

TALKING BOOK CENTER NEWS

News & Information from the
Voices of Vision Talking Book Center

127 S. First St., Geneva, IL 60134
(800) 227-0625 (630) 208-0398
email: vovinfo@dupagels.lib.il.us
website: <http://www.vovtbc.org>

Winter 2007-2008

Newsletter Formats: If you would like to receive this newsletter in braille or audio, or by email, contact the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center. An Electronic Subscription Service which provides copies of each publication from all Talking Book Centers in Illinois is also available. Call your Talking Book Center to learn how to subscribe.

Happy New Year and Happy Reading!

HINTS TO IMPROVE YOUR SERVICE

Keep us informed of changes! Let us know if you have a change of address so your talking book service won't be interrupted.

Are you receiving the right type and amount of talking books? Have your reading interests changed? Let us know if you wish to adjust the number or type of books circulated to you.

Please call before returning a machine. If the cassette machine on loan to you from the Talking Book Center is not functioning properly, please let us know. There are some instructions and suggestions we can offer, or, we can arrange to send a replacement.

Here is a “variety package” of suggested reading from the Voices of Vision Readers Advisors:

Chris suggests: RC 51349 In Tuscany. Author Frances Mayes continues to recount her love of the Tuscan countryside. She describes the pleasure of living in Italy from her experiences in markets, restaurants, and festivals. Bestseller.

Fay suggests: RC 63747 Crashing Through: a Story of Risk, Adventure, and the Man Who Dared to See by Robert Kurson is the account of Michael May, who was blinded at three years old. It tells of May’s internal conflict over whether or not to undergo an operation to restore his sight.

And now on to our fiction offerings:

Jean suggests RC 28413, BR 14244 The Story of Doctor Doolittle by Hugh Lofting which is an old favorite of mine. I read this as a child and I reread it when I feel like going back to childhood. It’s full of fantastical creatures and adventure. It’s the kind of story that makes me feel that anything is possible, including giant snails and islands that float. This is the story of the adventures of a kind-hearted doctor who is fond of animals and understands their language.

Ross suggests: RC 54503, BR 13884 The Magic of Ordinary Days by Ann Howard Creel. During World War II, Olivia, a pregnant graduate student, is married off to a stranger by her preacher father to avoid a scandal. Rather than focus on her own troubles, Olivia finds a way to diffuse a potentially tragic situation between her friends among Japanese internees and local German POWs.

Chris suggests: RC 13491, BR 11320 My Ántonia by Willa Cather. I’m catching up on several “classics” I’ve never read! In this novel about pioneering conditions and the assimilation of the immigrant, a lawyer recalls his Nebraska boyhood and the girl who was a strong influence on his life.

For more detailed information on these or other books, or for more books on these or other subjects, contact us or visit our online public access catalog: <http://www.klas.com/ilbph>

New technologies are expanding access to books and reading materials. To introduce several of these technologies to our readers, the Illinois Network of Talking Book Centers offers the following services:

Playaway is a self-contained digital audio book playback device manufactured by Playaway. This portable device is the size of a deck of cards and used with earbuds. A small collection of fiction and non-fiction titles are available. Contact us to request a catalog.

LobeLibrary

A digital audio book loaded onto an MP3 player and then mailed to you. Find a list of available titles at <http://www.lobelibrary.com>

NLS PILOT PROJECT OF DOWNLOADABLE BOOKS

The NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) is now ready as a pilot-project for NLS patrons. Those who are interested need to have the use of a Victor Reader Stream player. You can find out more about the Stream at <http://www.humanware.com>. The current cost for the Victor Reader Stream is \$329 plus shipping. Also, you need to have high-speed Internet access with an active email address and an active account with your Talking Book Library and be qualified to receive books from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. If you are interested, enroll with NLS and get a password to the site in order to use it to download digital versions of audio books and magazines. The site can be reached at <http://www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb>