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INSIGHTS

Spring 2013



NJ State Library

**TALKING BOOK &
BRAILLE CENTER**

An affiliate of Thomas Edison State College

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN, MARY CHUTE

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter,

This is my second opportunity to connect with the patrons of the Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC). This newsletter comes as I end my first exciting year as State Librarian. One of my most pleasant memories in my first year is how well our local public libraries are working with the State Library to serve you.

In this newsletter, you will read more about another pilot project in which TBBC has worked with eleven public libraries to download digital audiobooks and magazines any time at the local library. These libraries not only helped with downloading but also provided additional support on services and equipment.

Another project that we mentioned in the last newsletter was on recording books by local authors and of local interest. We have an article detailing the books that we have recorded and the ones we plan to record.

Because of the great interest in local recordings, I want to tell you to circle the date, October 12, 2013 on your calendar. This will be the date of our Fall Festival. It will be held at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton. We are preparing a varied and interesting program that will feature a forum by some of the authors we have recorded this past year.

Lastly, I want to mention our new "Wall of Recognition." This was a gift from our Friends. There will be a dedication of the Wall on Saturday, June 1st. Besides recognizing donors to TBBC, we will be able to acknowledge those who have supported TBBC and the State Library. Our first two books on the Wall will acknowledge the generous support of the Grounds for Sculpture and one of the State Library's strongest supporters, Congressman Rush Holt.

Enjoy reading our newsletter for more details on these exciting projects as well as other items the TBBC staff has prepared to inform you about everything we are doing.

Thank you,

Mary

NEWS YOU CAN USE: MAGAZINES ON CARTRIDGE

Our patrons who receive audio magazines will now receive their magazine subscriptions on cartridges. The magazines will come in a red mailing case. The magazine cartridge is blue. Both the case and the cartridge indicate the weekly number for the issued cartridge. Each magazine cartridge includes announcements and instructions on how to navigate using the player's bookshelf feature. It's very important that magazine cartridges be returned in a timely fashion. Since cartridges are customized for each patron based on their magazine subscriptions and the frequency of those magazines, cartridge due dates will then vary for each patron, so it is very important to read your magazines as soon as you get them and return them as soon as possible.

Following are instructions on how to use the bookshelf feature when a cartridge has more than one magazine:

- Insert the cartridge into your player.
- Turn your player on.
- Press and hold the square, green Play/Stop button until you hear "Bookshelf."
- Use the RW (rewind) or FF (fast forward) buttons on either side of the Play/Stop button to identify the magazine issues on your flash drive.
- When you hear the magazine issue that you wish to listen to, press the Play/Stop button again and your magazine will begin playing.

BARD PUBLIC LIBRARY PILOT WRAPPING UP

The New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) is wrapping up a very successful pilot project approved by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) that allows selected public libraries to download audio and Braille books and magazines through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) database service. To find a participating library near you, please call our library.

In order to request downloaded BARD books from a participating library, you, a family member, or friend will need to go there with proof of your TBBC membership. Upon request, we can provide our patrons a TBBC library card as proof of membership. A patron may also bring a mailing card from a digital book sent from TBBC to demonstrate their eligibility for the service. In addition to proof of TBBC membership, you will also need to bring along a new, unused flash drive or ask your library about purchasing one.

At the completion of this pilot later this spring, TBBC intends to extend this service to other New Jersey public libraries that want to download for their BARD eligible patrons.

BARD access at public libraries does not replace any services provided by TBBC. Our patrons may continue to receive books from us through the U.S. Mail. Getting BARD downloaded books from any of these participating libraries is just another way for you to get the audiobooks you want when you want them.

TBBC IS RECORDING BOOKS!

In our last newsletter, Mary Chute, the director of the New Jersey State Library, announced that the Audiovision program at TBBC is recording books. We are giving a voice to books that have been inaccessible to those who cannot read standard print. Many thanks to TBBC's Audiovision team, Karen Carson, Mary Crain and John Hart, and to volunteer narrators for breathing life into these books. Here are a few tantalizing details on two non-fiction audiobooks that are in the final stages of production. We will let you know as soon as they are available:

- Do you love true crime books? Perhaps you are a *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit (SVU)* fan? Admit it! You hear that ominous voice-over at the beginning of the show and you walk right over to the television thinking, "Oh, I know this episode!" You've listened to so many episodes of *Law and Order: SVU* that your alias may as well be Olivia Benson or Elliot Stabler! Well, then, we have a 2012 true crime biography for you! Prosecutors Richard Muti and Charles Buckley wrote *The Charmer: The True Story of Robert Reldan – Rapist, Murderer, and Millionaire – and the Women who Fell Victim to his Allure*. It is read by Audiovision volunteers, Sue Pandak and Linda Lengyel.
- Were you a fan of *The Sopranos*? Audiovision is recording *The Soprano State: New Jersey's Culture of Corruption*. This 2008 book by journalists Bob Ingle and Sandy McClure "details the you-couldn't-make-this-up true story of the corruption that has pervaded New Jersey." Read by Audiovision volunteer, Bill Larson.

TBBC's SHIPPING DEPARTMENT GOES HIGH TECH

Each day TBBC receives between 1,200 and 2,000 returned digital books. Every one of these items needs to be inspected to make sure that a book is present and that the book and mailing case match. Currently, staff members must open and visually inspect each item, which is very labor intensive and time consuming. Starting in June, TBBC's shipping department will begin applying new tracking technology to assist with the inspection of returned digital book cartridges. By applying a set of matching radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, staff will be able to simply run the returned mail case across a scanner to determine if there is a match of book and case. No opening and closing of cases, just a quick scan of the closed item. This technology is commonly used with many other types of inventory control processes and is now being put to great use in our library setting.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2013 FALL FESTIVAL!

Please mark your calendars and save Saturday, October 12th for TBBC's 2013 Fall Festival. More details will be sent to our TBBC members this summer and you will be able to register then. We just want you to save the date now. We will whet your appetite with just a few Fall Festival details:

- Karen Carson's popular Audiovision book group, "The Get Together," will play a large role in our Fall Festival program. If you want to join this book group now (you can participate via conference call), call Karen at 800-792-8322, extension 806.
- Those of you who attended our 2011 Fall Festival praised the beauty of the Grounds for Sculpture and the creative workshops they provided. We are thrilled to announce that The Grounds for Sculpture will once again host our Fall Festival. They will not only waive admission fees for our members, they will also again create workshops designed to inspire us. The Grounds for Sculpture is located at 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619.

We are so grateful to the Grounds for Sculpture for their generous support of TBBC.

TBBC RECORDS MANUALS FOR VETERANS

"You served your country, now let TBBC serve you."

The VA New Jersey Health Care System (VA-NJ) offers vision impairment services at both the East Orange and Lyons campuses. These services include:

- VISOR Program: The Vision Impairment Services in Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) Program evaluates and provides training for low vision and legally blind Veterans living in New Jersey.
- VIST Program: The Visual Impairment Services Team Program (VIST) identifies and helps legally blind Veterans to adjust to their vision loss by using a case management model.
- BROS Program: The Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) works with legally blind Veterans and provides evaluation and training to assist the Veterans in maintaining independence in several skill areas.

All of these services are coordinated by the VISOR program. TBBC receives many applications from veterans served in this program. The VISOR staff recognized the need for audio versions of two print manuals they give to veterans. They reached out to TBBC and we recorded:

- The Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) Home and Community Services Guide.

- The Visual Impairment Services Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) Manual for Veterans.

Mary Kearns-Kaplan, TBBC's Adult Outreach Services Coordinator, read these manuals and John Hart, Audiovision Engineer, produced the recordings.

Bill Kallenberg LCSW, Chief of the VISOR program, emailed Mary with his thanks: "Thanks so very much for your help with the two manuals! These will create accessibility of our material for visually impaired veterans! I appreciate your work and efforts on behalf of our veterans!"

For more information on the VISOR program:

- Call 908-647-0180, Extension 4437
- Visit VISOR's Web Site: http://www.newjersey.va.gov/services/Blind_Rehab.asp

NEWS FROM YOUTH SERVICES

Summer Reading: Dig Into Reading!

Don't forget to sign up for TBBC's by-mail summer reading program! The program is open to all children and teens up to age 18 who are members of the library.

For six weeks, each summer reading participant receives a package in the mail full of activities, booklists, jokes, and recipes. Fun toys and other incentives are also sent, thanks to the generosity of TBBC's Friends group.

All reading counts: Braille, audiobooks, or large print books. Readers can choose to either track the number of books read or the number of hours read. Looking for ideas on what to read next? Want to sign up? Give us a call at 800-792-8322 or email us tbbcyouth@njstatelib.org

Update Your TBBC Account!

When you are first signed up for a TBBC account, you're asked for a reading level and the types of books you like to read. You may not realize it, but that information is not automatically updated! If you don't call or email us to let us know, you may still be getting early chapter books about animals, when your favorite book is *The Hunger Games* and you want more books like that!

Take a few minutes to give us a call, tell us your reading level, and what books you like now! Give us a call at 800-792-8322 or email us tbbcyouth@njstatelib.org

ONE CLICK DIGITAL STORY

A grandmother called our Youth Service Department recently. Her grandson needed *SLAM* by Walter Dean Myers for a school assignment. Jen Apgar of our staff listened to the request and found out that the book was available on audiocassette

from the Library of Congress. But the young man needed it much sooner. Jen checked another service we have, OneClickdigital. The book was there and available for immediate downloading. Jen explained the information needed to create an account and since the young man owned an iPad Jen told her how to get the app to begin downloading. We believe that by later that day the book had been downloaded to his iPad. This is a good example how emerging technologies are making it more convenient to read for everyone.

DAILY TRIVIA AND SHEILA'S MOVIE IN A MINUTE ON AUDIOVISION!

Test your knowledge of New Jersey facts every weekday when you listen to the *Newark Star Ledger* at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Audiovision, TBBC's news reading service. The answer is announced at the end of each *Newark Star Ledger* newscast. Good luck!

Do you love movies? Listen to the Audiovision broadcast throughout the week for *Sheila's Movie in a Minute* movie reviews!

BE AN AUDIOBOOK RECORDING STAR

Would you like to be an audiobook recording star? Or maybe you'd rather work "behind the scenes"? Audiovision is recording audiobooks and we want to share the spotlight. Volunteer with Audiovision and become an audiobook recording star or a recording monitor. Call Karen Carson in our Audiovision program at 800-792-8322, extension 806.

WE HAVE A KUDOS WEB PAGE

New Jersey residents are so grateful for the accessible reading service TBBC provides as a regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind or Physically Handicapped, a division of the U.S. Library of Congress. Sometimes we receive a note tucked inside an audiobook mailing cartridge or inserted in a Braille book. We also receive donations with checks wrapped around a note of gratitude and we receive emails as well.

We want to share these kudos with you, so we created a Kudos web page on our web site. We post each word of thanks anonymously to protect a person's privacy. We love our jobs at TBBC because we know our accessible services are needed and treasured by those we serve.

Visit our Kudos web page at http://njsltbbc.org/kudos_for_tbbc. If you cannot use the internet, call TBBC at 800-792-8322.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which promotes financial assistance and acts as an advocacy group to the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC). The Friends support and promote the services and programs of TBBC. We meet twice a year on the first Saturday in June and December. We alternate locations between Middlesex County in June and Mercer County in December to accommodate our northern and southern members.

For more details and to become a member see our application below and check out our web site at <http://www.friendsnjlibraryfortheblind.org/>. Our e-mail address is Friendsnjlbh@yahoo.com

THE FRIENDS OF THE NJ LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND HANDICAPPED MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone (with area code): _____

E-mail address: _____

Preferred Media Format:

Large Print _____ Cassette Tape _____ E-mail _____ Online _____

I am eligible for TBBC Services: Yes _____ No _____

Individual Member \$10.00 ____ Family Membership \$25.00 ____ Donation \$_____

Please return this membership form with your check to:

**The Friends of the NJLBH
P.O. Box 434
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0434**

New Jersey State Library
Talking Book & Braille Center
P.O. Box 501
Trenton, NJ 08625-0501

**FREE MATTER FOR
THE BLIND OR
HANDICAPPED**



*****AUTO**SCH 3-DIGIT 085 p-10 1-8
**NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY
BINDERY DIVISION
P.O. BOX 520
185 W STATE ST
TRENTON, NJ 08608-1101**

HOURS

TBBC is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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