

The logo features a yellow outline of the state of Louisiana on the left. To the right of the outline, the word "Louisiana" is written in a black, cursive-style font. Below "Louisiana", the word "Hotlines" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Louisiana Hotlines

A Newsletter of the State of Louisiana, Office of Lt. Governor, Dept of Culture Recreation and 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.

Dear SBPH Readers,

2008 promises to be a year of change for all of the libraries that serve the reading needs of blind, visually impaired and otherwise print-impaired people. We will use this quarterly newsletter as well as our web site to keep you up to date with news and events.

SBPH is running a brief survey to ask you to evaluate the service we provide. It is part of this newsletter. You can fill it out and mail it to us, or call us and we will read the questions and get your responses over the telephone. We appreciate the time you put into answering our questions. It will help us plan for the future, and allow us to provide better service to you.

We receive most of our library materials, such as the recorded cassettes, and all of the cassette players, from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), which is part of the Library of Congress.

Although NLS is making progress towards the goal of digital books and digital players, advances have been slowed a bit by recent federal budget developments. NLS requested a budget increase of \$19.1 million dollars over four years, but in December 2007 Congress voted to change this to \$12.5 million dollars over the next six years. This may prolong the transition from cassette tapes to digital books.

During 2008, the network libraries will continue to receive books on tape, and will begin to receive digital books. The digital players will not be ready

*Continued on page 2*

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to lend to our readers until some time in 2009. This library is waiting for NLS to release an adjusted timeline for the transition.

By law, veterans will receive first preference in receiving digital players. If you are a veteran of the United States armed services, please be sure to tell your reader advisor, or mark it on your survey.

Recorded cassettes are not going away. They will be an important part of our library collection for a long time. In the future, readers may request a digital player and still keep their cassette player. Some patrons will not be interested in getting the new digital players and books. Most patrons will want to get both kinds of books. This library will not start a waiting list for digital players until we are much closer to being ready to distribute them to our patrons. (If you have any unused tape players, please box them up and return them to SBPH. You can send them Free Matter for the Blind.)

You may have heard that NLS ran a pilot project to test downloading digital books. The pilot project worked well, so NLS is opening the digital download project to patrons who purchase their own digital player. No one is required to purchase a digital player. It is an option that is available for people who want to invest in their own digital player to take advantage of downloading books now. Information about the download project is available on page 4 of this newsletter, on our web site and at the NLS web site.

One further note: When you finish a book, please return it to the library so that others may enjoy it.

Thank you,  
Margaret Harrison

## New Titles from Louisiana Voices



These titles are on the 2009 ballot for the Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award Program.

### RCL 432

#### **The Diary of a Killer Cat**

by Anne Fine. Sarcastic Tuffy the pet cat must defend himself to his family who believes he is terrifying the neighborhood animals.

### RCL 449

#### **The Last Brother: A Civil War Tale**

by Trinka Hakes Noble. Eleven-year-old Gabe enlists as a bugler in the Union Army in Pennsylvania along with his brother Davy.

### RCL 444

#### **Night Boat to Freedom**

by Margot Theis Raven. At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, young Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. With each slave Christmas John helps, Granny Judith adds a patch of color to her freedom quilt.

### RCL 422

#### **Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare** by Patricia Polacco.

Trisha and her embarrassing older brother Richie face off in a daring contest to see whether hockey or ballet is more challenging.

## 2008 Tax Documents in Alternative Formats

NLS has been informed by the Alternative Media Center at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that it will not produce IRS tax documents in Braille for automatic distribution to libraries.

Network libraries and visually impaired taxpayers may visit the accessibility page at: [www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=96151,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=96151,00.html) for a list of accessible tax products in Braille, text, and audio formats available for download. Individuals may also order hard-copy Braille and large-print documents by calling the IRS toll-free number at 800-829-3676.

Questions or comments about IRS documents in alternative media should be directed to Maureen Goulder, IRS Alternative Media Center, at (804) 916-8850 or by e-mail at [maureen.p.goulder@irs.gov](mailto:maureen.p.goulder@irs.gov).

## Coming Soon: “Books & Beyond”

“Books & Beyond”, a new newsletter geared for kids and teens who are under 19 years old, as well as for schools, arrives in April 2008. This newsletter concentrates on issues and concerns for SBPH youth and will be published twice a year in April and October. Topics of interest include fun web sites to visit; the Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award program; upcoming programs and workshops around the state; Summer Reading Program news; and lots of other fun information. We look forward to being able to offer “Books & Beyond” to our younger readers. For more information, please contact Emma K. Schroth, Children and Teen Services Librarian, at 1-800-543-4702 or directly at (225) 342-9563.



**Summer Reading Club 2008**  
**Starring**  
**YOU!**  
Produced by SBPH  
Directed by  
The Children and Teen Services Librarian  
Books! Fun! Thrills! Dazzling Prizes!  
Running Time: June 15—August 9, 2008  
Coming Soon to a Mailbox near you:  
Your invitation!  
For more information please call  
Emma K. Schroth at 1-800-543-4702

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# NLS Expands Digital Download Pilot for the Blind

NLS has put a number of digitally recorded books on a secure web site to test digital downloads. A small number of patrons were chosen to try this new service. Now NLS is allowing additional patrons to register to download digital books from this web site. Patrons who meet the requirements outlined below may apply to join the digital download project. These free downloaded digital books are only available to Louisiana patrons who qualify for, and are registered with, Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

## In order to qualify, a patron must:

1. Be an active reader in good standing with Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) at the State Library of Louisiana – this means that a patron has not failed to return an excessive number of materials
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

You must fill out an application at [www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb](http://www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb)

Once NLS confirms your eligibility, you may set up a user name and a password and learn how to download digital books. There are more than 7,000 books and a number of magazines available from the NLS download web site. Children's books and some Spanish language materials are included in this digital collection.

For more information, please go to the October issue of *NLS Flash* at [www.loc.gov/nls/newsletters/flash/index.html/](http://www.loc.gov/nls/newsletters/flash/index.html/) or contact your Reader Advisor at 1-800-543-4702 or (225) 342-4944.

## Places to buy the Stream

The Victor Stream can be purchased online. DO NOT make a purchase before checking with NLS.

[www.enablemart.com/Catalog/Talking-Books/VictorReader-Stream](http://www.enablemart.com/Catalog/Talking-Books/VictorReader-Stream)

[www.humanware.com/ennew\\_zealand/home](http://www.humanware.com/ennew_zealand/home)

[www.senderogroup.com/index.htm](http://www.senderogroup.com/index.htm)



# American Printing House for the Blind Announces Essay Contest

In celebration of 150 years of building independence for people who are blind and visually impaired, the American Printing House for the Blind is conducting an essay contest. Blind and visually impaired children, adults, and the professionals who serve them, are invited to tell how APH products have made an impact on their lives.

The contest is open to students with a visual impairment in grades 3 through 12 for the 2007-2008 academic year, adult consumers of APH products, teachers of the visually impaired, rehabilitation counselors, and other professionals in the field of blindness.

First place winners in the adult categories and students in grades 9 through 12 can choose either a Braille+ Mobile Manager or a \$1,000 APH gift certificate. Students in grades 3 through 8 who place first can opt for a Manual Perkins Braille or an APH gift certificate worth \$750.

The deadline for entry is April 1, 2008. The entry form, including the official topic and all guidelines for preparing and submitting an essay, is posted on the APH website at: [www.aph.org/essay.html](http://www.aph.org/essay.html)

For print or Braille copies of the entry form, contact Becky Snider at Phone: 800-223-1839 or 502-895-2405, ext. 356 or Fax: 502-899-2363 or email: [rsnider@aph.org](mailto:rsnider@aph.org)

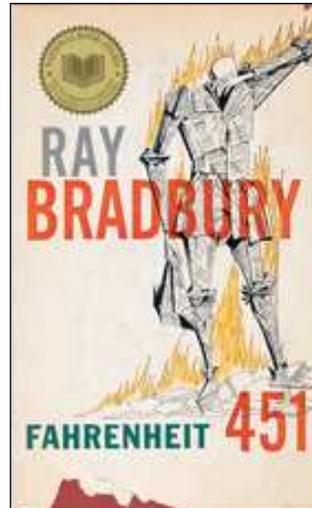
## The Big Read 2008

During the months of March and April, the State Library, East Baton Parish Library and other area parish libraries have all teamed up for The Big Read. The classic, *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury, was chosen to be read

and discussed by teens and adults. The Big Read is a community project that goes on in various states across the country. There are events and discussion groups at local libraries.

SBPH has *Fahrenheit 451*

available on cassette, in large print, Braille and Web-Braille. For information about events at participating libraries, visit the web site [www.readonebook.org](http://www.readonebook.org).



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# 2008 Summer Residential Program For Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

UNO TRAC offers training in assistive technology and computer skills needed for success in college and today's work place. The courses give students opportunities to learn valuable skills,

enhance independence, and make new friends.

Since 1987, TRAC has offered a summer residential program for students who are blind or visually impaired transitioning from high school to college. Students learn to use screen-reading software to access Microsoft products such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Training in Internet, e-mail, and the Blackboard course management software lay the foundation for success in college courses.

As a resident, students have an opportunity to enhance Braille, mobility, and independent living skills through training, campus life, and recreational activities.

This year, students will also be introduced to requisite skills for a successful college experience including time management and, study skills, using university resources, and communicating with faculty.

Eligible students may receive up to 4 hours of college credit. Please contact us no later than April 15 to apply for



Pontchartrain Hall student dorm

college credit. Additional fees apply. All others interested in the program are encouraged to apply by May 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can have the necessary paperwork processed before classes begin.

The program runs June 1 - August 2, 2008. Late

applications will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Student Housing will be located in Pontchartrain Hall, UNO's new student dorm. Each student will have a private bedroom with cable TV and internet access in a four bedroom/2 bath suite.

Amenities also include: Phone service, laundry facilities, game room, study and activity lounges, security cameras and card access. The UNO TRAC Summer Residential Program includes all meals, housing and recreational activities.

For additional information regarding TRAC's Summer Residential Program or our year-round computer training courses, please contact:

Dr. Rose Angelocci  
Rehabilitation Training Specialist  
University of New Orleans  
Training, Resource and Assistive-  
technology Center  
Phone: 504-280-5701 (voice/tty)  
Fax: 504-280-5707  
E-mail: [rangeloc@uno.edu](mailto:rangeloc@uno.edu)  
Web site: [www.unotracs.org](http://www.unotracs.org)

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## Thanking Jones Foundation Donors

The Jones Foundation would like to acknowledge the following contributions:

Thomas Musser  
ExxonMobile Foundation  
Professor George Pugh  
Mrs. Joyce Weber

Jennifer Anjier, in memory of  
Kenneth Kahao

In honor of Philip Jones:  
Christopher Hardy  
Jennifer L. Hardy  
Leah Hardy  
Marilyn Hardy

The Jones Foundation is a small, nonprofit group that works for the benefit of blind, visually impaired and physically disabled Louisianans. The Jones Foundation assists SBPH in a variety of projects and programs, including the annual youth summer reading program, the purchase of descriptive videos, and volunteer recognition programs. Donations to the Jones Foundation are tax-free and are used to sponsor library projects that would not be possible without this support. Please direct any questions to Margaret Harrison, the Secretary of the Jones Foundation, at 1-800-543-4702 or [mharrison@state.lib.la.us](mailto:mharrison@state.lib.la.us)

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## Help Us Thank Our Volunteers

SBPH will be honoring our volunteers in April at our annual volunteer recognition ceremony. People are drawn to work with SBPH and Louisiana Voices because they are helping, caring people who want to bring books to you. Without the help of more than 40 volunteers of all ages, SBPH would not be able to do as much as we do. We invite you to make this celebration an extraordinary one for our volunteers: Please share your thoughts on how much the volunteers mean to you, our readers, for what they do.

Louisiana Voices currently has 12 talented volunteers who contributed 375 hours last year recording books about Louisiana. Thanks to their dedication, Louisiana Voices has been able to

produce 250 books of local interest that otherwise would be unavailable. Volunteers help SBPH in a variety of ways, from inspecting and rewinding cassettes to helping with mass mailings. In addition, the BellSouth Telephone Pioneers repair approximately 1200 cassette players every year.

You may agree we owe our volunteers a great deal of thanks, even though they do not ask for it. If you would like to pass along a special comment or your thanks, contact SBPH in the next two weeks so that we can present your messages to the volunteers at our Volunteer Reception. You can either email us at [sbph@state.lib.la.us](mailto:sbph@state.lib.la.us) or call 1-800-543-4702.

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**

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  
and is supported in part by funding from the  
Institute of Museum and Library Services



# SBPH Patron Survey

We want to improve our service, and we need your help to be able to do so. Please write your answers on this form. When you are done, pull out the survey, fold it so the library address is showing and drop it in the mail. No postage is required. Or call us toll free at 1-800-543-4702, and we will go over the questions with you to get your answers.

Would you like to receive Hotlines via email, rather than print, Braille or cassette?

YES                      NO

Are you an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed services?

YES                      NO

Do you have an email address?

YES                      NO

If yes, what is it? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the scale of:    excellent    good    average    fair    poor  
to answer the following questions:

1. Please rate the service you receive over the telephone when you call SBPH:

excellent    good    average    fair    poor    not applicable

2. How do you rate the books you have received by subject matter?

excellent    good    average    fair    poor    not applicable

3. How do you rate the quantity or number of books you receive?

excellent    good    average    fair    poor    not applicable

4. How do you rate the quality of the sound of the tapes you receive?

excellent      good      average      fair      poor      not applicable

5. Please rate the quality of the tape player you are using:

excellent      good      average      fair      poor      not applicable

6. How do you rate the service you receive when you have a machine problem?

excellent      good      average      fair      poor      not applicable

7. Please rate the courtesy you receive when you contact the library staff.

excellent      good      average      fair      poor      not applicable

8. Do you or a family member use the online KLAS catalog to order books?

YES              NO

9. If so, how do you rate the online catalog?

excellent      good      average      fair      poor      not applicable

10. Have you visited the SBPH web site?

YES              NO

11. If yes, how do you rate the SBPH web site?

excellent      good      average      fair      poor      not applicable

12. When you order books from SBPH, do you receive them in a timely fashion?

YES              NO

13. Have you ever been to SBPH in person?

YES

NO

14. If yes, please rate the service you received while at the library:

excellent

good

average

fair

poor

not applicable

15. Please circle all that apply: I order books by

phone call

mail

email

fax

16. Please rate the SBPH service overall:

excellent

good

average

fair

poor

not applicable

17. Do you have any suggestions for improving the SBPH library service, or any comments that you would like to make?

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