



# Hotlines

A Newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana, Office of Lt. Governor, Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism

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**Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**  
701 North Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Telephone Numbers**

Toll Free: 800-543-4702

Phone: 225-342-0035

Fax: 225-342-6817

Braille Service:

800-453-4293

**E-mail**

sbph@state.lib.la.us

sbphkids@state.lib.la.us

**Hours**

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Library Services**

Recorded Books &  
Magazines

Braille Books & Magazines

Large Print Books

Descriptive Videos

Online Catalog

**Eligibility**

Any Louisiana resident who is unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation is eligible to receive free library services.

## Update on Digital Players

Here is the latest information that Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped can share with you regarding the new digital players.

**Digital Player Shipments:** In May 2009, eight state libraries will receive the first shipment of National Library Service digital players for their readers to test. Louisiana is not one of those states. After the testing phase, if no serious problems are uncovered, the manufacturer will produce a complete factory run of the digital players, and they will be distributed to the network of libraries for the blind. SBPH anticipates receiving the first shipment of digital players near the end of 2009.

**Veterans:** Veterans of the U.S. military will have the first preference in borrowing a digital player. If you are a veteran, please be sure to contact your reader advisor to verify your status. After all veterans receive a digital player, SBPH will loan the new digital players to active library users who are in good standing with the library, in the order that they are requested.

**Waiting List:** On July 1, 2009, SBPH will

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begin a waiting list for the digital players. If you wish to receive a digital player, you must contact your reader advisor and request to be placed on the waiting list. You may write, call, email or send a fax to SBPH. We will not take names for the waiting list before July 1, 2009.

**NOTE:** If you are not sure whether you are in good standing with the SBPH library, please read the following:

**A library user in good standing** is someone who respects the library and other readers by returning materials on time and asks for renewals when more time is needed. He or she responds to letters about overdue materials, either by returning the materials or by informing the library of an error in the records. He or she does not have a number of overdue or lost items on their record. A reader in good standing returns playback machines for repairs when needed and does not keep more than one playback device at a time.

**A library user in poor standing** disrespects other library users by frequently keeping materials past the due date. He or she has multiple overdue or lost books or multiple playback machines on their record.

**Restore to good standing:** A library patron may be restored to good standing by simply returning overdue materials and/or multiple playback machines to SBPH.

### **Cassette Player Information: What You Need to Know**

**Returning Extra Cassette Players:** SBPH recently sent letters to readers who had more than one cassette player on their library record and we had a great response as many of you returned your extra cassette players. If you recently returned an extra cassette player to SBPH, thank you! If you still have an old or broken cassette player, please let SBPH know so we can send you a "Free Matter for the Blind" mailing label to return it. We encourage readers to keep the box that their player comes in so it can be used in the event that you need a replacement.

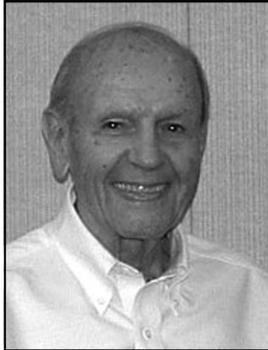
### **Replacing Broken or Old Cassette Players:**

NLS has stopped producing cassette players, which means that our equipment is in short supply. As a result, if you need to replace your cassette player, we must ask you to return your old player before we can send a replacement. If needed, we can send you a "Free Matter for the Blind" mailing label to return it. SBPH thanks you for your understanding during this time of transition.



## *Louisiana Voices* Thanks a Long Time Volunteer

Ralph Sims joined *Louisiana Voices* as a volunteer narrator in 2003, a month shy of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. Sims was a well known radio personality for many years in Baton Rouge. He retired from *Louisiana Voices* in January of 2009 and is moving to North Carolina, to live near family. Mr. Sims has recorded 23 books, including the entire Clovis the Crawfish series by Mary Alice Fontenot. A veteran of WWII, Sims also recorded *Cranking Up a Fine War: A Louisiana Soldier from Boot Camp to General's Aide* by Van R. Mayhall. His last book for Louisiana Voices, *Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City* took over a year and a half to record with the playtime running over 18 hours. *Louisiana Voices* will miss his weekly studio visits, and wish him all the best.



### **RCL 245 - Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City by Jed Horne**

New Orleans journalist Jed Horne offers firsthand accounts of Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact. He argues that the disaster's origin lies in the culture and politics of poverty, homeland security, and race relations. Some explicit language.

## **Visit SBPH Exhibit**

The State Library of Louisiana's Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped presents an exhibit, "Reading is for Everyone" in March 2009, celebrating the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped talking book program. The exhibit commemorates the Pratt-Smoot Act, which was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Herbert Hoover on March 3, 1931.

The exhibit will be located in the main lobby of the library, free and open to the public. It will include a display featuring assistive technology and show the evolution of the NLS talking book player from phonograph to cassette machine to digital player. In conjunction with "Reading is for Everyone" a collaborative display, "Connecting the Dots" will highlight the bicentennial of Louis Braille's birth as well as featuring Braille items that are a part of everyday life. A hands-on table will allow visitors to touch and feel Braille books.

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# Report on NLS BARD and Digital Downloads

NLS BARD—Braille and Audio Recordings by Download – allows eligible library users who have an Internet connection to download books and magazines using a commercially available digital player. BARD began as a pilot project and in late 2008, NLS opened the BARD program to any reader in the NLS network who qualified by meeting the following criteria:

1. Be an active reader in good standing with SBPH – this means that a patron returns their materials on time and does not have an excessive number of books or playback machines.
2. Have a commercially available digital player that is compatible with NLS materials.
3. Have an email address.
4. Have access to a high-speed Internet connection.

If you meet these requirements and want to join BARD, you must fill out an application at [www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb](http://www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb)

Louisiana had 35 library users who qualified and joined up for the first year of the BARD project. During this first year, Louisiana readers downloaded 1329 books and 199 magazines. By the end of 2008, seven more library users from our state joined BARD, and the download of books and magazines continues to increase.

If you like the idea of being able to download your books, you will be able to do so once SBPH loans you the new NLS digital player. You can sign up for the BARD service, download books and listen to them using the new NLS digital player. Once the NLS digital players arrive at the library and are loaned out to readers, SBPH expects more readers to join BARD.

There are currently more than 11,000 digital books available through the BARD project, and a number of magazines. There are books in English and Spanish, as well as books for children and for adults.

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## Donations to the Jones Foundation

The Jones Foundation is a small nonprofit organization that has served as a "Friends of the Library" for SBPH for over 25 years. Members of the Jones Foundation board of trustees volunteer their time, serve as advisors and fundraise for SBPH. Donations and memorials to the Jones Foundation are tax-free and benefit SBPH readers in many ways. For example, the Jones Foundation purchases materials for SBPH that are not covered in the state budget, such as descriptive videos. They also support the annual summer reading program that keeps children engaged in reading while they are out of school. For more information about the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, consult the State Library of Louisiana's web site, or contact Margaret Harrison, Coordinator of Outreach Services, at 1-800-543-4702.



Smittie Bolner, (center) President of the Board of Trustees of the Jones Foundation, chats with Professor George Pugh, (right) a board member, and Shirley Sands, (left) a Louisiana Voices narrator.

The Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped recently received the following donations:

<b>Donor</b>	<b>In Honor Of...</b>
Andrew Dickerson	His Reader Advisor, Sheritha White
Leah Hardy	Philip Jones's birthday
Donald and Marilyn Hardy	Philip Jones's birthday
Elizabeth Hecker Perkins	In memory of Nolan Chaix
Joyce Weber	Thank you for library service
Alice Wilson	Catherine Hewes and Sarah Keesing
Cindy and John Hill	

What if I need tax help and I live outside of Baton Rouge or New Orleans?



If you live outside of Baton Rouge or New Orleans and need free tax help, you may be eligible for free tax

preparation and e-filing for low to moderate income workers courtesy of the Northwest Louisiana Coalition. This year, for the first time, you can dial 2-1-1 statewide to find the free income tax assistance site nearest you. For more information, visit member agency Centerpoint Community Services at [www.centerpt.org](http://www.centerpt.org).

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### Where to Get Accessible Federal Tax Forms

The Internal Revenue Service has tax forms in Braille and large print for the 2009 tax season. To request copies, visit the accessibility page at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for a list of forms available for download or call 1-800-829-3676.

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## FREE Tax Preparation Sites

Catholic Charities is providing free tax preparation assistance this year in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. There is a special emphasis on helping families with children. They suggest that you ask about the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax credits. You will need to call for an appointment and must meet the following requirements:

- \$41,646 household income limit. No itemizing.
- Bring your W2 form
- Identification
- Social Security cards
- Bank information
- Childcare provider's identification number.

The two locations offering this free services are at:

Sojourner Truth Community Center  
2200 Lafitte Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
(504) 827-9963

Hope Haven Community Center  
1131 Baratavia Blvd  
Marrero, LA 70072  
(504) 371-7747

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## News You Can Use

**Announcements....Calling all LSVI alumni and interested parties...**

The 2009 reunion for the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired will take place in Baton Rouge July 31 – August 2, 2009. Please respond by March 20, 2009. For more information, call Shirley Barber Colbert at 318-773-4273 or email her at [shlcbt@bellsouth.net](mailto:shlcbt@bellsouth.net)

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services is a good resource for students with learning disabilities as they transition from high school to adulthood. LRS provides a wide range of assistance to individuals, including college tuition, books, assistive technology and employment services. You can call LRS about receiving services as soon as you have completed your junior year of high school. If you contact the Youth Services Librarian, she can help find your nearest LRS office. You will need to tell her what city and parish you live in. Ask for Emma at either 1-800-543-4702 or (225) 342-9563 or email [sbphkids@slol.lib.la.us](mailto:sbphkids@slol.lib.la.us).

### Free Braille Books Program

In 1997 the American Action Fund started a program to provide blind children a free Braille book every month from a popular children's reading series. The books are for the children to keep and collect. For 2009, the AAF is offering 12 Junie B. Jones chapter books and six Children's Literary-themed Cookbooks including "*Green Eggs and Ham*" and "*Mary Poppins in the Kitchen*." These books are geared for children in grades two through five. Blind youth, blind parents, teachers of the blind, schools and libraries serving them are eligible to participate. To register, fill out the "Free Braille Books Online Application", or use the online application to mail, fax or email to the address below:



American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults

Free Braille Books Program

1800 Johnson Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Phone: (410) 659-9314, ext.

2361 Fax: (410) 659-5129

Web Site: [www.actionfund.org](http://www.actionfund.org)

Email: [brailleaction@actionfund.org](mailto:brailleaction@actionfund.org)

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by SBPH. The library cannot be held responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.

State Library of Louisiana  
Services for the Blind & Physically Handicapped  
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Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**

Special format library materials  
are loaned to qualified patrons by  
Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
State Library of Louisiana  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

