



Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

Providing alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read

Fall 2019

Central Library Building 803 W. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53233
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Real Kids — Real Impact

By Kaitlyn Hein, editor with Orange Hat Publishing



*The Bardet-Biedl Syndrome
Wisconsin Lions Camp was enjoyed
by many!*

The first-ever Bardet-Biedl Syndrome (BBS) Wisconsin Lions Camp was held this summer in Rosholt, Wisconsin. The week-long event was hosted by the Marshfield Clinic, the only clinic that specializes in BBS, along with Dr. Haws and his team. People from across the world gathered in small-town Wisconsin for support, advocacy, and medical care.

With the inception of this camp, Gnat & Corky, author and illustrator duo, were invited to attend and speak about their book *Will It*. Released in early 2019, *Will It* shares the story about a young man named Will from Antioch, Illinois. Will speaks about going after your dreams and facing your fears to live your purpose, no matter what may get in your way. The published duo left the experience inspired, humbled, and grateful for the opportunity. They

also felt immense gratitude for Dr. Haws and his team, who are making a difference in the lives of the beautiful families and kids that attended. Because of this camp, many families were able to purchase their first braille book, opening up a door to literature that wasn't there before. Without ABLE, Gregg Wandsneider could not have read *Will It* in braille.

Shannon Ishizaki, founder and owner of Orange Hat Publishing, shared: "It was such a fun experience helping Gnat & Corky put *Will It* into braille. Also, the team at ABLE was incredible to work with! Even in the midst of a remodel, they were still able to find time to call me and print our books in braille. They are a very dedicated team. Thank you!"



*Gregg Wandsneider reading
Will It in braille*

"Our ABLE Team was so proud to be able to be a part of making this book available to blind children all over the country. And it is so cool that there was a gathering at Lion's Camp for we also made a tactile map for the Lion's Camp Campus." —Cheryl Orgas

Save the Date!

We are so looking forward to our **Annual Volunteer Recognition and Benefit Luncheon** in 2020. Please put it on your calendar! **Wednesday, April 29, 2020.**

"We will be celebrating 55 years of service to the community, and we have big plans for a special event to honor our many years of service. Fifty-five years ago I was one of those first students receiving braille at the same time as my sighted peers, and still today we are striving to make sure children and adults can participate fully in school, work and recreation by having the audio, braille or tactiles needed for equal access in the world." —Cheryl Orgas

A Tribute to Richard Robbins

When Richard was hired in July of 2007, he wore two very different hats: that of Network Administrator and of Audio Coordinator. Though he will continue in information technology, he is retiring from his duties in the ABLE Audio Department.

Richard has been responsible for changing the audio department dramatically and we will be forever grateful. Because of his influence and ingenuity, many more people receive audio recordings today than in 2007 when Richard came to ABLE.

He inherited a wonderful team of volunteer tapists who read at home using the analog process reading into cassette machines. But the technology and recording process was changing dramatically at a national level. It was essential for us to shift production to soar into the digital age, helping our volunteers make the switch from analog recording on cassettes to digital recording. Then we leapt into national production by building our state-of-the-art ABLE Sound Center. This exponentially and dramatically increases the number of people across the country who can access our recordings.

We owe much to Richard for his initiative and forward thinking. Thank you so much, Richard!



We wish you all the best, Richard!

Welcome, Dylan!



Dylan Shanahan, Audio Specialist

We at ABLE are very pleased that Dylan Shanahan, Audio Specialist, has joined our audio team. With a BA in Communications from UW-Stevens Point and much experience in volunteer management and a strong passion and expertise in sound editing, Dylan brings enthusiasm and creativity to the ABLE Sound Center.

During his time at Stevens Point, Dylan volunteered and worked at the college radio station WWSP-90FM where he did everything from record and edit promos to running the World's Largest Trivia Contest. He has a passion for audio work, and records, edits, and packages music for his own band and also runs live sound at the Milwaukee bar, Boone and Crockett, where he also works.

"Getting the opportunity to become an audio specialist at ABLE is much more than just editing audio because doing work that benefits the community is something that is very important to me. I'm so grateful to be working with such kind and thoughtful people who help me do my part in furthering ABLE's mission." Welcome, Dylan!

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library— Our Thriving Partnership!



*ABLE volunteer Kathy
Kerrigan recording in ABL's
Sound Center*

Here at ABLE we are happy to highlight the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL). Not only do we lease our space next to WTBBL but we are also proud to record books by Wisconsin authors for them. We will record nearly 50 books for their Wisconsin collection, available to nearly 550,000 patrons throughout the whole country. Examples of books we have recorded in 2019 include:

Old World Murder: A Chloe Ellefson Mystery by Kathleen Ernst, with 521 downloads, and *The Body in Bodega Bay: a Nora Barnes and Toby Sandler Mystery* by Betsy Draine and Michael Hinden, with 389 downloads. Both titles are part of mystery series that are very popular.

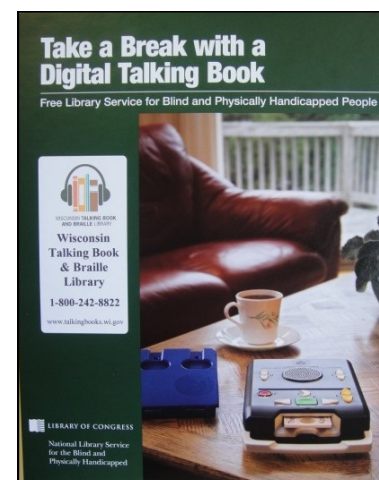
The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library is part of the Talking Book program of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

(NLS). Since 1961, the Library has been providing braille and recorded books and playback equipment to Wisconsin residents who for any physical reason cannot read standard print. All books, equipment and services are sent to borrowers and returned to the library by postage-free mail.

The current digital players and cartridges have been in use since 2009. One distinct advantage of the digital format is that an entire book—or series of books—can fit on just one digital cartridge. Another improvement is the digital sound quality of each talking book.

WTBBL also circulates magazines and braille materials. Through the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service, patrons can now download books, magazines, and web-braille to a digital cartridge, or to iOS, Android, or Kindle devices. WTBBL patrons can also listen to newspapers by registering for the NFB-Newsline® service. In addition to audio-described DVDs, WTBBL also circulates audiobooks about Wisconsin or by Wisconsin authors, recorded by ABLE.

WTBBL currently serves close to 7,000 patrons and 573 institutions (e.g., libraries, schools, nursing homes, senior centers). Please share our information with those who can benefit from our services. You can check out the WTBBL website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/talkingbooks>, email wtbbl@milwaukee.gov, or call them toll-free (in-state) at 1-800-242-8822.



*Take a Break with a
Digital Talking Book*

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." — Charles W. Eliot

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." — Jorge Luis Borges

Autumn Activities at ABLE!

In August, we had the great honor to welcome Alieu Jaiteh and his teaching partner, Mariama, for a tour of our office and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library. Alieu is the founder of Start Now, a training program for blind people in Banjul, The Gambia. He is also the winner of the 2019 Holman Prize, which will enable him to provide eighty blind people with rehabilitation training in rural Gambia. Alieu is also a 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni. We were excited to show Alieu and Mariama the services that ABLE and WTBBL provide for our patrons.



Pictured above, from left: Alieu Jaiteh, Mariama, Cheryl Orgas, Zarina Mohd Shah (WTBBL)



Friends and colleagues enjoy the Milwaukee skyline from the Milwaukee Public Library Green Roof

In September, the ABLE Board of Directors brought together friends and colleagues for a tour of the newly remodeled ABLE office. Staff and volunteers demonstrated the process of making braille, tactile and audio materials. One of the highlights of the evening was a tour of the Milwaukee Public Library Green Roof. What a treat! If you would like a tour of the ABLE office, give us a call at (414) 286-3039. For tours of the MPL Green Roof, check out the MPL website or call (414) 286-TOUR (8687).



A beautiful, colorful White Cane Day 2019!

October found us gathering on a clear, crisp autumn day to celebrate White Cane Day 2019. ABLE had the privilege of brailleing the White Cane Day proclamations from both Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele and City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett so that they could be read by blind children.