# THE LUA LEDGER

LIBRARY USERS OF AMERICA, INC.
Spring 2019

President: Brian Charlson

Editor: Paul Edwards

Treasurer: Adam Ruschival

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President's Message: OOPS!

Paul Edwards

I was asked by our President, Brian Charlson, whether I had his President's Message for this issue of the Ledger. I was absolutely sure I did but have been unable to locate it. So, partly as a penance and partly because I want to do it, I am going to write a message for him.

I have known Brian ever since I started attending ACB conventions in 1984 and I feel fortunate that I can say that Kim and Brian have, through the years, become among my most valued friends. My success such as it has been with ACB is due in no small part to Brian who has always been a help mate, an anchor and the best First Vice President an ACB President has ever had.

It is hard to quantify what Brian has done because there is just too much! He has worked tirelessly over the past few years to sell accessibility to public libraries and those who run them. He has been the poster child for new technology. He will go anywhere he needs to go to show how the capabilities of blind people are enhanced by technology. He has made the Carroll Center perhaps the pre-eminent spot where people who are blind and technology meet! He is a Red Sox fan but nobody's perfect!

As President of LUA, Brian has asked the Board and our members to look beyond where we are to where we think library users who are blind need to be in the future. He has found time in a very busy schedule to give LUA the time and concern it deserves and we are richer for it!

Brian, my dog (which I don't have) ate your President's Message but that gave me a chance to tell you what you mean to so many of us who have benefited from who you are and what you represent and do. GO MARLINS!

The World At Your Fingertips

Judy Wilkinson

I can't remember when my love of maps began: somewhere in my distant youth I remember ordering dotted-line maps from Perkins, but those flimsy sheets have long disappeared, and I've never found them again.

Never underestimate the makeshift map! After imbibing several bottles of wine at a dinner party, Canadian friends grabbed teaspoons, cups and plates to create an impromptu map of Canada! I first learned the shape of the Bay Area when a friend told me to hold up my hand: my thumb being the San Francisco peninsula, San Jose where thumb meets palm, and the East Bay in the no man's palm land.

But nothing! Nothing beats a good tactile map! One of my greatest joys was the relief globe from the American Printing House (APH), nearly as tall as I, which arrived late in my junior year of high school! As my fellow students in Asian History filled in their blank maps for a geography quiz, our teacher watched as I proudly found all the answers on that relief globe. His comment was, "Hmmm!" I think he was impressed. Imagine my thrill (and disappointment) when at the end of our APH museum tour at the last ACB convention in Louisville, I found out, too late, that yes they had that globe, (no longer being produced) in the museum. Touching it again is on my to do list for my next visit to Louisville.

Maps of San Francisco improved dramatically when, in the early 1980's, thanks to the efforts of the late Jewel MacGinnis, the Golden Gate Chapter of the California Council of the Blind, produced an incredible, colorful relief map of San Francisco. Each map cost a lot to produce, but true to their promise: the cost to individuals was only $5! That map was the only artwork on my wall for years: alas somewhere in a recent move that treasure has disappeared. If anyone has one they'd be willing to sell, contact me!

My latest obsessions are maps from the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind's MADLAB! No these folks aren't crazy unless you count being crazy for love of tactile graphics! The acronym stands for The Jerry Kuns and Theresa Postello Media and Accessible Design Laboratory. Greg Kehret, the lab's director, was extremely helpful in providing me information about the MADLAB, which by the way, received ACB's Robert S. Bray award in 2017 for its design work.

You'll want a TMAP street map of your neighborhood! Contrary to what you might think, TMAP — (What is it with these folks and acronyms?)—doesn't stand for "tactile map," but "tactile map automated production." Using Google Maps, in moments your map is created; for $19.95, you receive an overview page and 3 versions of the tactile street map with the address you've selected as the epicenter: a scale for 4, 6 and 8 thousand feet per inch respectively. Thus you can begin by exploring the simplest (largest scale) map before moving on to the other two. I have maps for my address and another for a more complicated area showing the small shopping center about a half mile away: freeway included! Visit the specific page at [lighthouse-sf.org/tmap](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CWhitee%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CC9SNY9OK%5Clighthouse-sf.org%5Ctmap) or to order yours call the Lighthouse Adaptations store at 415-694-7301. Greg informs me they are in the process of updating the whole procedure, but the store will always know how to, (ahem) "map" your request!

The MADLAB also creates wonderful custom maps. For our recent trip to Venice, they created a map showing as key points, our Air BANDB location, St. Mark's Square and other points of interest which I selected. They charged $66 at $50 per hour, though I suspect they put in more time than that. How I wish we'd had such maps for our trip to New Zealand several years ago! The point is, while they do cost more, nothing beats that map under your fingers; so at least explore the option by calling Maritza Calderon 415-694-7303 email: madlab@lighthouse-sf.org. Rates of course will depend on the complexity of your request.

In addition to that beloved relief globe, the folks at APH have been producing maps for a long time. I love my World Atlas which cost around $165, but well worth it! On its map of Australia, New Zealand was a little dot down in the right-hand corner of the page, showing just how far away that "third island" is from the place on earth which gets its iPhones first!

When I put "map" in the search box on their website, 235 results popped up! To learn more about their offerings, visit aph.org or call 800-223-1839.

During my university days, I remember ordering a fabulous map from the Princeton Braillists. Happily their work is now being carried on by National Braille Press. At this past summer's ACB convention, I excitedly paid my $45 for the California map which contains 18 maps ranging from one just showing counties, another with mountains; there's even one for highways! Others specifically delineate the cities Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. Some of the data change of course: (the population is no longer anywhere near the 2000 census number of 34 million), but at least until the next big earthquake, the land hasn't, so these maps really are timeless. The catalog presents a detailed description of each map: including number of volumes, number of maps and pages, the cost and a detailed description. Order the catalog or your map from nbp.org or by calling 800-548-7323.

In short, you may never leave your armchair, but armed with any of these amazing maps, to quote Shell Silverstein, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!"

Editor's Message

What Is A Library?

Paul Edwards

What is a library? At first glance this seems like a stupid and pointless question. Everybody knows what a library is, right? I started thinking about this question as I considered the options available to me as a reader in 2019. Every time I turn around, more options become available and defining the term becomes harder. And, of course, the nature of libraries has changed over time. The destruction of a public library today by fire, let's say, as is described in an amazing new book by Susan Orleans, would not be as overwhelmingly catastrophic as was the willful destruction of the Library in Alexandria in Egypt a century before Christ was born. It housed the largest repository of manuscripts in the world, and much of the collected knowledge of ancient civilization was lost forever in the flames of an ignorant act of wanton stupidity. It is amazing to think that the printing press has only been around for the past five hundred years. Before that, an attack on a monastery or an Arab palace could see the loss of the only copy of a book that existed in the world. Once printing came along, the accretion of knowledge and the survival of culture became much more likely. We are now at a place where a vast collection of books is "safely?" stored electronically so that even if library buildings go up in smoke, our accumulated store of knowledge will potentially survive.

A library is also a room in a house. Initially it was a room in the houses of the rich where books were stored with no guarantee that they would be read. I have such a room though I would not classify myself as rich. It is one of the odd elements of my life that I owned at least ten thousand print books most of which I scanned into electronic form so I could read them. A large proportion of them are now a part of Bookshare. I also own braille books, and many of the books I own are like the manuscripts of old and may well be the only copy currently extant of a particular book. These books are hand transcribed braille books of recipes acquired by my wife, Gayle and a few books transcribed for me on other subjects. They live in that "library" along with a number of computer hard drives which contain thousands of books bought from audible, downloaded from BARD or Bookshare or scanned through my computer. Each of these hard drives then contains "libraries". And then there are the huge numbers of internet repositories of books which are "libraries". And there are SD cards and MicroSD cards. I have a 64 gig micro card in one of my note takers which can potentially hold twenty thousand braille books, if not more. That is a library the size of a postage stamp. I have more books in my collection than a respectable public library in a small town had fifty years ago!

This brings us to the question of what a public library is today. It has print books; it has audio books; it houses music collections on CD’s; in some cases, libraries have baking pans and special food molds that can be borrowed to make that perfect recipe; libraries have movies; online books are there; there are toy collections; libraries have computers that patrons can come and use; they have meeting rooms where community groups can get together. So, what is a library?

When I attended the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services representing people with disabilities called by the first President Bush, there was a question of whether public libraries as we know them would exist in 2050. I think their survival is still in question, and their long-term viability is only being maintained because they have substantially altered what they do and what they are.

Every person who owns a Kindle or a Nook carries a library around with him or her. Those libraries not only contain books, but they include magazines with pictures. A quarter of the reading that is being done today is being done electronically, and the percentage rises each year. Audio books used to be for those who couldn't read print easily, either because of age or disability. Now audio books are becoming more and more popular with folks who read on the way to work or on family vacations or on planes. What is a library?

Is there really a point to this question? I think there is! A library is so many things that it is impossible to offer a simple definition. It also means that the meaning of the term "library user" is just as illusory. I read with a braille display; I read with an optacon; I read with synthetic speech using a computer or a Kindle; I read human-read audio books on a range of devices; I read books, magazines, newspapers and information directly from web sites. Where do podcasts fit? At the heart of all of this diversity and information overload is another basic question. What is Library Users of America and what should it be doing? And that, my friends, is the point of this whole article. There is not a single element among all those I have discussed so far that is beyond the purview of LUA. We don't even limit ourselves by including in our name the fact that we are people who are blind or have low vision. Oh, and, by the way, I haven't talked about either large print or screen or CCTV or portable magnifiers yet!

Because there is so much that is potentially on our plate, we must explore where we, as an organization, can do the most good. Should we seek to influence the future or seek to make our members more comfortable with the huge range of reading options that is the present? Should we rail against what is inaccessible or create capacity among our members to take advantage of what is already there? We are an organization of volunteers who are not well known in the "library community". Should we seek to recruit members who are in that community?

It is startling to recall that two hundred years ago barely ten percent of the people on this planet were literate. Are blind people who can't read print or braille literate? Only ten percent of people who are blind are braille readers. Does this matter? Should this be one of our major priorities? There is one more thing.

Libraries, whether private or public, have stood up as bastions of freedom and have opposed censorship and repression. Libraries are not just buildings or aggregations of materials. They are communities of people who value knowledge and promote debate. However we read, each of us is a sponge that soaks up ideas which are then wrung out in our emails and Facebook posts and on conference calls and in this publication. We are all librarians charged with the promotion of free and open discussion in an age where polarization seems to be lessening civility and communication. Be proud that you are a member of Library Users of America and that you have been a part of creating a place for people who are blind where we have access to more knowledge than we can possibly acquire and where we have a chance to be ambassadors of openness and free speech because our reading has made us creatures of the book. Be proud and, as Spock would tell us, continue to prosper!

Library Users of America Afternoon session, Featuring Karen Keninger and Judy Dixon from the National Library Service

Sharon Strzalkowski

This session covered a variety of topics, with many questions being generated by the audience and others coming from the NLS staff. Participant names are not included, and a summary is offered here.

Marrakesh Treaty: Karen feels confident that this treaty will go into effect fairly soon, and while she is excited about it, there will be many challenges. NLS serves only residents of the United States and citizens living abroad so our full participation in the treaty will have to be studied by the NLS lawyers. Further, the format used on BARD does not match that of other English-speaking countries, so logistics of transferring and sharing books will have to be worked out. Karen mentioned that our NLS collection of Russian and Chinese books is very limited, so receiving an influx of these titles will be welcome. She noted that there will need to be an increase in staff to handle the book exchanges, with the expectation that books coming to us would be placed on BARD.

Working with Amazon: A question was raised about whether BARD books will be accessible via the Echo devices on Amazon, and Karen said that NLS is working on engineering the artificial intelligence needed for such collaboration. Streaming the books is the big issue here.

Next generation of NLS player: LUA Vice President Judy Wilkinson was concerned that the Equipment Development Committee was not apprised of NLS plans with regard to the next generation of digital player, and that there has been no consumer input. Karen could not speak to that oversight except to say that the conversation is in the preliminary stages. NLS is considering going to an off-the-shelf device with speech interface rather than a reworking of the current machine. While such a device would be less durable, it would be less expensive to produce and replace. Surveys and focus groups are planned for the next couple of years to ensure that this system would be useable by our various populations, and if it is found not to be workable, there would be a reworking of the current machine. Whatever the configuration, the next generation device will have a text-to-speech engine so that text documents and books can be listened to on the device. One audience member commented that any speech commands would need to be as reliable and clear as the current ones on Amazon. In the meantime, there are not many advanced players left, and no more are being produced. A new remote control for the standard player can be offered to give the same functionality.

NLS questions to the audience: Karen and Judy Dixon then asked audience members if they prefer the Victor Stream to the BARD mobile app. Impassioned Victor Stream users applauded the availability of push buttons, easy-to-follow prompts with limited menus and the ability to keep books on an SD card for future use. Others preferred the BARD Mobile app so that they need only carry one device. Tactile overlays for the smartphone touch screen were mentioned as a way of satisfying the need for some tactile assistance.

Karen mentioned that the number of NLS users has plateaued at 450,000, perhaps because of the availability of many additional reading options that many young people use. One listener said that having reliable voice commands and internet connectivity would increase BARD use. There are still 25 percent of readers over age 80, and a very small percentage of children. ACB radio by phone has been phenomenal, showing that many people still do not have access to technology including Wi-Fi. The needs of these customers must be addressed. NLS will not ask patrons to purchase Wi-Fi connectivity but will expect those who already have it to use it.

Braille display: What does NLS expect in a braille display? Nothing on the market right now meets all the requirements, said Judy. A display would have to have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, 20 cells, eight dots, cursor routing, SD card, USB drives and a braille keyboard. No price point has been set, and it is an open competition at this point. NLS is developing a format similar to ePub that will allow for navigation. Not producing paper braille will reduce costs associated with embossing and binding expenses.

New BARD Mobile app: One audience member complimented NLS on better features for low vision users on the mobile app. Others spoke about some changes they would like to see in accessing the wish list and in navigating between a particular book back to the search box. The suggestion was also made to indicate that a book is in the children category at the same level where other categories such as detective or science fiction are shown.

This was a very collegial and informative meeting.

What Else You Missed!
Paul Edwards

You have just read about the NLS session of our LUA program last year. There were three other major program components that you missed if you weren't in St. Louis last July.

Our special session on Sunday looked at two old friends, NLS and Bookshare. From NLS we heard a detailed presentation about BARD Express. Even though I had heard of BARD Express, I had no idea of just what a powerful tool it is! It was designed to create a simple interface for people to use to access materials on BARD. It has come to include a lot of features that make it a very desirable way of interfacing with BARD. I was particularly impressed about how "series" books can be found. But there are lots more neat features. Consider going to [bard.loc.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cfragolae%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CD27TFD29%5Cbard.loc.gov), log in and then download BARD Express and play it!

We also received an update from Bookshare.

Our joint session of course included some wonderful interaction with Laura Giannarelli who shared lots of experiences as a talking book narrator.

Judy Dixon did a session on braille and the iPhone which was very informative and helpful.

You can avoid missing exciting programs like these by coming to Rochester New York this summer.

Coming Up This Summer

Paul Edwards

Our whole program is not yet put together, but I want to share what owe think is going to happen. We will, as usual, begin with what is always an enlightening interactive session with Karen Keninger, Director of the National Library Service in Washington. We expect to have a librarian from New York to tell us what exciting things the Empire state is doing. We will have a separate discussion that will include Karen Keninger and President Charlson on implementing the Marrakesh Treaty.

Our special session this year will be about music. We want NLS to tell us about the music department and also about how owe can access music from other parts of the Library of Congress. We also hope to talk about software and perhaps more in what owe think will be an exciting session which will also include a little about braille music.

Our talking book narrator this year is Gary Telles from Potomac Talking Book Services who will share his experiences with us. Our second element in our joint session with other groups will look at tactile graphics and where they are going.

You won't want to miss these exciting sessions, so make your reservations now! We expect to record these sessions and make them available to our members on the web.

Something for the Book Lover

Mary Haroyan

About eight years ago, I found myself chatting with a friend about the latest book I was reading and hoping she had read it so I could share a burning thought or opinion about it. Whether she had or not, the conversation would always lead to other titles and the realization of how enjoyable it was to talk about books. She had been a part of many book discussion groups and I hadn't; so I couldn't help but wonder what it would be like.

Well, I would soon know. Valerie, the fellow book lover who also at that time happened to be the Coordinator of Volunteer Services for Audio Journal (AJ), the Central Mass. affiliate of the Talking Information Center, decided that a radio book discussion program could allow those who love to read and who are blind or visually impaired the chance to participate in book discussions from the convenience of their homes. In April of 2011, "Speaking Volumes" was launched. The format of the program is quite unique in that it allows anyone listening to the program through the several available means including by phone, on line and a using a radio receiver, to not only listen to the book discussion but also to call in with their thoughts and comments.

On the first Tuesday of each month from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM, six to seven of us, all Audio Journal volunteers, come together in the studio and discuss the book of the month. The titles are chosen at least four months ahead to give listeners the time to order them from the Talking Book Library. Of course all titles chosen are available on cartridge, so that those listeners who don't download using BARD won't be left out. We all suggest titles for selection and invite listeners to do so as well. Our very first book was The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and our most recent was the Alice Network. We have been fortunate enough to be visited in person by Nicholas Gage, author of Eleni; Neil Swidey by phone, author of Trapped Under the Sea and Kate Quinn, author of The Alice Network. Our selections have spanned a wide range of both fiction and nonfiction works. Some of us, like myself, enjoy focusing on the emotions elicited by a book while others are more analytical, resulting in entertaining discussions.

We were all thrilled when, in the February issue of Oprah Magazine, "Speaking Volumes" was one of six book clubs highlighted for its uniqueness.

If anyone would like to know more about "Speaking Volumes" and when and how to tune in, feel free to call me at 508-853-6445 or e-mail me at mharoyan@charter.net. Happy Reading!

Making Change Happen
Paul Edwards

Last year the Board of Directors of Library Users of America created an advocacy committee who met and decided to write two resolutions that we hoped would be passed by ACB. Both were submitted; both were debated; and both were adopted!

The first resolution asked NLS to consider changing the way it currently formats electronic books in braille. Without going into all the gory details, our intention was to make formats that would work better with the wide range of electronic displays that are currently on the market. In the past, NLS has only made available books and magazines in the format they are produced in hard copy braille. This usually meant that there was a standard of 40 characters per line. We hoped to persuade NLS to consider not only changing formats but making braille titles available only in electronic formats in addition to the copies of the braille books that were produced in hard copy.

NLS told us that they are already working on this issue and felt that we were asking for approaches that are already being taken. We are pleased with their reception of our resolution and hope to see tangible results over the next few years.

Our second resolution aims to encourage national bodies that set standards for public libraries to include the needs of people who are blind who want to fully participate in activities and services available there. We are working with a librarian in California to see how best to implement this resolution. It would explore acquiring accessible audio books; making online catalogues usable by people who are blind; including accessibility as a core component of computer access to patrons of public libraries; and other similar elements. At the heart of this proposal is the notion that people who are blind should be able to be fully included in what local public libraries do.

It is the aim of LUA to continue to promote change. If you have an idea that you think should be considered, let the Board know!

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

Paul Edwards

It began with one young lady's need that couldn't be met! Her computer wasn't working, and she needed to keep up with her email and do some writing. So she did what lots of others have done. She went to the nearest branch of her public library in Broward County Florida. She asked where there was a computer that had JAWS or some other screen reader on it that she could use. It was as if she were speaking a foreign language. She went to another branch with the same result. At branch after branch--she went to six libraries--the story was the same. Not only do we not have such a thing. We don't even know what such a thing is! We know there is an accessible computer at the main library and, oh, by the way, didn't you mean to contact the subregional Talking Book Library? They surely can help you and that's where services are supposed to be provided for people who are blind, right?

She came to a meeting of the newly revived Broward Council of the Blind and asked what she should do. It was decided to write a letter to the Director of the Broward Public Library System to set up a meeting to make the needs of people who are blind or have low vision better understood. The meeting was set up and, in March of 2018, four members of the chapter turned up at the main library to meet with whomever the Director chose to bring together. The meeting was impressive. The Director was there as was the person in charge of implementing the ADA. Also present was the head of the Library Outreach system and several other folks. The discussion was very, very positive. It was agreed that more needed to be done. The library would investigate JAWS. They would come to one of our meetings. They would get us on their email lists. They would look at other ways people who are blind could be more fully included in what the library does. We who were at the meeting representing the Broward chapter were both excited and quite flattered. We felt that our meeting demonstrated a real commitment on the library's part to take on the issues we raised and looked forward to hearing back from them after a reasonable time had passed.

A month went by and we had heard nothing. Two months went by and we left several phone messages and still had heard nothing. We had all left our phone numbers and email addresses so they knew how to find us. The Director of the local subregional Talking Book Library came to our September meeting, and we asked him to intercede for us. Still there was no feedback. We were getting discouraged.

Then we heard that a decision had been made to make JAWS available at a number of branches. So it was now clear that we had gained from our meeting. However, as things stand a year after our big meeting, we feel like there's reason for optimism but also reason to be less than overjoyed about the outcome.

I am not sure what we could have done differently. We have now written a letter asking to meet again! We have also included in that letter some very specific "requests". In general, they reiterate the agreements we thought we had after the meeting last March. We will keep Library Users in touch with what happens but this is what we believe.

We think we gained more than what we have been told about tangibly. We demonstrated that blind people can articulate specific demands to which we are entitled. We know we can envision a very different relationship with our public library. We know that there are lots of services the library offers which our members can benefit from if we can only learn more about them. There are audio books available; there are lots of community activities the library organizes that our members might want to attend. We know that many of our members might well come to the library if they only knew about these services. We also came to know a little more about our potential to influence service delivery systems that we qualify to use. Yes, we are disappointed by our failure to get all we wanted in an appropriate time. But, in general, we feel that a new group from ACB learned a lot about our potential to create change and about our potential to work on other issues.

The lesson for LUA members wherever they may be is that you won't make anything happen till you actually demand change. It is easy to talk about what the ADA entitles us to have. It is quite another matter to confront those who are not living up to expectations and ask that they do better. It's also worth learning that it's not enough to start the ball rolling. We have to make sure it continues to roll so that it moves down the field till we score the goals we want!

Library Without Walls
Paul Edwards

On the third Wednesday of every odd month at 8:30 Eastern time, Library Without Walls happens. A group of book lovers get together to discuss a chosen kind very book. In May we will be discussing international fiction. That means fiction not written by an American writer. We hope you will join us in May and then in July, September and November. To call dial 515-603-3151 and use the access code "luacall" 5822255. We need your input and wisdom!

Library Users of America

President: Brian Charlson

Registration: $10 ($12)

Sunday, July 7, 2019

1:15 PM: Welcome and Introductions: Brian Charlson, President, Library Users of America, Watertown, MA

1:25 PM: Initiatives and Issues at NLS, Karen Keninger, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Washington, DC

2:30 PM: Break

2:45 PM: Beyond Marrakesh: Kim Charlson, President American Council of the Blind and Director Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library, Watertown MA -- the United States became the fiftieth country to adopt the Marrakesh treaty. What is it and what happens now?

3:05 PM: The state of Library Services in the Empire State. Representative of Talking Book Libraries from New York will tell us about the exciting programs they have implemented over the past few years.

3:30 PM: Blindfold Games/Objective Marty Schultz, Founder, Miami Beach, FL. Learn how accessible games have provided many hours of fun for thousands of blind people, and now are helping students to learn important skills.

3:45 PM: Business meeting and elections. LUA officers get elected this year and LUA members will hear from our representatives serving on NLS committees.

5:45 PM: MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC! $7 ($10)

Joint session with the Information Access Committee (IAC), Braille Revival League (BRL), Friends in Art (FIA). A panel moderated by Brian Charlson, LUA President, Watertown MA, and Paul Edwards, President BRL, Miami FL, will lead a discussion of what is available through the Music Section of NLS and others. We will also explore what recorded music offerings are available from the Library of Congress archives, and how to access them; music software that is accessible; and learn about the current state of braille music notation.

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

1:15 PM: Welcome to the LUA/BRAILLE/AABT/FIA Joint Session: Brian Charlson, President, Library Users of America, Watertown, MA; Paul Edwards, President, Braille Revival League, Miami, FL; and others will provide a welcome and give those present a chance to introduce themselves.

1:30 PM: Up Close and Personal: Gary Telles, Potomac Talking Books, Bethesda, MD; will meet with us to talk in more detail about his experiences as a narrator and will answer all the questions you didn't get to ask during his morning session presentation.

2:30 PM: Break

2:45 PM: Vision Loss and Personal Recovery: by Hannah Fairbairn, retired instructor at the Carroll Center for the Blind, Newton, MA; first-hand account of her experiences and accumulated wisdom into a book to help others make the transition to independence after vision loss.

3:00 PM: Picture the Feeling: Tactile Graphics today and tomorrow; in this session we will hear about what NLS and National Braille Press are doing with tactile graphics and will explore other sources for maps and pictures that blind people can access and use, including the new Graphiti tactile graphic display.

4:00 PM: Adjourn

Library Users of America

Officers and Board Members

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