

DEAR PEARL

October 2023 Volume LII - Number 2

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired since 1971

President's Report October 2023



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The older I get the faster time seems to fly. It is time for another Fall update from BLTS. Our office always seems to be buzzing with transcribers and other volunteers going about the activities that help us provide the services which are our mission to the blind and visually impaired.

Our Braille Coordinator has been busy this summer with requests from government agencies, businesses, schools and individual people. We are very pleased that our Nemeth transcriber (Melody Moore) has been able to use her skills this summer for Wisconsin school requests. We have also been doing quite a bit of transcribing for a braille lending library which serves the Amish community.

We have also been able to provide tactile material using our new TactileView software and special embosser. This has allowed us to provide quality diagrams, charts, and figures for math as well as other tactiles as needed.

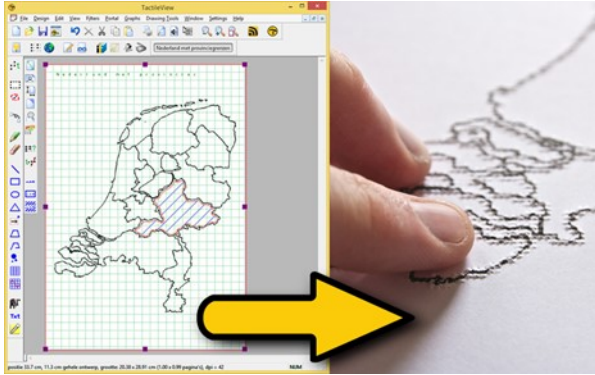
Our class for new transcribers is coming to a close and they will soon be sending their manuscripts for certification from the Library of Congress. We look forward to adding them to our BLTS roster of braille transcribers.

This October we will also be hosting tours for the Wisconsin Library Association convention. Each year they choose a local library or facility for tours and we were honored that they chose us this year. The convention hosts public, school, academic and special librarians from across Wisconsin and is held in Middleton this year.

That's all the news for now. Please stop into the office anytime for a visit. We love to see our members face to face.

Patricia Herrling,
BLTS President

BLTS TactileView Embosser



BLTS is producing Nemeth math for the first time in quite a while and that has highlighted a need for accurate and crisp tactiles that go with math diagrams and charts. Our Irie BrailleSheet embosser was purchased for regular braille embossing, but because it works with the TactileView software it is better suited for that use. TactileView creates pictures for people who cannot see. These

pictures are transformed for them into tactile graphics. Blind people can read them by touch and interpret the tactile material. Thousands of ready-to-use designs can be downloaded from the TactileView catalog, and can also be imported in a wide range of file formats and sources. Melody Moore has been spending a lot of time learning this software and we are now reaping the benefits. We have produced math tactiles for worksheets and tactiles for acupuncture books so far. This is a real boost to our ability to provide tactiles for other uses as well. We are pleased to have this skill added to our collage tactile production already in use. Both meet different needs and provide a valuable service to our braille readers.



Treasurer Needed

Sue Nelson has been Treasurer of BLTS for close to 20 years and is ready to pass the job on to someone else. We need someone who has some experience with accounting and government reporting to fill this position. That means that if a person has worked for or retired from an accounting or tax preparation group, they would be perfect. Also, if they have access to accounting and tax software it would be a bonus.

Aaron handles most of the day-to-day activities such as paying bills and depositing checks. The Treasurer balances the monthly checking account and enters our employee hours to OnPay, a company that does payroll and computes and deposits checks to the employee accounts and sends income tax forms to them at the end of the year. The Treasurer also reports to the Board when there is a Board meeting.

If you are interested in this position or if you have a friend or relative that would like to help us, please let Sue Nelson know. E-mail her at scnelson@tds.net.

LISTS OF COMMUNITY DONORS

Member donations not listed. See [annual report](#) for complete donor list.

Individuals:

Louis Greub	Todd Hrubes	Barbara Dillon Kehrein
Burton Kushner	Abigail Loomis	Gerald Ring
Ronald Thorstad	Zach Dougherty	

Organizations:

American Legion Post 501	Claremont S. Jackman Foundation	Delta Gamma Foundation
Epic Systems Corp	Faircrest Association Health Fund Drive	Madison Gas & Electric Foundation
McFarland Lioness Club	McFarland Lions Club	Network For Good
Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation	Strand Associates, Inc.	Westmorland Combined Health Fund

Wisconsin Library Association

Tour of BLTS Office

On Thursday, October 26th the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) will be touring the BLTS office on Watts Road. They will be in the midst of their annual WLA fall conference at which they always have an optional tour of a local library for the conference attendees. This year they picked our modest — yet still very impressive — braille library, so Aaron Konkol (Office Manager), Sue Danz (Braille Coordinator), and Connie Risjord (Vice President and braille instructor) will show off our office, equipment, and demonstrate everything we do in the office, including producing braille books, bursting pages, using the new TactileView software and IrieAT embosser to produce tactiles (see article at the top of page 2), and much more. Our President & Librarian Patricia used to be a member of the WLA and is particularly excited about this prospect.



TITLES DONE SINCE MARCH 2023

THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!



(page counts follow names)

For children

Kelly's Search for Family, Book Two (Barb Schlinkert, 202), Daisy's Search for Freedom, Book One (Debbie Hanson, 188), Sarah's Search for Treasure, Book Three (Barb Schlinkert, 186), Billy Joe's Search for Education, Book Four (Barb Schlinkert, 256), Whispering Brook Farm (Melody Moore, 251), Eight Cousins (Debbie Hanson, 392), Nana (Sue Nelson, (P/B 5), Alone yet not Alone (Barb Schlinkert, 186), Becky (Debbie Hanson, 241)

For adults

Barefoot (Debbie Hanson, 807), Air Fryer Recipes (Debbie Hanson, 220), Murder on Thames (Debbie Hanson, 190), The Last Thing He Told Me (Melody Moore, 471), Nurse, Come You Here! (Debbie Hanson, 562), The Winter Guest (Barb Schlinkert, 568), Sparring Partners (Barb Schlinkert, 544), Rose in Bloom (Lynn Mack, 519), Things to Look Forward To (Sue Danz, 58), How to Knit Fashionable Scarves on Circle Looms (Kathy Dorn, 60), Lies of Omission (Lynn Mack, 497), Heart of the West (Barb Schlinkert, 432), The Judge's List (Debbie Hanson, 584), Good Housekeeping Soups (Sue Danz, 226), Voyage of no Return (Debbie Hanson, 563)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

KCWater (7) (Kathy Dorn, 56), KC Water (8) (Kathy Dorn, 64), KC Water (8) (Kathy Dorn, 64), Madison Symphony Orchestra (Sue Danz, 29), MGE (3), 1 flyer (Kathy Dorn, 39) KCWater (8, Feb) (Kathy Dorn, 64), WisBraille Newsletter (Barb Schlinkert, 22), Monk's Bar & Grill (Sue Danz, 30), KC Water (8) (Kathy Dorn, 64), Workbook for Building Our Lives (Bev Pfister, 210), Building Our Lives (Julie Schoepp, 504), MGE (3) (Kathy Dorn, 37), KC Water (6) (Kathy Dorn, 48), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), Nemeth Worksheets (Melody Moore, 130), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), Start Right Readers, Books 1,3 and 4 (Bev Pfister, 167), Start Right Reader, Book 2 (Barb Schlinkert, 59), Start Right Reader, Book 5 (Julie Schoepp, 58), Start Right Reader, Book 6 (Debbie Hanson, 60), Journeys Common Core (Barb Schlinkert, 166), KC Water (6) (Kathy Dorn, 48), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), MGE (2) (Kathy Dorn, 27), MGE (2) (Kathy Dorn, 26), Climbing to Good English (Bev Pfister, 423), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), KC Water (6) (Kathy Dorn, 48), MGE (2) (Kathy Dorn, 23), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 10)

Special Projects

Wonder Bible Audio Player Guide (Sue Danz, 88), Free Choice Enterprises (Sue Nelson, 111), LSS Vol 18, Iss 2, February 2023 (Joan Sholdt 106), Remarks for a Retirement (Sue Danz, 8), LSS Vol 18, Iss 3, March 2023, (Joan Sholdt, 106), LSS Vol 18, Iss 4, Apr 2023 (Joan Sholdt, 110), Arts for All Labels (Sue Danz, 20), Arts for All Brochure (Sue Danz, 7), 18 print/braille books (Barb Schlinkert, 122), LSS Vol 18, Iss 5, May 2023 (Joan Sholdt, 110), StimChoice 4000 Inst Manual (Sue Nelson, 63), LSS Vol 18, Iss 6, June 2023 (Joan Sholdt, 106), Brother Electronic Typewriter Manual (Sue Nelson, 91), Royal Portable Electronic Typewriter Manual (Sue Danz, 100), LSS Vol 18, Iss 7, Jul & Aug (Joan Sholdt, 108), Music (Lindy Walton, 9)

IN MEMORIAM

In the last year we've sadly lost 3 braillists who served BLTS/VBTI for many years:



Shirley Dieter

April 29, 1924 –
June 4, 2023

Certified in 1981



Joann Brunsel

February 23, 1930 –
March 10, 2023

Certified in 1972

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

—Erma Bombeck



Betty Oakley

1927-2023

Betty was an integral part of VBTI/BLTS since her certification in 1979. She trained braillists, served on the Board, was President of the Board and was in charge of many social functions. Betty also received the Founding Mothers Award in 1996. While she didn't switch to Braille 2000, she continued to train many braillists. She was a very patient person and many of us are in debt to her that patience. She also trained many of us to do tactiles at which she was very skilled. Because of Betty, our group has been able to deliver excellent braille and we must continue in her spirit.

Thank you Betty.



DEAR PEARL

Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web:
bltsinc.org



Contributors

Sue Danz
 Patricia Herrling
 Sue Nelson
 Aaron Konkol

Sue Danz, & Aaron Konkol,
 Editors

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