

Louisiana Hotlines

A Newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana,
Talking Books and Braille Library
Office of the Lt. Gov, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism



Vol. 15, No. 1

Winter 2015

Holidays Closings

Jan. 19MLK Jr. Day

Feb. 17 Mardi Gras

Currency readers

Recipients of currency readers experiencing technical difficulties may contact the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Call Center at 1.844.815.9388 or meaningful.access@bep.gov. The call center is staffed during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST, excluding federal holidays.

Free slates and styluses

The National Federation of the Blind believes every blind person should have all of the available tools as a means of gaining independence. The slate and stylus have long been and continue to be valuable tools for writing Braille, and have

the same flexibility, portability and affordability as a pen or pencil. The NFB has launched a program to give a four-line, 28-cell, aluminum slate and round, plastic bulb stylus, free of charge, to any blind person in the United States or Puerto Rico who requests them. For more information, visit <https://nfb.org/free-slate-program>.

Unified English Braille

Unified English Braille is intended to develop one set of rules that can be applied throughout various types of English-language material. The exception to this unification is Music Braille, which UEB specifically does not encompass because it is well-standardized internationally. UEB is designed to be understood by people familiar with Braille, while also including support for specialized math and science symbols, computer-related symbols and more specialized programming-language syntax, foreign alphabets and visual effects (bullets, bold type, accent

marks and so on). A cheat sheet is available at <http://www.aph.org/accessible-media-guidelines/UEB-Cheat-Sheet-5-2012.pdf>.

Braille Authority of North America is pleased to share *The ABCs of UEB* by Constance Risjord which outlines the major differences between English Braille American Edition and UEB. Although this is not a complete instruction manual, it provides examples and practice exercises that allow people who already know English Braille American Edition to quickly build on their knowledge to understand UEB.

National Federation of the Blind 2015 Scholarships

To recognize achievement of blind scholars, the National Federation of the Blind annually offers blind postsecondary students the opportunity to win one of 30 merit-based scholarships worth \$3,000 and \$12,000.

All scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, community service and leadership.

Applicants must be legally blind in both eyes; must reside in the United States, the District of Columbia or Puerto Rico; and must be pursuing or planning to pursue a full-time, postsecondary course of study in a degree-granting program at a U.S. institution in the fall semester of 2015.

Scholarship finalists must participate in the entire National Federation of the Blind convention and in all of its scheduled scholarship activities. Each finalist will receive assistance to attend the convention, an excellent opportunity for networking with active blind persons in many fields.

For further information visit www.nfb.org/scholarship or contact Patti Gregory-Chang at 410.659.9314, extension 2415 or scholarship@nfb.org. The application deadline is March 31, 2015.

BookTalks Update

In honor of Black History Month our book for February will be *Cane River* by Lalita Tademy. Tademy's fictionalized account of her maternal ancestors, from 1834 to the 1950s, begins with her enslaved great-great-great-great-grandmother Elisabeth and continues with three generations of successively lighter descendants. She describes these women's struggles for freedom and justice on a Creole plantation in Cane River, Louisiana.

If you would like to order a copy, the book number is DB052281. We will begin our email discussion on Friday, February 20. Not a member yet? Please email Sarah Nelson at snelson@slol.lib.la.us with your name and email address and we will add you to the discussion list.

BOOK ORDER FORM – Carefully tear out page and return with your order.

Name: _____ **Telephone** _____

Put a check next to the titles you wish to order. Fold over so that the return address on the reverse side is visible. Secure with tape and drop it in the mail.

New digital books

Fiction

- DB 79316 *Ghost Ship: A Novel from the NUMA Files* by Clive Cussler
- DB 79182 *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- DB 79103 *Walking on Water (The Walk series, book 5)* by Richard Paul Evans
- DB 79053 *Natchez Burning* by Greg Iles
- DB 79470 *The Good Girl* by Mary Kubica
- DB 79215 *The Last Bride* by Beverly Lewis
- DB 79194 *The Marriage Pact* by Linda Lael Miller
- DB 79216 *Bridge to Haven* by Francine Miller
- DB078712 *The Devaney Brothers: Michael and Patrick* by Sherryl Woods
- DB079312 *Carnal Curiosity* by Stuart Woods

Nonfiction

- DB078977 *My Usual Table: A Life in Restaurants* by Colman Andrews
- DB 78990 *Dark Invasion: 1915; Germany's Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America* by Howard Blum
- DB 78942 *The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person Can Create Extraordinary Change* by Adam Braun
- DB079036 *Hard Choices* by Hillary Rodham Clinton
- DB 79436 *Save the Date: The Occasional Mortifications of a Serial Wedding Guest* by Jen Doll
- DB 78979 *That God's Work Be Displayed: What I Saw after I Lost My Sight* by John Erickson
- DB 79228 *Open Mind, Faithful Heart: Reflections on Following Jesus* by Pope Francis

DB 79313 *Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance – What Women Should Know* by Katty Kay & Claire Shipman

DB 79237 *The Women of Duck Commander* by the Robertsons

DB 79355 *Good Call: Reflections on Faith, Family, and Fowl* by Jase Robertson

Visual Braille App for iPad®
Works with your Apple® iPad® or iPad mini® running iOS 7® or later.

The free Visual Braille is a Braille writer for your iPad. It displays a

traditional six-dot keyboard and simulated Braille on your iPad screen. You can edit and save your work, which makes Visual Braille perfect to use for on-the-go practice for NLS certification exercises.

Visual Braille supports any code you wish to use, because it makes no assumptions about what you are writing. Use it to help learn new codes, such as Unified English Braille, and record your progress.

For transcribers who are blind, Visual Braille also works with Bluetooth refreshable Braille displays with keyboards, such as APH's Refreshabraille 18.

FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED

TALKING BOOKS AND BRAILLE LIBRARY
701 N. FOURTH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Books and Beyond:

A Section for Children and Teens

Free Braille books program

The American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults has selections from the Free Braille Books Program and would like to get them into the hands of children who will enjoy them. All of these gently used books are in contracted Braille. They are at two reading levels. The first level is for children in grades K-2. The second level is for children in grades 3-6. If you would like to have some of these books sent, please contact the Action Fund at 410.659.9315, Extension 2287 or visit www.actionfund.org/free-braille-books for more information.

Low vision/technology workshop

The Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired is sponsoring the Low Vision/Technology Workshop for teachers of the visually impaired, classroom teachers, parents of visually impaired/blind students and para-educators. The free workshop will be held Jan. 29, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the campus of the Louisiana Schools for Deaf and Visually Impaired, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA in the

Student Center. Workshop topics include:

- Apple accessibility
- Low vision technology tools and resources
- iPad compatible magnifier equipment
- Services available to students statewide

For additional information, contact Blanch Faulk at 225.757.3489. To register, please send your name, address, school system or place of employment, phone number and email address to BFaulk@lsdvi.org. Register by Friday, Jan. 9.

Free Family Information Fair

The St. Tammany Parish School System Special Education Department Team is planning a Family Information Fair for students with disabilities and their families to be held at Harrison Curriculum Center, Thursday evening, Jan. 22, from 5:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Family Information Fair will connect students with disabilities and their families to the agencies and community resources that will assist them as they make plans to transition from school to meaningful

employment, career choices and living independently. The address and phone number for Harrison Curriculum Center is: 706 West 28th Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, 985.898.3300

2015 NFB Writer's Division writing contest

The annual youth and adult writing contests sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind Writers' Division will open Jan. 1 and close April 1.

For the first time, the contest will have a theme to honor the Federation's 75th birthday. All submissions must somehow incorporate the theme of 75. It does not have to be about the anniversary of NFB. It could just be the number 75, or perhaps a diamond anniversary, 75 steps to your destination or even 75 balloons. Let your imagination take over.

Adult contests, including poetry, fiction, non-fiction and stories for youth, are open to all entrants who are at least eighteen years old.

The youth writing contests for poetry and fiction promote Braille literacy and excellence in writing. The contests are divided into three groups – elementary, middle, and high school.

Prizes for contest winners range up to \$100 for adult categories and up to \$30 for youth.

All contest winners will be announced the first week in July at the Writers' Division business meeting during the NFB national convention. In addition, a list of winners will appear on the NFB website at <http://writers.nfb.org>.

All contest winners' pieces will be considered for publication in the divisions magazine, *Slate & Style*.

For additional details and submission guidelines, visit the NFB website at <http://writers.nfb.org>

Support our TBBL friends organization

The Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation acknowledges the following donors for their generous contributions:

- Jane Wheelahan
- R. C. Rogers and G. H. Rogers

Since 1981, the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation has acted as a friends group for the Talking Books and Braille Library in the State Library of Louisiana. It provides a mechanism for accepting donations to enhance and support services to the blind and physically handicapped community statewide. It directly supplements the programs and initiatives of TBBL within the State Library. It is a primary sponsor

of the State Library's large print collection, TBBL's summer reading program and descriptive video collection, and supports volunteer efforts in the area.

To contribute, make checks payable to the Jones Foundation and mail to the following address:

Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation
1131 N. River Road
Port Allen, LA 70767

All donations are tax deductible. Anyone who makes a donation receives a one year membership to the Jones Foundation. For meeting information call Shelia Coleman at: 225.342.4942.

Talking Books and Braille Library 701 N. Fourth St Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Telephone numbers

Toll Free: 800.543.4702
Phone: 225.342.0035
Fax: 225.342.6817
Braille Service: 800.453.4293

Email

tbbl@state.lib.la.us
tbblkids@state.lib.la.us

Hours open to the public

Mondays - Thursdays
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday, by telephone and email only.

Library services

Recorded Books and Magazines
Braille Books and Magazines
Large Print Books and Big Books
Descriptive Videos
Online Catalog and BARD Download Service

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.

Talking Books and Braille Library
State Library of Louisiana
701 North Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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Special format library materials
are loaned to qualified patrons by

Talking Books and Braille Library

State Library of Louisiana

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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