbia. We also have **6** Canadian borrowers. This also includes **15** schools/libraries.

Collection

Total new books added to collection: **77**

29 new adult books

21 new children's books and **27** new print/braille books

Total Inventory: **2,235** items (Adult, **989**; Children, **1,246**)

Observations:

This year we continue the trend of increased circulation to library users. The BLTS Library Committee met 3 times and added 77 books to the library collection, either through donation or new brailled additions. We solicited homes for discarded books from our weeding project of children's books last year, which increased visibility of our children's collection and has resulted in higher circulation for that collection. We are currently working on a similar weeding project for our adult fiction/non-fiction collection this year. We went to an all-electronic inventory of books this year, eliminating the print inventory cards. This led to a complete check of the computer inventory of books. This brought our records up-to-date and is reflected in our online inventory of books for our users.

Formatting Lists

The definition of a “list” in *Braille Formats 2011* has been broadened to include anything that is itemized along a left margin.

8.1.3 Lists appear in many different guises, including a table of contents, timelines, word/vocabulary lists, exercise material, plays, bibliographies, alphabetical references, etc. There are subtle differences in how they are formatted, but the basic concepts start here with the simple and nested lists.

“Nested” lists are what used to be called “indented” lists. These lists contain at least one subentry under at least one main item.

8.6.1b The main entry begins in cell 1. Each subentry level begins two cells to the right of the previous level. All runovers begin two cells to the right of the farthest indented subentry.

The indentions are explained (ironically) in this little list shown throughout the *Braille Formats* manual:

One level: 1-3
 Two levels: 1-5, 3-5
 Three levels: 1-7, 3-7, 5-7
 Four levels: 1-9, 3-9, 5-9, 7-9
 etc.

In other words, each level starts two cells to the right of the previous one. This is not new.

Four levels: 1 -9, 3 -9, 5 -9, 7 -9

ALL the runovers start in the same place, two cells to the right of the beginning of the farthest subentry.

Four levels: 1- 9, 3- 9, 5- 9, 7- 9

Why the change?

8.1.6 A Braille Reader’s Perspective

The runover level for all entries or subentries is two cells to the right of the farthest indentation. This indicates to the reader fairly quickly the structure of the list. A list may go on for pages. In some lists with subentries, such as an index, a main entry may not appear for several pages. It is handy for the braille reader to identify the indent level quickly at a braille or print page change.

Julie Sumwalt

Canvas BLTS Tote Bags Still Available

The canvas tote bags with our BLTS logo that we offered as a "premium" for a \$50 donation were a big hit! We've received many compliments on both the attractiveness and the quality, and from personal experience, I definitely concur. (I use mine almost every day.) Thank you to everyone who increased 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, e-mail, stop by, or send a check to the office, and you'll get your bag as soon as possible.

Aaron Konkol



Slate of Officers

Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.

Annual Meeting, April 8, 2014

NOMINATING SLATE

Returning Officers:

President:	Steve Levine	2013-2015
Vice President:	Vonna Johnson-Porter	2014-2016
Secretary:	Patricia Herrling	2013-2015
Treasurer:	Sue Nelson	2014-2016

Returning Board Members:

Constance Risjord	2014-2016
Betty Oakley	2013-2015
Carol Birch	2013-2015
Dawn Stumpner	2014-2016

New Board Member:

Melinda Dresen	2014-2016
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Leaving Board:

Barbara Wegner	2013-2014
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Office Staff:

Aaron Konkol	Office Manager
Sue Danz	Braille Coordinator

Titles Done Since August 2013



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
(page counts follow names)



For children

Stormy, Misty's Foal (Sue Nelson, 255), *Misty of Chincoteague* (Julie Schoepp, 146)

For adults

The Second Opinion (Bev Pfister, 636), *Till We Meet Again* (Patricia Herrling, 685), *Killing Lincoln* (Barbara Wegner, 570), *Betty Crocker Diabetes Cookbook* (Barb Schlinkert, 648), *The Bean Trees* (Julie Schoepp, 450), *No Easy Day* (Bev Pfister, 468), *The Constitution* (Sue Nelson 61), *Declaration of Independence* (Sue Nelson, 13)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 14), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 16), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 14), TDS ad (Barb Schlinkert, 8), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 16), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 13), SDEP Resource Guide (Sue Nelson, 60), SDEP Workbook (Sue Nelson, 46), SDEP Conference Materials (4) (Barb Schlinkert, 36), SDC Program and 2 evaluation forms (Patricia Herrling, 98), 6 posters for UW (Sue Nelson, 32), Grammar and Beyond Workbook 2A (Bev Pfister, 260), Grammar and Beyond Workbook 2B (Bev Pfister, 298), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 14), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 16), 12 Holiday Songs (Patricia Herrling, 13), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 11), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15), Comm Alliance Payroll Schedule (Sue Nelson, 12), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 18), LADBC cover ltr and 2 meeting minutes (Patricia Herrling, 11), If you Lived in Colonial Times (Patricia Herrling, 52), MG&E bill (Kathy Dorn, 15), Disability Rights Wis. Brochure (Sue Nelson, 12) (Barb Schlinkert, 14)

Special Projects

Denon Model DRS-810 Instruction Manual (Sue Nelson, 60), Hear Plus 317ci Operating Manual (Kathy Dorn, 32), Denon Stereo Cassette Tape Deck Operating Instructions (Barb Schlinkert, 46), 8 Bible Study Guides (Kathy Dorn, 67), Repository Inquiry (Barb Schlinkert, 39), Heavenly Date and Other Flirtations (Roberts Shapiro, 76), Olympus Digital Voice Recorder Instructions (Sue Nelson, 276), Pioneer DVD DVL-919 Operating Instructions (Bev Pfister, 230), Sony Video Cassette Recorder Operating Instructions (Bev Pfister, 422), May 2013 Cooking Light Magazine (Kathy Dorn, 218), Songs of the Church (Julie Schoepp, 516), 8 Bible Study Guides (Joel Devore, 95), 2014 Islamic Prayer Schedule (Patricia Herrling, 22)

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In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out.
It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being.
We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.
—Albert Schweitzer

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Tuesday April 8, 2014

Social Time: 11:30

Lunch: 12:00

Blackhawk Country Club, 3606 Blackhawk Drive, Madison, WI

Followed by Program, Presentations, and Brief Meeting

BLTS invites you to attend its annual meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. Please join us at the beautiful Blackhawk Country Club, 3606 Blackhawk Drive, at 11:30 to meet and greet old and new BLTS friends. The noon luncheon offers two choices of chicken and a veggie selection. (Cost: \$15; see choices below.) Entertainment will be provided by harpist Peter Feneht, who has soothed us with beautiful music the past couple years.

The luncheon will be followed by an interesting program, after which there will be a brief meeting and award presentations. Our featured speaker will be Lisa Tomberlin, who will talk about her experience as a teacher of braille to K-12ers in the Monona School District. We encourage all current and past braillists, tapists, and volunteers to attend – as well as all members of the BLTS family. We would love to see you!

Don't miss catching up with friends and, of course, talking all things BLTS. Put it on your calendar. (We guarantee beautiful weather.) Please RSVP by March 25 by calling 608 233-0222. (Checks may be mailed to BLTS at 517 N. Segoe Rd., Suite 200-B, Madison, WI 53705.) Let us know if you need a ride, and we'll make the arrangements. Yes, Spring is here at last!



Menu Selections

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

_____ Chicken St. Croix Stuffed with Mushrooms, Spinach, Craisins, and Wild Rice served with natural Sauce, Fresh Fruit, and Fresh Vegetables

_____ Chicken and Mushroom Crepes with Wild Rice and Fresh Fruit Garnish

_____ Asparagus Stuffed Ravioli with Roasted Garlic Spaghetti Puttanesca (vegetarian)

All selections are \$15

and include rolls, coffee, tea, iced tea or milk, dessert and gratuity.

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

*****RSVP – Please return or call by March 24, 2014**

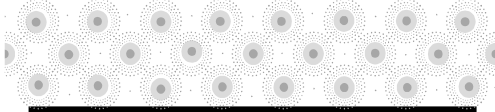
Any questions? Need a ride? Contact BLTS at 608-233-0222 or office.blts@tds.net



DEAR PEARL

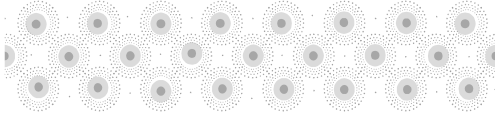


Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



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Vickie Warner, Editor

Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



Clip art provided by Microsoft Office

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired



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

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