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.
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://wwwDTV2009.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