

Talking Book Times May 2007

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center, 600 High Point Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611, 1-800-426-0709, www.mitbc.org

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PROTECTING YOUR VULNERABLE VISION AND JOINTS SPEAKERS SERIES ON MARCH 14 AT MITBC

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center and Alliance Library System co-hosted a Wellness Fair and Speakers Series entitled: "Protecting Your Vulnerable Vision and Joints" on March 14 in East Peoria. Health Care providers were on hand to offer free screenings and assistive technology demonstrations to more than 200 people who stopped by the library system that day. With the aging of the population, the number of Americans with major eye diseases is increasing, and vision loss is becoming a major public health problem. Blindness or low vision affects 3.3 million Americans age 40 and over, or one in 28. Blindness or low vision is projected to impact the lives of 5.5 million Americans by the year 2020.

Dr. Steven Sicher, from Illinois Eye Center spoke on macular degeneration and Dr. Quentin Allen spoke on diabetic eye disease and the latest treatments available. Dr. Joe Couri spoke on joint health. Arthritis is the nation's number one cause of disability. Ashley Simper, Community Dietician for OSF St. Francis Medical Center, spoke on "Eating Right All of Your Life: To Protect Your Vulnerable Vision and Joints." She provided two handouts-each with charts showing nutrients and foods that impact arthritis and various eye conditions. Copies of the handouts are available by calling the Talking Book Center at 1-800-426-0709.

BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR TALKING BOOKS

Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of our new brochure. We invite you to be an ambassador for Talking Books by sharing this brochure with friends, family and health care providers. Word of mouth is the best way to reach new patrons and our current patrons are the best ambassadors. If your doctor's office does not know about talking books and would like some brochures, please let us know.

PLEASE DON'T BE ANONYMOUS

We continue to receive book orders with no name. Please, please, PLEASE check to make sure your name is on your book order. If you use the order form included with the cassette tape of Talking Book Topics, please do not remove the preprinted label with your name on it. Without that label or a return address on your book order we have no way to figure out who sent it. Please call us if you feel that you may have sent us an order with no name.

The loan period for cassette books is 6 weeks. We can easily extend the loan on your books if needed. We never charge overdue fines. If you have a damaged tape, please place a rubber band around the tape before you return it. Call your reader advisor to request another copy of the book.

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telephone call away. Call us for more information about subscribing to Newsline.

SHARED MASTERS PROJECT BRINGS BESTSELLERS TO TALKING BOOK COLLECTION MORE QUICKLY

National Library Service and Talking Book Publishers, Inc. of Denver have joined with Books on Tape, a division of Random House to bring bestselling titles to patrons at virtually the same time they are released in print to the general public. The project, called shared masters, will streamline the release of bestsellers to patrons as well as decrease the costs for NLS. Patrons' waiting time will decrease by six months and NLS saves 20 to 30 percent of the cost of producing bestsellers.

TALKING BOOK PATRON WINS ESSAY CONTEST

Beth Finke is an award-winning author, NPR commentator, journalist, speaker and a patron of the Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center. She was one of four winners of an essay contest sponsored by "Woman's Day" magazine and the American Library Association. Nearly 2000 essays were submitted with the theme of "How the library changed my life." Beth's essay appeared in the March 7, 2007 issue of "Woman's Day." The essay credits the Talking Book Program for helping Beth survive the difficult days of early blindness and explains how the program still provides her with a welcome escape from the stresses of everyday life. Beth's book, "Long Time, No See" is available as RC56482. Congratulations, Beth.

READER ADVISORS RECOMMEND

Your reader advisors have some great suggestions for reading material. If you need help selecting books or want to try something different, please call your reader advisor for help. They are here to serve you.

Jan Plemons:

My suggestions are two authors of Christian fiction: Beverly LaHaye and Terri Blackstock.. They co-authored a series about four women who live on Cedar Circle and how they help and support each other through life's difficulties.

RC51217 "Seasons Under Heaven"

RC52213 "Showers In Season"

RC53473 "Time and Seasons"

RC57255 "Season of Blessing"

Terri Blackstock has also written two series of Christian mysteries. One series is called the Sun Coast Chronicles and includes RC53763, RC53764, RC53765 and RC53766. The other series is called Cape Refuge: RC55880, RC55881, RC62161, and RC62508.

Priscilla Whipp:

The spring season brings plants and gardening to mind. Here are a few titles from our collection on gardening:

RC52241 "Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities: A Guide to Methods, Tools, and Plants" by Janeen R. Adil

RC43253 "Enabling Garden: A Guide to Lifelong Gardening" by Gene Rothert

RC49080 "Accessible Gardening: Tips and Techniques for Seniors & the

Disabled" by Joann Woy

RC04311 "Able Gardener: Overcoming Barriers of Age & Physical Limitation" by Kathleen Yeomans

Even if you don't have green thumb, you might enjoy these titles on life on the family farm:

RC42730 "In Good Hands, the Keeping of a Family Farm" by Charles Fish

RC49288 "Forty Acres and No Mule" by Janice Holt Giles

RC41987 "Mapping the Farm: The Chronicle of a Family" by John Hildenbrand

RC43671 "Little Britches, Father & I Were Ranchers" by Ralph Moody

Nancy Boucher:

At a recent statewide meeting of reader advisors we were asked to bring a list of ten books we would want to have if we were stranded on a deserted island. The results were very interesting. The majority of the sixteen people in attendance selected fiction and most all included the Bible on their list. The older classics were frequently named with authors Jane Austen, Daphne DuMaurier, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle listed often. The male reader advisors preferred non-fiction, particularly books about the Civil War and WWII. Some other books listed were "Gone With the Wind" and the "2007 World Almanac." Children's favorites such as "Heidi" and "Pippi Longstocking" made the list along with poet Robert Frost's books. Popular bestselling authors such as Mary Higgins Clark (mysteries), Nicholas Sparks (romance), Beverly LaHaye (Christian fiction) as well as Rosamund Pilcher and Mitch Albom were also found on lists.

Just for fun think about what books you would want to read on a deserted island. Would it be Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"; Melville's "Moby Dick", or Agatha Christie's mysteries? Perhaps you would put non-fiction on your list such as "Marley and Me" by John Grogan or maybe something historical like "Honor's Voice: the Transformation of Abraham Lincoln." Biographies give you great insight into other people's lives. Make your list and call or mail it in so that you can spend these warm summer days enjoying some old favorites.

SURVEY SAYS...

A random phone survey was taken recently of Talking Book readers throughout the state. 97 percent of readers found staff to be helpful or very helpful and 100 percent expressed that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the Talking Book program overall. 85 percent are anxious to try the new digital Talking Books and machine and 100 percent said that the staff is very courteous and able to answer all questions. We are very proud of the job we do and excellent customer service is our goal. If you have questions, we have answers. All of the staff, including the ones you never talk to on the phone, work very hard behind the scenes to make your reading experience excellent. The circulation staff inspects and rewinds all returned books and sends out a new shipment the next day. The machine department will send you a replacement machine immediately upon request. Let us know how we can help you.

SUMMER ADULT READING PROGRAM

Watch for details coming soon about the Talking Book Summer Reading Program for Adults. The theme is: "Around the World in 60 Days."

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS

Your generous gifts and contributions to the Talking Book Center are much appreciated. Contributions and memorials can be made at any time. Your gifts make our services more accessible to potential users of Talking Books. Please make checks payable to Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center. For those who wish to donate stocks and bonds, we have established a brokerage account and welcome those donations as well.

SPRING HAS ARRIVED

Now that the long, dark days of winter have passed, are you looking for some different reading material? Need some portable books to take outside with you? We can help. We have small, portable digital books that can go anywhere you go. PlayAways are about the size of a deck of cards—no need to drag your big yellow cassette player with you. Have you tried Old Time Radio Shows? They are short, entertaining episodes and we have something for everyone: comedies, mysteries, westerns, detectives, and dramas available on cassette. Call your reader advisor for more information.

ONLINE CATALOG

You can browse our online catalog of Talking Books any time of the day or night by going to: www.klas.com/ilbph. A family member or caregiver who has a home computer can request a log-in account and search the catalog for you. They can even place requests and reserves on books for you. Call your reader advisor to find out more.

75th ANNIVERSARY

If you were unavailable to attend the 75th Anniversary celebrations of Talking Books, you may enjoy listening to audio descriptions of photos taken at the 20 presentations held across Illinois in 2006. Find a summary of the Bob Askey and "Children of the Great Depression" programs at: www.mitbc.org/75th.

CHIP IN FOR CHARITY

This is the largest fund raiser for the Telephone Pioneers, the dedicated volunteer workers who keep talking book machines in running order. If you would like details about this charity event to be held July 9-15, contact Merv Grimes at 309-796-2889

A SALUTE TO VETERANS

Coming this fall—a series of Talking Book programs dedicated to veterans. The Library of Congress' Veterans History Project has won the backing of storyteller Ken Burns.

In September PBS stations will air a 14-part series created by Mr. Burns—"The War." Viewers will be urged to take part in the program.

Talking Books and local libraries will make participation possible. Stay tuned.