

Donations

We would like to thank the following individuals who have made generous donations to the St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped this past year. Margo Miller, Ray and Mamie Kalliel, Leigh B. Decker, Janet Pomann, John Langolf, Lynne M. Shafran, and the Estate of Sue Allen.

All donations are tax-deductible and are used to purchase additional reading materials for our patrons. If you would like to make a donation, please write LBPH on the note line of the check and it can be sent to: St. Clair County LBPH, 210 McMorrان Blvd., Port Huron, MI 48060.

Booktalkers Book Club

The Book Talkers next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Friday, January 15th at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron. The books to be discussed are:

“All the Light We Cannot See” DB79182 by Anthony Doerr. When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc’s father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence, some descriptions of sex, bestseller, 2014.

“The Cherry Cola Book Club” DB76695, by Ashton Lee. Librarian Maura Beth Mayhew must increase her small Cherico, Mississippi library’s circulation or face closure. To convince the town council that the library is viable, Maura Beth starts a book club, where the members share food, stories, and love, as well as literature. Commercial audiobook, 2013.

For more information about the book club, contact Mary at the library 810-982-3600 or 1-800-272-8570.

VISIONS 2016

If you are looking for what's new in technology and services for the blind and visually impaired, then you will want to plan on attending Visions 2016 on Wednesday, May 11th. This free event will be held in the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, MI.

There will be over 35 exhibitors to demonstrate the latest products and services available for the blind and visually impaired. Braille devices, magnifiers, electronic readers, CCTV's, accessible hardware, and software applications are a few of the products that will be demonstrated and on display. There will exhibitors to offer information about support services for the blind, transportation services, and leader dogs.

Speaker presentations will be offered each hour. Parking and admission are free. Refreshments will be for sale and sighted assistants will also be available for anyone needing help. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

Be My Eyes

Be My Eyes is a free application for your smartphone that connects visually impaired or blind people with sighted volunteer helpers from around the world via live video chat. By using the camera built into your smartphone you can ask for help with anything from the expiration date on a milk container in the fridge to navigating new surroundings.

Hans Jørgen Wiberg, who is visually impaired, came up with the idea for the application through his work at the "Danish Blind Society." In April of 2012 he presented his idea at a startup event in Denmark and won the prize for the "most innovative idea." The app became reality on January 15th, 2015 when it was launched. To get more information about using the app or wanting to volunteer your eyes to help someone out, visit the website: www.bemyeyes.org. This app is compatible with iPhone 5, 6, and 6+, iPads, and iPod touch, and it requires iOS 7.0 or later.

Support Groups

The Blue Water League of the Blind (BWLb) invites you to join their support group every third Thursday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm to have fun and help you cope with vision loss. Meetings are held at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron, MI. At the regular meeting on January 22nd, elections will be held and the group will discuss what the members would like to do in the coming year. To find out more about the BWLB meetings or upcoming activities, call Phyllis at 810-966-9185 or any of the officers listed on their website at www.bwlblind.com.

The Low Vision Support Group meets at River District Hospital on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm. The group coordinator, Paul Dailer, is happy to announce that they now have limited transportation for Port Huron, Marysville, and St. Clair areas through Blue Water Area Transit (BWAT) for \$1.00 each way. If you are interested in getting a ride to a meeting, call Heidi at the BWAT at 987-7373 one week before the meeting to make arrangements.

The theme for next year is “Meet your local business owner and the benefits of shopping local and how we can work with them to meet the needs of the blind and visually impaired.” Speakers for next year are the owners of Sue’s Coffee Shop, Tim Horton’s, London’s Ice Cream, Ace Hardware, and Chocolate Harbor. For more information about the Low Vision Support Group, contact Paul Dailer at 810-329-5172.

Available Only on BARD

Here are some titles that you will only find on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website. If you would like us to download any of the following titles onto a digital cartridge for you please call the library at 1-800-272-8570 or 1-810-982-3600.

“The Man who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits”, DBC02962, by Les Standiford. With warmth, wit, and good cheer, Standiford shows how the unlikely success of “A Christmas Carol” revitalized Charles Dickens’s languishing career and revived the celebration of the near-forgotten Christmas holiday.

“The Christmas Pearl”, DBC00080, by Dorothea Benton Frank. The matriarch of a family of belligerent idiots, Theodora finds her efforts at bringing them together for a South Carolina Christmas reunion have gone badly awry, until a very special someone uses Gullah magic and common sense to bring about a miracle. Includes recipes from the author.

“A Dog Named Christmas” DBC01593, by Gregory D. Kincaid. Discovering that a local shelter is looking for temporary homes for their dogs over the Christmas holidays, Todd, a developmentally challenged young man, persuades his reluctant family to take in a special canine named Christmas, who teaches an entire community a lesson in the transforming power of love and goodwill. The first book in the Christmas Dog series. Unrated, 2008.

“Christmas with Tucker” DBC01594, by Gregory D. Kincaid. It is the winter of 1962, and Kansas is hit with one of the worst blizzards in its history. It is during this season that twelve-year-old George is called upon to endure the death of his father and the upkeep of the family farm. When his mother and sisters leave for Minnesota, George has only his grandparents and the companionship of Tucker, an Irish Setter, to help him persevere through these difficult challenges. Can he find the strength to walk the road that leads to healing, finding his true self and ultimately becoming a man? The second book in the Christmas Dogs series. Unrated. 2010.

“Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid’s Memoir that Inspired Upstairs, Downstairs and Downton Abbey” DBC02943, by Margaret Powell. Brilliantly evoking the long-vanished world of masters and servants portrayed in "Downton Abbey" and "Upstairs, Downstairs," Powell's classic memoir of her time in service is the remarkable true story of an indomitable woman who, though she served in the great houses of England, never stopped aiming high.

Making the Old New Again

The National Library Service (NLS) is entering its final stages of converting the old cassette books onto the new digital cartridges. Except for a small number of medical and scientific works that are now obsolete, every usable cassette book will be converted into a digital format.

In the next six months, approximately three thousand titles should be converted by NLS contractors. In the following two years, NLS expects to assign the remaining fourteen thousand titles for conversion. All of these titles will be posted to BARD as quickly as possible.

The total number of books on the BARD website is nearing the 70,000 mark. Thanks to NLS and other libraries that are able to contribute by recording books of local interest in their studios and uploading them to BARD for all to enjoy.

Library Closings

The LBPH will be closed the following days:

- Thursday and Friday, December 24th – 25th for Christmas.
- Thursday and Friday, December 31st and January 1st for New Years.
- Monday, January 18th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Monday, February 15th for Presidents' Day.

If you think you will run out of books, please call us a few days before the holiday to be sure we have time to get them into the mail for you.

DISCLAIMER

The LBPH does not endorse any companies, products, or services referred to by this newsletter, nor does it validate any websites that may be mentioned. This information is offered as possible solutions for your needs, and it is up to you to research the topics given for accuracy.

St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI., 48060-4014

**FREE
MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR
HANDICAPPED**

St. Clair County LBPH

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

SEND MAIL TO:



St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.

Port Huron, MI 48060-4014

TO CALL US DIAL:



982-3600 Local Calls
1-800-272-8570 Toll Free

TO CALL THE TTY DIAL:



455-0200 Local Calls
1-866-462-2075 Toll Free



TO SEND US A FAX:

810-987-7326

SEND E-MAIL TO:

lbph@sccl.lib.mi.us



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:

www.sccl.lib.mi.us/LBPH.aspx

TO VISIT US:



Check in at Circ Desk

Please call ahead

Mon—Fri 8:30 am—5:00 pm