

READING IS FOR EVERYONE

Newsletter of the Pinellas Talking Book Library

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Shedding Light on Health Insurance

Ever wondered who helps the 3.3 million Medicare beneficiaries in Florida?

Every day elders receive free, confidential counseling on Medicare and other health insurance related concerns from SHINE, the Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders program. SHINE is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs offering free Medicare and health insurance counseling to elder Floridians, their caregivers and families since 1993. SHINE provides individual counseling and assistance to people on Medicare and their families and caregivers, including people who are under 65 and on Medicare due to disability.

Counseling, assistance and presentations are available through SHINE on topics such as Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care planning, prescription drug assistance, supplemental insurance and Medicare fraud. Navigating the Medicare network can, at times, be difficult. SHINE volunteers can help you review Medicare and health insurance forms. They can also help you compare policies, understand health insurance coverage and get answers to your questions. Most importantly, SHINE volunteer counselors can inform you of your rights and options. Additionally, SHINE volunteer counselors will not promote, endorse or recommend any specific health insurance plan or policy, so you can be sure the information you are receiving is accurate and unbiased.

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

How does the SHINE program work?

Through an increasing network of more than 400 trained volunteer counselors and in conjunction with the Area Agencies on Aging, the SHINE program continues to take a leading role in communities throughout Florida by empowering elders, their families and caregivers to make informed decisions on health care issues. Volunteers receive training on counseling skills, Medicare technical information, presentation skills and Florida's prescription assistance program, Sunshine for Seniors. SHINE also provides ongoing training through refresher, leadership and annual trainings, so volunteers always have a grasp of the latest information.

Through a grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), SHINE functions as the primary source of education, outreach and counseling for Florida's Medicare beneficiaries. Among the 54 State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) awarded grants by the CMS in 2007, SHINE, the Florida SHIP, was awarded \$2,021,745. Using these funds SHINE provides counseling and assistance services in every county in Florida through one-on-one personal meetings and telephone contacts. Also made possible by grant funds from CMS are community presentations and mass media campaigns that educate elders and increase SHINE program awareness. SHINE facilitates locally-based counseling through community partnerships with such organizations as senior centers, local libraries and community medical/pharmacy centers.

Want to find out how SHINE can help you or how to volunteer?

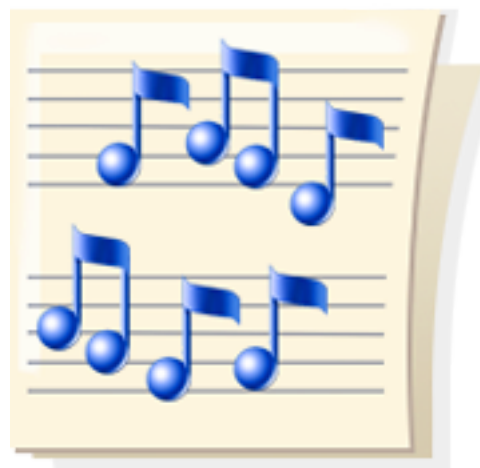
To find out more about SHINE or to volunteer your time, call the Florida Elder Helpline at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337). Or, visit our Web site at www.floridashine.org.

“Spring into Spring” with Music

Try something new! Music is an essential spring tonic, lifting the spirits and bringing back favorite memories. If you are a patron of the Talking Book Library, you are eligible to become a member of Recordings for Recovery.

The Recordings for Recovery music library has music for everyone. Members select tapes and receive them through the mail. The tapes are mailed back to Recordings for Recovery “Free Matter for the Blind” using the provided return label. Members can keep the tapes for up to 60 days.

Individual memberships for Recordings for Recovery are \$10.00 per year. Alternative memberships are available for those who cannot afford the annual fee. If you are interested in joining, contact Recordings for Recovery at 1-800-798-1192. They will send you an information packet that includes a catalog, membership information and a large print order form.



New Season of Step Up to the Plate @ Your Library® Begins

The American Library Association and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum are teaming up to promote season three of “Step Up to the Plate @ your library.” This year will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the song “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” So step up to the plate and order several (or all!) of these non-fiction baseball themed books:

RC063642 The Mind of Bill James: How a Complete Outsider Changed Baseball

Author: Scott Gray

Sportswriter discusses what he calls baseball sage Bill James's "uncommon analytical ability," which James uses to help build winning teams, including 2004 World Series champions, the Boston Red Sox. Describes how James devises "theories to explain how things in baseball are connected to one another." 2006.

RC064393 The Echoing Green: The Untold Story of Bobby Thomson, Ralph Branca, and the Shot Heard Round the World

Author: Joshua Prager

Journalist recounts what he calls the greatest home run in baseball history--when New York Giants Bobby Thomson hit a homer against Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca to win the 1951 National League pennant. Highlights the Giants' use of a telescope to observe the Dodgers' signals. Some strong language. 2006.

RC064968 Big Papi: My Story of Big Dreams and Big Hits

Author: David Ortiz

Autobiography of baseball player David "Big Papi" Ortiz, who helped the Boston Red Sox break the "curse of the bambino" by winning the 2004 World Series. Ortiz recalls his childhood in the Dominican Republic and discusses his career with the Seattle Mariners, the Minnesota Twins, and the Red Sox. 2007.

RC065019 The Soul of Baseball: A Road Trip through Buck O'Neil's America

Author: Joe Posnanski

Kansas City sportswriter accompanies ninety-three-year-old former Negro League veteran Buck O'Neil to baseball games for a year. O'Neil reminisces about his teammates and his career as a player, a scout, and the first African American coach in the Majors. Some strong language. 2007.

RC058600 I never Had It Made: an Autobiography of Jackie Robinson.**Author: Jackie Robinson**

Baseball legend's account of his triumphs and tragedies on the road to becoming the first African American to play major league baseball. Descended from slaves and sharecroppers, Robinson recalls struggling to overcome racial barriers before and after his 1947 debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Introduction by Hank Aaron. 1995.

RC058780 Autumn Glory: Baseball's First World Series.**Author: Louis P. Masur**

Recreates the 1903 postseason play-off between teams in the rival American and National leagues--the Boston Americans and the Pittsburgh Pirates--that marked the birth of baseball as a modern sport and pastime. Details each game of the World Series, described by one participant fifty years later as "the wildest...ever played." 2003.

RC058307 Game Time: a Baseball Companion.**Author: Roger Angell**

Sportswriter Steve Kettmann compiles his favorite Roger Angell baseball essays, spanning 1962-2002. The pieces profile players such as Willie Mays, Bob Gibson, Pete Rose, and David Cone, as well as the various teams and spring training camps that he's studied. Introduction by Richard Ford. 2003.

RC058208 Ten Rings: My Championship Seasons.**Author: Yogi Berra**

Autobiography by baseball Hall of Fame catcher highlighting his ten championship seasons with the New York Yankees between 1947 and 1962. Recalls the "golden years" of baseball, his famous contemporaries, and rival teams and relates how the game has changed since the 1950s. 2003

RC058812 Home Run**Author: George Plimpton**

An anthology of writings about baseball's peak moment. Includes an excerpt from Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* (RC 58059) and from works by Paul Gallico, John Updike, Red Smith, Roger Angell, and others. The editor, who also contributes, introduces each of eighteen selections. 2001.

RC059678 Emperors and Idiots: The Hundred Year Rivalry Between the Yankees and Red Sox, From the Very Beginning to the End of the Curse**Author: Mike Vaccaro**

Sports columnist chronicles the legendary baseball competition between the New York and Boston teams from 1903, before the Sox were "cursed" by trading Babe Ruth to the Yankees. Describes memorable match-ups and players until the 2004 season, when the Sox beat the Yankees and advanced to the World Series. Strong language. 2005.

RC060020 Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big**Author: Jose Canseco**

Cuban-born former baseball player reveals his and his teammates' steroid use during his time with the Oakland Athletics and other clubs. Claims he "single-handedly changed the game of baseball" by introducing steroids in 1985. Details his career, the 1994 strike, racism, and his personal life. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2005.

RC060409 Three Nights in August: Strategy, Heartbreak, and Joy Inside the Mind of a Manager**Author: Buzz Bissinger**

The author of *Friday Night Lights* (RC 32152) shadows St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa during the 2003 baseball season. Observations culminate in an insider's view of a three-game series with archrival Chicago Cubs. Describes the changes in the game over previous decades. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2005.

RC060949 The Old Ball Game: How John McGraw, Christy Mathewson, and the New York Giants Created Modern Baseball**Author: Frank DeFord**

NPR commentator and Sports Illustrated writer portrays two legendary personalities from baseball's infancy and details their role in making the sport America's favorite pastime. Chronicles pitcher Mathewson's and manager McGraw's success in taking the New York Giants from last place to 1905 World Series victors in just three years. 2005.

RC063352 The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth**Author: Leigh Montville**

The author used archives and oral history to pen a biography of professional baseball player Babe Ruth (1895-1948). Chronicles his bleak Baltimore childhood, his success with the Boston Red Sox, and his career with the New York Yankees. Also details his scandalous private life. Strong language. 2006.

RC056245 Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game**Author: Michael Lewis**

Author of the New New Thing (RC 49256) describes how Billy Beane, general manager of baseball's Oakland Athletics, came in first place in the American League West in 2002. Examines Beane's use of computers, statistics, and scouting to achieve success despite a minor league budget. Strong language. Bestseller. 2003.

RC057590 My Prison Without Bars**Author: Pete Rose**

Autobiography by former Cincinnati Reds baseball star banned from the sport in 1989 after gambling allegations. Rose describes his rise to fame as a record-breaking hitter and team manager, five-month prison stay for tax evasion, and bid in 2002 for reinstatement to baseball by admitting bets on his team. Strong language. Bestseller. 2004.

RC057602 Barry Bonds: Baseball's Superman**Author: Steven Travers**

Sports columnist and former professional baseball player examines the life and character of San Francisco Giant Barry Bonds, a four-time winner of the Most Valuable Player award who broke the single-season home run record in 2001. Travers chronicles Bonds's life and sometimes controversial but illustrious career. Foreword by actor Charlie Sheen. 2002.

Presidential Candidates

The Presidential election is scheduled for November 4, 2008. Those of you who are interested in reading about the candidates' lives, politics, and families, may be interested in the following books by and about some of the people in the running to be the next President of the United States.

(*Candidates not listed here do not have books available in the NLS collection.)

Democratic Party Candidates:

Hillary Clinton, former First Lady and current U.S. Senator from New York

RC055882 Living History

Author: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Former first lady's memoir of eight years in the White House that, she says, "tested my faith and political beliefs, my marriage and our nation's Constitution." Discusses how she and President Bill Clinton faced political opposition, legal challenges, personal tragedies, and the scandal of the Monica Lewinsky case. Bestseller. 2003.

RC064250 A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton

Author: Carl Bernstein

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist probes the background, character, and political career of this U.S. senator representing New York and Democratic presidential candidate. Based on extensive interviews and research, Bernstein's account covers Hillary Clinton's midwestern girlhood, religious upbringing, education, marriage, decision to stay married, and term as senator. 2007.

RC064985 Her Way: The Hopes and Ambitions of Hillary Rodham Clinton

Author: Jeff Gerth

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporters analyze Hillary Clinton's personal and public life, including her years in Arkansas, the White House, and the U.S. Senate and as a 2008 presidential candidate. Authors conducted interviews and researched documents to portray Clinton's legislative career, faith-based social activism, and marriage. 2007.

Barack Obama, current U.S. Senator from Illinois

RC063126 The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream

Author: Barack Obama

Democratic senator from Illinois and author of *Dreams from My Father* (RC 43877) details his ideas to improve the country. Discusses American values, the U.S. Constitution, religion, globalization, race, and other subjects of interest to voters. 2006.

RC043877 Dreams from My Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance

Author: Barack Obama

Obama, his father a Kenyan student and his mother a white Kansan, struggles with issues of identity and ethnicity. A Harvard Law School graduate, community organizer, and civil rights lawyer, Obama recounts a life-changing pilgrimage to Kenya to meet relatives from his father's other marriage. Some strong language.

RC064442 Barack Obama

Author: Sherri Devaney

Biography of the biracial Illinois senator who became a Democratic candidate for the 2008 presidential election. Describes Obama's childhood, education including Harvard Law School, early experiences as a community organizer, and later career as a state senator and congressman.

Republican Party Candidates:

John McCain, current U.S. Senator from Arizona

RC048807 Faith of My Fathers

Author: John McCain

Senator John McCain of Arizona chronicles his family's history of military service to the country. McCain followed his father and grandfather, both four-star admirals, to the Naval Academy. Describes his career including more than five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, where his father's words helped sustain him.

RC056852 Worth the Fighting For: a Memoir**Author: John McCain**

Political recollections of former Vietnam POW and Arizona senator John McCain. Beginning where his 1999 memoir Faith of My Fathers (RC 48807) left off, McCain talks candidly about his political career, his understanding of American values, and the role models that have guided him. 2002.

RC060907 Character is Destiny: True Stories Every Young Person Should Know and Every Adult Should Remember**Author: John McCain**

Senator and author of Why Courage Matters (RC 58324) profiles heroes of exemplary character. Includes professional football player Pat Tillman, who gave up a lucrative career to serve his country in Iraq, and a Catholic priest at Auschwitz, who offered to change places with a condemned prisoner. 2005.

RC058324 Why Courage Matters: the Way to a Braver Life**Author: John McCain**

Meditations on courage and its costs by Senator John McCain. Includes accounts of Vietnam veteran sergeant Roy Benavidez, civil rights leader John Lewis, Hungarian resistance fighter Hannah Senesh, and others, demonstrating exemplary fortitude, discipline, and self-sacrifice both in daily living and under extraordinary duress. Bestseller. 2004.

RC049113 John McCain: an American odyssey**Author: Robert Timberg**

Biography of the Arizona senator, written as he sought the Republican presidential nomination in 2000; expands on excerpts from Timberg's The Nightingale's Song (RC 42316). Attributes McCain's reputation to his P.O.W. years in Vietnam, his association with the Keating Five scandal, and his naval family background. Some strong language. 1999.

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!

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**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**