

TALKING TIMES

Spring 2006

Rhode Island Talking Books Plus
One Capitol Hill ■ Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401-222-5800
Fax: 401-222-4195
Email: tbplus@lori.state.ri.us
Website: www.lori.ri.gov/tbp/

Andrew Egan, Regional Librarian

Hope Houston, Writer/Editor

SUMMER READING

This year, as in previous years, Talking Books Plus is encouraging our young readers, ages 5 to 16, to take part in the summer reading program. The theme to this year's reading program is **Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales**.



Over the summer you will have the opportunity to read many wonderful books about pets and animals and earn points toward completion of your summer reading contract. In addition, if you complete all your reading, you will be entered into a contest to win four tickets to a Pawtucket Red Sox Game in August.

A letter outlining the summer reading program will be going out very soon to all our young readers. Keep on Reading!



WEB BRAILLE

Do you have access to the Internet? Are you a braille reader? If you are, you may want to try Web-Braille.

Web-Braille is an internet service that provides electronic access to materials published in braille format. These materials may be read online, or downloaded to a braille notetaker or embosser. At present the National Library Service collection contains nearly 6,000 books, magazine titles, and musical scores.

To register for Web-Braille, users must first contact Talking Books Plus and provide the library with an e-mail address and a 6 to 8 character password. When the subscription is activated, you will receive access instructions by e-mail.

Contact Hope Houston or Andy Egan at 222-5800 for more information. You may also visit the National Library Service website for additional facts about this service.

www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/webbraille.html

NLS Internet Download Pilot Program

By Andrew Egan, Regional Librarian

The National Library Service will begin a pilot program to test the functionality of online downloading for its books and magazines during late spring 2006. NLS director, Frank Kurt Cylke says, "Online download will optimize our service to patrons. It's an alternative way to access the collection." The pilot program will involve one hundred Talking Book users selected throughout the country based on their access to high speed internet, computer hardware, available time, and technical skills. In addition, participants will provide feedback via surveys, email, a listserv, or online blog. At the start, users in the test group will have access to 1,000 books and magazines. Later in the year, the

digital collection will increase by an additional 1,500 titles for selection by participants.

With a completion date of late 2007, the download test program will offer firsthand knowledge about the benefits and concerns for the new technology and user service. According to Neil Bernstein, the NLS pilot manager, "This project will offer us a sneak preview of how a larger segment of patrons interacts with the technology."

After completion of the pilot program, the migration to a more inclusive user download program will be implemented. It is expected to bring multiple benefits to patrons of the National Library Service program. Access to titles will become faster, within minutes as opposed to days. New titles will be available first in the online mode and later via postal mail. Finally, patrons will have more independence and freedom to select, review, and read books and magazines by their own efforts. To learn more about this exciting new program, call Andrew Egan at 222-5800.

MAGAZINES

As many of you know, free subscriptions to magazines are available to you both in audiocassette and braille formats. In addition to the magazines you may receive from the National Library Service, the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library records many other magazines that may be of interest to you.

While most magazines are sent to you directly from the producers and are yours to keep, the magazines loaned from Perkins must be returned to the Library so that others may receive them in a timely fashion.

The following is a list of magazines that may be borrowed from the Perkins Library:

AARP Newsletter (monthly)

News of the American Association of Retired
Persons

AARP Magazine (bimonthly)



Addresses the needs and interests of persons 50 and older

Awareness (quarterly)

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments.

Boston Magazine (monthly)

Features the best of Boston living, including places to visit and dine.

Choice Magazine Listening (bi-monthly)

Anthology of articles, poetry and fiction

Diabetes Self-Management (bi-monthly)

Information on nutrition, exercise, drugs, and medical advances of interest to the diabetic.

Disability Issues (quarterly)

Helpful information aimed at the disability community of Massachusetts.

Good Old Days (monthly)

Articles about life before fast food, shopping malls, and Wal-Mart.

Guideposts (monthly)

True stories of hope and inspiration.

The Lantern (semi-annual)

Perkins School Newsletter

NARFE (monthly)

Newsletter of National Association of Retired Federal Employees. Information of interest to current and former federal employees.



National Geographic Traveler (8 issues/year)

Articles of interest to travelers worldwide.

Parents Magazine (monthly)

Tips, techniques, and advice for raising healthy children.

Peacework: Global Thought and Local Action for Nonviolent Social Change (monthly)

The magazine of the American Friends Service Committee
Cambridge, MA

Playboy (monthly)

Fiction, news, and articles with a male perspective.

Report on Disability Law (monthly)

Legal news for people with disabilities.

Saturday Evening Post (bi-monthly)

Health, fitness, food, and current research topics in the medical field.

Seventeen (monthly)

Fashion, beauty tips, dating advice, and diet for teens.

Smithsonian (monthly)

History, the arts, science, nature, and culture magazine.

Vital Speeches of the Day (twice a month)

Important speeches on current and national concerns from recognized leaders of public opinion.

Women's Day (17 issues/year)

Home management with recipes, crafts, and decorating ideas.

Yankee (10 issues/year)

Articles, stories, travel, art and poetry with a New England flare.



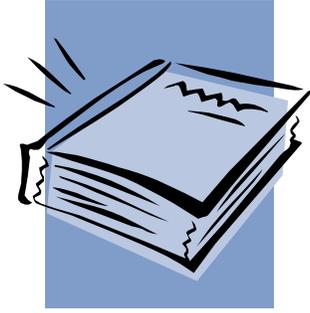
Your Dog (monthly)

Tufts Veterinary Newsletter on the best care, training, diet, and health guidance for your dog.

If you are interested in subscribing to any of these magazines, please contact the Talking Books Library at 222-5800, or email tbplus@lori.state.ri.us .

Online Help

Are you trying to order books online from the Talking Books catalog? Frustrated by the results? We know that many of you are online and ordering your own books from the Talking Books Online Catalog. However, some have told us that using this online catalog can be a challenge at times. R.I. Talking Books librarians, Hope Houston and Andy Egan, are offering telephone help for those of you who would like to use the online catalog to order your books. Please call **222-5800** to schedule a training appointment.



What Should I Read Next?

BIOGRAPHY!

American Chica: Two Worlds, One Childhood by Marle Arana (2001)

RC 52964 (Spanish RC 58955)

Editor of the "Washington Post Book World" recounts her bicultural upbringing in South America in the 1950s as the daughter of a Peruvian engineer married to a blonde American musician. She reminisces about coming to terms with her dual heritage.

Big Russ and Me: Father and Son; Lessons of Life by Tim Russert (2004)

RC 58298

Television journalist's memoir celebrating his bond with his father, "Big Russ," a WWII veteran whom Russert calls "endlessly hardworking and eternally optimistic." Author recollects his own 1950s Buffalo childhood in a close-knit Irish Catholic neighborhood and recalls teachers who inspired him throughout his life.

Blind Justice: Jacobus tenBroek and the Vision of Equality by Floyd Matson (2005)

RC 59656

Biography of the founder of the National Federation of the Blind, written by friend and collaborator Matson. Tells how tenBroek (1911-1968), blinded at age seven, obtained a law degree and became an advocate not only for blind people but for people with disabilities, poor people, and other minority groups.

Blowing My Cover: My Life as a CIA Spy by Lindsay Moran (2005)

RC 59522

Former CIA employee details her brief career, claiming that training, sexism, and boring field work led her to resign and seek a more rewarding life. Includes anecdotes about lying to friends for five years for "cover," spying in Macedonia, and failing to find love.

Chet Atkins: Me and My Guitars by Chet Atkins and Michael Cochran (2001)

RC 59270

Autobiography written with longtime friends the Cochran brothers. The guitarist recalls his career, beginning with his early days in Tennessee and Georgia, by focusing on guitars he has had over the years. Describes the evolution of his guitars' construction and includes anecdotes about favorite instruments.

Copy This! Lessons from a Hyperactive Dyslexic Who Turned a Bright Idea Into One of America's Best Companies by Paul Orfalea (2005)

RC 60750

The author, a dyslexic who was repeatedly expelled from school, describes successfully founding Kinko's copy shops. Offers business advice along with autobiographical anecdotes.

Electric Universe: The Shocking True Story of Electricity by David Dodanis (2005)

RC 59659

Describes the discovery of electricity and the ways its development transformed the world. Weaves biographical sketches of pioneers Michael Faraday, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Alan Turing, and others with explanations about their impact on applications such as batteries, telegraph, radio, transistors, and computers.

Every Second Counts by Lance Armstrong (2003)

RC 56920

Following his athletic comeback and defeat of cancer recounted in "It's Not about the Bike" (RC 50265), cyclist Lance Armstrong describes a new appreciation for everyday family life, including the addition of twins. Details the training and effort needed to win his fifth Tour de France in 2003.

Fifth Quarter: The Scrimmage of a Football Coach's Daughter by Jennifer Allen (2000)

RC 52388

The only daughter of the late football coach George Allen chronicles her unusual family life. As her three older brothers and father obsessed over winning while her colorful and profane

French Tunisian mother railed from the sidelines, Jennifer watched and wished she were a boy.

The Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation by Cokie Roberts (2004)

RC 58361

Political commentator and news analyst examines the role of Abigail Adams, Deborah Read Franklin, Martha Washington, and other prominent colonial women in founding the United States. Discusses their work outside the domestic sphere to manage businesses, run plantations, and defend their homes in the absence of men.

Madam Secretary by Madeleine Albright (2003)

RC 57048

Memoir by former secretary of state under President Clinton. Albright seeks to "combine the personal with policy" to describe the worldwide events in which she participated. Includes her reminiscences of childhood as a Czechoslovakian refugee and married life before she entered the tumultuous world of politics.

My Invented Country: A Nostalgic Journey Through Chile by Isabel Allende (2003)

RC 58348 (Spanish RC 54978)

The famous author remembers her childhood home, Chile, which she left after the death of her uncle in a 1973 military coup. She talks about Chile's history, nostalgic memories of her family, and her life as an exile in her new home, the United States.

Never Have Your Dog Stuffed: And Other Things I've Learned by Alan Alda (2005)

RC 60651

Memoir of the "M*A*S*H" actor recalls his life onstage and off. Describes his bittersweet upbringing backstage by his burlesque actor father and mentally ill mother, major turning points in his career, and lessons he's learned along the way.

The Spiral Staircase: My Climb out of Darkness by Karen Armstrong (2004)

RC 58164

Author/journalist recounts her spiritual journey and medical nightmare upon returning to secular life at twenty-four after seven years as a young Roman Catholic nun. Describes her

lapses of faith, academic disappointments, and misdiagnosed epilepsy as steps to gradual enlightenment.

Testosterone Inc: Tales of CEOs Gone Wild by Christopher Byron (2004)

RC 59580

Author of bestselling *Martha Inc.* (RC 54450) charts the rise and fall of four "celebrity" CEOs: General Electric's Jack Welch, Revlon's Ronald Perelman, Sunbeam's Albert Dunlap, and Tyco's Dennis Kozlowski. Exposes their serial womanizing and career power plays, attributing such extreme male behavior to the influence of hormones.

Three Weeks with my Brother by Nicholas Sparks and Micah Sparks (2004)

RC 58824

A memoir chronicling the around-the-world adventure of author Nicholas Sparks and his brother, Micah, in 2003. Leaving wives and families at home, the brothers journeyed to Machu Picchu, Peru; India; and the Australian outback remarking on milestones in their lives, childhood remembrances, and truths about loss and hope.

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

**RHODE ISLAND TALKING BOOKS PLUS
ONE CAPITOL HILL
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5803**

**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**