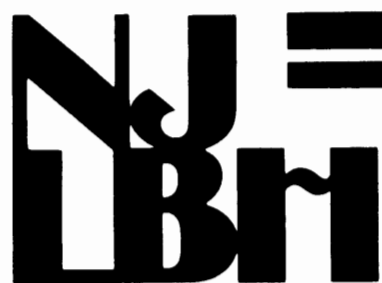


974.905
L66
c.1



New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped

Volume 12, Number 1

Winter 1993

SHELVING ALERT!

Last August, Lauren Casey, President of the Friends of the Library, wrote each of you to ask your help in securing funds to replace and expand the Library's book stacks. Your response to that plea was incredible! State officials from the Governor to the State Treasurer were flooded with personal and highly persuasive letters and, almost overnight, state legislators became aware of the Library, of its importance in the daily lives of its users, and of the peril the book collection faces without immediate financial help.

The original architectural plans for the Library called for three tiers, or floors, of shelving to hold its extensive book collection of nearly a half million items. A lack of sufficient funds, however, resulted in only two of the tiers being constructed with the third to be added at some future date. A year later, in 1984, safety precautions following a fatal accident in another part of the building led to the closure of an additional 9% of the Library's already reduced shelving. For the past nine years the Library has been operating with less than 57% of the shelving the building was designed for and which the pre-construction program analysis determined was needed to hold our growing collection.

The Library book stacks effectively reached the saturation point in 1986. Since then we have had to make do by ordering fewer copies of new books, discarding more copies of older titles than we would otherwise wish to do, cutting back on adding volunteer-produced titles to the permanent collection, and using thousands of hours of scarce staff time in continually shifting about the book collection to utilize space more effectively.

Recognizing the need, the State appropriated funds in 1986 for the complete reconstruction of the Library stacks including the three tiers of shelving originally planned. In the more than six years that have passed, however, state-mandated tests, contractual disputes with the original engineers, and a change in seismic zone assignment for the area where the building is located have reduced the amount of money available for construction. Despite all of these bureaucratic hurdles, the project finally went out to bid last April -- but only a month later, a final blow fell when, during the tightest state budget in many years, the remaining funds designated for the project were, along with many other planned state projects, pulled to meet other state needs.

That was the point when Lauren Casey wrote you -- and you responded with such power. The Library has now been assured that the state will get us the money we need -- or at least enough of the money to make needed changes in the physical plant and to replace the existing two tiers. But that is not good enough. We need not only a replacement of the two tiers with construction that will be strong enough to carry an eventual third tier -- but we also need the third tier of stacks that the building was designed for. We need shelving for our books, and we need it now. Every day's delay means the necessity of removing more books.

The low bids, which were received back in June and have been extended three different times, will require \$1,300,000 in new funding. Further delays will almost certainly increase that amount. Once again the President of the Friends has volunteered to contact you with suggestions about steps you can take to keep this vital project moving forward. Please watch for her letter and, if you share her concerns and ours, follow her suggestions. Your letters and phone calls last fall revived a project that was all but dead. Once more, your Library needs you.

Bits and Pieces

CoreStates Bank offers Braille, large-print, and audio account statements and large-print, raised line checks. For details, call 1-800-222-0033

A **free correspondence Braille** course is available for persons who want to be able to read and write Braille notes, telephone numbers, labels, etc. Call Hadley School for the Blind at 1-800-323-4238.

Legal information on cassette can be ordered from the Library. To order a free copy of *Law Points for Senior Citizens* or *Consumer's Guide to New Jersey Laws*, call 1-800-792-8322.

Matilda Ziegler Magazine, in Braille or on cassette, reprints newspaper and magazine articles as well as news of special interest to blind people. For a free subscription write Matilda Ziegler Magazine, 20 W. 17th Street, New York, NY 10011 or call 1-212-242-0263.

VIAA, the Visually Impaired Athletic Association, is a Chicago-based organization for blind and visually impaired athletes interested in participating in group sports such as Bell-Basketball, Go-Ball, and skiing. For information write: VIAA, Box 39507, Chicago, IL 60639.

A **TV Remote Control** using toggle switches arranged for easy access to power, channel, and volume is available for \$150 from Jesana Ltd. For details, call 1-800-443-4728.

Teaching Cassettes on Cooking for people with visual impairments are now available from Massachusetts cooking instructor Ina Young. The hour-long cassettes contain recipes and cooking instructions. Contact "Tasty Tips," Box 552, Marblehead, MA 01945.

Videos on blindness and health care are available on loan from the Library. Call 1-800-792-8322 to order any of the following:

- **Touch 'N' Go**. A discussion of the concerns facing an individual who has lost his sight and of some available options.
- **Bright Beginnings**. A discussion of the importance of early training for blind children and their families.
- **Brighter Vision**. An introduction to useful techniques for seniors who are visually impaired.
- **Work Sight**. A discussion of the problems and some of the solutions facing employees with impaired vision.
- **Bridges to Independence**. A guide to coping mechanisms for the blind teen-ager.
- **What to Do When You See a Blind Person**. The classic film on simple dos and don'ts in being a comfortable friend or acquaintance to a blind person.
- **Not Without Sight**. An introduction to the major types of visual impairment, their causes, and the effect each has on vision.
- **The Seven Minute Lesson**. Basic techniques to use when serving as a sighted guide for a blind person.
- **Armchair Fitness**. Exercises anyone of any age can do -- even while sitting down.
- **Anybody Can Sit and be Fit**. Still more useful exercises for the sedentary.

Bridging the Gap, a national directory of services for women and girls with disabilities, is available in Braille for \$15 from Womyn's Braille Press, Box 8475, Minneapolis, MN 55408. A cassette version is also available on free loan to registered users of the Jewish Braille Institute, 110 E. 30th Street, New York, NY 10016 or by calling 1-212-889-2525.

The New Jersey Coalition on Women and Disabilities, Mercer County Chapter, promotes fuller participation by disabled women in their own communities. For further information, call Laurie Nystrom of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 609-292-7848.

New Jersey Nightline, a quick library telephone reference service, is available toll-free Monday through Thursday nights from 9 p.m. to midnight and weekends from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. If you have a question on almost anything from how to remove tea stains to the address of your local legislator to the names of the seven dwarfs, call 1-800-922-2233. The service is funded by the New Jersey State Library.

Athletics for Blind Leisure Enthusiasts (ABLE) gives blind and low vision adults a chance to participate in a variety of active sports. Recent ABLE activities have included swimming, cross country skiing, camping, and canoeing. For information, contact Kathy Wood at 201-915-3444 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

1993 Friends of the Library Membership Drive Opens

The Friends of the Library begin their eighth year with more than 450 paid members and a long list of achievements from the purchase back in 1985 of the Library's first large print computers to initiating *Talking Pictures* this past year and spear-heading the drive to secure funding for the Library shelving in 1992. Now is your opportunity to join -- or to renew your membership -- in this dynamic organization which is dedicated to providing support for the Library in good times and in bad. An application form is included at the bottom of this page for your convenience.

Talking Pictures Debuts at Library

Nearly 100 Library users have already signed up for *Talking Pictures*, the newest in the Library's range of services. *Talking Pictures* provides home loans of popular feature films, each of which has been specially adapted for people with visual impairments. *Talking Pictures* is open to any registered user of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped upon payment of a \$20.00 non-refundable registration fee. Although the service is at this time funded totally by the Friends of the Library, it is not necessary to be a member of the Friends in order to join *Talking Pictures*. A form for joining the Friends and / or *Talking Pictures* is at the bottom of this page.

Talking Pictures users need access to a television set and a VHS video-cassette player. Once you are a member, you can borrow a video by calling the Library on its toll-free number 1-800-792-8322 to ask any Reader's Advisor what is currently available. The video you choose will be sent to you immediately by postage-free mail in a self-mailing container. To return the video, turn the mail card over and replace it in the plastic envelope on the front of the mailing container. A *Talking Pictures* video circulates for one month from the time it is sent from the Library, and users are responsible for returning the video within that time period; there will be a charge of \$25.00 for any video that is lost or damaged beyond repair.

Because at this time there are a limited number of videos available, it is not possible to reserve titles that are unavailable when you call, and each borrower will be limited to one title at a time.

Coming Attractions!

- Three men and a baby
- Dick Tracy
- Anne of Green Gables
- Raiders of the Lost Ark
- The Godfather
- 101 Dalmations
- Pretty Woman
- Beverly Hills Cop
- True Grit
- Parenthood
- Star Trek
- Search for Red October
- Beaches
- Dumbo
- Glory
- Field of Dreams



Friends of the Library / Talking Pictures Response Form

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

_____ State _____ Zip _____

I wish to join the Friends for 1993 and am enclosing \$10.00 for an individual membership: _____

I wish to join the Friends for 1993 and am enclosing \$25.00 for a family membership: _____

I wish to make a donation to the Friends and am enclosing the following amount: _____

I wish to join Talking Pictures and am enclosing \$20.00 for the membership fee: _____

Please register me for a catalog of descriptive films in the following format (check one):

Large print: _____

Cassette: _____

Braille: _____

Make check payable to Friends of the Library and send to Joyce Christensen, Coordinator, Library for the Blind and Handicapped, 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, CN 501, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

A quarterly publication of
The New Jersey Library
for the Blind and Handicapped
2300 Stuyvesant Avenue CN 501
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
Editor: Marya Hunsicker

The New Jersey Library for the
Blind and Handicapped
is a bureau of the
New Jersey State Library
Department of Education

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY
BINDER DIVISION
185 WEST STATE STREET
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY
D8625-03
Newsletter --

PROCESSED
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY
185 W STATE ST
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NJBL

Free Matter
for the
Blind and Handicapped

Checkpoints for Better Library Service

- ✓ Put your name and address on all correspondence with the Library.
- ✓ Use the toll-free number 1-800-792-8322 to notify the Library as soon as possible of any changes in your address or telephone number.
- ✓ Keep the toll-free number handy and use it if you have any problem with your service. Don't put notes inside the books you are returning; it is against postal regulations and they may, in any case, be overlooked.
- ✓ Return each book as soon as you have finished it.
- ✓ Rewind all cassette tapes before returning the book; to rewind, put the cassette on side 1 and press the rewind lever until the tape stops.
- ✓ Notify the Library if you wish to add or cancel a magazine.
- ✓ Do not lend others the books or equipment that have been charged out to you.
- ✓ The Talking Book machine comes supplied with two needles. If your present needle is worn, flip the little handle on the tone arm to expose the new needle. If that doesn't solve the problem, call.
- ✓ Check your cassette machine before returning a cassette book to be sure the final cassette has been removed and is included in the mailing container.

Remember, the Library is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. throughout the year except over holidays and during August. The toll-free number 1-800-792-8322 is available for messages at all times when the Library is closed.