Library Without Walls 2013 Conference

On June 4, 2013, the Lansing Braille and Talking Book Library will be hosting the Library Without Walls Conference entitled “The Freedom of Digital Books.” This conference will be located at the Lansing Community College, West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing, Michigan. The conference runs from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. with check-in between 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. You need to register in advance and the cost is $10 per person which includes morning refreshments, a box lunch and an afternoon snack.

The conference features programs and speakers that discuss technological issues geared toward those with low vision or those who are blind. The keynote speaker will be Karen Keninger, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Persons attending will have their choice from 18 breakout sessions; however, they can only attend three throughout the day. These sessions run from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Breakout session options include: iOS (iPhone and iPad), Android OS, Mac computing, JAWS screen reader, Window-Eyes screen reader, screen enlargement software comparison between ZoomText and Magic, Braille book production, and K-12 reading using the iOS devices.

If you are interested in more information or how to register, please call Scott Norris at 1-800-992-9012.
Library Update

Now that summer is upon us, it might be a good time to join a few events that we are hosting at the Macomb LBPH:

From July 1 – August 30, 2013 patrons of all ages can participate in our 2013 Summer Reading Program “Ground-breaking Reads.” To participate all you need to do is read three books: one fiction, one non-fiction and one that you pick from the following categories: mystery, romance, western, science fiction, fantasy, or historical fiction.

Call us at 586-286-1580 to let us know you would like to participate and we can send the three books out to you. When you have finished with each book, call us again with your name and the book you just read (you can give us the title or the DB number) and we will track it for you. When you have finished all three books, you will be entered in a drawing for a free Victor Reader Stream First Generation. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd and the winner will be notified by phone. One entry per patron.

For those of you not familiar with a Victor Reader Stream, it is a device that will play your audio books that you get from our library. It is like your talking book player that we provide you but it is much more portable; it can even fit into a shirt pocket. It can also play other digital formats of audio books and so much more.

Again, please give us a call at 586-286-1580 on or after Monday, July 1st to sign-up for the Summer Reading Program.

The other program we will be hosting at the library is the Vision Network Group. The group is hosted by Sharon Lotoczky and will meet two times a month during the summer months. The group consists of people who have low vision or who are blind and their guests are always welcome too. Sharon will feature some speakers on specific topics but will also facilitate open meetings where members can share questions and answers on vision and related

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issues. No registration is necessary, drop-ins are welcome and you do not have to go to every meeting. The meetings are scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesday of June, July and August which are Tuesday June 11th and 25th, July 9th and 23rd, and August 13th and 27th. The meetings will run from 10:00 am until noon. For more information or to suggest topics for the meetings, please call us at 586-286-1580.

You can now reach us toll-free at 855-203-5274 or via our standard phone number 586-286-1580. Either phone number will work to connect with us. Also, do remember to leave your name along with your phone number if you leave us a message. It is helpful so we can look up your record and make sure we provide the right service for the right patron.

Have a great summer!

Assistive Technology Demo

For those interested in having a one-on-one demonstration of various devices that assist people with vision issues, Sharon Lotoczky will be available to meet with you to show you the ins and outs of all types of products. Sharon will be here on Wednesday, June 5. An appointment is necessary, so please call the library to register at 586-286-1580.

Philmore Voicemail

Philmore Voicemail is Social Media for those with visual impairments. By using the phone, you can access message boards that range from any topic you can name – cooking to computers to music to sports to current issues - where people leave questions, answers and comments that you can access at any time. You can also sign up for instant messaging via phone and set up your own voicemail box to receive messages.

For more information, please call 1-866-443-8862 or visit the Philmore website at: www.pmpmail.com/voicemail/home.html. There is a monthly fee to join and you may want to inquire about possible phone charges as well.
Reader Recommendations

Robert Marsden recommends *The Bone Garden* by Tess Gerritsen. The skeleton of a woman murdered in the nineteenth century leads Boston medical examiner Maura Isles to investigate the possibility of a past serial killer. Harvard medical student Norris Marshall is the prime suspect and enlists classmate Oliver Wendell Holmes to exonerate him. Robert says the characters are well developed and the story is intriguing without being too gruesome. Some violence. DB 64980

Rita Taylor recommends *Lawn Boy* by Gary Paulson. A twelve-year-old boy decides to put his unusual birthday gift--his late grandfather's riding mower--to use by cutting his neighbors' lawns for money. Soon business is booming and he has his own employees, his own stockbroker, and sponsorship of a prizefighter. Rita found this to be a really good story for all ages and too much fun! DB 65342

Rita also enjoyed two books by Richard Paul Evans. *Road to Grace* is the third book in the Journal of a Walk series by the author. In this story, Alan Christoffersen continues his cross-country journey. On the way from South Dakota to St. Louis he encounters a Holocaust survivor, a single mother, and his late wife McKale's estranged mother, who had abandoned her young daughter. Rita says the storyline is historically interesting and very inspirational. She recommends you have a couple of tissues handy! DB 74858

The other book by Richard Paul Evans that Rita read is *Lost December*. Luke Crisp, son of a wealthy businessman, runs with a wild crowd in grad school, wastes his trust fund, and loses his father's respect. Ashamed to ask for financial support, Luke--now homeless--takes a job in one of his dad's stores and tries to rebuild his life. Rita feels this story could be thought of as a modern Prodigal Son parable. DB 74065

Phyllis Gramza recommends *Double Cross The True Story of the D-Day Spies* by Ben MacIntyre. The author recounts the deception the Allies used to keep secret the planned location of their 1944 invasion of France. It details the efforts of Tommy "Tar" Robertson of Britain's MI5 to turn playboys, party girls, and eccentrics--all of whom were Nazi spies--into double agents. Phyllis says this book is as suspenseful as any spy or mystery novel, but it is all true and features excellent research by the author. DB 75277
Summer Beach Reads

Here are some suggestions for good summer 2013 beach reads...

Summer Rental by Mary Kay Andrews
Unemployed banker Ellis, model Julia, and teacher Dorie--once childhood friends in Savannah, Georgia--rent a beach house in Nags Head, North Carolina, for a month. The women, now in their thirties, share hopes and disappointments and shelter a stranger on the run from her husband. Strong language and some violence. DB 74258

The Island by Elin Hilderbrand
Two generations of Tate women--recently divorced matriarch Birdie; her restless daughter Tate; her other daughter Chess, who is reeling from her ex-fiancé’s death; and Birdie’s widowed sister India-seek solace at a rustic family-owned cottage on Tuckernuck Island near Nantucket. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. DB 71796

Never Knowing by Chevy Stevens
Adopted Sara Gallagher, now a mom, tries to locate her birth parents. Sara is horrified to learn that her birth mother was raped by her biological father--a notorious serial killer. But when he starts calling Sara, she must befriend him to assist in his capture. Violence and strong language. DB 74118

Wild: from lost to found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed
Author recounts the three-month, 1,100-mile solo hike she took on a whim in 1995, after years of devastating personal losses. It describes her encounters with rattlesnakes, locals, fellow hikers, and her own thoughts during her trek from Los Angeles to Washington State on the Pacific Crest Trail. Strong language. DB 74646
**Summer Beach Reads continued...**

**Heat Wave** by Nancy Thayer
After Carley’s husband dies, she discovers he has left her and their daughters in financial straits. To survive, Carley turns their Nantucket house into a bed-and-breakfast. The first summer is one of upheaval—and newfound love. Some explicit descriptions of sex. DB 74175

**The Columbus Affair** by Steve Berry
Discredited Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tom Sagan is about to kill himself when Zachariah Simon appears with proof that he is holding Sagan’s estranged daughter hostage. Simon demands that Sagan help him uncover a link between explorer Christopher Columbus and the Sagan family. Some violence and some strong language. DB 74841

**American Sniper: the autobiography of the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history** by Chris Kyle
Texas ranchhand-turned-Navy SEAL recalls his career as the sniper with the most kills in U.S. military history. Describes his training, his four tours of duty in Iraq, and the strains of deployment on his family life. Violence and strong language. DB 74166

**Defending Jacob** by William Landay
Assistant district attorney Andy Barber investigates the murder of a fourteen-year-old boy in his New England town. But the evidence points to Andy’s son Jacob, the victim’s schoolmate, and it becomes known that Andy and Jacob are from a line of violent men. Strong language and some violence. DB 74312

**Coping with Vision Loss: Tell Them What You Need**
This workshop, presented by Sharon Lotoczky, LMSW, from the Troy Work/Life Solutions LLC, is for people with visual impairments and their friends and family. Attendees will learn effective communication skills to express their needs while coping with vision loss. The workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 24, 2013** and will run from **9:30 am to noon**. To register, please call the library at 586-286-1580.
**Brailler**

If you need something Brailed, you are able to use our Duxbury software and Juliet Pro Brailler Printer in the Macomb Library for the Blind to print out your Braille. You can type in what you want Brailed on our computer and the software will translate it into Braille for you. Although this is a self-service feature, please call the library in advance to make sure a staff member will be present to log you onto the computer.

**Sudoku Lovers or Wannabes**

Macomb LBPH patron Kathy Balon loves Sudoku and has some information for those who also enjoy this pastime:

It is so much easier if you or a friend can copy numbers from your Sudoku book onto a larger grid. This way, you can pencil several numbers into the same block until you can figure out which one remains. It is easier to find regular print size puzzles than large print. If large print is not enough, very large may help you. If you are just starting, the newspaper has puzzles Monday through Friday. Monday’s is the easiest and it gets more difficult each day. Kathy started with Monday and got hooked.

If you would like a copy of a large grid that you can use for Sudoku, give us a call at the library 586-286-1580, and we will send one to you.

**Magazine Subscribers**

Our National Library Service has informed us that they will be converting audio magazines from cassette to digital cartridges. If you already subscribe to magazines on cassette, you will automatically receive your magazines on cartridge. If you subscribe to several magazines, you will receive them all on one cartridge.

Please note that these cartridges must be returned so your subscription will not be suspended. The cartridges will come in a red case and the procedure of flipping over the mailing card to return it to their source is the same as returning your digital book.

Please call us with any questions you may have regarding magazines. Also, if you are not a current magazine subscriber and are interested in receiving them on digital cartridge or if you would like to change your current subscriptions, please call us at 586-286-1580.

**Macomb LBPH Holiday Closures**

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library, and LBPH, is closed on the following dates for holidays:

**Saturday, May 25- Monday, May 27:** Closed for Memorial Day

**Thursday, July 4:** Independence Day
Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a public service of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

**Estate Donation Information**

Individual and corporate donations, legacy funds and named gifts are important resources for the library. Recently MLBPH customer Jessie Bush left a $2,000 gift to the library to support resources for the blind and physically handicapped. Jessie was a regular user of MLBPH services and we are grateful for this bequest.

A monetary contribution, will bequest or endowment is a wonderful way to give back to the community for many years. Previous monetary contributions have gone to support the MLBPH summer reading club, to expand our described DVD collection and to buy new technology such as flash drives for downloading audiobooks via BARD. If you are considering a donation or a will bequest to MLBPH, please contact Library Director Larry Neal at 586-226-5011 or lNeal@cmpl.org. Your gift will help us enhance library services to the entire MLBPH community so that all may read!