

*Winter 2013*

# TALKING TIMES

REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR  
THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

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Andrew Egan, Regional Librarian

Ann Piascik, Editor

## **Please Return Newsletter Cartridges!**

If you receive an audio recording (digital cartridge) of the newsletter, please return the cartridge as soon as you have finished listening to it. Future issues cannot be sent until the cartridge is returned. Please note that all books and newsletters mailed to you are on loan for six weeks due to a limited number of materials in the collection available to all Talking Books Plus (TBP) members. We thank you for your cooperation in promptly returning all books and the newsletter cartridges to help keep costs down and ensure that Talking Books Plus resources are available to all who want them.

## **2013 Reading Across RI**

TBP members are invited to participate in the Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI) 2013 program. The goal of this reading and discussion program is to involve all Rhode Islanders in a community dialogue. This is the tenth year for Rhode Island's one book, one state program. The 2013 title is *The Beauty of Humanity Movement* by Camilla Gibb and will be available in the TBP collection in early 2013. This book is about a Vietnamese-

American art curator who returns to her ancestral country searching for answers about her dissident father's disappearance. She meets a pho stall soup maker and a young tour guide who both shape her life. For more details about the launch of this program on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Bryant University and future events that culminate in the May 4<sup>th</sup> breakfast at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, visit the TBP website or the Center for the Book website at [ow.ly/f28ed](http://ow.ly/f28ed). Watch for postings on the TBP website with the list of resource books in the TBP collection that support this program.

### **Talking Books Plus Donations**

From time to time we receive inquiries about donations to Talking Books Plus (TBP). We are always pleased to receive financial contributions, which are used to support and enhance our ability to serve people with print disabilities. We cannot, however, accept in-kind services or materials. We have used donations to defray the cost of the TBP Newsletter, to keep TBP computers up-to-date, and to fund recording of books for the Reading Across Rhode Island program to ensure that TBP members can participate. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check or money order payable to "State of Rhode Island – Talking Books Plus" and send it to TBP at the Office of Library and Information Services, One Capitol Hill, Providence RI 02908. For more information contact Andrew Egan, 401-574-9312 or [andrew.egan@olis.ri.gov](mailto:andrew.egan@olis.ri.gov). Thank you.

## **Web Braille To Merge With BARD**

Coming soon, the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) will offer Web-Braille to TBP members through BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download.) Members who use only Web-Braille will need to create a BARD account. Visit the TBP webpage to apply. All existing BARD members will be able to continue using BARD as usual. Stay tuned to the TBP Blog for details about features of this updated version of BARD.

## **Magazines On Cartridge**

NLS is beginning to transition from audio cassette magazines to digital magazines. All members who subscribe to magazines and only have a cassette player should order a digital talking book machine now. Contact TBP to request the digital machine. For those who only have a digital machine and are not downloading magazines through BARD, these members will be able to start subscriptions to digital magazines delivered through the mail. The magazine cartridges are recycled, unlike the magazine cassettes that can be kept indefinitely or discarded. If cartridges are not returned, service may be disrupted. For more information, read the announcement about TBP/NLS digital cartridge magazines in the Talking Book Topics July-August 2012 issue.

## **Charting Our Course: Expanding Our Services**

By Andrew Egan

Newport, RI was the host city for the 2012 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. From May 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> more than 200 librarians, consumers, and presenters discussed the future of library services to individuals unable to read standard print because of blindness, low vision, physical disability, or reading disability. Apropos to the Newport seaport setting, the 2012 Conference theme was “Charting Our Course: Expanding Our Services.” One of the attendees was Karen Keninger, the new director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS).

At the opening of the Conference, Karen Keninger spoke of her vision of the future as Director of NLS. She said, “Our primary goal is to ensure that our patrons have the reading materials that they need to increase their quality of life. This is what we’re all about.” To achieve this goal, Keninger identified five priorities for the NLS program. The first is to “maintain the highest quality standards for all NLS products.” The second is to “enhance the reading experience for all NLS patrons by leveraging current and future technologies to improve the reading and delivery systems.” Third, she wants to “expand the scope and quantity of titles available in alternative formats.” Her fourth priority is to have NLS “take a leading role in positioning Braille as a viable, practical and achievable literacy medium for all blind Americans.” Finally,

she wants to “increase NLS readership by 20 percent over the next five years.”

As part of the NLS network, TBP will work to promote these priorities to current and future members with the deployment of digital equipment and access to online resources. Our goal is to continue to improve library services to members every day.

### **Smart Brailer**

The ability to read and write in Braille makes a blind or visually impaired person literate. Braille provides the tactile tool needed to communicate successfully. With that in mind, Perkins has announced the official launch of their SMART Brailer. The Perkins SMART Brailer is a Braille writer that gives sighted users the same access to the information available to users who are blind. The device offers audio and visual feedback with hard copy Braille output. This allows sighted parents and teachers to know what is being brailled in real time. Blind adults fearful of learning Braille have used this device with success. Perkins is planning apps to compliment the SMART Brailer.

### **New Reading Lists**

The Wolfner Talking Books Library in Missouri has put together several booklists that they have generously shared nationally with the other network libraries affiliated with the NLS. TBP in Rhode Island, a network library, has posted several of these booklists on the TBP Reading List webpage.

As an example, the Cozy Mysteries book list contains 21 series. Two hundred and sixty titles are within the series. The series are described but the individual titles are not annotated. Book annotations can be found in the Talking Book Topics book catalog when titles are added to the audio collection. To find an annotation, the quickest way to search is through the OPAC, the TBP online catalog. The Cozy Mysteries book list includes authors and series such as the Agatha Raisin series by M.C. Beaton; the Cat Who series by Lillian Jackson Braun; Murder, She Wrote series by Donald Bain; and Daisy Dalrymple series by Carola Dunn. If a TBP member is partial to cozy mysteries, the member can add any or all of the series in the Cozy Mystery list to their preferences. Just call TBP and ask to update member profile and preferences. A cozy mystery usually contains no strong language, no explicit descriptions of sex or violence. The protagonist is typically an amateur sleuth and the setting is a small town. The small town setting makes for close relations and provides the backdrop for creating a puzzle to be solved. The stories usually end with the criminal caught. For more information, search "cozy mystery" on Wikipedia or visit [Writing-World.com](http://Writing-World.com) or [Cozy-Mystery.com](http://Cozy-Mystery.com).

The other book lists from Missouri include Christian Fiction (56 series, 243 titles), Contemporary Romance (5 series, 59 titles), English Romance Series (11 series, 50 titles), Fiction Bestsellers (20 titles published between 2010 and 2012), Health on numerous nonfiction topics (42 titles, more than 18 diseases),

Mystery and Detective books (30 titles), Non-Fiction Bestsellers (20 titles published between 2010 and 2012), Protestant Religion in non-fiction (30 titles), and True Crime Stories (46 titles.) There are plans to add a Westerns in Series list to the TBP Reading List online.

**Talking Books Plus staff wish you and your family  
a happy and healthy holiday season!**

**2013**

**Talking Books Plus Hours Open**

Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm

**Holidays Closed**

New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 21
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4
Victory Day	Monday, August 12
Labor Day	Monday, September 2
Columbus Day	Monday, October 14
Veterans' Day	Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25

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This publication is supported by  
the Institute of Museum and Library Services through  
the Library Services and Technology Act administered by  
the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services.



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