

# Bright Future

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

## People with Disabilities Awareness Day

“Empower the People” is the theme for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day set for noon to 4:30 p.m. on April 5th at the State Capitol.

This year’s theme reinforces the belief that all Oklahomans are equal and should be given the chance to live life to the fullest including pursuing independent lives and obtaining careers with good wages and benefits. This year lawmakers face a challenging budget and people with disabilities and their supporters need to share their stories so that vital services will continue.

Awareness day is held to give people with disabilities and their advocates a chance to talk with decision makers who can preserve or expand services that are critical in the lives of Oklahomans with disabilities. Last year more 700 people participated in this free event, which is hosted by the Oklahoma Department of

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

Rehabilitation Services and friends. The goal this year is to host more than 1,000 people at the event.

Registration has opened for the event. To sign up, go to <http://www.okdrs.org/drupal/pwdad-registration> and complete the form. 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.

--Dana Tallon, DRS Communications Manager



## **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

## **Library's Annual Friends Meeting Coming in May**

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the library's friends group, Oklahomans for Special Library Services, on May 19th at noon. The event will take place at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, 1000 N. Broadway in Oklahoma City. Ample parking is available.

At this event, you will learn about the latest happenings at the library for the blind, meet several library staff members, as well as get acquainted with the OSLS and its board of directors. While you're at it, you will enjoy a free delicious catered meal, and prepare to be entertained by Charley Tipps!

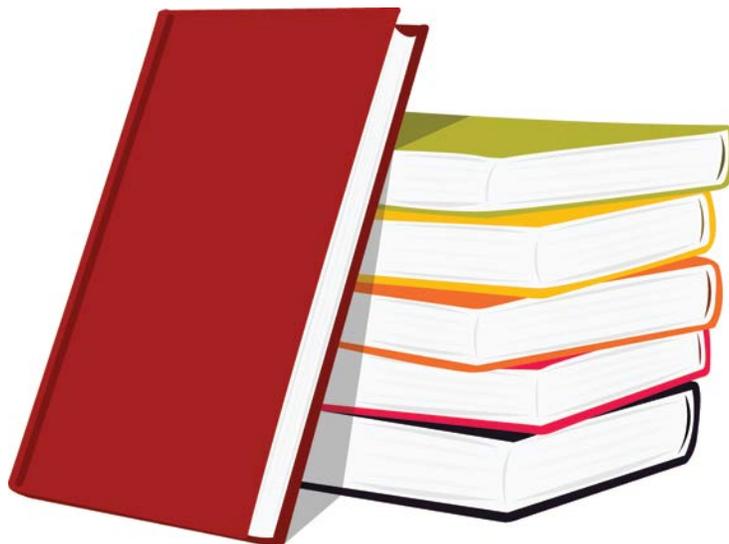
Charley Tipps, who has been a rehabilitation teacher and counselor for Visual Services for 39 years, will share his experiences as a Visual Services client, talk about his client-centered job, as well as what the library's books and magazines mean to him. In his spare time Charley plays the piano with gusto, flare, and passion. He will entertain us with old and new tunes as his fingers fly in a blur over the piano. Don't miss his sense of humor and he might even engage the audience in "Name That Tune".

You won't want to miss this opportunity! If you can attend, RSVP by May 13th to OSLS Secretary Vicky Golightly by calling 405-740-6227 or email her at [vgolight@yahoo.com](mailto:vgolight@yahoo.com).

--Vicky Golightly, OSLS Secretary and library patron

## **BELL Academy This Summer!**

Save the Date! On **June 13th to June 24<sup>th</sup>** the 2016 NFB Oklahoma BELL Academy is coming to Oklahoma City. BELL stands for "Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning," and it is a two-week long day camp for blind and low vision children ages four through twelve.



In it the children will learn concentrated Braille and non-visual skills through fun, hands-on learning. In addition to Braille crafts, games, and other engaging projects, children learn vital independent living skills, benefit from peer learning and mentoring from blind adults, and enjoy field trips to sites related to the NFB BELL Academy curriculum. Visit <http://www.nfbok.org> or call Audrey Farnum, 405-590-6110 for information.

--Audrey Farnum, National Federation of the Blind Oklahoma



## **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. Thanks!

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

## **New Mailing Cards**

You may have noticed the new mailing cards you have been receiving with your digital audio books. Unlike the old cards with their distinctive hole, the new cards have a distinctive notch, which is a corner cut off of the card. When the book arrives, the notch will be in the **TOP RIGHT** corner. That is the side that has your address on it. When you return the book, just flip the card so that the notch is in the **TOP LEFT** corner.

--Marka Will, Librarian

## **BARD Mobile App for Android Now Available**

On June 10th the NLS released the Android app for accessing the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) site. BARD Mobile for Android is compatible with tablets and smartphones running Android OS 4.1 and later, and works with Google's free TalkBack screen reader. You can download the NLS BARD Mobile app for Android free of charge from the Google Play Store, however you must have a BARD account in order to access the talking books. Call the library and ask to speak to a librarian, if you are interested in setting up a BARD account.

--Erin Byrne, Librarian

## Choice Magazine Listening

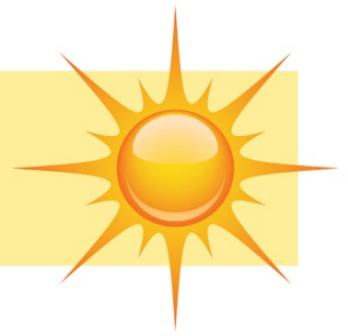
Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners receive 12 hours of great writing, chosen from over 100 of the finest magazines by CML's team of editors. These quarterly issues feature stories, poems, and articles from publications such as *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's*, *Smithsonian*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Scientific American*, and *The Atlantic*. All CML's selections are wonderfully read by some of America's top audiobook narrators.

For more than half a century, CML has been proud to serve adults with conditions that make it difficult to read standard print or to hold a magazine. Listeners love the mix of interesting, entertaining, and amusing pieces they receive as a download or on a digital cartridge (easily returnable in the postage-free mailer it arrived in). This quarterly service is completely free of charge due to the support of a charitable foundation established to ensure that all Americans could enjoy the best writing from leading magazines.

If you or someone you know would enjoy this free service, please call 1-888-724-6423 to find out more. Between 9 and 4 Eastern Time your call will be answered by a friendly person happy to help – not a machine. For the library's BARD users, this magazine is available for download. Further information is available on CML's website, too. Please visit [www.choicemagazinelisting.org](http://www.choicemagazinelisting.org).

--David Page, Choice Magazine Listening associate editor

# Summer Reading



## **The Summer Reading Program Is Here Again!**

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped continues its annual Summer Reading program this year for students aged 3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This year's theme is "Health and Wellness."

The program starts with the Kick-Off Party on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Attendees can play beeper ball and participate in some relaxing crafts to enhance their physical and mental well-being. Attendance at the Kick-off Party is not required to participate in the reading portion of the program.

The program ends on August 6<sup>th</sup> with a reward party. All participants who read at least 10 books will receive a book in their preferred format and an invitation to the reward party.

Registration for Summer Reading opens May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. You can register by calling the library at 1-800-523-0288 or 405-522-0982 or by emailing Lacey Downs at [ldowns@okdrs.gov](mailto:ldowns@okdrs.gov).

The OLBPH Summer Reading program is funded by Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS) and by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

--Lacey Downs, AIM Center Librarian

## **From the AIM Center**

### **Federal Quota Program**

At this time of the year, the AIM Center is busy collecting information for the Federal Quota (FQ) Program. You may have heard of this term but aren't sure what it is or how it works. Here is some information on the FQ Program:

#### **What Is Federal Quota?**

The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind was enacted by Congress in 1879. This act is a means for providing adapted educational materials to eligible students who meet the definition of blindness. An annual registration of eligible students determines a per capita amount of money designated for the purchase of educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). These funds are credited to Federal Quota accounts which are maintained and administered by APH and its Ex Officio Trustees throughout the country.

#### **Who Is Eligible?**

In order for students to be eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program, they **MUST** meet the definition of Blindness (MDB) or function at the definition of blindness (FDB). Also, school-aged students must be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January. Adult students must be registered for at least three months of instruction during the preceding calendar year (an accumulation of 12 weeks).

## **How Does the Federal Quota Program Work?**

A Congressional appropriation, designated to provide educational materials for students who meet the definition of blindness, is made each October in the federal budget. This allotment is divided by the total number of eligible students and clients in educational or instructional programs at less than college levels on the first Monday of the preceding January. This division results in a per capita amount that is then multiplied by the number of registered students in each Federal Quota account. This amount is credited to each respective account, thus establishing each account's "quota" for the federal fiscal year. The quota funds are used for the payment of labor and materials, plus a reasonable administrative overhead. No part of the appropriation can be used for the construction or leasing of buildings or for the training of personnel.

## **Who Are the Oklahoma Ex Officio Trustees?**

For each residential school for the blind, state department of education, or agency for the blind that participates in the Federal Quota Program, an Ex Officio Trustee of the American Printing House for the Blind must be designated. Each Ex Officio Trustee is entrusted with the administration of the Federal Quota Program within his or her system. Oklahoma's trustees are **Pepper Watson**, Director of the AIM Center, and **Lynn Cragg**, Principal at OK School for the Blind.

--Pepper Watson, AIM Center Director

## 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

## **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

## **Do You Want Books on the Weekend?**

The library is closed on Saturday and Sunday, but do you know the best way to ensure you have enough reading material for the weekend? It's simple: call the library no later than Thursday! If you call on Friday, it is too late to add your book requests to that day's batch of mail to be picked up by the Post Office. So give us a call by Thursday and ask for a librarian. We will be happy to help.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

## **For Your Information**

### **Voice Braille Reader App Can Speak your Downloaded Braille Files**

An iOS app that allows for the direct reading of Braille files using speech has been released. The \$14.99 Voice Braille Reader reads .BRL and .BRF files, such as those downloaded from the NLS BARD service or BookShare. It can also import files from Dropbox, Evernote, iCloud, and other applications. It also supports adjustable reading speed, a synchronized display with the Braille that is currently being spoken, and reading of Braille inside .ZIP files. If you wish to try out the app before you buy, you can get Voice Braille Reader Lite which allows for up to five minutes of reading per day.

### **Braille Writer Repair**

John Harden repaired Perkins Braille writers at the Bureau of Braille and Talking Books Library in Daytona Beach, Florida. If you have a Perkins Braille writer that is not working as well as it used to, or is not working at all he can help. The basic price for cleaning, lubricating, and adjusting a Braille writer is \$75. You can call 386-846-1325 for additional information. The Braille writer can be shipped free matter for the blind to: John Harden, 145 North Halifax Ave. unit 605, Daytona Beach, Florida 32118-4291. If you need your Braille writer repaired, if you need a new cover for it, or if you need to buy a used Braille writer, contact John Harden at the above address or by email [jharden01@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jharden01@cfl.rr.com).

## **Descriptive DVD and Blue Ray Movies**

The American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project promotes and advocates for the use of high-quality audio description in television, movies, performing arts, museums, educational materials, and other venues where the presentation of visual media is critical to the understanding and appreciation of the content. To learn more, investigate the following link, <http://www.acb.org/adp/dvds.html>.

## **ZoomText Fusion Now Available**

New on the market is ZoomText Fusion! It was designed for users with advanced or progressive vision loss, and provides the same features you're accustomed to with ZoomText, plus a screen reader. Fusion is perfect for individuals who want a smooth and easy transition from magnification to full screen reading. New features include:

- Browse mode allows you to easily navigate and read web pages using a single keystroke.
- Page Navigation makes it easy to access any part of a web page.
- Tutor Mode provides real-time assistance and will give you a hint on how to access standard controls via the keyboard.
- Learning Center places text, audio, and video lessons at your fingertips to assist in self-education.
- Setup Wizard allows you to customize how your computer screen looks and how much speech you prefer.

- Braille support provides ever-expanding support for popular models of refreshable Braille displays.

Check Fusion out at [www.zoomtext.com/fusion](http://www.zoomtext.com/fusion). For more information, contact Ai Squared at (802) 362-3612 or at [sales@aisquared.com](mailto:sales@aisquared.com).

### **MinuteClinic to Enhance Accessibility**

MinuteClinic, CVS Health's walk-in medical clinic, recently announced that it will be enhancing accessibility for patients with visual, hearing, and other disabilities. The plan is designed to enhance MinuteClinic's services and to remove barriers that may impede persons with disabilities from utilizing the clinic's services. As part of its plan to enhance accessibility, MinuteClinic will, at the request of a patient, arrange for live sign language interpreters and will take additional steps designed to ensure that people with visual impairments receive treatment and other vital information in formats that are accessible to them. MinuteClinic will also assess the most effective method by which to obtain accurate weight measurements for individuals with mobility impairments who use wheelchairs. Clinic staff members will receive comprehensive training to ensure their familiarity with the availability and proper use of any relevant equipment, aids, and services.

--Compiled by Vicky Golightly, Library Patron



Oklahoma is very much a center of pioneer history. In the early days, especially, it was common for a pioneer scout to leave a mark on a tree or rock to mark a trail. This served as a means for those who came later to be able to follow the established trail in order to make good progress, avoid obstacles, and to get safely to their destination.

Around 2001, the OLBPH ran into a challenge: the quality of its locally-recorded books was not up to the standards needed in order for the patrons to be able to truly enjoy those books. Circulation of locally-recorded books was temporarily suspended and research began for how to furnish top quality books to the patrons.

Library Technician Paul Adams, who later became the library director, found that the best route was to create a digital recording studio. Computers and software were procured via a grant from the National Institute of Museums and Libraries. The volunteer group of narrators was revitalized and the first 20 book titles were produced within a year.

Today, the mark that Paul Adams' work has produced is a sign for others to follow as we continue to pursue excellence in the products – books – we provide for our wonderful patrons. As an added bonus, Jill Streck, one of the students involved in the startup of production later became the studio director and is taking our nationally recognized studio to new heights.

--Jim Kettler, 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.



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FREE MATTER  
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