



STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

# Louisiana HOTLINES

LOUISIANA

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

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

**Winter 2007**  
**Vol. 7, No. 4**

## **SERVICES FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

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

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Toll-Free: 800-543-4702  
Baton Rouge: (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.

### LIBRARY SERVICES

Recorded Books & Magazines  
Braille Books & Magazines  
Large Print Books  
Descriptive Videos

### 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.

## **Assistive Technology, LATAN and the Jones Foundation**

There are many devices, from watches to remote controls to computers, that can be adapted and specialized to make everyday life a bit easier for persons with disabilities. Telephones with large buttons and amplified speakers, extra-large playing cards and devices that increase a person's grip or dexterity can be helpful in many homes. The Louisiana Assistive Technology Action Network, or LATAN, has a demonstration center in Baton Rouge where people can preview special devices, equipment and computer programs and actually try them out before making a purchase. LATAN has a range of equipment for people with blindness or low vision, from inexpensive, low tech devices to high tech and more costly things. People can try out a range of low vision equipment like CCTVs, a hand-held "Amigo" portable CCTV, and computers fitted out with JAWS, ZoomText and other programs. Mona Miley, the Assistive Technology Specialist, is a walking, talking storehouse of information

about special gear and computer programs that can be used by people with low vision or people with physical disabilities. She is happy to arrange a tour of the facility and to demonstrate the hundreds of devices that are on display. LATAN does not sell assistive equipment, but the staff will help a person choose the most useful and least expensive option and will provide information about how to purchase adaptive equipment. LATAN staffers will answer questions over the telephone.

For more information, or to learn about LATAN's other programs that benefit the disabled, call 225-925-9500, 1-800-270-6185 V/TT, visit the facility at 3042 Old Forge Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or visit their web site at **[www.latan.org](http://www.latan.org)**

On October 2, 2007, the board of trustees of the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped toured the Assistive Technology Resource Center at LATAN headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The board members were impressed with the many assistive devices that were demonstrated. After the special tour, the members held their quarterly

board meeting, and Margaret Harrison gave them an update on SBPH activities. The next meeting of the Jones Foundation is scheduled for April 15, 2008. The Jones Foundation works closely with SBPH, supporting many library programs and providing materials to the State Library of Louisiana.

For information about the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, or to find out how you can make a donation to the Jones Foundation, please contact Margaret Harrison, Coordinator of Outreach Services, at 225-342-4942 or 1-800-543-4702. Her email address is **[mharriso@state.lib.la.us](mailto:mharriso@state.lib.la.us)**



## **Opportunities for Students**

The Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) has announced three opportunities for school age blind and visually impaired students:

**Braille Readers Are Leaders** is an annual competition that builds a love for Braille reading. More information is available at:  
**[http://www/nfb.org/nfb/NOPBC\\_Braille\\_Readers\\_Are\\_Leaders.asp](http://www/nfb.org/nfb/NOPBC_Braille_Readers_Are_Leaders.asp)**

## Science Academy

The LCB will be hold a Science Academy for blind high school students over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. This event, which is funded by a grant from the NFB Imagination Fund, is limited to twelve students, so do not delay. Contact Eric Guillory, the Director of Youth Services at LCB, for more details.

## Braille Challenge Event

On February 2, 2008, LCB will host a Braille Challenge Regional Event. Look for a postcard with more details that will be available at schools, or call LCB.

Contact information:

Eric Guillory, Director of Youth Services

Louisiana Center for the Blind  
101 South Trenton Street  
Ruston, LA 71270

Phone: 800-234-4166

Fax: 318-251-0109

Email: [eguillory@lcb-ruston.org](mailto:eguillory@lcb-ruston.org)

## Moving Soon? Recently Changed Your Address?

Call your reader advisor and let them know! Help us keep your records up to date so we can serve you better!  
Call **1-800-543-4702**.

## New Titles From *Louisiana Voices*



### Christmas Stories from Louisiana

Edited by Dorothy Dodge Robbins  
and Kenneth Robbins

#### **RCL 357**

Classic and contemporary authors connect this collection of 16 unusual fiction stories with universal Christmas themes. Visit past Christmas times through the eyes of plantation workers, a family of forlorn suburban ghosts, and a little girl worried about Santa's cholesterol level. Some language, some violence.

### Letter in a Woodpile

By Ed Cullen

#### **RCL 327**

The National Public Radio commentator and Baton Rouge Advocate columnist reminisces with delightful and humorous stories about growing up in South Louisiana.

### Southern Fried Divorce

By Judy Conner

#### **RCL 371**

A hilariously candid look at the relationship after divorce between an unconventional New Orleans couple.

## **Three Feet Under: Journal of a Midlife Crisis**

By Christee Atwood

**RCL 201**

The author takes a lighthearted look at a year of her life, journaling funny and perceptive observations about growing older with her husband and their many pets.

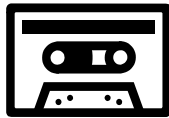
## **Turning Points: Embracing Life's Defining Moments**

By Dino Rizzo

**RCL 436**

With his down to earth style, the pastor of Baton Rouge based Healing Place Church relates how difficult circumstances can serve as pivotal moments of change.

## **Too Many Books or Not Enough?**



Call us at **1-800-543-4702** if you are

- Getting too many or not enough books.
- If you do not like the books you are receiving.
- If you have any special requests.

Our reader advisors are here to make sure you are receiving exactly what you want!

## **Enjoy Children's Christmas and Hanukkah Fiction...**

### **The Star Seed: The Story of the First Christmas**

By Mary Alice

Fontenot

**RCL 184**

In this story of the birth of baby Jesus, a clumsy little angel spreads light and magic accidentally scattering "star seeds" onto the earth.



### **Gaston the Green Nosed Alligator**

By James Rice

**RCL 189**

We learn how Santa finds unusual replacements for his reindeer just in time after moving his toy workshop to South Louisiana. Inspired by the Cajun Night Before Christmas.

### **A Living Christmas Tree**

By Levie L. Medus

**RCL 190**

Published by the Louisiana Forestry Commission in 1947, this short, vintage tale of school children working to find a Christmas tree, teaches young readers to preserve nature.



## **Jenny Giraffe Discovers Papa Noel**

By Cecilia Casrill Dartez

**RCL 217**

Jenny, a young giraffe adopted by human parents, experiences her first Christmas in New Orleans. Her parents, teachers, and friends tell her about Papa Noel, and the bonfires that light his way on Christmas Eve.

## **Christmas at the J-O**

by James Rice

**RCL 220**

Patricia, Jason, and Mama prepare for Christmas on Christmas Eve at the J-Bar Nothing Ranch while waiting for Papa to return home safely from a blizzard.

## **Cajun Night Before Christmas**

By Trosclair

**RCL 290**

The beloved "Night Before Christmas" is reinvented as a timeless Bayou holiday story with Cajun names and dialect of the Acadian people.

## **Toby Belfer Never Had a Christmas Tree**

By Gloria Teles Pushker

**RCL 318**

Toby, the only young Jewish girl in Southern Louisiana town, invites

her friends to celebrate Hanukkah traditions with her family. There is special food called latkes, a game called dreidel, and the Festival of Lights story.

## **A Christmas Dictionary**

By Beverly Barras Vidrine

**RCL 391**

Advent, bible, evergreen, ornaments, and yuletide are a few of the holiday words defined in this holiday collection.



## **Holiday Reads for Adults**

### **Christmas in Plains: Memories**

By Jimmy Carter

**BR 13767, LP 13312, RC 53307**

Carter, who served as the thirty-ninth president of the United States, reminisces about family Christmases over the years, beginning with his childhood on a Georgia farm, through his years in the U.S. Navy, the Georgia governor's mansion, the White House, and then back to Plains. Bestseller. Also available from Web-Braille.



## **A Christmas Secret**

By Anne Perry

**BR 16908, LP 19510, RC 64292**

**(RC in process—reserve a copy)**

London vicar Dominic Corde and his wife, Clarice, spend Christmas in an isolated village where Dominic substitutes for the Reverend Wynter, who has taken a last-minute holiday. But Wynter isn't on vacation at all. Dominic and Clarice investigate but soon find themselves in danger.

## **The Christmas Train**

By David Baldacci

**BR 14463, LP 14816, RC 55045**

Journalist Tom Langdon takes a cross-country train from the East Coast to Los Angeles to spend Christmas with his girlfriend. On the trip he meets a host of zany characters, including one who happens to be his former lover. Bestseller. Also available from Web-Braille.

## **Hanukkah Lights: Stories of the Season: From**



## **NPR's Annual Holiday Special**

Introduction by Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz

**RC 62028**

Twelve stories celebrating Hanukkah by contemporary authors Myra Goldberg, Daniel Pinkwater,

Harlan Ellison, Dani Shapiro, Elie Wiesel, Mark Helprin, and others.

## **Kwanzaa: An African-American Holiday That Is Progressive & Uplifting**



By Haki R. Madhubuti

**BR 08375, RC 32621**

A guide to the meaning and observance of Kwanzaa, an African-American celebration of the "first fruits." Originated in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is celebrated annually from December 26 through January 1. For junior and senior high and older readers. Also available from Web-Braille.

## **Letters from Father Christmas**

By J.R.R. Tolkien

**RC 63808**

A collection of Christmas letters penned by J.R.R. Tolkien and signed as Father Christmas that were sent to Tolkien's children from 1920-1943.

## **Under the Mistletoe**

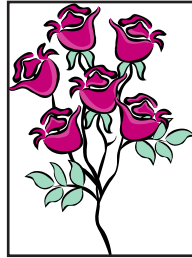


By Mary Balogh

**RC 63665**

Regency England, early 1800s. Five holiday stories whose lonely characters unexpectedly find love and joy.

## Remembrances



Mrs. Edith Robin Gaudin passed away on September 9, 2007, just a few weeks before her 88th birthday. "Edie," as she was known to one and all, was a friendly, hard-working woman who spent more than 20 years volunteering her time at Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the State Library of Louisiana. She was a long-time resident of the Catholic-Presbyterian Apartments in Baton Rouge, and she cheerfully rounded up her friends when it was time to come to SBPH to fold and label the thousands of Louisiana Hotlines newsletters sent to patrons every quarter. Edie was a friend to everyone she met, and she had great compassion for others. All the staff members of SBPH will miss her.



## Holiday Closings

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2007  
Christmas Day, December 25, 2007  
New Year's Eve, December 31, 2007  
New Year's Day, January 1, 2008

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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*  
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Editor

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