

# Bright Future

**Newsletter of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

## **Library Volunteer Spotlight**

The OLBPH digital recording studio and Oklahoma Telephone Reader would not function without our wonderful volunteers. Every other year, Oklahomans for Special Library Services sponsors a volunteer appreciation luncheon. This event provides an opportunity for volunteers to visit and network with library staff, as well as each other. It is a time to recognize each volunteer for their hours of dedication to our patrons, and to present a standout volunteer with the Jo Anna Peter Award.

Longtime volunteer Jo Anna Peter was a native of Oklahoma City. Jo Anna loved to cook, sew, travel, and was a homemaker and phlebotomist. She spent many hours volunteering for several organizations including OLBPH. Jo Anna began narrating textbooks for area students on cassette tape in her home in the 1970s. When the library's recording studio transitioned to digital recording, volunteers had to come into the digital studio to do their recording.

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Bright Future is also available in Braille, digital cartridge, and on our website.

Jo Anna, in her mid-seventies, was unable to make the drive from Norman to OKC. Determined to continue volunteering, Jo Anna purchased the equipment to create a digital audio workstation in her home. She learned the National Library Service guidelines for quality audio production and from 2005 until her death in 2012 she consistently and single-handedly produced three periodicals for library patrons: *The Oklahoma Observer*, *OPEA Advocate*, and *Black Star*. The Jo Anna Peter Award keeps her memory alive and celebrates a volunteer with an unwavering commitment to providing high quality audio to the patrons we serve.

It is with a great sense of pride that we presented the most recent award to long-time Oklahoma Telephone Reader volunteer Randy Bolliger. He wrote the following words about himself:

Hello, I'm Randy Bolliger and I have been a volunteer reader since I retired from American Airlines in September 2006. My wife, Judy, and I moved to Tulsa from California in 1978 and have lived in Broken Arrow since 1988. I lost Judy to cancer in 2005. I have a daughter, Lindsay, who's the light of my life. She is a reading specialist with Broken Arrow Public Schools. I live with Lindsay and her husband Airon, who take excellent care of me.

I was diagnosed with ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease in 2002 and have lost most of the use of my hands, arms, and legs. When the disease progressed to the point I had to take early retirement, I began looking for a way to do volunteer work from home, since I could

no longer drive. Within a week I joined this wonderful group of volunteers. I read the Tulsa World newspaper Monday through Friday. I love sports so you'll usually hear me reading sports articles and the sports TV and Radio guide and statistics. I also read articles from the Scene section of the paper, as well as the puzzles and comics.



Randy Bolliger at home with the Jo Anna Peter Award presented by OTR Director Becky Bates and OTR Technician Steve Dowdy. Photo taken by OLBPH Director Kevin Treese.

I am honored to receive the Jo Anna Peter Award and am grateful to Becky Bates, the staff, and volunteers at OLBPH for their support over the years. Reading out loud has strengthened my breathing capacity. My doctors are amazed at how well I score on

the breathing tests I've taken these last few years and I have the listeners to thank for that. They are truly an inspiration and it has been a privilege to be a part of their lives. Also, thank you for recognizing my service with this award. Even though we speak into a machine when we read, I picture the listeners nodding in agreement with a sportswriter, working a Scrabble Gram, or laughing at the comics.

We are grateful to Randy and all of our volunteers for the great service they provide. If you'd like to volunteer, contact the library! You can find our contact information on the front page of this newsletter.

--Becky Bates, OTR Administrator



### **Contact Information**

Have you moved, changed your phone number, or email address? Don't forget to tell us! Without accurate and up-to-date contact and mailing information, we cannot provide you with great service. So, if you move, change your phone number, or change your email address, just remember to let us know. Thanks!

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

## Free Matter for the Blind

Just a reminder—your recorded books and your digital players can all be mailed back and forth to the library as Free Matter for the Blind. This means you do not need to apply any postage to it, just put the item back in its mailer or box and mail it back. The mailing card we provide on each of our items has the “Free Matter for the Blind” already stamped in the upper right corner, so you do not need to worry about that either.

--Julia Alderson, Administrative Librarian

## Mailing Cards Reminder

You may have noticed the new mailing cards you have been receiving with your digital audio books. Unlike the old cards with their distinctive hole, the new cards have a distinctive notch, which is a corner cut off the card. When the book arrives, the notch will be in the **TOP RIGHT** corner. That is the side that has your address on it. When you return the book, just flip the card so that the notch is in the **TOP LEFT** corner.

--Marka Will, Librarian



## Notable Books of 2016

### **DB 82873 – *Black River* by S.M. Hulse**

Wes Carver returns to his Montana hometown with two things: his wife's ashes and a letter from the parole

board. The convict who once held him hostage during a prison riot is up for release. For years, Wes earned his living as a corrections officer and found his joy playing the fiddle. But the riot shook Wes's faith and robbed him of his music; now he must decide if his attacker should walk free. This modern day Western is about love, loss, redemption, revenge, and one man's struggle to find forgiveness in the wake of evil.

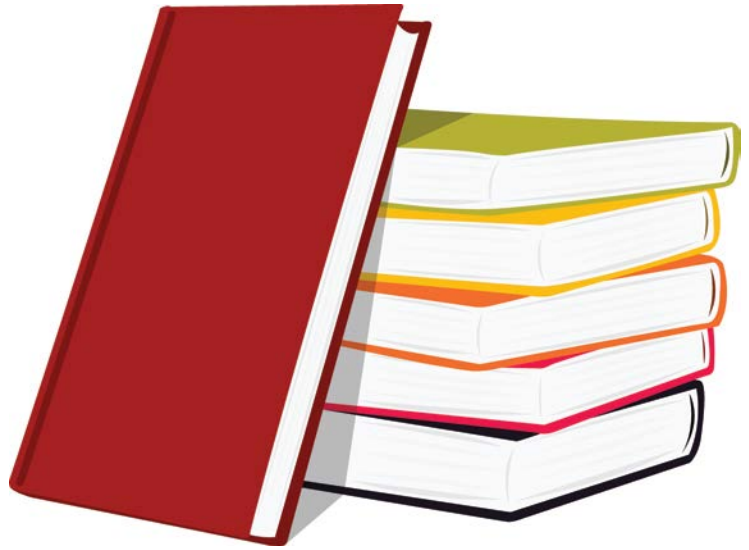


### **DB 82942 – *Did You Ever Have A Family: A Novel* by Bill Clegg**

On the eve of her daughter's wedding, June Reid's life is completely devastated when a shocking disaster takes the lives of her entire family in an instant, leaving her the only survivor. As she struggles with the aftermath of tragedy, the story of what happened tightens and each character has a story to tell. This is a celebration of hope and family—the ones we are born with and the ones we create.

**DB 84064 – *Seven Brief Lessons On Physics* by Carlo Rovelli**

Even if you failed your high school physics class, this short readable book will help you understand Einstein's theory of relativity, gravity, and black holes. Written by a physicist in a conversational tone, it untangles some of the most complicated and beautiful scientific theories of the modern age.



**DB 83643 – *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi**

When the author was in the final year of his residency, training to be a neurosurgeon, he was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. He was 36. His life transformed in an instant, from doctor to patient. Married with a young daughter, he struggled with his diagnosis but he didn't stop working. Even after chemotherapy he returned to his residency and he wrote about his experiences. Kalanithi died in March of last year and this is his powerful memoir. In it he explores the big questions: What does it mean to live a full life? And what does life look like in the face of death?

**DB 82620 – *Our Man In Charleston* by Christopher Dickey**

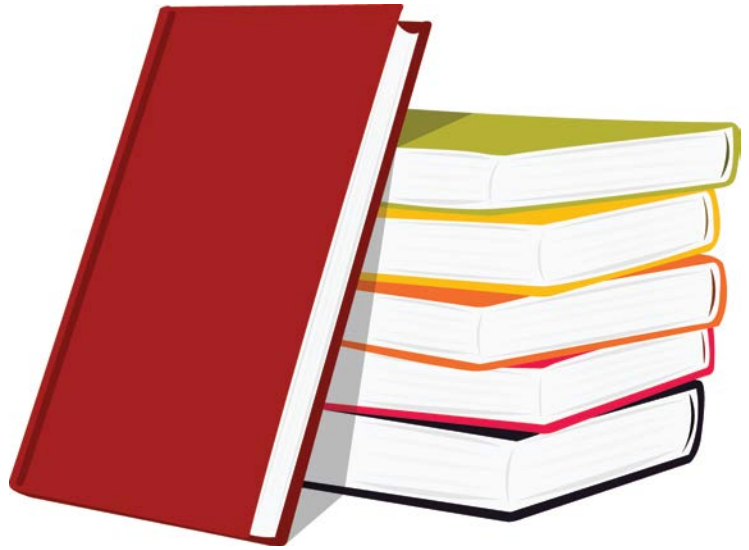
Equal parts biography and American Civil War history, this book details the experiences of Britain's foremost spy, Robert Bunch, who was living in Charleston, South Carolina when the Civil War began and for its duration. This book presents a different perspective on the war and its chief causes as seen by Great

Britain, whose recognition the Confederacy so desperately needed.

**DB 84468 – *Mr. Splitfoot*  
by Samantha Hunt**

A Gothic ghost story and eerie page turner, this

haunting novel is an escapist adventure with two narratives that intertwine. It features two orphans who learn to interact with the dead and a mysterious journey involving one of them decades later. This is an electrifying read, mixing the modern and the gothic and blurring the line between the living and the dead.



**DB 83764 – *A Mother's Reckoning* by Sue Klebold**

Sixteen years ago, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris opened fire on their fellow students at Columbine High School. They killed 13 people before killing themselves. In this book, Dylan's mother, Sue, struggles with her son's violent act, and tries to understand the horror from the boy she raised. Drawing on videos and writings that Dylan left behind and her own journals, Klebold tells her family's story with gut wrenching honesty.

--Sammie Willis, Librarian





## Choice Magazine Listening

Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners receive 12 hours of great writing, chosen from over 100 of the finest magazines by CML's team of editors. These quarterly issues feature stories, poems, and articles from publications such as *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's*, *Smithsonian*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Scientific American*, and *The Atlantic*. All CML selections are wonderfully read by some of America's top audiobook narrators.

For more than half a century, CML has been proud to serve adults with conditions that make it difficult to read standard print or to hold a magazine. Listeners love the mix of interesting, entertaining, and amusing pieces they receive as a download or on a digital cartridge (easily returnable in the postage-free mailer it arrived in). This quarterly service is completely free of charge due to the support of a charitable foundation established to ensure that all Americans could enjoy the best writing from leading magazines.

If you or someone you know would enjoy this free service, please call 1-888-724-6423 to find out more. Between 9 and 4 Eastern Time your call will be answered by a friendly person happy to help – not a machine. For the library's BARD users, this magazine is available for download. Further information is available on CML's website, too. Please visit [www.choicemagazinelisting.org](http://www.choicemagazinelisting.org).

--David Page, Choice Magazine Listening associate editor

## Book Corner

### **DB 68905 – *Look Again* by Lisa Scottoline**

This suspense novel comes highly recommended by a library patron. In it, reporter Ellen Gleeson adopted her

son Will when he was an eighteen-month-old heart patient. When Will is three years old, Ellen is shocked to see the picture of a missing child who looks exactly like Will. Ellen secretly investigates the other child's family.



### **DB 43194 – *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**

First published in 1973, this memoir is an intimate portrait of one family's tragic experience of imprisonment in Manzanar, one of the concentration camps for Japanese-Americans during World War II. It is a timeless reminder how such an injustice should never again befall citizens in a democratic society.

### **DB 83258 – *Chaparral Range War* by Dusty Richards**

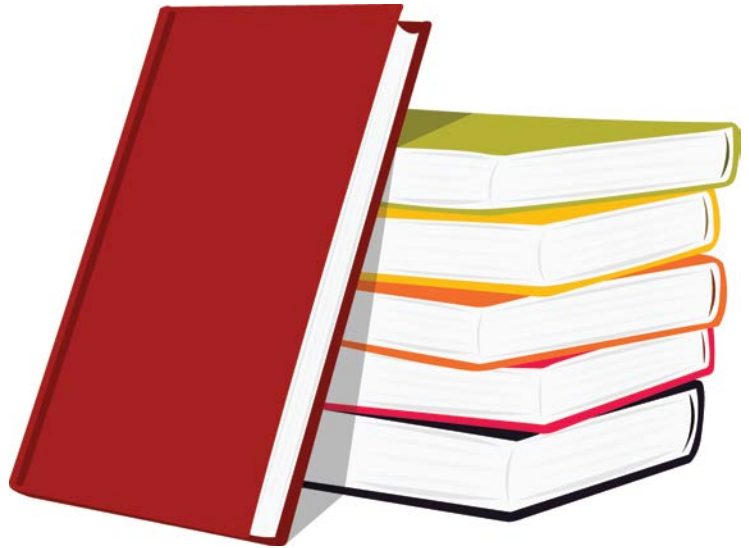
Do you need a western? We have many, but here's one to try. A former Texas Ranger moves to Arizona Territory and finds criminals running free. He works to bring justice and uproot a corrupt sheriff. He also hopes to capture the heart of a special lady.

**DB 82252 – *Hold Me* by Susan Mallery**

Romance fans, this one is for you. Despite working on a search and rescue team, all Destiny Mills wants is a life that's safe and calm.

Former Olympic skier Kipling

Gilmore, who still craves the rush of the slopes, is a threat to her heart.



**DB 81300 – *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty**

In October 2016, this title won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and it is the first time a U.S. writer has won the award. This satirical novel centers on a black man raised by a radical sociologist in California, who attempts to segregate the local school and keep a slave. His efforts lead to a lawsuit heard before the Supreme Court.

**DB 76520 – *The Obituary Writer* by Ann Hood**

Love and loss shape and connect the lives of two women four decades apart. In 1960, a neighborhood boy's kidnapping roils Claire's humdrum existence and she begins an affair. In 1919, obituary writer Vivien still searches for her lover, missing since the San Francisco earthquake.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

## Oklahoma Telephone Reader



The Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) is an on-demand dial-up information service. It is intended for use by anyone with a disability that prevents them from reading standard print materials, and you must be a library patron in order to register for OTR. OTR takes the place of and is similar to its predecessor, the Older Blind

Telephone Information Line.

Volunteers record articles from *The Oklahoman*, *Tulsa World*, the *Oklahoma Gazette*, and other publications on a daily basis. Such articles include news, editorials, sports, grocery ads, obituaries, as well as a variety of other types of articles. Listeners can access these using the key pads on their telephone and navigate directly to the publication of their choice. You can even use your telephone key pads to speed up or slow down the readings and to change the volume!

For more information, please call the library (1-800-523-0288 or 405-521-3514) and ask for Becky Bates or Steve Dowdy.

--Becky Bates, OTR Administrator

## **For Your Information**

### **Special Arts Camp for Blind and Visually Impaired Students Held**

NewView Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art hosted a two-day arts day camp, October 20-21, 2016. The camp was open to children with visual impairments and children who are fully sighted ages 8 to 13 years old. The integrated camp allowed children to learn from one another and break down stereotypes of kids who cannot see. Based on the theme "Art in Action" students created claymation and stop motion videos under the guidance of Nicole Emmons-Willis, a filmmaker, animator, and artist. The campers' final project - a short film of the students' clay creations – was screened for family and friends on the final day of the camp.

### **NLS Music Notes**

NLS Music Notes is a blog for those who want, need, provide, or are generally interested in special-format-music materials in Braille, audio, or large print offered by the NLS Music Section. It aims to highlight the lesser known materials, activities, and people that are integral to the NLS Music Section and its music patrons. Four NLS staffers currently write weekly blog posts that focus on items from the collection, along with a variety of related music topics and activities. Past blog topics include newly added titles, profiles on Braille music transcribers and their work, and free Braille music giveaways, as well as interviews of patrons and narrators. NLS Music Notes readership is growing daily and

new posts appear every Thursday. To read one of the over 100 blogs posted or to subscribe for future blogs, visit <http://blogs.loc.gov/nls-music-notes/>.

### **Free Pocket Braille Calendar**

Free pocket calendars are now available for 2017. To order, contact the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults via mail at 18440 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA 91356. You can also email them at [calendars@actionfund.org](mailto:calendars@actionfund.org).

### **Tips and Tricks from Visual Services Rehabilitation Therapists**

Here are a few tips on organization: Schedule time annually to review paperwork and shred out-of-date mail, brochures, Braille, etc. Having less around makes it easier to find things. Zip-loc bags are good for organizing equipment in storage. For example, they are great for making sure a cord doesn't get separated from a device or that a battery pack doesn't get left when away from home or on vacation. How about this idea? Get a shoe rack that hangs on the inside of a regular door and put it inside a pantry door to hold spices and packages.

--Compiled by Vicky Golightly, Library Patron







What is it that gives meaning to your life? Allow me to share my story. At the tender age of 62 years old, I was fortunate enough to be employed by the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The majority of my working career had been spent working in the printing and mailing industries in one capacity or another. With the advancements in personal computing, the need for traditional printing diminished. So did the need for people to work in the business, thus I sought employment elsewhere, thinking I would find something to do that amounted to "semi-retirement".

As happens sometimes, I set my sights too low. I had made assumptions about "government work" that was stereotypical and just plain wrong. I started working in a job that was entry level, but it was a fun and rewarding job that paid off in so many ways. I never tired of hearing from the library patrons, telling me how much enjoyment our work brought to their lives. I also had the opportunity to participate in several special projects that brought me joy. Then I moved on to another position within the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

One common thread runs through all of this. All the work that we do at DRS serves very deserving people with disabilities by giving them additional opportunities to make their own lives and the lives of those around them better. This absolutely gives my life meaning. Thank you for being our patrons.

--Jim Kettler, DRS Contracts Monitor

## Tax Deductible Donations

Every gift to Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS) benefits thousands. Contributions enable OSLS to provide activities not funded by the annual library budget. Make checks payable to OSLS and mail to Oklahomans for Special Library Services, P.O. Box 53593, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

Donations are accepted in memory of a loved one, family member or to honor an individual. When a gift is made, it should include the name of the person being honored and the name and address of the family or family member to be notified of the gift. Please consider naming OSLS as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or in other estate planning bequests. With the assistance of an estate-planning attorney, significant tax benefits may be possible from this gift.



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