

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled at Cleveland Public Library
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OLBPD Family Fun and Learning Day 2019

Family Fun & Learning Day will take place on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled, 17121 Lake Shore Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44110. OLBPD patrons along with their family and friends are invited to attend.

Family Fun & Learning Day will feature guided tours of OLBPD's Sensory Garden by garden caretaker and horticultural expert Ben Zaremba from Zaremba Horticultural Services. The Sensory Garden is filled with flowers, herbs, and plants specially selected for their bloom, color, fragrance, taste, and texture. The Sensory Garden is open all year round.

OLBPD is pleased to welcome retired Cleveland sports journalist Dan Coughlin as our keynote speaker. Dan Coughlin has covered the Cleveland sports scene for 45 years, as a sportswriter for The Plain Dealer (1964–1982) and on WJW-TV 8 (1983–2009). He was twice named Ohio sportswriter of the year and was honored with a television Emmy. He is a 1996 inductee of the Cleveland Press Club Journalism Hall of Fame, and a 2017 inductee of the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame. He traveled with the Browns and Indians, and was at ringside for several world championship fights as well as the Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier series. Dan Coughlin has authored four books, with his latest "Just One More Story" released in 2018.

OLBPD is also pleased to welcome Tracy Grimm, Head of the Talking Book Program at the State Library of Ohio. She will provide information and answer questions about digital talking book players and equipment. There will also be updates regarding the future service initiatives from the National Library Service (NLS), including news about the braille e-reader, wireless delivery of materials, and next generation talking book players. OLBPD staff members will also be available throughout the day to help patrons with any library service requests.

Family Fun & Learning Day will also feature exhibitors from the Cleveland Sight Center, Magnifiers and More, Veterans Administration, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Microsoft, and more. No lunch will be served this year to allot time in the afternoon for the exhibits and garden tours. However, light breakfast items will be served this year between 8:30-9:30 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. For more information or to register for Family Fun & Learning Day which is strongly recommended, please contact OLBPD.

OLBPD Patron Satisfaction Survey Open through July

As mentioned in the last newsletter, OLBPD is conducting a patron satisfaction survey to collect feedback from our readers regarding our services, how well we perform them, and ways to improve services in the future.

The survey is open now until July 31, 2019. It contains seventeen questions, and all answers are confidential and will be collected anonymously. Patrons can participate by completing the survey online through Survey Monkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019_OLBPD. The online survey is accessible and meets web accessibility requirements. For patrons who do not want to use the internet, please call OLBPD and staff will conduct the survey over the phone.

We appreciate patrons taking time to complete the survey, and sharing their feedback and ideas with us. Please contact OLBPD with any questions or for further assistance.

Updates about the Marrakesh Treaty

May 8, 2019 marked the first day of the United States participation in the Marrakesh Treaty. The Marrakesh Treaty will make it easier for those with print disabilities in participating nations to access printed works in accessible formats, such as braille and digital audio files. The Marrakesh Treaty does not impose an obligation to share accessible format copies—it simply grants the right to produce, supply, import, and export an accessible copy.

NLS is working across the Library of Congress and throughout the Legislative Branch to bring existing U.S. laws in line with the treaty while developing new processes necessary for full implementation. On the NLS website, they have added a page to address some of the questions that patrons may have regarding the Marrakesh Treaty as it relates to NLS services. OLBPD patrons interested in learning more about the treaty can visit: www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/laws-regulations/marrakesh-treaty/.

Youth Summer Reading Club Reminder

This summer, OLBPD kids and teens can participate with Cleveland Public Library's (CPL) Summer Lit League. This year's theme "Puppet-Palooza: Be Part of Our World of Puppets" takes place June 3rd-July 26th. The Summer Lit League registration is open now to kids and teens from birth to age 18. Participants can receive prizes for reading through the summer. Online registration is available at <https://cpl.beanstack.org>. Please contact OLBPD for more information or to register for our Kids and Teen Reading Clubs and CPL's Summer Lit League.

Conference Notes and Updates

The Midlands and Northern region of libraries, part of the NLS network, met in New York City in April. During this conference, NLS shared a number of interesting updates regarding changes to library services.

Much in the same way as cassettes replaced records, and cartridges replaced cassettes, wireless delivery of reading materials through BARD and BARD Mobile is replacing physical media (cartridges and braille books). In fact, according to NLS, there are more than 105,000 books now available in BARD. Furthermore, NLS users downloaded 4 million audio and braille books and magazines in 2018. As a result, projects continue at NLS centered on BARD and wireless delivery of reading materials.

NLS continues exploring the use of a voice user interface, similar to commercially available virtual assistants like Apple's 'Siri' or Amazon's 'Alexa', to navigate the collection and play books on a smartphone or smart speaker. Here, patrons could use BARD who may have never used, wanted to use or been able to use a computer by asking their device to play a book from NLS. Likewise, rather than having to download a book, audio could be streamed to the device instead. Patrons could start listening to a book on their device at home and then, if they leave the house, pick up wherever they left off from a smartphone. NLS is also exploring solutions for patrons without access to the internet by testing an easy-to-use wireless device that will allow patrons to access materials on BARD through cellular networks.

Another project closer to becoming reality is braille e-Readers. NLS awarded contracts to begin production on devices specifically designed to read NLS braille materials. NLS hopes to begin formalizing field testing with network libraries in the spring of 2020. Without doubt, all these advances are exciting, but there is a deliberate pace of innovation behind the scenes at NLS. According to NLS Director Karen Keninger, they "won't be adopting technology for its own sake. The goal is to use technology to enhance the reading experience for our patrons—to make it easier and more efficient, to improve their quality of life. That's what NLS is all about."

The OLBDP Hot List

The OLBDP Hot List features titles that are currently in high-demand by our readers, and are available now for download through BARD or by request. Books in the Hot List may contain descriptions of sex, strong language, or violence.

1. "The Chef" by James Patterson – DB 94171; Mystery
 2. "Murder Never Knocks" by Mickey Spillane – DB 94111; Mystery
 3. "The Burglar" by Thomas Perry – DB 94100; Thriller
 4. "Wild Card" by Stuart Woods – DB 94233; Suspense
 5. "The Flying Tigers" by Samuel M. Kleiner – DB94242; World War II History
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Holiday Closings During summer

OLBPD will be closed on Memorial Day, May 27th; Independence Day on July 4th; and Labor Day on September 2nd. Please remember to place any book orders in advance to ensure enough books to read through these holidays.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What kind of device is needed to play talking books?

A: Talking books require the use of NLS authorized playback devices or mobile reading apps. NLS renders books unusable to the general public due to U.S. copyright law that protects intellectual property while allowing NLS patrons free use of the material.

Q: Can people use the program if they are in residential care facilities or retirement homes?

A: Yes. Eligible patrons may receive direct individual service in care of the facility which ensures that readers receive materials that they specifically want to read. If their facility receives our service, they may also use these materials.

Go Paperless!

Electronic versions of the OLBPD Dimensions newsletter are available from our website in audio, braille, and large print. Patrons can be added to our email list to receive notice when the next edition is available.



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