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Window to the World

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Ed Byrne, Editor

Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

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Overdue Books Are, Like, So Over!

Over the past several months we have been seeing an increase in the number of overdue books. It couldn't come at a worse time.

In preparation for the transition to digital talking books, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in Washington has reduced our copy allotments for all new books. And frankly, with the state in a major budget crunch, we're strapped for funds to produce large numbers of cassettes on our own.

Since we don't have a system of fines for overdue books, we need some other form of persuasion to encourage patrons to return books on time. So, starting this year, we will be sending out overdue book notices. These notices will serve as reminders that some books checked out to you have exceeded our 60-day checkout period, and that other patrons are waiting for you to return them.

If you do receive an overdue notice, please respect it by returning the overdue title right away. If you are still listening to the book, please give us a call. We can usually arrange a short extension to allow you to finish.

If you haven't even had time to begin the book, remember that we can always send

you another copy when you do have time. Just return it with a request that we add the book back to your request list.

The bottom line is that we want to focus all our time, energy and money on getting you the books you really want to read. Over the past months we've spent too much effort recovering books that patrons finished weeks or even months before, or maybe had just never got around to reading.

You can help us by following one simple practice: *As soon as you finish a book, put it back in the mail.*

Remember: the sooner we get books back from you, the sooner we can send the books you've really been waiting for.

Talking Books = Marital Harmony

We've never seen this claim in print before, but we now have reason to believe that listening to talking books may actually strengthen marriages and lower divorce rates.

Mr. Richard Collier of Nashville recently notified us that his wife Thelma and he had celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary at a reception given by their children last November 6.

Return services requested

Tennessee Library for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville TN 37243-0313

Free Matter for the Blind
and Handicapped

Now, what we would like our readers to note is that Mr. Collier has been a patron of the Library's Talking Books program since 1997. To us, the implication seems obvious: talking books promote marital harmony.

If other 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. We will feature them in future issues.

Exchanging Players at a Nearby TSLA Regional Library

Thanks to our colleagues in the Tennessee State Library and Archives Regional Library system, we're able to offer a new option for patrons who need player replacements *pronto*. Our twelve TSLA regional libraries have agreed to act as player depositories for us. Now, if your player fails just before the crucial development in the plot – and they never seem to fail anywhere else – you can exchange it for a replacement player at your nearest regional library center.

To find the Regional Library Center nearest you, visit the TSLA website at <http://state.tn.us/tsla/pld/regionalCenters.jsp>. Or call your reader advisor.

New Reader Advisor Assignments

Speaking of reader advisors, we've had a re-apportionment of reader advisor responsibilities here at the LBPH. Its purpose is to even out our workloads so that each group of patrons receives equivalent service. The new assignments are:

<i>Last Name Begins With:</i>	<i>Reader Advisor</i>
A-C	Ed Byrne
D-K	Francine Sharpe
L-Q	Annette Hadley
R-Z, students, and institutions	Amy Tangerstrom

Employee Profile - Terry Corn

If we had photos in this column, many Middle Tennessee patrons might recognize Terry Corn, the subject for this issue's Employee Profile. For sixteen years, Terry helped hungry diners at Belle Meade Buffet, a long-time Nashville landmark, transfer their massively overloaded cafeteria trays to their tables without disastrous spills.

Since the Belle Meade Buffet closed several years ago, these days Terry helps us deliver food for your minds.

As a Library Assistant III, Terry helps Computer Specialist Carmelita Esaw check out the eleven hundred or so items we mail each day. His particular responsibility is to bag and check-out large print books and descriptive videos. Terry is also responsible for entering information on new LP and descriptive video titles into our circulation system, and for preparing new LP books and DVs for circulation. And he repairs damaged DVs that can be returned to service.

A native of rural Franklin County, Terry attended the three-room Mt. Zion Elementary School and Townsend High School there. Like many rural Tennessee children, he began working at an early age. In the fourth grade he started picking cotton to help his family, working for \$0.30 a day.

After leaving school, Terry worked in construction and masonry for ten years before starting at Belle Meade Buffet in 1982. He also helped his grandfather load trucks at Fandrich Supply Co. in Belvedere. He joined TSLA six years ago, working first as a Materials Handler before assuming his present position two years ago.

Terry has one daughter who lives in Kansas City. He enjoys fishing, particularly in the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. He says he has no plans for retirement, preferring "just to enjoy the day we're in." Given the economy of the days we're in, that sounds like a wise attitude.

Jewish Heritage for the Blind

With the spring holidays approaching, we thought it might be timely to mention The Jewish Heritage for the Blind, an organization that makes the essential texts of Judaism available to the blind and visually impaired in braille and large print formats. Their offerings include Hebrew-English prayer books for weekdays, Shabbat, and holidays, the Passover Haggadah, and prayer books for other major holidays.

Materials are provided free of charge to anyone who needs them. The organization also provides favorite Jewish children's books in braille.

To contact the group's headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, call 718-338-4999, or visit its website at <http://www.jhbinternational.org/index-2.html>.

Tech-notice: Digital Television Delay

Last issue we told you about the conversion to digital TV broadcasting that was slated to take effect on February 17. This January Congress voted to delay the conversion deadline until June 12. The rationale was to give people additional time to obtain government-mandated coupons worth \$40 on the purchase of digital converter boxes.

If you still receive your TV signal via over-the-air broadcasts, you'll need to install a converter box by the June 12 deadline. Before you buy a box, make sure the model you select will process "associated audio signals" like the descriptive video narratives now provided over SAP channels. If you have any doubts, make sure the seller gives you the option to return the box if it doesn't.

Viewers can apply for their \$40 coupons online at <https://www.dtv2009.gov>, by phone toll-free at 1-888-DTV-2009, or by mail to PO BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000.

A Word to Our Veterans:

Federal law requires that Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped give preferential service to veterans of armed forces. We need all veterans among our patrons to contact us so we can be sure that your veteran status is reflected in your patron profile. As veterans, you are eligible to receive priority service when we begin distributing the new Talking Books players and books.

Call us at (800) 342-3308 (toll-free) or (615) 741-3915, in the Nashville calling area.

Holiday Closures April 10 Good Friday