



indow to the World

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Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

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Does Anyone Use Braille Anymore?

I am often asked that question when I do programs on the services of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (TLBPH). I know many of you (especially those who are reading this newsletter in braille!) will answer that question with a resounding, "Yes!"

However, many people who don't use braille themselves seem to think talking books have made braille unnecessary. I always emphasize that you can do many things with braille that are impossible with audio materials, such as label the cans in your kitchen cabinets, or the bottles in your medicine cabinet, learn punctuation and spelling of words, etc. These are just a few examples of how braille can be used.

Another example is "read-aloud." Did you know the TLBPH has many print/braille (or Twin-Vision) books that are printed in braille AND in print? They are designed for a blind person to read aloud to a sighted child...or, if a child is

just learning braille, the child can read aloud to an adult who doesn't read braille. The adult can still follow the child's reading and see how they are progressing. Some of these Twin-Vision books are also bi-lingual. Designed for pre-school through approximately Grades 3 or 4, they are very popular—why don't you order one today?

If you are a braille reader and are on a long waiting list for the latest best-seller in recorded format, consider reading it in braille—the waiting lists are usually shorter!

Some interesting facts about braille: 1) Frenchman Louis Braille was only 15 years old when he invented the braille code. 2) The simple six-dot braille cell created by Louis Braille is used all over the world in many different languages. In other words, learning braille is not learning a new language, just a different way of reading and writing. 3) An asteroid was recently named in honor of Louis Braille!

Ruth Hemphill, Director

Need Help With Homework?

School starts earlier every year and now the summer holidays are just a pleasant memory. Homework is piling up for students, including reading for literature classes, textbooks, Accelerated Reader lists, etc. The TLBPH can help.

If you need to read for a literature class, Accelerated Reader program, etc., we may have the titles you need. From War and Peace (BR 09710, RC 26275) to Adam Bede (RC 23368) to the Marvin Redpost books by Louis Sachar, we can help. Just be sure to tell your reader advisor that you need to read a book for a school assignment, and what your deadline is to have it finished. Be sure to allow time for mailing--we do try to rush the book out for people with deadlines, but we still have to send them Free Matter mail.

Although the TLBPH does not have recorded textbooks, there is another agency that provides them. Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFBD) has a collection of over 80,000 titles on hand. Based in Princeton, NJ, RFBD has a recording studio in Oak Ridge, TN. If they don't have the textbook you need, their skilled volunteer readers will record it for you. Although RFBD is now putting their newer recordings on CDs, they do still have a large library of textbooks recorded on cassettes. As a private, non-profit agency, they do charge a one-time registration fee of \$50, plus a \$25/year membership fee. In some instances, school systems may pay the fees. For more information, contact RFBD at (800) 221-4792 (toll-free). The

Order a Descriptive Video Today

TLBPH has RFBD application forms on file which we will send on request.

If you are a braille reader, Seedlings' "Rose Project" provides free World Book Encyclopedia articles in braille. Funded by the Garth Brooks "Teammates for Kids" Foundation, articles can be ordered by contacting Seedlings Braille books at (800) 777-8552 (toll-free) or by e-mail at: seedling@aol.com. You may also order braille articles online at <http://www.seedlings.org>. Click on "Special Projects" and then on "Rose Project." You will need to provide the student's name, address, phone number, grade level and article needed.

Join the "New" Oprah Winfrey Book Club

In 2003, Oprah Winfrey re-vamped her Book Club, choosing classical titles that have withstood the test of time. Here are the titles from her "return to the classics" club:

2003 Titles: 1) East of Eden, by John Steinbeck (BR 12565, RC 49676); 2) Cry, the Beloved Country, by Alan Paton (BR 15354, LP 08227, RC 57559)

2004 Titles: 1) 100 Years of Solitude, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (RC 25181); 2) The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, by Carson McCullers (BR 11395, RC 58532); 3) Anna Karenina, by Leo Tolstoy (BR 12695, RC 49499); 4) The Good Earth, by Pearl S. Buck, BR 09400, RC 37294, LP 05400.

Did you know the TLBPH has descriptive videos available for your

enjoyment? What is a descriptive video? Descriptive videos describe the visual images in movies for people who are blind or have low vision. Narrated descriptions of the visual elements—the action, costumes, gestures and scene changes—are woven into the pauses of the movie soundtrack. TLBPH loans descriptive videos to individual patrons who are blind or have a visual impairment.

The TLBPH's collection includes over 300 titles, from Aladdin (DV 00004) to Basic Instinct (DV00013), documentaries on Vietnam, Chicago, Shrek (DV 00193), and older classics such as John Wayne's True Grit (DV 00117) and The Last Time I Saw Paris (DV 00316), with Elizabeth Taylor and Donna Reed. Call the Library to request a catalog (in large print or braille).

To borrow a descriptive video from TLBPH, you must first be an active registered individual Library user. Licensing requirements prohibit the library from loaning videos to institutions. Only one video can be loaned at a time, for a period of two weeks. Videos cannot be renewed. If you are not already registered to borrow descriptive videos, a separate registration form is required—call the TLBPH at (800) 342-3308 to request a registration form.

Upcoming State Holidays

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Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, like most state agencies will be closed several days in the next few months for state holidays. Please be sure to contact your reader advisor a week or two before these holidays if you will need extra books to take you through the holidays.

In addition, if you are going to be so busy during the holiday season that you won't have time to read as much, consider contacting your reader advisor to put a "hold" on mail delivery or to "slow up" the number of books we send to you.

These are the official state holidays for the next few months:

November: Library closed on Thursday, November 11, re-opening on Friday, November 12.

Library closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26, re-opening on Monday, November 29.

December: Library closed on Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27, re-opening on Tuesday, December 28.

Library closed on Friday, December 31, and Monday, January 3, 2005, re-opening on Tuesday, January 4, 2005.

Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Tennessee.

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Administration and Staff

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In providing information to readers, the announcement of products and services should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Library.

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**Free Matter for the Blind
and Handicapped**