



# **“THE BLIND SPOT”**

**Oklahoma Council of the Blind**

**Affiliate of the American Council of the Blind**

**P.O. Box 1476, Oklahoma City, OK 73101**

**1-877-578-6212**

**Website: [www.okcb.org](http://www.okcb.org)**

**Special Electronic Edition, December 2024**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**To promote equal opportunities for blind Oklahomans to participate fully in society and achieve a better quality of life.**

**Debbie Sanders, Editor**

**Yvonne Hamm, Assistant Editor**

**Contributors: Elaine Boykin, Yvonne Hamm, Pam Holloway, Debi Tate, Marilyn Sanders, Jeri Cooper, Kaitlyn Evans, Dana Young, Joseph Bundy**

# Table of Contents

**FROM THE EDITOR ..... 3**

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE..... 4**

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF THE BLIND ..... 5**

**TULSA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND AT LARGE ..... 6**

**DUNCAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND ..... 7**

**LAWTON COUNCIL OF THE BLIND ..... 8**

**WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY ..... 9**

**2024 STATE CONVENTION RECAP ..... 10**

**AROUND THE STATE ..... 11**

**TERRI LYNN FUNDRAISER!..... 15**

**CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD ..... 15**

**THE READING ROOM..... 21**

**DID YOU KNOW SANTA SENDS LETTERS IN BRAILLE? ..... 24**

**META RAYBAN SMART GLASSES – ARE THEY ON YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST? ..... 24**

**FICTION AND FIZZ ..... 25**

**OCB IS NOW ON WHATS APP ..... 25**

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

### **A Torch Passed, A Legacy Honored**

Dear OCB Family,

As I sit down to write my first issue of The Blind Spot, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. I find myself thinking back to that pivotal day at an Oklahoma City health fair, when, facing the news that I was losing my sight, I met an extraordinary woman who would make a great impact in my life – Vicki Golightly.

Vicki, words feel inadequate to capture what you've meant to OCB and to me personally. You didn't just edit The Blind Spot – you illuminated paths for so many of us. Your unwavering dedication has woven a tapestry of hope and empowerment that continues to inspire us all. Every initiative you've championed has rippled outward, touching lives in ways you may never fully know.

I've been blessed to share so many precious moments with you – from the laughter on MLV Foundation trips, to the planning of state conventions, to our meaningful work together on the OSLS board. Through it all, your spirit has shone like a beacon – resilient, compassionate, and determined.

As we honor transitions, we also hold close the memory of Kay Love, whose boundless spirit and tireless advocacy touched all our hearts. Kay's legacy of compassion, her infectious laugh, and her unwavering support for the disabled community continue to

light our way forward. Though deeply missed, her influence lives on in the countless lives she transformed.

As I step into this role, I carry with me both Vicki's guiding light and Kay's inspiring spirit. While these may be big shoes to fill, they're filled with footprints that have shown so many of us the way forward.

This issue celebrates our community's voices, sharing affiliate news and, in honor of the holiday season, a special collection of global recipes and traditions that remind us of the warmth of connection.

To our readers, I invite you to join in shaping future issues. Please reach out to me at [mylimitlessvision@gmail.com](mailto:mylimitlessvision@gmail.com).

Vicki, this one's for you, with all my love and gratitude.

Warmest regards,  
Debbie Sanders

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends,

I am very proud to be elected as your new President. As we look to the future, I am aware that we need to keep Kay's vision of our organization moving towards the future. Her vision was to have us all working together and involving new people. I am hoping that many of you will become involved and bring new ideas to our committees.

I want to take this moment to thank the 2024 convention committee for their hard work and dedication, and I look forward to working with the 2025 committee as they begin their work.

Our first board meeting will be a zoom meeting on Saturday November 23 at 9:00 AM. All of you are welcome.

Wishing you a happy holiday season.

Elaine Boykin  
President

## **HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF THE BLIND**

In September, Heartland voted for new officers.

They are: President: Pam Holloway, Vice President: Vicky Golightly, Secretary: Elaine Boykin, Treasurer: Frances Poindexter, Public Relations: Don Heath, Members at Large: Julie Brantley, Kathy Whaley, Phil Hendrick

Heartland has been very busy the last few months. On October 14th, we had a White Cane Awareness Day Walk in downtown OKC at Bricktown. This was a last-minute affair since we did not know that DRS was not having a White Cane Walk in OKC this year. So, three weeks before the walk, we mapped out the route, got the permit and the proclamation from the mayor, etc. It turned out well and we had a blast.

Heartland is filling Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes for children in third world countries and sponsoring a veteran this Christmas.

On November 2nd, we had our annual Thanksgiving dinner. December will be our Christmas meeting with carols and fun. In January, we will be working with the Socks of Love organization filling sandwich bags with socks and a note of encouragement for the homeless. We have done this for several years. We will be having our Easter egg Hunt with beeping eggs the Saturday before Easter and our annual Dining in the Dark fundraiser will be on May 17th.

I want to thank all our members for working so hard on all our projects.

Pam Holloway  
President

## **TULSA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND AT LARGE**

Greetings from the TCB. We wish all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!

The Tulsa Council of the Blind at Large continues to meet the first Monday of the month via Zoom. We have been averaging 15 or so participants and encourage anyone who is interested in joining us. You can be a member of more than one chapter if you desire. If you will send an e-mail to [mksanders1348@att.net](mailto:mksanders1348@att.net), you will be included on the meeting announcement mailing list.

Debbie Sanders and Elaine Boykin have worked diligently to plan

programs of interest to all including an overview of the ACB convention and activities, Lori Miller CEO for the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank, Magan Rowen demonstrating features of Be My Eyes through AI, and Debbie Sanders demonstrating and discussing the features available through the Meta Ray-Ban Smart Glasses to name a few.

The 2025 officers were elected in the November meeting. Officers include: President, Marilyn Sanders; Vice President, Joyce Southerland; Secretary-Debbie Eagle; Treasurer-Julie Bailey; Board members at large-Debbie Sanders and Jay Doudna.

We cordially invite all to join us. We need your strengths, energy and ideas to continue community involvement, public education and improving the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. We look forward to having you join us!!

Marilyn Sanders  
President  
mksanders1348@att.net

## **DUNCAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND**

The Duncan Council of the Blind met on Friday, October 18 at our regularly scheduled meeting. We had ten (10) in attendance. We discussed the OCB Convention, resources and the recent Forward 45 Walkability workshop in Duncan. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Wright's Family Diner for our annual holiday meeting on November 15. Duncan Council of the Blind meets at 1:30pm on the third Friday at the Stephens County Historical Museum located at 1402 W. Beech in Fuqua Park.

Debi Tate

## **LAWTON COUNCIL OF THE BLIND**

The Lawton Council of the Blind (LCB) continues to strengthen community connections through education and advocacy. In September, our members conducted an impactful presentation at the Center for Creative Living, providing valuable guidance on assisting visually impaired individuals while sharing information about LCB and OCB's missions.

October proved to be a busy month for our chapter. Mayor Stan Booker presented LCB with the White Cane Safety Proclamation during the city council meeting on October 8. We followed with an event with an enlightening session with guest speaker Liz Scheffe from the Department of Rehabilitation Services on October 12, who shared expertise on white cane mobility training and emerging assistive technologies. Then on October 19, members gathered for a delightful social evening at Mike's Sports Grill, combining great food with friendly competition.

Looking ahead, following our November 12 general meeting, LCB members have been specially invited to attend Lawton's Community Theater Production on November 14.

We'll cap off the year with our annual Christmas celebration at Milano's Italian Restaurant on December 14 at 11 AM. At the festive gathering we will be playing Dirty Santa, Italian cuisine, holiday games, and the warm fellowship that makes our community special.



Through these diverse activities – from advocacy and education to social connection – LCB continues to foster understanding, independence, and joy within our vibrant community.

Dana Young

## **WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY**

Over sixteen people gathered together in Bricktown in downtown Oklahoma City on October 14, 2024, carrying signs and spreading awareness. White Cane Awareness Day represents a significant milestone in advocacy for the blind and visually impaired community, commemorating both the legal recognition and societal importance of this essential mobility tool. Established by presidential proclamation in 1964, this observance highlights the white cane not only as an instrument of independence but as a symbol of equal access and full participation in society. The vibrant gathering in Oklahoma City's historic Bricktown district demonstrated our community's commitment to public education and awareness. These outreach events serve a crucial purpose: fostering understanding among the general public about the capabilities of blind and visually impaired individuals while emphasizing the legal protections and courtesies that ensure their safe, independent navigation in public spaces. Through such initiatives, we continue to advance our mission of promoting awareness, understanding, and respect for white cane users in all aspects of civic and professional life.

## **2024 STATE CONVENTION RECAP**

The 2024 OCB State Convention and Conference was a huge success! We kicked off with an inspiring keynote from Michael Garrett, a board member from ACB, who traveled up from Texas to share valuable insights about the employment landscape for visually impaired and blind individuals.

Friday night was all fun and games with a lively round of Buzz Word, hosted by Debbie Sanders of MLV Foundation. Congratulations to our first, second, and third-place teams who walked away with some awesome prizes!

Saturday was jam-packed with activities, including networking with new friends, exploring vendor booths, and discovering the latest in assistive technology. We enjoyed sessions on recreational activities, advocacy, and learned about cutting-edge AI tech. Special guests Mayor Stan Booker and State Representative Daniel Pae added excitement, with Mr. Pae presenting a signed proclamation from Governor Stitt, acknowledging OCB's impactful work across Oklahoma.

We also took a moment to honor the memory of Kay Love with a heartfelt Celebration of Life tribute. The night continued with an energetic auction, where friendly bidding wars broke out over coveted items — and let's just say, Miss Elaine was determined not to lose that cat basket!

The weekend concluded with a meaningful non-denominational service on Sunday morning, followed by the election of new officers and board members.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made it a truly memorable event!

Best regards,  
Dana Young  
OCB 2024 State Convention Chair

## **AROUND THE STATE**

(What's happening around the state for the blind community).

### **Jeri's House**

Jeri's House, Inc. is a temporary residential facility where individuals having a dual sensory loss can come live and learn independence. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) faith-based organization in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

We have been accepting residents for about three years and we currently have our tenth consumer. We have been extremely blessed in our endeavor to encourage, educate and empower individuals having a combined vision and hearing loss. Jeri's House teaches individuals how to use alternative techniques to be fully independent and live life to the fullest.

But we do more than just teach. We recently co-sponsored the Oklahoma DeafBlind camp in northeast Oklahoma. We had 27 DeafBlind campers and 45 Support Service Providers. These are

certified individuals who provide environmental and auditory information so individuals who are DeafBlind can make informed decisions. Everyone had the time of their life!

Other activities Jeri's House has: a once-a-month Bible Study. We meet on the third Thursday of each month. On the first Saturday of each month, JH has a social. This is when the DeafBlind gather for an event either at JH or in the community.

If interested in learning more or to receive our monthly newsletter, check out our website [www.jerishouse.org](http://www.jerishouse.org) and follow us on Facebook.

Jeri Lynn-Cooper

Encouraging, educating and empowering DeafBlind!

Website: [www.jerishouse.org](http://www.jerishouse.org)

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

## **MLV Foundation**

The MLV Foundation remains dedicated to its core mission of enhancing lives, encouraging independence, and expanding awareness for the blind and visually impaired community. We have an exciting lineup of activities and events planned for the next two years, and we'd love for you to join us on any or all of them!

First up is our Hooks Fishing Weekend, in collaboration with Wilderness Adventures Ministry. This will be followed by our Summer Weekend Getaway in Branson at the end of August.

Looking ahead for 2026, we're planning a cruise in January 2026 and we're also thrilled to announce the MOKA Conference for the Blind, set for May 26-28, and the Eyecon Gaming Fest, May 28-29, at Stoney Creek Hotel in Broken Arrow, OK.

Don't forget, we have our weekly Tuesday Night Live game nights on Zoom at 7:30 pm and our monthly Peer Support Zoom call, which we send links out on the listserve.

Stay tuned for updates about our Orbit Training Center opening in 2025 and new activities at our Adaptive Sports Field. For more information, or to join our newsletter list, email us at [mylimitlessvision@gmail.com](mailto:mylimitlessvision@gmail.com) or visit [www.mlvfoundation.org](http://www.mlvfoundation.org) or our Facebook page for all the latest happenings.

Debbie Sanders, President

### **Wilderness Adventures Ministry, making God's creation accessible for all since 2019.**

WAM is a 501C3 organization that creates adventures for individuals with all types of disabilities such as but not limited to, fishing, hiking, archery, and camping to encourage them that they can do anything that they aspire to and there is more to life than their disabilities.

What a year we have had. We hosted our second annual retreat weekend, which was a considerable success. The weekend was full of laughter, fun, fellowship, and food. We taught individuals how to prepare some easy dishes that they can prepare while in nature or even from the comfort of their own homes. During the retreat weekend, people got the opportunity to shoot archery and

BB guns at a target to pop balloons. These are just a couple of the fun things that can occur at one of our events.

On December 13th, WAM will be hosting our fourth annual silent auction at Canadian River Winery. At the event, there will be a taco bar along with local entertainment and plenty of items that can make great Christmas gifts or something amazing for you. A few items we have donated already include jewelry, a handmade knife, travel basket, and skin care products. We would love to have you join us. To learn more or to get your tickets for dinner, please visit the [waministry.org/events](http://waministry.org/events).

In June of 2025, we invite you to join us for the first ever partnership of WAM and MLV for Hooks in Missouri. Hooks will be a fun filled weekend of fun, fellowship, and fishing. The weekend will take place at the Roaring River State Park in Cassville, MO from June 6-8. You can visit [waministry.org/events](http://waministry.org/events) or [mlvfoundation.org](http://mlvfoundation.org) to get more info and to sign up.

To stay up to date with all our future events, you can sign up for our newsletter at [waministry.org](http://waministry.org). And we encourage you to contact us if there is an event or activity that you would like us to organize and put on for you. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, you may contact our President, Joseph Bundy, at [jbundy@waministry.org](mailto:jbundy@waministry.org) or 405-693-4771.

Joseph Bundy  
President

## **TERRI LYNN FUNDRAISER!**

Looking for a meaningful way to give back this holiday season while checking off your gift list? The Oklahoma Council of the Blind has partnered with Terri Lynn to offer a delicious and thoughtful fundraiser that helps support our programs. Terri Lynn offers a wide selection of premium nuts, chocolates, and confections that make perfect gifts for family, friends, or coworkers. From roasted nuts to gourmet chocolates, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Best of all, 40% of the proceeds from every purchase go directly to OCB, helping us continue our mission of empowering blind and visually impaired Oklahomans. Whether you're shopping for stocking stuffers or holiday treats, your purchase will make a difference.

Funds raised will help support our advocacy efforts we provide to ensure that blind and visually impaired individuals in Oklahoma can live independently and with dignity. Visit <https://okcb.terrilynn.com/> to shop the great variety of selections. Thank you for your support and for making the holidays a little sweeter—for yourself and for others!

## **CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD**

It's always fascinating to see how different countries around the world celebrate Christmas with their own unique customs and traditions. While the holiday spirit of family gatherings, festive meals, and gift-giving is universal, the ways in which it is

expressed vary greatly from one culture to another. From Japan's love for a Christmas feast of Kentucky Fried Chicken to the 13 mischievous Yule Lads of Iceland who leave surprises in children's shoes, these traditions offer a glimpse into the diverse ways people embrace the season.

Exploring Christmas celebrations outside the USA reveals a wealth of creativity and local flavor. In Norway, families hide their brooms on Christmas Eve to ward off witches, while in Australia, Christmas often involves a barbecue on the beach under the summer sun. Each country's customs are shaped by its history, climate, and cultural influences, making the holiday a rich tapestry of global traditions.

To dive deeper, we will explore the Christmas traditions of Malta and Venezuela, two countries with festive and flavorful customs. In Malta, the making of Honey Rings (Qagħaq tal-Għasel) is a beloved family activity, with these spiced pastries gracing many holiday tables. Meanwhile, in Venezuela, families enjoy Ham Bread (Pan de Jamón), a deliciously savory and sweet roll filled with ham, olives, and raisins, which has become a Christmas staple. We will share a recipe for each, so you can bring a taste of these traditions into your own home this holiday season!

### **Maltese Honey Rings (Qagħaq tal-Għasel) Recipe**

Qagħaq tal-Għasel, or Honey Rings, are a traditional Maltese treat often enjoyed during the Christmas season. Despite the name, the filling typically uses a combination of treacle (or



molasses), citrus zest, spices, and sugar rather than pure honey. These pastries are sweet, fragrant, and perfect for the holidays!

## Ingredients

### For the Pastry:

3 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup unsalted butter (cold, cut into cubes)

1/2 cup water (cold)

Pinch of salt

### For the Filling:

1 cup treacle (or dark molasses)

1/2 cup sugar

1/4 cup semolina

Zest of 1 orange

Zest of 1 lemon

1 teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground aniseed (optional)

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon cocoa powder

1/4 cup water

### For the Glaze:

1 egg (beaten, for egg wash)

## Instructions

1. Make the Dough:

In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, and salt. Add the butter and rub it into the flour mixture with your fingers until it resembles coarse crumbs. Gradually add the cold water and mix until a smooth dough forms. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and let it rest in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes.

## 2. Prepare the Filling:

In a medium saucepan, combine the treacle (or molasses), sugar, semolina, citrus zest, spices, and cocoa powder. Add the water and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture thickens (about 5-7 minutes). Remove from heat and let the filling cool completely.

## 3. Assemble the Honey Rings:

Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out the dough on a floured surface into a large rectangle, about 1/8-inch thick. Cut the dough into long strips, about 4 inches wide. Spoon the filling lengthwise along the center of each strip. Fold the dough over the filling and pinch the edges to seal it. Shape each filled strip into a ring and place it on the prepared baking sheet. Use a sharp knife to make small slits on the top of each ring.

## 4. Bake the Rings:

Brush the tops of the rings with the beaten egg to give them a shiny finish. Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until the pastry is golden brown.

## 5. Serve and Enjoy:

Let the honey rings cool completely before serving. They can be stored in an airtight container and will keep well for several days.

These delightful pastries have a wonderfully spiced filling that's perfect for the holiday season. Enjoy making and sharing them as part of your Christmas celebrations!

## **Venezuelan Ham Bread (Pan de Jamón)**

Pan de Jamón is a classic Venezuelan Christmas bread filled with ham, olives, and raisins. It's a delightful combination of sweet and savory flavors that makes it a festive favorite. Here's how you can make it at home!

### Ingredients

#### For the Dough:

4 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons instant yeast  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup unsalted butter (softened)  
1 egg  
1 cup warm milk (110°F / 43°C)  
1 egg (for egg wash)

#### For the Filling:

12 oz sliced ham (cooked, or deli-style)  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup green olives (pitted and sliced)  
1/4 cup bacon (cooked and chopped, optional)

1/4 cup brown sugar (optional, for a sweeter taste)

## Instructions

### 1. Prepare the Dough:

In a large mixing bowl, combine the warm milk, sugar, and yeast. Let it sit for 5-10 minutes until foamy. Add the flour, salt, egg, and butter. Mix until a dough forms. Knead the dough on a floured surface for about 10 minutes until smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a greased bowl, cover with a damp cloth, and let it rise for 1-2 hours, or until it doubles in size.

### 2. Assemble the Bread:

Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). Punch down the dough and roll it out on a floured surface into a rectangle, about 1/4-inch thick. Layer the ham slices evenly across the dough, leaving a 1-inch border around the edges. Sprinkle the raisins, olives, and bacon (if using) evenly over the ham. Starting from one of the long edges, carefully roll the dough into a log. Pinch the seam and tuck in the ends to seal the loaf.

### 3. Bake the Bread:

Place the rolled loaf on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Brush the top with the beaten egg to give it a golden, shiny crust. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the bread is golden brown. Let it cool for at least 15 minutes before slicing.

### 4. Serve and Enjoy:

Slice the bread and serve warm or at room temperature. It pairs perfectly with a cup of coffee or as part of a festive meal.

This deliciously savory and slightly sweet bread is a perfect way to bring a taste of Venezuelan Christmas to your home. Enjoy!

## **THE READING ROOM**

### **Updates from the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

As you may know, the OLBPH building is currently without air conditioning or ventilation. This has led to unsafe working conditions due to high and low temperatures and staff are working from home. Onsite staff are limited, we recommend that you call ahead if you plan to visit the building in person. Talking books continue to be mailed daily and you should not experience any interruption in services. Incoming phone calls are routed to an employee who takes messages. Calls are then returned by the appropriate librarian or other staff. This process is a little slower and we appreciate your patience as we do our best to continue to provide exceptional library services.

BARD has several exciting updates. BARD Express has added an in-application player. The BARD Express Player allows patrons to choose an audio book or magazine from their BARD Express bookshelf and listen to it directly on their PC. Much like BARD Mobile, with the BARD Express Player, users can adjust the narration speed; jump to navigation points such as part, chapter, and article; create bookmarks; and much more. Additionally, beta

registration is now open for the new My Talking Books skill on Amazon Alexa-enabled smart speakers. My Talking Books is an Alexa skill that patrons can use to access and stream audiobooks from BARD. Using the skill's voice-only interface, you can search the BARD catalog, manage your wish lists, book lists, bookshelves, and settings, as well as find book descriptions and review your streaming history. Seats in the beta are limited. To register, fill out the Patron Registration Form at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta).

Due to building conditions, the OLBPH's Recording Studio has slowed production of new Oklahoma Reads talking books. The Recording Studio team continues to work in the studio several days a week when conditions allow and is dedicated to continuing to produce high-quality Oklahoma-centric books for the BARD catalog. To learn about other new titles available from the catalog, visit Talking Book Topics at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/new-materials/talking-book-topics/> or the Braille Book Review at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/new-materials/braille-book-review/>.

The Oklahoma Telephone Reader, which allows patrons to dial in by phone and listen to news articles recorded from various newspapers in Oklahoma, is now compatible with Amazon Alexa-enabled smart speakers.

How to Use OTR with Alexa:

- 1: Make sure OTR is added as a phone contact: 405-522-1896
- 2: Say "Alexa call OTR"
- 3: When the OTR prompt comes up, say "Alexa ( insert your unique ID number)"

4: When asked for your security code, say “Alexa (insert your unique security code)”

5: Once you are logged into OTR, say “Alexa (insert the number you want to dial for the category or article).” If it is a two-digit number you must say both digits. For example, instead of ten you must say one zero.

Did you know that refreshable Braille displays are available free of charge to library patrons who read Braille books? The NLS Braille eReader allows patrons to read electronic Braille files (BRFs) as well as Word files, HTML files, DAISY files, and PDF files. The unit has 20 Braille cells, a Perkins-style keyboard, 16GB of internal memory, and the ability to use an SD card and a USB drive for external storage. It connects to Wi-Fi so that Braille files can be downloaded directly from BARD and has Bluetooth capability so patrons can connect directly to smartphones. It also connects to computers. It has settings to display files in uncontracted and contracted Braille and can connect directly to NFB Newslines. To order a refreshable Braille display, call the OLBPH at 405-521-3514 and ask for a librarian.

The OLBPH plans to host an adult Winter Reading Program from January to February 2025. More information will be forthcoming in the December edition of the OLBPH’s newsletter, Bright Future, and on social media. Follow the OLBPH on Facebook and Twitter for information about the Winter Reading Program and other events and news.

## **DID YOU KNOW SANTA SENDS LETTERS IN BRAILLE?**

Once again, BrailleWorks is helping Santa spread holiday cheer by sending out Brailed letters to kids! Be sure to make your request by Monday, December 9. Go online to [www.BrailleWorks.com](http://www.BrailleWorks.com) and choose from four delightful letters, and they will take care of the rest—no cost to you!

Santa's special helpers emboss his letters in Braille, so he can connect with kids who are visually impaired. Each letter even gets a North Pole postmark! Grandparents, parents, teachers, and friends: Just let them know who the letter is for, and they will send it out. They include both a Braille and a large print copy to ensure Santa's message is accessible to everyone.

## **META RAYBAN SMART GLASSES – ARE THEY ON YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST?**

The new Meta Ray-Ban Smart Glasses, starting at \$299, feature expanded accessibility support with integrated partnerships with Aira and Be My Eyes, two leading apps for the blind and visually impaired community. This collaboration enables users to connect seamlessly with trained agents or volunteers for real-time visual assistance directly through the glasses. Whether it's reading a menu, navigating a street, or identifying objects, this integration brings an extra layer of support, making everyday tasks easier and more accessible.



The glasses come in three stylish frame options—Wayfarer, Headliner, and the new Skyler—with lenses available in prescription, transition, and polarized styles. The frames are offered in a variety of colors, including Matte Black, Shiny Black, Jeans, Rebel Black, and Caramel. For more details and to explore customization options, visit the Ray-Ban website.

## **FICTION AND FIZZ**

NextGen has started a monthly book club called Fiction and Fizz. We choose a book and a cocktail/mocktail to go along with the theme of the book that we will discuss. We would love for you to come and join us. We meet the third Friday of the month at 7pm on our new What'sApp Community Room.

## **OCB IS NOW ON WHATS APP**

Come join our new community on WhatsApp. We have a general group along with the NextGen and Fiction and Fizz group. To join in, download WhatsApp to your smartphone and then click this invite link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IJBLnhOtQJzFoweuBqRsL9>.