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# Insights

Spring, 2003

The Newsletter of the Library for the Blind and Handicapped

## DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Saturday, October 18th is the date for our Fall Festival this year. There will be programs for all ages. The vendors will be here as well and we hope you can come!

As in past years, county transportation throughout the state will be contacted to try to help you get here easily. Our summer newsletter will be devoted exclusively to the Festival — the events and programs will all be listed. I hope to see you!

The Library has been working on some new services. Audiovision, our newspaper and information service is now available over the Internet. Anyone registered with the Library can enroll at

[www.audiovision-nj.org](http://www.audiovision-nj.org). *The Newark Star Ledger, Bergen Record, Trenton Times, Home News, Asbury Park Press, and Camden Courier Post* newspapers are available at any time and the five previous days news is archived and accessible. If you're curious and would like to listen before you register, you may do so by going to [www.audiovision-nj.org](http://www.audiovision-nj.org) and selecting "Listen to Sample Reading." Windows Media player is necessary and there is a link on the website so that you may easily download the free software.

By late spring we anticipate that the Library's catalog will be available on the Internet as well. You will be able to browse through the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and select the books you'd like to read and the staff will put your selections directly into your request file.

Stay tuned for more information!

*Sarah Dooney*

## STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free assistance with health insurance to people over the age of 65 or who are disabled and on Medicare. SHIP addresses questions about Medicare benefits and claims, supplemental medical policies, and long term care insurance. Call 1-800-792-8820 for more information.

*Insights* is the newsletter of the Library for the Blind and Handicapped part of the New Jersey State Library. LBH is located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue in Trenton, NJ.  
Phone: 1-800-792-8322  
TTY: 1-877-882-5593  
Email: [njlbh@njstatelib.org](mailto:njlbh@njstatelib.org)

*Insights* is also available on cassette and in Braille. To change the format you receive, give the Library a call at 1-800-792-8322 or Email at [njlbh@njstatelib.org](mailto:njlbh@njstatelib.org)

## LBH MEMBER, COOKBOOK AUTHOR

The Library recently received Braille (B 3597) and large print (LT 23157) copies of Jackie Pirro's book *Welcome to Miss Jackie's Kitchen*.

The cookbook is geared for the blind and visually impaired cook, with many easy-to-follow recipes...

The cookbook is geared for the blind and visually impaired cook, with many easy-to-follow recipes such as Pasta with Vodka Sauce, Polish Sausage and Sauerkraut, Chocolate Cake, Ambrosia, and more. Each recipe has a little tip or even a memorable story behind it.

You may borrow the book from us thanks to Ms. Pirro, or if you would like your own copy, you may purchase one for \$20 plus shipping and handling from: Horizons for the Blind, 2 North Williams Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, 1-800-318-2000 ext. 0, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Any mention of products and services in *Insights* is for information only and does not imply endorsement.

## THE BOOKWORM: LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

Enough already with the snow! I know you're as tired of it as I am (see what you've missed, Harvey Levine!) so I went looking for books with a touch of spring. That rascally rodent in Punxsutawney, PA notwithstanding, there must be a sign of spring! This is a looking forward column, some of the books are not available yet, but you'll be looking for them when they are!

A really quick read is **Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts** by Jean Craighead George. It's a grades 3-6 kid's book that tells us why groundhogs can forecast the arrival of spring. There are several other charming stories about talented and amazing animals. It'll get you through a small room's spring cleaning.

I found some sunshine in **Tulipmania** and **Jane Austen in Boca**. The first novel by Drexel professor Paula Marantz, **Jane Austen in Boca** combines the best of Olivia Goldsmith's **Marrying Mom** (LT 19842) and **Switcheroo** (LT 20717, RC 46191) with a swiftly moving Janet Dailey Harlequin all the while paralleling Jane Austen's **Pride and Prejudice** ala **West Side Story's** retelling of **Romeo and Juliet**. The setting is a (mostly) Jewish retirement community in

Boca Raton, Fla. Most of the residents come from NYC or northern New Jersey and some of the action takes place in familiar locales like the Short

Hills Mall and the characters spend a lot of time reading Saul Bellow and Phillip Roth. Nobel Prize Winner (1976) Roth in particular gets some scathing remarks directed his way. I've listed several books by each of these authors. **Boca** has humorous moments and sad, poignant ones as the protagonists, May and Norman and Lila and Hy find love and romance. The sadness comes in as they face deaths of close friends and the objections of family and friends to the new mates. Stan Marcus masquerading as Mr. Darcy eventually comes through as a good guy. His metamorphosis has its dark moments but overall the book is a very charming update of a classic novel.

Would you believe a flower could wreck the economy of Europe? Speculation in the tulip bulb market wrecked Holland's economy in the 1630's and caused major recessions through France, England and Belgium. **Tulipmania: the Story of the World's Most Coveted**

This is a looking forward column, some of the books are not available yet, but you'll be looking for them when they are!

(Continued from page 3)

**Flower** by Mike Dash (RC 51515) is one for real history buffs. Though fairly short, it's not a light history, as some of the economic discussions get a bit knotty. Given the wild speculations and margin spending that helped trigger the Great Depression and the junk bond mess of the 1980s, it was interesting to see that little really changes in the world of finance. Books about current scandals such the Enron bankruptcy and the Martha Stewart insider scandals are in process, but in the meantime, read **Martha Stewart-Just Desserts: The Unauthorized Bio** (RC 44818), written in better times by well-known biographer Jerry Oppenheimer (who is also working on a Jerry Seinfeld biography, currently in process).

**Philistines at the Hedgerow** (RC 46848) is a less flattering portrait of the domestic diva and her famous neighbors in the Hamptons.

For Dorothy Bonds of Orange, Canadian author Charles De Lint can't write fast enough. His newest release is **Forests of the Heart** (RC 53951), a blend of Celtic, Mexican and Native American myth and legend. If you're into Native American mythology, the characters will seem as familiar as friendly neighbors from Page One. Even if you have never read any De Lint or fantasy, **Forests of the Heart** is an interesting, modern love story, certainly no less weird or improbable than some of the

reality shows on TV. Lately De Lint has been publishing tales for the "young adult and older reader" market. One of these stories, **The Onion Girl**, is "in process" as a Talking Book. Older readers will probably find it a bit juvenile, but as a very quick read, it's not too bad. For Charles De Lint fans, it's a quick fix until his meatier offerings arrive.

Charles De Lint has a homepage you can visit: [www.charlesdelint.com](http://www.charlesdelint.com). He has a newsletter that you can sign up for that details upcoming books and appearances that he and wife/artist MaryAnn Harris will be making. I enjoy the updates of De Lint's work, but he also tells of other artists that influence him.

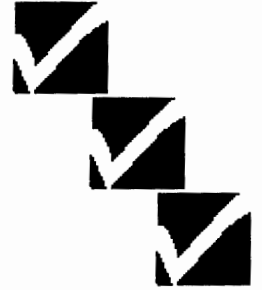
Enjoy!

Patt Thrash

**CHECK ALL YOUR FAVORITES  
FROM THE SELECTIONS GIVEN  
ON PAGE 5.**

**MAIL IN YOUR REQUEST AND  
YOU'LL RECEIVE THE  
MATERIALS IN NO TIME.**

# The Bookworm Checklist



Welcome to Miss Jackie's Kitchen (p. 2) LT 23157 \_\_\_ B 2597 \_\_\_  
Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts RC 41173 \_\_\_ BR 10244 \_\_\_  
Jane Austen in Boca RC in process  
West Side Story RC 50927 \_\_\_ BR 156 \_\_\_  
Romeo and Juliet RC 44353 \_\_\_ LT 413 \_\_\_ BR 10925 \_\_\_  
Switcheroo RC 46191 \_\_\_ LT 20717 \_\_\_  
Marrying Mom LT 19842 \_\_\_  
Tulipomania RC 51515 \_\_\_

## Saul Bellow

Ravelstein RC 50448 \_\_\_  
Him with His Foot in His Mouth RC 21563 \_\_\_  
Dean's December RC 18115 \_\_\_ LT 5163 \_\_\_  
Herzog RC 17977 \_\_\_ BR 207 \_\_\_

## Philip Roth

Goodbye Columbus RC 12143 \_\_\_ BR 11967 \_\_\_  
Zuckerman Unbound RC 17075 \_\_\_ LT 4387 \_\_\_ BR 4967 \_\_\_  
Portnoy's Complaint RC 26788 \_\_\_

## Janet Dailey Harlequins

Tangled vines RC 35867 \_\_\_ LT 18711 \_\_\_  
For Bitter or Worse RC 32832 \_\_\_  
Tidewater Lover RC 28838 \_\_\_ LT 21766 \_\_\_  
Green Mountain Man RC 28339 \_\_\_

Martha Stewart-Just Desserts RC 44818 \_\_\_  
Philistines at the Hedgerow RC 46848 \_\_\_  
Forests of the Heart RC 53951 \_\_\_

Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____

Free Matter for  
The Blind and  
Handicapped

Library for the Blind and Handicapped

P.O. Box 501  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: 800-792-8322  
TTY: 877-882-5593  
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## MUSIC INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE ON CASSETTE

Two introductory music courses on cassette designed for blind and visually impaired students are available from the Music Section of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). *Intro to the Piano for the Visually Impaired* and *Intro to the Guitar for the Visually Impaired* are designed to teach students how to play by ear.

NLS has also included in its inventory sheet music in extra large print and in Braille for various instruments. If you played an instrument and need music you can read, call NLS's Music Section at 1-800-424-8567.

**IF YOU RECEIVE IRS TAX FORMS  
W-9095 OR W888 IN THE MAIL,  
DON'T FILL THEM OUT.**

**THEY'RE SCAMS.**

**CROOKS ARE USING THE FAKE FORMS  
TO COMMIT IDENTITY THEFT AND  
STEAL BANK ACCOUNTS. FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, CALL THE IRS AT  
1-800-829-1040.**

**CORRECTION: THE HEARING STUDY AT  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY'S PHONE NUMBER  
IS 973-313-6136.**

CALL THIS NUMBER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY.  
SETON HALL IS LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS  
OVER THE AGE OF 60 WITH  
NORMAL HEARING  
SUBJECTS RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY  
HEARING TEST. QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS  
RECEIVE \$9.00 PER HOUR

## LIBRARY CLOSING DATES

*Good Friday*

April 18, 2003

*Memorial Day*

May 26, 2003

*Independence Day*

July 4, 2003

*Labor Day*

September 1, 2003

*Columbus Day*

October 13, 2003

*Election Day*

November 4, 2003

*Veteran's Day*

November 11, 2003

*Thanksgiving Day*

November 27, 2003

*Christmas Day*

December 25, 2003

## Who's Who at LBH

As the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Coordinator, Christine Lam oversees the Joe Burns American Sign Language Video Collection, books and other videotapes on deafness and hearing related problems. She also works cooperatively with the 14 Regional Resource Center Libraries for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She informs deaf and hard of hearing communities about public library services and is their advocate with libraries.

Ms. Lam is a graduate of the Lexington School for the Deaf and attended Rochester Institute of Technology, National Institute for the Deaf .

Christine Lam  
Coordinator,  
Deaf & Hard of  
Hearing  
Awareness  
Program



Ms. Lam is excited about her work at LBH. She can be reached by TTY at 1-877-882-5593 or by e-mail at clam@njstatelib.org.

## DONATE YOUR OLD MAGAZINES

A letter from the Fima Institute for the Disabled Society in Bangladesh was received requesting donations of used magazines on cassette or in Braille if they are no longer wanted.

Donate them so the blind in their country will have materials to read. If the cassette magazine comes from LBH and has a return label, please do not donate it, but return it to the Library.

Materials may be sent Free Matter for the Blind and Handicapped to: Fima Institute for Disabled Society, 12E, 5/6, P.O. Box 8104 Mirpur, Dhaka — 1216, Bangladesh.

Have a question you'd like for us to answer at  
LBH?

Let us know your question and we'll feature the  
question and the answer here.

Send your questions to:  
Library for the Blind and Handicapped  
PO Box 501  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Or  
Njlbh@njstatelib.org



## OUT OF SIGHT

If you are blind and cannot see, you do not have to be  
Completely forlorn with no reprieve with nothing left but to grieve.

There is something left for you to cope to cross the abyss with a saving rope,  
A stalwart help that you can use to lessen the doom and help to defuse  
The helplessness you decidedly feel when you are no longer able to deal  
With the loss of vision that becomes so stark to turn your world immensely dark.

The answer lies in turning to find a library meant especially for the blind.  
It's New Jersey based and eager to be an avid assist to set you free.  
The name from which its resources are tapped is the Library for the Blind and Handicapped;  
Its volumes are long and its topics are wide each one can be taken in its own special stride.

Its contents are heard for those who cannot glean what for others is always easily seen;  
There is no fee that has to be paid but it offers service of the highest grade.  
There is also something more than books that they give  
a staff that generously knows how to live  
To give their users the utmost care to make sure their service is done with the greatest flair.

There are others, too, who deserve our thanks when they took the lead in the federal ranks  
As Congress itself paved the way to let the Congressional Library join and stay.  
After decades of untrammelled sight so splendidly free  
the trauma of lost vision has descended on me;  
In retrospect I can only sincerely say  
that the Library for the Blind has shown me a new way.

*By William Sanders*

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