



TALKING TIMES

Rhode Island Talking Books Plus
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Andy Egan, Regional Librarian

Fall 2005

RI Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired Celebrate 75 Years of Service

The Rhode Island Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick. On hand to join in the celebration were RI Talking Books Plus librarians Andy Egan, Hope Houston, and Beth Perry.

Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty, the offices of Governor Carcieri and Senator Jack Reed, physicians from the Rhode Island Eye Institute and the New England College of Optometry, and several hundred attendees also commemorated the occasion.

Looking back on the medical, educational and social services through the ages brought smiles of recognition at the cumbersome devices made available to visually impaired and blind individuals decades ago. It also revealed how far services have come, and offered hope for better intervention and prevention of blindness in the future.

Forty years ago diabetes was the #1 cause of blindness. Cataract surgery included a four or five day stay in the hospital, followed by six weeks of doctor's visits and a lifetime of wearing VERY thick glasses.

Today, macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness. The development of laser surgery can now prevent blindness in most people with diabetes. And

cataract surgery is safe and predictable, restoring people to full activity the day after surgery.

What does the future hold? According to optometrists it holds improved microsurgery, greater magnification and portability, and advanced technology to increase the quality of life to those who are blind or visually impaired.

“The challenge lies in front of us,” said Don Deignan, author of Seventy-Five Years of Service and Partnership: A Brief History of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, “while R.I. State Services, through its legacy of improvement and change, has made tremendous progress in 75 years, there is so much more to be done.”

Here’s to the next seventy-five years of service and innovation!



Braille Readers Are Leaders 23RD Annual Contest for Blind Youth

The National Association to Promote the Use of Braille and the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children announce their annual contest to motivate children to read Braille. Blind and visually impaired readers from kindergarten through grade 12 are encouraged to enter the contest. All contestants will receive a certificate and a ribbon of recognition for their participation.

All books must be read over a period of three months between November 1, 2005 and February 1, 2006 in order to qualify. Contest entry forms must be postmarked by February 15, 2006 in order to be entered into the contest.

For more information and to receive a contest entry form contact: Mrs. Barbara Cheadle, President, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, MD 21230, (410) 659-9314, extension 2360 or 2361, or email bcheadle@nfb.org.



Extra! Extra! Read All About It!! Reading the Newspaper Is Just A Phone Call Away!

The Rhode Island Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired now offers a new service. Beginning this Fall, Rhode Islanders who cannot read conventional print will have access to over 100 daily newspapers and magazines, including *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Providence Journal*. This is a free service provided by NFB-NEWSLINE[®] through SBVI.

Readers may choose a newspaper headline, article, or section using a standard touch-tone telephone. There is no charge for this service, and it is available 24 hours a day from any touchtone phone nationwide.

For more information about this free service, please contact **Linda Hughes** at Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, **222-2300, ext. 423**.

NOTE: Mention of a product or service in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement by this library. Our intent is to increase an awareness of programs and items, which may be helpful to our readers.



Search the Talking Books Plus Online Catalog

Searching for a title, author or subject of a book has never been easier. If you are connected to the Internet, just log onto the **Talking Books Plus Online Catalog** - www.klas.com/ri1a

The webpage now displays our Talking Books Plus logo and state seal to identify it as our official search site for the Talking Books Plus collection.

To use the online catalog, you need a computer and an Internet connection. The site is designed to work with most web browsers and care has been taken to ensure full accessibility with assistive technology such as screen readers and magnification programs.

You will also need a User ID and a Password. Call TB Plus to find out your ID and password. Only active library patrons may order books using the online catalog.

Patrons can search for a book by author, title, or subject; review reading preferences, and update addresses and phone numbers in the **Patron Information** area. You can also check which books you have out, find out when you have requested or reserved a book, search for magazines, and much more.

Patrons are encouraged to spend time exploring the screens to become familiar with them. There are extensive *Help* screens to aid in your exploration.

Of course, you may still order books by phone, email, fax or sending us a request in the mail.

RI Talking Books Plus, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

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Reading the Talking Times Newsletter

The Talking Times is published four times a year in print and in audiocassette format, please call us at 222-5800 to make a request for an audiocassette copy. In addition, Talking Times is available from our website at www.lori.ri.gov/tbp

If you have any news or announcements that you would like to contribute to Talking Times, please contact Hope Houston at RI Talking Books Plus, 401-222-5770.

Funding for this publication is provided by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Meet the Talking Books Library Staff

Andy Egan is most often the knowledgeable voice on the other end of your phone when you call Talking Books. Andy has been the librarian for the Rhode Island Regional Library (now known as Talking Books Plus) since April 2000.

Dolores Caruolo has been with Library Services for 33 years. Dolores fields requests for patrons and keeps the office humming smoothly.

Ken Marold makes sure your audiocassette players are mailed out to you promptly. He also assists patrons, and oversees the cleaning and repair of the Talking Books machines.

Hope Houston is the newest voice on the phone at Talking Books Plus. Hope came on board to Library Services at the beginning of September as a Reader's Advisor.

RI Talking Books will be closed the following days in 2005 and 2006:

Columbus Day - October 10, 2005

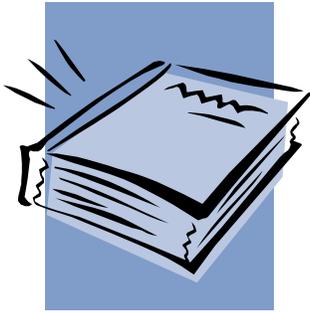
Veterans' Day – November 11, 2005

Thanksgiving Day – November 24, 2005

Christmas Day – December 25 and December 26, 2005

New Year's Day – January 1 and January 2, 2006

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 16, 2006



What Should I Read Next? ROMANCE

The following is a list of authors who have been recipients of the RITA Awards. RITA Awards are presented each year by the Romance Writers of America (RWA) to authors whose works represent the very best in romance literature. Categories range from *Best First Book* to *Best Traditional Romance*. Here is a list of romance novel authors and titles, new and old, available through **Talking Books Plus**.

To order any of these titles, contact the **RI Talking Books Plus** by email, phone, or mail. You may also request these titles through our online catalog - www.klas.com/ri1a Happy Reading!

Always to Remember by Lorraine Heath (1996)

RC 46243

Clay Holland, who refused to carry a gun during the Civil War, has been branded a coward since his return to Cedar Grove, Texas. Meg Warner tries to shame him and to commemorate the town's fallen heroes by commissioning him to carve a memorial statue for the town. But Meg is surprised by Clay's courage. *Best Short Historical 1997*

As Sure As the Dawn by Francine Rivers (1995)

RC 42413

Hadassah awaits death in the cells below the arena. As she waits, she is visited by Atretes, and she tells him that his son by Julia still lives. Atretes is told to go to John, who has given the son to a young widow named Rizpah. Atretes is reunited with his son, but to keep him alive, Atretes must also accept Rizpah into his life. *Best Inspirational 1996*

Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie (2004)

RC 58276

Thirty-three-year-old Minerva Dobbs's boyfriend not only dumps her right before her sister's wedding but also bets his buddy, Cal Morrisey, that Min will sleep with Cal. Min overhears them and although she plans revenge falls in love instead. *Best Contemporary 2005*

Birthright by Nora Roberts (2003)

RC 55869

Ancient bones are uncovered at a construction site in Maryland and archaeologist Callie Dunbrook and her ex-husband are asked to investigate. When a local woman claims that Callie is her long-lost daughter -- kidnapped twenty-nine years earlier -- Callie must search for the truth. *Best Contemporary Single Title 2004*

Border Bride by Elizabeth English (2001)

RC 56030

The Borderlands, 1375. English Lord Darnley promises his daughter Maude to Scottish Jemmy Kirallen. When he sends his illegitimate daughter Alyson instead, the two fall in love. Alyson's identity is soon discovered, jeopardizing her life. *Best First Book 2002*

Born in Ice by Nora Roberts (1995)

RC 41122

In this sequel to "Born in Fire" (RC 39873), Irish Maggie Concannon's sister, Brianna, turns the family home into a bed-and-breakfast. Brianna is excited to have a paying guest: American writer Grayson Thayne. She also learns that her late father has a child in America and that he made one last investment before he died. *Best Romantic Contemporary 1996*

The Bridal Season by Connie Brockway (2001)

RC 56853

Victorian England. Runaway music hall performer Letty Potts finds a train ticket and travels to Little Bidewell, Northumberland. She is mistaken for wedding planner Lady Agatha Whyte, and manages to orchestrate a high society nuptial.

Sir Elliot March, despite his suspicions, falls in love with Letty. Prequel to "Bridal Favors" (RC 56854). *Best Long Historical Romance 2002*

The Christmas Basket by Debbie Macomber (2002)

RC 56364

Noelle McDowell hasn't been home for the holidays in Rose, Oregon, in ten years because she didn't want to risk running into Thom Sutton. Once she had planned to elope with him, but Thom jilted her. Now she is home, it's Christmas, and miracles do happen. *Best Traditional Romance 2003*

Remember When by Nora Roberts (2003)

RC 56898

Laine Tavish discovers that a man killed outside her Maryland shop helped her father steal millions in diamonds. Max Gannon, investigating the theft, falls in love with Laine. Fifty years later, NYC police detective Eve Dallas assists their endangered granddaughter who unknowingly has the stones. *Best Romantic Suspense 2004*

Stardust of Yesterday by Lynn Kurland (1996)

RC 48145

Genevieve Buchanan is told she has inherited an English castle--that just has a few minor quirks. When she arrives at Seakirk Keep, Genevieve discovers that her inheritance includes Kendrick de Piaget, a thirteenth-century ghost with a charming bag of tricks. *Best First Book 1997*

Three Fates by Nora Roberts (2002)

RC 54462

Irish siblings Malachi, Gideon, and Rebecca Sullivan seek the return of a family heirloom -- a small antique statue -- and the whereabouts of its matching pieces. During their dangerous quest, they manipulate suspects but also fall in love. *Best Romantic Suspense 2003*

SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

A new support group is being formed to bring together blind or visually impaired individuals, their family and friends to discuss mutual issues and concerns related to vision loss.

WHEN: 3rd Tuesday of each month

WHERE: Weaver Library, 41 Grove Avenue
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

Any Questions? Contact Angelina Stabile at 434-2654

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**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**