

# **HAWAI‘I STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED**

402 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815, (808) 733-8444, 1-800-559-4096

## **APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER**

### **GREETINGS FROM LBPD-HONOLULU**

Greetings with much aloha from your Hawaii LBPD staff. It has been quite a while since our last newsletter so there is some catching-up to do. First, you should know that we have added a new staff member in our Public Services Section. Ava Romualdo comes to us with experience in several different libraries in Wisconsin. However, much of her family hails from Kaneohe, so she feels right at home at LBPD. Over the past months the library has taken on many diverse efforts to increase reading options and opportunities, to build up and strengthen community ties, and to reach out and educate members of the public about reading accessibility for those who may have visual or print disabilities. Here at the library we celebrated the bicentennial of braille in January 2024 and had so much fun that we followed up with another celebration the last Friday of January 2025. It looks like that will be an annual tradition for our library community. The book club has taken off on the first Saturday of every month and we're having a great time gathering in person at LBPD for those sessions. With the most generous contributions we've received from individuals and consumer groups alike we have embarked on a significant upgrade for the Hawaii Radio Reading Service to include the purchase of new radios, improved links between the library and our broadcasting partner at Hawaii Public Radio, and hopefully soon a companion streaming service for those preferring to hear the broadcast online. We are also very proud to let you know that we have started to record books in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i for the very first time in the history of the library. Once again, our incredible volunteers, both veterans and new comers are a central part of all that we do. Finally, I want to share with you some thoughts about library services in the coming months. Not a day goes by when an LBPD patron doesn't mention to me a question or concern about possible impacts to library services in these uncertain times. Please know that as a branch within

the Hawai'i State Public Library System we remain committed as a state entity to providing service to you. Similarly, as a part of the Library of Congress, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled anticipates no reductions in access to the materials and services you enjoy. Please keep in touch with us as we endeavor to serve your library and information needs. Mahalo nui loa, Matthew Brown.

## **HAWAI'I LBPD UPDATE**

- Summer reading challenge: It's almost that time of year again for the annual Summer Reading Challenge for all readers, keiki to kupuna. This year's theme will be "E Heluhelu Kakōu - Mele," so plenty of opportunities to enjoy music and song. Are you interested in being part of a kanikapila? Let us know so we can plan for an event here at the library. The Summer Reading grand prize drawing is once again tickets on Alaska Airlines.
- Computer classes scheduled: The next round of basic, introduction to computer classes will begin on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 am and will run for four consecutive weeks on Friday. These classes are designed to address basic information like discussing what a computer is, using applications, and how to use the internet safely. We anticipate some additional presentations as well along with these computer classes. For example, on May 2, at 12:30 pm after the computer class there will be a presentation by local author and library user Deborah Joyce on how to protect yourself against identity theft. On May 2, at 1:30 pm T-Mobile will present information addressing general cyber security considerations, especially for those with disabilities. Later in May there will also be a session dedicated to use of smart phones. Call the library at 808-733-8444 if you would like to participate in any of these sessions.
- Book club: The monthly thematic book club continues the first Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm at the library. Each month a theme is selected for the next book club meeting. Readers are free to choose their own book that fits within that theme. The ensuing discussions are fascinating and

entertaining, and the club is a great way to catch up with friends and get up to date on the latest happenings. Some people show up early and bring a sack lunch accompanied by good conversation. The theme for the May book club is “Autobiographies.” Call the library for more information!

- Radio Reading Service: The library is working on multiple fronts to update and upgrade the Radio Reading Service. New radios have arrived and are being configured for particular geographic locations around the state, an effort in cooperation with Hawai‘i Public Radio. We’re also working on some additions to programming lineups to include a special weekly segment hosted by Kyle Laconsay called “Inner Vision,” a talk show format with community members about a variety of current topics. Program will be aired on Wednesdays at 11:30 am and Saturday at 3:00 pm. If you have any questions or comments, please call us at (808) 733-8444 or send your comments to [Innervision808@gmail.com](mailto:Innervision808@gmail.com) For NFB Newsline subscribers you’ll soon be getting the Radio Reading Service grocery ads on your Newsline updates.
- Braille Challenge: In February for the first time Hawai‘i participated in the Braille Institute’s Braille Challenge in an organized regional competition. Represented by six DoE students, coached by their TVI’s, and hosted by LBPD these school-age braille students represented our state and made us all very proud!
- Dungeons and Dragons: Are you interested in some fun alternate reality games while playing alongside other library patrons? If so, you may be interested in a pilot project bringing a beginning level of the popular, multi-generational game Dungeons and Dragons to LBPD this summer. If you think you might like to participate, give the library a call so we can determine the best days and times to play. If you would like to read up on Dungeons and Dragons here are some digital audio books available through NLS: DB 91838 – Player’s Handbook; DB 91839 – Dungeon Master’s Guide; and

## **NEWS FROM NLS AND THE NETWORK**

- New digital talking book machine: The next generation digital talking book machine, also known as the DA2 is heading our way. The new model includes a wifi feature that will allow the reader to access their BARD bookshelf, but also accepts the same familiar cartridges if you prefer. We'll keep you posted when the new machines start to arrive, but if you like your current talking book machine you can keep that one instead of switching over.
- National Summer Reading Program: NLS is pleased to announce its third Summer Reading Program across all states and libraries, which will run from Monday, June 16, through Friday, August 15, 2025. As in the past two years, this fun series of events will feature special author talks, Q and A sessions, and open forums. As more information becomes available we'll make sure to get the word out to you.
- Forums and online resources: NLS continues to offer monthly online forums and recordings of past sessions on the website at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/> Some of these topics include: The Many Faces of BARD at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/many-faces-of-bard/> ; Braille E-Reader forum at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/that-all-may-eread/> ; and a special opportunity to participate in a smart speaker pilot with Alexa Skill at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/smart-speaking-to-the-smart-speaker/>.
- NLS is spreading the word that the third edition of The Rules of Unified English Braille is now available. Check it out at [www.iceb.org](http://www.iceb.org)

## **IN OTHER NEWS**

- NFB Newsline: Don't miss out! Newsline is available to you in various formats and is a great source for both national and local information and news. As of April, Newsline Hawai'i also includes local grocery ads as broadcast on the LBPD Radio Reading Service. Give LBPD a call if you haven't already registered at 808-733-8444.

## **NEW AND SEASONAL READS – MULTIPLE FORMATS**

The following are some recently added books to the NLS collection that incorporate music, poetry, and related themes that might be fun for you as we get ready for the Summer Reading Challenge:

- **125 songs for group singing** [braille] - BRM01014 - Lyrics for popular songs for group singing published in 1958.
- **Beauty is a Verb** [braille] : the new poetry of disability - BR 24267 - Chosen by the American Library Association as a 2012 Notable Book in Poetry. Beauty is a Verb is a ground-breaking anthology of disability poetry, essays on disability, and writings on the poetics of both.
- **The Great Composers** [braille]: biographies in words and music / transcribed in English braille - BRM34717 – In two volumes including v. 1. Franz Liszt -- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart -- Franz Schubert -- Ludwig van Beethoven -- Felix Mendelssohn -- Joseph Haydn. v. 2. Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky -- Johann Sebastian Bach -- Frederic Chopin -- Johannes Brahms -- Robert Schumann -- Claude Debussy.
- **The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto/Mitch Albom.** [braille] - BR 21324 - Music narrates the life of Frankie Presto, from his time in Spain after the Civil War, where he was raised by a blind music teacher, to his death in

America. Frankie immigrates to America with only a six-stringed guitar. As he plies his craft, he realizes its effect on people.

- **Julie Andrews' Treasury for all Seasons: poems and songs to celebrate the year** [braille] - BR 19702 - Collection of poems and songs that celebrate different holidays and special moments throughout the year. Features works by Andrews, Sandra Cisneros, Emily Dickinson, Dr. Seuss, Jack Prelutsky, John Updike, and others. For grades 2-4 and older readers.
- **Dreams the Many Lives of Fleetwood Mac** [sound recording] - DB 125290 - An illuminating deep-dive into everything Fleetwood Mac-the songs, the rivalries, the successes, and the failures-Dreams evokes the band's entire musical catalog as well as the complex human drama at the heart of the Fleetwood Mac story.
- **Talkin' Greenwich Village** [sound recording]: the heady rise and slow fall of America's bohemian music capita - DB 124449 - The definitive history of the rise and heyday of the revolutionary Greenwich Village music scene, based on new research and first-hand interviews with many of its legendary performers.
- **Bus fare to Kentucky** [sound recording]: the autobiography of Skeeter Davis - DBC31213 - From a childhood of poverty and drama, Mary Francis Penick became Skeeter Davis and the first female country artist to have a number one hit on the pop music charts (strong language).
- **A Few Words In Defense Of Our Country** [sound recording] : the biography of Randy Newman - DB 126286 - The definitive biography of songwriter Randy Newman, told with his full cooperation, by acclaimed biographer and longtime Los Angeles Times music critic, Robert Hilburn. Randy Newman is widely hailed as one of America's all-time greatest songwriters, equally skilled in the sophisticated melodies and lyrics of the Gershwin-

Porter era and the cultural commentary of his own generation, with Bob Dylan and Paul Simon among his most ardent admirers.

- **Blues In Stereo** [sound recording]: the early works of Langston Hughes, 1921-1927 - DB 126089 - Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes was most well-known for his poems, novels, and plays that highlight Black American life in post-slavery America.
- **Every Valley** [sound recording]: the desperate lives and troubled times that made Handel's Messiah - DB 126500 - The epic, dramatic story of the 18th century men and women behind the making of Handel's Messiah, one of the world's most beloved works of classical music, from a New York Times bestselling historian and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist.
- **J - Show time!** [juvenile - braille] : music, dance, and drama activities for kids - BRG03408 - Introduces the concepts of music, dance, and acting, suggesting how to create a musical production through games and role-playing, and describing all aspects of a show from auditions to curtain call. Grades 4-7.
- **J - Show the world!** [juvenile – sound recording] - DB 125785 - From painting, music, and slam poetry, to engineering, protesting, and photography, a young narrator journeys through her neighborhood, encouraging readers to explore all the many ways they can express themselves. Grades K-2.
- **J – Upstaged** [juvenile – sound recording] - DB 126272 - Painfully shy seventh-grader Shira Gordon is cast in a small role in The Music Man and also as understudy for the lead, played by diva Monica Manley, who becomes the victim of a prankster. Grades 2-4.

As a reminder, LBPD makes DVDs with descriptive audio available for loan as well. Give us a call if you are interested in this service.



## **UPCOMING HOLIDAYS**

LBPD will be closed on the following holidays:

- Friday, April 18 – Good Friday
- Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day
- Wednesday, June 11 – Kamehameha Day
- Friday, July 4 – Independence Day

## **FINAL NOTES**

On behalf of your entire LBPD staff and our volunteers here in Honolulu, we wish you a wonderful season, that you enjoy some of the fantastic books we have to offer, and most especially, we hope that you give us a call so we can catch up with you.

This newsletter was produced by volunteers and the staff of the Hawai'i State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. If you have any questions or comments, please contact our Managing Librarian. Email [matthew.brown@librarieshawaii.org](mailto:matthew.brown@librarieshawaii.org) or call 808-733-8444.