

# DEAR PEARL

October 2024 Volume LII - Number 2

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

## President's Report October 2024



### In this issue

Fall Luncheon	2
Transcription Class	2
Community Donors	3
Braille Conversations	3
Titles Done	4
In Memoriam	5
Fundraising Committee	5

Exciting things are happening at BLTS as we head into crisp fall weather. I will mention a few of them now. You can read about them inside this issue of Dear Pearl.

We have started up our continuing education program called "Braille Conversations". This is a way of gathering our braille transcribers together virtually to make sure we keep up-to-date with braille transcription rules and formats. We also enjoy seeing each other!

A new braille transcriber class has also started this fall, which brings new volunteers into our organization.

Speaking of getting together, everyone is invited to join us for **lunch on October 29<sup>th</sup>**. See details inside.

As mentioned in the Spring edition of Dear Pearl, the office has updated our old computers. We have also added new telephones and label makers, as the old ones no longer functioned. This keeps our office running more smoothly and efficiently.

We continue to provide reading materials through our lending library, transcribe braille requests, and serve schools through brailled materials and tactiles. We seem to be busier than ever, but if you hear of anyone who could benefit from our services please connect them to our office.

Nothing would happen without our volunteers, so a big thank you to all of you for your service to the blind and visually impaired! Hope to see all of you at the lunch on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Patricia Herrling,  
BLTS President

## BLTS FALL LUNCHEON



Join us for a BLTS fall lunch get-together. We will be meeting for lunch on **Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30am at the **Vintage Brewery on Whitney Way**. We look forward to having everyone together before the start of the busy holiday season, to celebrate all of your hard work and service during 2024.

Please RSVP to [office@bltsinc.org](mailto:office@bltsinc.org) by Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> so we can make reservations.

If you want to check out the menu here is the website for Vintage Brewery. It is right across the street from Hy-Vee on Whitney Way.  
<https://vintagebrewingcompany.com/madison/>



## New Braille Transcription Class

We are pleased to report that we have started a new class of braille transcribers this fall. Six people have begun the class, taught by Patricia Herrling and Deborah Hanson.

The class takes about a year, at the end of which students submit a braille manuscript for Library of Congress certification. They will then begin taking on braille transcribing for our organization.

Volunteers keep our organization strong, so Join us in wishing them success!

## LISTS OF COMMUNITY DONORS

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

### **Individuals:**

Norman & Stella Berven	Zach Dougherty	Barbara Dillon Kehrein
Burton Kushner	Richard Miller	Mary Nelson
John Ratz	Sanford Weisberger	

### **Organizations:**

Books International Inc.	Claremont S. Jackman Foundation	Columbus Lions Club
Epic Systems Corp	The Evjue Foundation	Faircrest Association Health Fund Drive
Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust	McFarland Lions Club	McFarland Lioness/Lions Club
MGE Foundation	Middleton Lions Club	Pleasant T Rowland Foundation
Severson-Cairns American Legion Post 501	Strand Associates	Wisconsin Council of the Blind
Wispact, Inc.		



## Braille Conversations

After a brief hiatus we have restarted Braille Conversations this fall. Led by Lindy Walton, around 14 transcribers take part in a bi-weekly gathering via Zoom. We are working through the "Braille Formats Study Guide" to refresh our understanding and use of braille formats in our transcribing work. Formatting in braille helps the reader navigate a document, understanding and highlighting the structure and importance of different elements. Working together to discuss and understand these guidelines let's us draw on the experience and knowledge of the group, rather than working through these elements on our own. We thank Lindy for guiding us through this important part of braille transcribing!



## TITLES DONE SINCE APRIL 2024

*THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!*

(page counts follow names)



### For children

The Bookstore Adventure (Bev Pfister, 154), P/B (Patricia Herrling, 6), 2 P/B books (Barb Schlinkert) 21)

### For adults

A Life Without Flowers (Barb Schlinkert, 466), Love Without Limits (Barb Schlinkert, 414), A Life Without Regrets (Debbie Hanson, 450), Williams and Sonoma Breakfast (Sue Nelson, 198), Enslaved, Indentured, Free (Barb Schlinkert, 522). Cooking for Less (Sue Nelson, 80), The Pioneers (Bev Pfister, 766), Gluten-free, Sugar-free Cooking (Debbie Hanson, 512), Death Casts A Shadow (Lynn Mack, 433), Timepiece (Kathy Dorn, 230), Chuck Williams' Thanksgiving & Christmas (Sue Nelson, 184), Hymns of Faith (Julie Schoepp, 743), Night Shift (Lynn Mack, 570), 29 Minutes to Dinner (Sue Nelson, 223), Chinese Cooking (Kathy Dorn, 76), Best of Readers Digest Vol 2 (Barb Schlinkert, 524), The Personal Librarian (Debbie Hanson, 632), Iced (Barb Schlinkert, 546)

### For schools, non-profits and businesses

KC Water (6) (Kathy Dorn, 48), SEMCO (Kathy Dorn, 12), MGE (2) (Kathy Dorn, 35), DHS Rise & Shine Conf. (Sue Danz, 64), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), MGE (2) (Kathy Dorn, 30), KC Water (5) (Kathy Dorn, 40), MGE (2) (Kathy Dorn, 24), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), The Kite Runner playbill (Sue Danz, 68), Moulin Rouge! playbill (Sue Danz, 64), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), Sheboygan Sch Dist wkshts(Raatz) (Bev Pfister, 149), GCPD documents (Sue Danz, 38), Sheboygan Sch Dist wikshts (Raatz) (Bev Pfister, 471), Sheboygan Sch Dist Nemeth wkshts & tactiles (Melody Moore, 151), Sheboygan Sch Dist Nemeth wkshts & tactiles (Melody Moore, 184), Young Man, Be Strong (Sue Danz, 451), More Busy Times (Debbie Hanson, 188), More Days Go By (Debbie Hanson, 90), Busy Times (Debbie Hanson, 144) Sheboygan Sch Dist workshts Units 3, 4 & 5 (Bev Pfister (442), 32 docs for DHS (Barb Schlinkert, 330, Sue Danz, 155), WisBrl Newsletter Fall 2024 (Sue Danz, 26)

### Special Projects

LSS Vol 19 Iss 2 Feb 2024 (Joan Sholdt, 109), Got Questions? Jesus has the Answers! (Barb Schlinkert, 346), WisBrl Newsletter (Sue Danz, 23), LSS Vol 19, Iss 3 Mar 2024 (Joan Sholdt, 110), Mondrian Latchhook Chart (Patricia Herrling, 2), Southwest Latchhook Rug (Barb Schlinkert, 16), Majesty Hymns (Julie Schoepp, 754), LSS Vol 19 Iss 4, Apr 2024 (Joan Sholdt, 108), LSS Vol 19 Iss 5, May 2024 (Joan Sholdt, 108), LSS Vol 19 Iss 6, June 2024 (Joan Sholdt, 102), Not Regina (Debbie Hanson, 402), LSS Voi 19, Iss 7, Jul & Aug 2024 (Joan Sholdt, 94), A Little Swiss Boy (Debbie Hanson, 250), 4 sleep brochures & Prader Willi Go To Book (Sue Danz, 42), DNR 2 ltrs & agenda (Sue Danz, 6)

## IN MEMORIAM

In the last year we've sadly lost 2 braillists who served BLTS/VBTI.



**Ruth Elizabeth Bartlett**

September 25, 1926

October 4, 2023

Certified in 1972



**Dorothy Camper**

March 12, 1929

March 31, 2024

Certified in 1973

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

## Fundraising Committee Seeking Volunteers

Right now the “fundraising committee” consists of just Aaron, our office manager, and he has requested to have some help. We’re specifically looking for anyone with fundraising experience, or anyone who has contacts within the Madison non-profit or philanthropic community (Lions Club members, Rotary, Jaycees, etc.), but honestly anyone who is willing to brainstorm and do a little legwork to find some new funding sources would be more than welcome!

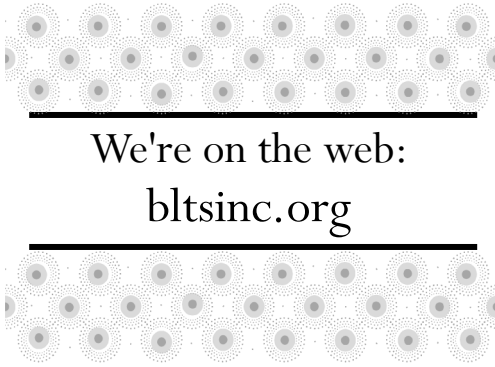
We’ve been made aware that one of our big donors will be running out of funds in the next year or so, which will leave us with a bit of a funding gap. It’s not too serious at this point, but we will need to come up with something in the next year to increase our fundraising efforts.

Any ideas of family members, fellow church members, neighbors, etc., please reach out to Aaron: [office@bltsinc.org](mailto:office@bltsinc.org) or call 608-233-0222



# DEAR PEARL

Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web:  
[bltsinc.org](http://bltsinc.org)



Contributors

Sue Danz  
Patricia Herrling  
Aaron Konkol

Sue Danz, & Aaron Konkol,  
Editors



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



**Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.**

6501 Watts Rd. Ste. 149

Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608-233-0222

Fax: 608-233-0249

Email: [office@bltsinc.org](mailto:office@bltsinc.org)

Office Hours:

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