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# INSIGHTS

Summer 2015

**NJ**  
State Library

**TALKING BOOK &  
BRAILLE CENTER**

*An affiliate of Thomas Edison State College*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN, MARY L. CHUTE

Welcome to our 2015 Summer Newsletter,

I hope you are enjoying the summer as much as we are at the State Library.

Over 50 children and teens participated in our summer reading program. Many of our children download to either a flash drive or to one of the approved Android or Apple devices. In case you missed the June announcement, the BARD Mobile app is now available for the Android operating system.

Also, the Outspoken Library kiosks were upgraded this summer. Thanks to a generous grant from the Comcast Foundation, each new Outspoken Library is equipped with sitecues® Everywhere, accessible software for web browsing.

Our initial Outspoken Library program received national recognition from the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA). This past June, Adam Szczepaniak received the Joseph Campbell Award for work on this project.

On another note, please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. We have again partnered with the Grounds for Sculpture for our biennial Fall Festival. More information is in this newsletter. I hope to see you there! This is a joyous event.

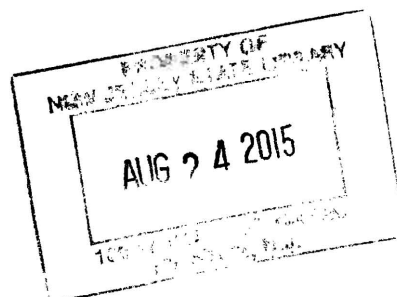
I want to end with a "Thank You" to TBBC's Assistant Director, Maria Baratta. Many of you have worked with Maria over these past seven years. Maria decided to retire from State service in July. While we will miss Maria, we also want to wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

Read more about all of these items of interest in this newsletter and other services at the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC). Enjoy your summer reading!

Thank you,

*Mary*

**MARY L. CHUTE, NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN**



## **ADAM SZCZEPANIAK RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

At the American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco on June 27<sup>th</sup>, Adam Stephen Szczepaniak, Jr., deputy state librarian and director of the NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC), received the 2015 Francis Joseph Campbell Award from the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA).

Szczepaniak was selected for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of library service for blind and physically handicapped people. His creation of The Outspoken Library has benefitted over 30 public libraries in the state of New Jersey.

Francis Joseph Campbell, for whom this award is named, lost his sight at the age of five. In 1871, he helped Thomas Armitage establish The Royal Normal College and Academy for the Blind in London. The college continues to the present day, and is now known as the Royal National College for the Blind.

## **MARIA BARATTA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TBBC, IS RETIRING**

We say a sad farewell to Maria Baratta who is retiring after 28 years of service to the State. In her time at TBBC, she has worked tirelessly to keep things humming and has spearheaded several new initiatives, including the BARD Pilot Project. We thank Maria for the time and energy she has devoted to TBBC and to our readers. We will miss her. All of us at TBBC wish her the best of everything.

## **2015 FALL FESTIVAL**

Our Fall Festival is here! All TBBC members are invited to our Fall Festival on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we are partnering with the Grounds for Sculpture for this event. The Grounds is a 42-acre oasis in our Garden State that is not to be missed. It is located at 18 Fairgrounds Road in Hamilton, NJ. We invite you to join us! Here are important details, registration information and the agenda for the day.

- **ADMISSION:** Free to all TBBC members plus two guests only. Additional guests will be asked to pay admission:
  - \$15/adult
  - \$12/adult 65+
  - \$10 (for students 6-17 or with college ID)
  - Free for Grounds for Sculpture Members and children 5 and younger
- **DIRECTIONS:** Registration, vendors and the festival are located in one building, the Seward Johnson Center for the Arts. It is located at the main entrance of the Grounds. Find directions to the Grounds for Sculpture at this website: <http://www.groundsforsculpture.org/Visit/Hours-Directions-and-Parking>

- **FOOD:** You may purchase lunch and snacks at the Van Gogh Café, the Peacock Café, or at a hamburger & hot dog grill set up for the day.
- **HOW TO REGISTER: Registration deadline is October 1, 2015.** Registration is required for all attending our Fall Festival. To register, call TBBC at 800-792-8322, extension 816 with the information below:
  - Name, address, phone number
  - Total number of adults (including yourself) and children attending
  - Requests for a sighted guide
  - Your choice of workshop, book group or tour
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Attendees must make their own transportation plans.
- **VENDORS:** A number of vendors are invited whose products and services will interest you.
- **WEB PAGE FOR THE FESTIVAL:** <http://www.njstatelib.org/festival>

## FALL FESTIVAL AGENDA

**10:00am – 12:00pm:** Continental breakfast with the Vendors. Explore assistive technology products and a wealth of services. Continental breakfast is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**12:30 – 1:30pm:** Choice of 1 Art Workshop or 1 Book Club

### Art Workshops:

- Art Workshop 1: Finger Knitting. This is a relatively simple form of knitting and would make a good introduction for someone who wants to take it further. It involves “knitting” a thread into a chain of loops while using the body as a loom. It is a simple, tactile project that focuses on touch, and we will offer a variety of yarns to “knit” with.
- Art Workshop 2: A surprise announcement coming soon!

### Book Groups:

- Book Group 1: We will discuss: We Will Survive: True Stories of Encouragement, Inspiration, and the Power of Song by Gloria Gaynor and Sue Carswell.
- Book Group 2: We will discuss: Superstorm: Nine Days Inside Hurricane Sandy by Kathryn Miles.
- These 2 books will be available for ordering on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

- 2:00 – 3:00pm:** Choice of 1 Workshop or 1 Book Club (same as the above)
- 3:00 – 4:00pm:** Walking tours. Register for a guided Sculpture Touch Tour or just tour the Grounds on your own.
- 4:00 – 5:00pm:** Walking tours. Register for a guided Sculpture Touch Tour or just tour the Grounds on your own.

## **ASSISTIVE SOFTWARE ADDED TO NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY WEBSITE**

We added sitecues® by AiSquared to our website. It is easy-to-use assistive software designed to both magnify and read text on a website. It provides a more effective way to explore the State Library's services. This is a simple tool particularly helpful to those with low vision or with reading disabilities.

To get started using sitecues®, look for the sitecues® badge at the top of the website at <http://www.njstatelib.org>



**Magnification of Text:** To increase or decrease the size of text, use your mouse to slide the zoom bar. If you do not want to use your mouse, you can use the plus (+) and minus (-) signs on the number pad on your keyboard.

**Reading of Text:** With sitecues®, you can select text to be read to you as you move through a web page. To use the speech turn the speech on by selecting the reading icon. With your mouse, select text that you would like to be read and press the spacebar. Your text will pop up in a reader box and will be read to you. If you want to keep reading up or down the page, use your arrow keys. If you want to stop reading after text is read to you, press the space bar again, press escape, or select the reading icon.

Enjoy browsing the NJ State Library website with sitecues® and read on!

## **OUTSPOKEN LIBRARY 2.0 IS HERE!**

Our Outspoken Library computers are being reimaged and upgraded. Thanks to a generous grant from The Comcast Foundation, we are adding sitecues® Everywhere, an easy-to-use piece of assistive software for web browsing that offers magnification and text reading. It is designed for those who have low vision or a reading disability. It will take us several months to complete the reimaging and the delivery of the computers to libraries, but the project is underway.

## **BARD MOBILE IS HERE FOR ANDROID DEVICES**

We are delighted to announce that the BARD Mobile app is now available for Android tablets and mobile devices:

- You must have version 4.1 or higher of the Android operating system
- The app can be downloaded from Google Play
- NLS has released a series of audio-described video tutorials at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpAGnumt6iV7Aap\\_-C8b-8pR\\_HCxnH\\_Ls](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpAGnumt6iV7Aap_-C8b-8pR_HCxnH_Ls)

## **WE ARE BROADCASTING STAFF PICKS**

TBBC is thrilled to announce that staff are now selecting some of their favorite books and recording reviews! We thank our Audiovision volunteers for their narration. All books reviewed are available on digital cartridge and in the Braille and Audio Reading Download site (BARD) available to TBBC members. Listen to our August & July reviews online at [www.audiovision-nj.org/staffpicks.html](http://www.audiovision-nj.org/staffpicks.html) and read on!

## **NEW JERSEY MONTHLY MAGAZINE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

NJ Monthly magazine is now available for download in the BARD format on a secure area of the Audiovision website. To register, call Audiovision at 800-792-8322 extensions 806 or 812. The magazine issues are located at [www.audiovision-nj.org/members/njmonthly.php](http://www.audiovision-nj.org/members/njmonthly.php), but they are only accessible to TBBC members who must obtain a password from us.

## **NEWS FROM YOUTH SERVICES**

**Summer Program:** Congratulations to all the children and teens who participated in TBBC's 2015 Summer Program, "Every Hero Has a Story!" Each year, more and more kids participate. And a big thank you again to our heroes, our Friends group, who provide the incentives and gifts for the Summer Program.

**Fall Festival:** Save the date for TBBC's Fall Festival on October 10<sup>th</sup>! Information and details are in this newsletter, and more information will be shared closer to Fall Festival. TBBC will have a limited number of "grab bags" for the children and teens who attend.

**Garden State Book Awards:** Does your school or local library participate in the statewide Garden State Children's Book Awards and Garden State Teen Book Awards? Each year, a list of books is put together, and children and teens read those books and vote for a statewide winner. TBBC has many of these books in audio, Braille, and large print so you can participate. Contact us, and we can get you the list of available books.

## What to Read Next:

Popular: A Memoir by Maya Van Wagenen, DB 81139, BR 20739. Find out what happens when a modern teen finds a 1950s guide to popularity, and decides to follow all the advice. And it's a true story! That's exactly what Maya Van Wagenen did, with some unique and funny results. Some strong language. Grades 7 and up.

January Joker: Calendar Mysteries by Ron Roy, DB 78752, BR 20829. Written by the author of the popular A to Z Mysteries. First graders Bradley, Brian, Nate, and Lucy are awakened by strange lights outside and believe that aliens have invaded. The four decide to investigate. Grades 2 to 4.

The NFL's Greatest Teams by Marcia Zappa, DB 80196. Love football? This one cartridge contains eight books about the legendary teams, including the New York Giants. Grades 3 to 6.

The Screaming Staircase, Lockwood & Co. Book 1 by Jonathan Stroud, DB 78207. Plagued by malevolent spirits, London turns to ghost-hunting agencies staffed with youth sensitive to paranormal activities. Anthony Lockwood, George Cubbins, and Lucy Carlyle join together to become Lockwood & Co.--but after bungling a job, their only chance at redemption is clearing a dangerous haunted house. Grades 6 to 9.

## FREQUENTLY USED UNIFIED ENGLISH BRAILLE SYMBOLS

NLS has provided us with a Braille version of frequently used Unified English Braille (UEB) symbols. Call TBBC to request a copy at 800-792-8322.

## POST OFFICE BOXES & FREE MATTER SHIPPING

We have learned that **priority** post office boxes cannot be used for free matter shipping. A regular post office box can be used, but not a **priority** post office box. If you use a priority post office box and mark an item "Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped," postage will be charged.

## DIGITAL TALKING BOOK MACHINE TIP

When you listen to a book on your digital talking book machine, the machine remembers where you left off in the book. If you are at the end of the book and want to return to the beginning of the book to listen to the book again, here is a tip for those with a **standard** player. Call TBBC with any questions:

- Press and HOLD the fast forward button until you hear "End of book."
- Then, press the play/stop button. You will hear, "End of book. Press play/stop to go to beginning of book."
- Press the large, green play/stop button and you will be back at the beginning of the book.

## **NEW STATEWIDE PEER SUPPORT NETWORK FROM CBVI**

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) is launching a new program, the Assistive Support Programs for Independence, Renewal, and Education (ASPIRE), a state-wide network of peer support groups designed to provide individuals who are living with vision loss the opportunity to gain the necessary coping skills, information, and education needed to thrive. ASPIRE is geared towards those with vision loss that are 55 years or older. Through attendance in monthly group meetings, program participants talk with one another for emotional support, to exchange useful information, and to find practical solutions for challenges related to low vision and blindness. For more information, contact Susan Vanino at CBVI by phone at (973) 648-2821, or by email at [susan.vanino@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:susan.vanino@dhs.state.nj.us)

## **ARE WE OPEN?**

TBBC will be closed on the following state holidays in 2015:

SEPTEMBER 7TH  
NOVEMBER 11TH

OCTOBER 12TH  
NOVEMBER 26TH

NOVEMBER 3RD  
DECEMBER 25TH

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

The Friends of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which promotes financial assistance and acts as an advocacy group to the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC). The Friends support and promote the services and programs of TBBC. They meet twice a year on the first Saturday in June and December at alternate locations, between Middlesex County in June and Mercer County in December.

For additional information and a membership application, visit the Friends' website at <http://www.friendsnjlibraryfortheblind.org> or call **609-888-5459**. The Friends' email address is [Friendsnjlbh@yahoo.com](mailto:Friendsnjlbh@yahoo.com) and their mailing address is:

**The Friends of the NJLBH  
P.O. Box 434  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0434**

New Jersey State Library  
Talking Book & Braille Center  
P.O. Box 501  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0501

**FREE MATTER FOR  
THE BLIND OR  
HANDICAPPED**



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NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY  
BINDERY DIVISION  
185 WEST STATE ST.  
PO BOX 520  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0520

## **HOURS**

**TBBC is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Toll-Free Phone Number</b>	<b>(800) 792-8322</b>
<b>Local Phone Number</b>	<b>(609) 406-7179</b>
<b>Email Address</b>	<b><a href="mailto:tbbc@njstatelib.org">tbbc@njstatelib.org</a></b>
<b>Website Address</b>	<b><a href="http://www.njstatelib.org/tbbc">www.njstatelib.org/tbbc</a></b>