

# The Reading Light

Mississippi Library Commission  
Talking Book Services  
Summer 2015 Vol. 41 No.2



## Postal Carrier of the Year!



L-R: Shellie Zeigler  
(TBS Services Director) and Micki Clifton.

L-R: Lane Shaw  
And Micki Clifton.

Postal Carrier Micki Clifton was named Postal Carrier of 2014. Ms. Clifton works at the Bay St. Louis post office. She was nominated by her customer Lane Shaw. Micki stated that she was “flattered to receive this award. Lane Shaw is my only customer on my route who receives these books.” Micki’s postal career began in May 1998 as a part time clerk. Micki said, “ After spending four years, day after day, sorting mail for letter carriers and serving customers at the retail counter, I switched careers and became a part time letter carrier. In 2003, I became a full

time city letter carrier in the Bay St. Louis Post Office. Known by many in Old Town Bay St. Louis as 'Micki the Mail Lady.' It's rewarding to me to deliver daily mail in this community. I have developed a fine appreciation for all walks of life. I've enjoyed learning the aspects of the many businesses on the coast as well as the life and times of many residents. Once all the letters, magazines and packages are loaded in my postal truck, I love to see my regular postal customers." Micki feels that being a postal carrier is a great job and she really enjoys this opportunity to serve her community. "I've been truly blessed! Life is good; I do what I like and I like what I do!" May we all lead such a life.

### **Sensory Story Kits**

By Erica McCaleb, Reader's Advisor

Talking Book Services is excited to announce that 15 new Sensory Story Kits are now available for checkout!

Each story kit contains a print/Braille book that is accompanied by items and toys related to the story. The items provide a hands-on way for children to experience books and aid in comprehension and enjoyment of the story.

These story kits were created with young children with visual impairments in mind, but children of all ages and capabilities can use tactile and sensory exploration to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of books.

The story kits are currently available to check out and have a loan period of six weeks. To reserve a kit or request a catalog of titles that are available, please contact Erica McCaleb at [emccaleb@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:emccaleb@mlc.lib.ms.us), 1-800-446-0892 or 601-432-4116. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## **BARD Mobile: Android**

The BARD Mobile application for Android devices, version 1.0, is now available at the Google Play store.

The BARD Mobile app enables patrons to download audio books and audio magazines directly to their Android devices, provided they have BARD accounts and are using devices running Android OS 4.1 or later. The user guide is available from the bookshelf of the app and online in HTML format at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/android/v1.0/toc.html>. Help screens are also available from inside the app and may be accessed by activating the Context menu or the More Options button and selecting Help.

NLS has produced several tutorial videos featuring the BARD Mobile application for Android devices. The BARD Mobile Android How-to Series videos are available from the Library of Congress channel on YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3rn1g0s-XM&list=PLpAGnumt6iV7Aap\\_-C8b-8pR\\_HCxnh\\_Ls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3rn1g0s-XM&list=PLpAGnumt6iV7Aap_-C8b-8pR_HCxnh_Ls).

In the videos, Consumer Relations Officer Judith Dixon provides instruction on how to read an audio book, navigate an audio book, manage downloads, and use basic gestures with TalkBack, the Android screen reader service.

## A Celebration of Life at 100



Joe Benson hit the three digit mark in life, so he had three celebrations for each one. The first was a recognition by the Mississippi Library Commission on Friday, June 5 at Benson's residence in Philadelphia, BeeHive Homes. A cake, pin and certificate were presented to him by Cindy Nugent and Erica McCaleb from the agency as one of their centenarian patrons. The next party was given by his immediate family for family and friends at the Sanford Multipurpose Facility in Dixon. The wrap-up event occurred on his actual birthday, June 10. The BeeHive staff brought in a string band for entertainment and sugar-free dessert as requested by Benson. Guests included staff, friends, family and even the mayor of Philadelphia.

Benson is a Neshoba County native. He was born in a farmhouse in Dixon and is the remaining sibling of seven children. After working in the textile mills in Meridian he went to college at Meridian Junior College and then graduated from Anderson College in Anderson, Indiana. A detour from school took him to Japan and the Philippines during WWII. Benson was married to Margaret Vines Benson for 70 years until her passing in 2011. His career included teaching and administration in elementary and

secondary schools primarily in Florida. He eventually returned to the Magnolia State. After an interesting life of 90 years he wrote a book about his many decades. It is called In Retrospect — A Memoir by Joseph Byrum Benson. The book is available on Amazon.com.

### **Southeastern Conference College Sports Fan?**

A new book added to our collection that some college football fans will enjoy, My Conference Can Beat your Conference by Paul Finebaum & Gene Wojciechowski (both television commentators). The writers give many reasons why the Southeastern Conference still rules college football and is America's most legendary conference. Give one of our reader's advisors a call or email and let them know you would like to read this book! DBX1355.

601-432-4116 or 1-800-446-0892 or [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us)

### **Local Author Dr. Michael J. Gandy**

Local author Michael J. Gandy is an author you need to know about if you don't already. He began writing in 1989 when he was inspired by a terrible local crime, the kidnapping of a leading citizen in a small town in Mississippi. The victim was found dead ten days later, and horrifically, the autopsy revealed that this person had lived up until two hours before their discovery. He turned this over in his mind for many months before considering, *What if this person had showed up a year later? And What if they left town of their own volition?* Beginning a practice he continued with real-life inspired novels, he changed the characters and the setting, and his first mystery Murder in Olivet was written. The murder of two policemen in his hometown in 1952 inspired his second book, Tatters, also written in 1989.

But he told no one about it, not even his wife. "I was not sure whether my work was any good," stated Dr. Gandy.

It wouldn't be until two years later that he would come out as a writer to his family and a few select friends. Today he is working on his 58th book.

You can start reading his books in a variety of ways. You can subscribe to some of them via email. You would become one of hundreds of people in thirty-one states, the District of Columbia, the British Isles, Spain, South Africa, Australia, and on the Island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas (South Pacific) who have become a weekly reader of "The Gandy Mysteries."

Dr. Gandy sends out two mysteries over the course of one year, beginning at Christmas, a half-chapter a week. It's always free if you subscribe to these novels this way. If you have any friends or relatives who might be interested, please check with them and then have them e-mail Dr. Gandy at [gandyflix@hotmail.com](mailto:gandyflix@hotmail.com) and he'll add them to the list.

Since Dr. Gandy has retired, he has also started sending out Mid-Month Reflections, essays that he used to send his staff at the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services--those come out around the 15th of each month and will go year-round.

If you ever wish to stop receiving the mystery chapters or the reflections, just send him an email to let him know.

Dr. Gandy also has twenty-four mysteries that are now available free as audiobooks (read by the author) for patrons of the Mississippi Library Commission's Talking Book Services. These titles can be accessed nationwide through interlibrary loan of the National Library Service of the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). If you want to buy any of these audio books, which are MP3 files on CD-Rs, send a check for \$15.00 for each title to Mississippi Friends of Handicapped Readers, 3881 Eastwood Drive, Jackson Mississippi 39211, attention Shellie Zeigler. The funds benefit the Friends of Handicapped Readers. Thirteen are available now to the general public. They are:

- Murder in Olivet
- Tatters and Other Tales

- Emily Stallworth is...About
- That, My Friends, Is That
- Passenger Pigeon
- The Zapruder Soundtrack
- Hidden Alley
- Chain
- Revolution Number Nine
- Sam Lord's Castle
- Whippoorwill
- Incar\*Nation
- Re^Ncarnation

Dr. Gandy is also publishing e-books on Amazon for Kindle readers as well as Barnes and Noble for Nook readers. To find Michael Gandy's e-books just go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) and put "Michael Gandy Mysteries" in the search box. Also, non-fiction books, "Mid-Month Reflections", "Columns and Poems," and "QUIXOTIC QUESTS: Searching for our Presidents" are part of a new series called The Gandy Miniatures, which also includes a retrospective--"State of This Art: Forty Years of Gandy Miniatures and Mysteries." "Reflections" hit number one for books about public speaking in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Just put "Michael Gandy Miniatures" in the search space to find them. The funds from the eBooks (which cost \$2.99 or less) help pay for the audio book covers that his wife designs.

## Staff Book Recommendations

### Recommended by Erica:

Before I Go to Sleep by S.J. Watson. DB 73374.

Every morning Christine wakes up confused. She has no recollection of where she is, what year it is, or who the strange man sleeping next to her is. Every night Christine's memory is erased leaving her in a cycle of puzzlement and paranoia. Christine begins to journal her daily experiences in the hopes of recovering her memory. As she begins to piece together her past, she can't shake the feeling that her memories are being manipulated. S.J. Watson's debut novel is an exhilarating psychological thriller that will have you questioning the motives and reliability of all of the book's characters. I quickly got caught up in trying to piece together the puzzle of Christine's past, a very entertaining read! Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

### Recommended by Shellie:

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty DB79622

A death occurs at trivia night at a school. But who dies? So begins this dark comedy of a novel. Jane (single mom to Ziggy) is new in town and has trouble fitting in with the other moms. But she soon finds solace with a group of other moms that she can talk to and unload her many secrets. And boy...do they all have secrets! A page-turning mystery that I couldn't put down. Strong language. Bestseller. 2014.





## Free Matter for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

Mississippi Library Commission  
Talking Book Services  
3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211

X

# That All May Read

---

*The Reading Light* is written and edited by staff of the Mississippi Library Commission's Talking Book Services Department. It is available in Braille, through email, in large print, as well as via MP3 audio on our website.

Library Service Hours: 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday

Phone: 601-432-4116; 1-800-446-0892 (toll-free);

601-432-4476 (Fax)

Email: [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us)

Website: <http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/ServicesToLibraries/BPHLS.html>

Web Catalog: <http://bphopac.mlc.lib.ms.us/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mlctbs>

This publication is partially funded under the federal Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Mississippi Library Commission for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.