

Newsletter

Fresno County Public
LIBRARY — Enlighten, Experience, Entertain, Explore

SPRING 2009

THANK YOU

We want to thank all of our wonderful Talking Book Library volunteers for their service in 2008. Twenty-five TBLB volunteers, including six Telecom Pioneer machine repair volunteers, gave a total of 2,809 hours of service to our library. Our crew of volunteers is hardworking and dedicated, doing tasks ranging from book inspection to Braille, shelving to stapling, machine repair, cassette tape repair and so much more. Not only that—they're also all great people and we enjoy having them with us.

The annual Fresno County Library Volunteer Reception will be held March 15 at the Wood-

ward Park Regional Library—a full report will be in the next newsletter.

Thanks also go out to the generous donors to our Trust Fund. Your generosity enabled us to purchase headphones and blank cassettes, add some furniture not included in our September 2007 remodeling, and double our Described DVD Collection.

In these difficult economic times, we don't take for granted the gifts we receive. Every little bit helps to keep us going. We appreciate the support.

If you would like to contribute to the TBLB Trust Fund, send a check to our address, given at

the end of this newsletter, and mark it "TBLB Trust Fund". You can be assured that it will be appreciated and put to good use for your library.

TBLB PATRON/VOLUNTEER READS FROM TOM SAWYER IN BRAILLE AT READ-A-THON

On Thursday, February 5, and Friday, February 6, at the Sweet River Grill in Clovis, dozens of Fresno County library staff, friends, and local celebrities participated in a 24-hour "Read-a-Thon" of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Participants included our own library patron and volunteer, Sandra Lindley, who spent 20 minutes reading a portion of the book in Braille. This was a great chance to promote Braille and raise interest in the community, and Sandra did a wonderful job.

The Read-a-Thons have become a tradition here in Fresno ever since our first county-wide read of *The Grapes of Wrath*. Other books that have been selected include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Joy Luck Club*, and *The Human Comedy*. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was chosen last year by Fresno County citizens as the book to be celebrated for this year's Big Read grant. The

Library has applied to host a Big Read again in 2010 featuring *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

The Big Read runs through April 19. Activities celebrating Tom Sawyer include book discussion groups, movie showings, a family fair on the San Joaquin River, a photo contest, and even a community fence painting. For more information, log on to www.fresnolibrary.org, call us at TBLB, or check your local Fresno County library branch. The Big Read is sponsored by The Fresno Bee, ABC-30, K-Jewel 99.3 FM and KYNO 1300 AM. The Read-a-Thon was sponsored by all of the above, plus Sierra Vista Mall and Citibank. Enjoy!

BIG READ RAFFLE

Each branch of the Fresno County Library has been generously provided with a prize basket to be given away in a drawing. This includes TBLB! Our beautiful basket includes music CDs in a wide variety of genres, a Big Read T-shirt, and the Big Read *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* Audio Guide on CD.

In order to enter your name in the drawing to win the basket, all you need to do is call, e-mail or write us with the following

information: your name and address, and your answer to ONE of the following questions:

- 1) Who is your favorite character in Tom Sawyer, and why? Or
- 2) What is your favorite scene in Tom Sawyer? Or
- 3) What childhood memory does reading Tom Sawyer bring back to you?

We will make sure your name gets in the drawing, and if you win, we will make sure your prize gets to you. It doesn't matter if you read Tom Sawyer during the Big Read period, or if you've read it a long time ago—answer one question and you have a chance to win. Good luck!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

You are always invited to our monthly Book Discussion Group, held on the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00 PM here at TBLB. We have a great time enjoying great books and authors. On March 18, 2009, we will be celebrating The Big Read by discussing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (RC 53084), with guest presenter Lydia Kuhn. Come and join us for friends, fun, and light refreshments.

COLLECTION CORNER

Highlighting Portions of Our Collection

GENTLE READS AND SMALL TOWN STORIES

If you like heartwarming, cozy fiction, sometimes including religious themes, here are some series and authors you might enjoy trying:

Jennifer Chiaverini—the *Elm Creek Quilts* series, beginning with *An Elm Creek Quilts Sampler* (RC 65774)—Women forge friendships while sharing their needlework in Waterford, Pennsylvania.

Philip Gulley—the Harmony series, beginning with *Home to Harmony* (RC 59650). Series is about the humor and challenges of small town life for a Friends (Quaker) pastor in Harmony, Indiana.

Jan Karon—the Mitford Years series, beginning with *At Home in Mitford* (RC 44194)—Father Tim Kavanagh, an Episcopal priest in his sixties, uses his strong faith and the power of prayer to deal with the joys and problems of his parish in Mitford, North Carolina, and finds unexpected love along the way.

Joan Medlicott—the Ladies of Covington series, beginning with *The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love* (RC 51224)—Three older women move to a farmhouse near a small town to begin new lives and new friendships.

Miss Read—the Thrush Green series beginning with *Thrush Green* (RC 19766), and the Fairacre series, beginning with *Village School* (RC 32413)—tales of life in two different small English villages. Selected titles in these series, but not all, have been recorded by NLS.

Ann B. Ross—the Miss Julia series—starring a Southern widow with “perfect manners and a taste for trouble”. Series begins with *Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind* (RC 49141).

Kids' & Teens' CORNER

Hi TBLB Kids and Teens. We hope your school year is going well. Do you not care for those green cassette boxes and your old, clunky yellow tape player? Did you know that the Unabridged Program School Download Library, to which you

have access as a TBLB patron, has hundreds of kids' and young adult books available in audio format for you to download on your computer? Some can even be burned to CD. Titles include fiction and non-fiction and cover all grade levels. For more information, and to sign up for Unabridged, contact TBLB. We are in the business of instilling the habit of reading—can't think of a better habit to have.

HELPFUL HINTS AND FRIENDLY REMINDERS

We will be reprinting this important information in the Newsletter at least once a year. Please save and use it. We want to make Talking Book service as smooth and enjoyable as possible for all of our patrons!

--The loan period for all Talking Books, Radio Shows, and Described DVDs is five weeks. Please return your items within that time period so other patrons may enjoy them.

--Please let us know if you wish to put your account on hold temporarily (such as if you're going on vacation or simply have too many books on hand), or if you wish to cancel your service permanently. If you are canceling

service, please be sure to return your cassette player and all of the books you have out, and let us know you are canceling.

--If you are a family member, caregiver or friend of a patron who passes away, please let us know. If you have possession of the patron's cassette machine, or any books, please return them.

--Please let us know if you change your telephone number, street address, or e-mail address. If you are moving out of our service area, we will be happy to transfer your service to the Talking Book Library serving your new location. We get multiple mail returns from patrons who have not let us know their new addresses, and often there is no forwarding address given so we have no information as to how to get books to the patron.

--If you communicate with us by mail, please make sure your name and return address are somewhere on the letter.

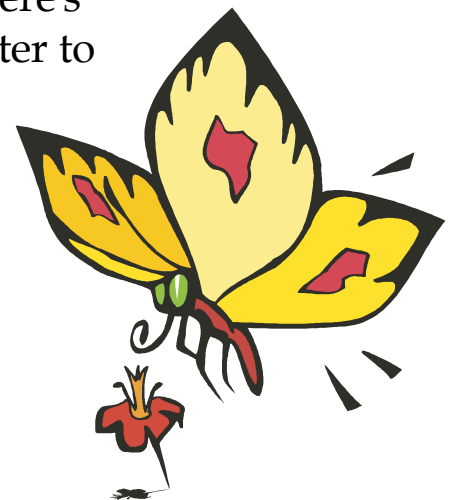
--Please let us know if you are getting too many books or too few books, or if the computer is selecting books you don't care for; and please tell us about specific books or authors you'd like to hear. Our goal is to send you

books you will enjoy, on a schedule that will work for you!

--Please let us know if you need a replacement machine. We do not automatically send out a machine when we receive one back from you. If you have trouble figuring out how to use the cassettes or the machine, please give us a call and we'll try to answer any questions you may have.

--Please don't forget to tell your friends and family who may be interested all about the Talking Book Program! And if you know of a group that would like to have a speaker talk about our library, give us a call—we'll be happy to come out and make a presentation.

--Most of all, please enjoy reading! We are proud of the dedicated, personal service we give, and we want all our patrons to be avid, satisfied Talking Book readers. There's nothing better to improve one's mood in difficult times than to enjoy a good book.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

From Around Our Four Counties

**NEWS
YOU
CAN
USE**



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

*Article Submitted by
Mary Beth Randall*

Hi, the Greater San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the CCB is doing well. We started this New Year with new officers of our chapter. I have been the president for five years now and have served all that I am able to according to our constitution. So my wonderful husband is now the president. Tom is looking forward to the challenge of helping to keep our chapter growing and wants people to feel free to call and ask questions about the CCB.

We are planning a picnic for our chapter that everyone is invited to on May 2. We will be having it at Oso De Oro Park. The time is not final yet, but we are hop-

ing for 10:00 to 2:00 or maybe until around 4:00 in the afternoon. Keep in touch with us for more details on this fun event. We hope to have a few picnics this year just so people can get together to eat and socialize.

The CCB will be having its fall convention here in Fresno. Stay tuned for details and how you all can participate.

Our meetings are still being held at the Denny's on First and Shaw, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM on the second Friday of the month. We meet in the back room. People show up a little after 5:00 to eat dinner and socialize. Come enjoy meeting new people and learn more about our chapter.

Our next several meeting dates are April 10, May 8, and June 12.

Give Tom or Mary Beth Randall a call with any questions you may have at 559-224-7999.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

*Article Submitted by
Chuck Krugman*

The NFB Central California is active and looking for new members. The last couple of months have been a bit unsettling for our chapter as Jan Kafton who was

our chapter president suffered a stroke on December 21, and our vice-president Dave Tuck unexpectedly relocated to Sacramento. As a result of these changes, we held midterm elections at our last meeting and elected the following officers: Chuck Krugman, President; Rosie Williams, Vice-President; Gracie Sanchez, Secretary-Treasurer; and Sir Lee Sholes continues to be our member at large.

In December 2008, the chapter had a benefit performance of the play "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, performed by the Good Company Players at Second Space Theater. This included a raffle of prizes donated by individuals and merchants in the community. This event was a success due to the support of the community and donors and the hard work by Jan and Lon Kafton.

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at Carrow's Restaurant, 4280 N. Blackstone at Ashlan (on FAX route 30) at 11:00 AM. This is a good time for brunch and we are actively looking for new members. For more information, I can be contacted by email at ckrugman@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 559-266-9237.

Chuck Krugman, President

National Federation of the Blind,
Central California Chapter

VALLEY CENTER FOR THE
BLIND HAS MOVED!

Article Submitted by Millie Marshall

Hello everyone from all of us at VCB,

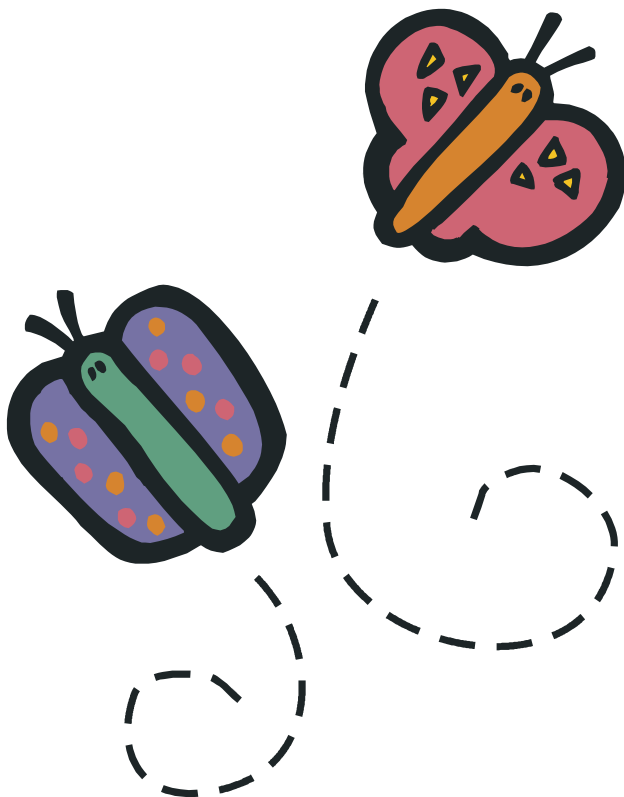
All of us here at the Valley Center for the Blind would love to thank those of you who donated to us when things were extremely bad financially. It goes to show that the world is still good. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

This Valentine's Day we had our first annual sweetheart bouquet of balloons and little stuffed creature bouquets which brought in some good money! We are going to do this for other holidays and special occasions.

Valley Center for the Blind has many wonderful things to share this time around. The most important piece of news is that we have moved out of downtown! We are now located at 2491 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 124 in Fresno. Now all of you who said you would start coming in when we move can join us for

many different classes and other fun stuff. We are located near bus stops, restaurants and lots of stores. Handy-Ride will pull up right in front of our door. There are no stairs or elevators either! So come on down!

We are starting a bowling club, leather class, trips to movies, shopping and to Chukchansi for food and gambling. Call up and join in. All of our other classes are still ongoing, including the knitting and crocheting class, which is a big hit, and of course if you need to talk to someone about your worries, just call Mil-lie at 559-222-4447.



“More than a building that houses books and data, the library has always been a window to a larger world—a place where we’ve always come to discover big ideas and profound concepts that help move the American story forward. ♪♪

—Then Senator, now President Barack Obama, speaking to the American Library Association Annual Convention in Chicago, June 2005

LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES

All branches of the Fresno County Library, including TBLB, will be closed on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 31, 2009, in celebration of Cesar E. Chavez Day

Monday, May 25, 2009, in celebration of Memorial Day

Friday, July 3, 2009, in celebration of Independence Day. Library branches normally open on Saturdays will also be closed on Saturday, July 4.

TALKING BOOK LIBRARY STAFF

Librarian, Wendy Eisenberg

Senior Library Assistant,
Ivy L. Bennett

Library Assistants, Ben Locke
and Barbara Pendergrass

Library Aides, Leticia Molano
and Kevin Wilson

Senior Aide, Elen Dowing,
AARP/SCSEP

HOW TO CONTACT US



PHONE

(559) 488-3217

Or 1-800-742-1011 and ask the County Operator to connect you to 488-3217.



ADDRESS

Talking Book Library
770 North San Pablo
Fresno CA 93728



HOURS

Open 9:30 AM-5:30 PM
Monday-Friday



E-MAIL

wendy.eisenberg@fresnolibrary.org



WEB

www.fresnolibrary.org/tblb

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