

Newsletter

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

FALL 2009

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. . . a time of difficult economic challenges, and a time of exciting new technology.” Welcome to your fall newsletter, chock full of updates of what’s been happening here at TBLB.

A MESSAGE TO OUR LIBRARY CUSTOMERS

Article Submitted By Karen Bosch Cobb, Fresno County Librarian

Like other Fresno County departments, the Fresno County Library faces major financial challenges. While library use continues to climb, for the first time ever in our history, revenues from Measure B (which represent approximately 52

percent of the library’s overall budget) have fallen for two years in a row. Property taxes are static but projected to drop.

Our top priority has always been keeping the promises of Measure B, which will expire in March 2013. However, the decline in revenues resulting from the economic downturn has made service reductions necessary:

All branches will be closed four (4) additional low-use days during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. *(Editor’s Note: Please see list of Library Closure Dates later in this issue).*

Programs for all ages will be reduced by one-third.

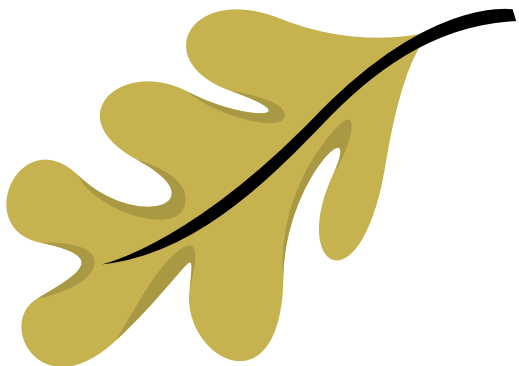
Only essential maintenance and equipment purchases will be completed.

Existing staff have been reassigned to help meet shortages at other understaffed locations (*editor's note: please see article about TBLB Library Assistant Benjamin Locke's reassignment to the Fig Garden Branch Library later in this issue*).

These reductions will help maintain other high-use essential services, including outreach to the unemployed and underemployed, computer access, purchases of books and other materials, and literacy tutors.

On behalf of staff and volunteers, thank you for your support of Measure B and your continued use of libraries during this uncertain economy.

*Karen Bosch Cobb, County Librarian
July 2009*



HELP EVERYONE AVOID THE BLUE BOOK BLUES—RETURN ALL YOUR BOOKS IN TIMELY FASHION

*Article Submitted by Ivy L. Bennett,
Senior Library Assistant*

The rumors are true: the new digital talking book containers are blue rather than green. Each book is contained on a single cartridge and TBLB can shelve two cartridge book copies in the space required for a single cassette book.

Given that the quantity of digital books will be limited for quite some time, we are reminding all patrons, when you start receiving digital books, that our borrowing period is **FIVE WEEKS** for **ALL** talking books (digital, cassette, radio shows, and Described DVD), and that the maximum number of the new digital cartridge books to be on loan to any patron at one time is **THREE**.

You might think of it this way: avoid the blues of not having something fresh to read on digital by returning books during the borrowing period, and never be green with envy when your friends have a steady flow of cassette books in the mail by doing the same.

NEW TBLB E-MAIL ADDRESS

We have a new “general e-mail” address for TBLB which will be answered by the Librarian, Senior Library Assistant, and Library Assistant in turn.

Feel free to e-mail your book requests, questions and concerns to frtbl@fresnolibrary.org and we will answer you as soon as possible. Thank you.

OPEN HOUSE: SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for our Annual Open House! This year we will be showcasing and demonstrating the new Digital Talking Books and Digital Talking Book Players as well as possibly featuring some new additions to our Described DVD Collection. Light refreshments will be provided.

DATE: Thursday, November 5, 2009

TIME: 12:00 noon to 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: TBLB—770 North San Pablo Avenue, Fresno CA

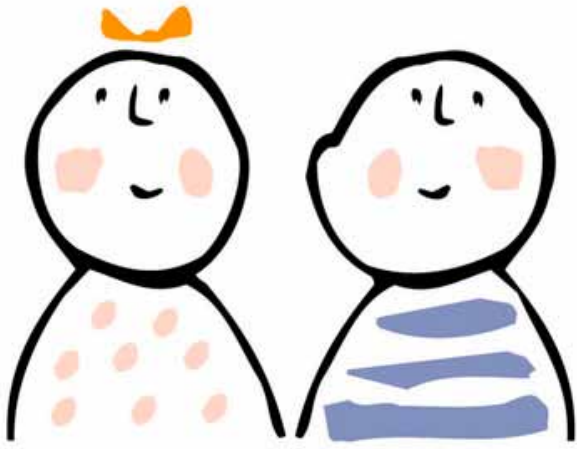


FAREWELL BENJAMIN

After 2-1/2 years of dedicated service to TBLB, Benjamin Locke accepted a new assignment at the Fig Garden Branch Library which started August 24, 2009. We know many of you benefited from Ben’s dedication and experience and his highly detailed patron service as well as enjoying talking to him on the phone or in person. We miss Ben already here but know he is enjoying his new location. Good luck Ben!

WELCOME FRED

On the plus side, we are happy to welcome our second Senior Aide through the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program. Fred Huff joined us at the beginning of July and has been working hard at book inspection, machine cleaning, and many other tasks. We’re glad to have him around!



Kids' & Teens'

CORNER

BACK TO SCHOOL!

The 2009 Summer Reading Program is now completed. We had two children enter the Summer Reading program and earn prizes. Five-year-old twin brother and sister, Allen and Heaven, were enthusiastic and each listened to more than 15 books. They each earned prizes and a certificate, and Allen was the winner of our branch's Summer Reading Grand Prize, which was a Barnes & Noble Gift Card. We hope they enjoyed participating, and we hope that many more of our kids and teens will be part of the Summer Reading Program in 2010!

In the meantime, now that you are back at school, don't forget that TBLB has many of the titles you

may need to read for English and literature classes, as well as biographies, books on many subjects including science and history, and not to mention—books to read for your own pleasure and enjoyment. Please call or e-mail us, or have your parents call or e-mail us, to let us know what you would like to have. Enjoy reading, it's a great habit for life!



From Around Our Four Counties

**CHOICE MAGAZINE NOW
FREE AS DIGITAL DOWNLOAD
FROM NLS**

Reconnect with an old friend or meet a new one – CHOICE Magazine Listening is available for free digital download from the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Produced six times a year, each issue contains unabridged works from quality publications

such as National Geographic, Smithsonian, Sports Illustrated, and the New Yorker.

The articles, short stories, poetry and interviews are selected from more than 100 magazines and other periodicals. The selections are read by professional voice talent from the studios of the American Foundation for the Blind in New York. The recording is human voice, not synthetic text-to-speech.

CHOICE Magazine Listening is available free of charge only to people who are blind, experiencing vision loss or have other disabilities that limit or prevent reading standard print.

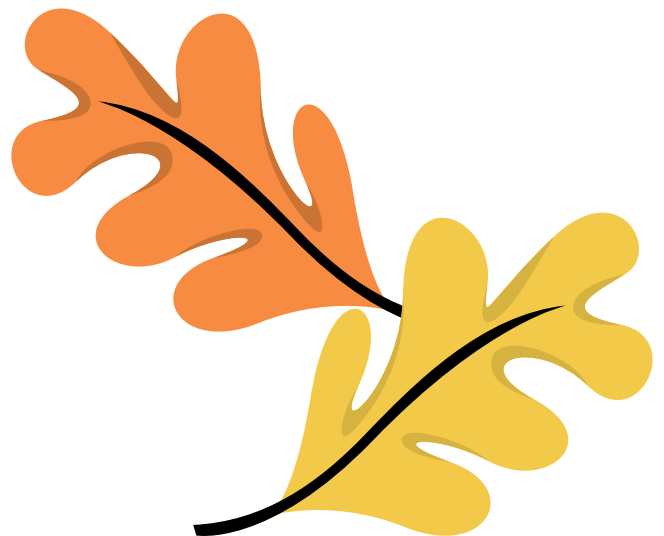
CHOICE continues to be released on four-track cassette tape for those who prefer that format. You can visit the website: www.choicemagazinelisting.org, or call toll-free 1-888-724-6423. Information on the digital download from NLS can be found by contacting TBLB.

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING – FRESNO

Article Submitted by Jimmie Soto

The Center for Independent Living-Fresno (CILF) is the new lead organization for

the California Community Transitions (CCT) Project. This project is administered through the California Department of Health Care Services Long Term Care Division and is available throughout Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties. The project is intended to assist people with disabilities in relocating out of skilled nursing facilities and into independent living. To be eligible for this project the person must be on Medi-Cal and have been living in a skilled nursing facility (hospital, nursing or subacute care facility, or an intermediate care facility) for 6 months or longer. The CCT project will assist in coordinating a plan and essential services fundamental to obtaining community based living. The CCT project can assist in purchasing start-up



items vital to the relocation process including deposit, initial stock of personal and household items, home modifications, assistive devices, and other items necessary to transition into independent living.

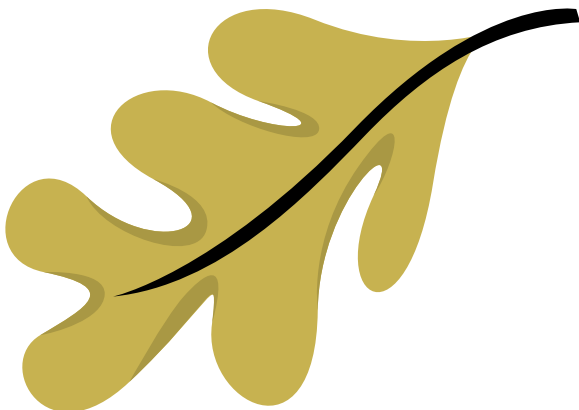
For more information call CILF or review the Transitions Flyer at www.cilfresno.org/transitions.php and click on CCT Project Brochure.

Center for Independent Living
3008 N Fresno, CA 93703
559-221-2330
www.cilfresno.org

VALLEY CENTER
FOR THE BLIND

Article Submitted by Millie Marshall

Thank you to all who participated in our 6th annual luau. It was a success! We all had a great time, good food and entertainment!



We are now working on a poker run for all vehicles for October 10. It will be fantastic. We will be having the run through the mountains which will be very beautiful to say the least. The five stops are not set in stone yet, so they will be announced later.

We are also putting together the second annual VCB calendar which will contain pictures of our guide dogs and puppies in training taken in Storyland. They will be on sale soon so get your orders in!

Remember that we are now located at 2491 W. Shaw, #124. Very accessible for Handy Ride and Round-up.

Many exciting activities have been scheduled for the clients in the future, such as a tour bus to the Monterey Aquarium. More of these types of activities are coming up in the future. And don't forget that we still have the "Enjoy the City" coupon books on sale at \$20.00.

For questions please call 559-222-4447.

Thank you very much—Millie

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

Greater San Joaquin Valley Chapter

*Article Submitted by
Mary Beth Randall*

Hello all, it is hard to believe that it is already September. Somehow the summer is almost over and things like fall and, yes, Christmas are just around the corner. Amazing!

Our local CCB chapter has been spending our summer preparing for the seventy-fifth anniversary convention to be held right here in Fresno. The convention will be held from October 29 to November 1 at the Radisson Hotel in downtown.

There will be a lot of great people to meet and a number of excellent topics to listen to at the general sessions. Come on down and learn about legislation, the history of Fresno, and more. There will also be exhibits available for Friday and Saturday as well. You can come see all the great items that vendors have to offer, anything from CCTVs to craft items.

Our local chapter meets at Denny's, 1110 E. Shaw Avenue, on the first Friday of the month. We meet at 5 PM to have dinner and socialize. At 6 PM we start our meetings. Anyone is welcome to come and find out more about us.

The dates for the next few meetings are:

October 2nd, November 6th, and December 4th.

To contact us about the local CCB chapter call Tom or Mary Beth Randall at 559-224-7999. If we can be of any help feel free to call us.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND—CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

*Article Submitted by
Chuck Krugman*

The Central Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind continues to grow with interesting projects and activities. On September 19 we had our Bowlarama, a fund raising event and a means to show that blind people can do the same things that sighted people do, which was held at Cedar Lanes.

Did you know that 2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille? As a result the U.S. Mint has created a commemorative coin that shows the Braille symbol. Money raised from the sale of these coins is used to improve and develop new technology that promotes and increases Braille literacy. For more information about the Louis Braille Commemorative Coin or to find out more about our meetings, contact me at 559-266-9237 or by email at ckrugman@sbcglobal.net. Dates for the next meetings are October 10th and November 14th. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at Carrow's Restaurant 4280 N. Blackstone at Ashlan in Fresno at 11 A.M. All are welcome to attend.

*Chuck Krugman, President
NFB of California Central Valley
Chapter*

“He that loves reading
has everything within his
reach.”

—William Godwin

LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES

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

Monday, October 12, 2009 for a day of Staff Training

Wednesday, November 11, 2009, in observance of Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 25, 2009, Service Reduction due to decline in income

Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2009, Regular scheduled closure in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday

Thursday, December 24, 2009, Service Reduction due to decline in income

Friday, December 25, 2009, Regular scheduled closure in celebration of the Christmas holiday

Thursday, December 31, 2009, Service Reduction due to decline in income

Friday, January 1, 2010, Regular scheduled closure in celebration of the New Year's holiday

TALKING BOOK LIBRARY STAFF

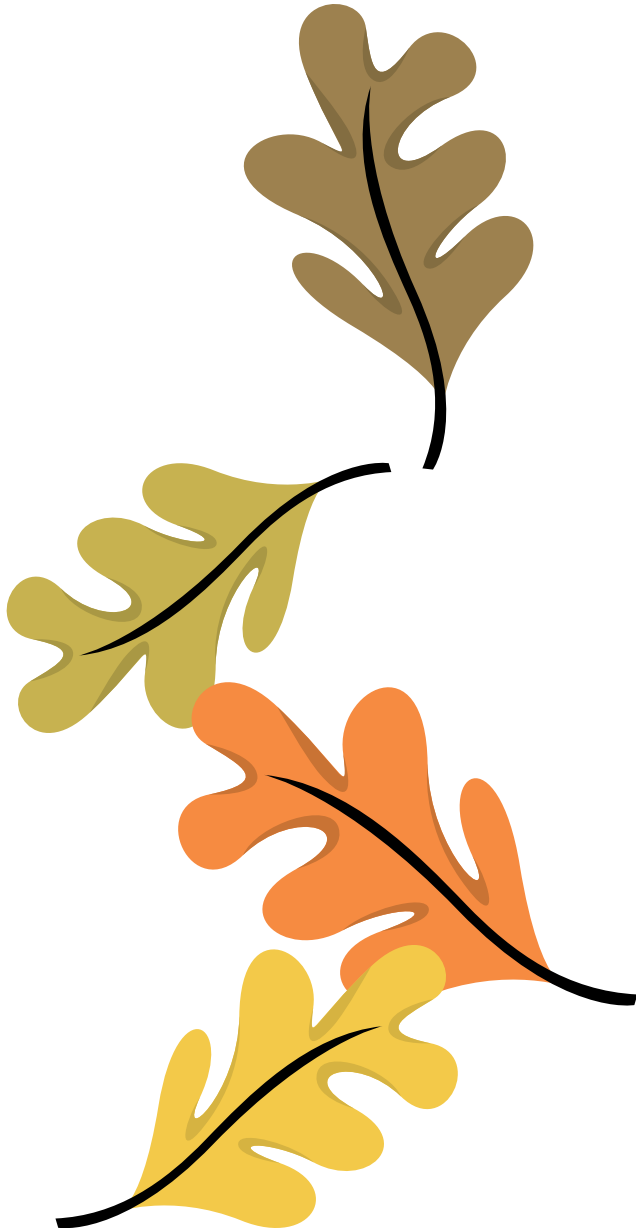
Librarian, Wendy Eisenberg

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, 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.)

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.

