Springing into 2 big events

Along with warmer weather, we look forward to a pair of important dates to circle on our calendars this spring.

**People with Disabilities Awareness Day** returns to the State Capitol on Tuesday, March 12. The annual event, organized by DRS, is an opportunity for people with disabilities and their supporters to engage lawmakers and emphasize the importance of disability initiatives and programs. Events are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plan to be there to tell your story! For more information, go to www.okdrs.gov/pwdad.

The library’s **Friends Group Annual Meeting** is coming up May 16 at Noon. Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS) invites you to attend the event at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, 1000 N. Broadway in Oklahoma City. The theme will be “Literacy Around the World.”

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Director’s Column

For the first time in recent history, at least in the nearly ten years of my library experience, the OLBPH hosted the monthly DRS Commission meeting at the Travis Leon Harris building on February 11, 2019. Harris was once the Director of Visual Services, retiring in 1984 with 50 years of public service. Some may recall in 2015, the library hosted the DRS Expo helping celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act which also coincided with 25 years of library operations in this building. Several commission meeting participants received a library tour to learn of the different facets and moving parts of our library operations. With the proximity to the Capitol, this building and specifically the conference room hosts a plethora of DRS, agency partners and many other community group meetings.

Two things drove me to offer this venue. First, as outreach remains my passion, a critical piece of that quest is partnering with our parent agency to let the public know about our library services for visually and physically disabled Oklahoma citizens. “Preaching to the choir” can prove very useful in getting the word out. Along with that I feel it’s very important for the library to be an active partner with DRS; absolutely a two-way street to remain open.

The occasion helped refresh the memories of DRS colleagues who don’t come to the library often, such as those from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Oklahoma School for the Blind and Disability Determination Services, all of which have hosted Commission meetings in the past year. On a larger scale, as mentioned on our cover, People with Disabilities Awareness
Day brings all our stories into the public light. See you all there at the Capitol on March 12.

Many thanks to all who support the OLBPH and help us carry our mantra of “Share Our Vision That All May Read.”

--Kevin Treese, Library Director

Find Bright Future on Oklahoma Telephone Reader

An audio version of this newsletter is available to OLBPH patrons who use our Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) service. Finding it is easy!

After dialing the OTR phone number and entering your user I.D. and security code, choose option 5, which is titled “Announcements.” After that, enter the number 11 to get to Bright Future.

You must be an OLBPH patron to use OTR.

DRS Commissioners (from left) Emily Cheng, Jace Wolfe and April Danahy listen as OLBPH Director Kevin Treese gives his welcome Feb. 11, 2019. D’Andra Parsons (center) was the sign language interpreter. (Photo by Brian King)
Books with an asterisk (*) next to the title were produced by our own digital recording studio. Other titles are books produced by The National Library Service, a branch of The Library of Congress.

**DB 87112 — *I Will Send Rain* by Rae Meadows**

Mulehead, Oklahoma, 1934. Annie Bell looks up from the kitchen sink to see a large black cloud on the horizon. She is thrilled; at last the rains have come. There hasn’t been rain for seventy-three days and counting, and her family is facing the worst drought the Great Plains has ever seen. But this storm brings even more danger than the drought as thick dust covers the windowsills, the food on the counters, the corners of her children’s eyes and their dry, cracked lips.

As the famine of the early Dust Bowl forces their friends to abandon their homesteads, the Bells desperately try to hang on to Mulehead and the only life they have ever known. Annie, her husband and two children all face this disaster in different and painful ways and the choices they make put them in peril and calls into question all they hold dear.
This family chronicle and historical fiction novel is rich in detail and epic in scope. It is clear that the award winning author, Rae Meadows, has done meticulous research. The writing is beautiful and heartfelt and the result is a tender novel of the resilience of three generations, hope, longing, loss and love.

Other fictional accounts of the Dust Bowl worth reading are *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (DB 68308) and *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (DB 46712).

--Sammie Willis, Librarian

* DBC 1828 – *Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado
Max Lucado is a writer and preacher who has written dozens of inspirational Christian titles over the years. *Facing Your Giants* is one of these and in it Lucado reexamines the David and Goliath story and attempts to apply its lessons to the pitfalls and difficulties of everyday, modern life.

The law said America kept the black and white races separate but equal. From the time she was a young girl growing up in Chickasha, Oklahoma, however, Ada Sipuel learned that separate was never equal. Ada hoped to fight for equality for all people by becoming a lawyer, but in 1946 the only law school in Oklahoma refused to admit her because of the color of her skin. Ada learned that civil disobedience could combat inequality. Her bravery set in motion a chain of events that broke down barriers of injustice in America. This book is available on cartridge only at the moment, but it will be available on BARD soon.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian
Friends Group Annual Meeting May 16
(continued from Page 1)

A free lunch will begin at Noon, followed by a short business meeting. Attendees will also hear about the importance of reading braille or large print, and how the ability to use technology affects all aspects of life. Guests will:

- Learn about exciting updates at the library;
- Meet library staff members;
- Get acquainted with OSLS and how it helps the library; and
- Enjoy a free, delicious, catered meal.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity! If you can attend, RSVP by May 10 to OSLS Secretary Vicky Golightly by calling (405) 740-6227 or email her at v golight1@gmail.com.

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Braille books

Don’t forget we circulate braille in addition to digital talking books! Our braille patrons receive their books through the mail; or, they can download braille files from BARD, to be read via a refreshable braille display. Are you interested in receiving braille books? Give us a call at (405) 521-3514 and ask for a librarian or email olbph@okdrs.gov. We will be happy to set you up for this service!

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian
AIM Center celebrates high-tech donations

Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS) recently used patron and supporter donations to purchase 11 MagniLink ZIPS, for the library’s Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center. The MLZ is a lightweight, desktop video magnifier and is often used in the classroom by students with low vision. Its camera allows students to read and magnify the notes and problems on printed materials and on a Smartboard at the front of the classroom!

Images can be magnified to a variety of levels and can also be transformed into different colors and contrasts to be more readable. This helps to alleviate additional eyestrain and fatigue. All 11 MLZs were sent out very quickly to students, leaving only four on the waiting list. Thank you to all of our patrons who send in donations; you make a difference in our students’ lives!

How many students, you may ask? Well, the AIM Center helps meet educational needs for more Oklahoma youngsters than you might think. The Center now serves a total of 1,113 children and teens. Eight hundred of the kids qualified for Federal Quota funds this year, nearly 50 more than in 2018.

--Pepper Watson, AIM Center Director, and Brian King, Editor
Volunteer Spotlight: Kent Graham

Our spotlight is shining on an exceptional and versatile volunteer for this issue; one who donates his time and talents to both our Digital Recording Studio and the Oklahoma Telephone Reader program!

Since his start in 2012, Kent Graham has edited several books for the studio, including the important work *Oklahoma: A History* by W. David Baird and Danney Goble (DBC 1824), as well as many magazine articles. He has also narrated some training manuals and publications for the studio, including one of the Department of Rehabilitation Services’ flagship brochures, “Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Client.” Fridays are especially big OLBPH days for Kent. He reads the *Enid News and Eagle* for Oklahoma Telephone Reader in the morning, then edits in the studio for the rest of the afternoon.

Kent has spent more hours volunteering onsite than any other current OLBPH volunteer. He averages six hours per week. One summer, he averaged 35 hours per week! The generosity of his time is thanks, in part, to his retirement. Kent retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1998 as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years of
service at duty stations around the world, including two stints in Germany and two in Korea. Three of his assignments, including the final one, were at Tinker Air Force Base. His expertise was in Air Defense Command and Control and he was at Tinker when the first AWACS planes arrived.

Retirement gave Col. Graham the opportunity to return to academics. He already had a degree in English from Texas Tech, but earned a second bachelor’s degree, this time in journalism from the University of Oklahoma. He kept going and added a Master of Arts in Professional Writing from OU to his list of credentials. Kent was an adjunct instructor of Writing for Mass Media at OU’s Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communications for 15 years.

These days, Kent spends much of his time volunteering at the library and in a number of civic leadership roles. One example is his vice-chairman position on the City of Moore Planning Commission, an advisory panel that studies and makes recommendations to the city council about zoning issues. Kent has also been a devoted member of the outstanding Canterbury Voices choral group since 2012 and is currently the baritone section leader. He has three adult children and four grandchildren.

We wouldn’t be able to serve our patrons as well as we do without Kent’s dedication and wonderful contributions. His time and talents are extremely valuable and deserve our never-ending appreciation.

--Brian King, Editor
Here are some non-fiction titles to get you through the rest of winter. Happy reading!

DB 87658 - *Black Elk: The Life of an American Visionary* by Joe Jackson
A biographical account of the life of the Native American holy man known for his 1932 testimonial Black Elk Speaks (DB 22552). Black Elk fought at Little Big Horn, witnessed the death of his cousin Crazy Horse, and traveled to Europe with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, among many other things.

DB 90970 – *The List: A Week-by-Week Reckoning of Trump’s First Year* by Amy Siskind
A compilation of weekly lists that the author maintained throughout the first year of Donald Trump's presidency. It tracks actions undertaken by the Trump administration that Siskind believes threaten democratic norms and chronicles the behavior and decisions that made headlines as well as smaller acts.

DB 90979 – *The Perfection of the Paper Clip: Curious Tales of Invention, Accidental Genius, and Stationary Obsession* by James Ward
Office-supply enthusiast chronicles the history and development of such mundane tools as pins, clips, pens, paper, pencils, erasers, novelty stationery, school-specific supplies, highlighters, glue, business cards, staplers, and more.
DB 90990 – *Maternal Bodies: Redefining Motherhood in Early America* by Nora Doyle
Historian examines the role of mothers in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in America. Topics covered include maternal bodies in medical literature, childbearing narratives, breastfeeding and sentimentality, disembodiment of mothers in feminine print culture, and the role of sentimentality and embodiment in antislavery print culture.

DB 90975 – *Yawn: Adventures in Boredom* by Mary Mann
The author examines the nature, history, and effects of boredom. Topics discussed include early historical records of boredom, the rise of the tourism industry, the effects of solitary confinement, and more.

A professor specializing in the history of Hollywood traces the origins of the blacklist. Focuses on the activities of the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947, and covers the firing and blacklisting of directors, actors, and writers that lasted into the 1960s.

--Erin Byrne, Librarian
Winter Outreach highlights

We’ve been bundling up and trying not to dwell on the cold weather as we keep traveling the state to raise awareness of the library and its wonderful, free services.

The season’s activities started at the end of November with a presentation at the Dean McGee Eye Institute’s Macular Degeneration/Low Vision/Glaucoma Seminar. A week later, I joined my DRS colleague Charles Gant on KUSH Radio in Cushing for an hour-long chat with host Molly Payne.

Mid-December brought a memorable and rewarding opportunity to help a community library and build a working relationship. The Hennessey Public Library recently improved its accessibility by installing JAWS screen-reading software on one of its public computers and asked DRS to come share some of its expertise. Assistive technology specialist Tanya Skelly and three OLBPH representatives were happy to help. We also provided information about our library to share with Hennessey-area residents.

January’s highlights included participation in the Volunteer and Involvement Fair at Rose State College and guest speaking roles at a great event at Bishop McGuinness High School. The focus of the Santa Lucia benefit dinner, hosted by Oklahoma's [Photo by Brian King]
Living Catholic radio show with Father Don Wolf, was the AIM (Accessible Instructional Materials) Center.

If you know of a group or place that needs to know more about our library, please call us or email me: bking@okdrs.gov.

--Brian King, Public Information Officer

Using Bookshelf to Find Magazines and Book Titles

Locating specific magazine or book titles on a cartridge containing multiple titles is easy if you use the Bookshelf feature on your digital player. It allows you to navigate back and forth through the cartridge to find the magazine or book title you want to read.

Follow these steps to locate the magazine or book you want:

1. Insert the cartridge into the digital player.
2. Hold down the green Play/Stop button until you hear the word “Bookshelf.”
3. Release the Play/Stop button and tap down on the white arrow-shaped Fast Forward button to the right of the Play/Stop button to move through the titles on the cartridge until you hear the title of the magazine or book you want to read.

To move back through the titles on the cartridge, follow Steps 1 and 2. Then tap down on the white arrow-shaped Rewind button until you hear the title you are seeking.

--Sammie Willis, Librarian
Most of you already know Andrew Shockley, the recently-named Administrative Librarian at OLBPH (Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped). But do you know that his first college degree is in another general field? Can you guess what field that might be and how it connects to the Library? That’s a story in itself.

Before coming to work for the Library, Andrew had the opportunity to work as a paid intern, filling a research assistant role with the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (M.I.P.T.), associated with the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Andrew earned his first degree in Geography, a subject in which he still has a lot of interest.

It was while he worked there at the institute that his mentor noticed Andrew’s skills in organization and suggested he look into a library science degree. Although he had come to feel a little “burned out” from his years earning his bachelor’s degree, this thought encouraged in Andrew a new hunger to achieve.

Fast forward to a little later when Andrew, seeking a job in a library, was hired as a Library Technician at the OLBPH. In this capacity he pulled and (Continued on next page)
re-shelved talking books and handled many other hands-on tasks to support the librarians/reader advisors. After working for a short while at OLBPH, Andrew began work on his Master’s Degree in Library Science and, to his credit, completed it while working full time.

It was during his time working in circulation that Andrew honed his organizational skills for this library. His contributions enabled steady improvement in services the patrons experienced. Taking on extra duties became the norm for Andrew; overseeing co-workers’ tasks, learning the intricacies of the database system used for the Library, and steadily improving interfaces with patrons.

As many of you know, Andrew really shines when he has the opportunity to serve one-on-one. Library associates will attest to the fact that conversations with patrons often begin with, “Is Andrew available?”

Andrew is pretty modest about his achievements but he is also very excited about the future of the Library. There are some pretty great things coming for patrons and employees alike, which will be rolled out in due time. Andrew worked with NLS on a pilot program for some new technology and collected valuable data that should enable a larger roll-out at some point in the future.

With all of this, please know this: Andrew Shockley and the other librarians/reader advisors and associates of the OLBPH are happy to serve their wonderful patrons and do that every day to the best of their abilities. It is their mission.

--Jim Kettler, VS Contract Monitor

Did You Know…?
At last check, BARD included 89,187 digital audio titles and 18,137 braille titles. Those numbers keep increasing as more books and magazines are added regularly.
Oklahoma Telephone Reader

Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) is an on-demand dial-up information service. It is intended for use by people with disabilities that prevent them from reading standard print materials. You must be a library patron in order to register for OTR.

Volunteers record articles and other content from The Oklahoman, Tulsa World, Oklahoma Gazette, Bright Future, and other publications on a daily basis. Such content includes news, editorials, sports, grocery ads, obituaries, as well as a variety of other types of articles. Listeners can access these using the key pads on their telephones and navigate directly to the publication of their choice.

For more information, please call the library at 1-800-523-0288 or 405-521-3514 and ask for Becky Bates or Steve Dowdy.

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

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND