

# **OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER**

**Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled at Cleveland Public Library  
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## **The Year in Review, and Moving Forward to 2017**

**As 2016 comes to an end, the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) has enjoyed another busy and productive year. OLBPD circulated approximately 621,689 items to 12,730 active readers. The collection now has more than 82,000 titles, including new Playaway books as well as described Blu-Ray and DVD titles. Patrons using BARD downloaded 139,651 books and magazines and OLBPD answered over 2,100 BARD service and tech support requests. OLBPD inspected over 500,000 returned books, and less than one-percent were damaged or missing media. OLBPD repaired over 200 cassette and digital talking books and added nearly 5,000 copies of high-demand digital talking books to meet patron reading needs. OLBPD answered over 22,000 patron phone calls requesting service and over 8,600 mail and email requests.**

**In 2016, the National Library Service (NLS) announced exciting plans for the future of our library service. NLS is developing its next generation of digital talking book players. These players will have wireless capability, so patrons will be able to download a title directly from BARD to the player, and libraries will have the capability to “push” books directly to players. Another milestone event for the service this year was an amendment authorizing legislation to allow NLS to provide playback equipment in all formats. As a result, NLS will pursue lending refreshable braille displays to patrons.**

**In July, OLBPD hosted over 100 patrons in Cleveland for our annual Family Fun and Learning Day patron event. Patrons enjoyed listening to our keynote speakers - Fox 8 Cleveland newscaster Wayne Dawson and Pam Davenport from the National Library Service. OLBPD also produced “Ghoulardi: Inside Cleveland TV’s Wildest Ride” by Tom Ferans. “Ghoulardi” was the third book to be produced and made available on BARD from OLBPD.**

**This year has definitely raised the bar for us in 2017. OLBPD will strive to continue providing readers with the best service possible, and continue to build upon and improve services in the future. In 2017, OLBPD will begin preparations to offer custom produced cartridges individualized for each patron loaded with multiple titles on one cartridge as an alternative to sending one title per cartridge mailings. Furthermore, OLBPD will plan to make ready for the future initiatives of the service announced by NLS. Thank you for a great 2016 and all of your continued support, and we will all be working hard for an even better 2017.**

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## **Talking Book Topics Shipping with Order Form**

To better accommodate the needs of subscribers to the audio version of Talking Book Topics (TBT), NLS resumed circulating the magazine cartridge and the order form in the same cardboard envelope. This began with the September–October 2016 issue.

Longtime subscribers may remember that the order form used to come in the same package as the cassette magazine. That changed in August 2012 with the launch of the Magazines on Cartridge (MOC) program, when cartridges and order forms started to be mailed out separately. However, this change was not well-received by TBT subscribers.

Please know that the magazine cartridge and order form will need to be returned separately: the cartridge going back to the producer in its red container and the order form sealed and mailed back to OLBDP. Keep in mind that there is no mailing card needed when returning cartridges. Instead, there is a label on the back of the cartridge container with the producer's address already on it. Patrons only need to place the container with the cartridge in it back in the mail. Again, the order form should be mailed separately to OLBDP. The empty cardboard envelope can be discarded.

Please do not put the cartridge, container, and order form all back into the same cardboard envelope and mail it – this will only send all those items back to the producer. By doing so, forms may not be returned to the library by the producer if they are sent there by mistake, and any TBT selections may not be received by OLBDP. Please contact OLBDP if you have questions regarding Talking Book Topics.

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## **National Federation of the Blind Scholarship**

To recognize achievement by blind scholars, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) annually offers blind college students in the United States and Puerto Rico the opportunity to win one of thirty merit-based, national-level scholarships worth from \$3,000 to \$12,000. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership. The 2017 Scholarship Program begins on November 1, 2016 and ends on March 31, 2017. For more information including eligibility requirements, please visit the NFB 2017 Scholarship Program web page at <https://nfb.org/scholarships>.

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## **New Braille Magazines Available from NLS**

Three new braille magazines are available to patrons via BARD or by subscription through OLBDP. The magazines and their frequency are: Cooks Illustrated, bimonthly; O, The Oprah Magazine, monthly; Popular Science, bimonthly.

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# **2017 Regional Braille Challenge**

**Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Braille Institute of America, will be hosting the First Regional Braille Challenge for the State of Ohio on Friday, March 3, 2017. The Braille Challenge, now in its 16th year, is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind and visually impaired. Regionals are open to students of all abilities, giving even emerging braille readers a chance to reach a personal best score.**

**On March 3, 2017 students from all over Ohio will gather at Clovernook Center, in North College Hill, to test their braille skills in five categories: reading, comprehension, braille spelling, chart and graph reading, proofreading and braille speed and accuracy. The theme for the Ohio State Braille Challenge will be Braille All Stars, playing off of Cincinnati's baseball all-star theme.**

**The Ohio State Regional Competition is the first step to the coveted national finals Braille Challenge competition held at the Los Angeles headquarters of the Braille Institute. At the finals, 50 students with the highest scores from around North America embark on another daylong competition to test their braille skills alongside their peers. Immediately following the competition, winners from each age group are announced at an awards ceremony.**

**For more information on the event itself, or how you can get involved as a volunteer, sponsor or participant, contact Catie Turner at 1-888-234-7156 or by email at [braillechallenge@clovernook.org](mailto:braillechallenge@clovernook.org).**

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## **Wintertime and Receiving Books around the Holidays**

**OLBPD would like to remind our readers to place their book orders early to ensure that patrons will have enough books to get them through the holiday season. Patrons with permanent residence in Ohio but reside seasonally or temporarily in another state can arrange to have their items sent to another address. As winter arrives, OLBPD could also close due to inclement weather and power outages. Patrons should be aware that when OLBPD loses power, it also shuts down our phone system until power is restored. When possible, OLBPD will attempt to alert patrons through our web site or voice mail greeting when the library is closed. OLBPD will also alert the State Library of Ohio of any emergency closing. Any email or voice mail messages or service requests will be answered as soon as possible.**

**When returning materials, OLBPD would like to remind patrons to please put the correct braille books, cartridges or cassettes in their correct containers. Mark an "X" next to the punch hole in the lower left corner of the mailing card for items needing our attention. Likewise, please do not write on any of the materials you receive including containers.**

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# Holiday and Winter Reading Suggestions

Whether you are a fan of George R.R. Martin's "Game of Thrones" series or just a long time Ohio resident, we all know "winter is coming." Therefore, OLBPD offers this list of holiday and seasonal titles. Keep in mind that some titles suggested may contain sex, strong language, and violence.

"The Thirteenth Gift" by Joanne Huist Smith – DB 80286; Christmas Fiction

"The Mistletoe Promise" by Richard Paul Evans – DB 80430; Christmas Romance

"61 Hours: A Reacher Novel" by Lee Child – DB 71403; Winter Storm Thriller

"Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah – DB 70583; Mothers and Daughters

"Wishin' and Hopin'" by Wally Lamb – DB 71007; Christmas Fiction

"Holidays on Ice" by David Sedaris – DB 68134; Christmas Short Stories

"Winter Stroll" by Elin Hilderbrand – DB 82793; Christmas Fiction

"The Winter People" by Jennifer McMahon – DB 78879; Thriller

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## Season's Greetings

In keeping with the traditional season's greeting, the staff of OLBPD wishes our readers a happy holiday season, and peace, good health and good reading in the New Year.

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