Dear Pearl

Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.

March 2016  Volume XLIV - Number 1

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Wednesday April 13, 2016
Social Time: 11:30 a.m.  Lunch: 12:00 p.m.
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 Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Please join us at the beautiful Blackhawk Country Club, 3606 Blackhawk Drive, at 11:30 a.m. to meet and greet old and new BLTS friends. The noon luncheon offers two choices, the always popular chicken and mushroom crepes and a veggie selection (Cost: $16; see choices below). Entertainment will once again be provided by harpist Peter Feneht who will soothe us with beautiful music, as he has for the past four 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 Loretta Himmelsbach, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired. She will speak to us about services the Council for the Blind provides. Also on display will be some of the helpful devices available in the Council’s Sharper Vision Store. It should be an enjoyable afternoon. We encourage all members of the BLTS family to attend. We would love to see you!

Don’t miss catching up with friends and, of course, talking all things BLTS. So, put it on your calendar. We guarantee beautiful weather. Please RSVP by April 1st by emailing office.blts@tds.net or calling 608-233-0222, and remember to include your meal choice. Checks may be mailed to BLTS at 517 N. Segoe Road, 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

Chicken and Mushroom Crepes with wild rice and fresh fruit garnish
Fettuccini Alfredo with Grilled Vegetables (vegetarian)

All selections are $16
and include rolls, coffee, tea, iced tea, or milk, and dessert
Cash Bar Available

***RSVP – Please email or call by April 1, 2016 and remember to include your meal choice
Any questions? Contact BLTS at 608-233-0222 or office.blts@tds.net
President’s Report
Spring 2016

March 2016 – The end of winter is in sight: longer days, warmer temperatures, birds return, life renews. For me, nothing symbolizes the renewal of life more beautifully than the breathtaking view from the Blackhawk Country Clubhouse. I could sit there for hours, looking out at the course and meditating about life. I hope many of you will be able to join us there on April 13 for our BLTS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. I guarantee that you will enjoy the delicious Blackhawk food, harpist Peter Feneh, will provide us with beautiful music to lift our souls, and a most interesting program.

Our speaker, Loretta Himmelsbach, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, will speak to us about services the Council of the Blind provides. Also on display will be some of the helpful devices available in the Council’s Sharper Vision Store. Perhaps the most enjoyable part will be the simple pleasure of relaxing and schmoozing with friends, both new and long time. It should be an enjoyable and informative afternoon. Hope to see you there.

To quote Frank Sinatra, 2015 “was a very good year” for BLTS. We were blessed from a financial standpoint. We received some very nice contributions from foundations, corporations, individual contributors, and friends of BLTS. Especially appreciated are the donations from foundation and corporate contributors who have been longtime supporters of BLTS over the years: Epic, Evjue Foundation, Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust, Alliant Energy Foundation, MG&E Foundation and so many more. Financial support from all of you is the foundation for the personal efforts of our braillists, tapists, office and library staff, board members, and everyone who makes BLTS work. Thank you all so much. (A full list of recent contributors since our last Dear Pearl is contained inside.)

BLTS continues to run on all cylinders. Our office manager, Aaron Konkol, periodically updates our web site to include new books that are available for readers. Our library circulation for 2015 increased substantially, with 31 new library borrowers and 6 schools requesting the new UEB print/braille books. Our transcribers produced many pages of brailled books and materials for our free lending library and direct sale to individuals. We have transitioned to the new Unified English Braille. Thanks to everyone whose hard work made that possible. In February, we were interviewed by a writer for In Business magazine, which resulted in a nice article on their web site.

On a personal note, this April will mark the beginning of my 6th year as BLTS President, which has been both a wonderful and a humbling experience. The new people I’ve met and the experiences BLTS has presented have added much to my life. I have been so impressed by the many people and organizations which put out the effort to improve other people’s lives. I admire and thank you all. Have a wonderful 2016 and on to another year of BLTS helping everyone experience the joy of reading and learning – whether we read with our fingers, ears, or eyes.

Steve Levine
President
**UEB: Standing Alone Rule**

Foundational to Unified English Braille (UEB) is the concept of "standing alone." Standing alone affects the application of a great many other rules, which in turn affects how the braille is read and understood by the reader.

**standing alone:** condition used to determine when a braille sign is read as a contraction

2.6.1 A letter or letters-sequence is considered to be "standing alone" if it is preceded and followed by a space, a hyphen or a dash. Certain punctuation and indicators may intervene before or after the space, hyphen or dash.

2.6.2 These things before a letter or letters-sequence (after a space, hyphen or dash) do not affect its standing alone status:

- apostrophe  

or these opening symbols and indicators:

- parenthesis, square bracket or brace  
- quotation mark  
- typeform indicator or terminator  
- capitals indicator or terminator  
- transcriber’s note indicator

2.6.3 These things after a letter or letters-sequence (before a space, hyphen or dash) do not affect its standing alone status:

- apostrophe  

or these closing symbols and indicators:

- parenthesis, square bracket or brace  
- quotation mark  
- typeform indicator or terminator  
- capitals indicator or terminator  
- transcriber’s note indicator

Standing alone status is also not affected by common punctuation that comes AFTER a letter or letters-sequence, provided there is a space, hyphen or dash after the punctuation: comma, semicolon, colon, period, ellipsis, exclamation point or question mark.

- this… [not standing alone]
- this… [standing alone]
- this… [standing alone]
- this…one [not standing alone]

Any combination of the above does not affect standing alone status, such as a letter in opening and closing parentheses or quotation marks after a period.

Once this concept is grasped, many other rules make more sense, intuitively.
I do hope that our spring will be starting shortly and we will all be able to enjoy some sunshine again.

—Lesley Garrett

### BLTS Lending Library Update for 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>1,243</td>
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</tbody>
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### 2015 Borrowers

- Active: 180
- New: 31

### Collection

Total new books added to collection

- 29 new adult books
- 87 new children’s or print/braille books

Total Inventory: 2,353 items (Adult, 1,005; Children, 1,348)

### Observations

As of January 2016, new books for the library will be done in Unified English Braille (UEB). All of the 87 new print/braille books added this year were done in UEB. Our overall circulation has increased this year, with 87 more children’s books being borrowed from the library. Considering the fact that in 2014 we loaned 131 fewer children’s books than the previous year, this is a nice trend. Some of this is due to publicity about the availability of our print/braille UEB books for schools and some to our additional 31 new library users (6 of which were schools). In the coming year we will be concentrating on weeding of our print/braille collection to make room for our newer books, as well as working towards an increase in adult borrowing. 31 new users was a considerable increase from the last four years, which averaged 17 new users per year. So our hope is to follow up with these new contacts to increase adult borrowing from the library in 2016.

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I always like to include a quote from our actual library borrowers, which show such appreciation for braille literature and the library service.

**Quote from a library borrower:**

“Dear Librarian: This is a new author for me. Thank you for introducing me to a new writer and a new series. [The book takes place in Ohio]...I had never heard of Blue Ash, OH and learned it is near me in Cincinatti... I would like to read more books in ... this series.”
Put the above words into the puzzle. Each word is used only once. Because we aren’t heartless, we’ve even given you your first answer.

If you want the answer, come to the awards luncheon.
Dear Pearl

March 2016

Individuals:
Barbara Mittelstaedt Berven
Charles Cornwell
Frederick Davis
Jane Eisner

Bettine Lipman & Lee Weiss
Abigail Loomis
Barbara Miller

Dale Nordeen
Gerald Ring
Ronald Thorstad

Organizations:
Alliant Energy Foundation
American Legion Post 501
Claremont Jackman Foundation
Columbus Lions Club
Cross Plains Community Chest
Epic Systems
Faircrest Association Health Fund Drive
Hallman Lindsay Paints

Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc.
Jack DeLoss Taylor Foundation
Lake Wisconsin Lions Club
Lange Living Trust
Madison Central Lions Club
Madison Gas & Electric Foundation
Madison Monona Lioness Club

McFarland Lions Club
Middleton Lions Club
Mukwonago Lions Club
Strand Associates
Sub-Zero Wolf Foundation, Inc.
United Way
Westmorland Combined Health Fund
Woodman’s

Midwest Regional Braille Conference
I'm excited to announce the advent of our first annual Midwest Regional Braille Conference! It will be held May 20-22, 2016, in Madison, WI, at the Sheraton Madison Hotel on John Nolen Drive. This will be a professional development and networking opportunity for transcribers, proofreaders, vision teachers and paraprofessionals who strive to produce high-quality braille. The states involved are Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. We have a great line-up of presenters who will lead sessions on beginning UEB, UEB and formatting, UEB and Nemeth, Braille2000 and Duxbury, and tactile graphics production. Go to the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired website to register. (http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us)

Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water.
—Henry Williamson
Dear Pearl

March 2016

**Titles Done Since September 2015**

THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
*(page counts follow names)*

**For children**
13 UEB P/B Books (Barb Schlinkert, 93), 5 UEB P/B books (Patricia Herrling, 38), 7 UEB P/B Books (Barb Schlinkert, 42), 1 UEB P/B book (Sue Nelson, 11), *The Complete Winnie The Pooh* (Barb Schlinkert, 318), 10 UEB P/B Books (Barb Schlinkert, 120)

**For adults**

**For schools, non-profits and businesses**
MG&E bills & 2 flyers (Kathy Dorn, 25), TDS bill (Barb Schlinkert, 15), MG&E bills & 2 flyers (Kathy Dorn, 26), TDS bill (Barb Schlinkert, 12), MG&E bills & 2 flyers (Kathy Dorn, 27), *The Wisconsin Experience* (Sue Nelson, 9), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15), TDS bill & 2 flyers (Barb Schlinkert, 24), TDS bill (Barb Schlinkert, 14), MG&E bills & flyers (Kathy Dorn, 38), TDS bill and 2 flyers (Barb Schlinkert, 20)

**Special Projects**
Know Your Bible (Patricia Herrling, 158), Words To Inspire You (Patricia Herrling, 20), Victory in Your Mind, Mouth, Moods & Attitudes (Patricia Herrling, 21), Integrity: A study on the life of Joseph-Answer Key (Patricia Herrling 68), Body Mapping for Flutists (Sue Nelson, 232), Life’s Special Sunbeams V10, Iss 7 (Joel Devore, 84), Confess Your Sins: The Way of Reconciliation (Julie Schoepp, 188), Baratric Lifestyle Maintenance Meal Plan (Sue Nelson, 33), Life’s Special Sunbeams V10 Iss 9 (Joel Devore, 83), Life’s Special Sunbeams V10 Iss 8 (Joel Devore, 87), UEB P/B Books (4) (Kathy Dorn, 20), UEB P/B Books (1) (Sue Nelson, 13), 2016 Payroll Schedule (Sue Nelson, 12), Life’s Special Sunbeams V10, Iss 11 (Joel Devore, 88), Live’s Special Sunbeams Vol 11, Iss 1 (Joel Devore, 85), Vitamix Use and Care Manual (Barb Schlinkert, 34)
DEAR PEARL
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Thanks to Michelle Rueckert

We're on the web
http://bltsinc.org/

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

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