

Spring 2011

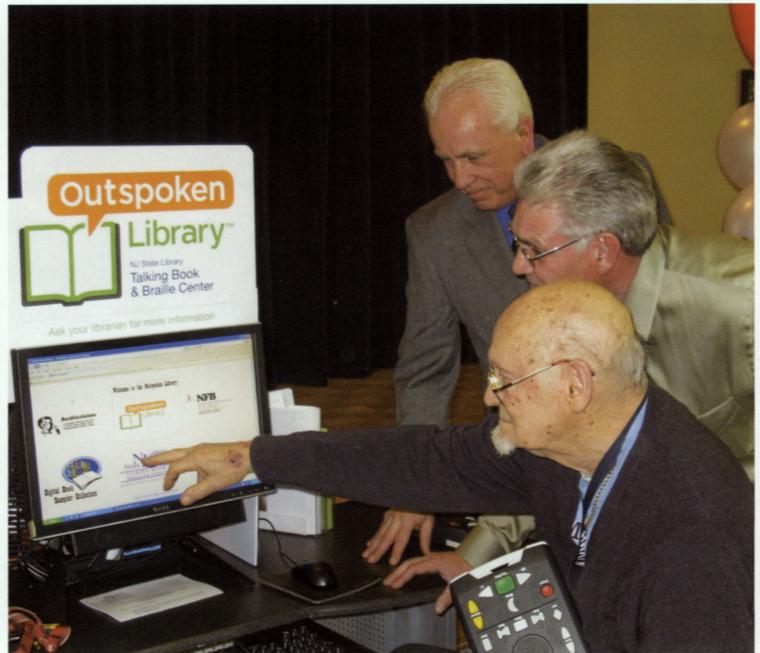
TBBC'S INSIGHTS

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Norman Baker, 84, of Vineland, has had training on the new Outspoken Library Kiosk System. He shows NJ State Library Talking Book and Braille Center's Director Adam Szczepaniak and New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home Chief Executive Officer Joe Romano, a few key functions during its unveiling at the Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland.



Library Kiosk at Vineland Veterans Home Helps Residents Enjoy Reading

Article by Thomas Barlas *Reprinted with permission from the Press of Atlantic City.*

During World War II, Earl Barber put his strong and steady hands to good use as a gunner. Now 89, the former Atlantic City resident holds up hands that are bent and stiffened by arthritis, an ailment that has hindered his ability to hold a book and read to pass the time at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home.

“It’s hard,” Barber said.

Barber and other veterans with such problems can enjoy reading again thanks to a special kiosk installed at the home through the New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center. The federal grant-funded kiosk system allows veterans — who get access to the system once certified by the center — to download more than 80,000 digital books and magazines on free listening devices. The books are available through the state library system and the Library of Congress.

The kiosk is part of a library program for veterans called

You Served Us. Now Let Us Serve You. *(Continued on next page)*

Library Kiosk (continued from page 1)

“This initiative will help us expand the services of the Talking Book and Braille Center to new, underserved populations in New Jersey,” Director Adam Szczepaniak said. “It will help make a difference for those veterans who, for whatever reason, have difficulty reading printed materials.”

That includes veterans who have some kind of visual impairment or who have difficulty holding a book or turning a page.

The kiosk was officially unveiled to the home’s residents as part of an afternoon program Tuesday during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. Joe Romano, the home’s chief executive officer, said the kiosk is not just for home residents. He said he wants veterans groups in the area to know that the kiosk and its services are available to their qualifying members.

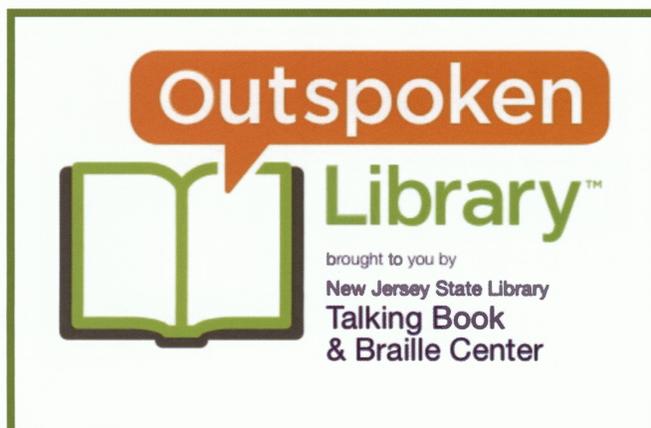
“This is something very exciting,” he said.

Home resident Norm Baker, 84, formerly of Camden, said he has used a different version of the system that requires participants to mail requests for books. That system is nice, he said, but very time consuming. Baker, a former U.S. Marine Corps corporal, said the kiosk system is much better, not only because he can get a book more quickly but also because it gives him more books from which to choose.

“I can get exactly what I want,” he said.

So can resident George Peale, an 88-year-old former U.S. Army diesel engineer from Akron, Ohio. Peale said he reads just about every day, and particularly enjoys mysteries. He said he will be able to access more of the books he likes. “I think it’s great,” Peale said.

The kiosk system is available only at select libraries in New Jersey. The Vineland home is the second veterans facility in New Jersey to have one.



The Outspoken Library may be coming to a library near you!

Public Libraries across the state are signing up to offer this great new service to their customers. For more information on finding one near you, email mbaratta@njstatelib.org.

Reader Advisers Ready to Help

New Jersey is one of the top distributors of the digital talking machines in the nation and our customers couldn't be happier.

From the feedback our customers have been sharing with our Reader Advisers, the new machines have surpassed their expectations. People love the convenience of downloading books at home. We've even heard from caretakers who have told us that being able to download books from their computers has made their lives easier as well.



Photo by Mary Crain

“Our patrons love the new digital players! It’s wonderful how easy it is for them to learn how to download books!”

-Gail Stokes

Need to order a digital talking book machine or need help with the one you have?

Call: (800) 792-8322
or (609) 406-7179.

Need BARD download support?

Call Gail Stokes:
(800) 792-8322 or
(609) 406-7179 ext. 824.
Spanish language call
Luz Sanchez at ext. 822.

TBBC's Book Club Comes to You

Book clubs are great social forums and provide many opportunities to meet and befriend new people from all walks of life. If you'd like to participate but find it difficult to come to the library for the Book Club, why not join us via conference call? The new conference call access is free for customers with free long distance calling. Our next meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 6. We'll discuss two books, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* by Stieg Larsson (DB69599) and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger (DB47480). Tune in on the March Book Club discussion at:

<http://www.audiovision-nj.org/asx/bookclub.aspx>

To register call Karen Carson at 1-800-792-8322, ext. 806.

Thank you!

Your support is making a difference!

Thank you everyone who supported TBBC's 2010 Annual Appeal! Because of you, we raised \$30,000 for programs and services for TBBC patrons, young and old! Often, our generous supporters send notes of gratitude that touch our hearts. We'd like to share some of these lovely sentiments with you:

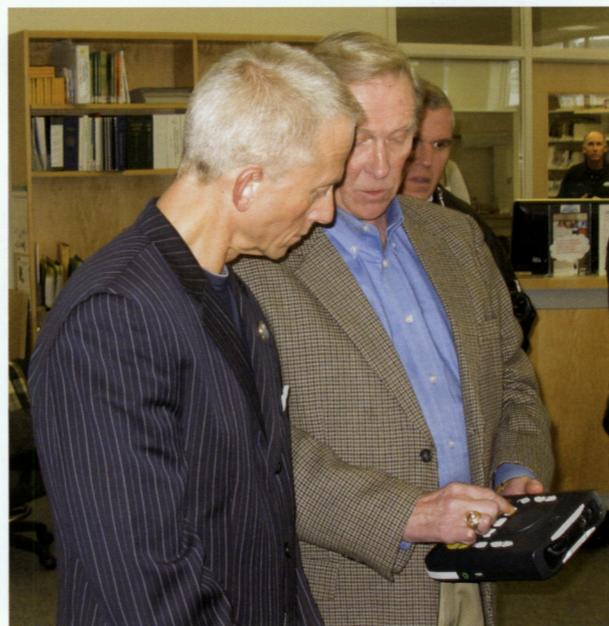
"A note of thanks to all your workers. These books really help my husband get through the day. He even enjoys the ones you recommend. You guys are great at getting to know your patrons." Barbara S.

"Please accept my small contribution to preserve your wonderful library. I don't know what I would do without talking books. I'm praying for your continuation." Virginia K.

"As a 75 year old widow living alone and legally blind this past January, your service has been a Godsend to me. My son downloads thirty books at a time on a flash drive and I listen almost continuously as I go about my day. Thank you!!" Eleanor C.



Assemblyman John Amodeo (seated) and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson were given a demonstration of TBBC's Outspoken Library kiosk at the Ventnor Branch of the Atlantic County Library System by Adam Szczepaniak, TBBC director.



[Pictured from left] Senator Jeff Van Drew & Mayor Martin Pagliughi learn about TBBC's digital talking machine.



We are so fortunate!

The Talking Book and Braille Center counts itself fortunate to have so many people support our mission to serve veterans and residents of NJ who cannot read due to physical or visual impairments.

Pictured clockwise] Senator Leonard Lance, Senator-Elect Linda Greenstein and Tina, Rocco Sr. and Rocco Fiorentino [below] were recognized as Library Champions by the NJSL Talking Book and Braille Center.



The Friends

of the New Jersey Library
for the Blind and Handicapped

Next meeting:

Saturday June 4, 10 a.m. to noon

*The NJLBH Friends are a valuable asset
to the Talking Book and Braille Center.*

*One of their members, Otilie Lucas (pictured)
was honored by TBBC as a New Jersey Library
Champion last fall.*



The Friends of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped is a nonprofit organization (501(c)(3) which provides financial assistance and acts as an advocacy group for the New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center.

The group meets twice a year on the first Saturday in June and December. The next meeting will be held on Saturday June 4th from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch from noon to 1 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church, 600 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

The Friends alternate locations between Mercer County in December and Middlesex County in June to accommodate the northern and southern members. At their meetings the members voice their thoughts and opinions concerning the direction of the Talking Book and Braille Center and learn about TBBC's new developments.

The Friends look forward to having you join them at the next meeting.

For more details and to become a member email: Friendsnjlbh@yahoo.com.

They are also in the process of setting up our own website.

Being out of work is serious business. So why would anyone write a play about it?



*Karen Carson is the Volunteer
Coordinator for Audiovision*

To help of course! Karen Carson, the Volunteer Coordinator for TBBC's Audiovision program created a one-act play, "Eating the Bear: Snapshots of the New Norm", which debuted at Trenton Public Library.

Though employed, Carson says she was inspired to write the play based on "what I hear on the news and on the bus." Carson says that commuting on public transit has put her in touch with a wide spectrum of the working (and sadly, non-working) people every day. She says, "A manager wonders how she will be able to break the news to her secretary and wonders if and when she will be the next person to go. A middle-aged man a few years away from retirement mourns the loss of company loyalty."

Such conversations occurred so frequently that one morning on the ride to work Carson promised herself she would write a theatre piece about the subject. She felt the best way to accomplish this would be a variety of monologues that could spark discussion about the topic and give audience members an opportunity to share their own experiences.

Anyone interested in having a reading at their college, church, social club, book store or library can email Karen at kcarson21@hotmail.com.

TBBC Story Hour Goes on the Road

The Youth Services Department took its story hour "on the road" to the Franklin Township Public Library. On February 26, local library patrons along with TBBC's patrons attended a story hour by TBBC's Youth Services Consultant, Elizabeth Burns. The children enjoyed reenacting the story with puppets. Following the story, everyone had a chance to play with Braille toys, writing tools, Braille books, and find out more about TBBC's programs and materials.

Spotlight on Jean Sullivan, Ewing, NJ

Each week Jean Sullivan volunteers to spend a few hours reading for TBBC's Audiovision Program. She brightens everyone's day with her lively sense of humor and gentle, warm personality. A retired preschool teacher, Jean says that she looks forward to her time at TBBC. It's been seven years and she still loves reading for Audiovision - everything from local articles, shopping circulars, and even the TV guide. Her favorite news articles to read are local police blotters.

**Thank you Jean for your hard work
and dedication to TBBC!**



"I enjoyed reading aloud to children in my professional life as a teacher and I decided it would be fun to find a way to read aloud to adults."

-Jean Sullivan

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Bindery Division
185 West State Street
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TBBC'S **INSIGHTS**
PO Box 501
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An affiliate of Thomas Edison State College
State Library
TALKING BOOK &
BRAILLE CENTER

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND & HANDICAPPED**