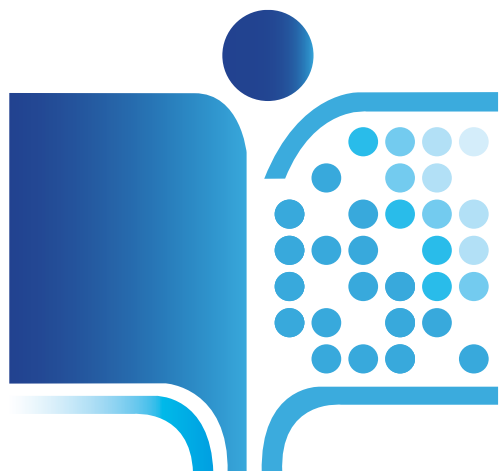


MAKWENZEKE

Issue 2, 2016

The period 1 April to 30 June saw 6 new staff members employed, an increase in membership registrations, and an employee delivering a paper at the 6th General Assembly of the International Council on English Braille in Baltimore



SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Did you know...

... It takes the average sighted person 12 months to master the scarce skill of Braille?

... Braille is produced in all 11 of our official languages?

Fact

6-dot Braille cells can create 64 unique combinations!

Braille characters are based on a 6-dot Braille cell having two parallel columns of three dots each. If the empty cell is counted, 64 unique dot combinations are possible with a 6-dot Braille cell.

For blind people Braille is truly the key to independence, as it brings the printed world to them.

Something to be proud of

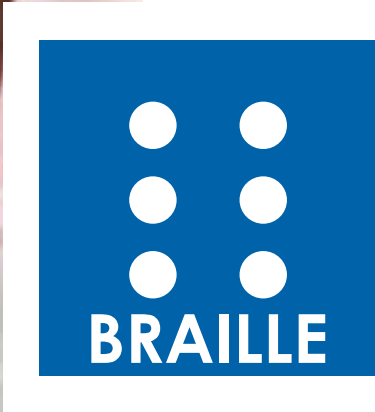


The 2015/2016 financial year of the South African Library for the Blind ended at the end of March 2016. This requires the Library to reflect and review what has been achieved. The achievements of the library for the past financial year are something to be proud of. The library achieved 93% of its objectives of the year which is a 5% improvement compared to the previous year. The Library's vitality is dependent on the growth of its

membership. 661 new members were registered bringing the total number of members serviced by the Library to 5,855. The relevancy of any library is measured by the collections and services it offers. The library added 894 accessible titles to its catalogue, i.e. 524 audio titles and 370 braille titles. If our resources would allow more staff and funds we would ideally like to increase this number. As a participant of the TIGAR book

cont. on page 3





ATTENDANCE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ENGLISH BRAILLE

The 6th General Assembly of the International Council on English Braille (ICEB) took place in Baltimore at the National Federation of the Blind from 21-27 May.

Attendance of the conference presented SALB, a member of the South African Braille Authority with an opportunity to represent our country, learn from colleagues about good practice around Braille and tactile graphics followed in other countries, and facilitate the delivery of services to Braille readers and users.

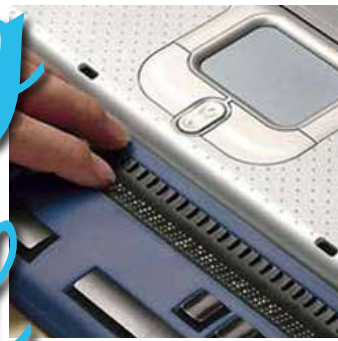
Numerous papers of interest were presented. Among these was a keynote address by Dr Robert Englebretson on "Braille and the Brain and why it matters". The paper highlighted the importance of cognitive perception, debunking the myth that we read cell by cell when reading Braille, but that in fact a process "chunking" takes place. He mentioned the importance of considering the reading task when developing Braille code and the availability of morphemes and phonemes.

Further papers of note included "Understanding and Reducing Inaccuracy in Electronically

Generated Braille", by Dr Jennifer Dunnam, a paper by Mary Schnackenberg "Banzat: Building Better Braille" and a presentation titled "Something to Hold On To: Tactile Access to Graphics in Higher Education". Leona Holloway, Dr Matthew Butler and Prof Kim Marriott - Monash University, addressed tactile images raised by way of 3 dimensional printing, and a paper titled "Alignment of Braille and Print English for Learning Instruction", by Mackenzie E Savaiano, addressing the assignment of contractions considering word frequency.

A paper was also presented by our very own Pasha Alden from South African Library for the Blind - Braille Consultancy. For more info see Pasha's blog on salb.org.za/category/blog

Six resolutions were drafted and carried at the 6th General Assembly of ICEB. These are available on the SALB website. Papers are available electronically at the Braille Consultancy.



Something to be proud of

cont. from page 1

service which is an international catalogue of accessible titles made available by international libraries servicing blind and visually impaired people, we were able to download 224 titles. This is a great service saving the library a lot in terms of production time and cost.

Another international role played by the Library is as a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). The Director served as Secretary and Treasurer for the Section Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities for the past 4 years. His second term came to an end during September 2015. The Library will continue to be part of the work of the Section by attending meetings and participating in projects.

The Library continued with its initiative to make it possible for 4 blind or visually impaired learners from two different schools to visit the library as part of an Internship program. Learners were exposed to all the functions performed by the Library and performed some functions on their own. The purpose is to give learners work exposure that may assist them when making their career or tertiary study choices.

As the National Library for the Blind and Visually impaired in South Africa the Library continued to expand its network of accessible Mini-library library service points in public libraries across South Africa. The project was originally initiated in the Eastern Cape Province in 2010. Since then the number of Provinces expanded to 5, i.e. the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, North-West and the Western Cape. 13 new mini-libraries were added this year bringing the National total to 49. This is a partnership project between the SALB, Provincial Governments and applicable Local Governments. It is one of the strategies of the SALB to support the Social Cohesion priority of the National Government.

Registered members of the library continued to receive a free library service. The cost of providing free playback devices is becoming a greater challenge every year because of the specialised nature of these devices all of them are imported. The same applies for the spare parts to service the machines. The Management of the Library started a project to explore alternative playback devices. A product was identified and tested with a number of the members of the library in terms of ease of use, sound quality and navigational abilities. Based on the positive feedback the Library will continue to plan implementation strategies during the next financial year.

The South African Library for the Blind is proud of its achievements during the past year but would obviously also like to improve. The commitment and dedication of all staff members to deliver quality products and services is highly appreciated. With the guidance of the Board and the financial assistance from the Department of Arts & Culture, the partnerships we have with various other organisations we will strive to deliver products and services that will make our members proud.



"I've always loved reading books and newspapers. These large keys make it so easy, I'm in love all over again!"

Technical Services

DAISY PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT



"I never thought reading a book could be so simple."

The first generation of Victor Reader Classic and Classic X playback devices are no longer being supported by Humanware, the supplier. These players are now officially obsolete, but the Library has managed to obtain the last 300 Victor Reader Classic and Classic X batteries and some assorted spares to maintain the Classic and Classic X range for as long as possible. These spares should arrive in the country within the next 6 weeks.

Attempts to source batteries in South Africa was not as successful as it could have been. There is a company who is prepared to manufacture the battery

packs required, but at almost twice the cost of the imported version, and the Library must supply them with the old battery packs.

The financial outlay to send stacks of old battery packs to a manufacturer before they are even prepared to start manufacturing new battery packs will be extremely costly.

Imagine the frustration with having to deal with the Post Office to try and trace batches of missing battery packs? As it is, the Library is trying to deal with playback devices and books which do not reach their destinations, and that is a big enough nightmare already.

STAFF SCENE

1 MARCH 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2016

Over the period 1 March 2016 to 30 June 2016, six staff members were appointed at the SA Library for the Blind and one staff member resigned.

Appointments

On 1 March 2016, **Ms Linda Ngaleka** started as the newly appointed Snr Manager: LIS at the SA Library for the Blind in the position vacated by her predecessor in December 2015. Ms Ngaleka holds a Master's Degree in Bibliothecologiae, which she obtained in 2010 from the University of Western Cape. Ms Ngaleka worked as a Senior Librarian for almost 9 years at the City of Cape Town Library Services, then as a Principal Librarian for 3 and a half years at Western Cape Library Services DCS and as Assistant Manager at the Eastern Cape Provincial Library Services over the period September 2012 to February 2016, before starting at the SA Library for the Blind as the Senior Manager: Library Information Services (LIS).

On 1 April 2016, **Ms Thuli Khoza** was appointed as Project Coordinator for Mpumalanga. This position is funded by the provincial office of the Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture in Mpumalanga and focusses on the establishment of Mini-libraries facilities and services for the use by blind and partially sighted members in Mpumalanga.

Ms Khoza holds a Master's Degree in Information Science, which she obtained from the University of South Africa in 2007. Ms Khoza started her employment career as a Librarian at the Setlogelo Technikon – Tshwane University of Technology in February 1992 to June 1994. From 1994 to 1999, she worked as Librarian at the University of Johannesburg and then Information Librarian at the same employer from

1999 to 2008. In October 2008 she started as Information Specialist at EPMG until August 2009. She then worked as Information Specialist at the National Research Foundation. From March 2014 to September 2015, Ms Khoza explored an own business adventure.

Ms Lydia Marques was appointed as Project Coordinator for the Eastern Cape on 1 May 2016.

Like with the Mpumalanga project mentioned above, this project is funded by the Provincial Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture in the Eastern Cape. This project is the longest running project of its kind thus far as the project was piloted in the Eastern Cape in 2010.

Ms Marques is the fourth appointed Project coordinator for the Eastern Cape, since piloting the project in February 2010.

Ms Marques holds a BA Honours degree in Labour Relations and Human Resources which she obtained from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2014. She also holds a BA Psychology degree from the same University, which she obtained in 2013. Ms Marques started her working career in April 1993 at SANLAM as a Branch Consultant until March 1997. In April 1997 she started as a Personal Assistant to the Director at VOLPES until January 2000 when she became a stay at home mom for 9 years. She re-entered the labour market as a School Counsellor in June 2009 and in March 2013 became Project leader for the Social Responsibility project of Coca Cola Fortune and NMMU. In January 2015 (to date) she started to

teach Labour Relations Management and to do disciplinary hearings for two small companies. She also worked at the Nkosinathi Foundation in different capacities, such as Financial Administrator, Supervisor of the Field Worker Rural Community Outreach Programme, Facilitator of training and Development in adult learning and Low vision Consultant from March 2016 to April 2016.

In June 2016, three new staff members were appointed: **Mr Anele Moko** (Snr Projects and Minilibraries Coordinator), **Miss Sithembile Mkhize** (Project Assistant KZN) and **Miss Boitumelo Shika** (Librarian Cataloguing).

The position of Snr Projects and Mini-libraries Coordinator is a newly created position to oversee the various mini library projects that have grown so significantly. The position is funded from the various projects and **Mr Anele Moko** was appointed on 1 June 2016 to serve in this role.

Mr Moko holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration – Intergovernmental Relations which he obtained from the University of Pretoria in 2014. He also holds a Bachelor of Library and Information Services from the University of Fort Hare which he obtained in 2005, together with a number of other Certificates. Mr Moko's employment career started in February 2002 when he worked as an Intern in the Medical Research Council: Information Services Division for a period of 13 months. He then worked as a Resource Centre Assistant at the University of

cont. on page 7

BOOK REVIEWS

Sweet Medicine

Author: Panashe Chigumadzi

Publisher: Jacana

Format: Coming Soon In Braille And Daisy

At face value, *Sweet Medicine*, is a simple story about a graduate student finding herself in a tedious administrative job in a Zimbabwean government ministry. But this debut novel by Ruth First fellow Panashe Chigumadzi has a political undercurrent that reflects the Zimbabwean political situation.

It is set against the backdrop of economical upheavals in Zimbabwe in the 2000s — the high inflation that rendered the Zimbabwean dollar useless, with industries closing down, and the economy shrinking, sending unemployed people onto the streets of Harare and other major cities to eke out a living as hustlers, hawkers and illegal foreign currency dealers

Having studied economics at university, Tsitsi has high hopes of working for the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe in an important position. Instead, she finds herself hopeless, facing an uncertain and boring future working as a personal assistant to a minister, Mr Zvobgo. But then a girl has to do what she needs to do about her situation to secure a comfortable future. Tsitsi seduces the minister, who kicks out his wife in favour of the young lady. *Sweet Medicine* captures all the little things that define a depressed economy without being simplistic and didactic. (bdlive)



to save his daughter, a fat policeman named Freddy, and, most memorably, her "cousin" Dewald, who may or may not be a figure from Ed's own past, who sweeps into town on a wave of drugs and debauchery. (bookslive)

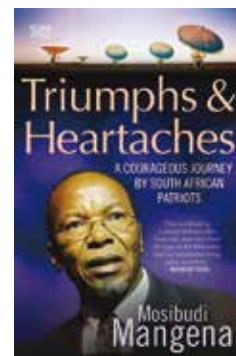
Triumphs and Heartaches

Author: Mosibudi Mangena

Publisher: Picador

Format: Braille

Triumphs and Heartaches is both a memoir of the struggle years and a reflection on South Africa, what we are and where we are going. Mosibudi Mangena, former Minister of Science and Technology, as well as a long-term member of the Azanian People's Organization, tells a fascinating story and provides food for thought for anyone interested in South Africa and committed to building up the country. Mangena's journey from youthful innocence to political sophistication was a rapid one. Scarcely out of his teens, he discovered the Black Consciousness philosophy and the dignity that went with it. "... some of us became even more impressed by the teachings of Black Consciousness and convinced of the need for the whole of Africa to use Black Consciousness to blow its mind clean." It is clear from his writings that Black Consciousness, of which Steve Biko was the most famous exponent, was for him and his colleagues primarily about establishing, or perhaps affirming, their identity. For young people like Mangena it was necessary first to understand and be proud of who they were before they could go on to their life work. (debatejournal)



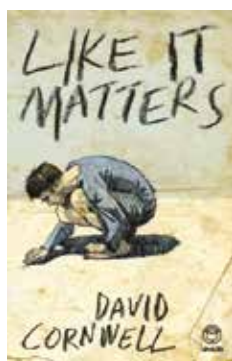
Like it matters

Author: David Cornwell

Publisher: Umuzi

Format: Coming soon in Braille and Daisy

Like It Matters draws on the same source as the short stories, but its raw material is darker – drugs instead of alcohol, murder instead of divorce. The narrator, Ed, will pop any pill and smoke any leaf going, though he's engaged in a constant struggle to turn things around. And his story might have worked out differently – it might have been no story at all – if he hadn't met Charlotte, a young, beautiful, troubled soul, and a magnet for disaster. She is, as Ed describes her, "a wrecking ball in full swing", and it's Ed's life that becomes the wreck. But not before she ushers in a cast of other characters, all men devoted to her charms: her father, an angry reborn Christian trying



Die onbekende Van Gogh

Skrifver: Chris Schoeman

Uitgewer: Zebra press

Formaat: Kom binnekort in Braille en Daisy

Die lewe van Cor van Gogh, die jongste van die drie Van Gogh-broers, is fassinerend: nie omdat dit per se interessant is nie, maar omdat hy lid was van 'n familie met ikoniese status in Nederland en na Suid-Afrika geëmigreer het toe goud ontdek is, op die vooraand van die Anglo-Boereoorlog.



Cor self is dus 'n "kleine man, 'n salesman" oor wie Arthur Miller 'n toneelstuk sou kon skryf, maar wat geen van die talente van sy twee ouer broers, Vincent en Theo, gehad het nie. Hy skryf nie juis interessante briewe nie, het nie 'n goeie verhouding met Vincent (in wie die leser éintlik belangstel) nie, het 'n moeilike geaardheid volgens sommige bronne, en pleeg selfmoord sonder dat die presiese motief ooit bekend sal wees (was dit weens koors, was dit geneties, het die kommandolewe sy tol begin eis?).

Die biografiese gegewens oor Cor van Gogh is karig: hy sterf in 1900, lank voordat Vincent die kunstenaar begin oorheers. Daar was dus geen rede vir sy tydgenote om moeite te maak met die behoud van relevante dokumente nie. Verder speel die laaste jaar van sy lewe af teen die agtergrond van 'n vernietigende oorlog waartydens die bywerk van rekords van minder belang was as om net te oorleef. (litnet)

When hope whispers

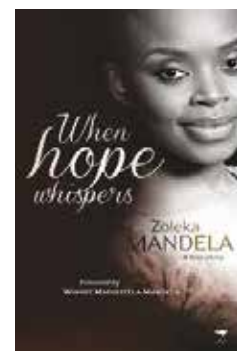
Author: Zoleka Mandela

Publisher: Jacana

Format: Coming soon in Braille and Daisy

This is a memoir by the grand-daughter of former President Nelson Mandela. Zoleka describes in detail her life's journey from losing her two children two years apart, cocaine addiction, rehab, being diagnosed at 33 years with cancer and her fight with the double mastectomy. Is it a powerful read of a survivor who has been through the worst but came back smiling.

For more book reviews see salb.org.za/book-reviews



cont. from page 5 Fort Hare (USAID) for 4 months and then as Assistant Archivist for a period of one year at the University of Fort Hare as well. In November 2005 he started working at Merafong Local Municipality as a Senior Library Assistant. In January 2006, he became the Senior Sport promotion Officer/ Recreation Officer at the Tswaing Local Municipality: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. From November 2007 until his appointment at the SALB, he worked as the Unit Manager: Culture, Arts, Sport Development and Library Services at the Tswaing Local Municipality: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

On 1 June 2016, **Ms Sithembile Mkhize** was appointed as a Project Assistant for the KwaZulu Natal Minilibraries Project. This position is funded by the Provincial Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture in KZN.

Ms Mkhize completed a short course Certificate in Office Administration and Computer Fundamentals in 2006. She then completed a Diploma in Business Management through Uni School College in 2006 and 2007. She also completed a Specialist HR Management Modular course in 2010-2011 through Nelson Mandela Metro University, Business Development Unit in Richards Bay. She is awaiting her BA Degree in Education from Unisa.

Ms Mkhize was enrolled in an Internship programme at Shepstone & Wylie Attorneys for the period from 1 September 1998 to 28 February 2000. The programme focussed on developing post matriculants for the role of Junior Secretaries. On 1 March

2000 to 28 February 2003 she worked as an Assistant Customer Service Clerk at UTI Sun Couriers. From 1 March 2003 to 31 August 2008 she worked as a Community Services Administrator (for two years) and as Personal Assistant for the Risk Operations Manager thereafter at Momentum Health, before being promoted to Customer Services Consultant in Gauteng for Momentum Health Administrators. Ms Mkhize was appointed as Key Accounts Consultant for ABSA for the period 1 September 2008 to 31 October 2011. In January 2012 she became a Principal Clerk at uMlalazi Municipality until 30 April 2014. From 1 June 2014 until joining the SALB she served as Senior Office Administrator for TPL Mkhize Civil Construction & Trading CC.

Ms Boitumelo Shika was appointed as Librarian Cataloguing on the permanent establishment of the Library on 6 June 2016. Miss Shika completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies during 2014 from the University of Limpopo. She completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in 2013. Miss Shika worked as a Library Student Trainee from June 2014 to October 2014 at the University of Limpopo Library (Turfloop Campus), then as a Student Trainee for the period November and December 2014 at Limpopo Department of Education and as an Intern in the Cataloguing section of the University of Venda Library (National Research Foundation) from 1 May 2015, until she joined the SALB in June 2016.

We trust that these new staff members will settle well into their new roles and look forward to their positive contribution

to the SALB and the members we serve.

Terminations

During March 2016, **Mr Lethabo Ledwaba** (Librarian: Cataloguing) resigned from the Library due to unforeseen personal reasons and relocated back to Limpopo. Our best wishes accompany him and we trust that things will work out favourably for him.

Apprentices

One blind learner (**Calvin Mogojane**) and one partially sighted learner (**Solly Mahlangu**) from Filadelfia Secondary School for the Blind in Johannesburg visited the Library over the period 29 March to 1 April 2016 for an Apprenticeship programme aimed at providing blind or visually impaired learners an opportunity to be exposed to the work environment. The two learners appreciated the opportunity afforded to them by the SALB. It was also the first time that they flew in an airplane and were very excited about that experience. We wish them all the best with their future aspirations.

Solly Mahlangu (front right) and Calvin Mogojane (back left)





Volunteer home readers/narrators wanted!



The South African Library for the Blind is looking for interested persons to volunteer their services to read print books/magazines for our blind and visually impaired members.

LANGUAGES

SALB is looking for voices in all 11 official South African languages.

VOICE TEST

All new volunteer readers/narrators must first undergo a compulsory voice test. The voice test must be a mp3 recording of your voice in the language of your choice. This recording must then be emailed to us to the email addresses below. Our SALB voice test panel will then listen to the voice tests. Should you pass the voice test, you will then be contacted and be allowed to read/narrate books for The South African Library for the Blind.

TRAINING

Telephonic training will be given to all who passed the mandatory voice tests. The training includes how to use the digital audio recording software, which is provided by the library. Feedback will be offered to help readers/narrators to achieve and maintain a high quality level of recording.

COMMITMENT

Successful volunteer reader/narrator needs to commit to read for up to five to ten hours per week or at least one hour per day. It is important that each volunteer reader/narrator commits to completing the book(s)/magazine(s) they have started.

ABILITIES, SKILLS & REQUIREMENT

Interested persons should:

- have his/her own computer/laptop
- love books and reading
- have lots of free time
- have a clear and understandable voice and diction
- have a high degree of accuracy and clarity
- read and maintains a pace that is appropriate to the reading material
- preferably be computer literate
- record and email us a snippet of your voice (a page and a half from your favourite book) in the language of your choice

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons should please email a sample of your recorded reading snippet (in mp3 format) to one of the SALB Audio Production supervisors: Charlene Prince (Charlene@salb.org.za) or Thembile Gxekwa (Thembile@salb.org.za). Tel.: 046 6227226. Website: www.salb.org.za



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