

# LIBRARIAN

A BRAILLE INSTITUTE PUBLICATION



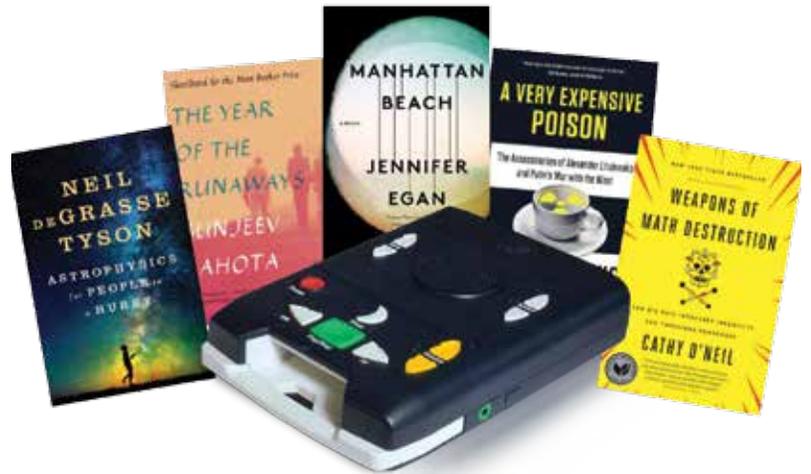
FALL 2018



# PATRON CENTRIC CARTRIDGE: A Better Choice for Book Lovers!

With over 100,000 titles to choose from, your mailbox can fill up quickly with bulky cartridge containers. If you love audiobooks, we have a great solution for you at the Braille Institute Library. We call it the Patron Centric Cartridge, or "PCC" for short. Rather than mail audiobook cartridges back and forth through the mail one at a time, **we can load up to 15 titles on a single PCC that is created especially for you.** You can cut down on trips to the mailbox and reduce the amount of time you spend searching for the books you want to hear.

If you love a particular author, for example, we can create a PCC for you with a collection of his or her titles. Popular fiction book series like "Game of Thrones" and "The Neapolitan Novels" are especially well suited for the PCC program. We can create a



collection of books about your favorite historical period, your favorite sport, your favorite scientific discoveries, or whatever subjects you'd like. We can even make a PCC with a random assortment of titles for readers who like surprises!

Our reader advisors will be happy to sign you up and explain how you can effectively use a PCC on your digital talking book player. To get started, please contact a Reader Advisor at the Braille Institute Library by calling **1-800-808-2555**.

## GIVE & GET from PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is a way to integrate your personal, financial and estate planning goals. The right planned gift may provide you with tax and income benefits while helping Braille Institute further its mission. Here are some of the most common planned gifts you can make:

**BEQUEST** | You may include a gift of a specific asset, a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to charity.

**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES AND CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS** | These plans can provide you with lifetime income, a charitable income tax deduction and leave a nice gift to charity.

There are many ways you may benefit from planned giving. Contact us or visit our website today, so we may assist you in discovering the right plan for you!

Call the Philanthropy Office at **1-800-272-4553, ext. 1256** to learn more or email [plangift@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:plangift@brailleinstitute.org)

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Hoshang Master

Library Volunteer

*at the Braille Institute San Diego*

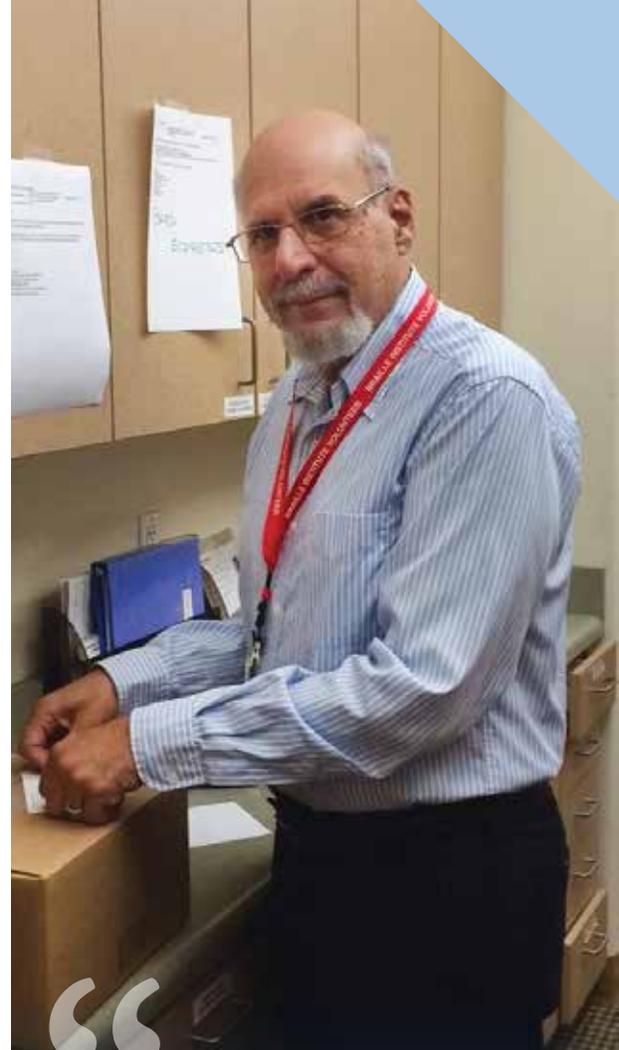
“My name is **Hoshang Master**, and I arrived in the United States seven years ago. My family settled in a quiet and pleasant neighborhood in San Diego. Being retired and itching for something to do, I walked over to Braille Institute to inquire if they needed any volunteer help.

My first impressions of the San Diego center were the beauty of the Spanish-style building and the sound of the water fountains that help visitors with visual impairments navigate around the courtyards.

I met the volunteer manager and learned about the important work that Braille Institute does. I remember being amazed by the different activities that Braille Institute offers students and patrons. We decided that my time would be best spent in the library.

In the library, I met the staff and volunteers who manage this wonderful service. Every person was helpful and eager to explain what needed to be done to meet the needs of library patrons. I was made to feel very welcomed and like members of the family.

Braille Institute is a unique organization with amazing staff and volunteers who are dedicated to helping students. We receive great compliments and appreciation from the people we help. The positive vibes we get as volunteers give us a feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction. That’s why I love volunteering at Braille Institute!”



“The positive vibes we get as volunteers give us a feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction.”

Interested in volunteering at Braille Institute? Please call 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553).

# PATRON SPOTLIGHT



## ...from the Laguna Hills Neighborhood Center

**Bill Stahl** (*pictured on left*)

*How did you first hear about the Braille Institute Library?*

Through Retina Associates of Orange County.

*How often do you use the library service?*

Once a week.

*What are your favorite kinds of books?*

Detective books and courtroom novels, especially those by John Grisham and James Patterson.

*What do you like about the Braille Institute Library?*

It helps me fill up my free time since I can't see the TV. The Braille Institute Library brought back the joy of reading books that I'd been missing since I lost my vision.

**Joyce Goodman** (*cover photo*)

*How did you first hear about the Braille Institute Library?*

My father used the Braille Institute Library.

*How often do you use the library service?*

A couple of times a month, depending on how much time I have for audiobooks.

*What are your favorite books?*

I like biographies, mysteries, romance, detective, and medical novels. I enjoy authors like Joyce Meyers and Kenneth Copeland, and even sheet music.

*What do you like about the Braille Institute Library?*

Everyone is so kind and eager to help. People are very compassionate and understanding about the new challenges in my lifestyle.



# PODCASTS

## WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW TO USE THEM



A **podcast** is a digital audio recording that can be downloaded onto your device or streamed online. There are podcasts available about every subject you can imagine, but the most popular topics include current events, self-help, comedy, culture, music, true crime, and sports.

Podcasts can be downloaded for free using an app. Accessible apps for podcasts include the Apple Podcast app, Podkicker, and Overcast. If you have an iPhone, the Apple Podcast app will provide easy access to popular podcasts through iTunes. If you are using an Android phone, the Podkicker app is a good choice. Overcast is another option that is popular for its accessible features and user-friendly design.

In addition to news and current events, some of the most popular podcasts are

long and often complex narrative stories about people who find themselves in extraordinary circumstances. These podcasts include *This American Life*, *Serial*, *The Moth*, *Radio Lab*, and *S-Town*.

Many podcasts about living well with blindness and low vision are also available, including *The Blind Hour Podcast with Max and John*, *Eyes on Success*, *The Blind Sport Podcast*, and *Blind Inspiration*.

If you'd like to share your own story, creating and sharing podcasts is often free and requires minimal technical equipment and knowledge! For help getting started with podcasting and accessible technology, call **1-800-272-4553** to make a FREE appointment at our technology center.

# 2018 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

As part of our 2018 Open House celebration, the Braille Institute Library hosted a poetry contest. **These are the four winning entries.**

Congratulations to everyone who submitted a poem, and please keep writing!

## **(UNTITLED POEM)**

By Leon Jones

Braille is the place to be  
If you're blind or find it hard to see.  
With programs that enhance your life  
Relieving trouble and strife.

Instructors and staff who care,  
To them: your souls can be bare.  
Their kindness, something to behold  
No story left untold.

Volunteers go out of their way  
To make sure you have a pleasant day.  
Being around people like these  
Help to keep our minds at ease.

## **HOW BRAILLE INSTITUTE CHANGED MY LIFE**

By Gloria Payne

My confused maze of questions is now  
a straight path again.  
Years of the past have made me wise.  
Life is interesting and worth enjoying again.  
I am no longer angry about my eyes.  
Fun has returned with new, dear friends.  
Even my other senses have improved.  
I'm awake in the morning with a  
Student's frame of mind, with  
Great Expectations and a New Attitude.  
Open to learning new ways of doing things.  
Onward with hope. Saying  
Don't ever give up!

## MY TRIBUTE TO BRAILLE INSTITUTE

By Edith Lynne Bass

In 1987 my whole life changed,  
I began to lose my sight.  
What does it mean to lose your sight?  
Is this a dream?  
Will I wake up?  
I thought with every passing day that  
nothing worse could happen to me.  
To lose my sight and in darkness I would be.  
No morning sun to start my day,  
No writing to say the things I wanted to say,  
No reading to occupy my precious time,  
No job for me I would ever find.  
But wait! These things did not come to be,  
Because the Braille Institute changed  
everything for me.  
I did not fight this battle alone,  
I was taught by the institute to stand  
on my own.  
I read, I write, and most of all,  
I enjoy the blessings of a loving God.  
To say thank you to the Braille Institute  
for this life I live  
Seems so small for what it truly gives.  
So I say, "Thank you," from the bottom  
of my heart.

## THE JOY OF READING

By Debbie Lawrence

The world opens up to me in  
every book I read.

Places near and far I see when  
great authors take the lead.

As a child I learned to love stories  
of all kinds.

Things that I can still dream of,  
and some I hope to find.

When I was young the smell of books  
could fill me with delight.

I did not care how long it took—  
sometimes I read all night!

There were braille books I loved  
to read over and over again.

My imagination they always feed,  
as I visit old friends.

History, geography, fairytale or real;

They all have the ability, my mind  
to grasp, to steal.

So come on in, pull up a chair!  
Escape just for a while.

Whether braille book or audio,  
you'll think, laugh, cry ... or smile.

# NEWS AND UPDATES FOR LIBRARY PATRONS

## **New BARD Mobile Updates!**

If you haven't updated your iPhone or Android phone to the latest version of the BARD Mobile app, please do so now. The latest versions include better performance as well as improved navigation features. Make sure you are getting the most out of BARD Mobile by downloading the latest versions through the App Store or Google Play. For assistance, call **1-800-808-2555**.

## **Improvements to the Telephone Reader Program (TRP)**

Our team recently made substantial improvements to the sound quality of the recordings that we offer through TRP. Listen for yourself by calling **1-866-333-1211**. You can access newspapers, magazines, and community information read by skilled narrators over the phone, on our website, and with our smartphone apps. If you want to get started using TRP, call **1-800-808-2555**.

## **New Anaheim Center Coming Soon**

Due to the current construction of the new Anaheim center, your library service has moved to the Laguna Hills Neighborhood Center at 24411 Ridge Route Road, Suite 110, Laguna Hills, CA, 92653. You may continue to call 1-714-503-2126 to order books through the mail, or you may call the Laguna Hills Neighborhood Center at **1-949-330-5062** to pick up your books in person. You may also contact the main library in Los Angeles for your library needs by calling **1-800-808-2555**. We look forward to seeing you at the new Anaheim center in January 2019.



## **Join a book club in the San Fernando Valley!**

If you are a book lover in the San Fernando Valley area, you are invited to join the Braille and Audio Book Club at the ONEgeneration Senior Enrichment Center in Reseda. The book club meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA, 91335. Upcoming books for discussion include *In this Grave Hour* by Jacqueline Winspear. For more information, contact Joyce Hunting at **1-818-887-0650**.

## **Send Us Your Email Address**

Would you prefer to receive news and updates from the library via email? Please email the library at [librarian@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:librarian@brailleinstitute.org) or call **1-800-808-2555** to provide us with your email address. Contacting our library users using email saves time and money and helps protect the environment by reducing waste.



# LOW VISION REHABILITATION SERVICE

- Do you have difficulty reading print in newspapers, magazines, or books?
- Does your vision make it hard for you to watch tv or use the computer?
- Do you have a hard time reading labels on medicine bottles?
- Do you find it difficult to read your own handwriting?
- Is it hard to recognize the faces of family and friends?

If your vision is affecting your ability to perform any of these daily tasks, Braille Institute's **Low Vision Rehabilitation Service** can help you.

While low vision may mean having a level of vision that cannot be corrected with glasses, contact lenses, medicine, or surgery; there are things you can do to **continue living independently.**

Losing vision doesn't mean giving up on your life activities, it means learning new ways to do them. Wherever you are on the low vision spectrum, we have the expertise and resources to help you succeed.

**Our FREE Low Vision Rehabilitation Service** includes personalized one-on-one appointments with our Low Vision Specialists. They will work with you to maximize your remaining vision by:

- Assessing your particular needs
- Providing practical tips on lighting, contrast enhancement and glare control
- Exploring devices that can help you accomplish everyday tasks like reading, watching TV and more

To learn more or to schedule a FREE one-on-one appointment with one of our Low Vision Specialists, call **1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553).**

# NEW BOOK

## RECOMMENDATIONS



### ***The Female Persuasion: A Novel***

by Meg Wolitzer

(read by Rebecca Lowman)

14 hours, 52 minutes

**Book Number DB90588**

One of the most popular and well-reviewed books of literary fiction this year, Meg Wolitzer's new novel tells the story of Greer Kadetsky, a passionate but shy young woman from a working-class background who meets and befriends an icon from the feminist movement. Generational divides and family pressures are brought to bear on their new and complex relationship.

### ***The Changeling: A Novel***

by Victor LaValle

(read by the author)

14 hours, 4 minutes

**Book Number DB88330**

*The Changeling* is a dark fairytale set in New York. Fans of the macabre will enjoy this thrilling retelling of a classic story. The main character Apollo goes on an odyssey to find his missing wife and child. His journey is enchanting, infuriating, horrifying, and heartbreaking.

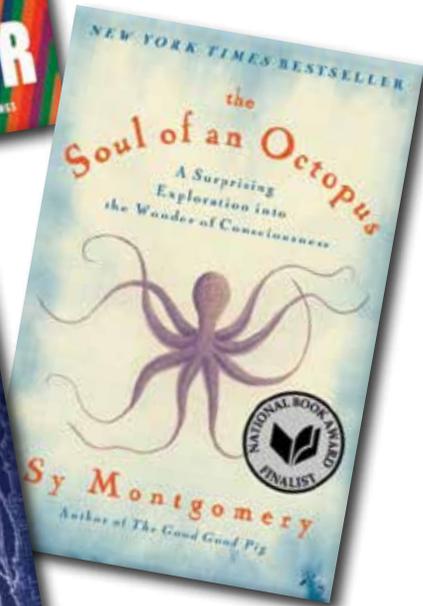
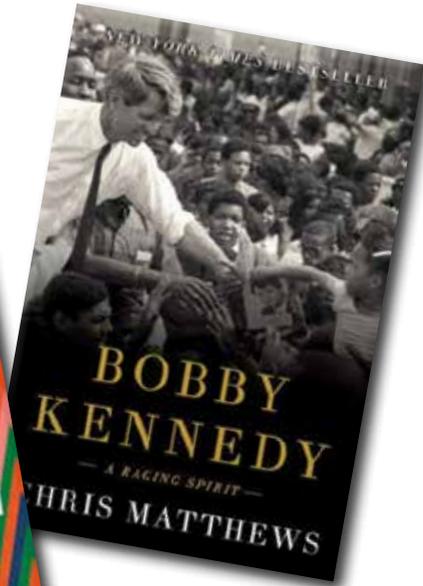
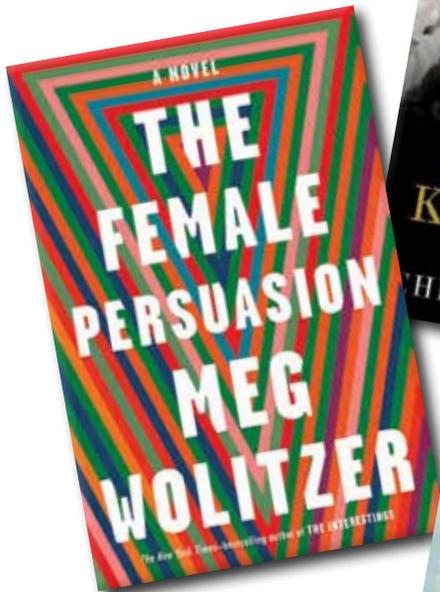
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### ***Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit***

by Chris Matthews  
(read by Ray Foushee)  
10 hours, 28 minutes

**Book Number DB90311**

This June marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Although many books have been written about RFK, Chris Matthews's new biography provides a new portrait of his service in the Navy, his controversial role as attorney general in his brother's administration, and his final days during the fateful 1968 presidential campaign. How might American history have been different had Bobby Kennedy lived to continue his journey?

### ***The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness***

by Sy Montgomery  
(read by Kimberly Schraf)  
10 hours, 38 minutes

**Book Number DB82438**

*The Soul of an Octopus* is a lovely and heartwarming book that explores the world of octopuses and the community of people that come together around a shared passion for cephalopods. It's a great story for all ages.



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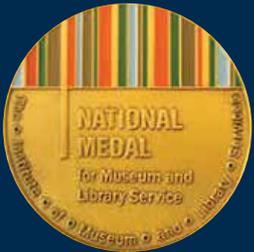


youtube.com/brailleinstitute



**Library Services**  
741 N. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90029

Free Matter  
For The  
Blind



The **LIBRARIAN** newsletter is published in large print, braille, and audio formats to inform patrons, students, volunteers, and colleagues about Braille Institute programs and services. It is also available on our website ([www.BrailleInstitute.org/library](http://www.BrailleInstitute.org/library)) and on the Telephone Reader Program. Braille Institute is a nonprofit providing free programs and services to people with vision loss since 1919. For more information about the Librarian newsletter, or about other library services, please call 1 (800) 808-2555. ©2018

BRAILLE INSTITUTE  
IS TURNING  
**100**  
YEARS

## Join our Celebration!

Next year, Braille Institute will mark 100 years of transforming lives.

If you'd like to receive information about our centennial and how you can join our celebration, please email [100years@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:100years@brailleinstitute.org) and we will keep you posted.