From the Director

Greetings from the Braille Institute headquarters in Los Angeles where our famed brutalist building spans a city block on Vermont Avenue. The building’s exterior walls lean out like a Mayan temple, and vertical windows set in heavy concrete expose sky and trees. Braille Institute is in good company, architecturally speaking, located down the street from Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House and close to his Griffith Observatory.

This National Library Week, we are celebrating stories, and the architecture of Braille Institute is just one of many. Join us April 8 through 12 for our week-long celebration, from a zine makers art show, author visits, y una conversaciòn fabulas y cuentas en español! Read on for more details about Library Week as well as other important information about your Library, NLS, and Braille Institute.

To learn more about our historic 1974 building use this link to the Los Angeles Conservancy website https://www.laconservancy.org/learn/historic-places/braille-institute-of-america/.

Read on,

Lisa Lepore,
Director of Library Services
Celebrate National Library Week 2024

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. This year, National Library Week takes place from April 8 through April 12. The theme for 2024 is “Ready, Set, Library!” The American Library Association selected this theme to promote the idea that libraries are a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. Your library can provide you with opportunities to connect with others via book clubs, author talks, workshops, and through books!

Other days of note during that week are:

- **Monday, April 8:** Right to Read Day is a National Day of Action in support of the right to read. The State of America's Libraries Report is released, including Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2023.
- **Tuesday, April 9:** National Library Workers Day, a day for everyone to recognize the valuable contributions made by library workers.
- **Wednesday, April 10:** National Library Outreach Day, a day the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.
- **Thursday, April 11:** Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to urge members of Congress to protect the freedom to read.

Our library will mark this year’s National Library Week with a series of workshops and events throughout the week. On Tuesday, April 9, at 11:00 a.m., we will have a Meet-the-Author event at our Los Angeles library featuring Gary Phillips. He will be in conversation with fellow Los Angeles author Francesca Lia Block. Lunch will be served after the event, so please join us in person if you can!

Please RSVP at bils@brailleinstitute.org or call 1-800-808-2555.
Author Gary Phillips will be a special National Library Week guest speaker on Tuesday, April 9, 2024! Gary Phillips has been a community activist, labor organizer, and delivered dog cages. He’s published various novels, comics, short stories and edited several anthologies including *Orange County Noir* and the award-winning *The Obama Inheritance: Fifteen Stories of Conspiracy Noir*. *Violent Spring*, first published in 1994 was named in 2020 one of the essential crime novels of Los Angeles. He was a senior story editor on FX’s *Snowfall*, about crack and the CIA in 1980s South Central where he grew up.

He is also the author of the novel **One-Shot Harry (DB109284)**, which you can find on BARD. Here is a brief description of the novel:

Race and civil rights in 1963 Los Angeles provide a powerful backdrop in Gary Phillips' riveting historical crime novel about an African American forensic photographer seeking justice for his jazz musician friend. When Ingram hears a call over the police scanner to the scene of a deadly automobile accident, he recognizes the vehicle described as belonging to his good friend and old army buddy, the white jazz trumpeter Ben Kinslow, with whom he'd only just reconnected. The LAPD declares the car crash an accident, but when Ingram develops his photos there are signs of foul play. Ingram feels compelled to play detective, even if it means putting his own life on the line. -- Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

![One-Shot Harry Book Cover](image-url)
April 7 - 13, 2024
National Library Week Workshops

Join Braille Institute as we celebrate Library Week! Enjoy the wonders of libraries with us through various workshops and events, both remote and in-person.
Learn more at brailleinstitute.org/library-workshops

Meet Gary Phillips, Author
Tuesday, April 9, 11:00AM - 12:00 PM PT Hybrid Microsoft Teams/LA Library
Join us for a special author presentation by Gary Phillips, author of One-Shot Harry, in conversation with author, Francesca Lia Block. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Block will be in person at the LA Library. Lunch will be served after the event. RSVP here https://bit.ly/49MZ0Hq

Poetry Workshop with Joy Walker
Wednesday, April 10, 10:00 - 11:00 AM PT Hybrid Microsoft Teams/LA Library
The library is marking the occasion during National Library Week with a Poetry Workshop featuring author, poet, and library patron Joy Walker! Join us to learn more about poetry so you may expand your horizons to enjoy reading and writing your own poems. Register here https://bit.ly/3V5LpGm

Fabulas y Cuentos para Reflexionar
Miercoles, April 10, 1:00 - 2:00 PM PT Hybrid Microsoft Teams/Anaheim Center

Santa Barbara Zine Show
Monday, April 12, 1:30 - 3:30 PM PT In-person at Santa Barbara Center
Join Braille Institute Santa Barbara student zine makers and local zinesters for a look at their creations at this in-person workshop. Register here https://bit.ly/48IO0Ov
Books About Libraries

What better way to celebrate National Library Week than by reading books about libraries? Peruse the following list of book recommendations that all involve libraries, librarians, and of course, books! Explore these fantastic novels that include history, friendship, mystery, and the magic of libraries that touch us all.

DB114734
The Lonely Hearts Book Club by Lucy Gilmore
Sloane Parker lives a small, contained life as a librarian in her small, contained town. She never thinks of herself as lonely...but still she looks forward to that time every day when old curmudgeon Arthur McLachlan comes to browse the shelves and cheerfully insult her. When Arthur doesn't show up one morning, she's instantly concerned. Wanting to bring more cheer into Arthur's gloomy life, Sloane creates an impromptu book club. Slowly, the lonely misfits of their sleepy town begin to find each other, and in their book club, find the joy of unlikely friendship. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

DB105146
The Book of Form and Emptiness by Ruth Ozeki
One year after the death of his beloved musician father, thirteen-year-old Benny Oh's mother has become a hoarder, and Benny begins to hear voices from the things around him. The voices drive him to seek refuge in the silence of the public library, where he meets his own Book. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

DB103929The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
In 1906, Belle da Costa Greene was hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society, but she is African American passing as white. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

DB080291
The Strange Library by Haruki Murakami
A young man goes to the library on what he assumes will be a routine visit. Sent to a hidden corner of the basement, he encounters an old man who imprisons him and forces him to read books on esoteric subjects. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

DB099608
The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis
1913. Laura Lyons has made a home for her family within the august walls of the New York Public Library thanks to her husband's job. But her world is opened when she's accepted to journalism school. Eighty years later, her granddaughter Sadie reckons with choices made. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

DB100906
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
After she attempts suicide, Nora wakes up in a mysterious library. The shelves are full of books, each the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with other books for the other lives you could have lived. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.
Storytelling Through Zines and Audio Zines

Zines and Audio Zines are great mediums for storytelling, especially when it comes to short stories and commentary. A “zine” is commonly considered to be a small, handmade publication produced in limited batches and either distributed free of charge or sold through independent bookstores or by private means. They can also be traded. Usually, illustrations are included in addition to text and these custom publications frequently feature various enhancements such as textiles or glitter. What is an Audio Zine? It is a recorded audio “magazine” that – like a conventional zine - is usually centered on a specialty subject or theme. An Audio Zine recording can consist of a single narration track or multiple tracks that can include narration, music, and sound effects.

In their early years, Audio Zines were distributed on cassette tape and other physical media. In the digital age they can reach a wider audience via streaming services such as Soundcloud and YouTube. Narratives in your creative writing can range from observations on society and politics to your own personal life experiences and challenges. They can be extremely brief and simple or relatively involved. Creating and distributing unique works such as these are great as emotional outlets that often deliver therapeutic benefits for an artist/creator.

According to some sources, conventional Zines originated in the 1920s when Black creatives in Harlem wanted to publish their materials without interference from the establishment of the time. The trend became increasingly popular in the 1930s and 40s when science fiction fans would self-publish magazines related to the subject they loved. The punk subculture made efficient self-publishing prevalent in the 1980s with technologies that offered better copy machines, the personal computer, the introduction of publishing software and improved home printing technology such as inkjet and laser printing.

Check out the audio zines created by four students at our Anaheim Center via the Telephone Reader Program (TRP).

For information on zines classes and workshops, contact Braille Institute Library at 1 (800) 808-2555.
The World of Audio Description

On December 4th, 2023, the Braille Institute Library in Los Angeles hosted the inaugural event for their new series: The World of Audio Description. This series will feature panel discussions with industry experts and focus on film, television, zines, comics, graphic novels, visual art, and the performing arts.

The first panel was robust and illuminating. Library volunteer and graduate student in librarianship at San Jose State University, Corinne Shor organized the panel. Panelists included:

- Robert Kingett, a blind author, journalist, and accessibility consultant whose advocacy work with The Accessible Netflix project helped shine light on the need for Audio Descriptions.

- Carl Richardson, who identifies as Deaf/Blind, serves as the ADA Coordinator for the Massachusetts State House, and is co-chair of the Audio Description Project for the American Council of the Blind.

- Tabitha Kenlon, writer, educator, researcher, and coordinator for the Audio Description Project.

- Chad Allen, author of the audio comic Unseen and a multi-disciplinary artist, Magic Castle performing magician, who, as he says, happens to be blind. Chad moderated the panel along with Lisa Lepore, our library director.

The discussion centered on making successful audio description, a review of its history, and hopes for its future. All panelists agreed with Carl Richardson when he said, “I want audio description to be considered a human right.” Robert Kingett added, “I want audio description to grow to such a point that sighted people are using it but not taking over the industry.” This sentiment echoed the panelists' belief that the inclusion of blind community throughout the whole process has, in fact, made it better.

During the Q & A section when founder of the Audio Description Project, Dr. Joel Snyder, outlined future advancements, like the growth of audio description in over 60 countries.
The library then screened the pilot episode of *Daredevil* (2015) with audio descriptions for Braille Institute students, complete with popcorn and candy.

The Braille Institute Library will continue to explore the world of audio description, learning from experts, and partnering with their neighbors in the Film & TV industries. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming audio described screenings.

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**Return Your BOD Cartridges!**

A friendly reminder to those who use the Books-on-Demand (BOD) service: Please return your cartridges promptly! Returning your cartridges will help prevent interruptions to your library book service. As soon as you finish reading the books on one cartridge, please return it so we can send you another cartridge with exciting new selections for you to enjoy!

If you need to order more books, please call the library at 1-800-808-2555 and speak to a Reader Advisor.

Happy reading!
**It’s Gardening Month**

April is national gardening month! Need ideas of what to plant? According to *Good Housekeeping* magazine (available on BARD and digital audio cartridge), April is a good time to plant annuals like California poppies and dill, and May is a good time to plant dahlias, French beans, and squash.

If you want more gardening tips, check out *Good Housekeeping*, as well as *Horticulture* magazine (available on BARD or digital audio cartridge) or *Better Homes and Gardens* (available in braille). There are also many books available in the library collection on a variety of gardening topics, including the following.

**DB052241 - Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities**
by Janeen R. Adil
An avid gardener provides tips and techniques for adapting garden format and methods for people with limited mobility. Explains advantages of containers, raised beds, and vertical gardens. Chapters discuss appropriate tools; choosing vegetables, herbs, flowers, vines, and ornamentals; and starting children in gardening. 1994.

**DB102200 – Container and Fragrant Gardens: How to Enliven Spaces with Containers and Make the Most of Scented Plants**
by Peter H. Loewer
A guide to creating an aromatic garden or an indoor haven of perfumed houseplants. In addition to highlighting classic annuals, bulbs, perennials, vines, and woody plants that are fragrant and that do well in containers, this offers straightforward garden care advice. 2020.

**DB105601 – The First-Time Gardener: Growing Plants and Flowers: All the Know-how You Need to Plant and Tend Outdoor Areas Using Eco-friendly Methods**
by Sean McManus
A guide to creating an aromatic garden or an indoor haven of perfumed houseplants. In addition to highlighting classic annuals, bulbs, perennials, vines,
and woody plants that are fragrant and that do well in containers, this offers straightforward garden care advice. 2020.

**DB107752 – Grow More Food: A Vegetable Gardener’s Guide to Getting the Biggest Harvest Possible from a Space of Any Size**
by Colin McCrate
Two experienced gardeners help readers boost their garden productivity by teaching them how to plan carefully, maximize production in every bed, get the most out of every plant, scale up systems to maximize efficiency, and expand the harvest season with succession planting, intercropping, and season extension. 2022.

**DB055960 – The Houseplant Encyclopedia**
by Maggie Stuckey
Explains how to grow over eighty kinds of indoor plants, and includes techniques for watering, repotting, and cultivating. Offers tips for purchasing the right flora for each location in the house and suggests ideas for terrariums and dish gardens. 1993.

by Nicole Johnsey Burke
A leading landscape architect shows home gardeners how to design and grow a small-scale vegetable garden, discovering which edibles grow best in kitchen gardens and sharing season-by-season advice on planting, tending, and harvesting. 2020.

**DB084886 – The Water-Saving Garden: How to Grow a Gorgeous Garden with A Lot Less Water**
by Pam Penick
A gardening guide for those who live in drought conditions or who simply wish to design gardens that need minimal watering. Includes advice on how to prepare the soil, use water wisely, and choose plants that thrive in low-water environments. 2016
National Poetry Month - Octavio Paz

There are many things to celebrate during the month of April, including national poetry month! In honor of the occasion, here is a brief profile of Mexican poet and diplomat Octavio Paz Lozano.

Octavio Paz was born in 1914 in Mexico City. For his body of work, he was awarded the 1977 Jerusalem Prize, the 1981 Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the 1982 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and the 1990 Nobel Prize in Literature.

His paternal grandfather was a prominent liberal intellectual and one of the first authors to write a novel with an expressly Indigenous theme. Thanks to his grandfather’s extensive library, Paz knew and loved literature from an early age. Paz’s father was also an activist, a political journalist who, together with other progressive intellectuals, joined the agrarian uprisings led by Emiliano Zapata.

DB024351 - *The Labyrinth of Solitude; The Other Mexico; Return to the Labyrinth of Solitude; Mexico and the United States; The Philanthropic Ogre*

Four essays by, and an interview with, the Mexican poet and essayist. Paz provides insight into Mexican society and culture, and in *Mexico and the United States* focuses on the contrast between the neighboring countries.

DB034571 - *Convergences Essays on Art and Literature*

Sixteen essays examine topics as diverse as speaking in tongues and translating poetry. In "At Table and in Bed," Paz claims that "American contradiction--a democratic universalism based on ethnic, cultural, religious, and sexual exclusions--is reflected in its cuisine." Artists, linguists, and writers are discussed more seriously by the 1990 Nobel Laureate in Literature.

DB063158 - *Itinerary: An Intellectual Journey*

Final work of the Nobel laureate who died in 1998. These autobiographical essays on politics and history are influenced by such twentieth-century events as the Mexican and Cuban revolutions and the works of writers like Trotsky and Camus. 1999.
Libros en español de Octavio Paz

CDB01857 - Arbol adentro (Inside a Tree)

DB022496 - Tiempo nublado
El reconocido escritor mexicano presenta una serie de ensayos sobre acontecimientos recientes en los que examina temas políticos, históricos y sociales. En español.

DB032867 - Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, o, Las trampas de la fe
El autor y poeta ganador del Premio Nobel presenta una biografía de la famosa monja del México del siglo XVII. Paz intenta desentrañar las poderosas motivaciones que llevaron a una bella joven a abandonar la vida cortesana para ingresar a un convento, donde se convirtió en la escritora y poeta más influyente de su época, para abandonarla también. En español.

DB033898 - Lo mejor de Octavio Paz: el fuego de cada día
Una colección de más de 150 poemas escritos entre 1935 y 1987 por el autor mexicano que ganó el Premio Nobel de Literatura en 1990. Los poemas, seleccionados y con notas de Paz, aparecieron por primera vez en colecciones como "Freedom on Parole" y "Salamander." En español.

DB112386 - El laberinto de la soledad y otras obras
Octavio Paz ha escrito una de las obras más duraderas y poderosas jamás creadas sobre México y su gente, carácter y cultura. Comparada con la de Ortega y Gasset por su mordaz análisis, esta colección contiene la obra más famosa de Octavio Paz, un discurso bellamente escrito y profundamente sentido sobre la búsqueda de identidad de México que nos brinda una mirada inigualable al país escondido detrás de la máscara. Algún lenguaje fuerte. En español.
Share Reading’s Value

What do you enjoy about Braille Institute Library? Would you like to give back to Braille Institute Library after you, a friend, or a family member received services? Then consider becoming an Outreach Ambassador to spread the word about the valuable services that Braille Institute Library provides.

Outreach involves traveling to and presenting an overview of library services to small groups. These include an independent or assisted living community’s residents, staff, and volunteers; disability groups or organizations; or community centers. Outreach can also mean representing Braille Institute Library at health or community fairs, distributing information, and answering questions. We ask Outreach Ambassadors to be available for at least three events per calendar year. Our Outreach Manager and Library Coordinators will train you. Scheduling is flexible, and Outreach Ambassadors receive advanced notice about events to plan accordingly.

Unable to travel but would still like to help? Outreach Ambassadors educate community professionals at interested organizations by phone, remotely, or email. Scheduling is flexible, and training for the position occurs in-person, remotely, or by phone.

Outreach goes beyond large cities. We’d like Outreach Ambassadors to confidently discuss these free library services with their fellow community members and supportive organizations in their local neighborhoods and workplaces.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Karen Arcos, Outreach Manager, karcos@brailleinstitute.org or 323-210-2613. You may also call toll-free at 1-800-braille (800-272-4553). Thank you in advance!
**BARD Download Limit**

In an additional step to safeguard the NLS collection from improper use, patrons will be allowed to download no more than 250 books and magazines in any rolling thirty-day period. This includes both audio and braille titles. It does not matter which platform or combination of platforms are used to download them. A patron may download no more than 250 books and magazines in any rolling thirty-day period regardless of the format or the BARD interface used.

For example, a person could download 30 e-braille books using the NLS Braille eReader, 70 audio magazines via the BARD website, and 150 audio and braille books via the BARD Mobile app, reaching the thirty-day limit of 250. Likewise, a patron only using BARD Mobile to download books and magazines would also be limited to 250 titles in a rolling thirty-day period.

The authorization limit is calculated by adding up the number of “unique titles” downloaded. This means a patron could download the same title on additional devices in that same thirty-day period without that download counting against the authorization limit.

**International Language Collection**

Thanks to the Marrakesh Treaty and expanded book acquisition, the National Library Service for the Print Disabled (NLS) continues to add more international language books to our catalog than ever before. To help both patrons and network library staff locate these titles, please peruse the current issue of the online publication International Language Quarterly (ILQ) online at www.loc.gov/nls/ilq.

ILQ highlights a selection of the most popular international language titles recently added to the NLS collection. The ILQ web pages also feature a Print button that generates a customizable, printer-friendly version for the convenience of users. ILQ Volume 4, Issue 1 features 139 books in 14 languages.
National Library Week 2024

On Tuesday, April 9th, author Gary Phillips will be in conversation with fellow LA author Francesca Lia Block at our library in Los Angeles!

To RSVP, please call 1-800-808-2555 or visit https://brailleinstitute.org/bioa-event/national-library-week-gary-phillips-author