

LIBRARY AT THE TOUCH OF A FINGER

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL

# 919 NEWS

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

NO. 69

FALL, 2009

## FROM LBPH INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR DIGITAL UPDATE

The promises have finally been fulfilled! The new digital players have arrived and so far we have sent out more than 400 machines. All veterans were accommodated and so were the members of the 10<sup>2</sup> Club (readers who are 100 years old or older). If you are a veteran or a member of the 10<sup>2</sup> Club and we missed you, please let us know.

In September 2009, due to the small supply of digital books, we were limited to sending one digital book at a time. More books are arriving from NLS each month and readers with the digital players now can have a maximum of three

digital books at a time.

Remember: It will take several years to phase out the old format. You will need to keep your old players because the supply of cassette books is much greater than the supply of digital books. Magazines, too, will continue to be produced only in cassette for the foreseeable future.

How to get your digital player and books? If you are an active NLS/LBPH patron, you already qualify. Call 215-683-3213, 800-222-1754 or email us at [flblind@freelibrary.org](mailto:flblind@freelibrary.org) for more information. Our new website:

<http://lbph.freelibrary.org>.

## 2010 CENSUS

April 1, 2010 is "Census Day" in the United States, the official day of the population count. Information provided on 2010 Census forms should represent respective households as they exist on this day.

Census data can directly affect the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families by affecting planning and construction of facilities for people with disabilities and transportation services and needs.

For those with visual impairments, Language Assistance Guides will be available in large print and in Braille. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons who do not have access to (VRS) can call 866-783-2010 via FedRelay, a free service.

For more information visit: [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

## PENNSYLVANIA'S INITIATIVE ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (PIAT)

PIAT, part of Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, helps all Pennsylvanians with disabilities, older Pennsylvanians and their families. PIAT provides individuals with demonstrations of Assistive Technology (AT) devices so they can make informed choices about what will work best for them. PIAT also lends these devices for short periods of time, at no cost to individuals, for testing at home or at work. For more information on other PIAT services, contact [ATinfo@temple.edu](mailto:ATinfo@temple.edu) or call 800-204-7428 in state.

You may contact us by mail, fax, telephone or email. We are located at 919 Walnut Street (first floor), Philadelphia, PA 19107; (fax) 215-683-3211; (toll free) 800-222-1754 or (local) 215-683-3213; and [flblind@freelibrary.org](mailto:flblind@freelibrary.org)

919 NEWS is published by the Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Free Library of Philadelphia. It is available in large print, cassette and in braille. Call the Library for the braille or cassette version at 215-683-3213 (in Philadelphia) or toll free at 800-222-1754. We welcome news and comments from our readers.

**THE LIBRARY IS OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

LIBRARY FOR BLIND AND  
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED  
919 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107  
215.683.3213  
(TOLL FREE) 1.800.222.1754

**F R E E  
READING MATTER  
FOR THE  
BLIND OR PHYSICALLY  
HANDICAPPED**

---

## INFOEYES

InfoEyes ([www.infoeyes.org](http://www.infoeyes.org)) is a free, virtual reference service for people with visual impairment or other print limitations. Information professionals from thirteen participating libraries in eight states provide reference assistance on a rotating schedule, with each library responding to questions for a whole day. The multi-state consortium has member libraries from Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington, but clients do not have to be residents of these states or patrons of any library to take advantage of InfoEyes. This reference service is available to any individual unable to use standard print.

Since 2004, participating librarians have been answering questions via e-mail, text chat and live. Voice chat is provided to patrons through iVocalize software, which is available from the InfoEyes website, ([www.infoeyes.org](http://www.infoeyes.org)).

---

## OPAC

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) of the Pennsylvania Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) is available on our websites.

A link to this catalog can be found at <http://lbph.freelibrary.org> in eastern Pennsylvania and <http://lbph.carnegielibrary.org> in western Pennsylvania.

The catalog lists audio books, braille and large print books in our collection. You may search this catalog by **author, title, book number, word in title, subject or narrator.**

Anyone can search the OPAC, but you must be a registered patron of one of the Pennsylvania Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to borrow books through the OPAC. If you are a registered patron and you would like to sign up for the OPAC, in eastern Pennsylvania call 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213 to verify your User ID and to select a password to borrow books through the OPAC.

---

## NFB-NEWSLINE

NFB-Newsline is a free national service that provides automated access to “talking newspapers” and some magazines over your telephone. Easy to use Newsline is ready with each day’s latest edition, usually by 8 a.m. You can use this service to read your favorite newspapers, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, visit [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org).

Tired of channel surfing aimlessly? Local TV listings are now available on Newsline. By simply entering your zip code, your cable or satellite provider and time zone, you will have quick and easy access to your local TV listings. The listings are interactive, allowing you to navigate and choose between date, time and/or channel listings.

To register for this free telephone reading service sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind in partnership with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, call us at 800-222-1754 or 215-683-3213.

---

## IF YOUR IDENTITY IS STOLEN

It is not uncommon for victims of ID theft to feel shock, anger, embarrassment and helplessness. To regain your balance, retake control: contact the security or fraud department at each of the compromised credit card companies or banks.

Place a fraud alert on your credit files, which can make it harder for an ID thief to open any credit accounts in your name. You just have to call one of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax at 800-525-6285;

Experian at 888-397-3742; or Transunion at 800-680-7289. The company you call is required to notify the other two consumer agencies on your behalf.

File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the fraud took place. Get a copy of the police report in case any creditors request proof of the crime. You can download the ID Theft Affidavit from the Federal Trade Commission at:

[www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/resources/forms/affidavit.pdf](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/resources/forms/affidavit.pdf)

---

## JEWISH BRAILLE INSTITUTE

The JBI Library offers a wide variety of free materials of Jewish interest for the visually impaired, blind and physically handicapped. For more information call 800-433-1531 or visit JBI at [www.jbilibrary.org](http://www.jbilibrary.org)

---

### TALKING BANKNOTE IDENTIFIER

Orbit Research introduces the iBill Talking Banknote Identifier. Priced at ninety-nine dollars, the iBill is a breakthrough in independent living for the blind and visually impaired. The iBill is designed with the sole purpose of providing the simplest, fastest and most accurate means to identify U.S. banknotes. The iBill has better than ninety-nine percent accuracy. The 1.5 ounce, pager-sized iBill enables the blind and the visually impaired community to achieve independence in the everyday necessity of using paper currency. For more information contact Orbit Research, 3422 Old Capitol Trail, Suite 585, Wilmington, DE 19808; 888-606-7728; or <http://www.orbitresearch.com>.

### BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING IN A RECESSION

Although you or someone you know may have had the misfortune of losing a job, it is during such difficult and challenging times that volunteering can provide not only a distraction from a bad situation, but also a way to add valuable skills and experience to your resume. No matter how much effort you put into your job search, you are apt to have a few spare hours to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, please contact the LBPH Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Angel Chambers-Gilliam at 215-683-3213 or 800-222-1754.

---

### RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXICRFB&D

RFB&D is a non-profit national organization that provides textbooks for blind, visually impaired and print handicapped students of all ages. Your school or college is eligible for a membership.

Individual membership to RFB&D is now free to students. For more information call, 800-221-4792 or visit [www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org).

---

### TACTILE KEYPADS FOR PRIVACY

Grocery Chain Trader Joe's and CVS Pharmacy, the nation's largest retail pharmacy, have added tactile keypads to point-of-sale devices at all their locations.

The improvement allows shoppers with vision loss to enter their personal identification number (PIN) privately and independently, protecting their financial privacy.

---

### BOOKSHARE

The Free Library of Philadelphia's institutional BookShare Membership Pilot Program has ended. BookShare has extended their service to all students with visual impairment at no charge, [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

---

## **BRAILLE REVIVAL LEAGUE**

### **Jenny Beck Chapter**

The Jenny Beck Chapter of the Braille Revival League promotes the teaching, use and awareness of braille. JBC provides one-on-one braille instruction as well as braille translation service. JBC has brailled such things as favorite recipes, instructions for appliances, restaurant menus and theater programs. If you are interested in learning braille or if you need something put into braille call JBC at 215-829-9997.

---

### **FREE DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE FROM GOOGLE**

Google now has an alternative for finding business listings that's free and easy to use. Simply dial 800-466-4411 and state the location and type of business. Google 411 will connect you at no cost. Saying "details" after the prompt will give you the business location and phone number. For residential numbers, call 800-373-3411 and wait for the advertisements, then choose from the menu options.

---

### **BRAILLE BICENTENNIAL SILVER DOLLAR**

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) celebrates the release of the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar. A portion of the money from sales of this commemorative coin will be used to support the NFB "Braille Readers are Leaders" campaign. To order a coin, contact 800-872-6468 or [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov).

## **NLS-BARD: BRAILLE & AUDIO READING DOWNLOAD**

Through the NLS Braille & Audio Download (BARD) program, books and magazines are available in the form of zip files, which users can save in a personal library. Currently, the digital collection includes more than 12,000 book titles and that number increases daily. From 2009 through 2013, NLS intends to add 2,000 new digital titles per year for distribution on cartridges and 15,000 analog titles will have been converted to digital by 2010.

An individual must be an active NLS patron and have access to a digital player and a computer with Internet connection to participate in this service. If you would like to enroll in this BARD downloading program visit:

**[https://nlsbard.loc.gov/cgi-bin/public/nlsbardprod/accountrequest.cgi?libcode=.](https://nlsbard.loc.gov/cgi-bin/public/nlsbardprod/accountrequest.cgi?libcode=)**

---

### **YES, I AM PLEASED TO GIVE A HOLIDAY GIFT TO THE LIBRARY**

**(800) 222-1754 OR (215) 683-3213**

Enclosed please find my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Library for the Blind and  
Physically Handicapped/FLP Foundation.  
*(Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law)*

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
919 Walnut St., First Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

---