

DEAR PEARL

March 2017 Volume XLV - Number 1

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Wednesday April 5, 2017

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 5, 2017. 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 or 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 five 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 University of Wisconsin law student Sara Conrad. She will speak to us about the trials and tribulations of being a blind student on campus. 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 March 21st 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, or can be paid the day of the event. Let us know if you need a ride, and we'll make the arrangements. Yes... Spring is here at last!



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Menu Selections

Chicken and Mushroom Crepes with Wild Rice and Fresh Fruit Garnish
Fettuccine Alfredo with Grilled Vegetables Primavera (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 **March 21, 2017**
and remember to include your meal choice.

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

President's Report Spring 2017

March 2017 – The end of winter is in sight: longer days, warmer temperatures, birds return, life renews. (Rushing the season, last month I couldn't resist buying a new handcrafted bluebird box at the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo and my yard is strewn with raisins to welcome the first robins.) 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 5th for our BLTS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. I guarantee that you will enjoy the delicious Blackhawk food, the beautiful music provided by harpist Peter Feneht, and a most interesting program.

Our speaker this year, University of Wisconsin law student Sara Conrad, will speak to us about the challenges of being a blind student on campus – everything from navigating Bascom Hill to procuring the often-very specialized college textbooks. Sara has also been active in a number of organizations, such as the American Council of the Blind, so hers should be an interesting presentation. 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.

In more ways than one, the past year will go down as a very memorable period. We received some very nice contributions from foundations, corporations, individuals and friends of BLTS. Especially appreciated are the continuing donations from foundation and corporate contributors which have been longtime supporters of BLTS: Epic Systems, The Evjue Foundation, Inc. (the charitable arm of The Capital Times), The 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 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 website to include new books that are available for readers. Our library circulation increased last year, with 20 new library borrowers and 5 new schools requesting books in UEB/print braille. Our braillists continued to produce many pages of braille books and materials for our free lending library as well as direct sales to individuals, schools and other organizations. The transition to Unified English Braille has gone very smoothly due to the hard work of our teachers and transcribers. Thanks to you all.

On a personal note, this April will mark the beginning of my fourth two-year term as BLTS President which has been both a rewarding and humbling experience. The new people I've met and the experiences BLTS has presented me with 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 2017, and on to another year of BLTS helping everyone to experience the joy of reading and learning – whether we read with our fingers, ears, or eyes.

Steve Levine
President



**Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.
Annual Meeting, April 5, 2017
NOMINATING SLATE**

Returning Officers

President	Steve Levine	2017-2019
Vice President	Vonna Johnson-Porter	2016-2018
Secretary	Patricia Herrling	2017-2019
Treasurer	Sue Nelson	2016-2018

Returning Board Members

Constance Risjord	2016-2018
Sandy Adams	2016-2018
Karen Perzentka	2017-2019

New Board Members

Sue Danz 2017-2019
(one open seat – please contact us if interested!)

Leaving Board

Carol Birch	2015-2017
Barb Schlinkert	2015-2017

Office Staff

Office Coordinator	Aaron Konkol
Braille Coordinator	Sue Danz



Midwest Regional Braille Conference 2017

The Midwest Regional Braille Conference 2017 is on! It will be held May 18-20 at Wyndham Garden Fitchburg, 2969 Cahill Main, Fitchburg, WI 53711, 608-274-7200. Conference cost is \$150, flat rate, with dinner Thursday evening, breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday included. The hotel rate is \$82 per night, single or double occupancy. We have an expanded line-up of workshops this year by some very experienced presenters and some new faces. Come learn about formatting, tactile graphics, braille software programs, Nemeth and more. Network with other transcribers, proofreaders, vision teachers and paraprofessionals from the six states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana.

To register, go to... <https://www.regonline.com/midwestregionalbrailleconference>.

Registration closes on May 10, 2017 at 10:00 pm. *Note: In order to secure a hotel room and meals, register by May 1, 2017.

To get the brochure with the agenda and other information, go to...

<http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/calendar/2017-midwest-regional-braille-conference>.

Remember When...



Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.

—Erma Bombeck

UEB Online Class

WCBVI (Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired) will be offering its UEB (Unified English Braille) online class again this summer, May 29 through August 25, 2017. Each of the 12 sessions includes a video of about 30-60 minutes, optional self-corrected drills and a homework assignment of 50 items to read, transcribe or answer. Assignments are submitted via email attachments.

The class is targeted for vision professionals in Wisconsin transitioning from EBAE (English Braille American Edition) to UEB. This includes vision teachers, paraprofessionals, transcribers and proofreaders. Prerequisites are a strong foundation in EBAE and basic computer skills. Software programs needed are Perky Duck, Word 2007 or later, and Adobe Reader. Perky Duck and Adobe Reader are available as free downloads.

The class is free. Two optional graduate credits, with a payment of \$220.00, are available through Viterbo University for vision teacher licensure. An additional two - to three-page paper is required to obtain credit. All participants who complete the course receive a certificate of completion.

This will be the fifth running of the class. The participants in the previous classes have been largely vision teachers and paraprofessionals, with one transcriber-to-be. So far, there have been a total of 69 registrants (with a few repeats). Seventeen people have finished the course and received a certificate of participation and/or credit towards professional development requirements.

BrainBashers™ Puzzle

Below are **six animals** that have been split.

Take a set of three letters from the left column, and a set of three letters from the right column and merge them together again, without changing the order of the letters in each half.

Matching sets will not necessarily be on the same row.

For example **WMB + OAT** and **OAT + WMB** both equal WOMBAT as the order of the letters OAT, and WMB remain the same.

For another example, RABBIT could become RBT + ABI.

CYO	ARU
WLS	DNE
EAR	FEE
OKY	OTE
RRT	JAR
AGU	BVE

From: <https://www.brainbashers.com/>

BEAVER = BVE + EAR
 FERRET = FEE + RRT
 JAGUAR = JAR + AGU
 COYOTE = OTE + CYO
 DONKEY = DNE + OKY
 WALRUS = WLS + ARU

Beaver, coyote, donkey, ferret, jaguar, walrus.

Lists of Donors

Individuals:

Frank Burgess	Burton J. Kushner	Dale Nordeen
C.D. Cornwell	Bettine Lipman	Gerald Ring
Jane Eisner	Abigail Loomis	Ronald C. Thorstad
Barbara Dillon Kehrein	Norm & Barbara Mittelstaedt Berven	Lee Elyse C. Weiss

Organizations:

Claremont Jackman Foundation	Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust	Middleton Lions Club
Columbus Lions Club	Lake Wisconsin Lions Club	Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation
Cross Plains Community Chest	Madison Gas & Electric Foundation	Strand Associates, Inc.
Evjue Foundation, the charitable arm of <i>The Capital Times</i>	Madison-Monona Lioness Club	Waukesha Evening Lions
Faircrest Association Health Fund Drive	McFarland Lioness Club	Westmorland Combined Health Fund Drive
Hallman / Lindsay Paints	McFarland Lions Club	Woodman's Food Market, Inc.

Grandmother's Pound Cake

2 sticks butter	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
3 cups sugar	6 eggs
1 cup sour cream	1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups all-purpose flour	

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Cream butter and sugar together; add sour cream. Sift flour and baking soda together. Add to creamed mixture, alternately with eggs, one at a time, beating after each. Add vanilla. Pour into a greased and floured tube pan and bake for 1 hour 20 minutes.

Frosting

1 stick butter
1 brick cream cheese
1 box confectioner's sugar
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Mix all ingredients together. Wait for the pound cake to cool, and then top it with a thick layer of frosting.



Titles Done Since September 2016



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
(page counts follow names)



For children

The Monster Cookbook (Sue Nelson, 114) ; *The Rabbit Who Wants to Fall Asleep* (Bev Pfister, 30)

For adults

Dead Rapunzel (Joel DeVore, 356) ; *Light and Healthy Microwave Cooking* (Julie Schoepp, 442) ; *199 Promises of God* (Julie Schoepp, 74) ; *Dump Cakes & One-Bowl Baking* (Sue Nelson, 104) ; *A Horse Called Willing* (Julie Schoepp, 248) ; *The Sunroom* (Bev Pfister, 165) ; *Behind Our Eyes, A Second Look* (Kathy Dorn, 566) ; *Robert B. Parker's Blind Spot* (Julie Schoepp, 550)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

MG&E 3 bills, 2 flyers (Kathy Dorn, 39) ; TDS bill, 2 flyers (Barb Schlinkert, 44) ; Discovery Profile Report (L.E. Phillips Career Dev Cntr) (Patricia Herrling, 14) ; 2 documents for Gallaudet Univ Museum (Patricia Herrling, 10) ; TDS bill, 1 flyer (Barb Schlinkert, 20) ; MG&E 3 bills, 2 flyers (Kathy Dorn 37) ; TDS bill, 2 flyers (Barb Schlinkert, 25) ; Member Centered Plan (Sue Nelson, 9) ; Disability Conference (Sue Nelson, 43) ; 33 Haven for Hope forms (Barb Schlinkert, 197) ; MG&E 2 bills, 2 flyers (Kathy Dorn, 42) ; TDS bill, 1 flyer (Barb Schlinkert, 23) ; TDS bill, 1 flyer (Barb Schlinkert, 29) ; Genesys Enrollment Packet (Kathy Dorn, 102) ; MG&E 4 bills (Kathy Dorn, 35) ; Genesys Forms (4) (Kathy Dorn, 9) ; TDS bill, 3 flyers (Barb Schlinkert, 31) ; MG&E 4 bills, 1 flyer (Kathy Dorn, 43)

Special Projects

Dear Pearl (Sue Nelson, 20) ; Life's Special Sunbeams Sept 2016 (Joel DeVore, 112) ; Hooked on Phonics 1st Grade (Patricia Herrling, 126) ; Hooked on Phonics 2nd Grade (Barb Schlinkert, 119) ; ZIZ The Phoenix Iktomi & Friends (Kathy Dorn, 71) ; Life's Special Sunbeams Oct 2016 (Joel DeVore, 114) ; Louisianne's Menu (Kathy Dorn, 15) ; Life's Special Sunbeams Nov 2016 (Joel DeVore, 118) ; Life's Special Sunbeams Dec 2016 (Joel DeVore, 88) ; Life's Special Sunbeams Jan 2017 (Joel DeVore, 92)

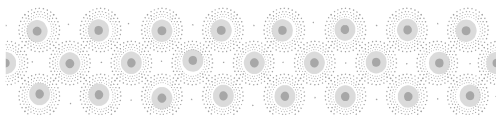
I am going to try to pay attention to the spring.
I am going to look around at all the flowers,
and look up at the hectic trees.
I am going to close my eyes and listen.

—Anne Lamott



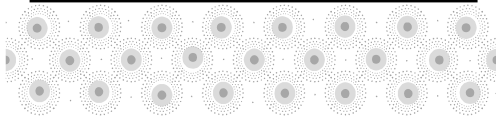
DEAR PEARL

Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



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Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired



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