



Beyond the Stacks:

Making Maryland Accessible

New Series No. 1, Issue 3 (Year End 2017)

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From the Director's Desk:

It has been an amazing year of growth and renewal at LBPH! As winter arrives and snow beings to fall, we would like to take a moment to recap many of the great things that have happened over the last year as well as highlight some of the staff changes that have taken place. We have always had amazing people here at LBPH. We have always wanted to provide the very best service to you, our patrons. Because of your advocacy and the support of the Maryland State Librarian, we have had the opportunity to welcome new additions to our LBPH family. We are poised for success and have been building opportunities for collaboration among ourselves, librarians across the State of Maryland, and other organizations with the goal of working together to make Maryland Accessible.

Additionally, the LBPH has established its own Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/mdlbph) and its own Twitter Page (www.twitter.com/md_lbph). We encourage all of our patrons to engage with our new social media pages.

As you enjoy this edition of Beyond the Stacks, know that we at LBPH are just getting started. We will be trying out many of the ideas you have shared with us concerning programs an outreach. We have also introduced quite a few of our own. Join us and let us know what you like. Also, please continue to let us know your ideas about library programs and what sparks your interest.



The entire staff wishes you a Happy New Year and looks forward to working with you.

-Leslie Bowman, Director, LBPB

Met the LBPB Staff:

We would like to introduce the 2017 Staff of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.



R-L:

Shirley Roane, Larry Smith, John Owen, Joseph Beckett.

Jerry Price, Tia Nelson, Kim Brown, Matthew Nixon, Lisa McDowell, and LaShawn Myles.

Mozetta Trueheart, Leslie Bowman, Caja Sugars, Amanda Gonzalez.

Mary Ramos, Lisa Washington, Pat Bennett.

Not Pictured:

Ashley Biggs, Rick Tyson, R. T. Buie, Kim Brunson, Darlena Queen, Shawna Hough, and Shannon Gardner.



LBPH 2017 Recap!

A lot of wonderful happenings at LBPH this year, including events, staff changes, building changes, and more – and we want to recap all of them with you.

LBPH Staff:

First and foremost, the library was able to add many new positions to improve and expand services; we are now (nearly) fully staffed. We are so excited to have this creative and talented team working with us; each one brings something special to LBPH, and we are thankful they are here!

Administration

- Leslie Bowman – Director
- John Owen – Assistant Director
- Lisa McDowell – Office Secretary
- Matthew Nixon – Business Manager
- IT Computer Network Specialist - vacant
- Darlena Queen – Receptionist, ABACUS
- Chief Financial Officer - vacant

Accessible Technology Education Program

- Jerry Price – Assistive Technology Education Program Coordinator

Building and Maintenance

- Rick Tyson – Building Manager
- R. T. Buie – Maintenance. ABACUS
- Shannon Gardner – Custodian, ABACUS

Collection Development

- Mary Ramos – Collection Development Librarian
- Recording Studio Manager - vacant

Outreach Services

- Ashley M. Biggs – Outreach Librarian

Maryland Accessible Textbook (MAT) Program

- Joseph Beckett – MAT Program Coordinator
- Tia Nelson – MAT Administrative Specialist
- Caja Sugars – MAT Program Associate
- Lisa Washington – MAT Program Associate

Patron Services

- Amanda Gonzalez – Patron Services Librarian
- Mozetta Trueheart – Patron Services Associate
- Kimberly Brown – Patron Services Associate

Security Services

- Shawna Hough, ABACUS
- Kim Brunson, ABACUS

Technical Services

- Larry Smith – Equipment Manager
- Shirley Roane – Circulation Clerk, lead
- Pat Bennett – Circulation Clerk

Youth Services

- LaShawn Myles – Youth Services Librarian



Great Library Events:

The library hosted some great events over the last year! Here are some wonderful highlights:

- TUG visited Prince George's County Public Library System
- NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Academy
- Summer Reading for LBPH Youth
- Day of Peace 2017 hosted at the Jernigan Institute, NFB
- Orbit Reader Workshop, TUG program
- Peabody Creative Access Concert
- BISM Technology Workshop
- Center Stage, Performance of the play Endgame
- Friends of the Library Annual Meeting with guest speaker Andy Levy

What Would You Like to See?

The library is always interested in providing programs and educational opportunities. If you have a suggestion or program idea, please let us know!

You can contact Ashley Biggs, Outreach Librarian:
Ashley.biggs1@maryland.gov or 410-230-2430.

Making Maryland Accessible through Outstanding Service!

Our staff prides itself on upholding the library's mission of providing accessible reading material to those who are unable to read standard print. To that end, our team has seen some wonderful success this year regarding providing more streamlined services, answering more reference questions, and faster turnarounds on machine repairs. Some of this includes:

- Faster turnarounds on machine repair and replacement requests.
 - Machines are now shipping within 24-business hours of an approved request.
- The reference desk is now open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, adding an extra hour!
- Adding more digitally downloaded titles to our collection from the BARD catalog.



[National Library News & Updates:](#)

The National Library Service has officially uploaded 100, 000 books to the Braille and Audio Recording Download (BARD) service. This pilot program began in 2006 with only 1, 200 talking books and magazines. This milestone marks an important achievement for the program, one which NLS Director Karen Keninger notes as “amazing.” She states, “I had the privilege of taking part in the initial pilot test for BARD, when I was working in Iowa,” NLS Director Karen Keninger says. “It was clear from the first day that this was a giant leap ahead for the program. I’m amazed at how far we’ve come since then—and I bet the 58,000 patrons who downloaded more than four million items from BARD in the past year are too. And we’re not done yet!”

BARD, which launched its first iOS app in 2013, is the main source of digital downloading for patrons across the country. NLS saw this and has worked to streamline this process. “Our regional librarians told us that more of their patrons would download books from BARD if there were fewer steps involved,” Consumer Relations Officer Judith Dixon says. “BARD isn’t hard at all with a little practice. But we want to make it as easy as possible for everyone.”

But the innovation does not stop there – NLS is currently looking for new ways to deliver books directly to patrons over the coming years.

[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, LBPB 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:](#)

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.

Please visit the library's Facebook page – www.facebook.com/mdlbph and like, share, and comment!

You can also find us on Twitter using the handle: [@mdlpbh](https://twitter.com/mdlpbh)! Share your thoughts, favorite stories, and more!

We want to hear from 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 stories 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 or call 410-230-2430.

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

Special Announcements & Closings:

- The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be closed on Monday, December 25 in honor of Christmas Day.
- The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be closed on Monday, January 1 in honor of the New Year Holiday.
- Please return any unused or no longer needed Large Print bags. Our supply is running low.

Contact Us:

Library Telephone: Main: 410-230-2424 or 800-964-9209

Reference: 410-230-2443

TTY 410-333-8679 or 800-934-2541

Email: 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.
2nd Saturday, Monthly 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Website: www.marylandlibraries.org

Social Media:

 www.facebook.com/mdlbph

 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 in the newsletter is meant to be entertainment and informational only.