

New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped

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NEW JERSEY

NETWORK

BUDGET

WOES

HIT

AUDIOVISION

For five years Audiovision has enjoyed the privilege of riding along on the coattails of New Jersey Network, the statewide public television service that carries Audiovision's oral signal to listeners in south and central Jersey. As New Jersey Network improved its signal and expanded its hours, Audiovision has also been able to improve and expand.

Unfortunately, the reverse is also true and the continuing state fiscal crisis which has hit New Jersey Network particularly hard has forced a drastic reduction in broadcast hours including for Audiovision the elimination of all morning broadcasts and a reduction of 20 hours a week in total air time. Although New Jersey Network is struggling both to increase private funding and also to convince the state appropriations committees to rescind some of the cuts that have already occurred, further cutbacks remain a strong possibility for both NJN and Audiovision.

Beginning May 27 Audiovision will be reducing its broadcast day by four hours day. Following is the new schedule five days a week, Monday through Friday.

3:00 National and State News

New York Times
Wall Street Journal
Newark Star Ledger

5:00 Newspaper Features

M Disability News
T Travel Guide
W Health News
Th Senior Citizen News
F Cooking Hints

5:45 TV Schedule

6:00 Local News -- Central Jersey

Asbury Park Press
Woodbridge News-Tribune
Trenton Times
Central Jersey Home News
Hunterdon County Democrat (F)

6:00 Local News -- South Jersey

Philadelphia Inquirer
Burlington County Times
Atlantic City Press
Camden Courier Post
Gloucester County Times
Bridgeton Evening News

9:00 Best Seller

If you would like additional information about Audiovision and the New Jersey Network or if you live in south or central Jersey and would like to receive an Audiovision receiver, call the Library on its toll-free line 1-800-792-8322.

Help Us To Help You. An increasingly severe state budget crisis has cost the Library five of its full-time staff positions, with additional cut-backs in staff, programs, and hours threatened. Although the Library will do everything it can to maintain a high level of service, there are things which each reader can do to make the program as efficient as possible:

- **Before You Go, Let Us Know!** If you're moving or even if you're just going to be out-of-town for a few weeks, call the Library before you leave. We can stop service temporarily or change our records so your service will follow you. Keeping the Library informed means better service for you and can save hours of the time staff now spends in following up *No Longer at this Address* notices from the Post Office. Call the Library with your address changes day or night toll-free at 1-800-792-8322.
- **Packaging Machine for Return.** If you need to return equipment to the Library, please do **not** use loose styrofoam bubbles for packaging. They cling to the machine and get into the working parts of the equipment. If possible, use the original packaging materials or crumple paper as a protection. Another possibility is to return or exchange equipment directly to one of the many Service Center Libraries around the state.
- **Be Kind -- Rewind.** When you've finished a cassette, please rewind to the beginning. This small act on your part makes reading more enjoyable for the next user. The Library would need an additional 2.8 full time staff members to open and rewind each of the 360,000 cassette books returned from users each year.
- **Cassette Troubles? Call.** If at any time you have a problem with a particular cassette book--a tape is missing or tangled or the whole thing sounds like Donald Duck--call the Library on its toll-free number 1-800-792-8322. The staff may be able to help you correct the problem over the phone, but if that is not possible, they can arrange to send out a replacement cassette immediately. You'll be able to finish your book more quickly and at the same time will help the Library keep its collection in good order.
- **Keep in Touch.** Let us know when your Library service is not meeting your needs--too few or too many books, not enough mysteries or too many Civil War novels, too much spice or not enough. The best way to utilize the efforts of our reduced staff is to keep your reading profile up-to-date and accurate. The easiest time to get through on our toll-free line is week-day afternoons Tuesday through Friday or anytime Saturday. If you want to call in a list of book requests, we suggest you do it in the evening or on Sunday when the Library is closed and leave your name, address, and the RC or RD numbers of the books on the answering machine.

The Library is also looking for some snappy slogans to help get the points above across to readers. The slogan "*BE KIND -- REWIND*" was included in the last newsletter and it was a pleasure to be assured by several readers in the week after the newsletter went out that they were indeed being kind. If you have a slogan that will cover any of the helpful hints above, send or call it in to the Library with your name and phone number. We'll award a Library bumper sticker for any slogan we use.

Coming! Fall Festival 1991! Saturday, September 28, 1991, the Library will host its eighth annual Fall Festival. The day-long event will include sales and demonstrations of the latest adaptive aids, storytellers for both young and old, several different petting zoos including one with monkeys, a musical program for children, tours of the Library, a demonstration by Seeing Eye puppies, and a talk by Jamie Hilton, executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as she celebrates the end of her first year in office and looks forward to the second year. Further details will be sent to all Library users in August but mark the date down now! This is an event that shouldn't be missed.

The Overseas Blind Foundation. The Overseas Blind Foundation, which over the years has helped bring Braille to blind people in over 129 underdeveloped countries, has a growing need for used commercial cassette players, blank cassettes, white canes, and Braille watches. If you wish to donate any of these items, send them to: Overseas Blind Foundation, 55 Ridgeway Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95401. Telephone 707-575-4864.

2,500 Books for a Half-Million Readers. Choosing the 2,500 titles that will be put into special media -- Braille, cassette, or recorded disc--for distribution through the national network of regional libraries serving the handicapped is one of the tasks of the Collection Development Section of the NLS (National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a bureau of the Library of Congress). This important section has a new director, Caroline Longmoor, who has long experience with this program, having previously spent 11 years as the director of the Kansas regional library for the blind. Ms. Longmoor is very interested in hearing from library users about the things they like and dislike about the present mix of titles now available through the national program.

At a recent meeting of the Advisory Board to our Library, for example, two issues were raised concerning the titles that are the heart of our library service: the need to have more of the classics available on cassette and to make very popular best-sellers available much sooner; both of these concerns have been passed on to Ms. Longmoor. If you have a suggestion for strengthening the book selection process, there are two steps you can take:

1. Send your suggestions to Caroline Longmoor, National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1275 Taylor Street Annex NE, Washington, D.C. 20542
2. Contact Karen Johnson, 215 Church Street, Bound Brook 08805 (Telephone: 201-356-1499). Ms. Johnson has recently been appointed to represent library users from the northeast and over the next two years will be participating in the annual meetings of a committee advising the national program on book selection issues.

NFB of New Jersey Plans New Chapter. The National Federation of the Blind is recruiting members for a Raritan Valley chapter. For details contact John J. Getsy at 201-359-8256.

Friends Fund Bi-Lingual Readers' Advisor Position. At their March meeting the Friends of the Library voted to award the Library a grant of \$12,000 to fund a new part-time position for a Readers' Advisor bi-lingual in English and Spanish. Aware of a growing number of visually impaired Spanish-speaking residents of the state, the Library created the new title nearly two years ago, but a freeze on state-funded positions has kept the position vacant. The Library, which expects to begin interviewing for the position in July, will be seeking additional funds from other sources to make the position full-time or to continue it beyond the one-year period.

Disney World, Here We Come! Someone, somewhere, will be the lucky winner of a four-day trip for two to Disney World, first prize in the 1991 Raffle sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Second prize is a food processor and third prize is a large button telephone, donated by Maxi-Aids. The bi-annual raffle, which raised nearly \$7,000 in 1989, is the Friends' major fund raising activity, and all Library users are urged to help make this year's raffle the best yet. Send in the form below to order one or more books of tickets for yourself or to sell to friends and relatives. Remember this is one event where everyone who uses the Library will come out a winner! Tickets are \$1.00 each, with the drawing scheduled for Friday, December 6.



Please send _____ books of tickets for the *Disney World, Here We Come* raffle.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this form to Joyce Christensen, Friends of the Library Raffle, 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue CN 501, Trenton 08625

Bits and Pieces

Armchair Exercising. The Library has two videos which demonstrate routines for people who need to sit while exercising. Call 1-800-792-8322 to order *Armchair Fitness* or *Anybody Can Sit and Be Fit*. Note that borrowers are responsible for the postage to mail a video back to the Library.

Wilderness Inquiry conducts outdoor adventures including extended canoe trips for groups that integrate both able-bodied individuals and persons with varying levels of physical or visual impairment. Write: Wilderness Inquiry, 1313 Fifth Street, SE, Suite 327, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 or call 612-379-3858.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York conducts special programs for visually impaired visitors. The programs use the Museum's Touch Collection and are available Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday. To make an appointment, call call 212-879-5500.

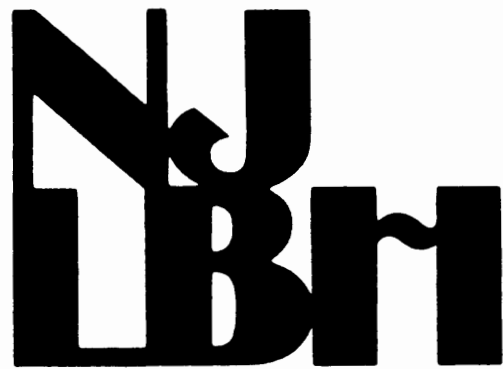
Medicare Information in Braille is available from the Library. Call 1-800-792-8322 to order any of the following: *Medicare Handbook*, *Medicare Coverage of Kidney Dialysis*, or *Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare*.

The Bergen Record sponsors a free weekly cassette service with readings from the *Star-Ledger*. For details write Dorothy Mitchell, 117 Paterson Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights 07604 or call 201-288-0847.

Voice of the Diabetic, a quarterly publication of the National Federation of the Blind available in print or on cassette, is being offered free to new subscribers for one year now through July 1, 1991. Write Ed Bryant, 811 Cherry Street, Suite 306, Columbia MO 65201 or call 314-875-8911 to order.

Computer Literacy Classes. Lois Wencil and Kathleen Mercado will offer two, three-week-long, hands-on IBM-based summer sessions on electronic equipment for the blind. Classes are in Millburn. Call 908-925-0624 or 201-467-3923.

Home Shopping Network offers their quarterly coupon magazine *Bargaineer* in Braille. To order, call 1-800-284-3900.



Free Matter
for the
Blind and Handicapped

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