



Louisiana

HOTLINES

**News & Information
about Library
Services for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped**

VOL.6 No.4

Winter 2006

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (SBPH)

State Library of Louisiana
701 North Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Toll-Free: 800-543-4702

Local: (225) 342-0035

Fax: (225) 342-6817

Braille Service: 800-453-4293

EMAIL

sbph@state.lib.la.us

sbphkids@state.lib.la.us

HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

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.

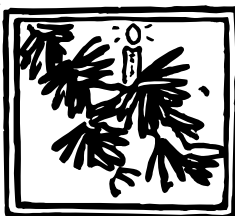
LIBRARY SERVICES

Recorded Books & Magazines

Braille Books & Magazines

Large Print Books

Descriptive Videos



Holiday Stories @ Your Library

If you would like to order one of these titles, please call

1-800-543-4702 for recorded cassettes (RC) and large print (LP) or **1-800-453-4293** for Braille (BR).

Aunt Dimity's Christmas

RC 51061, LP 13701

By Nancy Atherton.

A homeless man collapses outside of Lori Shepherd's English cottage. While he's hospitalized in a coma, Lori is encouraged by her late aunt's spirit to search for his identity and for the reason he arrived at her door.

A Christmas Carol

RC 43546, BR 03328, LP 239

By Charles Dickens.

Classic nineteenth-century Christmas story set in England describes the conversion of grasping old miser Ebenezer Scrooge when he is visited by ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future.



A Christmas Journey

RC 57836, BR 15343, LP 16768

By Anne Perry.

Lady Vespasia attends a holiday party at which her friend Isobel cruelly insults a young widow who commits suicide later that night. Feeling guilty, Isobel goes with Vespasia to visit the victim's mother in Scotland where they uncover a shocking secret.

The Christmas Thief
RC 58834, BR 15551

By Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark.

During a vacation weekend in Stowe, Vermont, lottery winner Alvira Meehan and her friend private investigator Regan Reilly become involved in the case of a stolen Christmas tree.

The Complete Kwanzaa: Celebrating our Cultural Harvest
RC 42533

By Dorothy Winbush Riley.

An anthology of essays, folktales, poems, personal profiles, and recipes on the African American festival of Kwanzaa. The selections serve to illuminate the seven principles of the event and to guide in its celebration. For senior high and older readers.



Hanukkah Lights : Stories of the Season: From NPR's Annual Holiday Special
RC 62028

By Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz.

Twelve stories celebrating Hanukkah by contemporary authors Myra Goldberg, Daniel Pinkwater, Harlan Ellison, Dani Shapiro, Elie Wiesel, Mark Helprin, and others.

Horrible Harry and the Holidaze
RC 58706

By Suzy Kline.

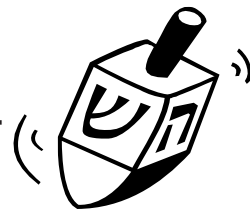
Miss Mackle's third graders share December holiday traditions--

Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Three Kings' Day, and Korean New Year--with one another and with Harry's great-grandfather who just moved into a nursing home. For grades 2-4.

Jeremy's Dreidel
RC 48390, BR 12254

By Ellie Gellman.

Jeremy's art class at the Jewish center is making dreidels for Hanukkah. Each child can design one. Jeremy plans to use a special design for his father, who is blind. For grades 3-6 and older readers.



The Silver Touch and Other Family Christmas Stories
RC 13523

By Margret Rettich.

Twenty-three humorous stories about the mix-ups, mishaps, and triumphs of Christmas. For grades 4-7. Note: Miss Emma, the Children's Librarian, really enjoyed this book -- it is an oldie but goodie!

The Polar Express
RC 23625, BR 06467

By Chris Van Allsburg.

On a dark Christmas eve, a boy boards a mysterious train, the Polar Express, hoping to visit Santa Claus. He and the other children drink hot chocolate and sing carols as the train races through snowy landscapes toward a huge city at the North Pole. Caldecott Medal. For grades K-3 and older readers.



Meet The Digital Talking Book Player

As many of you know, SBPH will soon be moving towards digital technology. Above is a picture of the prototype along with a sample of what the digital talking book might look like.



SBPH will continue to provide cassette books and cassette book players to patrons during the transition from recorded books (RCs) to digital talking books (DTBs), but digital talking books and digital talking book machines (DTBMs) will ultimately replace RC technology just as RC technology replaced its predecessor, the rigid disc (RD) technology. The transition to this digital technology is expected to begin for patrons in **2008** and should require approximately four years to complete.

A detailed description of the strategic plan, the DTBM player and the DTB cartridge have been posted on the NLS web site at:

<<http://www.loc.gov/nls/businessplan/businessplan2006.html>>.

Be A Part of Something Big!



Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School hope to survey 12,000 blind and visually impaired women in order to identify risk factors associated with certain health disorders, such as breast cancer and sleep problems. The results of the survey will help both blind and sighted women make more informed lifestyle choices. A summary of the results will be sent to all participants annually. The survey is open to all women aged 18 or over who are legally blind.

All participants will be entered to win prizes. You could be one of 50 winners to receive a subscription to one of several braille magazines. Two winners will receive a gift certificate worth \$250 to spend with EnableMart. Finally, one grand prize winner will be rewarded with a roundtrip airline fare to anywhere in the continental US.

You can register for and complete the survey in the convenience of your own home using their rigorously tested Section 508 compliant website at **<www.bvihealthsurvey.com>.**

The website also includes a tutorial on completing forms, written by expert screen reader users. The survey may also be completed in Braille, by audio tape, in large print or over the phone. If you would like

more information or if you have questions please e-mail Erin at <bvihealthsurvey@rics.bwh.harvard.edu> or call 1-888-828-4294.



There Were Paws, Claws, Thrills and Chills At the Library!

The 2006 “Paws to Read” and “TSI: Teen Scene Investigation” summer reading programs were a roaring success! Last summer, 79 children and teens registered to participate in the program.

An amazing 45 readers completed the program, reading 887 books between June 12 and August 7, 2006. Kids earned McDonald gift certificates, “Paws to Read” tee shirts, and a book on tape depending on how many books they read. Finally, at the end of the program, a special drawing was held and eight summer readers won a United States savings bond. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Baton Rouge Area Foundation Grant Enhance SBPH Services

The Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has been awarded a \$6,000 grant by the Farrnbacher Memorial Fund of the

Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The grant monies are being used to purchase large print books for the SBPH collection.

“Our mission at the Louisiana State Library is to get books into the hands of Louisiana citizens. This generous grant from the Farrnbacher Memorial Fund and our partnership with the Jones Foundation helps us accomplish that core mission,” said Louisiana State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton.

Last year, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, revenue shortfalls forced the State of Louisiana to cut budgets. As a result, the State Library of Louisiana was not able to purchase all the large print books planned for in 2005/2006. The Board of Trustees of the Jones Foundation saw a need, and stepped in to help.

“Our Foundation is a small but active one,” noted Mrs. Jennifer Anjier, President of the Jones Foundation. “We knew that large print books are published in small quantities and go out of print rather quickly. So the Jones Foundation got involved, applied for this grant, and now SBPH will be able to buy books that would otherwise have been missed.”

The Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped helps visually impaired, physically handicapped and reading disabled Louisianans of all ages.



Thank You Donors!

Services for the Blind and Physically

Handicapped wishes to acknowledge and thank the following people for their generous donations to our friends group, The Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The Jones Foundation purchases descriptive videos, provides incentives for the Summer Reading Program, sponsors volunteer recognition events and offers other financial support to the library so that we may serve you better.

Kentwood Music Club, in honor of Anna Belle Perkins Morris

Tom Musser

ExxonMobile Foundation

Mrs. Joyce Faucheux and David Faucheux

Mrs. Rita Fontenot

Mrs. Patricia Thompson

Philip Jones, in memory of Mrs. W. Carruth Jones

The Farrnbacher Fund of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation
\$6000, for large print books

SBPH Staff News



New Coordinator of Outreach Services

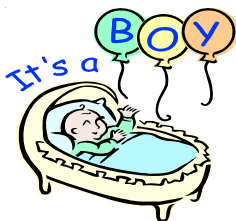
In August 2006, Diane Brown, Deputy State Librarian, announced the promotion of Margaret C. Harrison to Coordinator of Outreach Services. Ms. Harrison has been the Head of Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped since May 2003. Prior to this, she was a reference librarian at the State Library of Louisiana and a reference librarian and instructor at Louisiana State University. She has been a librarian for more than 18 years. She likes to read mystery and spy stories, and she also is a Civil War history buff. In her new position, she will administer SBPH and Louisiana Voices and do outreach work with special populations for the State Library of Louisiana. She will also be Louisiana's designated contact person for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Jones Foundation.



Retirement:

On November 1, 2006, Charles Richardson turned in his rewinder and headphones and retired with more than 36 years of service to the State of Louisiana. His experience will be sorely missed. Charles plans to do some

traveling, to visit family members, and to work on a long list of “honeydos” that his wife has been keeping. Charles supervised the Materials and Machines section of SBPH for the past several years, so his retirement leaves an important position vacant. In the meantime, SBPH staff will pull together do their best to keep talking books moving out to patrons.



Birth:

A new little reader was born on September 10, 2006 to *Louisiana Voices* Manager, Angela Cinquemano. His name is Tavio, and he is a big boy. He weighed a bit more than 9 pounds at birth, and he has been growing steadily ever since. Angi reports that she is busy and very, very happy. The *Louisiana Voices* recording studio had to be closed temporarily, but recordings will resume in early December when the new mother returns to the library.

New Staff Member Added:

In September 2006, Bonnie Bart joined SBPH as our newest Reader Advisor. Bonnie has written a note to introduce herself to SBPH readers, which follows below:



Dear Readers,
Some of you have already met the new reader advisor. I'm Bonnie Bart and I'm glad to be a part of SBPH.

Baton Rouge welcomed my family when we fled New Orleans and the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. I had been working as a library specialist at Delgado Community College, and was assigned temporarily to the library at Baton Rouge Community College. Library work suits my quiet nature, and it gratifies me to find enjoyable material for patrons. While I'm helping you, I'm busily scribbling down titles of interest to me.

I have a long running interest in the visual arts. Artistic talent runs strong in my family, which includes professional and amateur artists in different genres. I studied art in college and worked as a graphic designer for many years. In my spare time I work on designs for ceramic tiles, a project I began in New Orleans. Radio, especially talk, is one of my simple pleasures. Listening to books and articles on WRBH was a part of my New Orleans routine, which I sadly miss.

I have two grown children. My son lives in Japan, where he teaches English language at a junior high school. My daughter, who is an accomplished painter, lives in New Orleans. She works with Habitat for Humanity on the reconstruction of the city's housing.

Like most New Orleanians, I make the weekend pilgrimage to the old homestead. Before the storm, I had learned how to take care of many repairs and improvements

myself by relying on the public library. The recovery process has challenged us to learn so much more. But the nicest thing we learned was how kind and generous people can be.



**New Reader
Advisor
Assignments**

The new Reader Advisor assignments, by first letter of your last name, are as follows:

A, B, S
Beverly Dugas

**C, E, F, U, V, X, Y, Z,
and Nursing Homes**
Carolyn Green

D, G, T, and Large Print
Sheritha White

H, I, K, L, and M
Bonnie Bart

J, N, O, P, Q, R
Ray Brister

W
Margaret Harrison

Children, Teens, and Schools
Emma K. Schroth

END NOTE: Looking for textbooks on tape? Contact Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) toll-free at 1-866-732-3585. As SBPH does not provide any textbooks, let RFB&D help you with your textbook needs.

**Holiday
Closings**



Christmas - December 25, 26
New Year's - January 1, 2
Martin Luther King Day - Jan 15
Mardi Gras Day - February 20

Louisiana HOTLINES is published quarterly by the State Library of Louisiana, Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH), P.O. Box 131, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131.

Subscriptions are available in large print, Braille, email or on audiocassette. All issues are free. Anyone may receive a free large print subscription. To request a free large print subscription or to change your current subscription to a different format, please contact the library.

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by SBPH. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. The library cannot be held responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.

Emma K. Schroth
Emma K. Schroth
Editor

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

Happy Holidays
from SBPH!

