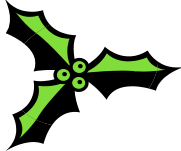


READING IS FOR EVERYONE

Newsletter of the Pinellas Talking Book Library

Vol. 12, No. 3



Holiday Reading List



A Cup of Christmas Tea by Tom Hegg	RC040835
The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg	RC023625
How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss	RC047536
A Holly, Jolly Murder by Joan Hess	RC047470
Silent Night by Mary Higgins Clark	RC044421
Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach	RC042044
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens	RC043546
Christmas Journey by Anne Perry	RC057836
Skipping Christmas by John Grisham	RC052929
The Christmas Train by David Baldacci	RC055045

Music for the Holiday Season

Music is an essential part of the holiday season. As a member of the Recordings for Recovery, holiday music can come to you through the mail. Tapes may be kept and enjoyed for up to 60 days. For more information, or to become a member, call Recordings for Recovery at 1-800-798-1192. They will send you an information pack that includes a catalog of holiday and other music selections, membership information, and an order form. Individual memberships are \$10.00 per year. Alternative memberships are available for those who cannot afford the annual fee.

*Executive Director, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Mary A. Brown
Head Librarian, Talking Book Library, Marilyn Stevenson*

UPDATE ON NLS TRANSITION TO DIGITAL FORMAT

While cassette technology, the backbone of the current NLS book delivery system, has facilitated a reliable and cost-efficient system since the 1970s, it is now outdated and nearing the end of its useful life. So NLS has begun to implement digital audio technology as the backbone of its future system. The program will continue to provide RCs during the transition, but digital technology will ultimately replace RC technology, just as RC technology replaced its predecessor, the rigid disc technology. The transition to this digital technology is expected to begin in 2008 and should require approximately four years to complete.

NLS has determined that the digital system will be based on flash memory technology, specifically Universal Serial Bus (USB) flash drive technology. The credit-card-sized devices will hold an entire digital book, which will mean no side-selector switch or multi-volume books.

The national library program has always been user-driven. To make prudent design decisions about the new digital system, NLS commissioned a patron survey to help anticipate and proactively address any problems that users might have with digital books and playback machines, to identify possible barriers to acceptance, and to design the new materials to satisfy users' needs. The results from this study have been incorporated into subsequent planning studies for developing the digital-based system.

NLS projects that final testing of player prototypes should be completed by early 2007. By spring 2008, the first 10,000 players will be ready for distribution. More than 20,000 digital talking book titles should be available by the time the players are ready for use.

Library Closing Dates

Friday, Monday, Tuesday, December 22, 25-26, Winter Holiday
Monday and Tuesday, January 1-2, New Years Holiday
Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 19, President's Day

CELEBRATE GIVING!

Give your support to the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative
and its programs and services:

Born to Read Family Literacy Program
Deaf Literacy Center
Pinellas Talking Book Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Go to Web site at www.pplc.us and
Click on DONATE NOW!

Your online donation will support children, families and seniors in your
local community.

Give your best to make another life better

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.

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