



Winter 2006

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

Highlighting the 75th Anniversary

On March 3, 2006 CTBL will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Pratt-Smoot Act which established the National Library Service and the Talking Book Library network. Colorado was one of the original 19 libraries to offer this service.

CTBL will have a kick-off event on March 3, which is also Read Across America Day. We hope to have one of the NLS narrators read to visiting school children, cut a large cake and provide tours of the library. Watch our website for more details or call the library if you are interested in celebrating with us.

During the year, following March 3rd, we plan to produce oral histories of many of our patrons, particularly ones who have been patrons from the early days. Other activities may be scheduled.



**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2006:
January 16th, February 20th and May 29th**

From the Director—

In December 2004, Colorado joined with Mid-Illinois, New Hampshire and Oregon Talking Book Libraries launched an innovative digital audio book service for our patrons. We call the project Unabridged. Since that time Delaware and NLS have joined the project.

Unabridged <http://www.unabridged.info/> enables patrons to check out and download digital spoken word audio books directly to their computers. The digital audio books can then be played back on a PC, transferred to a portable playback device, or burned onto CDs.

During the initial year about 25 CTBL patrons participated and they brought many issues to light. A user needs a broadband connection to the internet. The audio files come across in the .WMA format and not all portable playback devices, most notably the Bookport, don't read this format. Some people did not like listening to books from their computers.

Thanks to the Friends of CTBL's commitment for supporting this program for the next two years, CTBL can offer Unabridged to interested patrons. New book titles are being added every month. If you would like to participate please call the library and let us know or send us an email. You will need a user name and password and instructions which will be sent to you.

Debbi

Outreach

This fall we participated in several events: The People's Fair at Red Rocks Community College; The Possibilities Fair sponsored by the Center for the Blind, and Department of Vocational Rehab. Debbi visited with many vision support groups such as the MS group in Colorado Springs and the VA group in Denver. She also spoke at the Mountains & Plains Paraprofessionals conference in July.

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.

Reader Advisors—Questions and Answers

Q: My daughter is a patron of your library and I am wondering if it's better to call and ask for a cassette book needed for school or if its just as good to order online.

A: While it is good to search online for the book it is advantageous to call in and talk to a Reader Adviser. Even though the book may show available online, it may turn out that the book you ordered is not on the shelf. The request goes to a holding list and the library would not be aware of that. If we talk to you and know that a book is needed for school, we will check the shelf immediately, pull it and send it out. If a copy of the book is not on the shelf, we make a copy and send it out within 24 hours. Calling us gets better results.

Resource of Interest— The Hadley School for the Blind

At an outreach event Debbi attended, The Hadley School for the Blind was there and it was interesting to learn that they provide free courses to the blind community. We wanted to include their information in our newsletter for our patrons and their friends and family.

Hadley has a course for you if you are:

- A blind adult (14+ years of age);
- A relative of a blind or visually impaired child;
- A family member of a blind or visually impaired adult;
- A professional in the blindness field.

The Hadley School for the Blind offers more than 90 distance education courses to eligible students completely free of charge. From "Braille Reading for Family Members" to "Birdsong Tutor," you can select from a wide variety of Hadley courses. You can study in the comfort of your own home at a time convenient for you. Course materials arrive in the mail (a few are downloadable), and for students in the U.S. and Canada, instructors are just a toll-free call away.

The Hadley School for the Blind
700 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60093-2554 USA
Telephone: 1-800-323-4238
Fax: 847-446-0855

Info@Hadley.edu • <http://www.hadley-school.org/>

Final Summer Reading Report—

28 students participated reading a total of 1309.2 hours. Below is a list of our top readers. Congratulations to all.

Total Hours Read

Nichole Barnum—182

Phillip Thomas—53

Wes Smith—130

Colby Walsh—44.5

Kennedy Stomberg—119

Matt Hall—44

Tanya Perkins—115.5

Shay R Goss—43

Madison Stomberg—112

Aaron Lowe—40.5

Nimer Jaber—72

Juan Larkin—40

Halden Schnal—60.75

James Thomas—40

Tech Talk

With our KLAS system upgrade you can now get what you want, when you want it. Remember no service option is set in stone. If you would like to make any changes, please contact the library.

You can also receive our newsletter in a format which works best for you. The choices are large print, cassette, Braille, or online in either PDF or DOC format. Please contact the library and specify how you would like to receive the newsletter, if you have not done so.

Volunteer News

On December 3rd the Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the Lakewood Country Club. This year's event was a very special opportunity to honor one of our long-time studio volunteers.

Denver's mayor John Hickenlooper signed a proclamation naming December 3rd, "Herman Urschel Day in Denver". The proclamation outlined Herm's numerous accomplishments during the thirty years he has served as both a narrator and a monitor for other volunteers in the recording studio.

When Herm joined the Colorado Talking Book Library in 1975, he had been working in the recording and movie sound business for 40 years. He brought to our program a wealth of knowledge and experience that can only be gained by working as a professional in the field of audio recording. Herm enjoys telling stories about his early experience in bringing radio to the Rocky Mountain region, including how he was the sound man for *Gene Amole* when they did the "Man on the Street" series for local radio.

Many long-time patrons of CTBL may recognize Herm's name as the narrator on many books in the Colorado Collection, but he was also the "silent-partner" working behind the scenes for many other books. Through the years, Herm operated recording equipment for Governor Dick Lamm, *Gene Amole*, and other celebrity narrators, as well as regular Talking Book narrators like Ruth Wien, Norma Sierota, Bart Bartholomew, Bill Folger, and Dorothy Laird.

Many people would be surprised to learn that while Herm will be celebrating his ninetieth birthday on December 25th of this year, he has eagerly worked to master the new digital recording software being used in the volunteer recording studio. We look forward to reading the books Herm records in the future.

Other volunteers recognized at the brunch:

30 Year Award: Herman Urschel

20 Year Award: Morris Brown

15 Year Award: George Fisher

10 Year Awards: Frank Peters, Mary Rossi

5 Year Awards: Evelyn Dosch, Carl Dreher, Cathy Gloeckner, Gladys Harris, Jay Jacobson, Joan Levy, Robert Levy, Kay Lundin, Bob McConaughy, Carri Peterson

Thank you and congratulations, once again, for all the wonderful years of support you have given us.

NOTE: Bus Stop Moved

RTD has aided patrons and volunteers by moving the bus stop at Sheridan and First Ave. to the north side of the intersection for buses going south on Sheridan. This eliminates having to cross both Sheridan and First to reach the bus stop. Thank you RTD and those who aided in the process.

Collection News

RC 58824 and BR 15438

Three Weeks With My Brother

by Nicholas Sparks

A memoir chronicling the around-the-world adventure of author Nicholas Sparks and his brother, Micah, in 2003. Bestseller. 2004

RC 59512 and PR 13873

The Sacrifice

by Beverly Lewis

Following *The Betrayal* (RC 56399)—Amish Leah Ebersol of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is devastated when she hears through the grapevine that her beloved Jonas has married her sister Sadie in Ohio. 2004

RC 59393

Hour Game

by David Baldacci

Private detectives Michelle Maxwell and Sean King from *Split Second* (RC 56904) attempt to solve a burglary when they are solicited to investigate another case—a series of murders that strongly resemble other infamous crimes. Some violence and some strong language. 2004

RC 59489 and BR 15590

Night Fall

by Nelson DeMille

Antiterrorist agents John Corey and wife Kate Mayfield reopen the investigation of a Paris-bound jet's 1996 crash off the Long Island coast. Violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2004

RC 59070 and BR 15564

His Excellency: George Washington

by Joseph Ellis

Author of *Founding Brothers* (RC 51469, BR 12931) delves into the life and times of America's first president. Bestseller. 2004

RC 58368 and PR 13962

House of Bush, House of Saud

by Craig Unger

Investigative journalist examines the longstanding connection between the Bush circle and the ruling family of Saudi Arabia. Bestseller. 2004

- New Descriptive Videos:**
- VO 229 *Considering a Guide Dog*
 - VO 235 *Finding Neverland*
 - VO 230 *Shrek 2*
 - VO 236 *The Incredibles*
 - VO 231 *The Last Samurai*
 - VO 237 *Meet the Fockers*
 - VO 232 *Autism is a World (DVD)*
 - VO 238 *The Phantom of the Opera*
 - VO 233 *Considering a Guide Dog (Part 2)*
 - VO 239 *RAY*
 - VO 234 *Million Dollar Baby*
 - VO 240 *Shark Tale*

Contributors to The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library and The Colorado Talking Book Library—

In the last newsletter we inadvertently left off names from the list, we correct that now. We gratefully acknowledge those who made donations over the last half of 2004 and through July 2005. Thank you for your support.

John & Linda Carmain

Joe & Marguerite Simon

Houston Elam

Mr. & Mrs. Tagge

Binford Gilbert

Mr. & Mrs. Williamson

Genevieve Hice

An additional way to contribute to either the Friends or to CTBL is through a charitable bequest as part of a will or through life insurance. You do not have to rewrite your current document but can add written amendment called a codicil. Such a bequest only becomes irrevocable at your death. Giving to the library helps support the programs and service we provide to our patrons.

Mailroom News—

We would like to request that patrons do not write on the cassette labels. These notes only make sense to the one that writes them and need to be removed when the tape is returned to the library. Please write notes on a post-it note that can be put on the tape and thrown out when you send the tape back. This will save time for the mailroom staff.



NOTE: Address Changes

Please, please, please remember to alert the library when your address changes. We get many newsletters, letters, and books returned because patrons have moved and we have no forwarding address. Thanks.

Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Talking Book Library
180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped

How to Reach Us:

Colorado Talking Book Library
180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

303-727-9277—metro Denver
1-800-685-2136—outside Denver

www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl

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- William Moloney, Commissioner
- Eugene Hainer, State Librarian
- Debbi MacLeod, Director, CTBL



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