

Summer 2016

TALKING TIMES

**RHODE ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE
BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

Talking Books Plus

Office of Library and Information Services

TBP website: www.olis.ri.gov/tbp Email: olis.tbplus@olis.ri.gov

Celebrate July 4th by reading about American History

Three of the most iconic American history authors, David McCullough, Stephen Ambrose, and Doris Kearns Goodwin, have written many stories of American life, from our early leaders, *John Adams*, to home grown American inventors, *The Wright Brothers*, to battle hardened American soldiers of WWII, *Band of Brothers*, and American dynasty families, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*. Check out the following books:

From Stephen Ambrose:

DB 40283, *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest*

DB 52895, *The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys who Flew the B-24s over Germany*

DB 43291, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*

DB 50872, *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*

From David McCullough:

DB 52275, *John Adams*

DB 82175, *The Wright Brothers*

DB 34820, *Truman*

From Doris Kearns Goodwin:

DB 77807, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*

DB 25959, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*

DB 39154, *No Ordinary Time Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: the Home Front in World War 11*

DB 61162, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*

On Your Mark, Get Set...Head to Your Library!

Summer is here which means it's finally time for the Summer Reading Program. Participating in a summer reading program is easy and it's free, just visit or call your local public library. Registration for summer reading for all ages starts in June at public libraries across the state.

This year's theme for younger readers is "On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!" While kicking their summer reading into gear kids can see magicians, storytellers, artists, dancers, musicians, and poets at their local public library. There are prizes, including free admission to exciting places across the state!

Teens can "Get in the Game, Read." While discovering great books for lazy summer days teens can also attend workshops on watercolor painting, cartooning, improv, crafting, animation, poetry, and magic and earn prizes.

Adults haven't been left out either. This summer adults are invited to "Exercise Your Mind, Read!" Enjoy life-long learning and explore new genres and interests at your local public library and thru TBP.

TBP has audio and braille books to support TBP member participation in all summer reading programs. Call us at 401 574-9310 or email us at olis.tbplus@olis.ri.gov to request accessible digital books. For information about the programs and a schedule of events, visit the Summer Reading Program website at www.olis.ri.gov/services/srp. The Summer Reading Program is coordinated by the RI Office of Library and Information Services.

APPLE Device Training

Do you need training on the accessibility features of your iPhone, iPad or iPod? Rhode Island Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) now offers training sessions for those who own or are interested in purchasing certain Apple devices. Training sessions include an informational session followed by a series of individual or small-group classes in SBVI offices at 40 Fountain St., Providence. Individuals will have the opportunity to learn about VoiceOver, Zoom, and basic accessibility tweaks and tips. In addition, staff will review a variety of apps that can assist a user with everyday tasks such as magnification, color, money identification, notetaking, accessing books and newspapers, and much more.

For more information or to sign up for training, contact Sandy Pritko at (401)462-7907. Training sessions are open to clients of SBVI only; if you are not a current client, check with Sandy to see if you may be eligible for SBVI services.

Accessible Rhode Island Website and New Guide

Have you ever wanted to go somewhere in Rhode Island but been concerned that it might not be accessible or able to accommodate your special needs? The Accessible RI website www.access-ri.org/ identifies the accessibility levels of facilities, agencies, and businesses throughout the state to enable people with physical challenges to better enjoy the many resources that Rhode Island has to offer. In addition, the newly published *2016 - 2017 Accessible RI* guide is now available for purchase. Both the free online web version and the print guide identify parking access for cars and vans, building access locations, and accessible bathroom accommodations at Rhode Island facilities. The website and guide list accessibility of restaurants, performing art centers, galleries, state parks, recreation areas, bike paths, local vineyards and farms, public libraries, senior and community centers, transportation companies, and adaptive mobility businesses. Accessible RI is a project of the MS Dream Center of Rhode Island. For additional information or to order a copy, call the Center at 401-383-8878 or send an email to info@msdreamcenter.org.

2016 TBP Member Survey Summary

The Office of Library and Information Services' Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Talking Books Plus (TBP), conducts a survey every three years to establish priorities and identify areas for service improvements. The 2016 Member Survey was distributed in the Winter 2016 Talking Times newsletter in print and digital audio formats. TBP members had the option of completing the survey in print, online or by calling TBP.

Surveys were sent to over 1,500 TBP members; 95 members, or 6%, responded. 94% of respondents are "very satisfied" with TBP services, and

77% rated TBP staff as “excellent” when it came to helpfulness and courteousness.

Surveys help TBP learn more about how people use TBP services. 54% of respondents indicated that they do not use online TBP services such as the website, blog, catalog and reading lists. However, 33% of respondents use the online BARD (Braille and Audio Reading) system to download reading material, though several commented that it required assistance. The other most frequently used online services are the catalog (19%) and reading lists (12%). 29% of respondents said they prefer to use email to contact us, while 71% prefer to communicate via the telephone. 63% of respondents did indicate that they have access to a computer and the Internet.

As members grow accustomed to using digital devices, TBP is seeing a gradual increase in the use of reading devices other than the digital talking book machine, which was used by 93% of respondents. 8% of respondents use the Victor Stream Reader, while 7% use an Apple device (iPhone, iPod or iPad). Only one respondent reported using an Android device. (Some readers use more than one device, so the total adds up to more than 100%.)

The survey also helps TBP learn how people discover TBP services. 44% learned of the service from a social worker or government agency, including Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, while 23% heard about TBP through INSIGHT. 15% learned about the service from a friend or family member, while another 15% were referred through a healthcare professional.

Member comments also provide valuable insights on how you use TBP services. It’s always great to hear comments about how wonderful the service is, and it’s equally helpful to hear your requests, for example, more best sellers, increase the range of the collection, include more locally produced

books. Several respondents did not know about the audio-described video and DVD service, so please check our website (www.olis.ri.gov/tbp) or call us at 401 574-9310 for more information on that. And while providing recorded music is not part of our service, many public libraries do have music available that you can borrow for your listening pleasure. We were also happy to hear, as one reader stated, that while it took a while to get used to the new digital machine, they did get it and think it's wonderful because of how many books can be loaded onto the digital cartridge.

TBP would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey, as your input helps us improve our services and better serve your needs. We welcome your comments at any time, whether you have praise or a suggestion. In response to several comments, we also welcome donations to help us provide you with more materials and services. Finally, if you like our service, tell a friend so that they can also benefit from all the services of TBP!

In the Community: Meeting INSIGHT Members

During April, Regional Librarian Andrew Egan was invited to attend INSIGHT meetings around the state to meet and speak with INSIGHT members who are also Talking Books Plus members or want to become TBP members. The meetings were held at Senior Centers in Cranston, East Providence, Lincoln, North Kingstown, North Providence, Westerly, and in Newport at the St. Paul's Methodist Church. Richard Andrade, the Director of Vision Rehabilitation coordinated the meetings. Andy reports:

It was great to meet many people who I spoke to over the telephone for many years, but I didn't have the opportunity to meet them until I visited their hometown. In discussions, I brought up the value of the Talking Times newsletter as a useful resource to keep in touch with us. Each newsletter

provides information about library trends, new reading titles, and programs of interest to members like the annual Reading Across Rhode Island program. This year's book was *The Wright Brothers* (DB 82175) by David McCullough. We still have copies available if you want to read and enjoy the brothers' struggles and successes with flight.

In addition, we discussed the progress with digital access to more than 70,000 downloadable titles in the BARD system for members who want to receive digital books without delays. Most digital books may be downloaded in a few minutes, and multiple titles may also be downloaded in a single session. The good news for members who don't own a computer or have access to the Internet, is that we are able to provide the BARD account to a family member of your choice, so they may download digital titles you want immediately. Members may also have their digital books downloaded to their smartphone, so they can be mobile and read a book between meetings with our apps. Also, many of the senior centers where members attend meetings or meet their friends have computers and access to the Internet. Ask staff at your local center if they provide assistance or have accessible computers for you to use.

The Regional Librarian is available to speak with community or institutional groups about the TBP program and its resources. For more information, contact Andy at 401-574-9310 or email Andrew.Egan@olis.ri.gov.

Did you know?

Out of TBP's nearly 1500 members, 68% are over the age of 65; 46% are between the ages of 80 and 99. TBP has 32 members (2%) who are over 100! Another 14% are between the ages of 51 and 64, while 18% are 50 or younger. We want to serve all our users, so please keep in touch.

**RI TALKING BOOKS PLUS LIBRARY
OFFICE OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
ONE CAPITOL HILL
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5803**

*Free
Matter
for the
Blind*

Summer & Early Fall Holidays

Talking Books Plus is closed on:

July 4 (Independence Day)
August 8 (Victory Day)
September 5 (Labor Day)
October 10 (Columbus Day)
November 8 (Election Day)
November 11 (Veterans' Day)



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