

**SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND**

An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Smiles of joy at the HOME OF JOY



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SALB Volunteer Appreciation Award Ceremony 2016



Ms Vivian Botha is receiving her award from
Mr Francois Hendrikz

A SALB Volunteer Appreciation Award ceremony was held on the 31 August 2016 at the premises of the South African Library for the Blind, Grahamstown.

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SALB Volunteer Appreciation Award Ceremony - 2016

A SALB Volunteer Appreciation Award ceremony was held on the 31 August 2016 at the premises of the South African Library for the Blind, Grahamstown.

The event was planned by the Audio Production section of SALB to say thanks and to hand over awards to all the volunteers who so unselfishly volunteered their time and services to the library throughout the years.

Introductions

The proceedings started promptly at 10 o'clock with an Introduction by Ms P Mahanjana. Ms Mahanjana, who is the Senior Manager Production Services here at SALB, also introduced the director of the library; the SALB management team as well as the Audio production team to the guests and volunteers.

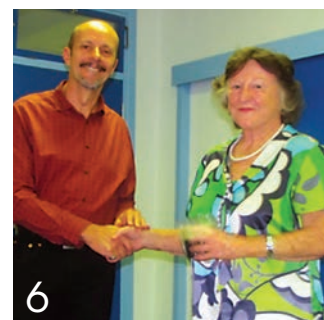
Welcoming and Opening

The SALB director, Mr Francois Hendrikz, did the welcoming and opening, followed by a brief emphasises of the important contribution made by our valuable volunteer narrators in developing our book collections.

Mr Hendrikz special mentioned and acknowledged the fact that one specific volunteer narrator, Mr Vink Roux, narrated over than 400 audio books for the library. Mr Roux, who has stopped narration for SALB due to ill health, was not present at the event. About 2 weeks prior to the event, the director, together with 2 other SALB staff members, went to visit Mr Roux,



Ms Pumla Mahanjana - SALB Senior Manager: Production and Standards



to acknowledge and to hand over an award for his valuable efforts.

Mr Hendrikz also mentioned the fact that one of the Library of Congress narrator, who started narrating for the Library of Congress during the seventies, has narrated more than 1000 books. Mr Hendrikz joked that this must be the set yardstick for our narrators. Mr Hendrikz was of the view that we can also do it here at SALB.

Handing over of Awards

The time that everyone has been waiting for finally arrived. Audio Production Supervisors: Mr Thembile Gxekwa together with Ms Charlene Prince, called up the names of the

recipients, while Audio Production Manager: Mr Melton Kivitts, gave a brief narrative description of when the recipient started narrating books for SALB as well as how many books he/she narrated so far.

Mr Hendrikz handed over the awards to the deserving recipients. One could sense that the narrators were very happy and also surprised by the gesture shown by SALB.

Some of the awards went to:

Ms Nomthandazo Charles who started reading Xhosa books for the library since 2010 and also helped out with recording audio magazines for SALB
Figure 1: Ms Nomthandazo Charles is

SALB Volunteer Appreciation Award ceremony

receiving her award from Mr Francois Hendrikz, while Manager of Audio Production looks on.

Mr John Judd, drove all the way from Port Elizabeth to receive his award. He started narrating for SALB way back in 1996. He has narrated 75 audio books for SALB so far.

Figure 2: Mr John Judd is receiving his award from Mr Francois Hendrikz, while Manager of Audio Production looks on.

Ms Vivian Botha, started narrating for SALB in 2014. She has narrated 10 audio books for SALB so far.

Font Cover: Ms Vivian Botha is receiving her award from Mr Francois Hendrikz

Ms Michelle Vermeulen started narrating for SALB in 2008. She has narrated 11 audio books for SALB so far and is also reading Afrikaans magazines for SALB

Figure 3: Ms Michelle Vermeulen is receiving her award from Mr Francois Hendrikz

Ms Colleen Wagner started narrating for SALB in 2014. She has narrated 18 audio books for SALB so far.

Figure 4: Ms Colleen Wagner is receiving her award from Mr Francois Hendrikz

Ms Caryl Oosthuizen started narrating for SALB in 1997. She has narrated 33 audio books for SALB so far.

Figure 5: Ms Caryl Oosthuizen is receiving her award from Mr Francois Hendrikz

Ms Jennifer Haswell started narrating for SALB in 2010. She has narrated a whopping 107 audio books for SALB so far. She also assists by narrating audio magazines for the library

Figure 6: Ms Jennifer Haswell is receiving her award from Mr Francois Hendrikz

Ms Jane Osborne started narrating for SALB in 2001. She has narrated a whopping 203 audio books for SALB so far. She also assists by narrating audio magazines for the library

Figure 7: Ms Jane Osborne receiving her award from director Mr Francois Hendrikz

Two special awards went to 2 staff members of the Audio production section for working as well as narrating books/ magazines for SALB. These 2 awards went to Nomfuneko Melitafa and Charlene Prince

Figure 8: SALB Audio Production Staff member Ms Nomfuneko Melitafa and Figure 9: Charlene Prince received their rewards from Mr Francois Hendrikz

Exhibition/demonstration

The award ceremony followed by a brief hands on demonstration/exhibition by the Audio and Braille Sections on how



Above: Audio and Braille exhibition

the valuable work done by the audio and Braille volunteers, falls into the bigger picture of the services rendered by SALB to its members.

Finger lunch and closing

The well planned event, ended with a finger lunch followed by the closing and thanks note done by Ms Pumla Mahanjana.

The valuable work done by the audio and Braille volunteers, falls into the bigger picture of the services rendered by SALB to its members.

ACHIEVING OUR COMMITMENTS

The Library concluded its 2015/16 financial review by the Auditor General in July 2016. Despite the economic climate of the country and the financial constraints faced by the Library, the Library achieved most of its objectives for the year, whilst maintaining a stable financial position. The Library has received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor General for this review period. The Library has a proud history of maintaining this status over the years. Certain challenges experienced during this audit, will be followed up with the respective Authorities with a view of ensuring the Library strives towards its objective of receiving a clean audit in the future.

This reaffirms the commitment of ensuring efficient and effective Corporate Governance at the Library. The Library will continue building on the relations with the Auditor General as well as other relevant Stakeholders to ensure that this achievement is maintained and that we continuously improve on our reporting.

The Annual report was also submitted in August 2016 for onward tabling at Parliament. This report contains a summary analysis of how the Library has performed over the 2015/16 period including the report of the Auditor General and the financial statements.



STAFF SCENE

1 JULY 2016 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

Appointments

Mr Siyabulela Mini started at the SA Library for the Blind on 1 July 2016 as the newly appointed Snr Manager: IT. He holds a Bachelor's of Computer Science Degree which he obtained from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth during 2006. Mr Mini also completed a host of certificate level courses in IT related courses, as well as a Supply Chain Management course. His computer literacy is extensive and he served on a number of Organisational Committees over the period 2011 to date of his appointment

here. In a majority of those committees he either Championed the process or served as the Chairperson of the committee.

Mr Mini's employment career started in July 2006 as a Microsoft Business Solution Developer/Consultant. He later worked as an IT Microsoft Office Trainer/Director and an IT Technical Support Consultant. For the past five years prior to his appointment at the SA Library for the Blind as Snr Manager: IT, he was employed as an ICT Manager at two different local Municipalities – 2 years at KouKamma Municipality and 3 years at Makana Municipality here in Grahamstown.

SALB STAFF - MANDELA MONTH INITIATIVES

During the month of July 2016, the staff of the SA Library for the Blind also participated in two separate outreach events as part of the Mandela Month initiatives. From the donations received from SALB staff, a number of items were bought and presented during a small presentation session at the ACVV Senior Citizens home in Grahamstown, as well as the Home of Joy for homeless children, also here in Grahamstown.

ACVV SENIOR CITIZEN visits

Below are some pictures of the presentation at the ACVV Senior Citizens.



Alden from SALB playing the mandola and one of the ladies from the home sitting at the table with her.



From left to right: Mr Kalashe, Mr Gxekwa and Mr Brooks from SALB followed by Ms Schoonbee and Mr Fletcher from ACVV Senior Citizens Home.

HOME OF JOY outreach

Below are some pictures relating to the Home of Joy outreach.



International Activities

SALB staff participated in two International Conferences

The annual Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) took place from the 11th to the 19th of August 2016. A pre-conference took place in Kentucky, Ohio and the main conference took place in Columbus, Ohio. The Board of the Library approved the attendance of the Director of the Library, Mr Francois Hendrikz and the Senior Manager of the Library Services, Ms Linda Ngaleka.

The preconference was organised by the Section Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities in association with the American Printing House. The theme was "Tailoring the reading experience to meet individual needs." 24 speakers from various countries discussed a variety of topics of interest. Initiating a global initiative to teach sighted people how to treat blind people was raised. The use cheaper technologies to make audio and braille more accessible was also discussed. Internationally libraries providing library services to blind and visually impaired people are facing the same challenges, e.g. librarian skills lacking, the lack of local suppliers of devices and inadequate funding. In Canada, the focus to provide library services to blind people has shifted to Public Libraries. This is in line with the mini-library model initiated by the SALB 6 years ago. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the USA is working on plans to provide more material on demand and to deliver reading material electronically.

The main conference in Columbus was attended by 3,100 delegates from 137 countries. The conference is the annual gathering place of librarians from all over the world to share,

meet and discuss all library related matters. It was interesting to note that various library groups mentioned the Marrakesh Treaty in one way or the other.

There is a bigger awareness that libraries, in general, have a responsibility to serve blind people as part of their user group

IFLA as an organisation is very much involved to promote more flexible Copyright legislation of International structures such as the United Nations and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The use of technology, the internet and specifically smart phones to deliver library services also surfaced regularly during the conference. There was a call for all libraries to make their work meaningful across the world and to keep it in the mainstream discussion otherwise library matters may not be considered by Governments of International bodies.

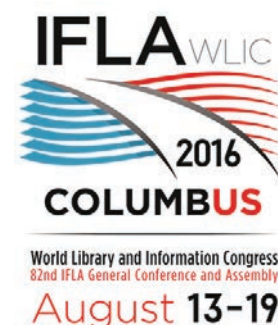
The Deputy Minister of Arts & Culture, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi attended the meeting of the African Section. She updated the meeting about the intention of the Department to request Governments at the next African Union meeting to adopt the Cape Town Declaration that was accepted during 2015. The document commits Government to ensure a number of library-related matters including service to blind and visually

Initiating a global initiative to teach sighted people how to treat blind people was raised.

impaired people.

The Annual IFLA remains a crucial event for the SALB to meet our International counterparts serving blind and visually impaired people. It is an ideal opportunity to discuss matters and to learn from one another in terms of services, products and technologies. This is to the benefit of our members. We also strengthen existing and initiate new relationships with other organisations. In addition, it also provides one with the opportunity to engage with many other library-related topics, themes and people. It is anticipated that the SALB will continue its membership and involvement of IFLA related activities in the future.

The World Library and Information Congress – International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Columbus, Ohio



BOOK REVIEWS

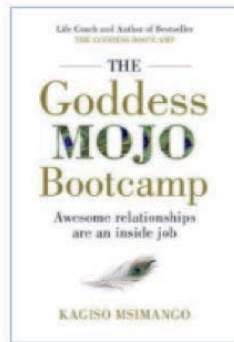
Title: The Goddess Mojo bootcamp

Author: Kagiso Msimango

Publisher: MF books Joburg/Jacana

Format: Coming Soon In Braille And Daisy

By Janine (<http://jacana.bookslive.co.za/blog/2016/04/14/the-goddess-mojo-bootcamp-a-book-that-will-show-you-how-to-allow-real-fulfilling-love-to-find-you/>)



The Goddess Mojo Bootcamp is for women who want a man for a reason, a season, a lifetime, or one to match each of her handbags ... it has zero moral pontifications. It won't warn you against sleeping with a man on the first date. There are no 90-day rules in this book.

It's for women who want authentic relationships, not ones who are interested in learning how to manipulate men in order to get a ring on their finger. It's for women who desire happy, healthy relationships in their lives, not women who are looking to a relationship to have a happy, healthy life.

The Goddess Mojo Bootcamp is written primarily for women experiencing one of two challenges:

- 1. "Help, no one is hitting on me!"

You'd be amazed how often this happens. Women who've lost their mojo do not get hit on. It is usually turned off as a response to heartbreak. They need to learn how to turn their mojo back on, to move on.

- 2. "Aaargh, I hate the kind of men I attract!"

Perhaps one always attracts married men, stingy men, cheats, men with Peter Pan syndrome, commitment-phobes ... these women's mojo is on, but tuned into the wrong frequency. They need to learn how to get their mojo to work for, instead of against them.

Central to this empowering book is loving yourself and feeling good about yourself. It teaches you how to attract a healthy relationship, through falling in love with yourself and your life.

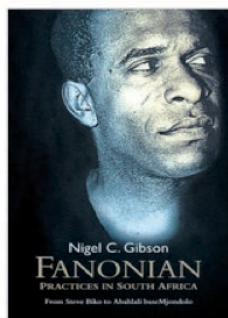
Title: Fanonian practices in South Africa: Steve Biko to Abahlali baseMjondolo

Author: Nigel C. Gibson

Publisher: University of KwaZulu Natal Press

Format: Coming Soon In Braille And Daisy

By Donald Paul, Independent Online (<http://abahlali.org/node/8165/>)



At a time when the "bloody agents" (normally referred to as the "media") discuss Julius Malema's skills as a leader versus

Jacob Zuma's cunning as a follower, Nigel Gibson, a visiting research fellow at the School of Developmental Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, has produced a philosophically refreshing book on what constitutes a civil society and whether we can lay claim to it in our new democracy. In so doing, he provides a historic look at South Africa's transition and a scathing critique of the moral – and, more important, intellectual – failure of the ANC, which in the words of Patrick Bond, "talked left and walked right".

The result of this, says Gibson, is a dumbed-down political rhetoric that espouses "a bootstrap mercantile capitalism based on micro-savings and micro-entrepreneurship", and by "reducing poor people's struggles to demands for 'service delivery' strips them of agency" so they become "simply a subjugated mass that can only be represented". Gibson cites the classic example of a High Court ruling that required a municipality to collect garbage. The municipality complied by supplying garbage bins but then didn't empty them.

The rhetoric may induce an "oh-so-last-century" Marxist yawn but this is a book worth wading through if you want to enter into a discourse about South Africa that goes beyond the headlines.

Gibson asks two questions. First, "how [Frantz] Fanon, the revolutionary, would think and act in this period of retrogression"; and second, what is the legacy of Steve Biko's Black Consciousness and "is [it] applicable to contemporary South Africa"?

In setting out his answers, Gibson manages to clearly convey Fanon's criticism of imperialism and the intelligence Biko brought to the struggle for democratic freedom. In other words, you do not need to read *The Wretched of the Earth* or *I Write What I Like* to follow his arguments.

Fanon is probably only matched by Mohandas Gandhi as an anti-imperialist thinker. Admittedly, Fanon and Biko do not endorse Gandhi's philosophy of passive resistance – as Gibson points out, Fanon mentions violence more than 70 times in the first chapter of *The Wretched* alone – but they do share the idea that a nation's independence does not come about by simply replacing one set of rulers (the NP) with another nationalist movement (the ANC).

Title: Off the page

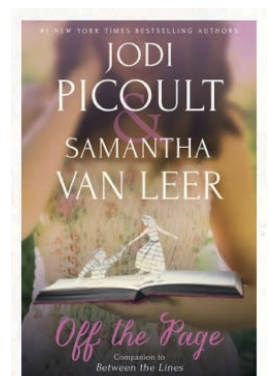
Author: Jodi Picoult & Samantha van Leer

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton

Format: Daisy DA6992

By Kate Pavao (<https://www.common-sense-media.org/book-reviews/off-the-page>)

Parents need to know that *Off the Page*, by mother-daughter coauthors



Jodi Picoult and Samantha van Leer, is a romantic fantasy and the sequel to *Between the Lines*. It continues the story of a girl in love with the prince from a fairy tale, who has now come into the real world. Because it's a romantic fantasy, readers should expect some pretty passionate kissing. Also, a boy sneaks into his girlfriend's bedroom to spend the night with her. There's more tragedy than violence: A beloved character dies in an accident, while another suffers a deadly illness. In general, the characters are loyal and make huge personal sacrifices to protect the ones they love. And there are some thought-provoking ideas about the importance of free choice and the meaning of hope.

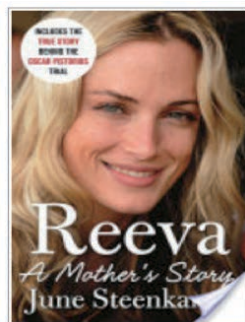
Title: *Reeva: a mother's story* June Steenkamp

Author: June Steenkamp

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton

Format: Daisy DA7078

By By John J. Cole-Morgan (<http://www.thesouthafrican.com/reeva-a-mothers-story-by-june-steenkamp/>)



Reeva: A Mother's Story starts off telling the account of Valentine's Day 2013 from sun up to sun down. Truths only discovered much later in the story are filled in at this point, leaving the reader wishing it had happened that way for the Steenkamps — that they could know from those initial days what exactly had happened, instead of having to wait months for the truth. Paintings made by Reeva in her youth reveal new meaning to the Steenkamps, whilst June tells the story of Reeva's life through photographs and stories about her daughter. June agonisingly recounts Reeva's funeral, where people claimed Reeva as a best friend, while she had no idea who they were. Her daughter, so loved by so many, sent love into the world and touched so many lives, making the death even more upsetting for everyone.

June next tells the story of Reeva's life. The little facets of Reeva that made her so very loved. You are left feeling honoured to have known such an intimate part of Reeva's life, shared by the person that loved her most. It's tear-jerking stuff seeing the cute child staring at you through sunglasses and the dorky teenager with a knowingly awkward awareness of herself. The tale of Reeva's life is changed with this book and given a truth, an honesty and a love that is needed after all the focus on Oscar during the trial.

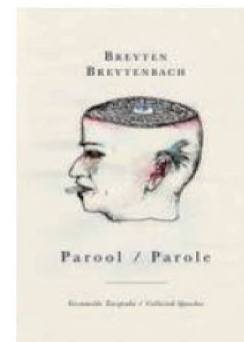
Title: *Parool/ Parole*

Author: Breyten Breytenbach

Publisher: Penguin

Format: Coming soon in Braille and Audio

By Penguin books (<http://penguin.bookslive.co.za/blog/2015/10/05/breyten-breytenbach-in-stellenbosch-kom-vier-die-publikasie-van-paroolparole/>)



Breytenbach word plaaslik en wêreldwyd geag as 'n invloedryke skrywer en kritiese denker. *Parool/Parole* is 'n keur van sy grootste en aangrypendste toesprake wat, deur die belangrike onderwerpe, steeds literêre, politieke en filosofiese vure aansteek. Elke redevoering – wat tussen 1968 en 2015 in Afrikaans en Engels by verskeie geleenthede reg oor die wêreld gelewer is – skakel historiese momente in die ontwikkeling van die Afrikaanse en Suid-Afrikaanse letterkunde met sleuteloomblikke in Breytenbach se loopbaan en lewe. So staan sy toespraak by die Sestigster-somerskool in 1973 uit as 'n waterskeidingsmoment vir Afrikaanse skrywers se benadering tot sosiale betrokkenheid in hul werk. In sy Rapportprys-aanvaardingstoetspraak, in 1986, konfronteer Breytenbach Afrikaners kaalvuus oor hul instandhouding van 'n apartheid-polisiestaat.

PROGRESS UPDATES

from the Technical Services

Two newsletters ago this department reported that the Library is still waiting to hear from the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) about the issuing of a Planning Instruction. The latest news from the NDPW is that after repeated requests directed to their Head Office, they have not even had acknowledgement that the request was received, let alone that it is being attended to by somebody.

A Client Forum Meeting between NDPW, DAC and the Library, in July, was cancelled because there was nothing to report. All 3 parties are aware that there is a budget allocation for the consolidation and registration of the erven in question, but without a Planning Instruction, the process

will not proceed. Who knows how long this lack of service delivery will carry on for, is anybody's guess.

A tiny bit of good news is that the spares which were ordered to facilitate playback equipment repair in the Technical Department, has arrived in South Africa eventually, and should be delivered to the Library pretty soon. However, I need to stress that the last 300 new batteries for the Classic and Classic X playback equipment makes up part of this order. A rather sad state of affairs in a way, because there are still so many Classic and Classic X models used by readers, and which are otherwise in good working condition. I am led to believe it is called progress.

Blind see through sighted eyes

App connects blind visually impaired/blind people to a community of sighted volunteers

BESPECULAR is an innovative mobile app that connects visually impaired/blind/deafblind people (known as our VIPs) to our community of sighted volunteers (a.k.a Sightlings). A VIP can upload pictures or take photos with their phone, ask a question via voice note or text, and send it out to our volunteers. Sightlings receive a notification on their phone letting them know someone needs to "see through your eyes." They can then listen/read the question, take a good look at the images attached, and choose to reply with a voice note or text. For each reply you send you earn points and we're in the process of setting up a leaderboard honouring our best Sightlings around the world each week.

There are many ways VIPs have used the BeSpecular app during their day, and they are constantly finding new ways to put it to use. Here are some real-life examples of how our VIPs have used the BeSpecular app:

It's always nice to know what the weather is going to be like during the day. With the BeSpecular app you can take a photo of the thermostat, this way the sighted volunteers can tell you what is the current temperature reading. When getting ready for work in the morning, it's practical to be able to ask our sighted volunteers if your navy tie matches your shirt and pants.

Later in the morning, you can use the app to find out which teas/coffees are available at their office's communal kitchen.

When it's time to take the bus home, it's easy to

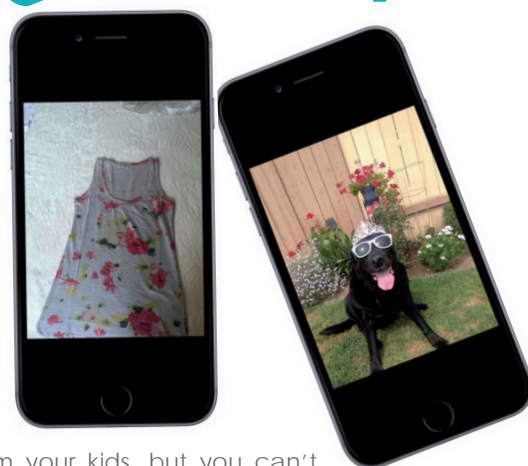
take a photo of a plastic card and ask if it's your bus pass or in fact your access card/Gym Card/Loyalty Card/etc.

You love receiving photos via Whatsapp from your kids, but you can't always tell what's in it. You can upload the photo to the BeSpecular app and in a few seconds volunteers will tell you that it's a lovely photo of everyone on Christmas Day wearing colourful paper hats and sitting around a long rectangular table covered in green, red and white decorations. While preparing dinner, e.g. an Italian pasta dish, it can be tricky to know if that's a tin of canned tomatoes versus a can of baked beans. The sighted volunteers will quickly let you know that the can on the left is whole tomatoes and that your dinner sounds delicious!

At the moment the BeSpecular app is available in South Africa, the USA, Canada, UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. The app is free to download on iOS and Android. We are gradually supporting other languages beyond English and as of 1 September we included Italian. We strive to achieve excellent customer support and it's important for us to ensure that when we move into other languages that the support is there from the beginning.

On World Sight Day, 13 October 2016, we are launching BeSpecular for Business. The guest of honour is Paralympian Ilse Hayes and will take place at the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa. BeSpecular for Business will enable corporates in South Africa, both large and small, to offer the innovative tool as a form of reasonable accommodation for disability. For more information about BeSpecular you can visit their website: <https://www.bespecular.com/>, LIKE their Facebook page, or follow them on Twitter: @BeSpecular. You can contact Stephanie Cowper, CEO of BeSpecular, via email: steph@bespecular.com.

 **BeSpecular**
Through the world's eyes



A Happy Reader!

Blind reader enjoys Braille edition of Juig! Magazine

Braille Production was busy editing the Juig! Magazine of August 2016 and came across this article:

It is a great privilege to send this letter on behalf of my blind friend, Mandy Poly, to you. Mandy is blind and deaf, but this doesn't keep her from reading this wonderful magazine thanks to the Braille edition she receives. I am the lucky one that sits and listens when she reads the articles to me from her Braille copy. Here is Mandy's letter:

Dear Editor

I would like to say thank you for the magazine. I am a blind person and receives the Juig! Magazine in Braille every month. It is very interesting and motivational. Thank you for the Good News and the excellent articles.