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# New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped

Volume 10, Number 1

Summer 1990

## *New Repair Centers Open*

Three groups of skilled volunteers -- one group of Telephone Pioneers in Tuckerton and another in the Toms River area and an ELFUN group from the General Electric plant in Philadelphia -- have recently opened centers to handle the repair of the Library's cassette and record players. These groups, together with two long-standing Pioneer groups in north Jersey and about 15 individual volunteers working out of their own homes, are now repairing nearly 200 machines a month. The dollar value of that work, calculated at \$40.00 per repair, totals a gift to the Library and its users of \$96,000 a year. These individuals are doing an outstanding job and, for the first time since becoming a machine lending site in 1984, the Library is in the enviable position of having no backlog of equipment needing repair.

Library users are reminded that any equipment on loan to them that needs repair should be returned to the Library. If you are having any difficulty with a playback machine you received from the Library -- squeaking noises, a faulty rewind lever, no sound -- call the Library at 1-800-792-8322 to discuss the problem and arrange for a replacement machine.

A total of 649 of the Library's registered users replied to the questionnaire that was sent out during 1989. Readers who responded generally seem very happy with the service and the materials they are receiving. One person wrote about the "tender care" she receives, while another stated emphatically, "I think the Library is doing one hellow a great job!!!!"

It comes as no surprise to Library staff that romances, best sellers, mysteries, and spy stories are the most popular reading interests. It was, however, a bit of a surprise that not a single person marked child care as a reading interest; dance, fine arts, and popular psychology are also subjects low on the interest lists.

## *Our Readers Respond*

Approximately half the readers who returned the questionnaires indicated that they prefer to select all their reading materials themselves. The readers were also neatly split on whether they want to receive the Library newsletter in large print or on cassette; 297 readers asked to continue receiving the traditional large print version, 301 requested the cassette version, and 17 asked to have the newsletter in Braille.

The Library thanks all readers who responded to the questionnaire. We hope having this additional, up-to-date information will help us continue to match our service to your specific needs and earn some rave reviews in the future.

## *Things You Can Do To Help The Library*

- √ Keep in touch. Have you changed your address or your name or the kinds of things you like to read lately? If so, then call the Library on the toll-free line (1-800-792-8322) and let the staff know so we can keep our records--and yours--up-to-date. The Library gets several calls a week from readers who hurried to return books they had finished--but accidentally left the final disc or cassette in the playback machine.
- √ Rewind the last cassette when you finish a book.
- √ Save labels from Campbells and V-8 cans, Vlasic Pickle lids, Pepperidge Farm plastic wrappers, and the bar code labels from Swanson's prepared food boxes. The Library saves money by turning these labels into equipment used to support our program.
- √ Deliver packets of *I ♥ TO READ* bookmarks to eye specialists you know and encourage them to keep the book marks available in the waiting room. Call 1-800-792-8322 for your packets.
- √ If you receive a damaged cassette, call 1-800-792-8322 for a replacement.
- √ Join the Friends of the Library. Your \$10.00 membership fee helps this group carry out a full range of activities in support of the Library. Better yet, join and become an active Friend; come to the meetings held two or three times a year at the Library to help in planning future activities.



## *Friends Vote to Furnish New Studio*

The Friends of the Library for the Blind and Handicapped held their annual meeting Monday, May 14, at the Library and voted to take on the task of furnishing and equipping the two new recording studios being planned for Audiovision. The studios, which will be carved out of one larger, existing studio, will simplify the task of scheduling the 157 volunteers who come to Audiovision each week to record newspapers and magazines for south and central Jersey and books for the entire state. As things now stand, there are several times during the day when not only are all the present booths in use, but volunteers have also had to use staff offices and the central control room in order to complete recording assignments on time.

The Friends voted additional funds to expand and strengthen the Library's home recording program. They will purchase ten new cassette recorders to be used by volunteers working at home to record books and other print materials not already available in recorded format. For more information on this program, call the Library on its toll-free number 1-800-792-8322 and ask for Technical Services.

The Friends incorporated six years ago as a non-profit organization in support of the Library and its activities. During those years the group, which now has more than 400 paid members, has used the proceeds of three fund-raising raffles to purchase large print word processors for the Library and a new mini-van--used to take play-back equipment to and from the volunteer repair centers that keep the units in good working condition. The Friends are also currently involved in promoting the Library's services among eye doctors throughout the state.

Membership in the Friends is \$10.00 annually and is open to anyone who is interested in supporting the Library. At this time the Friends are looking both for new members and also for people who can become actively involved in the organization. The group, which generally meets at the Library two or three times a year, particularly needs a secretary.

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## ***Thanks!***

A special thank-you is extended to the many people who have made donations to the Library during the past year. These gifts have come in many forms. Two individuals have donated large print closed-circuit video magnifiers no longer being used; several people have given the Library used Braillewriters; many people regularly send in commercial audio tapes and large print books they have finished; there have been several bequests from former Library users; cash donations are received almost daily; and a group in north Jersey purchased a year's subscription to the Braille Book-of-the-Month club in memory of one of their members who had been an very active Braille transcriber for many years.

In all cases Library staff tries to find the best possible use for gifts. Often, the Library serves as a clearing-house for items that have been given to it. One of the video magnifiers we received was loaned immediately to a young deaf woman who is losing her sight, while the second is being sent to a public library. The commercial tapes, usually drastically edited versions of popular titles, are being used with nursing home residents who find the full-length versions too long. At a time when we are all increasingly aware of budget limitations, your gifts mean more than ever, and we want you to know just how important each and every one of them is.

## ***Hearing Dog, Inc.***

Trained dogs to serve as ears for the deaf? Yes, indeed! Although most people are familiar with the Seeing Eye, located in Morristown, and the remarkable job they do in training dogs as guides for the blind, few are aware of Colorado-based Hearing Dog, Inc., that is training dogs to serve as ears for the deaf.

These dogs learn to alert their owners to such sounds as a crying child, a ringing doorbell, a telephone or a smoke alarm. Recently, the organization trained one of its dogs to serve a woman who is both visually and hearing impaired. The dog is alert to a variety of sounds and trained to lead the woman to the source.

One of the unusual aspects of this program, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, is the fact that it will accept only dogs from animal shelters into the training program, thereby serving a dual goal of providing ears for a deaf person and also saving some of the millions of healthy dogs otherwise destined for destruction.

## ***Available***

The Library has recently received gifts of several items on disc or in Braille that are not needed in the collection and are available to anyone who can use them. If you are interested in any of the following items, please call Readers' Services at 1-800-792-8322. Except as noted, there is only one of each item, and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **The Bible (King James Version)** on disc. The records are the size of the old 45 RPM discs with a large hole in the center and play at 16 2/3 RPM.
- **The Bible (King James Version)** in 18 Braille volumes.
- **Webster's Pocket Dictionary** in 7 Braille volumes.
- **Webster's Student Dictionary** in 36 Braille volumes.
- **Several early-model Kurzweil Reading Machines** for long-term loan.  
For more information, call Marya Hunsicker at 1-800-792-8322.



Is there a Talking Book narrator you've always wanted to meet? This may be your chance!

The Library is planning six special programs to be held next spring in public libraries around the state.

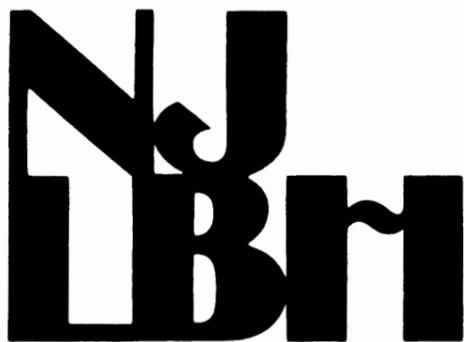
The programs will feature a popular narrator talking about the special problems and joys of his or her work.

Call the Library today at 1-800-792-8322 and cast a vote with your Reader's Advisor for the narrator you'd most like to bring to New Jersey!

## Dates To Remember

August 4, 11, 18, 25	Saturdays	Library is closed Saturdays during August.
August 6, 13, 20, 27	Mondays	Library closes at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays in August.
August 17	Friday	Friends of the Library meet at 10:00 a.m. Open to all.
September 1 - 3		Library is closed for the Labor Day weekend.
September 13	Thursday	Seminar on Macular Degeneration. Somerset County Library at 12:30. Call 1-800-792-8322 for details.
October 6 - 8		Library is closed for Columbus Day weekend.
October 13	Saturday	<b>Fall Festival 1990!</b>
November 3	Saturday	Meeting of the Library Advisory Board. Woodbridge Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Open to all.
November 6	Tuesday	Library is closed for Election Day.
November 10 - 12		Library is closed for Veterans Day weekend.
November 22 - 25		Library is closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Except for August and state holidays, the Library is open the following hours:  
Monday 9:00-9:00, Tuesday through Friday 9:00-5:30, Saturday 9:00-3:00



**FREE MATTER  
FOR THE  
BLIND AND HANDICAPPED**

A quarterly publication of  
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