

Talking Booklet

WORCESTER TALKING BOOK LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

WORCESTER TALKING BOOK LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

Please join us as the Worcester Talking Book Library holds an open house on April 16, 2011 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA in connection with the 80th anniversary celebration of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLSBPH). The Worcester Talking Book Library has partnered with the Library of Congress NLS program for 38 of those 80 years, helping visually impaired and physically handicapped individuals to enjoy reading their favorite books and magazines. “Talking books offer a wonderful opportunity for anyone who cannot use regular print materials because of blindness or a physical handicap,” says NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke. “For 80 years this service has been a priceless gift.”

As part of this celebration, Worcester Talking Book Library staff will demonstrate the new digital talking books and players – standard and advanced models. These new machines are much smaller, lighter and simpler to operate and provide great sound quality. A complete book now fits on one cartridge. There is no need to deal with changing tapes, switching sides and tracks or rewinding tapes. If you haven't yet received a new digital machine to discover the improved sound quality of digital books and ease of machine operation, please call us and a reader advisor will be happy to discuss machine options and send the model that best suits your need.

There will also be demonstrations of the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website and the adaptive technology (JAWS, K1000, braille embosser and braille translation software) available in the talking book public service area. Visitors will have an opportunity to download digital books or magazines, to try the adaptive equipment and to ask questions about BARD, large print book, digital book and braille services.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The Governor's FY2012 Budget (House 1), which was released on January 26, 2011, recommends level funding for the Talking Book Library Programs, the Library of Last Recourse at the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Library System, State Aid to Public Libraries, and Library Technology and Resource Sharing. The administrative account of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners was the only MBLC account to be reduced.

The Governor's budget proposal separates the appropriations for regional services and library of last recourse; and combines the line items for the Worcester Talking Book Library (Line item 7000-9402) and the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library (Line Item 7000-9406) into one line item (7000-9404). The Worcester Talking Book Library was level funded at \$421,143 and the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library was level funded at \$2,241,016 for FY2012.

MLA Legislative Day occurs on March 28 and the third annual B.L.I.N.D legislative event will take place on April 20 at the State House. These events provide an opportunity to meet with legislators and to urge their support for the Worcester Talking Book Library, the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library, as well as all Massachusetts libraries.

AUDIO JOURNAL ON-AIR BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Worcester based Audio Journal has formed a book discussion group called "Speaking Volumes" which will air on local access cable TV from 8:00 to 9:00 PM on the first Tuesday of every month, beginning April 5, 2011. Charter group members are Mary Haroyan, Valerie Clapham, Mary Sullivan, Jay Thompson and Barbara Figurski, Talking Book Library Librarian.

The first book to be discussed will be "*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*" by Mary Ann Shaffer. This title is available through the Worcester Talking Book Library in digital cartridge and audio cassette format (DB/RC067526) and in large print (LT009233). The second book, "*Remarkable Creatures*" by Tracy Chevalier, will be discussed during the May 3, 2011 meeting and is also available through the talking book program as a digital or audio cassette book (DB/RC070792) and in large print (LT010406). For further information or to join the book discussion group, please contact Valerie Clapham at Audio Journal Tel: 508-797-1117.

WORCESTER TALKING BOOK LIBRARY LARGE TYPE BOOKS

If you, or someone you know, like to read books in print but find standard print too small, you will be pleased to know that the Worcester Talking Book Library has a collection of over 12,600 large type books, including more than 500 young adult titles and more than 625 children's titles. New titles are added to the collection on a regular basis.

The collection includes bestsellers, romances, mysteries, westerns, travel, biographies, humor and classics which are sent by mail across the state in zippered pouches as "Free Matter for the Blind" to individuals who have vision loss or a physical disability. Up to four titles at a time can be borrowed for a four-week loan period. When these books are returned more will be sent from your personal request list or chosen automatically based on your reading interests. To enroll for large print services, or for more information, please contact the Worcester Talking Book Library at 1-800-762-0085.

The 2005, 2007 Large Print Books Catalog and Large Print Books Supplements are available at www.worcpublic.org/talkingbook.

TBL ADVISORY COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Worcester Talking Book Library Consumer Advisory Council is seeking new members to fill vacancies. Council members serve two-year terms and may be re-elected for a second term. Council members include talking book library patrons, caregivers of TBL patrons, individuals having a direct interest in library services to people who are vision impaired or physically disabled, as well as representatives from service agencies, senior centers, schools, colleges and rehabilitation centers. Members help to promote the talking book program and advocate for talking book services; and foster community awareness of issues surrounding vision loss and physical disability. If you are interested in serving on the council, or know someone who might be interested in serving, please contact the Worcester Talking Book Library toll-free at 1-800-762-0085 or at 508-799-1730.

This newsletter is available on audiocassette, in Braille and in e-mail format. If you would like to receive it in one of these formats, please contact the Worcester Talking Book Library at:

Phone: 508-799-1730

TTY: 508-799-1724

E-mail: talkbook@worcpublib.org

Website: www.worcpublib.org/talkingbook

Online Catalog: <http://webopac.klas.com/mrl>

Toll Free in MA 1-800-762-0085

Fax: 508-799-1676

Talking Booklet

Worcester Talking Book Library Newsletter

<p>Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped</p>
--

Talking Book Library
Worcester Public Library
3 Salem Square
Worcester, MA 01608-2074

“Address Correction Requested”

To: