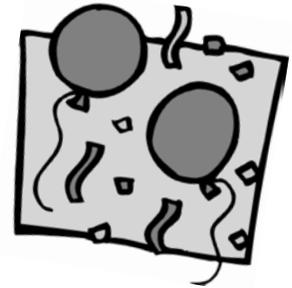


# Loud & Clear

SPRING 2007 • Volume 19, No. 2

## Come to Our Party on May 18

Join Access Services staff for a free program on Friday, May 18 as we celebrate 35 years of providing talking books through the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. We will begin promptly at 10 a.m. in Rooms 4 & 5 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Light refreshments will be available before and during the program.



Our guest speakers will focus on talking books and audio book technology. We will have two representatives from the National Library Service. Talking book narrator Mary Beth Wise will discuss her experiences recording talking books, and network consultant Deborah Toomey will be available to answer your questions about the NLS Talking Book Program. In addition, Ed Kukulka, assistant coordinator of Internet Services at the Fairfax County Public Library, will demonstrate free downloadable audio books available from the library.

Following the program we invite you to visit Access Services in Suite 123 on the first floor of the Government Center. Tour our branch, choose some talking books to take home, or just enjoy a visit with Access Services staff members.

**Fairfax  
County  
Public  
Library**

### Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365  
FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

Arrange transportation now so you can join us at the Government Center on May 18! Space is limited, so we suggest you register in advance by calling 703-324-8380, TTY 703-324-8365, or e-mailing [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Berkey Scholarship for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Access Services customers Barry and Velma Berkey have established a generous scholarship at George Mason University. The Berkey Scholarship will be awarded annually to a blind or visually impaired full-time GMU student majoring in one of the following: art and visual technology, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, English, geography, history, journalism, music, nursing, physics, psychology, social work or teaching.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens; must have a B average; and must register for a full course load (12 semester hours) for both fall and spring semesters. All applicants are required to provide certification of visual impairment. For more information, call Una Murphy at the George Mason University Disability Resource Center, 703-993-8621, TTY 711. Scholarship application forms are available on the Web at <http://financialaid.gmu.edu>. Click on "Documents and Forms for Download."

**"Books were my pass to personal freedom. I learned to read at age three, and soon discovered there was a whole world to conquer that went beyond our farm in Mississippi."**

**– Oprah Winfrey (1954 - )**

---

## **National Library Service Foreign Language Resources**

The National Library Service has a new foreign language resources Web page that describes non-English language audio and braille materials produced and offered by NLS, cooperating libraries, and other organizations. Information includes instructions on how to search the NLS International Union Catalog and links to referral documents for 64 languages. The foreign language resources Web page can be accessed through a link on the NLS home page at [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls).

## **News to Use: Large Print Books in the Fairfax County Public Library**

Are you able to read large print? If so, your library card is your ticket to thousands of fiction and nonfiction books in the Fairfax County Public Library collection. Access Services staff will be happy to help you select and reserve large print titles. Books in large print recently acquired or on order include:

### **Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West**

by Hampton Sides.

*LP 978 S*

### **Brother Odd**

by Dean R. Koontz.

*LP FIC KOO*

### **Cat's Eyewitness**

by Rita Mae Brown.

*LP MYS BRO*

---

**Cross**

by James Patterson.

*LP FIC PAT*

**The Cultured Handmaiden**

by Catherine Cookson.

*LP FIC COO*

**Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation**

by Cokie Roberts.

*LP 973.3 R*

**Ines of My Soul**

by Isabelle Allende.

*LP FIC ALL*

**Plum Lovin'**

by Janet Evanovich.

*LP MYS EVA*

**Shadow Dance**

by Julie Garwood.

*LP FIC GAR*

**The Boys of Pointe du Hoc: Ronald Reagan, D-Day  
and the U.S. Army 2nd Ranger Battalion**

by Douglas Brinkley.

*LP 940.5421 B*

**The World Is Flat:**

**A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century**

by Thomas L. Friedman.

*LP 303.4833 F*

---

If you prefer to search for large print books yourself using the online catalog available on the Internet, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Click on "catalog" and follow the instructions to reach the catalog search page. You can access a comprehensive list of large print materials through a simple "Words or phrase" search: Type in the letters "LP" or the words "large print," then click on "Search." To search more specifically, click on "Advanced Search" on the main search screen. In advanced search you can specify or combine authors' names, titles, keywords and subjects and then limit them to books in large print by selecting "Material Type," highlighting "Book-Large Print," and then clicking "Search."

## **Help For Grant Seekers**

Nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and private institutions can hunt for funding with help from the Fairfax County Public Library's new Grants & Funding Research Center, located in Suite 329 of the Fairfax County Government Center. The GFRC provides access to online grants resources not available for free on the Internet, plus print publications such as The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing and the National Directory of Corporate Giving. The center also offers free educational workshops, including grant-seeking basics.

There is no charge for these services and no appointments are needed. The GFRC is one of 250 cooperating collections of the Foundation Center, the nation's leading authority on philanthropy. The center is open 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays. For more information, call 703-324-8343, TTY 703-703-324-8365.

---

## **Looking Forward to 2008**

Progress toward the conversion to digital talking books is on track at the National Library Service. Production of digital books is under way, and production of digital playback machines is expected by the summer of 2008. Among the benefits of the new digital NLS format are improved sound quality, ease of use, and portability of equipment.

The digital books will be contained in flash memory cartridges slightly larger than a credit card and slightly smaller than the current cassette tapes. For most titles, one book will fit on a single cartridge. Each cartridge will have a large finger grip for easy handling and labeling with large print and braille. The cartridges will be very durable and will have no moving parts. No rewinding will be necessary.

Digital talking book playback machines will be one-third the size and one-half the weight of the current machines. The new machines will have built-in audio prompts, variable speed with constant pitch, battery life twice that of the old machines, large well-spaced keys with tactile and color indicators, fast and flexible navigation, and a sleep mode feature. The new machines will be simple to use, resistant to spilled liquids, and will have no moving parts.

For more information about the NLS digital conversion process, contact Access Services or see the NLS publication "Flash", a monthly bulletin reporting activity related to digital books. "Flash" is available on the NLS Web site. Go to *www.loc.gov/nls*. Scroll to "NLS/BPH Publications" on the main page.

---

## Talking Book Tips: What to Do When You Don't Receive Books

These reminders are inspired by an article in the "Texas Talking Book News":

- If you get talking books by request and you are not receiving what you expected, your request list may need revisions. For example, if your list includes only very popular titles, they may not be available immediately. Our staff will be happy to help expand your list to include a wide variety of publication dates and levels of popularity.
- If you have signed up for books by autoselect, your profile of author and subject interests may be too narrow. (Autoselect is the option by which our computer system chooses books for you.) Call or e-mail us to expand your autoselect profile.
- If you have your maximum number of books, you won't receive more until some are returned. It is a good idea to return each talking book as you finish it.
- Postal delays can occur during holiday periods because of general increases in mail volume. You may want to request more books than usual if a holiday is approaching.
- You may want to revise restrictions on content. For instance, if you have asked for best sellers and have also requested no strong language, no violence, and no sex, it may be hard to locate books that fit your restrictions.

- Be sure we have your correct mailing and contact information. Please notify us whenever you change your home address, phone number or e-mail address.
- Contact us to verify that your customer account is active. We may have received information that suggested you are no longer interested in receiving books.

## **Audio-Visual Courses From the Fairfax County Public Library**

Our library's collection includes audio-visual courses featuring lectures by outstanding professors from the nation's leading universities. More than 300 cassettes and videos are available in liberal arts subjects ranging from literature and Greek drama to history, philosophy and science. These courses may be borrowed for three weeks and renewed twice if other customers are not waiting for them. All you need is a Fairfax County Public Library card. For more information contact Access Services or visit the library's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Click on "Research Tools" and then "Audio-Visual Courses."

## **What You Need to Know About Hearing Aids**

A useful new brochure, "Hearing Aids: What You Should Know Before You Buy," is available from the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons. The brochure provides clear and concise guidelines about choosing the right hearing aid. To request a free copy, contact NVRC at 703-352-9055, TTY 703-352-9056, or e-mail [info@nvrc.org](mailto:info@nvrc.org).



## **Advice for Family and Friends of People With Vision Loss**

These suggestions come from Priscilla Rogers, Ph.D., courtesy of the American Foundation for the Blind.

1. Learn all you can about your relative's vision loss; different types of eye conditions affect vision in varying ways. For example, some people can see to get around but not see people's faces. Others lose their side vision but have some central vision.
  2. Learn about resources, techniques and products that can help your relative continue to carry out everyday tasks and enjoyable activities independently.
  3. Talk directly to the person with vision loss instead of "around" him or her.
  4. Don't walk away without telling the person you are leaving.
  5. Communicate verbally instead of through gestures that cannot be seen.
  6. Don't move things around in the person's home without asking.
  7. Give clear and specific directions. Remember the person may not be able to see where you are pointing.
  8. Identify yourself to the person. He or she may not be able to see your face and may not recognize your voice. Don't embarrass your family member or friend by making him guess who you are.
  9. Ask first before helping. Expect that your relative will want to do as much as he or she can do independently.
  10. Ask your relative to continue to help you as he or she always has — with baby sitting, pet sitting, taxes or a good listening ear. We all like to feel needed and having vision problems does not make a person any less capable of providing help and support.
-

## **Staff News**

Please welcome our new Access Services Outreach Manger, **Kenneth Plummer**. Ken has more than two decades of experience in the library field, most recently at the Kingstowne branch of the Fairfax County Public Library, where he was the circulation manager. Ken's responsibilities include managing our home delivery and deposit collection services, presenting programs and workshops, and coordinating the "Loud & Clear" newsletter. You can reach Ken directly by phone at 703-324-8389, TTY 703-324-8365 and by e-mail at [kenneth.plummer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:kenneth.plummer@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Web Corner:**

### **Seven Useful and Inspiring Sites**

**American Council of the Blind**, [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org).

A membership organization devoted to improving the well-being of blind and visually impaired people. The ACB Virginia Web site is [www.acb.org/olddominion](http://www.acb.org/olddominion). For information about the Northern Virginia chapter, call Doug Powell, president, at 703-573-5107, TTY 711.

**American Foundation for the Blind**, [www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org).

AFB's priorities include promoting independent and healthy living for people with vision loss. The AFB publication, Access World, is available at their Web site and features timely and thorough product evaluations of assistive technologies.

**Blinded Veterans Association**, [www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org).

Tracing its origins back to World War II, BVA promotes the welfare of blinded and visually impaired veterans and their families. Veterans need not have lost their vision during military service to qualify for assistance.

---

**Heath Resource Center**, [www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu).

A national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities located at George Washington University.

**Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons**, [www.nvrc.org](http://www.nvrc.org).

A nonprofit organization offering a wide variety of services to deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the Northern Virginia metro area.

**StoryCorps** [Quick Time, Real Player], [www.storycorps.net](http://www.storycorps.net).

The StoryCorps project was created "to instruct and inspire people to record each others' stories in sound." From The Scout Report, copyright Internet Scout Project 1994-2007. <http://scout.wisc.edu>.

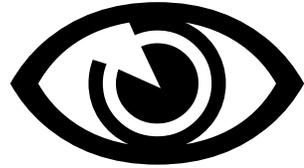
**Subject-Based Newspaper Archives**, [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com).

Full-text newspaper pages. Most content is available at no charge. Daily and weekly features include historical ads, sports moments, classic cars and recipes.

**"The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull, and dry. The books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy. The books that people talk about we never can recall. And the books that people give us, oh, they're the worst of all."**

**– Carolyn Wells  
(1870-1942)**

## **Portable Technology Offers Faster Access to Print**



The first portable reading machine for blind and visually impaired people has been created by the National Federation of the Blind in partnership with Ray Kurzweil. Released last summer, the Kurzweil-NFB Reader, also called "The Reader," weighs less than one pound. Using optical character recognition software combined with text-to-speech conversion technology, this one-of-a-kind product provides independent access to materials that previously required a human reader.

A user holds the Reader over a menu, a handout, a receipt, or other printed item, then pushes a button to take a picture. The Reader processes the image in approximately 30 seconds and begins reading the content aloud. Instructions and documentation are available in several formats. The list price is \$3,495. For more information call the NFB at 1-877-708-1724, TTY 711.

## **Enhance Your Library**

Please consider the Access Services branch as part of your charitable giving. Private donations are critically needed to maintain high-quality library services. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax deductible.

Checks may be sent to Access Services, made payable to the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation with "for Access Services" specified in the memo line or cover letter. For more information, contact Access Services or call the foundation at 703-324-8300, TTY 703-324-8365.

---

## Spring Recorded Reading Roundup

Spring into memorable reading with the Talking Books listed below, or contact us for more suggestions.

### For adults:

#### **Black Swan Green**

by David Mitchell. *RC 61605*

English small town life in the early 1980s is both exciting and bewildering for 13-year-old Jason Taylor, as he copes with a speech stammer, tensions at home, and bullying at school. This coming-of-age novel has been compared with **Catcher in the Rye** by J.D. Salinger. *RC 47480*.

#### **The Count of Monte Cristo**

by Alexandre Dumas. *RC 56946*.

After years of mysterious and unjust imprisonment, Edmond Dantes transforms himself and sets out to punish those responsible for his agony. An action-adventure classic.

#### **The Girl He Left Behind: The Life and Times of Libbie Custer**

by Suzanne Middendorf Arruda. *RC 61974*.

A biography of General George Armstrong Custer's devoted wife, who shared her spouse's nomadic lifestyle and crusaded to preserve his reputation after the disaster at Little Big Horn.

#### **One Hundred Great Poems of the Twentieth Century.**

Edited by Mark Strand. *RC 61179*

A collection of poems from North America, South America and Europe. Selected by a Pulitzer Prize winner.

#### **The Victorians**

by A. N. Wilson. *RC 58822*

A comprehensive portrait of 19th-century Great Britain by a distinguished historian.

**For kids and teens:**

**I Am Not Going to School Today!**

by Robie H. Harris. *RC 58218*

A little boy wants to skip his first day of school, but has a happy time with the help of his favorite stuffed monkey. For preschool-grade 2.

**The Sea of Trolls**

by Nancy Farmer. *RC 59623*

Jack, an apprentice Druid, and his sister Lucy are captured by Viking berserkers. To save his sister Jack must venture into enemy territory and face troll-bears, giant spiders and dragons. For grades 5-8.

**A Tree Is a Plant**

by Clyde Robert Bulla. *RC 57883*

An apple plant is described from seed to tree, explaining the functions of each part of the plant and the cycle of seasonal changes. Includes two simple science projects. For grades 2-4.

**Ultimate Indoor Games Book:**

**The Two Hundred Best Boredom Busters Ever**

by Veronika Alice Gunter. *RC 61944.*

Games to play by yourself or with others. For grades 3-6.

**Free Distance Learning Courses for  
Blind and Visually Impaired Adults**

The Hadley School for the Blind in Winnetka, Illinois offers distance education courses to eligible students completely free of charge. One of the latest courses is "Macular Degeneration," covering its symptoms and progression, diagnosis, emotional impact, the doctor-patient relationship, and continuing daily life. Course materials are available in large print, cassette or online. For information, call toll free 1-800-323-4238 or e-mail *info@hadley.edu*.

---

## Share Your Favorite Talking Books

We would love to print your talking book recommendations in "Loud & Clear". Tell us about your favorites and why you liked them. We will include them as part of a Readers' Choice feature in a future issue. Please let us know if it's OK to include your name.

## Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the "Loud & Clear" newsletter, please call Outreach Manager **Ken Plummer** at 703-324-8389 or Branch Manager **Starr Smith** at 703-324-8390, TTY for both: 703-324-8365. You may also e-mail us at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# Loud & Clear

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

Loud & Clear is published quarterly by the Access Services branch of the Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 123, Fairfax, VA 22035.

703-324-8380; TTY 703-324-8365

©2006 Fairfax County Public Library.



A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia



Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request  
Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703- 324-8365.