

READING IS FOR EVERYONE

Newsletter of the Pinellas Talking Book Library

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April 2009

PROGRESS ON THE NLS CONVERSION TO DIGITAL FROM ANALOG

Our 4,500 registered Talking Book Library patrons will soon begin to see changes in the material and equipment formats offered through the National Library Service/Library of Congress (NLS).

During the next several months, 15 local Talking Book Library patrons will participate in the much-anticipated national prelaunch test of the digital talking book system. This is the first phase of the rollout of digital talking books, and the beginning of the gradual phase out of audio cassettes. Local patrons will give feedback which will enable NLS and network staff to evaluate players, book cartridges, and mailing containers in normal usage mode. Nationwide, eight libraries will participate in this prelaunch and we are glad to be one of those selected for this process. In addition to receiving a digital player, each of the 15 patrons will select from a collection of 54 digital talking book titles. Patrons will test the players and the books, then give feedback to NLS.

When the prelaunch is concluded, all Talking Book Libraries will begin to receive shipments of players and books to be distributed to their patrons.

The new digital format will be distributed to the network of 128 libraries that serve approximately one-half million blind and physically handicapped individuals throughout the United States and its territories. Priority for the new equipment/service will be given to veterans as this library program was initially developed in 1931 to serve blinded veterans.

A Word to Our Veterans

Federal law requires that Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped give preferential service to veterans of our armed forces. If you are a veteran, please notify 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 digital Talking Book players and books.

Call us at (727) 441-9958 or (866) 619-9568 (within 941 area code).



Social Network on TBL Website

For our patrons who have access to a computer, please log on to our site and visit our new Social Networking page. Add your comments about a book or author, communicate with other readers who like the same genres and may be able to suggest new authors you have not yet read, see where TBL staff have been and will be to help spread the word about the Talking Book Library. This page is not restricted to TBL patrons. Encourage family and friends to also join in and network their ideas and suggestions for a good book to read! Just go to www.pplc.us/tbl and click on the Social Networking site.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS



*The Pinellas Talking Book Library
will be closed on the following dates:*

Monday **May 25** Memorial Day
Friday **July 3** Independence Day
Monday **September 7** Labor Day

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

Donations, Bequests and In Memoriam gifts to the Pinellas Talking Book Library are used to help defray costs of operating the library. We use funds prudently and reserve the money for development of collections not provided by NLS, special equipment needs, and volunteer recognition. Thank you to all the kind people who have shown their appreciation by giving these gifts. All monetary gifts are acknowledged with a thank you letter.

Please send and make checks payable to:

Pinellas Talking Book Library
1330 Cleveland Street
Clearwater, FL 33755-5103

You may also make a donation online:

Go to the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative website at www.pplc.us and click on DONATE NOW! Choose the TALKING BOOK LIBRARY as the designated donation recipient.



We receive notes and letters on a regular basis that say how important this program is to the people we serve. Our staff and volunteers enjoy hearing from you, and learn from your comments regarding the library service. Letters expressing the need to maintain a local talking book library support our continued presence in Pinellas County. Please keep the notes and letters coming!

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION#CH21170

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You may reach us Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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1-866-619-9568

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FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED