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# Insights

1-800-792-8322

Spring, 2004

The Newsletter of the Library for the Blind and Handicapped

## INTERIM DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

I have the pleasure of announcing the appointment of Venetia Demson as the new Director of LBH. Venetia comes to us from the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped where she served as Assistant Director. Venetia has years of experience in corporate management and has an extensive background in marketing. She has previously worked as a Vice President of marketing for a major national company. She holds an M.L.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Venetia brings a wealth of experience in service to the blind and visually impaired, and we all look forward to May 31, 2004 when Venetia officially starts as Director of LBH. Please join me in welcoming Venetia!

We all miss former Director Deborah Toomey who sends word that she is very happy in Washington D.C. with her new husband, David Whittall. Deborah enjoys her work as a network consultant at the

National Library Service for the Blind and Handicapped, but misses all the staff and patrons of LBH.

2003 was a banner year for LBH. In terms of circulation growth, 457,885 volumes were circulated in 2003 in contrast to 410,606 volumes in 2002. This represents an 11.5% growth in circulation in just one year! LBH now has 12,846 active patrons, a 6% increase in patrons from 2003. This is a positive trend in contrast to flat patron growth nationally in libraries for the blind, and is due in large part to LBH's outreach efforts.

Congratulations to the LBH outreach team and the New Jersey State Library staff for their hard work in participating in 156 total LBH outreach events throughout 2003, including 27 booth exhibits at conventions or fairs. The outreach team is composed of Christine Lisiecki, Luz Sanchez (who gives presentations in either Spanish or English), Karen Messick, and myself, with assistance in 2003 from Deborah Toomey, Chrissy Olsen, Diana LaRaia, and Donna Wooton-Fasoli. Call me to schedule a special presentation at 609-530-3242!

*Anne McArthur*

## ONE BOOK—NEW JERSEY:

This is the second year for the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) literacy initiative, "One Book—New Jersey" which asks the question, "What if everyone in New Jersey read the same book at the same time?" Titles in each of four categories are submitted and then voted on by librarians. The winning titles are: *The Pine Barrens*, by John McPhee for the adult reader category, *The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci in the young adult readers' category, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate Camillo in the children's middle readers' category, and *How the Cat Swallowed Thunder* by Lloyd Alexander in the children's young readers' category. LBH has all these books in various formats. Read these books alone or aloud with your family. Join in and read with other New Jerseyans this year!

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## NEW MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN GUIDE DOG USERS

The Garden State Guide Dog Users (GSGDU) and the Guide Dog Users of North Jersey (GDUNJ) invite new members to join either or both organizations. GDUNJ meets in the Morristown area and the GSGDU meets in the Trenton area.

Some objectives of these organizations are:

- ◆ to promote the acceptance of guide dog teams in public places;
- ◆ to promote cooperation among guide dog users, puppy raisers, and guide dog schools;
- ◆ to support legal protection for guide dog teams; and
- ◆ to interact with members of the American Council of the Blind and Guide Dog Users Inc.

If you are interested in supporting such goals, in meeting other guide dog users, or in finding out about the advantages of obtaining a guide dog, contact Judy Gardiner for information about either group. Judy may be reached by phone at 908-233-8819 or by e-mail at [wgardiner@earthlink.net](mailto:wgardiner@earthlink.net)

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***Insights* is the newsletter of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped, a division 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)**

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## THE BOOKWORM: LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

Spring is here. Think positive! Here are some thoughts to help you get out of the blahs of the winter season. New Jersey resident and LBH patron David DeNotaris, a freelance motivational speaker who also works as the Technology Services Specialist for the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, has written **Feeling Your Way Through Life (C3017)**. Blind from retinitis pigmentosa from an early age, DeNotaris attended mainstream schools and learned ways to minimize his disability. DeNotaris' experience in public speaking shows in the concise, vivid sentences and quick-moving paragraphs. David provides a quote or a statistic for pondering, then gives his perspective based on his life experiences. The book is a positive affirmation of what you've known all your life but of which you need to be reminded. When worry, fatigue or disheartening results get you down, positive thinking can lift you up. DeNotaris emphasizes that a good attitude will get you further along the road to a happy life than a bad attitude. DeNotaris gives many tips for creating harmony and happiness that are simple and easy to implement in daily life. If you liked the **Chicken Soup for the Soul** series by Jack Canfield and Gary Zukav's **Soul** stories, I

**Feeling Your Way Through Life** by LBH patron David DeNotaris is a positive affirmation of what you've known all your life.

think you will find this an excellent companion book.

GOOD NEWS for all our writers out there—the computer glitch that has been preventing many of our readers from receiving **The Writer** magazine has been fixed! This monthly magazine allows new and established writers to discuss their craft and features contest information and the names and addresses of manuscript markets. It is offered free on 4-track cassette. If you're interested in receiving **The Writer**, check the Bookworm checklist. If you do not receive cassette service and want to receive this magazine, please call the library at 1-800-792-8322 to speak to a Reader Services Advisor about setting up cassette service.

Having recently married, weddings are lingering in my mind. Therefore, I found the recommendation of **The Accidental Bride: A Romantic Comedy (RC51193)** made by Jane Broderick of North Arlington very timely. The book is written by Janice Harayda and is the story of a career New York journalist who leaves the city to return to her Ohio hometown newspaper while pursuing her lawyer lover. Jane

(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)*

thought "it was cute" and she "liked the way it twisted." This light romance contains no graphic sex, strong language or violence.

Another wedding story I enjoyed was Kathleen Eagle's **One Upon a Wedding (RC54839)**. The multi-generational tale of rekindled love includes several poignant twists as family members strive to make a whirlwind romance into an elegant wedding. It was touching without being sappy.

Carol Damis of West Caldwell called about a western family story with "unusual twists and riddles." This dark family story, **The Power of the Dog (RC 54111)** by Thomas Savage, takes place in Montana in the 1920s. It includes some sex and violence.

Lawyer stories and legal thrillers are one of the most popular and fastest growing genres in current publishing. Joining old favorites John Grisham and Scott Turow in our collection are Brad Meltzer, D.W. Buffa, Bonnie MacDougal and James Grippando. Newcomer Bonnie MacDougal's **Breach of Trust (RC 56025)** is a great trial story combined with a romance.

Brad Meltzer's **The Millionaires (RC 53644, LT 23568)** tells how easy it is to make 40 million dollars the criminal way. His **First Counsel (RC 51470, LT 21926)** is a breathlessly told account of secrets and crime in the White House. The **Tenth**

**Justice (RC 44527)** is a tale of inside knowledge at the Supreme Court. D.W. Buffa's books feature lawyer Joe Antonelli who makes a career defending other lawyers.

James Grippando's **The Abduction (RC 47968)** is timely and concerns the kidnapping of a Presidential candidate's child while **The Pardon (RC 41625)** features murder, extortion, blackmail and pardons in a fictional Florida governor's office.

Peter Maas' **Black Mass: the Irish Mob, the FBI and the Devil's Deal (RC 55068, LT 21975)** is an intense true story of entanglements that will take your breath away. Trials resulting from this 25-year long case are ongoing at this time.

Enjoy springing into the new season with some of these books!

Patt Ferrari

**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



- Feeling Your Way through Life (DeNotaris) C3017 \_\_\_\_
- Chicken Soup for the Soul RC 39870 \_\_\_\_ LT 19617 \_\_\_\_ BR 10088 \_\_\_\_
- Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work RC 45472 \_\_\_\_
- Soul Stories RC 50883 \_\_\_\_
- Heart of the Soul RC 54062 \_\_\_\_ LT 22702 \_\_\_\_
- Seat of the Soul RC 36911 \_\_\_\_
- THE WRITER monthly magazine (CASSETTE ONLY) \_\_\_\_
- The Accidental Bride (Harayda) RC 51193 \_\_\_\_
- Once Upon A Wedding (Eagle) RC 54839 \_\_\_\_
- The First Counsel RC 51470 \_\_\_\_ LT 21926 \_\_\_\_
- The Millionaires RC 53644 \_\_\_\_ LT 23568 \_\_\_\_
- Tenth Justice RC 44527 \_\_\_\_
- The Judgment RC 53934 \_\_\_\_
- The Prosecution BR 12708 \_\_\_\_
- The Pardon RC 41625 \_\_\_\_
- Found Money BR 12519 \_\_\_\_
- Breach of Trust RC 56025 \_\_\_\_
- The Black Mass RC 55068 \_\_\_\_ LT 21975
- Power of the Dog RC 54111 \_\_\_\_

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## THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS!

A special thank-you to our patrons and Friends of the Library for their generosity. Many gifts were made in memory of patrons and loved ones, keeping their memories alive through contributions to the LBH program. Thanks to your donations, we were able to purchase equipment such as a Braille sound encloser to reduce the noise in the Reader Service area when the Brailer is being used, as well as much-needed equipment to keep Audiovision running. The friends also paid for many Large Print books and descriptive videos purchased this year.

If you wish to contribute, please made out your check to: **Friends of the Library for the Blind and Handicapped**, and mail to:

Friends of the Library for the  
Blind and Handicapped  
PO Box 7067  
Trenton, NJ 08628

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## LBH RECEIVES AN ADA GRANT

LBH received a total of \$102,104 in ADA funding for fiscal year 2004. One of the major projects in the grant is the Digital Mastering System (LCM or Low Complexity Mastering System). Audiovision Engineer John Hart designed the plan for this project. Once the equipment is received, LBH will be one of a handful of libraries in the NLS System that will have this new technology.

The digital recording portion of the system will be used to improve the quality of recording for locally produced Jerseyana books and magazines. The duplication portion of the new system will replace thirty-year-old duplication equipment, resulting in better quality cassette tapes for patrons.

## Who's Who at LBH

LBH welcomes Rebecca Rainone as temporary Deaf Awareness Coordinator while Chrissy Lam Olsen is on leave caring for her new son, Alexander Gabriel Olsen.

Rebecca earned her B.A. from Rochester Technology Institute in New York. Currently she is an adjunct professor at Camden County College, the Community College of Philadelphia, and Gloucester County College, where she teaches American Sign Language. She has eight years of experience teaching American Sign Language at all levels to many target groups. Additionally, she has worked closely with various aspects of interpreter training, as well as tutoring, and has a great deal of experience in deaf culture. Rebecca also serves as the Corresponding Secretary for the New Jersey Association of the Deaf, and as Chairperson for the Association's 2004 State Conference.

Interim Director Anne McArthur says, "We will miss Chrissy, but look forward to working with Rebecca, whose experience and enthusiasm will be a tremendous asset to the

Rebecca  
Rainone  
Coordinator,  
Deaf & Hard of  
Hearing  
Awareness  
Program



Deaf Awareness, RRC and Assistive Listening Loan programs."

Rebecca can be reached by TTY at 1-877-882-5593 or by e-mail at [rrainone@njstatelib.org](mailto:rrainone@njstatelib.org).

### DO YOU MISS READING *DEAR ABBY*?

Call 1-800-792-8322 today and sign up for Audiovision, LBH's radio reading service. Every weekday, over 75 volunteers read features such as editorials, obituaries, *Dear Abby*, *Joyce Brothers*, *Hints from Heloise*, *Dr. Gott*, *Dr. Donahue*, grocery ads, and the *TV Guide*. State and local news is provided from the following New Jersey papers: *The Newark Star Ledger*, *The Asbury Park Press*, *The Bergen Record*, *The*

*Camden Courier Post*, *The Home News Tribune*, the New Jersey edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The Trenton Times*. National and international coverage from *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* is also available. Call 1-800-792-8322 for a specially designed receiver, or register to use our Internet streaming service at [www.audiovision-nj.org](http://www.audiovision-nj.org).

## TWO LBH TEEN READERS FEATURED IN STATEWIDE NEWSPAPERS

The Newark Star Ledger and The Camden Courier Post published stories in November about two teen members of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped. The articles highlight the talents and good will of these two very independent and inspiring young adults.

Amanda Chokov was featured in a column by Bob Braun entitled, "A Lesson in Insight: A Brilliant Student Says Blindness Let Her Recognize What Truly Matters." (*Newark Star Ledger*, November 26, 2003).

In an article by Michael T. Burkhart, Brian Mackey's story is told as he recounts his efforts and success in soliciting and collecting items from his Medford, NJ neighborhood to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Camden. (*Camden Courier-Post*, November 13, 2003).

Congratulations to both Amanda and Brian!

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## SOURCE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE INFORMATION

LBH is alerting our patrons about a useful electronic newsletter published by the Social Security Administration. Social Security eNews is available online at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/enews/last.htm>. In the most recent issue (December 2003, Issue 48), LBH patrons can find out what won't be on Social Security checks after January 1, 2004. The publication guides you to a few charts to simplify your understanding of Social Security benefit rules, and even helps you trace your family tree! The newsletter also provides information about recent Medicare legislation as follows:

*On December 8, 2003, president George W. Bush signed into law the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. This landmark legislation provides seniors and people living with disabilities with a prescription drug benefit, more choices and better benefits under Medicare. Anyone interested in getting more information can call 1-800-Medicare or visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/>*

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