Social Networking – Join the Web 2.0 Movement!

Social networking on the web has become a phenomenon across various generations. It allows users to connect and stay informed about people, places, and organizations that they care about. National Braille Press has joined this Web 2.0 movement and is keeping its customers, friends, and followers up to date on Facebook and Twitter.

By becoming a “fan” of National Braille Press on Facebook or following us on Twitter, users can learn about our latest endeavors, events, and announcements. We even recently held a contest on Facebook to help name our Center for Braille Innovation’s refreshable braille/PDA device which is currently in development. If you are already a Facebook user, you can become a fan by searching for ‘National Braille Press’. Do you “tweet”? Follow ‘Braille Press’ on Twitter.

Help Us to Go Green!

Tweets, Facebook friends, and LinkedIn contacts – it seems like everyone these days is spending at least some of their time on social networking sites.

But even the savviest blind websurfers may feel left out of the phenomenon, given that none of these sites were designed with blind users in mind. Anna Dresner’s latest book, Social Networking and You: Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn for Blind Users, describes these three social networking sites so that blind users can decide which, if any, they wish to join. It’s already flying off the shelves!

2010 Blind Legislative Informational Networking Day

National Braille Press took part in B.L.I.N.D 2010 at the Massachusetts State House on April 1, 2010, to advocate for legislative support of the Governor’s proposed budget recommendations regarding specialized blindness services.

The 2010 Vision 5K Run and Walk will take place on June 20, 2010 at Boston College. Supporters including Vision 5K Race Chair Norman Lang and NBP Trustee Jayne Donahue gathered to celebrate at the Annual Kick-off Breakfast which was held on March 18 at State Street Corp.

Touch of Genius Prize

National Braille Press hosted the 2009 Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation Award Ceremony on January 20, 2010, at Microsoft’s New England Research and Development Center. Jeffrey Killebrew was awarded the Prize for his innovative new teaching method for blind students. Frank Gilney of The Gilney Family Foundation, Paul Parravano – Board Chair, and Brian Mac Donald – President pose with the 2009 Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation Award Recipient, Jeffrey Killebrew.

Volunteer, Matt Moura, participating in the Vision 5K as part of NBP’s Braille Bombers team.

2010 Blind Legislative Informational Networking Day

National Braille Press took part in B.L.I.N.D 2010 at the Massachusetts State House on April 1, 2010, to advocate for legislative support of the Governor’s proposed budget recommendations regarding specialized blindness services.

The 2010 Vision 5K Run and Walk will take place on June 20, 2010 at Boston College. Supporters including Vision 5K Race Chair Norman Lang and NBP Trustee Jayne Donahue gathered to celebrate at the Annual Kick-off Breakfast which was held on March 18 at State Street Corp.

Touch of Genius Prize

National Braille Press hosted the 2009 Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation Award Ceremony on January 20, 2010, at Microsoft’s New England Research and Development Center. Jeffrey Killebrew was awarded the Prize for his innovative new teaching method for blind students. Frank Gilney of The Gilney Family Foundation, Paul Parravano – Board Chair, and Brian Mac Donald – President pose with the 2009 Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation Award Recipient, Jeffrey Killebrew.

Volunteer, Matt Moura, participating in the Vision 5K as part of NBP’s Braille Bombers team.
Braille Literacy 2010

It’s Not Just About Books Anymore

How would we function without technology? Imagine not being able to surf the web, use e-mail, update your Facebook page, download books, get directions, or pay your bills online. And that’s just the basics.

With technology all around us, is braille still relevant? Technology helps to overcome barriers to information that exist for blind people, but it doesn’t replace literacy. Through technology, blind people can participate in the world as never before, but they still need to be able to read and write. That’s where braille and technology coexist beautifully.

Braille for Everyone? Not Quite Yet

So, if technology can bridge the information gap, problem solved! Not so fast. Technology that includes refreshable braille displays is costly—often over $5,000 for a simple PDA or laptop. Cash-strapped school systems often don’t upgrade these tools, which leaves kids using older technology that breaks down easily and is time-consuming to fix. Besides being expensive, they can be heavy and cumbersome, some with limited features.

Will Books Disappear?

Young children still need to learn braille and the joy of reading by starting with story books like Goodnight Moon and Curious George. Reading together builds a foundation of literacy so that technology can be mastered. While paper braille will not disappear, NBP must provide information faster, more efficiently, in a variety of formats, and with new technologies that allow blind people to keep pace with the sighted world.

Braille Is Literacy

That is why National Braille Press is launching our Braille Is Literacy campaign to support reading and writing in all its forms. Today, literacy is so much more than reading books.