



Newsletter

Fresno County Public
Library

SUMMER 2010

DIGITAL TRANSITION UPDATE

The Digital Transition continues to be a big hit. Our digital collection has grown to over 2,500 titles, and we get more new books in every day. We have sent out close to 400 Digital Talking Book Players so far. Those who are using them are raving about how easy they are to use and how good the sound quality is.

If you do not have yours yet, and do not reside in a prison or state hospital (we're still working on policy for institutionalized patrons), call or e-mail us today to get your digital machine. We are receiving new allotments of machines every month, and we want to make sure all our patrons

receive one. We will need to have any overdue cassette books returned before you can begin digital service.

Are you computer-friendly, or do you know someone who is and could help you? You can take advantage of over 15,000 additional titles (including magazines) available through BARD (Braille & Audio Reading Download). Give us a call and we can tell you about it and help you sign up. You will need high-speed internet access (dial-up unfortunately will not be successful) and an e-mail address to sign up. You will download the books to your computer, then "unzip" the files and extract them to a purchased flash drive or purchased blank NLS

digital cartridge. The flash drive or cartridge then plugs directly into your digital Talking Book player. We have quite a number of patrons participating in BARD and actively downloading and listening to books and magazines.

Has it been a long time since you listened to a Talking Book? Is your cassette player gathering dust in a corner? Now is the time to come back to the joy of reading. We can offer you this easier, more convenient alternative to cassettes and find you some books that you will enjoy. We look forward to seeing many inactive patrons “come out of the woodwork”.

HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL? NO!

If you are enjoying your digital player—or your Talking Book service in general—we know you don’t want to keep your enjoyment to yourself. As they say in retail, satisfied customers are the best advertisement. Spread the word to your friends and family, your neighbors, your book club, your Red Hat ladies—whoever you are in contact with that may be interested or know someone who may be. It doesn’t matter where they live, we can connect them to the Talking Book Library in their location.

If you know of a service club, seniors’ group, or other organization that would like to have a presentation about Talking Books, your enthusiastic librarian Wendy would love to come out and talk. Give me a call.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our TBLB Book Discussion Group has one new member and another planning to join us in June. We could always use more! With the transition to digital books, we are now able to all read the same book at the same time (instead of just reading books by the same author), so we hope our discussions will become even more in-depth and enjoyable. The TBLB Book Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00 here at the library. Come join us for good friends, good food, and good discussion of good books.

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION

The annual Fresno County Library Volunteer Reception was held on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at the Woodward Park Regional Library, to honor all Fresno County Library volunteers who gave service in 2009. The theme was “A Century of Service,” recognizing the Centennial of the Fresno County Public Library, and

guests had the opportunity to sign a special commemorative centennial banner with their reflections about the library. Refreshments preceded the awarding of certificates and recognition for all of the hard work our library volunteers do. All volunteers received certificates and Centennial lapel pins; in addition, those who gave over 100 hours for the year received bookmarks and pens, and those with 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of service received ribbons. Congratulations to all of our TBLB volunteers—we really appreciate your hard work!

Bill Allison (Narrator)—10 hours, 16 years

Jacque Arabian (Book Inspection, Assistant to the Brailist)—99.5 hours, 7 years

Pat Bartholomew (Data Entry, Statistics)—106.5 hours, 17 years

Mary Bennett (Data Entry)—8.5 hours, 1 year

Susan Bernay (Book Discussion Group Coordinator)—24 hours, 11 years

Ed Burney (Telecom Pioneer Machine Repair)—99 hours, 13 years

Tammy Clark (Book Inspection)—20.5 hours, 1 year

Tim Easley (CSU Fresno Marketing student)—16.5 hours, special project

B.J. Ferioli (Telecom Pioneer Machine Repair)—140 hours, 6 years

Jo Ann Gowens (Book Inspection, Cassette Repair)—154 hours, 11 years

Shirley Janzen (Book Inspection)—35 hours, 2 years

Wes Leverson (Data Entry)—636.5 hours, 24 years. Wes's total hours were again the HIGHEST of any Fresno County Library volunteer for the year. Congratulations and thank you, Wes!

Sandra Lindley (Brailist, Book Inspection)—212.5 hours, 9 years

Lee Long (Book Inspection)—7 hours, 3 years

Chris Mackey (Cassette Repair)—61.5 hours, 29 years

Wendy March (Book Inspection, Data Entry)—117 hours, 2 years

George McClelland (Telecom Pioneer Machine Repair)—187 hours, 12 years

Karen Melikian (Book Inspection)—9 hours, 2 years

Patricia Moreno (Book Inspection)—66 hours, 1 year

Russ O'Geen (Telecom Pioneer Machine Repair)—183 hours, 6 years

Cathie Peterka (Book Inspection, Stray Tapes)—109.5 hours, 12 years

Johnnie Porter (Machine Inspection & Packaging, Newsletter/Flyer Assembly)—238.5 hours, 10 years

Pat Potter (Book Inspection)—10 hours, 3 years

Shawna Ring (Newsletter/Flyer Assembly and other projects)—41 hours, 3 years

Carol Van Curen (Book Inspection, Data Entry, Machine Cleaning)—51.5 hours, 2 years

Bekah Venneri (CSU Fresno Marketing student)—15.5 hours, special project

NEWSLETTER THANKS

We often fail to thank those who are responsible for making sure this newsletter gets out to you in a timely and readable fashion. So here are some people to whom credit is definitely due.

Those of you who read and enjoy the large print version of this newsletter probably note the easy-to-read layout and cheerful graphics. The newsletter layout and graphics are done each quarter by Amy Johnson, Graphic Artist for the Fresno County Library, and she does an awesome job.

The content of the newsletter is put together by your librarian

Wendy Eisenberg, with submissions from local agencies serving the community of people with disabilities. The newsletter is checked and edited by Roberta Barton, Public Information Officer of the Fresno County Library.

Our long-time narrator for the cassette newsletter (and now the podcast too) is Bill Allison, whose mellifluous tones have been serenading newsletter listeners for many years.

The large print newsletter is duplicated and collated by Micheal Criado of the Fresno County Library. It's a lot of work and we appreciate his effort.

The Newsletter is stapled and labeled, and the cassette newsletter is duplicated, labeled and packaged, by TBLB Senior Aides and volunteers.

The Audio Podcast version of the newsletter is converted to mp3 audio format by Senior Library Assistant Ivy L. Bennett from Bill Allison's cassette version, and uploaded to our TBLB blog by Lisa Erven and James Tyner of the Fresno County Library. It's an easy way to listen to your newsletter via computer.

Thanks to all who make this newsletter possible.

Kids' & Teens' CORNER

It's Summer Reading Time!

Our Fresno County kids and teens should have recently received their Summer Reading logs. We hope you'll participate in Summer Reading and "Make Waves at Your Library" this summer.

You do not need to bring your reading log into the library to receive your prizes. You can call or e-mail us up to two times during the summer reading period (June 14-July 18) and give us the titles of some books you've read (2 books for your first prize, and an additional 4 books for your second prize), and we will send you a prize each time, up to 2 prizes. Send us your completed reading log at the end of the Summer Reading period.

For our kids and teens who do not live in Fresno County, please check with your local public library to enjoy their summer reading program!

And don't forget, our digital collection is growing, so if you are ready for a digital machine, give us a call and we'll find some books for you.

COLLECTION CORNER

Highlighting Portions of Our Collection

Did you know that every new title is now being produced on both digital and cassette? It will be this way until the end of this year, when all new books will be produced in digital format only.

We receive new digital books every day, and they are in all genres of fiction and non-fiction, for all ages. Some of the newest digital books we've received include titles such as:

Barack and Michelle: Portrait of an American Marriage by Christopher Andersen (DB/RC 69408)

Fatally Flaky: A Culinary Mystery by Diane Mott Davidson (DB/RC 68870)

Jim and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure (a children's book) by Dan Gutman (DB/RC 69022)

Matters of the Heart by Danielle Steel (DB/RC 69350)

The Trap at Comanche Bend by Max Brand (DB/RC 69400)

True Compass: A Memoir by Edward Kennedy (DB/RC 69538)

U is for Undertow by Sue Grafton (DB/RC 69588)

*The Wisdom of His Compassion:
Meditations on the Words and
Actions of Jesus* by Joseph Girzone
(DB/RC 69396)

There are many more digital books for you to enjoy and we are being kept busy adding them to our shelves and getting them out to you. It is an exciting time!



From Around Our Four Counties

VALLEY CENTER FOR THE BLIND

Tidbits from VCB June 2010 Newsletter, from Executive Director Bud Breslin

WOW! Another month has passed and the Center just gets busier and busier. If you haven't joined in on any of our activities, please consider joining in.

Our next outing is to the Grizzlies Game on Friday July 30th. We've reserved the party deck. The party deck is on the third base side of the stadium and will be serving a great deal of food. It's

an all you can eat meal. Seats are just below the deck. So come on out and enjoy a great deal of fun. Oh, yes since it's a Friday there are fireworks after the game. You can reserve your seats by calling Sara-marie at 559-222-4447. I hope to see you there.

Our fundraiser "Fantasy Dinners for Two" is under way and the tickets are selling well. Just think you could win first prize which is Dinner for Two at twelve of Fresno's best restaurants. Second prize is Dinner for Two at six ethnic restaurants and third is Dinner for Two at three restaurants. The drawing will be held on Friday August 27th at our Annual Luau. If you would like to help sell tickets or purchase some for your own call me (Bud) at 559-222-4447. The Luau will be held at Holland Park West and will be a festive night. There will be Dinner which includes Pork, Teriyaki Chicken, and Rice, Steamed vegetables, coffee, tea and water. There will be a live and silent auction. Member's tickets (and spouse) are only 30 dollars each. Others may purchase tickets at 40 dollars each.

The staff is working very hard to make the Center a place that you want to come to, not only for our classes but also for social time. If

you have an idea that you would like the Center to try, please drop me (Bud) a note or give me a call.

The Valley Center for the Blind is located at 2491 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 124, Fresno CA 93711, and their phone number is 559-222-4447. They are now open Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 5 PM. It's a great place to be for instruction in independent living, support groups, and social activities.

The following poem was written by VCB member (and TBLB patron) Joseph Galindo, Jr., and printed in the May 2010 issue of the VCB Newsletter. It is reprinted here with Mr. Galindo's permission.

LOOK INTO MY EYES.

By Joseph P. Galindo, Jr.

If you were to look into my eyes
what would you see?

What would you say if I told you I
was blind?

I'm one of many who have low
vision,

are visually impaired, or com-
pletely blind.

I was either born like this or it hap-
pened somewhere in my life.

I blame no one and I don't ask for
no one's pity.

I just ask you to be by my side if I
should ever need you.

I know it's tough to live this life of
mine.

But there are people out there who
will show you the way.

To guide you, teach you, and show
you how to live a normal life.

The Valley Center for the Blind is
a place that anyone who is legally
blind can call their home.

We're all like a family there and
we do many things.

I love them all so very much.

So when you look into my eyes
now, what do you see?

You see me looking at you saying
thank you.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND—CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

*Article Submitted by
Jan Kafton, President*

The Central Valley Chapter of the
National Federation of the Blind of
California holds its monthly meet-
ings at Carrow's Restaurant (4280
N. Blackstone Ave., near Ashlan)
on the second Saturday of each
month. (There may or may not
be a meeting in July). The meet-
ing time is from 11 AM to 1 PM.

We plan in the next few meetings to discuss some of the plans for our national convention in Dallas, Texas as well as some parts of the Chapter's constitution. We'll also go over some ideas for future plans and projects, so bring your thoughts and hopes for the direction we should be taking.

The NFB is the oldest and largest association of the organized blind in the US, and we are changing what it means to be blind. Come join us and see what you can do to help us help others to help themselves.

For more information, contact Jan Kafton at 559-478-0745.

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND—GREATER SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER

Article Submitted by Mary Beth Randall, Past President

Hi, it is hard to believe that soon we will be starting summer.

The local CCB chapter has a few interesting and fun things planned that we hope you will come and participate in.

During the month of July we do not have a meeting. However, the American Council of the Blind national organization, of which the California Council of the Blind is an affiliate, is having their annual

convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The dates for this year's convention are July 9th to the 17th. You can get all the details about the convention by going to www.acb.org and then clicking on conferences. There will be all the information about where it is and how much on that page.

In August we will meet on the 13th. All our meetings are on the second Friday of the month. We meet at Denny's, 1110 E. Shaw Ave. This is on the north side of the street near the corner of First and Shaw. We meet starting around 5 PM for dinner and the meeting starts at 6 PM. We are usually done by 7:30 PM. We would very much enjoy having you come to the meetings. You do not have to be a member.

For any questions or to get more information about the California Council of the Blind you can call and talk to Tom or Mary Beth Randall at 559-224-7999.

I hope you all have had a wonderful spring. Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there.



“ Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission. ”

—Toni Morrison

LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES

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

Sunday and Monday, July 4 & 5, 2010, in celebration of Independence Day.

Monday, September 6, 2010, in celebration of Labor 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.



WRITE US

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HOURS

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



E-MAIL

frtbl@fresnolibrary.org

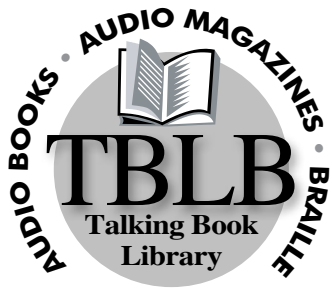


WEB

www.fresnolibrary.org/tblb



<http://bit.ly/TBLBFresnoFacebookPage>



Newsletter

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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.)

Viewpoints expressed in articles submitted by agencies other than TBLB do not necessarily reflect the opinions of TBLB or the Fresno County Free Library. Any mention of products and services in this newsletter is for your information only and does not imply endorsement by TBLB. We welcome news and comments from our readers.

FREE MATTER
for the Blind
and Physically
Handicapped



Talking Book Library
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