

Bright Future

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

A Milestone Celebrated

On August 2nd OLBPH staff received a lovely and unexpected gift from a long-time patron. Mr. Richard Books has been a member of the library since 1980 and recently read his 3,000th book. To say thank you to the library, Mr. Books treated staffers to a delicious barbecue lunch. He and his wife joined everyone for the meal, and imparted just how crucial library services have been to enriching his quality of life over the years.

It was wonderful and touching to hear how much the library has meant to him all these many years. The staff thanks him for his generosity and congratulates him on his reading milestone. Mr. Books, may your next 3,000 reads be as meaningful and inspiring!

--Erin Byrne, Librarian

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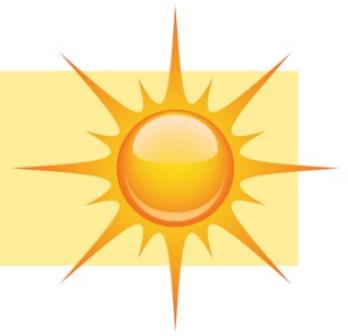
300 N.E. 18th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-3514

Toll Free 1-800-523-0288
Fax 405-521-4582
TTY/TDD 405-521-4672

E-mail: olbph@okdrs.gov
Website: www.olbph.org

Bright Future is also available in Braille, digital cartridge, and on our website.

Summer Reading



Successful June Kickoff to Summer Reading

The OLBPH started the Summer Reading Program with its annual kickoff party on June 4th, 2016. Fifteen DRS staff, two former DRS staff, and three volunteers helped five families with crafts and other activities around the library.

The five families consisted of seven AIM and library patrons, one sibling, and five parents. For three families, it was their first time attending a summer reading kickoff party.

The theme of this year's program was health and wellness, so mental and physical well-being was highlighted through various activities.

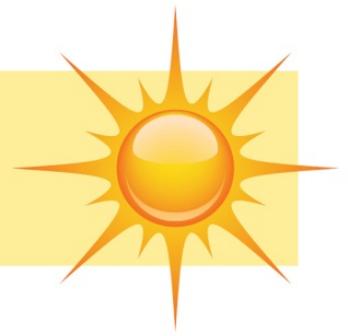
Rather than having a structured schedule with specific times for activities this year, the party allowed for an unstructured day where attendees could visit each activity at their leisure.

The day started with crafts and sports: seed planting, coloring, goalball, bead jewelry, bean bag toss, story time, and pillow making.

Attendees decorated a plastic jug and were able to shovel dirt into their jug and plant a variety of seeds in their flower pot to take home and grow. For almost all of the kids who participated, it was their first time to get to play in the dirt. Some of them loved it and some weren't sure, but many parents told volunteers how impressed they were with the accessibility of the soil and shovels.

To promote mental wellness and creativity, attendees colored masks and Frisbees, stuffed tie-pillows, and made bead jewelry. One

Summer Reading



student listened to Vicky Golightly read a couple of pages from *The Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly* before deciding that he was ready for some physical activity.

To get moving, Mike Harvey taught the attendees how to play goalball. He also manned the accessible activities table, which included a beeping Frisbee, a tactile Rubik's cube, a Braille deck of cards, and a cordless jump rope. Mike also showed a student how to create his very own Braille deck of cards.

For lunch, everyone dined on a variety of burritos from Freebirds, a veggie tray, apples with caramel sauce, and tortilla chips with queso and salsa.

A little before 2 pm, all attendees gathered to learn about physical science from Professor Watt. He taught the attendees about tension and had them build a bridge from wooden blocks. He gave each student a bridge to build and built it with them step by step. The kids then took their bridges home. We saw so many ear-to-ear grins as kids worked on their bridges, clearly enjoying the challenge and the joy of discovering their own talents as amateur engineers.

As one family was leaving, the mom said that it was the "most amazing experience ever!"

As always, many thanks to OSLS, whose funding allows us to plan and host the kickoff Party and provide the awesome prizes at the end of the summer.

--Lacy Downs, AIM Center Librarian

Oklahoma Telephone Reader



The Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) is an on-demand dial-up information service. It is intended for use by anyone with a disability that prevents them from reading standard print materials, and you must be a library patron in order to register for OTR. OTR takes the place of and is similar to its predecessor, the Older Blind

Telephone Information Line.

Volunteers record articles from "The Oklahoman", "Tulsa World", the "Oklahoma Gazette", and other publications on a daily basis. Such articles include 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 telephone and navigate directly to the publication of their choice. You can even use your telephone key pads to speed up or slow down the readings and to change the volume!

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

--Becky Bates, OTR Administrator

BARD Update

In July, the National Library Service did an audit of all BARD accounts, and suspended all accounts that hadn't been logged in to within the last twelve months. This doesn't mean it is gone forever! If you discover your account has been suspended and you want to use it, just call us at 1-800-523-0288 and ask for a librarian. We will be able to reactivate it for you, provided you are still an active patron of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. If you have forgotten your password and need a new temporary password or have changed your email address, we can help you out with that, too.

--Julia Alderson, Administrative Librarian



Mismatched Digital Books and Containers

We are noticing an increase in the number of books coming back from patrons who have mismatched the book with its proper container before sending it back. Please ensure that the number on the book matches the number on the box before returning it. This will help us get books processed and on their way to you faster, and will reduce the number of "mistake" books you receive. We appreciate your careful attention to this matter.

--Marka Will, Librarian

Locals Inspired By Blind Broadcaster's Life Story

Book lovers and sports fans in western Oklahoma this summer were inspired by the story of a blind father's remarkable career and personal life. As part of his visit to Elk City, author Christopher Lucas entertained an audience at the Carnegie Library by discussing the book he co-wrote with his father, "Seeing Home: The Ed Lucas Story." While the main title "Seeing Home" has multiple meanings, the subtitle is more direct: A Blind Broadcaster's Story of Overcoming Life's Greatest Obstacles.

Ed Lucas was blinded at age 12 when a baseball hit him between the eyes. Many would think such a traumatic event would keep him away from the game forever. Instead, he immersed himself in baseball. Shortly after the accident, Ed's mother wrote letters to his heroes from the world of sports, in an effort to cheer him up. Many of them replied, opening doors that would lead to special invitations to meet the players, including some of baseball's biggest stars.

Lucas transferred to a school for the blind, learned Braille and went on to earn a degree in communications from Seton Hall University. Proving all the doubters wrong, Ed became a very successful sportswriter, radio host, and on-air analyst for live television. He has been inducted into three Halls of Fame so far and won an Emmy for his work with the YES Network.

During his career that has spanned more than six decades, Lucas developed extraordinary abilities to know what is happening in a game even though he doesn't see it. In baseball, for example, he can tell by the sound how well a ball has been hit, how far it went and to what part of the field. "If they were in

a ballpark where the (play-by-play) guy with sight could not see the angle, whether it was foul or fair, my father could tell that," Chris Lucas said. "Almost 100 percent of the time, he got it right."



At Elk City's Carnegie Library, author Christopher Lucas leads a discussion of the book he co-wrote with his father, "Seeing Home: The Ed Lucas Story." Lucas is standing next to a photo collage featuring highlights of his father's outstanding career.

Another meaning of the title "Seeing Home" is in Ed's role as a father. He raised two sons on his own after his wife left him. Occasionally, the young boys would want their father to read them a bedtime story. It was a source of frustration for Ed until he found a company called Twin Vision that produced books in both print and Braille. Here is how the author described the experience: "The night the first book, 'Pinocchio,' arrived, I sat down on the edge of Eddie's bed and I read it side by side with him. Like the little puppet in the story, a transformation occurred. A whole new world had opened up for both of us. To Eddie, I was

no longer just his blind father. I was Dad – with no more strings on me.”

At one point, the boys’ mother returned and sued for custody. The first judge granted the motion simply because of Ed’s disability. Ed fought the decision all the way to the New Jersey Supreme Court. Armed with depositions from people such as George Steinbrenner, Bob Hope and President Richard Nixon, Lucas was awarded full and complete custody of his children, becoming one of the first disabled people in the United States to win back custody of their children from a non-disabled spouse.

One of the best examples of Ed Lucas’ influence involved Oklahoma-born superstar Mickey Mantle. Chris Lucas says he was only seven years old when he tried to talk to Mantle at what used to be called an “old-timers game.” Chris says Mantle wasn’t in a particularly good mood that day while pushing his way through a crowd. But when he found out Chris’s dad was Ed Lucas, “He stopped in his tracks, turned around, got on his knees, held my shoulders and said ‘Let me tell you something. People every day say I’m their hero. Well, your dad is MY hero.’”

“Seeing Home: The Ed Lucas Story” is a product of Jeter Publishing, which is led by recently-retired Yankee All-Star Derek Jeter. Print and audio versions are available commercially, and will hopefully be added to the National Library Service collection in the near future.

--Brian King, OLBPH Public Information Officer

How Long May I Check Out Books?

Books are checked out for a two month period, with a one month extension, if you need more time. Please remember to return these books as soon as you finish listening to them. Other patrons of the library would like to read them, too, and are likely waiting on them. Thank you!

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

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 and ask for a librarian. We will be happy to set you up for this service!

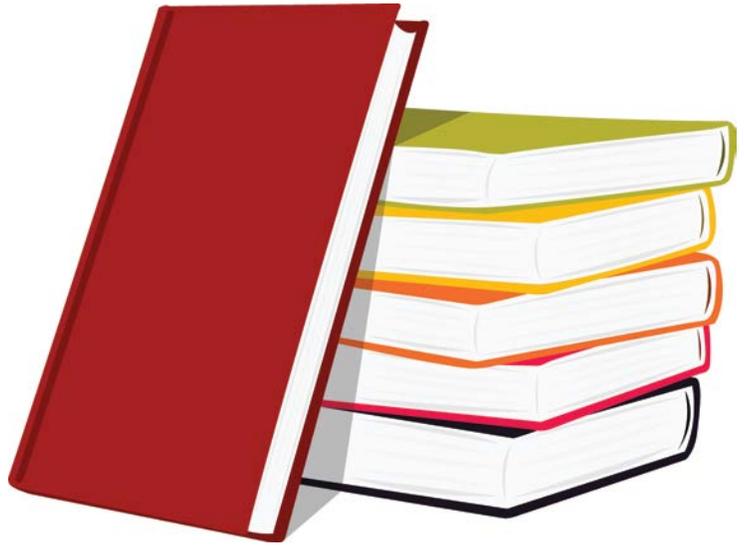
--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

Book Corner

DB 82873 – *Eileen* by Ottessa Moshfegh

Eileen Dunlop looks back fifty years to when she was twenty-four. She lived with her abusive, alcoholic father and worked as a secretary

at a juvenile correctional facility called Moorehead. Her life was an unrelentingly bleak routine until new counselor Rebecca arrived at Moorehead.



DB 83314 – *Concussion* by Jeanne Marie Laskas

Journalist expands upon her 2009 GQ article about young forensic pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu's discovery while autopsying fifty-year-old Mike Webster, the Hall of Fame center for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He determined that Webster's mental deterioration was a disease caused by blows to the head during football.

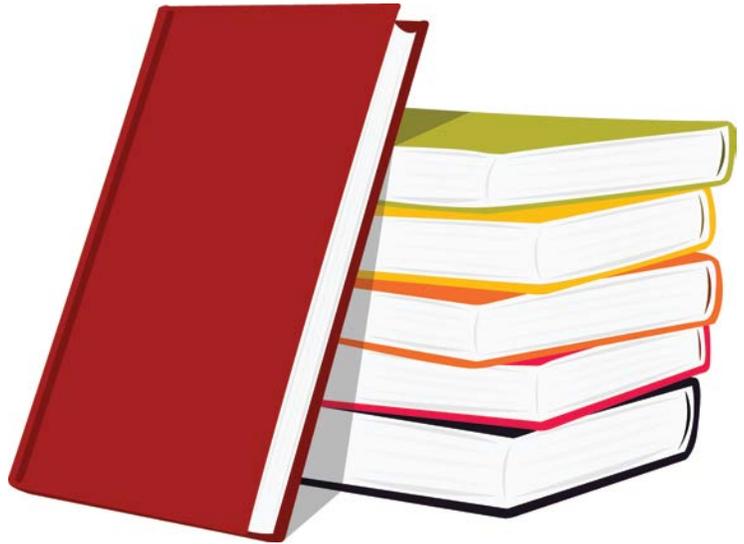
DB 82762 – *The Splendid Things We Planned: A Family Portrait* by Blake Bailey

An Oklahoma City native, the author of this memoir profiles his own life and family, especially focusing on his older brother, Scott. He discusses growing up in Oklahoma, the family's apparent preference for Scott, and the impact of his own and Scott's self-destructive decisions.

DB 82579 – *The Surfacing* by Cormac James

It is 1850. Lieutenant Morgan and his crew have been sent to find the missing expedition of Sir John Franklin, lost while

searching for the Northwest Passage several years earlier. Morgan's ship becomes trapped in the ice and he must lead them out when he discovers a stowaway pregnant with his child.



DB 82798 – *Off the Radar: A Father's Secret, a Mother's Heroism, and a Son's Quest* by Cyrus M. Copeland

An American civilian, Max Copeland, was seized by the Revolutionary Guards in Iran in 1979 and charged with espionage. The author, Max's son, relates how his mother attempted to free Max, and he searches to uncover just who his father really was.

DB 82763 – *The Third Wife* by Lisa Jewell

Adrian Wolfe's third wife, Maya, was hit and killed by a bus. A year later, he still wonders whether it was an accident or a suicide. While investigating, he discovers his family may not have been as idyllic as he thought.

--Erin Byrne, Librarian

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, hold down the Play/Stop button until you hear "BOOKSHELF" and then tap down on the white arrow-shaped Rewind button until you hear the title you are seeking.

--Sammie Willis, Librarian

For Your Information

Department of Justice Releases Publication on Polling Place Accessibility

The U.S. Department of Justice recently released an updated technical assistance publication on polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities. The publication, "ADA Checklist for Polling Places," includes a survey to guide election officials in evaluating the accessibility of facilities used or being considered for use as polling places. To get a copy of this publication or to find out more about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), call the Justice Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TTY); or, simply visit www.ada.gov.

Bookshare Titles Available in Unified English Braille

Bookshare's English titles are now available in UEB. Members can select from a huge variety of leisure, career, and educational books and read them in UEB on compatible reading tools. For members who wish to continue to read in the previous Braille code, Bookshare will continue to provide books in English Braille American Edition. In addition, non-English books will continue to be available in their existing formats. Visit www.bookshare.org for more information.

Oklahoma Guide Dogs for the Blind Meetings

All guide dog users are welcome to come to monthly meetings the third Saturday of each month at 1 pm. The meetings are held at Oklahoma Station Barbecue located at 4331 N.W. 50th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. If you want to eat,

feel free to arrive early. There will be varied activities, including interesting speakers and occasional outings. For more information, contact Pam Holloway at 405-301-1885 or Sandi Webster at 405-722-8749.

ABLE Tech Equipment Available

The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange sponsored by ABLE Tech can help you donate, sell, or locate equipment, such as wheelchairs, modified vehicles, lift chairs, and miscellaneous medical supplies, for a reasonable price. The program is a person-to-person exchange, which functions like the newspaper classifieds. To list an item for sale or donation, or to post an item that you are looking to buy, you must first register to create a free account. You may browse the listings without having an account. However, to view contact information for a specific item or list your own items for sale or donation, you must first register. To browse the exchange's offerings and to register, visit <http://oec.okstate.edu/home.php>. For further inquiry, contact Milissa Gofourth, Program Manager, Oklahoma ABLE Tech, 1514 W. Hall of Fame, Stillwater, OK 74078, or call her at 405-744-9863 or toll free at 800-257-1705. Email her at milissa.gofourth@okstate.edu.

--Compiled by Vicky Golightly, Library Patron





When I was young, I was a big fan of Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, and The Lone Ranger. I listened to their programs on the radio (yes, I'm that old), read books about them, and watched shows about them on TV. They were my heroes! They didn't seem so much like celebrities to me as they seemed like friends.

Later on, I came to be interested in more "grown-up" characters, books, and actors. Books like "The Black Stallion" gave way to "Moby Dick" and "A Tale of Two Cities." The TV shows and movies that drew my attention were "Gunsmoke," "Sea Hunt," "The War Wagon."

Long after I was married and we had children, I was privileged to meet some of the celebrities that I had observed over the years, like Cary Grant and Muhammed Ali. Each encounter was excellent, giving me a chance to express personally just how much I admired each of them.

One thing has remained clear to me throughout my life: Reading provides the most limitless means of being transported to the most amazing places and to experience the most amazing things through the "theatre of the mind." What you experience through reading is only limited by your own imagination.

Please make the most of your reading experiences through the OLBPH. Remember that we have thousands of titles of books and magazines, the Oklahoma Telephone Reader, and there is the BARD download service, too. Call for help when we can be of service.

--Jim Kettler, DRS Contract Monitor

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.



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300 N.E. 18th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

FREE MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND

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