

This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Tennessee.

**Window to the World** is published quarterly by the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State. It is available on cassette, in braille, and on the web at [www.tn.gov/tsla/lbph/newsletter.htm](http://www.tn.gov/tsla/lbph/newsletter.htm). Please call the Library at (800) 342-3308 to request alternate formats.

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Department of State, Authorization No. 305303, 6000 copies, May 2009. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.06 per copy.



# Window to the World

Spring, 2009 Vol. 13, No. 2

Ed Byrne, Editor

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**Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped**

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## Summer Reading Super Prize

You older patrons will wish you could enter the Tennessee LBPH Summer Reading Program when you hear about this one. So we'll be up front from the start: this program is only open to our juvenile and young adult patrons.

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program is "Read, Think, Create @ Your Library." It runs from June 1 through July 31, and the registration forms will have already gone out by the time you're reading this article. Program participants will keep a reading log of all the materials they read, and those who return their logs by August 15 to "Ms. Amy" (LBPH's reader advisor for students and children, Amy Tangerstrom) will be eligible for a variety of incentive rewards.

Here's the killer incentive. For each book you read, "Ms. Amy" will enter your name in a drawing for our Summer Reading Program Super Prize: a full-feature Victor Stream MP3 Player with a 4 GB memory card. This Victor Stream player is valued at more than \$370. It can play books you download from the NLS website, your local public library, or online services like Bookshare and RFBDB. It can read text files aloud, and it can play music just like an iPod. You can also use it to dictate notes.

This wonderful prize is made possible through donations from the Sunshine Class and the Pairs and Spares group at Ms. Amy's own church, White Bluff United Methodist Church in White Bluff.

Young readers, come to your marks! Get Set! **Read!** The more books you read, the more chances you'll have in our super prize drawing. And the more fun you'll have this summer.

### Egg on Editorial Face

We, your editor, did turn 65 last fall, so we hope this advanced age excuses an occasional mental lapse.

On Page 1 of our last issue, in our story "Overdue Books Are, Like, So Over," we referred to our "60-day checkout period." How we arrived at this figure is rather a mystery. The actual checkout period for all LBPH braille, cassette and large-print titles is **six weeks**, not sixty days, and has been so for years.

We've tried every way we can think of to justify this mistake. Any way we compute it, six weeks still comes out to forty-two days, not sixty. We regret the mistake, and hope our patrons will forgive us.

Return services requested

Tennessee Library for the Blind  
and Physically Handicapped  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
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Free Matter for the Blind  
and Handicapped

## Digital Update

As the advent of the Digital Talking Book creeps ever closer, we thought we would update you on the status of the new digital books and players.

### *The Players*

First, we want to assure you that the new Digital Talking Book players really do exist. We now have one standard player and one advanced player in our hands, and TLBPH director Ruth Hemphill and assistant director Donna Cirenza are demonstrating these devices to groups all around the state.

We understand that a number of the digital players have been distributed to several libraries around the country, where they are being field tested under actual conditions by patrons. (We weren't selected as one of the test Libraries, but we're trying to get over it.)

In June, the National Library Service (NLS) will review the results of these field tests. If the new players are standing up under real-world conditions, NLS will give the manufacturer the go-ahead to start producing 20,000 units a month.

As these players come off the line, some – about 200 a month to begin with – will come to us. Here is the order in which we will distribute the players as we receive them:

1. To patrons in good standing who are U.S. military veterans. This priority is written into the law that governs the entire LBPH program. Unfortunately, survivors and family member of veterans do not qualify for this priority, only the veterans themselves.

2. To members of the NLS 10-Square Club; that is, patrons in good standing who are 100 years old or older.

3. To patrons in good standing who have been unable to use the standard cassette player. In these cases the new players will be replacing the old EZ players, which are no longer supported by NLS.

4. All other patrons in good standing will be placed on the waiting list we have been maintaining for the past several months.

We will contact patrons when a digital player is available so they will know to expect it. It may take two years before every patron who wants a digital player actually receives one.

### *The Books*

While the new digital cartridges we will be using will be far superior to the audiocassettes they will replace, they are also far more expensive. Given our budget constraints, it will take us several years to build up our digital book collection. Patrons may wish to keep their cassette players to listen to older books that are only available on cassette. We and the NLS will continue to repair and replace C1 cassette players through 2014.

During the transition to the digital book format, we will have only a limited number of copies for each title. In many cases we will have only a single copy, so we will have to be stingy with them. Therefore, the following restrictions will be in effect until we have built up a sufficient collection of books.

- Patrons will be limited to only two digital books at a time.
- Digital books will be mailed on a turn-around basis.
  - We must receive a digital book back before we send out another.
- Digital books will not affect cassette, large print or braille title circulation.
  - Patrons will continue to receive their regular numbers of books in these formats.

Patrons should be aware that NLS has also reduced the number of copies of cassette titles we are receiving, so you may now experience longer waits for popular titles.

- Patrons will be responsible for all materials checked out to them.
  - Patrons should not share books with anyone else, *even if they are registered talking book users.*
  - Digital books *must* be returned within our standard six-week check-out period. And, keep in mind "Free Matter" mail is frequently very slow.
  - Evidence of negligence, deliberate damage, or disregard of library policies and check-out periods may result in suspension of digital book service.

These restrictions will not apply to digital downloads. Patrons who have a digital player, computer, and high-speed internet access may download digital talking books and magazines electronically through the NLS BARD website.

### *Window To The World*

The Library now posts a digital copy of each issue of *WTTW* on our website, <http://tn.gov/tsla/lbph/newsletter.htm>. Patrons with Internet access can download an issue there, in Adobe.pdf or MS Word.doc formats, listen to it with a screen reader, or expand the type size using a screen magnifier.

We are developing a procedure for distributing *WTTW* via email. If you would like to get new issues via email in place of print or cassette copies, please drop us an email saying so to [tlbph.tsla@tn.gov](mailto:tlbph.tsla@tn.gov).

## Talking Books = Marital Harmony II

Further evidence that listening to talking books strengthens marriages and lowers divorce rates: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Voiles will celebrate their 62nd Wedding anniversary on June 14. Mrs. Voiles has been a patron of the library for twenty-nine years, and Mr. Voiles for four years.

If other Tennessee LBPH patrons can provide examples that support our hypothesis, we would be very happy to get them. Just send reports of your anniversaries to your *WTTW* editor, and we will feature them in future issues.

## Holiday Closures

July 3

Independence Day