



# NEWSLETTER

VISION AWARENESS EXPO, WHITE CANE DAY

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Regional Library staff celebrated with the members of the disabled community by attending many events in the Virgin Islands.

Library Tech II Garcia was the guest speaker at the Disability and Rehabilitation Services annual luncheon and the 2014 National Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Conference in Oklahoma City, OK. Librarian Letitia Gittens attended the VI Association of Independent Living activities on both islands. Library Aide Lloyd "Sonny" Barnes made an appearance at the White Cane Day in Frederiksted. We were able to ask questions at the "11th Annual Voices That Count" sponsored by the Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD).



Stories we have:

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## SERVICE

2014 Survey of the Virgin Islands Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

We adapted a survey from one of our network Libraries that suited our needs to evaluate our performance. We included the survey in the mailing of the biannual **Newsletter** and we also did direct phone outreach. Staff member Nina Garcia spearheaded the activity and tabulated the results. The results were complimentary of the **service** we strive to give all our patrons. The staff was gratified to receive no responses lower than satisfactory and most were excellent. For this survey we were very diligent in contacting our visually disabled patrons since they may not have been able to return the survey without assistance. The survey was rendered in a paper copy so we strove to overcome this access barrier by speaking with patrons directly.

The first question was to rate service received by phone. Twenty-five patrons felt the phone service was excellent and four said it was satisfactory. Phone communication with patrons is often the most critical factor in providing responsive library customer service. Commenting on the use of voice mail, 14 persons felt we were responsive, 9 never left messages and 6 felt we provided satisfactory responses. Eighteen persons rated the selection of magazines and books available from our Talking Books as excellent and 11 said it was satisfactory. Even though the **Newsletter** was rated as excellent by 18 persons and satisfactory by 17 persons the Library will investigate using an audio format to augment distribution. Twenty-five persons rated overall service as excellent and 4 persons felt it was satisfactory. The final survey question was about BARD, our online catalog to which persons must be subscribed in order to access the service. Nine persons were users of the BARD service and 25 were not. Eight persons had never heard of BARD, 10 did not have a computer or internet access, 11 preferred to receive the books from the Library and finally 2 persons had other reasons for not using BARD. We want to thank all our patrons for participating in the survey. The results will help us in improving the quality of all library services.

The Staff of Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped values all its patrons. It is both a privilege and pleasure to provide you with good service.

### OUR SUMMER WORKERS

This past summer of 2014 the Virgin Islands Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals employed two summer students thanks to the generous support of the *Department of Labor: Summer Youth Work Experience Program*. Both of them were invaluable and helped us with many important tasks that must postponed during the balance of the year when staffing limitations require most of our staff to be involved in direct service to our clients. The students assist in bring the Library up to date in many areas like organizing the machine room and machine records, securing the hundreds of RC book containers with rubber bands, and answering phones.

We are grateful to both young women and thank the Department of Labor for providing the financial support to working students for six weeks of the summer. We have enjoyed over the years working with our summer youth employees over the years and we know their summer experiences have been memorable.

### SECOND ANNUAL A.U.T.I.S.M. HUMANE INCLUSION CAMP

The second annual A.U.T.I.S.M. Globe Humane Inclusion Camp, an Earthangle program, was held at the National Park Service Salt River's Visitor's Center on the island of St. Croix from July 7, 2014 through August 1, 2014. One of our library patrons presented a mobility workshop for the campers. In keeping with the Library's motto "That All May Read," Librarian Letitia Gittens demonstrated reading formats customized to a reader's abilities and disabilities. Mr. Gerard Evelyn, who is blind and uses a cane, asked campers to blind fold themselves and experiment using a cane. The campers were fascinated by what they learned and it was an exciting day.

In the past, the Regional Library has partnered with A.U.T.I.S.M. (the acronym stands for Acceptance, Understanding, Trusting others, Inclusion, Support, Mentorship) to provide "Humane Literacy Experiences". For more information please call the National Park Service at (340) 773-1460 or email questions to [humaneinclusion@earthangle.camp](mailto:humaneinclusion@earthangle.camp).

### DO YOU WANT AN A AUDIO BIBLE?

The Aurora Ministries Audio Bibles for the Blind service has the answer. For more information call (941) 748-3031, visit the website at <http://audiobiblesfortheblind.org> or call the Virgin Islands Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at 340-718-2250.

## USING THE DA1 MACHINE

What are the special features of the advanced DA1 player, and how do they work?

The advanced player allows the user to navigate through various sections of a book using the **Menu** key, and bookmark specific sections of the book to return to another time using the **Mark** key.

To understand what navigation options are available, you first need to know how a book is marked up. Let the book play through the title information and listen for the navigation instructions that follow soon after the title. The statement begins with "this book contains markers allowing direct access to...at...level..."

Once you know how the book is marked up, use the **Menu** key to access the level to which you wish to navigate. For example, cook-books offer navigation to sections, recipes and even ingredients and directions within a recipe. Once you hear the navigation level you want on the menu, such as "section," use the **Next** or **Prev** key and the book will start playing at that point.

The bookmark feature is another convenient feature of the advanced player. When you hear something you would like return to later, add a bookmark by pressing the **Mark** key. For example, to bookmark a cookie recipe you'd like to review

later, just press the **Mark** key at the recipe. Return to bookmarks by pressing the **Menu** key until you hear "bookmark," then press the **Prev** or **Next** key until you hear the location you are seeking for. You can add as many bookmarks as you like.

(Thanks to Brevard County Talking Books Library.)



**Note:** These instructions only work with the advanced digital player. If you have a standard player and would like to replace it with an advanced player contact the Talking Book Library at (340) 718-2250 and one will be made available or sent to you.



### HOLIDAY BESTSELLER READING

- Robyn Carr - Virgin River Christmas DB 68942, My Kind of Christmas DB 75824
- Thomas Kinkade - Christmas Star A Cape Light Novel DB 75410, Wish for Christmas DB 75419, On Christmas Eve DB 75583, Christmas Treasures DB 75759
- Debbie Macomber - Starry Night A Christmas Novel DB 77857, Cedar Cove Christmas DB 68061, That Holiday Feeling DB 71428, Some Day Soon DB 67086
- James Patterson - Christmas Wedding DB 74075, Merry Christmas, Alex Cross DB 75739
- Susan Wiggs - Lakeshore Christmas DB 69940, Candlelight Christmas The Lakeshore Chronicles DB 77865
- Lori Wilde - Sweethearts' Knitting Club DB 74474, The True Love Quilting Club DB 75058, First Love Cookie Club DB 75060, Welcome Home Garden Club DB 75046
- Sherryl Woods - O'Brien Christmas DB 74637, Seaside Christmas A Chesapeake Shores Novel DB 77788, Welcome to Serenity The Sweet Magnolias DB 68858, Chesapeake Shores Christmas DB 72244

### CURRENCY READERS

As an interim measure in advance of issuing tactile-enhanced Federal Reserve notes, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is providing currency readers, free of charge, to eligible blind and visually impaired individuals. Beginning September 2, 2014, in partnership with the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the BEP will initiate a four-month pilot program where NLS patrons can pre-order a currency reader. The reader will be delivered to the patron address on file and deliveries will begin in 2015.





The Virgin Islands Regional Library has been in the Virgin Islands since 1968 and was started in St. Thomas. It was relocated to St. Croix first in Frederiksted and then, in 1992, to Christiansted at its present location. The Library is part of the Library of Congress Network of the Libraries for Blind and Physically Handicapped. It provides audiotaped digital books and cassettes free of charge to persons who are unable to utilize traditional books. The Library has transitioned to the digital age with the introduction of digital players, books and related technology, like "apps." The Library of Congress/National Library Service came into existence in 1931 for blind residents in the U.S. but over the years has expanded its size and scope of services.

The Library's local administrative agency is the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums in the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.



**WE WANT OUR BOOKS BACK!**

Our records show that some of you have **overdue materials...**

- Borrow cassette books for 6 months. Borrow digital books for 1 month.
- Be a good neighbor; share your good reads.
- Please return books on time.

- Magazine cartridges (Red case Blue cartridge) must be mailed back.
- Don't want to bother with due dates? Download!

We can teach you how...**BARD** (Braille and Audio Reading Download) offers digital books and magazines to borrow as long as you like. BARD has added Braille books, magazines and music.

**Contact Info**

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**That All May Read**

**Staff**

LETITIA G. GITTENS,  
REGIONAL LIBRARIAN



LLOYD "SONNY"  
BARNES, LIBRARY AIDE



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LIBRARY COORDINATOR



NINA GARCIA,  
LIBRARY TECH II

