

State Library of Louisiana
Services for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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Hotlines

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

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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

LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism



**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.

Our Pledge to Our Readers

Sometimes it seems that all we read or hear is bad news. In this library newsletter you have read about budget cuts, declining numbers of books and a shortage of cassette players. Despite all this, the staff at SBPH pledges to continue to provide our readers with the good, friendly and reliable library service that you have come to depend on. You are important to us! If you need something, please call, write or send us an email. We are always happy to help.

Sincerely,
Margaret Harrison, Coordinator
mharrison@slol.lib.la.us
1-800-543-4702
sbph@state.lib.la.us

Reader Advisors Alphabet Assignments

Bonnie Bart - H, I, K, L & M
225-342-1148
bbart@slol.lib.la.us

Ray Brister floater
225-291-9391
rbrister@slol.lib.la.us

Shelia Coleman - W, N, O, Q & institutions
225-342-5148
scoleman@slol.lib.la.us

Beverly Dugas - A, B, S & J
225-342-4943
bdugas@slol.lib.la.us

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Carolyn Green - C,E,F,R,U,V,X,Y,& Z
225-342-0035
cgreen@slol.lib.la.us

Emma Schroth - kids & teens
225-342-9563
eschroth@slol.lib.la.us

Sheritha White D,G,P,T & large print
225-342-4944
swhite@slol.lib.la.us

Materials & Machines
225-342-4945
Pete Gagliano
Gordon Loyd
Charlene Moore
Kevin Williams

Louisiana Voices
225-219-1696
lavoices@state.lib.la.us
Angela Cinquemano, Studio Manager
Dylan Wade

Cassette Players in Shorter Supply

Last year, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) did not receive all of the funding requested for the change from cassette to digital books. This lack of federal funding is already affecting our library here in Louisiana. NLS has adjusted plans by ending the production of cassette book players, and by cutting back on the number of recorded books that each library gets from them.

The switch from cassette books to digital books will be a slow one, taking place over the space of several years.

It will take at least 5 years for every library user to get a digital player. During that time, SBPH will circulate books on cassette as well as digital books (DBs). Library users will need to keep one cassette player in good working condition. However, no individual should have more than one cassette player.

Cassette players are becoming scarce, while the need for these machines continues. Here in Louisiana, about 10% of our readers have more than one cassette player checked out. We are working to get all of the duplicate players returned to SBPH. You may receive a letter or telephone call asking you to return a player. Please check your closets and storage areas, locate any old, unused cassette players, and mail them back to the library. We need to recover these duplicate players so they can be fixed and cleaned and loaned to other readers.

If you happen to have a really old machine, such as a record player, please box that up and return it to SBPH. We will be happy to provide mailing labels. There is no charge to return these machines to the library. Just mark the box "Free Matter for the Blind" and take it to your local U.S. Post Office. Old machines are sent to a recycling center to be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.

Return players to:
State Library of Louisiana/SBPH
701 N. Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232

News You Can Use

Google Offers Accessible Web Search for the Visually Impaired

Accessible Search is an early Google Labs product designed to identify and prioritize search results that are more easily usable by blind and visually impaired users. Regular Google search helps you find a set of documents that is most relevant to your tasks. Accessible Search goes one step further by helping you find the most accessible pages in that result set.

In the past, visually impaired Google users have often waded through a lot of inaccessible web sites and pages to find the required information. For more information, visit the FAQ at www.labs.google.com/accessible/faq.html

NASA Invites Students to Name New Mars Rover

NASA is looking for the right stuff, or in this case, the right name for the next Mars Rover. The contest is open to students 5 to 18 years old. To enter, submit an essay explaining why your suggested name for the rover should be chosen. Essays must be received by Jan. 25, 2009. NASA will announce the winning rover name in April

2009. Information about the contest is available at www.marsrovername.jpl.nasa.gov

Resources for Independent Living

(RIL) provides services to individuals with disabilities to assist with living independently. They have a new service providing free lift equipped wheelchair accessible transportation to people with disabilities in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. All current consumers of RIL are eligible and are encouraged to participate in this program. For more information, visit www.noril.org or call toll-free at (877) 505-2260.

How Do I Say That in French?

TTS Voice is a web engine that converts text into lifelike spoken audio in a variety of languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Brazilian Portuguese, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Russian. You can key in the foreign word or phrase of your choice (make sure to select the correct language) and then click to hear it. For information visit www.text-to-textspeech.imtranslator.net

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.

Goodbye to A Longtime Friend

Mr. Nolan Chaix, a volunteer who repaired machines for this library for more than 20 years and who was a leader among the Capitol Club Telecomm Pioneers, passed away on October 24, 2008.

Mr. Chaix was 85 years old and a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II. He worked for the Baton Rouge telephone company for 33 years, and upon his retirement, he joined the Pioneers and began repairing talking book machines. Mr. Chaix will be remembered for his hard work, his dedication to his volunteer



work, and for his sense of humor. He was a special friend to SBPH and to the blind and visually impaired readers of Louisiana.

State Library of Louisiana at National Book Festival

On the last weekend of September, SBPH staff members Beverly Dugas and Pete Gagliano represented the State Library of Louisiana at the National Book Festival held every year on the Mall in Washington, DC.



L to R: volunteer Nikki, Beverly and Pete

Beverly and Pete staffed a booth in the Pavilion of the States that was chock-full of Mardi Gras beads, maps of Louisiana, information for tourists about our beautiful state parks and our many unique festivals, along with information about Louisiana writers and Louisiana libraries. Beverly and Pete were honored to be chosen by State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton to attend the National Book Festival and to showcase our state and our literary heritage to book lovers from around the nation.

Celebrate Louis Braille's 200th Birthday

January 4, 2009, will be the 200th birthday of Louis Braille, the man who created the tactile code that has allowed blind people around the world to read. Many people are planning special celebrations to commemorate this event. The Braille code, based on six dots that fit under the fingertips, allows blind people to read books and magazines, math and science materials, music, and foreign languages.

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) has created an area on its web site to announce special events. Visit www.brailleauthority.org.

The National Braille Press (NBP) is celebrating Louis Braille's 200th birthday by offering a special website to celebrate the creator of the alphabet for the blind. Visit www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/louis/ to learn more about this genius inventor.

If you would like to learn more about the life of Louis Braille, try reading:

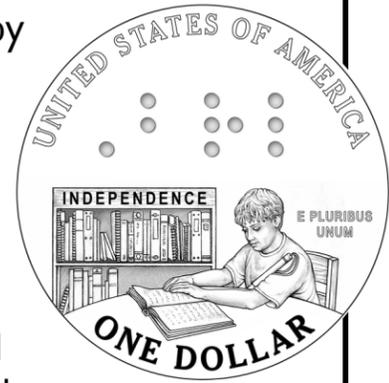
Picture Book of Louis Braille
by David Adler for grades K-3
(RC 53405, BR 14002)

Out of Darkness
by Russell Freedman for grades 4-7
(RC 44992, BR 11319)

Louis Braille
by C. Michael Mellor for junior and senior high and older readers
(RC 63350, BR 16790)

U. S. Mint Unveils Design for First Coin with Readable Braille

U. S. Mint Director Ed Moy unveiled the design for the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar at the National Federation of the Blind's annual convention on July 2, 2008.



"The United States Mint is proud to present the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar coin design. It will be the first coin ever minted in the history of our country to contain readable Braille characters," said Director Moy.

The coin will go on sale in the spring of 2009, the bicentennial anniversary of Louis Braille's birth in 1809. The U.S. Mint will produce 400,000 of the one-dollar coins that will carry a ten-dollar surcharge.

Courtesy of U.S. Mint Press

From the Louisiana Voices Holiday Gift Bag...

For the warmhearted...

Saving Mr. Bingle
RCL 235

By Sean Patrick Doles

As veteran store manager of New Orleans' oldest department store, Haywood Coleman is

shocked when a corporate takeover ousts him and the store's beloved mascot at Christmastime.

Simultaneously coping with the death of his young son, Heywood and reporter Hope Lawson attempt to uncover corruption and save the legendary Mr. Bingle.

For the artist...

A Blue Dog Christmas
RCL 433

By George Rodrigue

Alongside his beloved dogs Trixie and Lady, young George Rodrigue discovers his passion for art in the magical season of Christmas.

For the daring...

Christmas Stories from Louisiana
RCL 357

edited by Dorothy Dodge Robbins and Kenneth Robbins

Visit past Christmases through the eyes of plantation workers,



a family of forlorn suburban ghosts, and a little girl worried about Santa's cholesterol level in nearly twenty unusual short stories. Some language, some violence.

For the chef...

Fruitcake: Memories of Truman Capote and Sook
RCL 295

By Marie Rudisill

Truman Capote's aunt preserves the elegant Southern tradition of baking fruitcakes year round. 22 recipes include birthday, wedding, chocolate and holiday fruitcakes.

For the funnybone...

The Last Holiday Concert
RCL 423

By Andrew Clements

After popular sixth grader Hart Evans' antics anger his chorus teacher, he is put in charge of the annual Holiday concert. As the new choral director, Hart must balance being well liked with being responsible for a successful show. For grades 3-5.

New Staff Member Joins Louisiana Voices



Dylan Wade joins our staff following a stint as a graduate teaching assistant at Louisiana State University in the Philosophy department, where he received a Master's degree this past summer. Raised in Baton Rouge, he spent his undergraduate years in New Orleans at Tulane University and in Edinburgh, Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. Dylan brings to the

recording studio a technological fluency and a love for reading, with which we hope to produce many more quality books. He currently resides near the State Library in Spanish town with his FIV-positive cat, Taco.

New Title from Louisiana Voices

Walk Back the Cat
RCL 434

By Pamela Binnings Ewen

Young Hanna in Jerusalem at the time of the Crucifixion; "Little Guy" in the 1950s coping with the tragic death of his baby brother Sam; and the lizard slick Archbishop Bright in 2006, all intertwine in a story connected to the Shroud of Turin.

Louisiana Book Festival a Huge Success

Saturday October 4, 2008, was the 6th annual Louisiana Book Festival, which is held at the State Library and the State Capitol and the surrounding area. More than 20,000 people of all ages attended this year's celebration of books, writers and readers. William Joyce, a writer and illustrator of children's books, was presented with the Louisiana

Writer's Award by State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton at the opening ceremony. The day was filled with music, food, fun and activities, from crafts and story telling to book singing and appraisals for old books. Mark your calendars for the 7th annual Louisiana Book Festival, which will be held October 17, 2009.