



Maryland  
State Library

**LBPH**

# Beyond the Stacks:

*Making Maryland Accessible*

*New Series No. 1, Issue 2 (Oct. thru Dec 2017)*

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### From the Director’s Desk:

It’s been a great few months at LBPH! In our last issue, we reported that we had added new staff and that significant changes are coming our way. I’m happy to say that those changes are rolling out quickly and efficiently.

Amanda Gonzalez, our Patron Services Librarian, has worked with her team to add additional hours to our manned reference desk. The reference desk will now be open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Due to overwhelming call volume, however, there may be times where the library is unable to take your call immediately. Please leave a single message; we strive to return calls within one business day.

The library has collaborated with the Baltimore County Library System to produce a number of training videos over the next year that will focus on assistive technology. Our Assistant Director John Owen and our Technology Training Specialist Jerry Price will head this project.

The library has been in the process of developing an accessible website. This project, spearheaded by the Maryland State Library, is nearly completed. Our goal is to have the site operational by October 15.

Additionally, the library has established our own Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/mdlbph](http://www.facebook.com/mdlbph)) and our own Twitter Page ([www.twitter.com/md\\_lbph](http://www.twitter.com/md_lbph)). We encourage all our patrons to engage with our new social media pages.

-Leslie Bowman, Director, LBPH

### Met the LBPH Staff:

*LaShawn Myles, Youth Services Librarian*



LaShawn Myles became part of the LBPH team this July, as our new Youth Services Coordinator. LaShawn has worked as an educator and school library media specialist in the Baltimore City School System for the last 18 years. “Working with children is my passion. Nothing is more enjoyable than seeing a child’s eyes light up and feel fulfilled in what you do.”

When she is not working diligently on causes for children, you will find her in her garden. “It isn’t right unless my hands are on the ground. After all the hard work; laboring in the sun, and digging, you can sit back to see such a magnificent garden. Working with children is just like that. You have a seed, and you invest so much in nurturing that seed, you forget how much work you put into it. But eventually, you see that child is no longer a seed but has grown into something so splendid.” Her primary goal for youth services at LBPH is to bring programming and literacy initiatives for children to young adults across the state of Maryland.

## National Library News & Updates:

### NLS Prepares for Refreshable Braille and eReaders:

*The following is a copy of a news release published by the National Library Service.*

“Braille needs to migrate. It needs to follow print into the electronic era where it can be more flexible, more ubiquitous, more accessible, more manageable.” These are the words of NLS Director Karen Keninger at the April 2016 NLS national conference in San Francisco.

Earlier this summer, Kim Charlson, Executive Director of the Perkins Library, and Keninger, representing NLS, stood side by side to announce a practical step toward the future of braille distribution. They were launching a pilot to test the effectiveness of distributing digital braille files for use on Braille eReaders—those refreshable braille displays that are now becoming more widespread and portable. In the pilot, the Perkins Library is providing Braille eReaders to registered borrowers for testing the ease of use and effectiveness of electronic braille files on the devices.

Non-braille users might be surprised to learn what a difference a change to electronic distribution can make for braille users. Digital files have been used for years to produce hard-copy paper Braille books, which, when printed, require between two to eight physical volumes per title. That bulkiness—in production, handling, shipping, storage—is precisely what digital files and Braille eReaders can help alleviate. No more struggling to get enormous volumes of summer reading into a weekend bag!

There’s no question that the fundamental process of distributing digital braille files works, and that eReaders can serve them up easily for users of braille. What we still need to understand is how best to turn that process into practice. What’s the right format for distributing the files? Can it be easily scaled to serve as many patrons with as many Braille files as possible? Can we ensure the process lightens the burden on cooperating network libraries? And, above all, is the process easy for patrons to use?

It is precisely the right moment for this pilot. Braille eReaders have been around for decades, but their cost has put them out of reach of many. Now eReaders are becoming more affordable and easier to operate. The pilot is timed to help NLS, and partner organizations like the Perkins Library, prepare for broader use among their patrons.

NLS will keep you posted as the pilot unfolds. It's not just NLS; it's braille itself that's on the move.

—Taken from the NLS Press Release of 8/31/2017

### [NLS Releases Kiplinger's Retirement Report on BARD:](#)

*The following is a copy of a news release published by the National Library Service.*

Chris Mundy of the Multistate Center East (MSCE) Quality Assurance Program has announced that an audio edition of the magazine Kiplinger's Retirement Report has now achieved full NLS Quality Assurance (QA) acceptance. Published monthly, Kiplinger's Retirement Report covers practical strategies to help grow retirement savings, how to make money last during retirement, maximization of Social Security and Medicare benefits, and other retirement-related topics.

The audio version of Kiplinger's Retirement Report is produced by volunteers at the Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library in Daytona Beach. Florida's volunteer program demonstrates a high level of expertise with the production of this title.

Kiplinger's Retirement Report is available for download from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website and subscription through the Magazine on Cartridge program under the magazine code KRR4. It joins the following roster of QA-approved, network-originated magazines processed at MSCE and posted on BARD.

[Here is a list of approved library recordings from across the country:](#)

Audubon (AUD3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Cowboys & Indians (OCI3)

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Humpty Dumpty (HDM3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Missouri Conservationist (MOC3)

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

National Geographic Traveler (NGT3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Oklahoma Today (OKT3)

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Playboy Magazine (PBY3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Seventeen (SVT3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Southern Living (SOL3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Smithsonian (SMT3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Vital Speeches of the Day (VSD3)

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

—Taken from the NLS Press Release of 9/15/2017

### [Volunteer Organization Helps Blind Get Computers:](#)

Computers for the Blind (CFTB) is a volunteer organization devoted to providing computers to persons who are blind or visually impaired. They hope that each individual who is visually impaired may experience the information age positively and productively. CFTB believes that technology opens new worlds and creates an opportunity for greater personal freedom.

Patrons can purchase a desktop computer for \$110 or Laptop for \$130. Both computers have a choice of MAGic (for low vision magnification)

or NVDA (screen reader software). You can pay by check, money order or credit card.

If patrons are on SSI or SSDI for blindness, they can send in their current (within the last 12 months) benefit verification letter from SSI/SSDI along with a check or money order \$50 for a desktop or \$70 for a laptop along with the attached application.

**Send document and funds to**

Computers for the Blind  
1201 S. Sherman St., Ste 204  
Richardson, TX 75081

You can also access our website at [www.computersfortheblind.net](http://www.computersfortheblind.net) to view the fact sheet about the computer, battery life, and its warranty, etc.

Once funds (and all necessary documents) are received, the current shipping time is 4-6 weeks out at this time.

If you have ANY questions, please feel free to contact us via email or call [214-340-6328](tel:214-340-6328) to place your order.

**LBPH News & Updates:**

**Maryland LBPH to Phase Out of Books on Recorded Cassette (RC)**

The National Library Service has finished the process of digitizing all recorded cassettes and has begun the process of uploading all books to the Braille Audio and Recording Download (BARD) website. This process is expected to take some time, as there are thousands of titles being added to the site daily.

Because of this digitization, the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped has ended distribution of recorded cassettes and has begun the process of returning them to the National Library Service for recycling. This project is expected to be completed by Spring 2017; the newly empty shelves will be utilized to expand the Braille collection.

Patrons who are still interested in obtaining materials in Recorded Cassette should note that while the library is no longer housing Recorded Cassettes, LBPH will still send Recorded Cassettes from the National Library Service's repository at the Midlands Office.

Recorded Cassettes that are part of the Marylandia Collection (books that are written about Maryland or by Marylanders) are being evaluated for digitization. Books that are in excellent condition will be digitized and added to the BARD website for distribution in the coming years.

### [The Library Goes Social, Shares Vision Awareness:](#)

In early September, the Library introduced two new social media pages on Facebook and Twitter. The social media pages are currently live and ready for action! However, we need your help to make them a success.

Through-out the month of October, the library will be using our new social media pages to honor Vision Awareness Month – and we are encouraging patrons to engage with us. It can be as simple as sharing your favorite book, a news article relating to vision and vision awareness, or simply sharing the library's new pages with friends and family.

Here is the best part! As a thank you for helping us celebrate Vision Awareness Month and our new social media pages – we will be giving away LBPH flash drives to one lucky patron per week who posts and shares our Facebook page! Use the hashtag [#MDBLPHVisionMonth](#) or [#BlindnessAwarenessMonth](#) so we can find you!

### [Tell Us Your Library Story:](#)

February is Library Lovers Month, and the library would love to hear from you and your family about how much you enjoy the library. Please take the time to share your library story with us; tell us about your favorite book; your favorite librarian; or how the library has made a difference in your life. The library will accept letters between December and January.

The library will promote the messages all through February by sharing copies of the letters on social media, with local newspapers, with local and state funding authorities, and more!

If you are interested in sending a Library Story to the library, please send them to:

Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped  
c/o Ashley Biggs, Outreach Librarian  
415 Park Ave.,  
Baltimore, MD 2101

Alternatively, they can be E-mailed to [Ashley.biggs1@maryland.gov](mailto:Ashley.biggs1@maryland.gov)

All submitted stories should be approximately 500 to 800 words, legibly written (typed, Braille, or handwritten).

### Share Your Reviews:

The library is in the process of beginning a patron driven book review newsletter and needs your help to make it happen. We are looking for individuals who would like to write reviews about books they have read (borrowed from the library) and would be willing to share those reviews with other patrons. As we all know, the best book recommendations come from other readers, and this is a chance for our supporters to engage with each other. Will you help us create a new patron-to-patron book review newsletter? Here is how you can help!

### The Rules:

1. All contributors must be 18 years and older.
2. All reviews must be emailed to [Ashley.Biggs1@maryland.gov](mailto:Ashley.Biggs1@maryland.gov) with the subject line "Book Review."
3. All reviews must be rated "PG."
4. Any book may be considered, so long as it was borrowed from the library.
5. Not all reviews will be published in our newsletter; some may be published on Social Media or not at all.

### Regularly Scheduled Library Programming:

The Technology User Group (TUG) meets on the second Saturday of each month between March and November. **October's meeting will be held**

**Prince George's County's Greenbelt Library.** The meetings being promptly at 10:00 AM and usually last an hour. Topics and announcements are emailed, so please contact Jerry Price to be added to the list. He can be reached via email: [assistive.technology@maryland.gov](mailto:assistive.technology@maryland.gov).

### College Is Year Round:

The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program, created specifically to help print-impaired students in college gain access to educational materials, operates year round. This program, located within the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped building on Park Ave., in Baltimore, and using technology that just a few years ago was out of reach to most Marylanders, the MAT team now has the ability to assist students in obtaining textbooks in a wide verity of formats: MP3, DTB, large print, or PDF so they can have the best possible chance at success. For more information, contact the Maryland Accessible Textbook program: [accessible.textbook@maryland.gov](mailto:accessible.textbook@maryland.gov) or 410-230-2448.

### Recent Library Events:

#### National Federation of the Blind BELL Academy Visit at LBPH

On August 8, 2017, the NFB BELL Academy visited LBPH for two hours. In attendance were five children, ranging in ages from 5-10 years old, and a host of volunteers from the NFB. Young patrons were treated to Storytime with the youth librarian and then were able to participate in a program with FutureMakers. FutureMakers provided hands-on, material-rich experience built around exploring technology, tools, and maker-media.

#### Children's Summer Reading Ends

The Library, collaborating with the Pratt Central Library, held its final Summer Reading Event on September 26 in the library meeting room. Families from both libraries participated in a wide variety of crafts focused on the theme "building." Children and their families created slime, Lego racetracks, Solo Cup towers, and yarn art sun-catchers.



### Staff Appreciation Day Held by the Friends

The Friends of the Maryland State Library of the Blind and Physically Handicapped held a Staff Appreciation day on September 8, 2017.

Providing light refreshments, including a fresh omelet bar, the Friends discussed their goals for the upcoming year, their hopes for the library, and their appreciation of the Library and encouraged the library staff to continue working for all of Maryland.

### Library Day of Peace at National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore:



Librarian LaShawn Myles visited the National Foundation of the Blind's Jernigan Institute in Baltimore on Saturday, September 16. The visit was part of a nationwide library campaign encouraging everyone to come together and promote peace. The library, in partnership with the Friends of the MD State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, provided crafts, refreshments, and face painting in the hopes of promoting World Peace Day on September 21.

### Special Announcements & Closings:

- The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be closed on Monday, October 9 in honor of Columbus Day.
- Please return any unused or no longer needed Large Print bags. Our

supply is running low.

- The library's website is nearly complete; please be patient while the staff and developers make sure that the site meets all accessibility requirements laid out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.

## LBPH F.A.Q.:

### Have you checked out a book or magazine in the last year?

For patrons to retain borrowing privileges with LBPH, it is required that you check out materials at least once per year; this includes books and magazines through the library and the National Library Service's Braille Audio and Reading Download service.

If you no longer wish to receive services through LBPH and you still have books or equipment in your possession, please return them as soon as possible. You may call to restart your service anytime within the next five years without having to fill out a new application.

It is our goal that you receive the services you want and at the frequency that you want them. Alternatively, if you no longer wish to receive services through LBPH, we would like to assist you with closing out your account. In either case, please do not hesitate to contact us so we may better serve you!

### I have been waiting forever for a particular book! Why is that?

Due to high demand and limited supply, the library is not always able to keep every title in our repository. The library does request additional copies from the National Library Service, but the process may take up to eight weeks. Patrons can cut their waiting time down considerably by utilizing the Braille Audio and Reading Download (BARD) service. Books downloaded from BARD can be played on the Digital Book Player or any smart mobile device.

## How are books selected for recording?

The National Library Service selects the same types of books that are available through public libraries. Titles are considered for production in braille or audio format when favorably reviewed in reputable nationally distributed publications or included in authoritative bibliographies. The National Library Service strives to provide classics and informational readings, along with modern recreational works that appeal to children, young adults, and older readers. Science fiction, mysteries, romances, and westerns are represented, as well as bestsellers, standard religious works, and some foreign-language materials. Network libraries produce books of local or regional interest.

## Great Reads for the Family:

“I’ll Take You There” by Wally Lamb:

*Film professor Felix Funicello typically hosts a movie club for his students at an empty New York theater. One night, the ghosts of two stars of the silent film era appear to him at the theater, offering an exclusive screening of scenes from his life. Some strong language. 2016. DB86808*

“Old Bones” by Nan Boyce

*During a vigil calling for police reform, students from historically black Spelman College are assaulted by rifle fire from a passing vehicle. Detective Sarah “Salt” Alt is investigating a recently discovered body, but she is called onto a riot detail when Atlanta reaches a boiling point over the Spelman violence. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017. General Adult. DB86942*

“Last in a Long Line of Rebels” by Lisa Lewis Tyre:

*When the city announces plans to seize her family’s house, which is 175 years old, through eminent domain, twelve-year-old Louise Mayhew decides to find a way to save it. Her ancestor’s diary, which links the house to the Underground Railroad, and a hidden treasure, may provide the answer. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2015. DB87232*

## Contact Us:

Library Telephone: Main: 410-230-2424 | Reference: 410-230-2443

Email: [Reference.desk@maryland.gov](mailto:Reference.desk@maryland.gov)

Address: 415 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

## Current Hours:

Monday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Tuesday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Wednesday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Thursday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Friday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

2nd Sat. 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

## Reference Help Hours:

Monday thru Friday 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Website: [www.marylandlibraries.org](http://www.marylandlibraries.org)

Social Media:

 [www.facebook.com/mdlbph](http://www.facebook.com/mdlbph)

 [www.twitter.com/md\\_lbph](http://www.twitter.com/md_lbph)

*The library's newsletter is written by the Library for the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped staff. It is currently only available in large print. The information contained within the newsletter is meant to be entertainment and informational only.*