

TALKING TIMES

REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Office of Library and Information Services

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Phone: (401)222-5800 TTY 711 ■ Fax: (401)222-4195

Website: www.lori.ri.gov/tbp/ ■ Email: tbplus@lori.state.ri.us

Andrew Egan, Regional Librarian

Hope Houston, editor

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When Will We Go Digital?

Since 2002, the National Library Service has been working to implement a digital system for storing and reading audio books. Approximately 23,000,000 RC books are presently stored in cassette format nationwide. These books are sent to more than 500,000 eligible residents throughout the U.S., free of charge, by way of the U. S. Postal Service. Cassettes and cassette playback machines have been the mode for reading these books for more than 30 years.

In 2008, the National Library Service will roll out the first digital audio books and players. According to the NLS business plan, the most popular, recorded titles will be the first to be digitized and distributed among the regional libraries.

The way books are recorded and read will change, too. While NLS is being mum about the actual design of the digital talking book and digital talking book machine, they have indicated that the new audio book will be recorded on a cartridge that is larger than a credit card, yet smaller than a cassette. Most titles will fit on a single cartridge and will not have to be turned over the way books on cassette do. The playback machine will be more compact, portable, and easier to use.

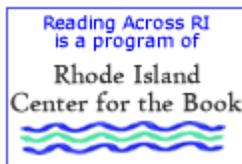
The National Library Service "is making every effort to provide a program that works for all," says Frank Kurt Cylke, NLS director.

A transition period when both cassettes and digital cartridges coexist will span from 2008 to 2012. This will give all a chance to get used to the new digital format, and assure readers of the uninterrupted pleasure of reading.



NEED A 2006 CALENDAR?

Contact the R.I. Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired at **401-222-2300**. Calendars are 11" x 17" and may be mounted on the wall. Don't miss out. Call today for more information!



Reading Across Rhode Island

Reading Across Rhode Island is a literacy project of the Rhode Island Center for the Book and the Providence Public Library; and affiliated with the Library of Congress. Since 2003, Reading Across Rhode Island has supported discussions, activities, and public events around a single book. Book discussion groups and special events are coordinated at local public libraries, culminating in an event in early May when readers from around the state gather to hear the author speak and, at the same time, have the opportunity to hear how others were impacted by the book.

This year's book is called *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson (RC 58650). *Shadow Divers* is the true story of two divers who, in 1991, discover a U-boat rooted in the bottom of the sea off the coast of New Jersey. The hard cover edition describes the book this way:

"Over the next six years, an elite team of divers embarked on a quest to solve the mystery. Some of them would not live to see its

end. Chatterton and Kohler, at first bitter rivals, would be drawn into a friendship that deepened to an almost mystical sense of brotherhood with each other and with the drowned U-boat sailors—former enemies of their country. As the men’s marriages frayed under the pressure of a shared obsession, their dives grew more daring, and each realized that he was hunting more than the identities of a lost U-boat and its nameless crew.”

To request a copy, call R.I. Talking Books ~ 222-5800, or email tbplus@lori.state.ri.us. Find out how you can become involved in a book discussion group by calling your local public library for details.

Large Print Books

We would like to thank reference librarian, Sharon Branch and staff member, Heidi Dubuque of the Fuller Branch of the East Providence Public Library for their ongoing support of the Talking Books Program. The Fuller Library, a state depository of large print books, serves over 50 low vision Talking Books Plus patrons through their loan of large type books.

There are approximately 5,340 adult large print titles in the collection. According to Ms. Branch, “Most titles are fiction, but we also have some non fiction, including biographies, spiritual books, true crime, and history. In addition, we have around 244 large print children’s and young adult books.”

Books may be borrowed for up to 3 months at a time with renewal privileges if no one is waiting for the book. A regular two-week period of borrowing is allowed if the book is new, or if it is from another library.

We are all indebted to the librarians at Fuller. Their service has resulted in many hours of reading enjoyment for our patrons who are able to read large print.

If you are interested in receiving large print books, contact Talking Books Plus at 222-5800 for more information.

We'd love to hear YOUR thoughts!

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed survey, or call to complete the survey by phone.

New Online Training Course

Have you been ordering books through the online book catalog at Talking Books Plus - <http://www.klas.com/ri1a> ? Would you like to learn how to better search for your favorite authors and subjects, or review the list of books you have checked out? Then log onto the Carroll Center for the Blind's web-based distance learning service for blind and visually impaired individuals.

A free online course is now available through CarrollTech.org. You must register with Carroll Tech in order to take this self-paced course, however there is no fee for registering. This project is provided to the users of the Perkins Braille & Talking Books Library and the Rhode Island Talking Books Program through a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

This course will teach you how to

- Log on to the library catalog
- Check your contact information and preferences
- Perform basic and advanced searches
- Locate books, magazines, and described videos
- Order books by number
- Review what you have checked out
- Amend your list of requested or reserved books

The lessons can easily be accessed through Carroll Tech's website at www.carrolltech.org/classes/opac. Once you are at CarrollTech.org, click on CLASSES at the top of the page, then SELF-PACED and scroll to the bottom of the page. The course is called – Online Public Access Catalog. Register for class and you are on your way to becoming an expert searcher!



What Should I Read Next?

MYSTERY!

If you like Nevada Barr's *Anna Pigeon* series, try . . .

Deborah Crombie's [A Finer End](#) - Detective Duncan Kincaid and his lover, the newly promoted Gemma James, travel to Glastonbury to help Duncan's cousin, Jack Montfort. Jack, haunted by the spirit of a medieval monk, needs help when his friends' lives are endangered. RC055014

If you like Raymond Chandler's *Philip Marlowe* series, try . . .

Walter Mosley's [Devil in a Blue Dress](#) - Los Angeles, 1948 and Easy Rawlins, a black war veteran, is out of work and needs money. He agrees to help a white mobster find a mysterious white woman dressed in blue who visits black jazz clubs. The information Rawlins uncovers in his search puts his life in jeopardy. RC032935

If you like Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot* series, try . . .

John Dickson Carr's [The Three Coffins](#) - Two people see the masked figure enter Professor Grimaud's study and hear a shot, but by the time the police arrive there is no sign of the suspect. The murder of Grimaud is one of the most baffling that detective Dr. Gideon Fell has ever encountered. RC024920

If you like Dick Francis' horse racing series, try . . .

Gerald Hammond's [Mad Dogs and Scotsmen: A John Cunningham Mystery](#) - On an ordinary day at a quarantine kennel in Scotland, something unusual occurs: an old car containing a briefcase, a shotgun, and Jove, a black Labrador, disappears. John Cunningham, owner of the kennel and car, is perturbed, while Noel Cochrane, owner of the briefcase and dog, is visibly upset. Then Noel disappears. RC047858

If you like Sue Grafton's *Kinsey Millhone's* series, try . . .

Marcia Muller's Edwin of the Iron Shoes - Someone has been vandalizing a group of antique stores in San Francisco, and the owners think it's part of a ploy to force them out. Sharon McCone of All Souls Legal Cooperative has been investigating, but now the crimes have escalated to the murder of antique dealer Joan Arbritton. Sharon joins forces with police lieutenant Gregory Marcus to crack the case. RC040747

If you like Georgette Heyer's romantic suspense stories, try . . .

Carolyn G. Hart's Death in Paradise - Six years after her husband Richard fell to his death in Hawaii, journalist Henrie O receives an anonymous message suggesting that he was murdered. This prompts her finally to seek out the woman Richard was visiting that night, whose long relationship with him had always seemed like more than friendship. RC048420

If you like Tony Hillerman's Navaho mysteries, try . . .

James D. Doss's The Shaman's Bones - Shaman Daisy Perika asks her Ute lawman nephew, Charlie Moon, to call Scott Parris, the Granite Creek chief of police. She informs them of her dream foretelling the imminent, violent deaths of people starting to the north. Parris, knowing her powers, takes her warning seriously and cancels his vacation. RC051725

If you like PD James' *Adam Dalgliesh* series, try . . .

Elizabeth George's A Great Deliverance - Inspector Thomas Lynley and Detective Barbara Havers are investigating the murder of a Yorkshire man. Roberta Teys was found sitting by her decapitated father. Her first words were, "I did it. And I'm not sorry", and she has refused to say another word. The townspeople believe she is innocent, and Lynley and Havers learn to work together as they solve the case. RC028547

If you like Ed McBain's *87th Precinct* series, try . . .

J.J. Marric's Gideon's Staff - Scotland Yard Commander George Gideon is battling Keith Ryman, serial killer of little girls, and George Arthur Smith, a murderous rogue, when he comes up against an even larger adversary -- the budget. Though his staff is cut and resources are limited, Gideon determines to foil the criminals. RC045863

If you like Sharyn McCrumb's *Ballad* novels, try . . .

Wendell Berry's Fidelity: Five Stories - In these stories about the fictional town of Port William, the author portrays people whose respect for the earth creates a common bond. Each story is a dramatization of some crisis that brings neighbors and kinfolk closer to one another. In the title story, an act of fidelity saves a dying man from the indignity of hospital machinery. RC036918

Don't forget to visit the TBPlus **book catalog** at www.klas.com/ri1a

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

Glaucoma is a group of eye disorders which are primarily caused by increased inner eye pressure, known as intraocular pressure, or IOP for short. Glaucoma has an adverse effect on the optic nerve and leads to vision loss. At present there is no cure for glaucoma, and the damage caused by this disease is irreversible. However, if glaucoma is detected in the early stages, it can be halted and sight can be preserved. Below are some facts about this disease published by the Glaucoma Research Foundation -

<http://www.glaucoma.org/>

- An estimated 3 million Americans have glaucoma.
- Glaucoma accounts for 9% to 12% of all cases of blindness in the U.S.
- About 2% of the population ages 40-50 and 8% over 70 have elevated intraocular pressure which causes glaucoma.
- Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness among African-Americans. One in every 13 blacks has glaucoma.
- Other high-risk groups include people over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics, and people who are severely nearsighted.

- Glaucoma accounts for over 7 million visits to physicians each year.
- Half of all people with glaucoma in the United States are never diagnosed.

Contact the following organizations for more information.

American Academy of Ophthalmology <http://www.aao.org/>

This website provides information of interest to medical professionals, as well as reports on a number of eye diseases. Search for reliable information on glaucoma through the site's search engine.

American Glaucoma Society <http://www.glaucomaweb.org/>
415-561-8587

"The mission of the American Glaucoma Society is to promote excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma and preserve or enhance vision by supporting glaucoma specialists and scientists through the advancement of education and research."

Glaucoma Foundation <http://www.glaucomafoundation.org/>
212-285-0080

This website provides information about glaucoma, what it is, who is at risk of getting it, and the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. You can also access a Frequently Asked Questions page, or FAQ, where information on medications, surgery, and nutrition and diet can be found. The latest studies on the disease can be found under Research Center.

Glaucoma Research Foundation <http://www.glaucoma.org/>
800-826-6693

The Glaucoma Research Foundation funds innovative clinical, epidemiological, and laboratory research. This website offers the latest information on that research.

MedlinePlus ~ National Library of Medicine **888-346-3656**
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/glaucoma.html>

MedlinePlus is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. This website offers information on how to manage glaucoma and presents information on treatment options, statistics on the disease, and links to other organizations.

National Eye Institute
301-496-5248

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/>

Sponsored by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, this website provides information on eye diseases and disorders, vision eye care resources, and a clinical studies database for searching a variety of eye conditions.

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RHODE ISLAND TALKING BOOKS PLUS
ONE CAPITOL HILL
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908

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