Donations hit AIM’s target

Do you ever wonder where your charitable donations to the Library for the Blind go? The Accessible Instruction Materials (AIM) Center at OLBPH has been a benefactor of these gracious donations on several different occasions. The donations we receive go directly to enhancing the educational needs of our students and keeping them competitive with sighted students in our classrooms. Aids and adaptive equipment, large print and braille textbooks and novels are vital to our students’ education. Your generous donations contribute to our regular funding and make the students’ education process much smoother.

As many of you know, times are hard and state and federal budgets are tight. Cutbacks directly affect the 994 blind and visually impaired students we serve.

(Continued on Page 5)
Director’s Column

Most of our outreach efforts are intentional. By that, I mean we plan and know where we are going and what we are doing (for the most part). Sometimes, however, we benefit from an opportunity that develops not of our own making. One such opportunity occurred as I and others attended the Santa Lucia (patron saint of the blind) Dinner at Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City on January 25.

This dinner invite was one result of Living Catholic Radio’s blindness awareness efforts, especially among children. For two weeks, the library website bannered a radio play remake of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” for patrons’ free download. As you may recall, Charles Dickens spoke out against the mistreatment of children in the awful work conditions of his day. Thus we have the connection between the radio play production and calling attention for the continued need for resources to help our visually impaired children succeed in the classroom and beyond.

I was given the opportunity to speak about the services provided by your library and AIM (Accessible Instructional Materials) Center. The featured speaker was attorney Ed Abel. He is well known for standing up for financially less fortunate clients and fighting for justice. The organizer of the dinner and Rose State College student who produced the radio play, Bill Cathey,
made a call for action for volunteerism and benevolence to help the blind community and specifically children. There were 55 in attendance at this inaugural dinner with the hopes that it will grow next year and beyond. The library is very fortunate to be a part of this unplanned (on our part) seed scattering opportunity.

--Kevin Treese, Director, OLBPH

At left: OLBPH Director Kevin Treese holds up Volume 1 of a large-print textbook during his speech at the Santa Lucia Dinner in Oklahoma City Jan. 25.
Below left: Featured speaker Ed Abel at the Santa Lucia Dinner at Bishop McGuinness High School.
Below right: Organizer Bill Cathey speaks at the State Capitol Dec. 19. (Photos by Jody Harlan)
Time to be seen and heard

People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2018 is set for March 13 at the State Capitol, and you, your family, your co-workers and your clients need to be there.

So start making your plans to attend this event. If you haven’t pre-registered, you can register on the first floor rotunda when you arrive.

This year’s theme “Go All In” is a call to clients, families and supporters to get behind the effort to see there are no barriers for people with disabilities to finding jobs and leading independent lives. This event is an opportunity to engage lawmakers and help them understand what programs are vital for our clients in reaching these goals.

This year, lawmakers again face a challenging budget, and people with disabilities and their supporters need to share their stories so that vital services that help give them independence continue for others into the future.

Everyone attending the event is encouraged to fill their vehicles with co-workers, friends and family to help make this year’s event the best ever.

On the day of the event, attendees are encouraged to wear green so that lawmakers can more easily identify supporters of the event.
“AIM donations” continued *(from Page 1)*

across the state of Oklahoma. Recently, donations to the AIM Center allowed us to purchase the following: 4 All-in-one Student Boards, 2 Braillable Labels and Plastic Sheets. For our infant and early childhood program we were able to purchase: 4 Swirly Mat Sets, 3 Sensory Learning Kits, 3 Light Box Materials Level I, 2 Light Box Materials Level II, and 5 Giant Textured Beads Sets.

An old African proverb states, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Thank you for being a part of the village!

--Pepper Watson, Director, AIM Center

---

**Giant Textured Bead Set *(left)*** allows young blind and visually impaired students to work on tactile concepts and learn to differentiate between textures, a vital tool for progressing to Braille.

**Light Box Materials III *(right)*** helps students develop: prewriting and handwriting, matching and sorting, recognition and identification, spatial relationships, visual memory, sequencing, figure-ground discrimination, visual closure, and part-whole relationships.
Summer Reading planning underway

The OLBPH’s annual Summer Reading Program will start on May 28 and end on July 31. All students ages 3-17 or who will be in 12th grade in August who are unable to access standard print are invited to participate.

Registration forms and further information about the Summer Reading Program will be mailed to students in mid-April. Registration opens May 1.

To register, either return the registration form you receive or contact Lacey: (405) 522-0982 or ldowns@okdrs.gov.

And something else to look forward to…

Coming up in the Spring Bright Future: Watch for a new column on Oklahoma books! We’ll feature books produced by our digital studio along with some classic Oklahoma titles.
Someone you should know: Collin Jenks

Versatility is a valuable attribute here at the Library. One of our team members who shows his versatility every week is Collin Jenks. Even though he works here part-time, Collin is an important part of both the Circulation department and the Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) program.

Collin started reading for OTR as a volunteer in July 2016. “At first I wasn’t very good,” Collin said. “Now I’m a lot better.” The skills he’s developed are heard in the articles and obituaries he reads from the Oklahoman and Tulsa World on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

In the spring of 2017, Collin expanded his skillset by beginning work in the Circulation department. His duties there include inspecting returned talking books for damaged, missing, or mismatched items; retrieving books for our daily mail-out; re-shelving books; and preparing brand new books to circulate.

Collin says the main thing he enjoys about working at the Library is knowing he’s helping patrons get the audio they need, both by mail and over the phone.

--Brian King, Editor and Public Information Officer
Hot start to winter outreach

Outreach efforts enjoyed a hot start this season as a radio powerhouse spread our good news. Library Director Kevin Treese and I visited KOFM/KGWA Radio in Enid for an on-air interview with Alan Clepper, Program Director and host of Northwest Oklahoma’s most popular morning show. The interview was recorded in late November and aired December 4. In it, we gave an overview of the library’s free services, who qualifies, and how to get started. Alan noted the importance of radio as an information source for people with visual disabilities, so he was especially glad to let listeners know about us. The interview came after statewide distribution of a news release about the library.

Mid-December took us to the State Capitol for the formal announcement of a locally-produced radio play of *A Christmas*
Carol on the story’s 174th anniversary. Kevin gives more details of the library’s involvement in this project in the Director’s Column on Page 2. A series of visits with Edmond seniors wrapped up the holiday season activities.

The new year began with a guest-speaking engagement at the Stillwater Support Group of the Visually Impaired and a swing through Cushing, Oiltan, Drumright, and Bristow. January also featured stops in Alva, Cherokee, and Norman. Since then, potential patrons have also been sought during visits to El Reno, Piedmont, Shawnee, Ponca City, and Mustang.

As part of DRS’s Visual Services division, the Library helps distribute large-print calendars throughout the state. We have filled more than 70 requests for calendars, mostly by mail.

Now, we’re looking forward to spring, with its warmer temperatures, numerous conferences, events, and other opportunities to tell more Oklahomans about all the great services OLBPH has to offer. We’re always looking for more, though. If you have suggestions for groups, events, or venues in your area, please contact me at (405) 521-3699 or by email: bking@okdrs.gov.

--Brian King, OLBPH Public Information Officer
Several new magazines available

If you are interested in subscribing to any of these titles, please contact the library and ask to speak with a librarian. All magazines are also available for download on BARD.

American History – Articles for the general reader about the full spectrum of the history of North America

Audubon – Appreciation, understanding, and preservation of the natural world, particularly birds and their habitats

Cowboys and Indians: The Premier Magazine of the West – Western and Native American lifestyle, people, travel, art, food, and culture.

Humpty Dumpty – Stories, poems, cartoons, puzzles, games, recipes, and crafts for kids ages three to five who are learning to read independently

Missouri Conservationist – Outdoor life and conservation management in Missouri

National Geographic Traveler – Travel, focusing on different world destinations

The New Yorker – Timely articles on a number of topics. Includes short fiction, poetry, and cartoons.

O, The Oprah Magazine – Inspirational articles, expert advice, style ideas, and health tips
Oklahoma Today – Oklahoma people, places, food, art, and culture

Smithsonian – Articles on the topics and subject matters researched, studied, and exhibited by the Smithsonian museums

Southern Living – Recipes, guides to local travel, decorating ideas, inspiration, and gardening tips tailored specifically to the region’s climate

Vital Speeches of the Day – Speeches of recognized leaders of public opinion on current and national concerns

--Erin Byrne, Librarian

Preserving the Digital Player’s Battery Life

It is important to remember to keep your digital player plugged in when you are not using it. If it is unplugged for an extended time, the power level in the battery could drop to a very low level and won’t ever fully recharge. When this happens you will need to send your player in to get a new battery installed and this means you will be without your player for several days. So be sure to keep it plugged in whenever possible. If you have questions about your player or its battery, call and ask to speak with James Jenks.

--Library Staff
**DB 83258 – Chaparral Range War by Dusty Richards**
This Western title features former Texas Ranger Phil Guthrey who moves to a seemingly lawless Arizona Territory. He works to rehabilitate Crook County, bring justice, and uproot a corrupt sheriff. He also hopes to capture the heart of Cally Bridges.

**DB 61330 – Abide with Me by Elizabeth Strout**
In 1950s Maine, Clergyman Tyler Caskey despairs after his wife's death and struggles to cope with his daughter's needs. He has little support from community parishioners, who gossip about Tyler's possible affair with his housekeeper.

**DB 40209 – My Father’s World by Michael Phillips and Judith Pella**
Ten years have passed since Corrie and her four siblings arrived in California. Their Pa had been reported dead a long time ago, and Ma died on the trip west, leaving them alone except for their uncle, Nick, in California. There they begin spiritual growth. Now Nick wants Corrie to write a book from her diaries, so she starts with their arrival in 1852.

**DB 78964 – China Dolls by Lisa See**
In 1938, three young women competing for showgirl roles at a San Francisco nightclub become friends. Chinese-American Grace fled an abusive father; Helen's Chinese family has deep Chinatown roots; and Japanese Ruby is passing as Chinese. Then everything changes with the attack on Pearl Harbor.
The Hot Kid by Elmore Leonard

The Spies of Warsaw by Alan Furst
On the eve of World War II, Colonel Mercier, French military attaché to Poland, spends his time socializing and recruiting spies. Mercier alerts his superiors to the threat of Nazi invasion but is ignored. Meanwhile he falls in love and rescues an agent.

The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman
It is 1926. On an island one hundred miles off the Australian mainland, lighthouse keepers Isabel and Tom Sherbourne discover a boat carrying a dead man and a crying baby. The decisions they make that day come back to haunt them several years later.

Inherent Vice by Thomas Pynchon
If you are looking for a detective story with oddball, yet likable, characters, try this one out. In 1970 Los Angeles, private investigator and pothead Doc Sportello is hired by his ex-girlfriend to find her missing and married lover. Doc Sportello trips around Los Angeles seeking clues and running into cops, assorted bad guys, and land-development schemes.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian
For Your Information

What’s New at National Braille Press?

- “Windows Screen Reader Keystroke Compendium: Covering JAWS, NVDA, and Narrator,” compiled by Dean Martineau. It is available as one small braille volume, BRF, and Word. Braille-related keystrokes are not included.

- A variety of Microsoft and Windows Guides, iOS Guides, Mac OS guides, Android guides, and a guide called “Computers You Can Talk To: Siri, Alexa, Google Now, and Cortana,” by Anna Dresner.

- Newly available is “Diary of a Worm” by Doreen Cronin. It comes in contracted UEB, and is for ages 3 to 8. The diary documents a young worm’s daily life, from living with his parents to attending school. But he never has to take a bath, he gets to eat his homework, and because he doesn’t have legs, he can’t do the hokey pokey — no matter how hard he tries.

- Who can forget the stories of Shel Silverstein? Check out “The Giving Tree,” a book about generosity and unselfishness. It’s available in print with braille, and has picture descriptions.

For more information, contact National Braille Press at 1-800-548-7323, or visit www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/index.html.

--Compiled by Vicky Golightly, Library Patron
How do you feel about the services you receive from the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH)? Do you enjoy receiving and listening to talking books and magazines? Do you find the talking book machines to be easy to use? Have you used the Oklahoma Telephone Reader service? Are the Librarians/Reader Advisors helpful? Does all of this add to your quality of life?

The reason for asking all of these questions is this: If you enjoy the services of the OLBPH, I want to ask a favor. Do you know someone who needs our services? We are here to serve all Oklahomans who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise unable to use typical printed materials. There are approximately 124,000 Oklahomans who are blind or visually impaired (according to the National Federation of the Blind and the American Foundation for the Blind) but only about 4,800 are patrons of the OLBPH (according to Library records).

This points to a huge potential for us. Almost 120,000 people in Oklahoma can use our services, many of whom don’t know about us. How did you come to know about the OLBPH? Did someone tell you? Please be that someone for another person who will forever be grateful that you pointed them to this great resource.

Please remember that our services are free, that we are open normal business hours, 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, except for State holidays and an occasional inclement weather day. We are at (405) 521-3514, 300 NE 18th Street in Oklahoma City.

--Jim Kettler, Contract Monitor – Visual Services
Tax Deductible Donations

Every gift to Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS) benefits thousands. Contributions enable OSLS to provide activities not funded by the annual Library budget. Make checks payable to OSLS and mail to Oklahomans for Special Library Services, P.O. Box 53593, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

Donations are accepted in memory of a loved one, family member or to honor an individual. When a gift is made, it should include the name of the person being honored and the name and address of the family or family member to be notified of the gift. Please consider naming OSLS as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or in other estate planning bequests. With the assistance of an estate-planning attorney, significant tax benefits may be possible from this gift.

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
300 N.E. 18th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND