

DEAR PEARL

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 County 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



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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.

BLTS Lending Library Update for 2015

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
Loaned	2015	633	610	1,243

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.

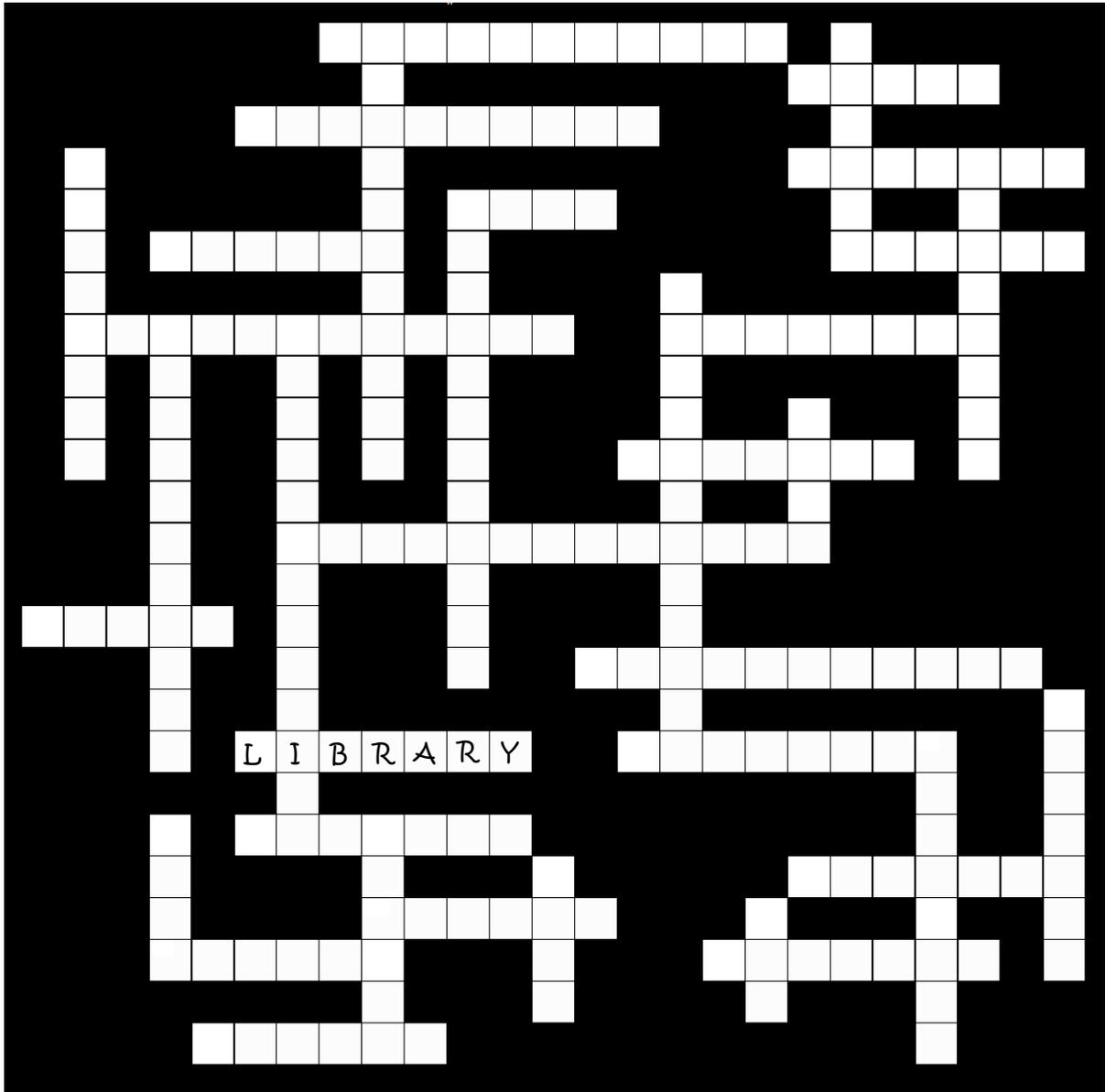
### Quote from a library borrower:

"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 Cincinnati... I would like to read more books in ... this series."

I do hope that our spring will be starting shortly and we will all be able to enjoy some sunshine again.

—Lesley Garrett

### Clueless Crossword



- |               |              |                    |               |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| alphabet      | borrow       | braille            | cell          |
| certification | circulation  | code               | computer      |
| conference    | contractions | dots               | embosser      |
| fiction       | format       | <del>library</del> | literacy      |
| Nemeth        | numbers      | proofreader        | punctuation   |
| raised        | reading      | recreational       | refreshable   |
| sign          | six          | slate              | stylus        |
| system        | tactile      | textbook           | transcription |
| uncontracted  | unified      | words              | writer        |

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.

### Lists of Donors

*Individuals:*

|                             |                            |                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Barbara Mittelstaedt Berven | Bettine Lipman & Lee Weiss | Dale Nordeen    |
| Charles Cornwell            | Abigail Loomis             | Gerald Ring     |
| Frederick Davis             | Barbara Miller             | Ronald Thorstad |
| Jane Eisner                 |                            |                 |

*Organizations:*

|                                         |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alliant Energy Foundation               | Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc.   | McFarland Lions Club             |
| American Legion Post 501                | Jack DeLoss Taylor Foundation     | Middleton Lions Club             |
| Claremont Jackman Foundation            | Lake Wisconsin Lions Club         | Mukwonago Lions Club             |
| Columbus Lions Club                     | Lange Living Trust                | Strand Associates                |
| Cross Plains Community Chest            | Madison Central Lions Club        | Sub-Zero Wolf Foundation, Inc.   |
| Epic Systems                            | Madison Gas & Electric Foundation | United Way                       |
| Faircrest Association Health Fund Drive | Madison Monona Lioness Club       | Westmorland Combined Health Fund |
| Hallman Lindsay Paints                  | McFarland Lioness Club            | Woodman's                        |

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### 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

## 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

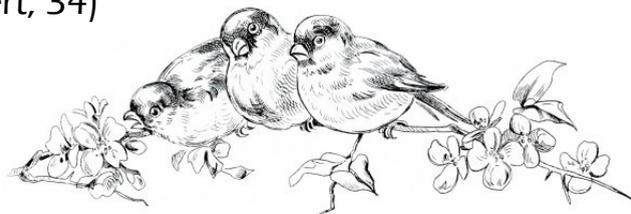
*In-Style Bags* (Julie Schoepp, 54), *My Struggle With Faith* (Joel DeVore, 348), *Irish Beauty Doilies* (Julie Schoepp, 106), *Baskets & Bowls in Crochet* (Julie Schoepp, 44) *Granny Square Wear* (Julie Schoepp, 125), *Benediction* (Bev Pfister, 440), *Lord of Snow and Shadows* (Barb Schlinkert, 994), *Becoming a Contagious Church* (Julie Schoepp, 462), *Market Totes* (Barb Schlinkert, 24), *Zealot* (Joel Devore, 689), *The Big House* (Bev Pfister, 760), *Becoming a Contagious Christian* (Lori Hanson, 412), *Adorable Baby Sweaters* (Barb Schlinkert, 84), *A Year of Baby Afghans* (Barb Schlinkert, 102), *Family Knits* (Julie Schoepp, 258), *Love's Enduring Promise* (Joel Devore, 363), *Home in the Valley* (Lori Hanson, 282)

### 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)

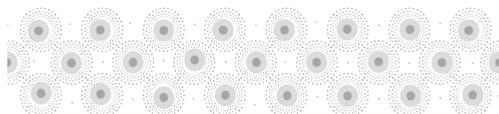




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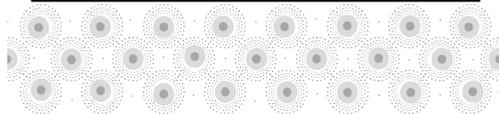


*Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.*



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>

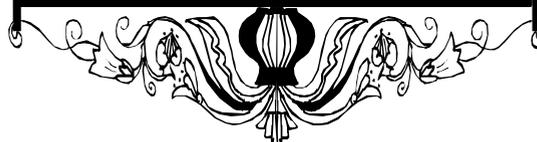


## **Contributors**

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Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



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

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