

# WHAT's Line

Alabama Public Library Service

Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

[www.statelibrary.alabama.gov](http://www.statelibrary.alabama.gov)



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## ***Distribution Program***

The goal of the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) is to ensure that every person with both hearing and vision loss has access to modern telecommunication tools and the training necessary to use them. NDBEDP strives to grant every individual the opportunity to interact with the world as an involved, contributing member of society. Promoted by iCanConnect, this program provides outreach, assessments, telecommunications technology, and training free of charge to those who meet federal eligibility guidelines.

To help people stay connected, a wide range of technology is available, from tablet computers and Braille displays to mobile devices and amplified phones. Training is provided in people's homes so they can learn how to use their new technology.

For more information about the NDBEDP, including the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) consumer guide and eligibility rules, visit [www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP](http://www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP). Or you may call 1-800-825-4595.

## ***Volunteer Appreciation***



Above, with Regional Librarian Ruth Evans (left), is Harold Malone (right), our only Telephone Pioneer equipment volunteer, as he accepts a gift card in recognition for his service. Volunteers Linda Taylor, Ron Belcher, Ed Leader, and Janet Hamilton also received gift cards, and we couldn't thank them enough for all they do!

## ***Returning Magazine Cartridges***

Hopefully all of you are now aware that you must return a digital magazine cartridge the same way you return a digital book cartridge - by flipping over the card in the card slot and sending it back in the mail. If not, you will receive overdue notices, and eventually your magazine subscriptions will be suspended.

In order to avoid being a delinquent magazine patron, it is important to know the loan periods for magazines on cartridge. If you get a magazine cartridge containing only weekly magazines, it is due one week from the date of receipt. If the cartridge contains monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly magazines, it is due four weeks from the date of receipt. If there is a mixture of weekly and monthly issues on the same cartridge, the loan period is four weeks from the date of receipt.

If you find all of these due dates confusing, the best way to handle your magazine cartridges is to listen to them before you listen to your books, returning them quickly so they won't be overdue.

Also note, *Talking Books Topics*, the catalog on digital cartridge is a bimonthly magazine, so it must be returned four weeks from the date of receipt, just like any other magazine. The order form for the catalog is sent in a separate mailing.

If you are a BARD subscriber, all digital issues of magazines are available for download at any time.

## ***American Foundation TV Listing***

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) mandates several of the most popular television networks to make some of their prime-time and children's programs accessible to viewers with vision loss by adding video descriptions. The American Foundation for the Blind has created a Described TV Listings page that shows which programs will be described as well as when they air. To access the listings, visit: <http://afb.org/tv>.

## ***Staffing Changes***

Dana Barlow, part-time reader advisor in BPH, resigned her position in mid-June to pursue a career in the private sector. We wish Dana the best!

## ***NLS Consultant Visits BPH***

Our National Library Service consultant, MaryBeth Wise, visited BPH on July 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> to conduct an inspection and a review of our services. She previously served as a quality assurance specialist in audio books and as a narrator of talking books, having recorded over 80 titles.

MaryBeth is also an actress and has appeared in numerous plays and some television shows. She teaches acting at The Theatre Lab in Washington, D.C.



NLS Consultant MaryBeth Wise (left) works with Reader Advisor Mike Coleman (right).

## ***There's (Almost) an App for That!***

The National Library Service is in the process of developing and testing applications that will allow you to download and read its books using commercial mobile devices. Two versions are being developed—one for Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPod, iPad) and one for Android devices, 4.2 or later. The apps will allow you to download books directly from BARD or transfer them from your computer. You will also be able to communicate with Bluetooth-connected refreshable Braille displays for reading Braille (BRF) files.

NLS is hoping for a release before the end of 2013. The apps will be free, but you must have a BARD account. If you need to register for BARD, visit [www.nlsbard.loc.gov](http://www.nlsbard.loc.gov) and complete a BARD application online.

## ***Holiday Closures***

BPH will be closed for the following state holidays:

- 9/2/13 – Labor Day
- 10/14/13 - Columbus Day
- 11/11/13 - Veteran's Day

**\*\*Of course, you can always leave us a voicemail message or send us an email over a holiday.\*\***



**Regional Library for the  
Blind and Physically  
Handicapped**  
6030 Monticello Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Free Material  
for the Blind  
and Physically  
Handicapped

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## WhAT's Line

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