

DEAR PEARL

October 2014 Volume XLII - Number 2

Answering the Reading Needs of the Blind and Visually Impaired

President's Report September, 2014

Fall is here. The seasons change, and we change with them. Sunrise, Sunset.

To those like me, for whom computers and electronics are changes too dizzying to fully understand, the changes in front of BLTS are also presenting new and daunting challenges. The biggest of which is the change to Unified English Braille or UEB. UEB means that the United States will join the rest of the English-speaking world in the way in which braille is formatted, so that it is uniform throughout the world. The differences are not that many in number, but learning the changes presents an additional challenge for our braille transcribers and proofers, who will have to change the way they have been transcribing and proofing for years and decades.

A seminar and discussion of UEB were presented by board member Connie Risjord on August 27th at the BLTS office on Segoe Road. The seminar was well attended by both braille transcribers and teachers, who presented

many interesting questions and perspectives. Everyone who was there resolved to meet the challenge of learning UEB and to continue to meet the braille needs of our clients. Thanks so much to all our braille transcribers and proofers – not to mention our braille readers – for accepting the challenge presented by UEB, so that our braille readers can continue to experience the joy of reading! The UEB change becomes effective January 1, 2016, earlier in Wisconsin. *(Please see the more detailed article on UEB inside.)*

Other changes at BLTS are less burdensome – even welcome. We have changed our payroll and tax preparation methods to using an electronic, online service called OnPay. The service is efficient, accurate, and cost effective. The service was recommended by one of our nonprofit neighbors who share our office building and Office Manager Aaron Konkol and Treasurer Sue Nelson accomplished the transition. Thanks Aaron and Sue. Another pleasant change is the addition of Sandy Adams to our BLTS Board of Directors. Sandy's experience, wisdom, and pleasant smile are welcome additions to our board. Welcome, Sandy.



In this issue

In Memoriam Priscilla Westcott White	2
Lindy Walton Receives ... Award	3
If Winter Comes...	3
News About UEB...	4
Titles Done	5
Online Donations Now Available	6
Contributors to BLTS	6
Unified English Braille	7
NBA Conference	7

(Continued on next page.)

Last September's Dear Pearl contained an article on the life of Gail Yu, a long-time BLTS family member who passed away in November. Now comes word that Priscilla White passed away in June at the age of 95! Please read the enclosed article about her most interesting life. Gail and Priscilla set a high bar by their accomplishments and contributions and their lives are a reminder: We are all runners in this relay race of life. We run our leg of the race and pass the baton to the next generation, hoping to leave the track a bit better than we found it. Priscilla, Gail, and so many others have been such a blessing to BLTS. We have much to be thankful for.

Steve Levine
BLTS President

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

— Helen Keller

In Memoriam **Priscilla Westcott White**

Priscilla Westcott White, an icon in the history of BLTS, passed away on June 8, 2014, at her residence in Oakwood Village, Madison. She was 95.

Priscilla was an early member of BLTS/VBTI, where she was certified as a braille transcriber by the Library of Congress, and she transcribed materials into braille for decades. Her membership in BLTS/VBTI had a special meaning for her.

Priscilla was born in Boston in 1919, raised in the Chicago area, and graduated from Denison University in 1940. At Denison, she met Richard Hiram White, they were married in 1941, and then moved to Madison where Richard was employed as a distributor of business forms for Uarco, Inc. Priscilla and Richard had four children. They traveled extensively, both in this country and Europe.

In addition to her skill at braille transcribing, Priscilla was an accomplished pianist, able to play popular tunes by ear. She enjoyed playing the piano for sing-alongs with fellow residents at Oakwood. Priscilla learned French and played tennis until the age of 70. She was a dedicated church member throughout her life, serving as an elder, a member of the choir, and participating in musical programs. In her later years, she loved sports and listening to audiobooks.

Priscilla is survived by her four children: sons, Richard Denis of Corvallis, Oregon; Westcott of Aledo, Illinois; Charles of Madison; and daughter, Marcia Stockton, also of Madison. She had 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Priscilla will be very much missed by everyone in the BLTS family. Her memory is an inspiration to all of us.



Lindy Walton Receives MMSD'S Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to Lindy Walton, former VBTI/BLTS Braille Coordinator, current member, and braille transcriber, who recently received the Madison Metropolitan School District's Distinguished Service Award. Way to go Lindy!

The Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) are presented annually by the Madison Board of Education to recognize individuals who have given exceptional service to the Madison Metropolitan School District as demonstrated by commitment to his or her work, special project development, and/or school-community involvement above and beyond expectations.

Lindy is a braille transcriber for west-side MMSD students. She is certified not only in transcribing literary braille, but in math, science, and music braille as well.

Lindy was one of twenty-two recipients of the award which was presented to her by Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Cheatham in a heart-warming ceremony at Memorial High School. Lindy was recognized not only for the high quality braille she produces on a daily basis for students, but also for her efforts at instructing students in the braille music code and mentoring new transcribers in the district. Beyond that, she has presented workshops at NBA conferences. Many current and former members of the MMSD vision staff were present to celebrate Lindy's award with her. For a video tribute to Lindy, please see: <http://youtu.be/Erd3lwRUT8s>.



If Winter Comes, Can Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon Be Far Behind?

As most of you read this issue of Dear Pearl, October approaches and winter is less than three months away which means that our BLTS annual meeting and luncheon is just six months away. We usually hold the event in early April, probably the second Tuesday.

While the annual luncheon and meeting are six months away, it's not too early to mark your calendars or begin to think spring. Time passes quickly. As our temperatures plummet, I hope all members of the BLTS family will plan to gather at the Blackhawk Country Club next April for what promises to be a wonderful time.

The springtime view from Blackhawk is breathtaking, the harp music of Peter Feneht is heavenly, the Blackhawk food is sumptuous, and the schmoozing and catching up with friends old and new is enjoyable. Add to that an interesting and engaging program by our guest speaker, and you have an afternoon not to be missed.

So, come one, come all. We want to see everyone who is part of the BLTS family next April – from board members to transcribers and proofers to contributors and everyone in between. Winter may be on its way, but so is our annual BLTS get-together. On those long January nights, it's nice to have something to look forward to.

Steve Levine

News About UEB (Unified English Braille)

I am sure everyone has heard that UEB is coming to the United States. BANA (Braille Association of North America) has adopted the use of UEB instead of the familiar EBAE (English Braille American Edition). As of January 2016 all new braille will use the UEB code. In addition, our Wisconsin schools have chosen to implement the new code in September, 2015, for kindergarten through 2nd grade. All new books for other students will also be brailled using UEB, although students will still be using EBAE for older materials.

In response to this change BLTS hosted a meeting on August 27th to discuss **how we could learn UEB and how BLTS would proceed with the implementation.** Connie Risjord was the presenter. Connie has been very active at a national level on this issue and has written The ABCs of UEB which outlines some of the major differences between UEB and EBAE. Steve Levine, as President of the BLTS Board, welcomed the 34 attendees, which consisted of vision teachers, braille transcribers, braille readers, special education assistants, and tapists.

Using The ABCs of UEB and some handouts that Connie passed out to the participants, we went through some of the significant changes between EBAE (English Braille American Edition) and UEB. Many of the participants could see the reasons for the changes, as explained by Connie. Both Dawn Stumpner and Karen Perzentka felt that, as braille readers, the changes could be learned fairly easily, given time and practice.

Connie pointed out several ways in which we could learn UEB.

- a. The Rules of Unified English Braille is at <http://www.iceb.org/ueb> and the ABCs of UEB can be downloaded from the BANA website (<http://www.brailleauthority.org/>).
- b. Julie Sumwalt of WCBVI talked about braille software programs which have incorporated UEB rules. Duxbury has been updated. Braille 2000 has a beta version 2 which has the option of using the new UEB rules.
- c. Julie has begun training seminars of the use of UEB. Future sessions will be held at WCBVI on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting September 10th. These will be geared for transcribers, but anyone is welcome to attend. Details of the sessions starting in January will be announced later.

All sessions may be attended in person, live online, or by watching the videos at your own convenience at <http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/professional-development/>.

How is BLTS going to proceed?

Given the fact that Wisconsin is implementing UEB early to avoid a mid-school year transition, we need to decide how to proceed as soon as possible with this task.

Many textbook materials will be produced by Oshkosh Correctional Institution and those braillists will be trained by Kurt Pamperin, who is currently taking a UEB course through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Canada adopted the UEB earlier and offers the course and a UEB certification. In the U.S., a course and

(Continued on next page.)

certification examination are still in development. Wisconsin and Minnesota are among the first states to implement UEB in the schools earlier than 2016. Several others states have contacted us to see what our plans are for accomplishing this. We need to produce supplemental books and materials for K-2nd graders. Connie put forth a proposal for training at BLTS. She proposed a teach/learn series of 2-hour lessons held bi-weekly at BLTS. As we learned aspects of UEB in the first hour, we could then put them into practice in children's print/braille books in the second hour of class. Not only would this be a gentle introduction to UEB, but would result in a much needed supply of books for our students and teachers.

Connie passed around a sign-up sheet and around 15 people expressed an interest in these classes as a method for learning UEB. After an email poll of best times for these workshops, they will be given every other Saturday at 9:00am at BLTS in the 2nd floor conference room. **The first class will be on Saturday, October 4th at 9 a.m.** and every other Saturday thereafter. If you are interested in attending these workshops and did not sign up previously please contact Connie at risjord@yahoo.com.

Titles Done Since February 2014



THANK YOU, BRAILLISTS!
(page counts follow names)



For children

6 print/braille books (Barb Schlinkert, 42), *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* (Joel Devore, 168)

For adults

Robert B Parkers Fool Me Twice (Judy Amacker, 324), *Against Their Will* (Julie Schoepp, 708), *Book of Peach* (Bev Pfister, 355), *The Butler* (Sue Nelson, 150), *Crochet your cares away* (Kathy Dorn, 142), *EPIC A Journey Through Church History* (Kathy Dorn, 578), *EPIC Timeline and Bookmark* (Sue Nelson, 68), *Aviators Wife* (Joel DeVore, 716), *Unbroken* (Joel DeVore, 1, 146)

For schools, non-profits and businesses

TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 13), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15), Lions Camp Handbook & Waiver (Kathy Dorn, 40), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 12), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 16), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 13), Leadership Wisconsin (Patricia Herrling, 31), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15), Monty's Blue Plate Diner Menu (Barb Schlinkert, 48), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 13), My Year in Meals (Barb Schlinkert, 1200), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15), VSA Song Lyrics (Patricia Herrling, 7), Dept of Civil Rights Listening Session (Sue Nelson, 2), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 13), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15), TDS billing (Barb Schlinkert, 15), WI Transit Riders Alliance information sheet (Sue Nelson, 1), MG&E bills (Kathy Dorn, 15)

Special Projects

Dream Away P/B (Kathy Dorn, 5), Slow Cooker Instructions (Kathy Dorn, 27), Knitting pattern (Bev Pfister, 10), VoiceOver Guide (Kathy Dorn, 221), Diet & Your Ostomy/Phone No. Listing (Bev Pfister, 16), Your Retirement Benefits Booklet (Joel Devore, 38), The Watchtower (Patricia Herrling, 12), The Watchtower (Patricia Herrling, 14), The Watchtower (Patricia Herrling, 18)

Online Donations Now Available

In May the member letters went out, so hopefully you all received yours. If not, please reply to this email to let us know.

As you may have noticed if you've been to our website in the last few months, we now accept donations online through PayPal. This is a nice option if you'd like to use your credit card to make your annual donation. Alternately you can use PayPal to make a regular monthly donation. It's easy to set up, and then you don't have to worry about remembering to donate each year. Just go to our website & click on the big yellow "Donate" button: <http://bltsinc.org>

Contributors to BLTS

Community Organizations

American Legion Post 501	McFarland Lioness Club
Cross Plains Community Chest	McFarland Lions Club
Hallman/Lindsay Paints	Mukwonago Lions Club Inc.
Herbert H. Kohl Charities	National Mutual Benefit
Ladies Auxiliary VFW 8216	Strand Associates, Inc.
Lake Wisconsin Lions Club	Sub-Zero Foundation
Lange Living Trust	Westmorland Combined Health Fund Drive
Madison-Monona Lioness Club	Woodman's Food Market, Inc.

Individuals from the Community

Betty N. Bielefeld	Burton J. Kushner
C.D. Cornwell	Dale Nordeen
Frederick J. Davis	Ronald C. Thorstad
Jane Eisner	Lee Elyse C. Weiss
Barbara Dillon Kehrein	

Members

Sandy Adams	Shirley Johnson	Connie & Norman Risjord
Judith Amacker	Vonna Johnson-Porter & Alan	Shirley Ross
Carol Birch	Porter	Barb Schlinkert
Pat & George Bunders	Lois Kibbe	Berneice Schneider
Mary Ann Damm	Valborg Knudtson	Julie Schoepp
Mary Daniel	Aaron J. Konkol	Judy Sherry
Kathy & Dennis Dorn	Ron & Debbie Konkol	Jane Stark
Jill Dumphy	Steve Levine	Betty Stern
Pat Foltz	Alison McKee	Elizabeth Stoffel
Kay Goepfert	Sue & Tom Nelson	Julie Sumwalt
Lori Hanson	Betty & Clyde Oakley	Carolyn C. & Charles H.
Barb & Tom Henning	Karen & Richard E. Perzentka	Thomas
Patricia & Mark Herrling	Beverly & Jack Pfister	John Toussaint
Margaret Hutchinson	Florence Poole	Vickie Warner
	Elnor Reichel	Helen Wibben

Unified English Braille

Why are we switching codes?

- Globalization: Allows all English-speaking countries to share braille materials.
- Technological advances and integration: Provides a one-to-one correspondence of print and braille symbols.
- Flexibility: Allows for systematic future adaptation.

UEB replaces:

- EBAE (English Braille American Edition)
- CBC (Computer Braille Code) for general use

UEB does not replace:

- *Braille Formats 2011*
- Nemeth
- Music
- IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)—linguistics

Resources now available:

- *The ABCs of UEB*
<http://brailleauthority.org/ueb.html>
- *The Rules of Unified English Braille, Second Edition 2013*
<http://www.iceb.org/ueb>

Contractions eliminated in UEB:

⠠⠠	dd	⠠⠠	to	⠠⠠⠠	into
⠠⠠	by	⠠⠠	ble	⠠⠠	com
⠠⠠⠠	ation	⠠⠠⠠	ally	⠠⠠⠠⠠	o'clock

Why these nine?

ation, ally: Dot 6 is also the capital indicator.

to, into, by: Inconsistent with other braille symbols, interfered with new symbol creation, doesn't match print

com: The same dots as the hyphen

ble: The same dots as the numeric indicator

dd: This configuration is now a period/dot/decimal point everywhere

o'clock: A problem with capitalization

National Braille Association Conference

The National Braille Association is having their 2014 Fall Professional Development Conference on October 23-25 in Milwaukee. It is a three-day intensive training on the Unified English Braille (UEB) code. There will be hands-on workshops so please bring your laptop and make sure it is loaded with the latest version of the software you use.

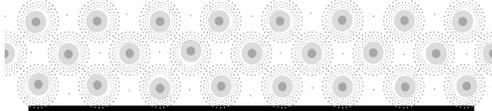
The cost is \$225.00 per person through October 3, 2014. For more information, go to <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1562505>.



DEAR PEARL

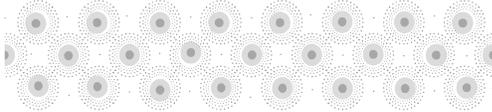


Newsletter of the Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.



We're on the web

<http://bltsinc.org/>



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Steve Levine
Julie Sumwalt
Vickie Warner, Editor

Thanks to Michelle Rueckert



Clip art provided by Microsoft Office

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