

# Loud & Clear

WINTER 2007 • Volume 19, No. 1

## What's In a Name?

Several customers have asked us to consider changing the name of Access Services to describe current specialized library services more clearly. The Friends of AS discussed this issue with members of the Fairfax County Public Library administration at the November Friends meeting, and the conversation will continue during meetings in February and May. We invite all AS customers to join the brainstorming!

What do you think? Should we seek a new name? If you could rename Access Services, what would you choose? Make your voice heard by sending your ideas to Branch Manager **Starr Smith** today! You can reach Starr at her direct phone number, 703-324-8390, TTY 703-324-8365, or e-mail [starr.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:starr.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Volunteer Recognition 2007

AS could not function without our wonderful volunteers, who do everything from performing essential office duties to leading support groups and producing publications in nonprint formats. Each year we honor AS volunteers with an appreciation event. For 2007 we are hosting a volunteer luncheon on Tuesday April 24, beginning at noon in rooms 2 & 3, main entrance level of the Fairfax County Government Center. If you are an AS volunteer, please plan to attend!



### 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)

If you would like to become a volunteer or if you know someone interested in volunteering, please contact volunteer coordinator **Beena Pandey** at 703-324-8388, TTY 703-324-8365 or e-mail [beena.pandey@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:beena.pandey@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Save the Date to Celebrate**

Please join us on Friday May 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we celebrate 35 years as a subregional National Library Service talking book library.

Everything begins at 10 a.m. in rooms 4 & 5 on the main entrance level of Government Center.

We look forward to sharing refreshments, recognitions, memories and fun. Activities

will include two programs: A panel of narrators will discuss the experience of recording NLS talking books; and an expert from the Fairfax County Public Library will explain and demonstrate finding and listening to free audio books via the Internet.



Space is limited, so please call or e-mail Access Services to register. Phone us at 703-324-8390, TTY 703-324-8365, or e-mail [starr.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:starr.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov). You can also e-mail [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov). We'll hope to see you there! This event is sponsored by the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation.

**"Books are like imprisoned souls till someone takes them down from a shelf and frees them."**

**– Samuel Butler  
(1835-1902)**

## **Implementing Digital Talking Books**

This past fall the National Library Service released its report "Current Strategic Business Plan for the Implementation of Digital Systems." The cover generated lots of comments, because it included a photograph showing a digital talking book player, a digital copy of Tom Sawyer, and a bright blue mailing container for digital talking book cartridges. The full text of the business plan, the images, and detailed descriptions of the new equipment are available in the "What's New?" section of the NLS Web pages at [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls).

## **Make Meetings More Memorable**

Free 30-minute presentations on a variety of subjects are available from the Fairfax County Public Library Expert Express program. Current topics are:

- Designing Business Brochures That Work
- Free Genealogy and Local History Resources
- Homework Help
- How to Publicize Your Group's Activities
- How to Raise an Enthusiastic Reader
- Leaving a Literary Legacy through the Library Foundation.
- Preserving Your Family's Papers, Books, Videos and CDs
- Seven Hot Books Coming Out Soon
- Surviving Volunteer Boards
- Technology for Aging Eyes and Ears
- Using Books to Help Children Through Troubled Times

If your group would like an Expert Express speaker, please request a date and time by e-mailing [lois.kirkpatrick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lois.kirkpatrick@fairfaxcounty.gov). You can also call 703-324-8319 or fill out a speaker request form on the FCPL Web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

---

## **Calling Young Leaders: Virginia Youth Leadership Forum**

Motivated high school students with disabilities are invited to apply for the free Youth Leadership Forum, July 9-13, 2007 in Newport News. Applicants must be rising juniors or seniors with a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Only 25 students with disabilities will be invited to participate. Applications may be downloaded at [www.vaboard.org/ylyf.htm](http://www.vaboard.org/ylyf.htm). They must be postmarked by March 23, 2007. For additional information, call the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, 800-846-4464 (voice/TTY).

## **Hear Ye, Hear Ye BookCast**

FCPL has launched BookCast, a series of recorded author interviews you can listen to on your computer or download to an MP3 player. Library Director Edwin S. "Sam" Clay conducts funny and enlightening discussions with regional authors of mysteries, memoirs, romances, children's fiction and more. You can find BookCast programs at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

## **People-Friendly Universal Design**

A universal design demonstration house is open for free tours in Bristow, Virginia. Universal design aims to create comfortable and easy-to-maintain living spaces that meet many needs and abilities. Features include wider doorways and stairs, lever door handles, non-slip flooring, one step or no step entryways, rocker light switches, higher-placed electrical outlets, lower-placed thermostats, pull-down shelves, single lever faucets, and grab bars.

---

The demonstration house is available into spring of 2007 from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Groups are encouraged to visit. For special arrangements, directions and more information, call the Prince William Area Agency on Aging at 703-792-6400 or go online: [www.pwccgov.org/ud](http://www.pwccgov.org/ud).

## **2007 Calendars in Alternative Formats**

A number of organizations produce calendars in large print, braille, and print/braille. Some are available for free; others sell for between \$5 and \$58. An NLS fact sheet on calendars provides detailed information. For a free copy of the fact sheet, contact Access Services or go online at [www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/calendars.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/calendars.html).

## **Talking Book Tape Tips**

Our champion tape-checker, Access Services Assistant **Laurie DoCarmo**, reminds us that sometimes cassettes may seem to be blank when they actually need to be turned over to begin a new side. Also, please give a tape several minutes to get started before assuming it is blank or broken; a cassette may have a long "lead time" before a side begins to play.

Finally, when you discover a damaged book, we want to send you a replacement copy as quickly as possible. Please call or e-mail us immediately, rather than placing a note in the broken cassette's mailing container. When you return a bad tape to us, we appreciate your placing a rubber band around the cassette to alert us to the problem.

---

## **Happy Birthday, Louis Braille**

On January 4, 1809 Louis Braille was born in Coupvray, France. Three years later he was blinded in an accident. He published his braille code in 1830.



**Louis Braille**

## **Discover Library Happenings**

It's easy to keep up with the many programs and special events offered by the library system if you subscribe to FCPLEASE, a free weekly e-mail newsletter. The newsletter features book tie-ins to current events, suggested reading in a wide variety of genres, announcements about free library programs for kids and adults, and a contest that awards gently used books to winners. To sign up, go to the library's Web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Then scroll down to FCPLEASE.

## **Granting Freedom Program for Veterans**

Grants are available to modify homes or apartments of veterans injured or disabled in Iraq and Afghanistan, including widening doorways, lowering counters, and installing wheelchair ramps, grab bars, and visual smoke detectors. For more information, call the Virginia Housing Development Authority at 1-877-VHDA-123 or e-mail [julia.perkinson@vhda.com](mailto:julia.perkinson@vhda.com). You can also go online at [www.vhda.com/freedom](http://www.vhda.com/freedom).

## **Assistive Products List**

NLS has published Reference Circular No. 06-01, "Assistive Technology Products for Information Access." The circular describes products designed to enable those with visual or physical disabilities to access

---

information. Included are screen readers, speech synthesizers, voice recognition software, Web access software, scanners, scanning software and reading machines. For a free copy, contact Access Services or navigate online to [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls). Scroll down to NLS/BPH Publications, and click on "Reference Bibliographies, Circulars, Directories, Factsheets, and Added Entries."

## Enhance Your Library

Please consider Access Services when you plan your charitable giving. Less than one cent of each local tax dollar is used for the library system, and private donations are critically needed to maintain high-quality libraries, including our specialized library services for those with disabilities. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax-deductible.

Your gift should be made payable to the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, with "For Access Services" specified in the memo line or cover letter. You may also donate online through the FCPL Web page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Planned giving options are available. For more information, please get in touch with Access Services or contact the Foundation directly. The Foundation's phone number is 703-324-8300 and the e-mail address is [info@fcplfoundation.org](mailto:info@fcplfoundation.org).

**"All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you. . ."**

**– Ernest Hemingway  
(1899-1961)**

## **Winter Reading Roundup**

Even when the weather turns frightful, your leisure time can be delightful, in the company of a good talking book! Here are a few titles to warm up your imagination. Contact us to request any of these or to get additional recommendations.

### **For Adults:**

#### **The Adventure of English:**

#### **The Biography of a Language**

by Melvyn Bragg. *RC 60358*

An award-winning author traces the development of English from its fifth-century beginnings to its spread throughout the world.

#### **Best American Science Writing 2005**

Edited by Alan Lightman. *RC 62017*

Twenty-six science articles range from end-of-the-world scenarios to stem cell research.

#### **Coming to My Senses**

by Pam Rice. *RC 56381*

This novel finds elderly widow Addie Marsh losing her eyesight to macular degeneration. Fighting to keep her lakeside home, she refuses to move into assisted living, deriving strength from her memories, a support group, and the friendship of a new neighbor.

#### **Deceit**

by James Siegel. *RC 62160*

Reporter Tom Valle is covering an accident outside of town in this suspense novel. His "crying wolf" reputation comes back to haunt him when reality begins to form from the clues he finds. Also available in audio CD and e-audio from FCPL.

---

### **Edmund Wilson: A Life in Literature**

by Lewis M. Dabney. *RC 61773*

The biography of a significant 20th-century critic and diarist who wrote for the "New Republic" and the "New Yorker," whose personal life included four marriages, including one to writer Mary McCarthy.

### **Face of the Assassin**

by David L. Lindsey. *RC 59503*

In this thriller, amateur forensic artist Paul Bern discovers he will have to become an undercover agent when his twin brother, a CIA operative linked to a terrorist plot, is killed. Paul uses his forensic knowledge and memories of his brother to try and impersonate him underground.

### **Flag: an American Biography**

by Marc Leepson. *RC 61466*

The history of the American flag from the Revolutionary War to the 21st century.

### **I'd Rather be Working: A Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Self-Support for People with Chronic Illnesses**

by Gayle Backstrom. *RC 61969*

How to find a job that can accommodate a chronic illness or disability. Includes discussions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, education, government programs and technology.

### **Intuition**

by Allegra Goodman. *RC 61340*

This novel of scientific intrigue focuses on cancer research. In Cambridge, MA, a young scientist is elated when his experiments produce remission in mice – until his coworker-girlfriend voices suspicions of fraud.

---

**The Lost German Slave Girl: The Extraordinary True Story of Sally Miller and Her Fight for Freedom in Old New Orleans**

by John Bailey. *RC 61720*

An account of a 19th-century dispute involving German immigrants, who claimed that a local slave was actually their relative, wrongly sold into servitude.

**NASCAR for Dummies**

by Mark Martin. *RC 61972*

Everything you ever wanted to know about stock car racing, including team composition, safety measures, vehicle design, technology and famous drivers.

**One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer**

by Nathaniel Fisk. *RC 61643*

A Marine captain describes his experiences as a trained reconnaissance expert, his service during the invasion of Afghanistan, and his role as a witness to the unintended consequences of combat. Also available in audio CD from FCPL.

**Suddenly Sixty and Other Shocks of Later Life**

by Judith Viorst. *RC 62118*

Witty, wise reflections in verse about becoming 60, second marriages, grandchildren and mortality.

**Unguarded: My Forty Years Surviving in the NBA**

by Lenny Wilkens. *RC 61666*

A member of the Basketball Hall of Fame recalls his childhood with an African-American father and an Irish-Catholic mother, his college days, and his experiences as coach of the Seattle Supersonics.

---

## **Uniform Justice**

by Donna Leon. *RC 59975*

Commissario Guido Brunetti of the Venetian police investigates a student's death at an elite military academy in this installment of an acclaimed mystery series. Also available in large print and audio CD from FCPL.

## **Washington's Secret War: The Hidden History of Valley Forge**

by Thomas Fleming. *RC 61803*

A popular historian details how George Washington kept his suffering Continental Army intact during the terrible Pennsylvania winter of 1777-1778 and outmaneuvered political enemies who wanted him removed.

## **For Kids and Teens: Empire of the Mongols**

by Michael Burgan. *RC 62020*

Explains 13th-century daily life in the empire formed by Genghis Khan. Includes discussions of military tactics, food, clothing, belief systems and child-rearing customs. For grades 6-9.

## **Flush**

by Carl Hiaasen. *RC 60792*

The author's second children's novel is set in the Florida Keys, where spunky Noah and Abbey work with a comic cast of helpers to prove that a casino boat's owner is illegally dumping sewage into coastal waters. For grades 5-8. Also available in audio CD from FCPL.

## **The Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle Treasury**

by Betty MacDonald. *RC 59857*

Three stories originally published in the 1940s about the adventures of unusual Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle, who lives in an upside-down house, makes chores fun, and solves family problems. For grades 3-6.

**Portraits of African-American Heroes**

by Tonya Bolden. *RC 62029*

Profiles of 20 outstanding African-American men and women whose talents changed the artistic, political and social history of the United States. For grades 4-7.

**Tanuki's Gift: A Japanese Tale Retold**

by Tim Myers. *RC 58219*

One cold night a Buddhist priest takes in a furry badger-like animal, the tanuki. The tanuki visits his friend every winter for 10 years, but then doesn't appear for a long time. For Grades K-3.

**The Teacher's Funeral**

by Richard Peck. *RC 60230*

Fifteen-year-old Russell figures the one-room schoolhouse may close now that teacher Miss Myrt Arbuckle has "hailed off and died." His dream of quitting school and joining a wheat-threshing crew is disrupted when his sister fills the vacancy. For grades 6-9 and the whole family.

**The Tarantula Scientist**

by Sy Montgomery. *RC 59029*

This bigger-than-life book about tarantulas describes the body parts, digestive tract, silk production and habitat of the world's biggest and hairiest spider. For grades 5-8 and all ages.

**"My mother read secondarily for information; she sank as a hedonist into novels. She read Dickens in the spirit in which she would have eloped with him."**

**– Eudora Welty  
(1909-2001)**

---

## Web Corner: Four to Explore

### Deaf Education Information Center from the Clerc Center.

<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/>. The Information on Deafness area features fact sheets and links to external resources that deal with assistive hearing aids, sign language, the mental health of the deaf, and teachers who work with the deaf. (From "The Scout Report," copyright Internet Scout Project 1994-2006. <http://scout.wisc.edu/>)

### Stories on Stage [Real Player, Windows Media Player]

[www.chicagopublicradio.org/programs/specials/sos/stories.asp](http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/programs/specials/sos/stories.asp).

Essentially each program finds a single actor reading three or four stories that share a common theme. Over the years, readings have featured the works of Raymond Carver, Edith Wharton, and a special episode dedicated to the works of Tobias Wolff. (From "The Scout Report," copyright Internet Scout Project 1994-2006.

<http://scout.wisc.edu/>)

### Job Accommodation Network

[www.jan.wvu.edu](http://www.jan.wvu.edu).

A free consulting service providing information about accommodations, the ADA, assistive technology and disability-related topics such as self-employment options.

### National Federation of the Blind

[www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org).

The NFB is known for NEWSLINE, its free dial-up audio newspaper and magazine service for people who are blind or print disabled. The Web site provides information about NEWSLINE, facts about blindness and low vision, plus links to the NFB technology center and an online products store.



## **Staff News**

Page **Jyoti Shirke** received a Team Player award from FCPL for shouldering additional duties during a period when we were without our other pages. Jyoti volunteered for double shifts to assure that daily shipments of talking books were completed for our customers. **Daniel Ramos**, Jyoti's supervisor, nominated her for the award. Congratulations!

A warm welcome to **Susan O'Boyle**, our newest reader advisor. Susan has more than 16 years of experience with our library, much of it devoted to reader advisory services. Susan's direct phone line is 703-324-8383 and her e-mail address is [susan.o'boyle@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:susan.o'boyle@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Starr Smith**, branch manager, has been appointed to the steering committee of FCPL's Health Information Partnership with Inova Health System. HIP works to bring reliable health information to county residents through joint initiatives and programs, in the conviction that sound consumer information leads to healthier lifestyles and informed decisions.



Fond farewells to **Royce Zivan**, outreach manager, and **Jennifer Durand**, reader advisor. We wish them good luck and much happiness.

# Library Holiday Closing Dates, January-February

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 15, 2007

George Washington's Day: February 19, 2007

## Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the Loud & Clear newsletter, please contact Starr Smith by phone 703-324-8390, TTY 703-324-8365 or e-mail [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.

## **Loud and Clear Format**

We hope you are enjoying your quarterly newsletter. You may be receiving *Loud and Clear* in print or on cassette. We can also e-mail or Braille *Loud and Clear* for you. *Loud and Clear* is available online ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)). Please call or e-mail Access Services if you would like to change the way that you are currently receiving this newsletter.

---

### **Access Services**

Fairfax County Public Library  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035-0012  
703-324-8380 TTY 703-324-8365

FREE MATTER for the  
Blind and Physically  
Handicapped Manual PT.138

**Loud and Clear Format**

We hope you are enjoying your quarterly newsletter. You may be receiving *Loud and Clear* in print or on cassette. We can also e-mail or Braille *Loud and Clear* for you. *Loud and Clear* is available online ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)). Please call or e-mail Access Services if you would like to change the way that you are currently receiving this newsletter.

---

**Access Services**

Fairfax County Public Library  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035-0012  
703-324-8380 TTY 703-324-8365

PRST STD  
US. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 45  
FAIRFAX, VA