# LUA LEDGER

## LIBRARY USERS OF AMERICA, INC.

## FALL, 2020

## President: Judy Wilkinson

## Editor: Sharon Strzalkowski

## Treasurer: Adam Ruschival

## Produced in

## Braille, Large Print, Digital Cartridge and Email

## For LUA by the Perkins Library

## Watertown, Massachusetts

## Library Users of America, Inc. is a Special Interest Affiliate of the American Council of the Blind

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

# President’s Message: Books Without Walls: A Broader Perspective By Judy Wilkinson

Editor’s Note by Sharon Strzalkowski

###

Summer Convention, Virtual Style

# Enjoying Digital Talking Books Hands-Free

# by Deborah Armstrong

# Podcasts on Booksby Paul Edwards

American Council of the Blind Honors NLS’s Karen Keninger

iOS BRAILLE COMMANDS by Ralph Smitherman

# My Best Friend by Linda Adams

NLS Honors Oklahoma and San Francisco Libraries for Service to Print-Disabled Readers by Mark Layman

### Library Users of America Officers and Board Members, July 2020

# LUA Ledger – Fall 2020

# President’s Message

Books Without Walls: A Broader Perspective

By Judy Wilkinson

For most LUA members, the term "Books Without Walls" conjures up our increasingly-popular, bimonthly book discussion call, ably hosted by LUA Vice-President Paul Edwards on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months. If you haven't joined these calls yet, you have a treat in store. Each caller is invited to discuss 2 books on that month's theme. You don't even have to take notes because though everyone is invited to participate, Jane Corona then distributes the list to all LUA members. If nothing else, you'll want to hear the astute comments from the call's moderator Paul Edwards. As a former professor of English, I pride myself on having read vastly: the good, the bad and the downright popcorn rubbish books. But I can't hold a candle to Mr. Edwards, who has read more vastly and deeply than anyone I have ever met!

But I want to expand on this term in a broader perspective. One of our board members is almost proud to remind us that she hasn't read an NLS book in years! Indeed once our only source of accessible books, NLS is now one of a myriad of options for reading books without walls.

My first heady experience of the wide world of books came in 1974 when I got trained on the Optacon, a device where one put the index finger of one hand on an array where pins popped up to display the letters sliding under the finger as the other hand moved a camera along a line of print. The idea of reading letter by letter seems so archaic today, but believe me, with one finger, the world of books opened wide. I purchased the first book I ever bought for myself, not as a gift for my sighted family and friends. It was a parody of J. R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. The other book which would be labled today as LgbtQ was frankly, downright lesbian porn, recommended by women in a reading group: a book I never could have gotten from NLS or even Learning Ally (the Recordings for the Blind of yore.) Even though I know amazingly competent Optacon users, one of whom even read cruise ship floor plans and others who cruised inaccessible computer screens with ease, I just couldn't get the necessary speed and gave up having finished neither of those books.

Fast forward to 1987 when I bought my first scanner, costing $12,000. The story of how I raised the money to buy that machine is a story for another time in fundraising annals. With great excitement, I borrowed a book from my local library, realizing too late that I didn't dare crack its binding! I'll never forget the first time I did cut the binding off a hardcover book so I could feed the pages! Taught to revere books, I felt like I was committing a crime until reality set in, and I understood that the book in its beautiful pristine shape was useless to me! My dream of having cookbooks: Jane Brody's Good Foods; books by Molly Katzen beyond NLS's Moosewood Cookbook; an Indian cookbook! But the dirty little secret of cookbooks was that fractions didn't come out very well: (still in some situations the case today by the way), so I had to hire an assistant to clean them up. Knitting books alas were obviously impossible.

Scanning was arduous: doing all the odd pages and then reversing to get the right side ones, hoping you hadn't accidentally skipped one or turned one upside down! And only after converting could one discover the pages which didn't scan at all!

But that scanner allowed my teaching options to explode: I could finally explore new textbook options without having to hang on for dear life through 2-3 editions, getting more it more out of date from the original versions I'd paid so much to have transcribed into braille!

My students' compositions were finally available for me to comment on as I printed out neatly typed versions with my comments affixed in bold and in a different font! That scanner was worth every penny!

Along came Bookshare where everyone's scanned books were gathered. Remember the dedicated readers who proofed those submitted books? BTW: ask Paul Edwards how many books he personally scanned for Bookshare! Hundreds and hundreds! Now most books are submitted directly from the publishers, mostly nice and clean!

Just recently I scanned a relatively obscure book on Buddhism using a scanner app on my iPhone! The theme again: the process of moving beyond these walls only gets easier!

For years I gloried in Audible. Do you realize how sighted folks think nothing of paying for books while most blind folks are indignant? How spoiled we are! How Audible opened up the world of thousands of professionally-read works!

Like the fabled walls of Jericho, the "walls" limiting our access to books virtually came tumbling down with the advent of Ebooks, especially those produced by Amazon for the Kindle. Millions of books are now available through this source. Reading them has gotten far easier: (more crumbling walls).

I can remember using the Kindle App to laboriously read a book. Voicedream Reader made the reading so much more enjoyable! Thank you James! (one of the best synthetic voices ever!)

Downloading Kindle books had its challenges. One had to enable devices at one time, I had several iphones and my computer enabled to receive downloads, and deleting old devices was a challenge: at least for me.

But obtaining and reading books is delightfully easy now. Just last week, I asked the A Lady to open Kindle! There were all my recent purchases, available in the cloud! Steve and I read our friend's most recent Christmas romance, The Christmas Eve Promise, asking A to increase the speed! Navigating has improved as we could go back in seconds or by chapter!

Of course by attaching a braille device to a smartphone or computer, one's braille-reading device puts all these books at one's fingertips!

You see one of the recurring themes here: things will only get better and easier! Most likely, I have overlooked other cherished resources beloved to LUA members. Look for a LUA Link call some time next year on using your local public library's reading tools for even more accessibility! Don't forget Gutenberg for all those out-of-copyright classics: Booth Tarkington anyone? Gotta go! Horseman On the Roof, a must-read recommendation from dear friends available only on Kindle, is waiting!

Editor’s Note by Sharon Strzalkowski

It has been a pleasure to put together this issue. I am very grateful for the submissions of several members, and enthusiastic about the great conversation that is happening on our LUA lists. If you would like to submit an article, or even talk about an idea for one, please feel free to email me at strzal@charter.net. Thanks so much, and stay safe and well till the next issue!

Summer Convention, Virtual Style

# Morning NLS Sessions

Summary presented by Paul Edwards

## Karen Keninger, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, provided an update. She first announced that people could now subscribe to series on all forms of BARD. When the next book comes out you will get an email and you will automatically find the book in your wish list. Legislation was passed that allows for the full implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. The regulations should be passed by the end of July. The NLS name change to National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled refines the category which includes people with reading disabilities to be called people with perceptual disabilities.

37 libraries are participating in the books on demand project that allows customized cartridges with up to ten books on them. This allows all users to have access to books not produced originally on cartridge. The e-reader project has reached the stage where machines are expected from the first of two vendors. These are braille displays which will allow patrons to download braille books and read them on their free display. A second vendor will deliver units in the fall as part of the pilot project. Work continues on a new talking book player based on a cell phone but that will not be ready for several years. NLS is also working on possible deployment of BARD through smart speakers such as Alexa and Google Home. Relocation perhaps to an area near Capitol Hill may also be on the agenda. The pandemic has impacted both regional libraries and NLS but gradually things are ramping back up to pre-pandemic levels. In response to a question, Karen indicated that 45 percent of the people who are served are visually impaired and 40 percent are legally blind. Six percent are physically disabled and six percent are perceptually disabled with the rest being in other categories. One survey indicated there were 30,000 active borrowers of braille books while another suggested a better number is 41,000 which measures people who describe themselves as braille readers. Deb Trevino of the ACB Awards Committee presented Karen Keninger with the Robert S. Bray Award.

## Erin Jones, talking book narrator from the American Printing House for the Blind, spent much of her presentation talking about words and pronunciation. She talked about how much use she made of various resources that were available to her at the Printing House and praised the editors who were of immense help in sorting out pronunciations. Erin indicated that she really liked the variety of books she has been able to read. There were a lot of examples of pronunciation foibles that narrators must learn to control. Erin asked how you manage to laugh naturally while giving precisely the right number of "ha's". No singing is the rule but have you ever tried saying the "happy birthday" song? "Being an NLS narrator has definitely shaped me and my language and I would not change the experience for anything in the world. Thanks also to you for being such voracious readers." Erin indicated that she started at APH in 2001 and that Mitzi Friedlander was her mentor. In response to a question, Erin said among her favorite books was a biography of Catherine the Great by Massey and A Sense of Wonder by Anne Padget. She also indicated that she had been surprised at the high quality of many books written for young adults. NLS afternoon session with Karen Keninger

Submitted by Sharon Strzalkowski

(Some of these notes have already been mentioned in Paul’s presentation.)

Karen Keninger, director of National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, met with LUA members at an afternoon session. She graciously spent most of the time taking questions from those in attendance. Here is a summary of the suggestions and responses.

## BARD category suggestions: Blind Pride International would like LGBTQ to be listed as a heading on BARD: Karen will investigate.

Many in the audience would like to see children’s books as a separate category.

## Book series: Submit series suggestions to nls@loc.gov or your network library.

BARD has a page to manage subscriptions for series.

[www.fantasticfiction.com](http://www.fantasticfiction.com) lists series in order.

## Braille Displays: The 20-cell braille display was chosen by NLS because of the cost.

Automatic scrolling will be available.

Four libraries have initially been chosen for the pilot for the new braille e-reader: Iowa, Kentucky, New Jersey and Utah.

Braille Flow is a setting within BARD Mobile; you can tailor it to the number of cells you have on your display.

## NLS name change: The NLS name change is not showing up on all books, depending on when they were cataloged. This will be rectified in time. New applications will eventually mention print disability, but older ones are perfectly acceptable now.

## BARD Mobile concerns: Could BARD be in the App Store and have a similar design to other apps? Karen said that it is always in development but has been kept simple and like a talking book player design at this point.

The Android version of BARD Mobile is in need of upgrading, and it is in the works.

Could the “in process” list be mentioned on BARD Mobile so that you could know when a book might appear? Karen thought this idea was intriguing.

Several people asked about being able to search the Wish List, and that is not possible right now. Karen said that it is a good idea to cull the wish list periodically so that you don’t redownload something that you put on it a while ago.

## Overall BARD upgrade: BARD needs to be rebuilt so that it can accommodate more people and a better, more nimble search engine. Better fonts and contrast are also needed. The hope is to have BARD be useable through smart speakers, but there is much infrastructure that needs to be put into place in order for this to work.

## Marrakesh Treaty: The regulations underlying this treaty are now being worked out, and Karen believes that Canada would be our first partner, but maybe not until next year.

## NLS library cooperation: Karen mentioned that libraries will be providing more and more assistance to each other with regard to duplication on demand, especially in times of pandemic.

# Enjoying Digital Talking Books Hands-Free

# by Deborah Armstrong

Many of you may not know how well the NLS players work with what’s called HID-compliant technology. HID stands for Human Interface Device.

Most USB keyboards, keypads, foot pedals and even puff and sip switches are HID-compliant.

This feature was built into the NLS player so physically disabled folks would have equal access. The process of configuring it is called Learning Mode, and it’s similar to programming a TV remote.

In practical terms this means:

* You can buy a $10 foot pedal from Amazon, connect it to your player and just step on the pedal to stop and start the player.
* You can buy an inexpensive waterproof keyboard to operate all functions of the player with dirty hands, then toss the keyboard in the dishwater.
* You can connect a standard USB keyboard or keypad and use them to also operate the player.
* You can connect a puff and sip switch for someone who cannot use their hands and set it up for operating some of the player’s functions.

I have experimented with all this, and it is really fun. I got my waterproof keyboard at a flea market for $5. But you can find them cheap on Amazon or EBay. They are rubberized and used in industrial situations where factory workers need to operate a computer with dirty hands. If you find it a hassle to read recipes while cooking, this is your solution.

You can purchase cheap keyboards and keypads too. A keypad with a long cord is convenient for operating the player from a bed or wheelchair. You can also put the player on a shelf and use a small keypad on your desk. You can even keep a keypad in a zip-lock bag for reading recipes as well.

I bought the puff and sip switch online using my employer’s money because I was tasked with finding a hands-free reading solution for a blind quadriplegic. He can now stop, start, rewind and fast-forward the player without needing to call his caregiver.

I bought the $10 foot pedal so I could practice guitar with Bill Brown’s tutorials. Now I can easily stop and start the player with my foot.

The very last section of the NLS player manual—its appendix--has instructions on how to program your HID-compliant device. You can only do one device at a time, but you need not keep the device connected. If you want to use a different device, simply repeat the very simple learning mode process.

Here’s a summary:

1. Turn off the player. Remove any cartridge.
2. Connect your device. Turn the player on.
3. Hold the Sleep button for five seconds.
4. You’ll be prompted to press Fast-Forward to continue; do that.
5. Select a button on your player that you want the device to emulate. Press that button on the player and its name will be announced.
6. Press the button on your device that will be used to trigger that player button.
7. Repeat these steps for assigning player buttons to keypresses on your HID device until you’re done.
8. Press the power button on your NLS player to exit. Your player will turn itself off and remember the settings.

# Podcasts on Booksby Paul Edwards

What follows is by no means a comprehensive listing of podcasts about books. Instead it is a kind of eclectic compilation of those podcasts I have enjoyed. If you are having trouble knowing just how to handle podcasts, send me an email and I will send you a long article on the subject that I wrote a couple of years ago. It particularly focuses on the Stream from Humanware though the first episode goes into what a podcast is and how they work. I have combined them into one long article which I am glad to share. My email address is edwards.paul955@gmail.com.

Some of the podcasts that I recommend are actually programs I listen to when I can that I have found interesting and enjoyable. Two are from the BBC and I particularly enjoy them. One is called "Books and Authors" and is from BBC Radio Four. The other is called "World Book Club" and is produced by the BBC World Service. I like this program particularly because it is often recorded with a live audience who get to ask their own questions of the author who is featured on the program.

There are several podcasts that are produced by newspapers and magazines. I have found some of these to be great while others are less than wonderful. I will list several and will refrain from comment. You can decide for yourselves which you like the best. Some are from the United States while others are from the UK. Soundings from the New York Review of Books is from the publication of that name. "LA Review of Books" is from the Los Angeles Times. The Letter Podcast comes from the London Review of Books. The Guardian Books podcast comes from the Guardian in the UK. The Book Review comes from the New York Times.

A number of publishers also have created podcasts. The nice thing about these is that you often get to hear from authors they publish talking about their books and the writing process. Here are a few you can try! The Penguin Podcast is from the British Penguin Publisher. Riverhead Books comes from that American publisher. Books Connect Us is from Penguin Random House. Verso Podcast is from Verso Books. There are others but these will get you started.
Finally, I am going to list some podcasts by individuals about books that just seemed interesting to me. Again some of these are great while others are, for me, not so wonderful. I am being a good boy, though and again am refraining from comment. All the Books is one of several podcasts produced by Book Riot. Audio Book Club discusses and reviews new books. Between the Covers features interviews with authors. Book Riot: The Podcast is a weekly podcast about new books. New Books Network is one of several podcasts hosted by Marcia Pope. Just the Right Book is a podcast hosted by the owner of a bookstore that covers lots of genres. Coffee and Books is a similar podcast. The truth is that this listing does not even begin to scratch the surface of the available podcasts on books. However, I think it will get folks started on some of the best that are out there! The trouble with podcasts is that they are addictive! Even when you eliminate those that are not so good, there are far too many to listen to every week or month. My advice is to take it slowly. Try subscribing to a couple of podcasts and if they don't do it for you, try a couple of others. When you have listened to all of these I have suggested, let me know and I will recommend some more!

American Council of the Blind honors NLS’s Karen Keninger

Reprinted from NLS News, June-September, 2020

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) bestowed its Robert S. Bray Award on NLS Director Karen A. Keninger during its national convention in July. The award is given to a person who has contributed to improving library technology or communication devices, expanding access for blind people or making opportunities within the mainstream media. ACB established the award in 1975 to honor Robert S. Bray, chief of the Library of Congress’s Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the precursor to NLS.

In nominating Keninger for the award, former ACB president Kim

Charlson noted that under Keninger’s leadership, NLS has developed

apps for iOS and Android mobile devices and reached agreements

with commercial publishers to make their audiobooks available to

NLS patrons. “She is also a strong proponent of braille and has made

it a priority at NLS,” Charlson wrote. “She is a recognized leader in

the areas of library and information access, assistive technology,

and braille literacy. Along with her devoted Seeing Eye dog, Jimi,

she travels all over the globe to promote access to information and literacy for all people— regardless of their abilities or disabilities.”

Keninger has served as director of NLS since 2012. Before coming to Washington, D.C., she was director of the Iowa Department for the Blind and, for eight years, director of the Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, part of the NLS network.

Keninger is the Marrakesh Treaty liaison and a member of the standing committee of the Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities section of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

Note: Karen Keninger has recently announced that she will be retiring from her position as Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, effective March 31, 2021. A national search will be conducted to find her successor. LUA wishes Karen well in her retirement, and expresses our tremendous thanks for the leadership and direction she has provided to the NLS program over the past eight years. So many exciting developments have come along under Karen’s tenure, and we are truly grateful for her service.

iOS BRAILLE COMMANDS:

by Ralph Smitherman

Braille command (chord), VoiceOver action
Dot 1-space, Move to previous item
Dot 4-space, Move to next item
Dot 3-space, Move to previous item using rotor setting
Dot 6-space, Move to next item using rotor setting
Dots 2-3-space, Select previous rotor setting
Dots 5-6-space, Select next rotor setting
Dots 1-2-3-space, Move to the first element
Dots 4-5-6-space, Move to the last element
Dots 1-2-3-5-space (r-space), Read page starting at selected item
Dots 2-4-5-6-space, Read page starting at the top
Dots 1-2-5-space (h-space), Activates the Home button
Dots 2-3-4-space (s-space), Goes to the status bar
Dots 3-4-5-space, Activates the Volume Up button
Dots 1-2-6-space, Activates the Volume Down button
Dots 1-2-space (b-space), Activates the Back button if present
Dots 1-4-6-space, Activates the Eject key
Dots 7-space, Activates the Delete key
Dots 1-4-5-space (d-space), Activates the Delete key
Dot 8-space, Activates the Return key
Dots 1-5-space (e-space), Activates the Return key
Dots 2-3-4-5-space (t-space), Activates the Tab key
Dots 1-2-3-4-5-6-space, Toggle Screen Curtain on and off
Dots 1-2-3-4-space (p-space), Pause or continue speech
Dots 1-3-4-space (m-space), Toggle speech on and off
Dots 3-4-space, Speak page number or rows being displayed
Dots 3-4-5-6-space, Scroll up one page
Dots 1-4-5-6-space, Scroll down one page
Dots 2-4-6-space, Scroll left one page
Dots 1-3-5-space, Scroll right one page
Dots 2-3-5-space, Deselect text
Dots 2-5-6-space, Select text
Dots 2-3-5-6-space, Select all
Dots 1-3-4-6-space (x-space), Cut
Dots 1-4-space (c-space), Copy
Dots 1-2-3-6-space (v-space), Paste
Dots 1-3-5-6-space (z-space), Undo typing
Dots 2-3-4-6-space, Redo typing
Dot 2-space, Pan braille to the left
Dot 5-space, Pan braille to the right
Dots 4-6-space, Goes to Notification Center
Dots 2-5-space, Goes to Control Center
Dots 1-3-4-5-space, Toggle announcement history
Dots 1-2-4-5-space, Switch between contracted and uncontracted braille
Dots 1-7-space, Move to previous container (iPad only)
Dots 4-7-space, Move to next container (iPad only)

# My Best Friend

by Linda Adams

She is more informed than I am but is always willing to share her knowledge. She is much more adventurous but always shares her experiences, and, she consistently introduces me to all of her interesting friends. This best friend is my library. Or, one could say she is the sum of all the books she embraces within her walls.

The summer before I started the first grade, my older sister taught me how to read and I’ve never looked back. When I failed to finish a chore, my mother would confiscate the current book and hold it hostage until the chore was completed. I suspect, as members of LUA, this is the preacher talking to the choir, right?

By the time I was no longer able to read print, Library for The Blind stepped in and met my needs with recorded books.  Today, in addition to the wealth of books on Bard and Bookshare, my local library offers free audio titles through Overdrive and Hoopla. If I still can’t find a title, then I check [Audible.com](http://audible.com/).

Now I want to tell you about a book that’s all about my best friend. It is ‘The Library Book’ by Susan Orlean DB92869. Although it is about the Central Library in Los Angeles, we can all identify with and appreciate the services all libraries provide to their community. The author tells of the Central Library’s history, from its earliest beginning in the 1870s occupying a modest two room building to the historic structure in which it is now housed. She tells about the architect who designed the current building, the early head librarians (including the cultural change from men to women), the logistics of its operation, and, most importantly, the variety of services provided to its community.

In 1986, a fire destroyed or damaged nearly a million books in the library. Once it was safe to enter, the local citizens came out in force to help remove damaged books. The author describes the method by which many of the water soaked books were salvaged. Who would have ever thought to freeze a book! The book describes similar losses worldwide of collections due to wars and political or religious conflicts.

Lastly, if you like a little mystery included, the author tells of the investigation of a young man suspected of starting the fire, but you’ll have to read the book to find out how that ended.

Happy reading and say Hello to my best friend!

NLS honors Oklahoma and San Francisco Libraries for Service to Print-Disabled Readers by Mark Layman

Reprinted from NLS News, June-September, 2020

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) honored two of its cooperating libraries in August for their outstanding service to readers who are visually or physically disabled.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Oklahoma City received the Regional Library of the Year Award. The Talking Books and Braille Center at the San Francisco Public Library in California received the Sub-regional Library/Advisory and Outreach Center of the Year Award.

Each prize comes with a $1,000 award and a commemorative plaque. The two libraries will be honored later this year at NLS’s biennial meeting, which will be held virtually, and at a luncheon in the historic Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., planned for the spring of 2021.

“Each year the Library of Congress recognizes the work of state and local libraries that provide braille and talking book services to people who cannot use print materials,” NLS Director Karen Keninger said.

“The programs and services these two libraries offer are outstanding examples of innovation and outreach and demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that all may read.”

Director Kevin Treese and his staff at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) served 5,402 patrons last year and circulated more than 150,000 braille and audio books, magazines and other collection items. OLBPH, a unit of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, has innovative programs to expand access to information to people with print disabilities. It manages the Oklahoma Telephone Reader, a dial-up information service staffed by volunteers that features local articles of interest, ads and obituaries from Oklahoma newspapers. And the library’s Accessible Instructional Materials Center provides textbooks in braille, large print and assistive technology to 1,258 school-age children.

The Oklahoma library’s staff spread the word about its services at large state conferences, including Leading Age, the Oklahoma Transition Institute and the Oklahoma Library Association. The staff also participated in the Oklahoma Book Festival. OLBPH’s recording studio has contributed more than 100 items to BARD, the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download website, including 56 issues of “Cowboys & Indians” magazine, 28 issues of “Oklahoma Today” and 21 books of regional interest.

The Oklahoma Library Association honored the library last year with its Library Excellence Award.

In nominating OLBPH for NLS Network Library of the Year, Melinda Fruendt, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, called it “a treasure.”

A comment from one patron captured the role the library plays in the lives of those it serves: “I live by myself, and over the years I have spent hundreds of hours listening to your books. Please don’t ever stop.”

San Francisco’s Talking Books and Braille Center (TBBC) served nearly 900 patrons in 2019 and circulated

31,290 braille and audio books, magazines and other items — two-thirds of them via BARD. The center’s monthly programs include its Talking Book Club, a large-print book club called Easy on the Eyes and audio described movies that are shown in the main library’s auditorium. It hosts frequent musical jams, with patrons bringing their own instruments or using the library’s drums and keyboard; quarterly braille story times for children; and the annual Hooray for Braille! celebration with the San Francisco chapter of the California Council of the Blind.

The library’s outreach efforts include partnering with the San Francisco Public Library’s Jail and Reentry Service to help prisoners with print disabilities. It also worked with the San Francisco Department of Elections to provide voter information in accessible formats.

“Our library represents community and a joy in reading,” Jane Glasby, program manager of the Talking Books and Braille Center, said in her nomination letter. “Our staff is not afraid to explore new technologies to support patrons where they need it most.”

One of those patrons told the library, “I have been bedridden and this past week I have travelled all over the world through the books you sent me.” Another put it more

### Simply: “Many an evening, those talking books keep me sane.”

### Library Users of America Officers and Board Members, July 2020

President: Judy Wilkinson, 2019/2021 FIRST TERM

1550 Bancroft Avenue #113

San Leandro, CA 94577-5264

Home: 510-357-1844

Cell: 510-388-5079

Email: jwilkins@panix.com

Vice-President: Paul Edwards, 2019/2021 FIRST TERM

20330 NE 20th Ct

Miami, FL 33179-2202

Home: 305-692-9206

Cell: 305-984-0909

Email: Edwards.paul955@gmail.com

Secretary: Ralph Smitherman, 2019/2021 FIRST TERM

514 Edgewood Ln

Brandon, MS 39042-3300

Home: 601-825-8076

Cell: 601-672-0973

Email: redbird26@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Adam Ruschival, 2019/2021 SIXTH TERM

148 Vernon Avenue

Louisville, KY 40206-2237

Home: 502-897-1472

Cell: 502-303-7078

Email: carla40206@gmail.com

### Board Members

Rhonda Trott, 2019/2020 FIRST TERM PARTIAL

1018 East St

Talladega, AL 39160-2913

Home: 256-362-5649

Cell: 256-493-9137

Email: rhondatrott@charter.net

Carla Ruschival, 2018/2020 FIRST TERM FULL

148 Vernon Avenue

Louisville, KY 40206-2237

Home: 502-897-1472

Cell: 502-303-7042

Email: carla40206@gmail.com

Tracy George, 2018/2020 FIRST TERM FULL

1940 Johnson Ferry Rd APARTMENT I

Brookhaven, GA 30319

Home: 404-375-3101

Cell: 404-375-3101

Email: tgeorge3101@gmail.com

Sharon Strzalkowski 2018/2020 FIRST TERM FULL

5 Suburban Rd Apt 606

Worcester, MA 01602

Home: 508-363-3866

Cell: 508-410-9142

Email: strzal@charter.net

Rebecca Bridges, 2018/2020 FIRST TERM FULL

3105 14th St

Arlington, VA 22204

Home: 703-655-2474

Cell: 703-655-2474

Email: bridgesrj@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Brian Charlson

57 Grandview Avenue

Watertown, MA 02472

Home: 617-926-9198

Cell: 617-831-3272

Email: briancharlson@comcast.net