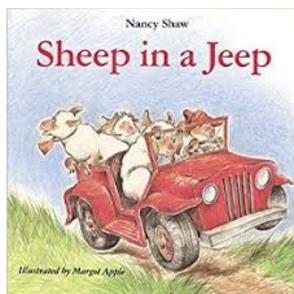


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Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high-quality, free and low-cost children's literature in braille.



Meet author at Open House

Nancy Shaw, author of *Sheep in a Jeep*, will be the special guest at **Seedlings' Open House 5-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29.**

Shaw will read and sign copies of her books, which also include *Sheep Out to Eat*, *Sheep on a Ship*, *Sheep Go to Sleep*, *Sheep in a Shop* and *Sheep Trick or Treat*.

Please help Seedlings go green & save dollars. Send your name & email address to: info@seedlings.org so we can send your newsletters via email! Thank you!

Study: Key to happiness? Learn braille!

Who's happier: an individual who's totally blind and reads braille, or a person who has some vision but doesn't read braille?

It's the totally blind individual who reads braille.

That's the finding of a new study on the link between braille reading and well-being. (*Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research*, Vol. 8, No. 1 2018).

"It's a little bit counterintuitive," admits Arielle Michal Silverman, Ph.D., one of the study's two authors and a former Seedlings' kid.

But the survey of 443 legally blind adults found that braille literacy is key to life satisfaction for blind individuals regardless of what age they become blind or how much residual vision they have left.

Silverman, founder of Disability Wisdom Consulting in Silver Spring, Maryland, conducted the study because of her experience being born blind and learning braille as a child. Some of her partially sighted friends weren't offered braille, even though they were legally entitled to it.

As an adult, Silverman learned that some schools don't teach braille to partially sighted children for many reasons including misconceptions that it's a last resort or that technology has replaced it. "That made me really sad," she said. "For me, braille was such a joyous thing."

Silverman remembers getting books for pleasure reading from Seedlings. "They helped me be a motivated reader because I had a lot of choices," she said.

Silverman, 33, regularly uses braille for work. **Braille hasn't been replaced by technology; rather, it's helped her to use technology, she said.** It came in handy recently for a speech she gave. "I wanted to read it word for word," she said. Without braille, that - and much more - would not have been possible.

"Knowing braille from a young age has given me the literacy skills to follow my professional and personal dreams," Silverman said.



See Seedlings on PBS TV show UTR Michigan!

Under the Radar Michigan has filmed a segment on Seedlings! You can watch it on UTR's website at utrmichigan.com or on PBS TV stations in and around Michigan starting Aug. 30. Check your local listing.

UTR is an Emmy Award-winning program that features the cool people, places and things that make Michigan a great place to be.



News and Information

Meeting Helen Keller makes lifelong impression



Most people know who Helen Keller is, but Seedlings supporter Chris Newell actually met her.

“I was a child,” Chris said, “but it left a tremendous impression on me. It has followed me all of my life.”

Chris was about 14 when Keller visited her school in Munich, Germany, in the late 1940s. Keller would have been almost 70 at the time.

“She was a very lovely lady,” Chris said. “There was no anger, no harshness in her.”

Keller, who became blind and deaf from an illness as a toddler, was a world-famous author and lecturer who advocated on behalf of those with disabilities. She died in 1968 at age 87.

Keller’s courage, strength and positive attitude impressed Chris.

Chris said she donates to charities like Seedlings that benefit those who are blind because of meeting Keller and of appreciating her own vision.

The owner of Chris Furniture in Livonia, MI, Chris most recently donated a table to Seedlings’ online auction taking place Nov. 1-14 on biddingforgood.com.

Chris, who loves working with colors, said it would be harder to do her job without eyesight. **“To me, this is the most important sense,” she said.**



IRA donations could reduce your tax burden

Because of the new higher standard deduction going into effect for tax year 2018, you might want to consider donating directly to charities from your IRAs to reduce your taxable income.

The standard deduction for 2018 is \$24,000 for a married couple and \$12,000 for a single individual.

Your donation must come directly from your IRA custodian to the charity to qualify for the reduced income on your tax return.

Contact your financial institution by early December to allow the needed time to process your request. As always, check with your tax advisor to see if this would benefit you.



Donations needed for online auction

Seedlings needs donations for its third annual online auction Nov. 1-14 on www.biddingforgood.com.

Our goal is to raise \$18,000 for 1,800 more braille books for children who are blind and visually impaired. Popular items include:

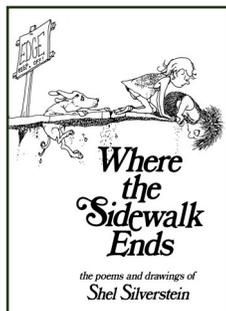
- **Gift cards to restaurants**
- **Gift cards to popular retailers**
- **Travel opportunities**
- **Tickets to sporting events**
- **Passes to entertainment venues**
- **Movie & theater passes**
- **Outdoor adventures**
- **Jewelry**
- **Electronics**

To donate, contact Karen at seedlink7@ameritech.net or 734-427-8552, ext. 301, or go to www.seedlings.org/events.php

8 new titles now in UEB

Seedlings has added eight more books to its Unified English Braille collection, bringing the total to 428 books! The new titles are: Wishtree; Just Critters Who Care; Finding Dory: Big Fish, Little Fish; Grumpy Bird; Where the Sidewalk Ends; Indian in the Cupboard, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens and Where the Red Fern Grows.

Order at www.seedlings.org/order.php



Seedlings Braille Books for Children • 14151 Farmington Road • Livonia, Michigan 48154

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