

Newsletter

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

SPRING 2010

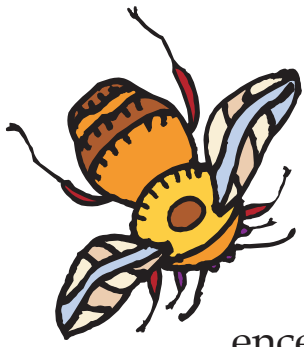
DIGITAL TRANSITION UPDATE

We are excited to report that our digital transition is in full swing. We now have more than 270 digital talking book machines in the hands of patrons who are enjoying them very much. Our digital book collection has expanded to over 1650 titles. Some of the digital titles we now have will be featured in the "Collection Corner" later in this newsletter.

If you do not yet have your digital machine, and are ready to receive it, and do not reside in a prison or state hospital, please be

sure to give us a call and we will discuss the machine with you and get one out along with some books as soon as we can. We are still receiving small allotments of machines every few weeks and have been very busy getting them out to patrons!

This is an exciting time and we hope those of you who have your new machines are really putting them to good use. The feedback we have been getting has been great; one patron states that her digital book machine is "the best present I've received since the Betsy Wetsy doll when I was 5!"



Here are a few helpful hints about digital book service that will help make the digital experience the very best for all of our patrons:

--We are looking at reading records and machine return histories when issuing digital players. In order to receive digital books and a digital player, please be sure you have returned all overdue cassette books and any extra cassette players you have.

--We are still recommending that you keep and use your cassette player in addition to the digital player. There are many, many books available on cassette that are not available on digital, and many that are available on digital but that we may or may not be able to add to our own library's collection. Therefore, you will get the best possible selection of books (particularly if you like older titles) if you continue to use both machines. New books will continue to be produced in both cassette and digital formats through late 2010.

--Before you return a digital book to us, please make sure that the cartridge has actually been put

back into the blue or gray container, and that the name or number of the book on the container matches the name or number of the book on the cartridge that you put in it. We have had a few empty containers returned, and a few mismatched books. In order for the book to go out promptly to the next patron, it must be complete and correct.

--You do NOT, however, have to hold down the reverse key and "rewind" your digital book back to the beginning. When the next patron puts it in their digital machine, the book will start at the beginning for them, no matter where you left it! That's part of the beauty of the digital machine.

--Feel free to call us with specific book and author requests and we will fill them on digital if available, or on cassette if not.

--And don't forget to spread the word about this great new format for Talking Books to those you know who might be interested in becoming patrons of TBLB or any of the other Talking Book Libraries around the country. We rely on word of mouth.

Most of all—enjoy the simple operation and superior quality of your digital books and machine.

2009 THANKS

The staff of the Talking Book Library is very grateful for the help we receive from our patrons, their families and friends.

Volunteers:

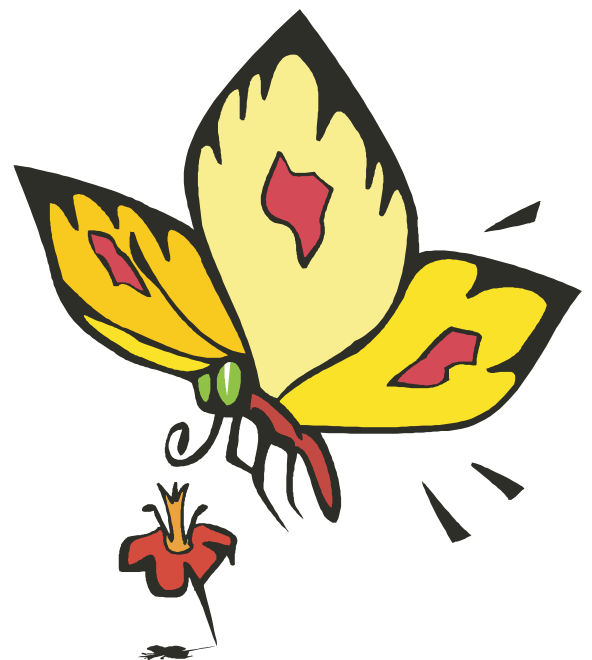
In 2009, 26 TBLB volunteers logged over 2650 hours of service to the branch. Duties included machine testing and packaging, book inspection, Braille, data entry, newsletter labeling, and much more. We really appreciate our volunteers and could never function without them! All Fresno County Library volunteers, including those from TBLB, were honored at a reception at the Woodward Park Branch Library on Sunday, March 14. A longer story about the reception with a detailed list of TBLB volunteers will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.

If you, or a family member or friend, are interested in helping TBLB through volunteer service, there is a place for you. Contact Elizabeth Finkle, Fresno County Library Volunteer Coordinator, at (559) 252-8657.

Trust Fund:

We have received many generous donations to our TBLB Trust Fund in 2009. We really appreciate this, as it helps us to provide items not included in the normal library budget, such as light-weight headphones, described DVDs, and “in-house-produced” digital books.

In particular, we recently received a very generous bequest from the estate of Bette Kinnaird, a longtime patron who passed away in 2009. This bequest will allow us to significantly expand our digital book collection through the purchase of blank digital cartridges and digital cartridge mailing containers. We are excited to be able to provide these additional books through Bette’s generosity.



If you would like to make a contribution to help support TBLB, send your check made out to "TBLB Trust Fund" to our TBLB address, 770 N. San Pablo, Fresno, California, 93728. We very much appreciate all our donors.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Online Social Networking is the wave of the future and TBLB has caught it! If you're on Facebook, please join our TBLB Page by searching on Facebook for "Fresno Talking Book Library for the Blind" or by using the following address: <http://bit.ly/TBLBFresnoFacebookPage>. We have been posting updates on the digital transition and other happenings. See you there!

JOIN THE E-MAIL LIST

If you would like to receive the Talking Book Library Newsletter by e-mail, along with occasional other updates about events or other useful information, let us know and we will add your e-mail address to the list.

You can contact TBLB by email anytime at frtbl@fresnolibrary.org.

COLLECTION CORNER

Highlighting New Digital Books

We have been working very hard to add new digital books to the collection. Among our in-house produced digital books are:

The Earth's Children Series by Jean Auel:

The Clan of the Cave Bear (DB 52680)

The Valley of Horses (DB 57663)

The Mammoth Hunters (DB 22983)

The Plains of Passage (DB 31965)

The Shelters of Stone (DB 57356)

The Eagle Series by William Johnstone

A large selection of Westerns by Louis L'Amour, Max Brand, and Zane Grey

A large selection of Perry Mason mysteries by Erle Stanley Gardner

A selection of *Nero Wolfe* mysteries by Rex Stout

A selection of books by Lilian Jackson Braun, Tony Hillerman, Elmer Kelton and other popular authors

Pillars of the Earth (DB 30999) and *World Without End* (DB 65224) by Ken Follett

The Revenge of the Sisterhood series
by Fern Michaels

The *Twilight* series by Stephenie
Meyer

History books by Stephen
Ambrose, including *D-Day, June
6, 1944* (DB 38858), *Band of Brothers*
(DB 40283), and *The Good Fight:
How World War II Was Won* (DB
53569).

These and many more digital
books are now available. Also, be
sure to check your latest issues of
Talking Book Topics for the new-
est digital titles and call, email, or
send in the TBT order form to let
us know what you want.

Kids' & Teens' CORNER

We hope you are having a good
school year. Our collection of
kids' and teens' materials in digi-
tal format is still small but grow-
ing. Be sure to call or e-mail us
if you are ready to try the digital
player!

The Fresno County Library Sum-
mer Reading Program will be
starting in a few months. Our
Fresno County kids and teens
will be receiving information—

we hope you'll join us this year
to enjoy reading over the sum-
mer and for a chance to win
great prizes. If you don't live in
Fresno County, check with your
local public library about their
summer reading program.



From Around Our Four Counties

VALLEY CENTER FOR THE BLIND

The Valley Center for the Blind,
under new executive director
Bud Breslin, continues to have
a busy program of activities,
including bus trips to Chuk-
chansi Casino, instruction in
independent living skills, crafts,
support groups, social events
and more. Call the Center at
559-222-4447 and get connected
for friendship, fun, and personal
growth. The Center is located at
2491 West Shaw Avenue, Suite
124, in Fresno.

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

*Article Submitted by Mary Beth
Randall, Past President*

Hello all from the local chapter of the CCB. The New Year has begun and with a new year we are working on projects for everyone to enjoy. For sure we are planning a couple of picnics and are talking about other social events that we can have to invite anyone to.

We had been one of several groups asked to help look at samples which Sequoia National Park was working on for an upcoming accessible exhibit to be put into the park. We were pleased to have representatives come to our February meeting. Our members gave some really great input and we look forward to seeing how this project goes in the next phase. Thanks go out to Wendy Eisenberg for telling us about this wonderful project. We look forward to working further with the folks at Sequoia National Park on this project.

We do have a couple of fund raisers in the works that we will be telling you all about as we get them put together and ready to promote.

We plan on being at the Disability Awareness Day put on by Fresno City College on March 25th. We hope you will come by, say hi and get more information about our chapter. We will also have a few fun things for people to check out such as some yummy candy bars that will be available.

We meet on the second Friday of the month. Our meetings are held at the Denny's on First and Shaw, 1110 East Shaw Avenue. Many of us get together at 5 PM to eat dinner and just chat about what is going on in our lives. The meeting starts at 6 and is done by 7:30 PM.

The dates for our next several meetings are; April 9th, May 14th, and June 11th. You can contact Tom and Mary Beth Randall at 559-224-7999 to ask any questions you may have. We would love to have you come and be a part of the group.



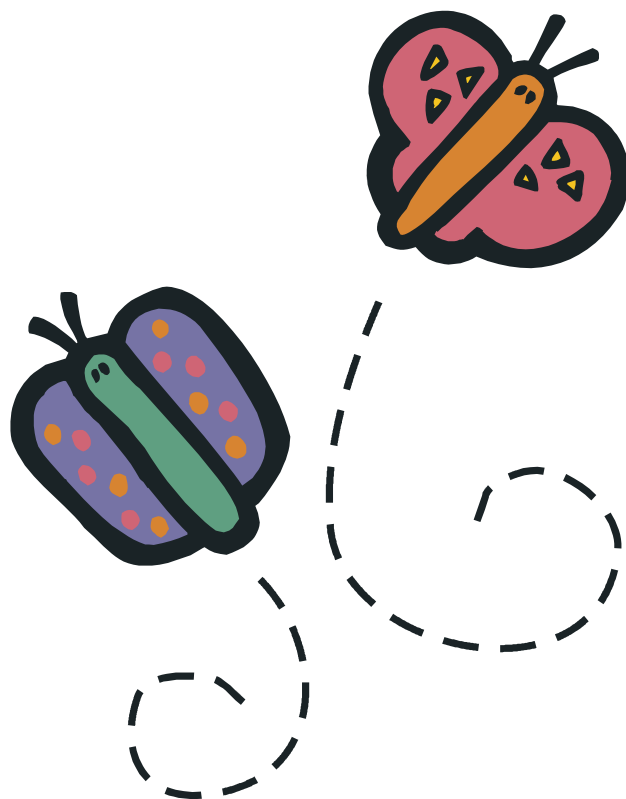
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

*Article Submitted by
Chuck Krugman*

The NFB Central Valley Chapter is looking for members. It has been almost two years since the chapter re-established itself. Getting involved will give you opportunities to find out about new advances in technology for the blind and proposed legislation that will help to improve the quality of life for all blind people. It is also a way to find out what other blind people are doing in the community and throughout the country. Our meetings are on the second Saturday of each month from 11 AM-1 PM at Carrow's Restaurant, 4280 North Blackstone at Ashlan in Fresno. This is accessible on the Route 30 FAX line as well as with Handy Ride. For more information email ckrugman@sbcglobal.net or call 559-266-9237.

“Let your bookcases
and your shelves be
your gardens and your
pleasure-grounds.
Pluck the fruit that
grows therein, gather
the roses, the spices,
and the myrrh. ”

~Judah Ibn Tibbon



LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES

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

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, in celebration of Cesar E. Chavez Day.

Monday, May 31, 2010, in celebration of Memorial Day.

TALKING BOOK LIBRARY STAFF

Librarian, Wendy Eisenberg

Senior Library Assistant,
Ivy L. Bennett

Library Assistant, Barbara
Pendergrass

Library Aides, Leticia Molano
and Kevin Wilson

Senior Aides, Elen Dowing and
Fred Huff, 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



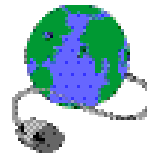
HOURS

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



E-MAIL

ftrtbl@fresnolibrary.org



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, and via e-mail. 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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