

# DEAR PEARL

September 2025 Volume LIIV- Number 2

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

## President's Report September 2025



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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.

First to note is our upcoming October 14th Fall Frolic luncheon. The details are inside, so make sure to sign up and enjoy a good meal and conversation with fellow brailleists.

We are about done with our "Braille Conversations", which this year stepped us through the "Braille Formats Study Guide". Led by Lindy Walton, this was an excellent refresher on all things to do with formatting braille. This coming fall will continue with more discussion on a variety of braille related topics. This is an invaluable resource for our organization in keeping current and accurate with our braille services.

Speaking of valuable volunteers, two of our members (Lindy Walton and Beverly Pfister) received the Founders Award at our annual meeting in May. This was in recognition of their decades of service to BLTS. More information is inside this newsletter.

Also at our annual meeting in May we elected a new board, and had a wonderfully informative presentation about the Wisconsin Braille organization. Cindy Collins and Tina McKeel updated our knowledge and understanding of this organization and how we can work together to further braille literacy in Wisconsin.

Our braille transcriber class for 2024-2025 is concluded and our students have sent in their manuscripts for certification. I have every confidence we will soon have two new transcribers joining BLTS this fall. We will also be starting another class this late fall, so spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in this volunteer opportunity.

Thanks to our hardworking grant writer, Aaron Konkol, we were able to purchase two new tactile embossers. Melody Moore, our Nemeth transcriber, has been hard at work getting up to speed with these embossers and their software to produce tactiles for our school clients. They will also be used when tactiles are necessary in other works.

We couldn't do any of our work without our volunteers. We can't wait to see everyone in October at the Fall Frolic. See you there!

Patricia Herrling,  
BLTS President

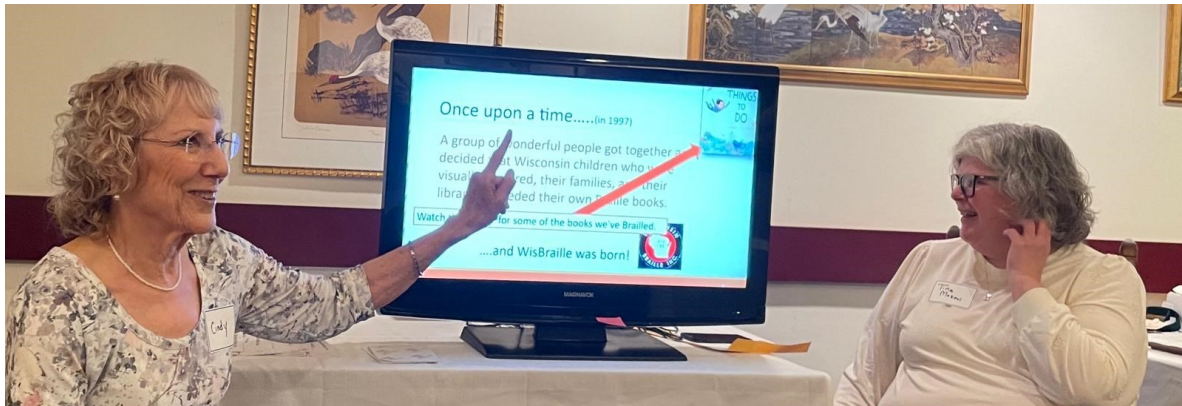
## BLTS FALL LUNCHEON



Join us for a BLTS fall lunch get-together. We will be meeting for lunch on **Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at the Olive Garden**. 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 2025.

Please RSVP to [office@bltsinc.org](mailto:office@bltsinc.org) by Tuesday, September 30 so we can make reservations.

If you want to check out the menu it is on their [website](#).



## Annual Meeting and Founders Award

This May we held our Annual meeting at Imperial Gardens. During the business portion of the meeting elections were held showing the following results: President, Patricia Herrling, 2025-2027; Karen Perzentka, Recording Secretary, 2025-2027; Vice-President, Melody Moore, 2025-2026. Board Members: Joan Sholdt, 2025-2027; Constance Risjord, 2025-2026. All were elected through acclamation unanimously.

We were pleased to have Wisconsin Braille President Cindy Collins and Board member Tina McKeel give an overview of the organization: its history, purpose, and projects through the use of a PowerPoint.

This year we also awarded the BLTS Founders Award to two of our dedicated volunteers, Beverly Pfister and Lindy Walton. Beverly Pfister was certified in 1983 and Lindy Walton received her literary certification in 1992, followed by Nemeth in 2002 and Music in 2005. Between both women they have served as President, Braille Coordinator, braille transcribers and continuing education facilitators. We are proud to recognize their valuable contribution to the blind and visually impaired through our organization.



## LISTS OF COMMUNITY DONORS

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

### **Individuals:**

Norman & Stella Berven	Lana Hanlon	Barbara Dillon Kehrein
Burton Kushner	Abigail Loomis	Mary Nelson
Gerald Ring	Jackie Schmitt	

### **Organizations:**

Claremont S. Jackman Foundation	Delta Gamma Foundation	Epic Systems Corp
Faircrest Association Health Fund Drive	Glen Stacey Memorial Fund	Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust
McFarland Lioness/Lions Club	McFarland Lions Club	MGE Foundation
Middleton Lions Club	PayPal Giving Fund	Pleasant T Rowland Foundation
Severson-Cairns American Legion Post 501	Wispack, Inc.	



### **VBS Donation/Transcriber**

Last year, BLTS learned of the closing of Volunteer Braille Services (VBS) in Golden Valley, MN. It had provided a service in the Minneapolis area similar to that of BLTS here in Wisconsin. After nearly 60 years, VBS closed its doors due to lack of volunteers. BLTS has been sad to see this happen; however, Minnesota's loss has been our gain. Two embossers, one for tactiles and one for regular braille, have been given to BLTS through the kind donation from Cindy Laurent, the coordinator of VBS. In addition, a former transcriber for VBS, Vicki Holm, is now volunteering as a transcriber for BLTS. This has been particularly helpful in completing Nemeth projects for school districts. We greatly appreciate the gift of the embossers and of Vicki's transcribing, and hope that all of those that volunteered with VBS find continuing opportunities to transcribe if that is their wish.



## TITLES DONE SINCE APRIL 2025

*THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!*

(page counts follow names)



### For children

Rhyme-Time Book of Christian Virtues (Sue Nelson, 112), The Country of the Blind (Debbie Hanson, 610), 4 P/B books (Elizabeth Kanne, 15), 4 P/B books (Elizabeth Kanne, 27), Roger's Search for His Pa (Debbie Hanson, 269)

### For adults

The Core Program (Sue Danz, 413), The Best of Readers Digest Volume 3 (Debbie Hanson 480), Snowblind (Sue Nelson, 183), Robert B. Parker's Fallout (Debbie Hanson, 503), Rhyme of the Magpie, The (Vicki Holm, 493), Kindness Matters (Barb Schlinkert, 546), Small Things Like These (Barb Schlinkert, 115), A Baker's Field Guide to Cupcakes (Kathy Dorn, 323), 40 One-Skein Crochet Projects (Vicki Holm, 196), Never Too Late (Lynn Mack, 370), Under This Roof (Debbie Hanson, 183), Almost Everything (Giso Broman, 198), Only the Brave (Bev Pfister, 387)

### For schools, non-profits and businesses

WisBrl presentation (Sue Danz, 17), AFA Creative Power Program (Sue Danz, 19), Clue LIVE ON STAGE (Sue Danz, 54), MGE (Kathy Dorn, 21), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), Sheboygan Nemeth wrkshts (Melody Moore, 125), Sheboygan Nemeth tactiles (Melody Moore, 64), KC Water (Kathy Dorn, 32), Blackhawk Tech College (Sue Danz, 9), MGE (Kathy Dorn, 25), PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), KCWater (Kathy Dorn, 32), MGE (Sue Danz, 31), Wine List (Sue Danz, 4), PUD (Sue Danz, 9), KCWater (Sue Danz, 32) MGE (Kathy Dorn, 27) PUD (Kathy Dorn, 9), KCWater (Kathy Dorn, 32), Helping with English (Vicki Holm, 390), Learning to Spell Gr 3 (Sue Nelson, 161), Learning to Spell Gr 5 (Barb Schlinkert, 156, Sue Danz, 108)

### Special Projects

LSS Vol 20, Iss 3, March 2025 (Joan Sholdt, 110), The Deepening Stream (Barb Schlinkert, 388), Eusebius The Church History (Julie Schoepp, 930), Madison College Certificate (Sue Danz, 1), The Apocrypha (Bev Pfister, 943), LSS Vol 20, Iss 4, April 2025 (Joan Sholdt, 105), The Doman Method (Barb Schlinkert, 429), Freckles (Sue Danz, 446), Cuisinart Airfryer Toaster Oven Manual (Sue Danz, 137), LSS Vol 20, Iss 5, May 2025 (Joan Sholdt, 98), Japanese for Dummies (Bev Pfister, 1106), Hymns (Julie Schoepp, 70), LSS Vol 20, Iss 6, June 2025 (Joan Sholdt, 103), LSS Vol 20, Iss 7, July & August 2025 (Joan Sholdt, 89)



## IN MEMORIAM

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



**Elizabeth "Betty" Stoffel**

July 2, 1943 — June 19, 2025

Certified in 1976



**Mary Jane Stark**

November 30, 1927 — August 25, 2025

Certified in 1974

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

## Nonprofit Summit

In July the BLTS board gave me the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Nonprofit Summit in Brookfield, WI. I was made aware of this conference because of the grant BLTS received the past two years from Wispact, Inc., who — along with the Helen Bader Institute — sponsored the event.

I learned a lot about grant writing, fundraising, accounting, and networked with several nonprofit leaders from all around the state. The most impactful part of the two day conference was hearing inspirational speeches from both the keynote speakers and other conference presenters from the National Council of Nonprofits, USAID, Wisconsin Nonprofit Resources Group and more. The overall message of the conference, and of each of the presenters, was that while the nonprofit sector is actively under attack by the current administration, if we band together as a sector, we actually have the resources to take care of each other.

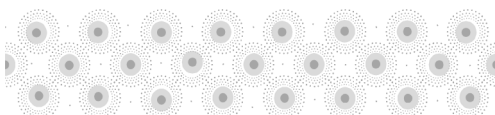
Thank you to the BLTS board of directors for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be inspired, and to learn some techniques to help bring BLTS into the next 50 years!

Aaron Konkol, BLTS office manager

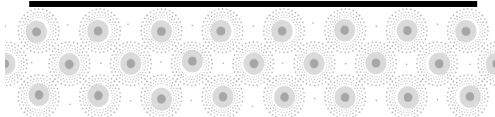


# DEAR PEARL

Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



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



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Sue Danz & Aaron Konkol,  
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*Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired since 1971*



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