



Fall 2006

# CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

## Highlighting Staff Changes at CTBL

After 25 years of service to CTBL, Faith Clark retired on April 30, 2006. The party in her honor was attended by her family, staff, patrons and members of the Board of the Friends. I understand that Faith is enjoying her free time.

Zena Trujillo replaced Faith. You may have spoken to her if you called the library in the past several months. She has worked with other state of Colorado agencies and is a great addition to CTBL.

Sara Francis, Reader Advisor, moved on to a new job with the Aurora Public Library in July. I know many of you will miss her and we wish her good luck in her new venture.

Phil Platt is our new Reader Advisor. He has worked at the Penrose Library at the University of Denver while getting his degree, Barnes and Noble, and the Ross-Broadway Branch of the Denver Public Library.

In the mailroom, Brian Mattson left at the end of May and Debbie Essex joined us in July. She comes to us from the University of Colorado's Auraria campus. Welcome to all.



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## From the Director—

In May I attended NLS's Biennial Meeting in Portland, Maine. The meeting focused on the upcoming transition to digital books and playback machines with detailed descriptions of the player and the book cartridges. The new acronyms will now be DTB for digital talking book and DTB player for the playback machine.

The cartridge for the DTB is flash technology which is solid state—meaning there are no moving parts. For 95% of titles in the collection the entire book will fit onto one cartridge so there will be no need to keeping changing sides or tapes. The form factor will be like a stack of business cards so it will be easy to handle and will go into the machine in only one way.

The DTB player will be smaller and lighter than the current machine but includes the same features; speakers, headphone jacks, power cord, rechargeable battery, all the usual control functions as well as a new sleep mode feature. All the buttons will describe themselves when pushed. I think this machine will be easy to use.

During the summer of 2008—less than 2 years away—we anticipate beginning the transition. As time comes closer there will be much more detailed information coming your way. But remember you will not need to make the transition if you choose not to.

Debbi

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## Unabridged Update

Over the last several months we have doubled participation in the digital book download program known as Unabridged. We want to remind our patrons of the program bringing books directly to your computer. Call the library for more information. Michael Jones writes, "The unabridged service is wonderful. Books and old time radio programs are available to download so I can enjoy them immediately. I really enjoy this service."

## Outreach

This spring was busy for outreach as we participated in many 9Health Fairs across the state both in person and with literature.

Debbi continues to visit with many vision support groups and finally got out of Denver for groups in La Junta and Pueblo. She spoke to the El Paso County Dept. of Human Services in Colorado Springs in April. Alex and Michael Jones were at the Assistive Technology Conference in Westminster in June.

If you would like Debbi to visit a support group, meet with a group or know of an event that CTBL should attend, please contact her.

**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2006 and 2007:  
September 4th, November 23rd and 24th,  
December 25th and 26th, January 1st & 15th**

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

- Foundation for Fighting Blindness is sponsoring a VisionWalk on September 30th to raise money to fund research in retinal degenerative diseases. The walk will be held at The Hudson Gardens. For more information contact Richard Faubian at 303-799-1501.
- Colorado Parents of Blind Children will be holding a seminar on October 6th in Pueblo entitled "Out and About: Strategies for Helping Blind Children Actively Explore the World". For more information contact Lucie Kiwimagi, [kiwimagi@aol.com](mailto:kiwimagi@aol.com).
- October 5-7, 2006—State Conference on Visual Impairment  
The training is designed for parents of children with visual impairment and professionals who work with school-age children with visual impairment. Anna Swenson is the featured speaker on Saturday, October 7th, and will focus on Braille literacy.  
**Location:** Radisson Hotel—Denver Stapleton Plaza. For more information contact Tanni Anthony at 303-866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

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## Reader Advisors

We have experienced an especially hot summer this year and that translates to more of the cassette tapes sticking together creating problems for our patrons. This in turn causes the narrator's voice to speed up. Cassettes are picked up by the Post Office in a large truck and later transported to you in the back of small trucks where they are exposed to a lot of heat.

Usually you can take the cassette and hit it on a table a few times and the problem is corrected. If the problem persists do not hesitate to call us for a replacement book or to put the book on reserve for you to be sent out when available.

## Tech Talk

CTBL now offers our newsletter via RSS. What is RSS? RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. RSS is an easy way to get information to you and your computer whenever it is updated.

How can you use RSS? There are several ways to access RSS feeds. Generally you will need to install a reader program which will display your RSS Feeds much like your email program displays email or your browser displays a webpage. The reader serves as a portal, providing a real-time interface to the feeds you select. Many web browsers can read RSS feeds.

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## Tech Talk continued from page 5

Once you have a reader, set it up to access our feeds at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/RSS/Newsletter/Podcast.xml>

The reader will continually talk to CTBL and as soon as there is a new issue you will be notified instantly.

There are a number of free readers available for download. The selection listed below can be used on most computer platforms.

- SharpReader (Windows, .Net Framework required, Free)
- FeedReader (Windows, Free)
- Bloglines (Web-based, Free)
- Juice (Web-based, Free)

However, if this gets to high tech for you we do have our newsletter in an mp3 format at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/tbnews/tbnews.htm>.

## Mailroom News

We would like to request that patrons look around your residence and send back any books that you are finished reading. Timely return of books and materials means others can read the book next without having to wait long.

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## Braille Bibles Available

Several Braille Bibles were donated to CTBL. Since we have one in the collection, we are making these available to a patron who would like their own copy to keep. These Bibles are complete, editions available:

- **New King James Version:**  
20 volumes, hardbound—2 complete sets
- **New International Version:**  
36 volumes, soft spiral bound—1 complete set

Please call the library if you are interested in having one.

## Volunteer News

The digital recording studio is bringing new excitement to the Volunteers! We have been very busy mastering the new technology and have become so comfortable with equipment that it is hard to remember how difficult it was to work with the old tape recording equipment.

We have now started recording more than 100 projects that range from the Legislative Council's Voters Guide to "A People's History of the United States" by Howard Zinn. Many of these books have been recorded, edited, and copied to cassettes and are ready for interested readers to borrow from CTBL. These new digital

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## Volunteer News continued from page 7

recordings are in the Colorado Collection and have a book number of CC8000 or above.

If it has been a while since you ordered a book from the Colorado Collection because of the poor quality of the old analog tape recordings, we suggest you give these books another try! Gone are the pops, clicks, and clunks that were common annoyances of the older equipment. Our new digital recordings are clear, well-edited, and thoroughly checked before being transferred to tape. We think you will notice the difference! As the studio volunteers gain more experience, we are confident that the quality of our recordings will soon match the professionally recorded material. See the Collection Update for descriptions of some of these new books.

## Collection News

New large print continue to arrive almost daily. No new descriptive video movies were added. Here are several new audio books added into the Colorado Collection:

**CC8044\*\***

**Flashback**

by Jenny Siler

Read by CTBL volunteer Kate Van Wyhe

"Eve" is found unconscious in a field in Burgundy, France. The shot to the head destroyed most of her personal memories. The only remnants of her past are a ferry ticket with Arabic letters, physical evidence that she has had a child, and recurring dreams of

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confused violence. When thugs kill the nuns who have taken Eve in, she is forced to flee France in a desperate attempt to unravel the mystery of her identity.

**CC8037\*\***

**A Rant of Ravens**

by Christine Goff

Read by CTBL volunteer Laverne Rios

Shortly after Rachel Stanhope moves onto her aunt's Colorado ranch, she goes on an expedition with the local bird-watching society and finds a snooping journalist's dead body.

**CC8062\*\***

**Senior Law Handbook 2005**

by The Colorado Bar Association

Read by CTBL volunteer Laverne Rios

This is a legal information and reference guide for older adults written in an easy-to-understand style that simplifies many complex topics such as Medicare and Medicaid, Medical Advance Directives, Estate Planning, and Protecting Yourself from Crime. It is a project of the Colorado Bar Association's Elder Law Forum Committee and the Community and Civic Affairs Committee of the Trust and Estate Section.

**CC8074\*\***

**Talking to Your Doctor: A Guide for Older People**

by National Institute on Aging-National Institute of Health

Read by CTBL volunteer Joanne Rudoff

How well you and your doctor talk to each other is one of the most

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## Collection News continued from page 9

important parts of getting good health care. Taking an active role in your health care puts the responsibility for good communication on both you and your doctor. This new, revised edition of the popular booklet provides you with helpful worksheets, and offers many tips and suggestions, including: Choosing a doctor you can talk to, Getting ready for an appointment, Giving and getting information, Discussing sensitive subjects, and Involving family and friends.

**CC8019\*\***

### **Fierce Blessing: A Journey into Alzheimer's, Compassion, and the Joy of Being**

by Wayne and Terry Baltz

Read by CTBL volunteer Kate Van Wyhe

This book recounts the Baltz' four years as caregivers and advocates for Terry's mother until her death from Alzheimer's disease. Books, experts and many lay persons told the Baltzes that this horrible disease only gets worse each day which proved to be only part of the truth, overlooking entirely the love and joy the three experienced, not only in spite of but also often as a direct result of the illness.

**CC8017\*\***

### **Passionate Gardening: Good Advice for Challenging Climates**

by Lauren Springer and Rob Proctor

Read by CTBL volunteer Cathy Gloeckner

Gardeners who live in challenging climates know garden success depends on appropriate plant selections, the best gardening

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techniques, and awareness of the seasons. The authors suggest a diversity of plants for every site and every season, champion sound and ecologically friendly gardening techniques, from soil and water issues to pest management, and offer stories of their horticultural adventures in their personal gardens.

## Resource of Interest

The Disability Center for Independent Living was recently awarded a grant by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. The grant was for an alcohol, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention program specifically targeting people with disabilities. DCIL is offering informational and educational materials, consumer presentations, and professional in-services focusing on:

- The risk factors of drugs and alcohol to people with disabilities
- The dangers of combining drugs or alcohol for different disabilities and mixing them with prescription medications
- How drug and alcohol use and abuse place people with disabilities at high risk of HIV/AIDS

For more information contact Richard Holicky at 303-696-2075 or [yochardo@comcast.net](mailto:yochardo@comcast.net), or the Disability Center for Independent Living 303-320-1345.

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