



Newsletter

Fresno County Public
LIBRARY

Enlighten, Experience, Entertain, Explore

WINTER 2008-2009

DIGITAL TALKING BOOK TRANSITION

The forthcoming transition to the new Digital Flash Memory Cartridge format for Talking Books has brought many questions from TBLB patrons. We, the staff, share your enthusiasm and many of the same questions. Here is a synopsis of what is known at this time.

1. Active Veterans (by law) will receive Digital Talking Book players first.
2. Active Centenarians (active patrons 100 years of age or older) will be next in line for Digital Players.
3. After these two patron groups are supplied with the new equipment, all other active patrons in good standing will begin receiving playback equipment.
4. Please be aware that all Digital Books produced through December 2010 will also be available for use in cassette format on the Cassette Book Machine.
5. All patrons are urged to be patient during this lengthy transition process. At this time there are too many unknowns to promise a Digital Player by any specific date.
6. As always TBLB staff and volunteers are committed to providing each patron with the highest quality of service.
7. Please be aware there are a limited number of commercial machines available for purchase that can be enabled to play the Digital Books (both in cartridge and download form). While we do not endorse any product or service mentioned in

the newsletter, patrons who have the means to purchase a personal player from a third party should be aware of this option.

We will keep you up to date with information as we receive it.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS

Over 50 people—the biggest Open House crowd in quite a while—came to TBLB on Thursday, November 6, to enjoy our Annual Open House. We featured vendors of low vision technology: Russ Hoeltzer of Vision Tech Solutions, Mike Parker from Access Ingenuity, and Lydia Santillan of the California Telephone Access Program. It was standing room only around the tables as everyone wanted to check out the newest items, both high-tech and low-tech, to make life with vision loss easier.

TBLB staff handled the crowd with grace and enthusiasm, and volunteers Jo Ann Gowens, Sandra Lindley, and Carol Van Curen served punch, coffee and cookies with a smile. Fresno County Librarian Karen Bosch Cobb and Associate County Librarian Pat Pondexter stopped by, as well as former TBLB Librarian Deb Janzen.

We thank all who helped make the Open House a very enjoyable afternoon.

KEEP THOSE CALLS, CARDS AND LETTERS COMING

Just a friendly reminder that our TBLB staff is always here during open hours to answer your questions, take book requests, help you find something good to read, or help in any other way. You can contact us by phone, letter, or e-mail—all the information is listed on the back page of this newsletter (toward the end of the cassette version.) Don't hesitate to contact us if there is any way we can help make your Talking Book reading experience better.

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE "TEN SQUARED" CLUB

TBLB is proud to have inducted two new members into the NLS "10² Club" for Talking Book readers 100 years of age or older. Each received a certificate, a pin, and a letter from Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Washington, DC.

Ms. Ellen Cunningham of Fresno was presented her recognition on Wednesday, November

5, by Librarian Wendy Eisenberg, while visiting the Fresno County Library Bookmobile at San Joaquin Gardens where Ms. Cunningham lives. Quite a few people from San Joaquin Gardens climbed aboard the Bookmobile to witness the presentation. Ms. Cunningham was born in 1907 and has been a TBLB patron since 2006. She has checked out 476 Talking Books as well as a large number of audiobooks from the Bookmobile.

Ms. Winifred Lamb of Three Rivers was sent her certificate, pin and letter by mail. She was born in 1905 and has been a TBLB patron since 2005. In that time she has checked out 96 books.

Congratulations to our avid centenarian readers!

TWO NEW VOLUNTEERS

TBLB is happy to welcome two more new volunteers: Wendy March and Karen Melikian. We are very glad to have them and will tell you more about them in a future newsletter.

COLLECTION CORNER

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TBLB DESCRIBED DVD COLLECTION

We are pleased to be in the process of adding 40 new Described DVD Movies to our collection, thus doubling its size. Some of the new titles include: *Becket* (starring Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton), *Father's Little Dividend*, *Monster's Ball*, and *Return to Lonesome Dove*.

We will be creating an "addendum" to our Described DVD catalog soon, but in the meantime you can call us for information and we can help you find something you might like to watch from the new items. Thanks to Library Assistant Benjamin Locke, our TBLB movie buff in residence, for going through the extensive AudioVision Canada catalog and making the selections, and thanks to our TBLB Trust Fund contributors for funding the new additions. Enjoy!

If you haven't tried Described DVDs before, you just might want to check one out. Our collection includes classic movies in several genres, TV miniseries, and now even some episodes of the *Andy Griffith Show*. These DVDs include an additional audio narration describing the action on the screen that you might have trouble seeing. All you have to do is put the disc in your DVD player and it starts automatically with the audio description track

running—no menu buttons to press! The collection has been circulating very well and receiving enthusiastic reviews from patrons.

KIDS' & TEENS' CORNER

FROM THE PAGE TO THE SILVER SCREEN

Enjoy these books that were recently made (or will be made soon) into movies. (And hey, grownups, you might just enjoy some of these books and movies too!)

City of Ember (RC 59907) by Jeanne DuPrau—A city planned to survive for two hundred years, now in year 241, suffers shortages—and a secret message-bearing box is missing. Independent-thinking twelve-year-olds Doon and Lina exchange obligatory jobs and make a discovery that could change their known world. For grades 5-8, 2003. The movie was released in October, 2008.

Girls in Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood (RC 59737, BR 15872) and *Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood* (RC 64188, BR 17231) by

Ann Brashares—Life-long friends Bridget, Tibby, Carmen and Lena continue to share a magical pair of blue jeans that keeps their friend-



ship strong amid the heartaches, joys and challenges of growing up. For senior high readers. *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*, the movie based on these two books, was released in summer 2008.

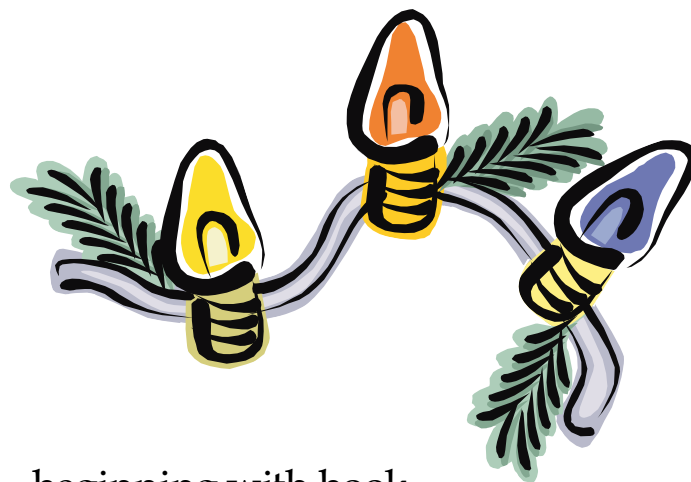
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (RC 60262, BR 16000) by J. K. Rowling—In this sequel to *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (RC 56062, BR 14705), Harry and his friends return for their sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Evil Voldemort's power increases daily as Harry endeavors to discover the secrets of his enemy's background; and the mysterious Half-Blood Prince provides help to Harry in Potions class. For grades 4-7 and older readers, 2005. The movie will be released on July 17, 2009.

Horton Hears a Who! (RC 34058, BR 08946) by Dr. Seuss—Horton the elephant, taking a bath in a jungle pool, hears a call for help. It is coming from a speck of dust, from a town of tiny creatures named Whos. When Horton tells the other animals, they think that he is crazy and try in every way to discourage him. But Horton remains dauntless and tells himself, "I simply must help them, because, after all/A person's a person no matter how small." For preschool-grade 2. The animated movie was released in March, 2008.

Inkheart (RC 57116, BR 14997) by Cornelia Funke—Twelve-year-old Meggie lives with her father, Mo, a bookbinder. She discovers a terrible secret: nine years ago when Mo read aloud from a book, the characters appeared in real life while her mother disappeared into the story. Mo's magic causes still more problems to solve. For grades 5-8 and older readers, 2003. The movie will be released on January 23, 2009.

Prince Caspian (RC 16984, BR 13497; also in *The Complete Chronicles of Narnia*, RC 50083)—Four English children return to the magic land of Narnia to aid Prince Caspian in his struggle against his murderous uncle. Second title in "The Chronicles of Narnia." For grades 4-7 and older readers. The movie was released in May, 2008.

The Spiderwick Chronicles (series), by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black—When the Grace children—nine-year-old twins Jared and Simon and their thirteen-year-old sister, Mallory—move into their great-aunt Lucinda's run-down Victorian house, mischief begins, and Jared is blamed. Finding a book about faeries in a secret room gives Jared a clue about the unseen troublemaker. For grades 2-4, 2003. The movie, released in February, 2008, contains elements from the first few books in the series,



beginning with book 1, *The Field Guide* (RC 56514, BR 14982.)

The Tale of Despereaux (RC 57805, BR 15300), by Kate DiCamillo—Despereaux, a small mouse, is condemned to the dungeon for falling in love with human Princess Pea. Despereaux meets the rat, Roscuro, while Mig, an upstairs serving girl, wishes to be a princess, too. All four meet with near disastrous results. Newbery Medal winner. For grades 3-6, 2003. The animated movie will be released on December 19, 2008.

Twilight (RC 62066) by Stephenie Meyer—After seventeen-year-old Bella moves in with her dad in Washington state, she falls in love with high school senior Edward Cullen. Bella discovers that Edward and his adoptive clan are vampires. Though they feast on wildlife rather than humans, Bella is still in danger. For senior high readers, 2005. The movie opened on November 21, 2008.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

From Around our Four Counties



PARTICIPATE IN THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

*Article Submitted by Jose Luis
Barraza, Chairperson*

Fresno County ADA Advisory
Committee

The Fresno County government works towards meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. They achieve this goal through oversight committees that assist them to ensure that county buildings, services, programs, meetings and employment opportunities are accessible and accommodating to persons with disabilities.

Public participation is a prime resource that gives these committees valuable assistance in setting priorities of accessibility and accommodations for persons with disabilities. We encourage

people with disabilities to participate in these monthly meetings to express concerns regarding barriers that affect your ability to participate or have access to public buildings, services, programs and employment opportunities.

Fresno County ADA Committee
Sierra Resource Center
2nd Floor IHSS Conference Room
2025 E. Dakota Ave

Meeting: First Friday of the
month 10am.

For more information, contact
Rosemary Baltcha, ADA Commu-
nity Liaison at (559) 262-4371

The next meeting is set for January
9, 2009. If attendance is not possible
and you still want your concerns
heard you may request an ADA
Complaint Form to fill out and
submit to the Fresno County ADA
Community Liaison.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND—CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

Article Submitted by Jan Kafton

The Central Valley Chapter of the
National Federation of the Blind
would like to announce their
schedule of events.

We still have tickets available for
the Dec. 20th matinee showing
of *A Christmas Carol*. The holi-

day classic is being presented by Good Company Players at the Second Space Theater (928 E. Olive, in the Tower District) at 2 PM. All proceeds from this particular performance go to NFB, so come have a good time and support a good cause.

Our January meeting will be held on Saturday the 10th, from 11 AM until 1 PM, at Carrow's Restaurant (4280 North Blackstone, near Ashlan). We plan to have someone from the Talking Book Library come and talk about the new digital book system that is on its way. Come join us, and learn about what the changes are, and how it will affect the way you read.

Central Valley Chapter is especially interested in finding high school and college students who are blind. We'd like to tell them of the programs that are in place to help them complete their courses and improve their study skills as blind students. If you or anyone you know could benefit from this information, please contact Jan.

From everyone at National Federation of the Blind's Central Valley Chapter, the very best of holiday wishes!

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND—GREATER SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER

*Article Submitted by
Mary Beth Randall*

Happy fall (and winter!) to you all, The Greater San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the CCB is doing well. We just came back a few weeks ago from our fall state convention.

It is difficult to believe that it is November as I write this and that winter is not far off. It still feels so wonderful out there right now. I am sure we would all like to see this nice weather hang around.

We are planning our Christmas party now. Anyone is welcome to come if you would like. It will be held on December 19, from 6 PM to 9 PM, at the clubhouse at Fresno Square Condos, 4779 N. Cedar Ave., between Shaw and Gettysburg Ave. It is a potluck, so if you would like to come, bring a dish to share with everyone. We also have a gift exchange: nothing more than \$5 to \$10 a person and to participate you do need to bring a gift. Come



have a good time and meet some new folks that maybe you do not know.

We still have some entertainment books for sale if you are looking for one. The books are \$25.00 each. They have a lot of good coupons in the book, so get one while they last.

The dates for our meetings in the first three months of 2009 are January 9, February 13, and March 13. We meet at the Denny's on First and Shaw in the back room from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. We would love you to come and get to know us better and join our chapter.

We will be having a spaghetti dinner on March 6 that all are welcome to come to as well. Price of tickets has not been set yet but stay in touch with us and by January we will let you all know the specifics. We will also be doing a lot of planning to have the fall CCB convention here in Fresno. So if you want to know about the organization as a whole stay tuned for information on the convention and what speakers there will be to come and listen to.

I hope you all have a wonderfully blessed Christmas.

LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES

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

Wednesday, December 24 closing at 5:00 PM, and Thursday, December 25 closed all day, in recognition of Christmas Day.

Wednesday, December 31 closing at 5:00 PM, and Thursday, January 1 closed all day, in recognition of New Year's Day.

Monday, January 19, 2009, in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, February 16, 2009, in recognition of Presidents' Day.



“Without libraries
what have we?
We have no past
and no future.”

—Ray Bradbury

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

*All of us at TBLB
wish all of our patrons,
colleagues and friends the
happiest of holiday
seasons and the
very best in
the new year
to come.*



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

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WEB

www.fresnolibrary.org/tblb

This newsletter is published by the Talking Book Library for the Blind and is available in large type, on cassette, in Braille, via e-mail, and via Audio Podcast on the TBLB web site. If you wish to receive this newsletter on cassette, in Braille, or via e-mail, please call TBLB at (559) 488-3217 or 1-800-742-1011 (ask the county toll-free operator for 488-3217.)

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