

# Librarian.

Fall 2023



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## From the Director

Welcome to our new iteration of *The Librarian*. We decided to rethink the approach to the newsletter, in part due to your feedback. This new approach will mean a lot more talk about the library, books, events, technology updates, NLS news, and special highlights. Moving into fall, we're excited about our roster of workshops, classes, and programs, new large print book collection, Zines Project, and new Recording Lab & Studio!

Be in touch and read on!

Lisa Lepore

## **Book Narration Project**

Hi, Readers! Braille Institute Library is happy to announce our new recording lab & studio and book narration project. For the first time, BIA Library will be recording a series of books and adding them to the NLS collection. The collection will complement current NLS holdings. Our focus will be on recording books from small and independent presses in English and Spanish, with a portion of them focused on California. We will also emphasize works in translation, always a very small portion of books published in the United States and material we believe important to reading lives. We also make braille copies in paper and digital formats of all books we record to ensure that our braille readers have access to our budding collection. The recording & lab studio will also be used for projects like podcasts, audio zines, descriptions, teaching young people recording studio skills, and other fun stuff.

## **Large Print Books Now Available**

Dear Readers of Large Print,

The BIA Library is excited to announce we are building a collection of large print books!

We currently have 84 new titles, including fiction like *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane, and Toni Morrison's only short story, *Recitatif*. We also have an assortment of non-fiction including *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner, *On Revival and Courage* by Anne Lamott, and Jon Meacham's *And There Was Light Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*. For a full list or to check out any of these books, contact a reader advisor, send a request via email to [bils@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:bils@brailleinstitute.org), or look in the library catalog under large print.

## **Lisa's Picks**

I'm interested in books about journeying, with the mind and the feet. Here are three I highly recommend:

Take a trip with the WPA, one of the great government programs to revitalize a depressed economy and put people back to work, including artists of all kinds. Excellent overview of the WPA in California.

### **DB 21057**

**The WPA Guide to California [sound recording]: The Federal Writers' Project guide to 1930s California** written and compiled by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of California; with a new introduction by Gwendolyn Wright.

Rebecca Solnit is a Californian and a great thinker and engaging writer. Here are a couple of her works that I bet will pique your interest:

### **BR 20542 / DB 78401**

**The faraway nearby**, both a memoir and a look about intersections of family, citizenry, and love of place.

### **DB 107548 / DB 113559 en Espanol**

In **Orwell's Roses** Solnit explores the personal side of George Orwell and so much more. A fun, curiosity-driven work.

## **Getting the Most out of Our Players and E-Readers**

The majority of us Talking Book Machine users are quite adept at using the “Bookshelf” mode to find out which books we have been sent, and to quickly locate that one book out of the bunch that we’re in the perfect mood to read. We may very well read these books out of their presented order, tapping the fast-forward and rewind buttons in a practiced and dexterous manner, to get to the next title that happens to appeal to our fleeting preference of the moment.

Some years ago, and without much fanfare, a feature was added to the player that allows us at the end of a book to simply tap the Play/Stop button to proceed to the next title. The suggestion for this simple improvement originated at Braille Institute Library and we were lucky enough to help enhance the players utility for the entire Library Network. It ingeniously avoids the drudgery of going back into the Bookshelf mode to advance to the next offering. If you’re a voracious reader, you may tend to operate the player in this manner – where you advance from the first title to the second and so on until you’ve exhausted all titles on the cartridge.

If you’re even more excited about the prospect of being able to read braille titles on one of our compact new eReaders, but you don’t have the privilege of a costly home internet infrastructure with a modem, wi-fi router and the monthly charges that go along with them, you’ll be pleased to know that you don’t need one iota of internet service to enjoy all the electronic braille titles that NLS has to offer. All you need is a mailbox. You can specify to one of our seasoned Reader Advisors that you’d like your electronic braille titles delivered on cartridge and they will be happy to fill your request. Simply plug the provided cartridge into your eReader and the titles will automatically upload to the unit. Call the Library for questions or requests at 1 (800) 808-2555.

## **Get a FREE iBill Money Reader!**

The iBill Talking Banknote Identifier—also known as the iBill Money Reader—is a small hand-held device that denominates all U.S. currency in circulation. When a user inserts a note and pushes a button on the side of the device, the reader announces the note’s denomination in one of three modes: a clear natural voice, a pattern of tones, or a pattern of vibrations for privacy.

Need an iBill Reader? You’re in luck! Through a continuing partnership between the National Library Services and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, our library is now able to provide these devices to our BIA patrons and students. If you would like to request an iBill Reader, please contact the library at 1-800-808-2555 or send an email to [bils@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:bils@brailleinstitute.org).

### **Quick Tip for iBill Money Reader Users**

You may sometimes find that your iBill Reader has stopped speaking to you. You can get your iBill talking again by switching the mode on the device. To switch modes on the iBill:

1. Press and hold either one of the buttons on the device.
2. While continuing to hold, press the second button.
3. The iBill will cycle through each mode in order: vibration, tone, speech volume 1, speech volume 2, and speech volume 3.
4. When cycling through modes there is a signal to alert the user to which mode they are in.

## What is a Zine?

Short for "magazine" and pronounced "zeen," these are short, creative works that are self-published and are not boxed in by traditional structures. Zines can be about anything you want them to be and can include anything you want to include, from collages to comics to poetry.

Currently, zines are making a comeback. However, zines began around the 1930s as a way for sci-fi lovers to share with their community, developing "fanzines" on their favorite science fiction books and authors. Later, in the 1970s and 80s, zines became integral to the punk movement as a way of organizing and disseminating information, aided by the accessibility of copy machines. Accessibility is at the heart of zine culture and production, making them a great option for creative expression for communities that may typically struggle to have representation in mainstream media.

Anyone can make a zine--and they can make it any way they want to and about whatever they want to that's what makes them fun! There are no rules when it comes to zines, but some key characteristics are:

- Self-published and self-distributed
- Made using a low-budget
- Community-oriented
- Creative and DIY (do-it-yourself)

Zines can also cover any topic. There are art zines, personal zines, literary zines, gardening zines, political zines, etc. Your zine can be whatever you want it to be! If you are interested in learning more, stay tuned for information about upcoming Library workshops on creating Zines!

## **Recommendations from “Connect with Other Readers”**

On the first Friday of each month, Braille Institute Library’s Connect with Other Readers group meets to recommend great books and catch up on what everyone has been reading lately. Here are some books members of the class have loved:

### **DB 82438 - The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness** by Sy Montgomery

Naturalist and documentary writer explores the world, intelligence, and consciousness of octopuses. Describes her interactions with captive giant Pacific octopuses at the New England Aquarium in Boston. 2015

### **DB 44769, BR 21736 - A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** by Betty Smith

A classic novel about an Irish-American girl's childhood and youth, her struggles with poverty, and her work to get an education. The setting is Brooklyn's tenement life of the early 1900s. 1943.

### **DB 66509 - Rosy is My Relative** by Gerald Durrell

Fictionalized account of city-dweller Adrian Rookwhistle, who inherits Rosy-- an amiable, well-trained elephant with a penchant for strong drink. Seeking a circus home, Adrian and Rosy set out through the countryside on an adventure. 1968.

### **DB 38330 - Song of Solomon** by Toni Morrison

This novel surveys nearly a century of American history as it impinges upon four generations of a single black family. Macon Dead III, known as Milkman, undertakes an epic journey into an understanding of his family's heritage and, hence, himself.

### **DB 105473 - The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family** by Ron Howard and Clint Howard

In a joint memoir, brothers Ron and Clint Howard share their experiences coming of age in Hollywood. With two supportive actors for parents, the

brothers both found early success on TV shows as children--Ron on *The Andy Griffith Show* and Clint on *Gentle Ben*. Bestseller. 2021.

**DB 108279 - Tiger in the Sea: The Ditching of Flying Tiger 923 and the Desperate Struggle for Survival** by Eric Lindner

September 1962: On a moonless night over the raging Atlantic Ocean, a thousand miles from land, the engines of Flying Tiger flight 923 to Germany burst into flames, one by one. Could Pilot John Murray do what no pilot had ever done-"land" a commercial airliner at night in a violent sea without everyone dying? 2021.



## **New NLS Magazines**

Did you know that the library also offers magazines? You can subscribe to magazines in Braille or audio by contacting the library at 1-800-808-2555 or emailing [bils@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:bils@brailleinstitute.org). Here are a few of the newest additions to our magazine selection that are available for download on BARD or via the Magazine-on-Cartridge (MOC) program:

***American Indian*** (Quarterly) - This award-winning quarterly magazine features Native American art and culture, and diverse articles the histories of American Indian nations and the contemporary challenges facing Native peoples across the Western Hemisphere.

***Baseball Digest*** (Bimonthly) - *Baseball Digest* keeps subscribers up-to-date with current action while infusing the rich history of the game in each issue.

***Bookmarks*** (Bimonthly) - Summaries of hundreds of opinions from every major newspaper and magazine for a comprehensive look at 50 new fiction, nonfiction, and children's books.

***Cooking Light*** (Quarterly) - Find quick and healthy recipes, nutrition tips, entertaining menus, and fitness guides to help you make smart choices for a healthy lifestyle from *Cooking Light* magazine.

***Ebony*** (Monthly) - Since 1945, *EBONY* magazine has shined a spotlight on the worlds of Black people in America and worldwide, telling stories—for us, by us.

***Fiyah Literary Magazine*** (Quarterly) - *FIYAH* is a quarterly speculative fiction magazine that features stories by and about Black people of the African Diaspora.

**Guideposts** (Bimonthly) - *Guideposts* is the inspirational magazine that will move and inspire you with personal, heartwarming stories and faith-affirming articles that show anything is possible with hope, faith and prayer.

**International Living Magazine** (Monthly) - *International Living Magazine* aims at providing a scope and depth of information about global travel, living, retiring, investing, and real estate.

**Make** (Quarterly) - As the leading voice of the maker movement, *Make* publishes projects, skill-building tutorials, in-depth reviews and inspirational stories, accessible by all ages and skill ranges.

**Prevention Magazine** (Monthly) - *Prevention* is the ultimate live-better handbook. It's the trusted go-to guide to feeling your best, head to toe, inside and out through trustworthy expert advice, fresh ideas, and health secrets.

**Scientific American** (Monthly) - *Scientific American* covers the most important and exciting research, ideas and knowledge in science, health, technology, the environment and society.

**Selecciones del Reader's Digest** (Monthly) - Versión en español del *Reader's Digest*.

**The Sun Magazine** (Monthly) - In each issue of *The Sun* you'll find some of the most radically intimate and socially conscious writing being published today.

**Vanidades** (Monthly) - Revista en español que cubre moda actual, noticias y tips de belleza, celebridades nacionales e internacionales, las intimidades de la realeza, así como entretenimiento, cocina, decoración, arte y cultura.

## **Recomendaciones de títulos en español por la coordinadora de la biblioteca, Yanci Muñoz**

¿Buscas los mejores libros motivacionales para la superación personal? Lea estos libros inspiradores todos los días para mejorar su vida.

**DB013291 - Como vivir 365 días al año** por John A. Schindler, - Analiza las seis necesidades básicas de los seres humanos y el problema de las enfermedades psicomáticas. Utilizando historias de casos, el autor ilustra cómo los problemas emocionales pueden ser la causa subyacente de las enfermedades físicas.

**DB108445 - Destellos : reflexiones que darán más luz a tu vida** por César Lozano - Un libro que proporciona herramientas y técnicas prácticas y útiles para mejorar tus relaciones con los demás y para sobrellevar las adversidades que se presentan a diario; un libro lleno de destellos de luz para elevar tu autoestima y el amor por la vida y destellos de esperanza para darle sentido a tus acciones y decisiones." Goodreads. Sin calificación. Audiolibro comercial.

**DB102332 - Poder sin límites: la nueva ciencia del desarrollo persona** por Anthony Robbins- Un conocido autor de autoayuda comparte consejos sobre cómo mejorar su vida personal y profesional combatiendo la negatividad. Explica cómo aprovechar el poder oculto de su cerebro, cambiar sus hábitos y reforzar su sistema de creencias y su confianza en uno mismo para lograr el éxito. Sin clasificar. Audiolibro comercial. Lengua española. 2019.

**DB102047 - EL diario de mi detox** por Cecilia Ramírez Harris - Una guía práctica paso a paso para desintoxicar tu mente y cuerpo con zumos de frutas y verduras para adelgazar y sentirte mejor. Escrito por el experto en salud de Univision que aparece frecuentemente en Primer Impacto, incluye recetas y listas de compras. Incluye material complementario. Sin clasificar. Audiolibro comercial. Lengua española. 2016.

## **Library Workshops and Classes**

### **Los Angeles**

#### **WORKSHOP - A few clicks away from ordering your books! Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10 - 11 a.m. Hybrid**

Learn how to log on using our Online Catalogs from our national and local levels, how to search, by genres, book numbers, and how to check out the books to your book baskets.

#### **WORKSHOP - The Voice Behind the Books - Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 10 - 11 a.m. Hybrid**

Meet the Narrator Class- Guest Narrator, Learn all about audiobook narration. Famous NLS narrators give a glimpse of what it's like to record audiobooks. Guest Narrator TBD

#### **WORKSHOP - Poetry for Your Soul - Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 10 - 11 a.m. Hybrid**

Come and learn firsthand how the award-winning author and poet- Joy Walker started her poetry journey as she shares some of her favorite poetry. She will give you 5 steps to writing your first poem. Featuring guest instructor Joy Walker.

#### **WORKSHOP - Resources at your Library - Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 10 - 11 a.m. Hybrid**

What is- learn about resources that you as a library patron have access to: and how to sign up for them. Bookshare, Braille Bible I Bill Reader, NFB Newline, TRP-Telephone Reader program. Guest speaker from Bookshare.

#### **WORKSHOP - Celebrate Black History - Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 10 - 11 a.m. Hybrid**

Let's talk about books by African American authors! We will highlight the writings of **Maya Angelou, Octavia Butler, and Langston Hughes!** We will

share bibliographies from each author. Review their bios and share quotes and themes that inspired their writings. Featuring guest special guest Library patron Erma Washington.

**CLASS - Dungeons and Dragons - Tuesdays 1 – 2 p.m. (7 weeks, starts October 31) – In Person in Los Angeles**

Join a world of storytelling, magic, mayhem, and tons of fun. Led by long-time D&D player, Scott Ogden, players will create a world, characters, and a mission with seven weeks to reach victory! This in-person class will culminate with a special guest celebration.

**WORKSHOP/TALLERE - Introducción a BARD y el Victor Reader - Miércoles, Noviembre 8, 2023, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Hybrid**

Experimente BARD usando su Victor Reader Stream. Esta clase le enseñará consejos fáciles para buscar en la colección y explorar las opciones para descargar libros de la colección en idiomas extranjeros. Le enseñaremos cómo eliminar libros de la estantería, agregar libros a su lista de deseos, y cómo descargar revistas y más. Con oradora invitada especial: Beatriz Gutierrez.

**WORKSHOP/TALLERE - Recursos en su biblioteca - Miércoles, Enero 10, 2024, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hybrid**

Aprenda sobre los recursos a los que usted, como usuario de la biblioteca, tiene acceso: y cómo inscribirse en ellos. Braille a pedido, Braille Biblos International, Bookshare, I Bill Reader, NFB Desline, TRP-Programa de lector por el teléfono.

**WORKSHOP/TALLERE - Detrás las palabras - Miércoles, Marzo 6, 2024, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Hybrid**

Aprende los 5 pasos básicos para escribir tus memorias, ven a conocer a Yolanda Nava- Autora y usuaria de la Biblioteca. Autora de dos libros de nuestra colección. DB097182 y DB105690 *Through the Dark* ganadora del premio Emmy relata su viaje hacia el autodescubrimiento después de que

una enfermedad autoinmune no diagnosticada resultó en ceguera. Con oradora invitada especial: Yolanda Nava.

## **Anaheim**

**BOOK CLUB - Great Adventure Books** - We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, start September-November from 1:00-2:30pm. Read and discuss adventures stories, both fiction and non-fiction.

**BOOK CLUB - Inspirandote y Creciendo con la Literatura** - Nos reunimos cada cuarto miércoles de cada mes, de septiembre a noviembre de 1:00 a 2:30 p.m. Leeremos y discutiremos literatura que ayudara a su crecimiento personal.

## **San Diego**

**CLASS - Conviviendo y Leyendo - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Distance Learning**

Los estudiantes que comparten la pasión por la literatura se reúnen una vez al mes para discutir la lectura y otros recursos. Los estudiantes que participen escogieran los libros en anticipo. Se recomienda el uso de la aplicación móvil de BARD. La Biblioteca del Instituto Braille proporcionará libros hablados y maquinas lectores de libros para quienes los requieran.

## **Santa Barbara**

**CLASS - Writers' Circle - Thursdays 10 - 11 a.m. - September 7-December 14**

Discuss the writing process, share your work, and get peer support and encouragement on your projects. A graduate student from Antioch University will provide guidance for your writing.

**CLASS - Connect with Other Readers – Friday, 2 - 3 p.m. Monthly  
(September 8, October 6, November 3, December 1)**

Once a month, come together with the Braille Institute Library community to share what you have been reading, seek book suggestions, and give reading recommendations.

**WORKSHOP - Braille & Large Print Boardgames - Friday, October 20,  
12 - 1 p.m. in person at the Santa Barbara Center**

Many favorite board games are available in large print or braille format! Come in person to the Santa Barbara Center to try some out and have some fun.

**WORKSHOP - Audiobooks for Beginners Friday, November 17,  
2 - 3 p.m.**

Learn how you can access audiobooks for free and how they can open up a new world of reading for you.

**WORKSHOP - BARD Express Friday, December 8, 2 – 3 p.m.**

BARD Express is the PC program for downloading books from the Braille Institute Library. Learn about the application, how to use it, and what's new

**BOOK CLUB - Santa Barbara Book Club Information**

The Santa Barbara Book Club meets every Wednesday from 1-2 pm. The class is in hybrid format, meaning members can join in person at the Santa Barbara Center, or remotely on Microsoft Teams. The club selects a few books from a variety of genres to read each semester and meets each week to discuss their current book. Some recent reads include *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King (DB 110155), *The Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny (DB 75464), and *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (DB 107538).

**The Future Starts with You**

**FREEWILL** 

Braille Institute serves to better the future of our community and that starts with you. We are excited to share a resource that will support you and your loved ones' future: a free estate planning tool. Get started at [FreeWill.com/Braille](https://FreeWill.com/Braille) to create your free plan and get peace of mind for the future. For more information, please call (323) 210-2607.

**Scan to get started**



**Make an Impact Today**

Have an impact and support our free services for all who need them. Make your gift today!

**Scan to give**

