

WISCONSIN BRAILLE

Volume 20, Issue 1

Winter 2019

A SPECIAL FIELD TRIP by Marilyn Harmon, TVI

Last spring, braille students throughout the state were given copies of the book *Peanut of Blind Faith Farm* by James Thompson, a charming story about a blind lamb born on a Wisconsin farm and how she learns about the world around her, with the love and help of Farmers Jim and Laura. The books were created by Auditory and Braille Literacy through generous donations. Since Blind Faith Farm is located in Ixonia, less than one hour from Milwaukee, a field trip to the farm was planned for visually impaired students in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

In early November, elementary-aged students boarded a bus headed for the farm (with a grant provided by the Glen Stacey fund). Several students had never visited a farm before, so this was especially exciting for them. Sitting on bales of hay in the pasture, students ages 3-11 had the chance to touch wool sheared from the sheep, pet Peanut and feed her a slice of apple. They also learned that a new blind lamb, Pancake, and his mother recently joined the flock. Farmers Jim and Laura patiently answered many questions, and the morning ended with a chilly, but fun, outdoor picnic. Students returned to the city with happy memories, as well as a soft piece of Peanut's warm wool.

The One Thing by Marci Lyn Curtis

Published 2015

Category: Young Adult contemporary fiction (fantasy elements), illness, romance

The main character in this engaging debut novel is Maggie Sanders. She has been totally blind for six months when the novel begins. She is 17 years old, and is blind as a result of bacterial meningitis. In her previous life, she was a star soccer player with professional soccer dreams. So, her loss of vision has turned her world upside down. She has lost the friends she had because she can no longer help them win their games. She develops a new friend, Ben, a precocious ten year old who is unlike anyone Maggie has ever

met. Ben's life isn't easy, but he doesn't see limits, only possibilities. It just so happens that Ben has a brother who is the magnetic lead singer of Maggie's new favorite band. (Hence the romance aspect of this book.)

The story is fast paced, and the fantasy element (which will remain unnamed because it is a bit of a spoiler) creates an intriguing mystery. Maggie is a well developed character who shows tremendous growth in the story. The dialogue and Maggie's inner thoughts are sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, and provide insight to the challenges a teen (or anyone) must face with a life changing medical event. The author had to research visual impairment because she did not know anyone who was visually impaired. She used the challenges of Orientation and Mobility to help demonstrate the difficulties and humor of some situations Maggie encounters. Here's an example which Maggie recounts to the reader: "I ended up spending a delightful afternoon learning How to Locate the Right Street and How to Cross Intersections. Both of which felt about as easy and as natural as navigating on and off a ski lift with a newborn baby in one arm and a carton of eggs in the other." Maggie reluctantly accepts the friendship of a girl in her class in her new school, and we see, through her character, some of the differences between adventitious blindness and congenital blindness.

Here are some of the things the reviewers have said about this book: "Sometimes lost things are not truly lost, we just have to look for them in new places. The One Thing hits this important note, and the music is beautiful". "The One Thing is heart-burstingly good. So smart and funny and tender and romantic". "A soaring tale of life and love, of sacrifice and renewal, and learning to see people as they really are." "It's a wonderful story with a full cast of characters to fall in love with and had me crying and laughing in turns."

Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan

In November I received an email from a fellow vision teacher requesting that, if I had albino students on my caseload, I consider asking them to become pen pals to albino children in Tanzania. The email stated, essentially, that "today in parts of Africa, especially in northern Tanzania, people with albinism are sought out, maimed, and killed because of a belief that their body parts are lucky, or that the death of an albino will lift a curse." Nonprofits are attempting to help these individuals. Under the Same Sun is just such a nonprofit. USS reported, "on June 14, 2012, so far in Tanzania, seventy-one people with albinism have been murdered, an additional twenty-eight have survived attacks with severe mutilations, and there have been nineteen grave robberies."

This email intrigued me. I contacted the mother of the twin albino boys I work with and asked her if she was okay with having her sons write to the children in a Tanzanian shelter. She in turn did some research on the subject and discovered **Golden Boy** by Tara Sullivan.

Golden Boy is a work of fiction based on the true situation in Tanzania today. Habo, the main character of the story, is an albino boy who along with his family must move from their small village to live in Mwanza, a fishing town. The family, broke and without money, must walk most of the way. Their journey takes them through the Serengeti National Park where the family meets Alasiri who helps the family get to Mwanza. Habo's family settles in with an aunt only to find out that Habo will not be safe in Mwanza. Fearful for his life and the safety of his family, Habo sets out on his own for Dar es Salaam. There he meets a blind carver and his life is changed forever.

This fast moving story is the story of a young boy and his discovery of what it means to be albino in a world where albinism is not always understood or accepted. It takes us on the personal journey of Habo a boy who, with the help of a blind friend, comes to accept himself and see his own worth in the world.

The next Wisconsin Braille Board meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2019 at the Braille Library and Transcribing Service office at 6501 Watts Rd. Suite 149, Madison from 10:00-2:30.

**Wisconsin Braille Board of Directors
Nomination Slate
2019-2021**

Officers

President:
Sandy Adams (2018-2020)
Secretary:
Cindy Collins (2019-2021)

Vice-President:
Leanette Dieck (2019-2021)
Treasurer:
Linda Bailey (2018-2020)

Directors

David Grulke (2019-2021)
Faith Kelley (2019-2021)
2020)
Kurt Pamperin (2019-2021)

Alison McKee (2018-2020)
Kevin Jones (2018-
2020)
Judith Sherry (2018-2020)

The election of these nominees will occur during the afternoon General Membership meeting, starting at 1:00. Nominations are still open for an additional four directors.

Save the Date: May 30-31, 2019

Midwest Braille Conference

The Midwest Braille Conference 2019 is a GO! It will be held in Madison, WI. Save May 30-31, 2019 on your calendars! The sessions will be held on Thursday afternoon, 1:00 to 4:30, and all day Friday, 8:30 to 4:30. An agenda is pending.

Registration will be available very soon. The cost for the conference is a flat rate of \$100.00.

Please reserve your own hotel room. Mention that you are with the Midwest Braille Conference to get the discounted rate of \$82 per night for single occupancy, \$92 for double.
More details will be forthcoming. Please SPREAD THE WORD!

The Midwest Braille Conference will provide:

- Professional development in the production of high-quality braille
- Networking opportunities for transcribers, proofreaders, vision teachers, and paraprofessionals

For more information contact:

Julie Sumwalt

Braille Specialist

Phone: 608-758-4928 or

1-866-284-1107 x4928

julie.sumwalt@wcbvi.k12.wi.us

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Madison West

1109 Fourier Drive

Madison, WI 53717

(608) 826-0500

www.wiscohoteles.com

Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired — Outreach

1700 W State St

Janesville, WI 53546

Official DPI Nondiscrimination Clause: The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

Puzzled in UEB

*Dear Ms. Perkins,
How to do puzzles in UEB?*

*Puzzled,
Cody Morse*

Dear Cody,
As promised, here are some notes to get you started on crossword puzzles. Details can be found in Section 19.5 of *Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription, 2016*.

This sample transcriber's note, which would appear either before a single crossword puzzle or on the transcriber's notes page if there is more than one, explains the general format:

In the following crossword puzzle, each clue is followed by a transcriber-assigned column letter and row number. Numbers in parentheses at the end of each clue indicate the number of letters in the puzzle word. The clue letter/number and number of letters in the word are enclosed in transcriber's note indicators. In the grid, a hyphen represents a square to be filled in, and a full cell represents an empty space.

BF2016 19.5.2 Puzzle Clues

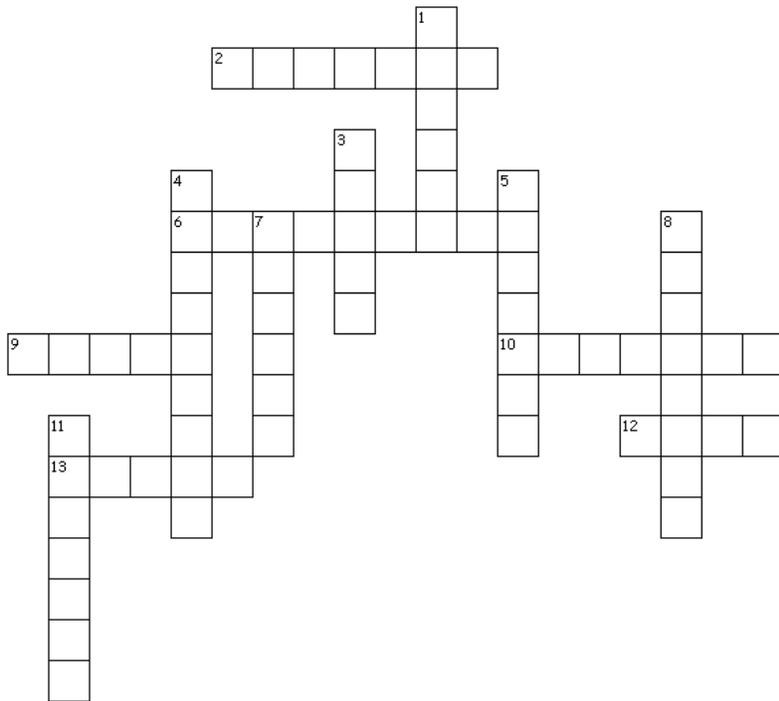
- a. Place the clues before the puzzle grid.
- b. Format "Across" and "Down" as cell-5 headings.
- c. Use 1-3 margins for the list of clues.
- d. Present lists of answer words in uncontracted braille.
- e. Give transcriber-assigned column letters and row numbers on the same line, after the clue.
- f. The number of letters in the puzzle word may be enclosed in parentheses, at the end of each clue.
- g. Enclose the transcriber-assigned column letters/row numbers, and the number of letters in the word, in an embedded transcriber's note.

EXAMPLE:

Colors Abound

azure
verdant
ebony
crimson
slate
gilt
sterling

saffron
tangerine
violet
fuchsia
alabaster
auburn



Across

- 2. pink
- 6. white
- 9. blue
- 10. yellow
- 12. gold
- 13. black

Down

- 1. purple
- 3. gray
- 4. orange
- 5. red
- 7. copper
- 8. silver
- 11. green

Happy puzzling!
Ms. Perkins

The puzzle was generated from <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>.
This article is adapted from *Dear Pearl*, the newsletter for Braille Library & Transcription Services, Inc. (BLTS).

Contributors to this issue are:

Sandy Adams, Marilyn Harmon, Alison McKee, Julie Sumwalt, Cindy Collins.

Please Join Us

Next Wisconsin Braille Meeting

(As always our meetings are open to the public)

Date: April 27

Time: 10:00-12:00 (Business meeting)

1-3:00 (Annual General Membership Meeting)

Place:

Braille Library and Transcription Services

6501 Watts Rd, Suite 149

Madison

(This is within blocks of the Gammon Rd. exit ramp on the Beltline Hwy.)
Our Meetings are always open to the public

If you are interested in joining Wisconsin Braille, or have not paid your membership this year, please be sure to complete the membership form at the back of this newsletter and mail it to the address listed.

The WISCONSIN BRAILLE newsletter is published three times a year.

Deadlines are: Spring/Summer – April 15, Fall – August 15, Winter – December 15

The purpose of WISCONSIN BRAILLE INC. is to advance communication and coordinate the efforts of all persons concerned with the availability, quality, and distribution of brailled materials in the state of Wisconsin thereby encouraging braille literacy.

The purpose of this newsletter is to disperse information. WISCONSIN BRAILLE INC. does not endorse or vouch for the reliability of any of the persons, organizations, or products appearing in this publication.

This version of the Wisconsin Braille newsletter was prepared by the members of the OSCI Braille Program. It has not been proofread. Readers are encouraged to report noted errors to: Wisconsin Braille Newsletter, Editor, 5745 Bittersweet Place, Madison, WI 53705.