

WHAT's Line

Alabama Public Library Service
Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

www.statelibrary.alabama.gov



Vol. 35 No. 4

Fall 2013

White Cane Safety Day

BPH Librarian Ruth Evans (pictured below on left) along with Reader Advisor and Library Consultant Ken Herston (not pictured), staffed a BPH booth at White Cane Safety Day, held in Birmingham's Linn Park on October 19th.



Below, a little girl pets a service dog at White Cane Safety Day.



Helpful Hint

What do you do if you are at the end of the book and want to start over at the beginning?

It's simple! Press the PLAY button twice! This only works if the player tells you "End of book."

Alabama Council of the Blind

The 58th annual Alabama Council of the Blind Conference and Convention was held in Montgomery on September 20th through September 22nd. The emphasis was on Braille and technology, and there were about 130 individuals in attendance. The legislative session featured Governor Robert Bentley and Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education. Kim Charlson, American Council of the Blind president and library director at the Perkins School in Massachusetts, provided the keynote address.

Kim also participated in the “Overview of Library Services” panel, along with BPH Librarian Ruth Evans and BPH Reader Advisor Tim Emmons (pictured below). Teresa Lacy, with the Alabama Instructional Resource Center in Talladega, was also a panelist.

NLS and Commercial Audiobooks

NLS is partnering with commercial audio publishers to obtain audiobooks so it can make titles available to patrons in a more timely manner. This means BPH patrons will sometimes have access to audio versions of commercially produced books at the same time or shortly after the release of the printed book. Because NLS will not have access to the print book before its audio release, it may not be possible to assign sex, violence, and strong language content descriptors to these titles. The tagline “unrated” will appear in the annotation for such books, but whenever possible NLS will assign the ratings, so our patrons won’t receive inappropriate materials.

The photo below is from the Annual Council of the Blind Convention. From left to right: Ruth Evans, Tim Emmons, Kim Charlson, Teresa Lacy.



Distinguishing Digital Books and Magazines

If you have color perception, the mail cases for magazines are dark red in color, and the magazine cartridges are sky-blue. Both the cases and the cartridges are labeled “Magazines” in Braille, and the cartridges are labeled “Magazines” in large print.

In addition, the magazine mail case is imprinted with the tactile image of an open book, with raised letters saying “Library of Congress” and “Audio Magazines” just above and below the Braille label. The mail cases for digital books are imprinted with a tactile image of the Great Seal of the United States, a bald eagle holding olive branches and arrows in his right and left talons.

We hope this will help you avoid a mix-up when returning your book and magazine cartridges. Magazines are returned to Springfield, MO, so a mismatched book cartridge is, for all practical purposes, lost.

BARD Mobile App

In late September, the National Library Service (NLS) released the BARD Mobile application (app) for the iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch.

The BARD Mobile app enables BPH patrons with a BARD account to download audio and Braille books, magazines, and music scores directly to their iDevices. The app is available for free download from the iTunes store or through the Apple app store. If you have trouble finding this app, search online in the app store using the term “bardmobile” or “nls.”

Since a download can require many minutes of time, it is generally recommended that patrons use available WiFi access rather than more limited and costly data plans. The BARD Mobile app takes more time for downloading because the book, magazine, or music must first be “unzipped.” NLS expects to release a similar app for Android devices within the next year.

Holiday Closures

BPH will be closed for the following state holidays:

- 11/11/13 - Veteran’s Day
- 11/28/13 & 11/29/13 - Thanksgiving
- 12/24/13 & 12/25/13 - Christmas
- 01/01/14 - New Year’s Day
- 01/20/14 - Martin Luther King Jr. 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

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for the Blind
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WhAT's Line

Published Quarterly by the Alabama Public Library Service
Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
6030 Monticello Drive Montgomery, AL 36130

Director

Rebecca S. Mitchell

Regional Librarian

Ruth Evans

Editor

Stephanie Taylor

Executive Board

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District 5

J. Elbert Peters

District 6

Virginia Doyle

District 7

T. Ralston Long IV

Contact Information:

Toll Free

1-800-392-5671

Local

334-213-3906

Ruth Evans, Regional Librarian
revans@apls.state.al.us

Mike Coleman, Reader Advisor
mcoleman@apls.state.al.us

Tim Emmons, Reader Advisor
temmons@apls.state.al.us

Ken Herston, Reader Advisor
kherston@apls.state.al.us

This publication is supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the State of Alabama.