

This newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Texas Talking Book Program for recording studio volunteers and staff. If you have comments or suggestions, please email Ruth Wedergren, TBP Public Awareness Coordinator at rwedergren@tsl.state.tx.us.

Calendar

September 1st - 3rd: studio closed for Labor Day

Studio Statistics

- 219 May hours
- 38 May active volunteers
- 183 June hours
- 38 June active volunteers

Studio Hours

Mon - 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Thurs

Fri 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sat 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Talking Book Program
Texas State Library & Archives
Commission
P.O. Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711-2927

Volunteer Recording Studio News

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Texas Talking Book Program

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Welcome New Studio Volunteers

The Talking Book Program welcomes our new Recording Studio Volunteers who began in May and June 2012: Lynn Fichtner, Melinda Bilich, Eleanor Archer, Victor Rosas, Suzanne McBride, Chad Warren, and Billy Brookshire. Welcome aboard! ■



TBP Receives Library of the Year Honors from Library of Congress

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Talking Book Program (TBP) received the Network Library of the Year Award for outstanding accomplishments during 2011. The award is presented annually by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress.

To earn the award, TBP had to demonstrate through a nomination process the high levels of creativity, dedication, and achievement that are expected of libraries throughout the NLS network. The annual award carries a \$1,000 cash prize.

"These are challenging times for all government agencies, but the Talking Book Program has continued to meet the needs of the

blind and disabled readers it serves in creative and innovative ways," said NLS director Karen Keninger.

The Talking Book Program served nearly 16,000 individual readers and institutions and circulated 891,662 books and magazines in 2011. In addition, Texas readers accessed more than 143,000 books and magazines online through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service.

"This award is a tribute to TBP director Ava Smith and the exemplary team she has assembled," said Peggy D. Rudd, director and state librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

"I cannot thank you enough for your service through all these years," the daughter of a reader in Greenville, Texas, told the TBP staff.

NLS Network Division chief Carolyn Sung said the Texas program also excels in providing service in Spanish, maintaining a toll-free information line that includes audio (see page 2)

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versions of its quarterly newsletters, and offering public awareness, education, and outreach activities across Texas.

TBP is recognized as a leader in automating library processes, and has established a special unit to answer questions on disability and health issues. ■

Audio Technician Receives Support from TSLAC Staff

TBP Audio Technician Brit Jones has been unable to work for several months due to illness, and he and his family are in need of financial assistance. In June, TSLAC staff held a lunch fundraiser in the Zavala lobby, which raised \$1200 for Brit and his family.

Brit was moved by the generosity. "I wanted to thank you for your more than generous contributions on behalf of myself and my family during this troubled time," he wrote. "Your help has been invaluable and well-wishes inspiring."

To contribute, contact Miles Lewis or Janice Jones. ■

How is a Book Selected for Recording?

In addition to determining which Braille and large print books are added to the Talking Book Program's holdings, Collections Librarian Lisa Hendricks finds, evaluates and purchases books for recording in the Austin and West Texas studios. Not every book is cut out to be recorded.

TBP emphasizes books of a Texas or regional interest to supplement the collection of the National Library Service (NLS).

Titles are read and evaluated for: suitability for audio recording; literary or historical merit; professional level of grammar, punctuation, and diction; publication by a reputable publisher; and, subject matter of interest to TBP patrons. If a book is self-published, it should have the same quality of editing found in a professionally published book.

Textbooks are not considered because they are available through other sources. Magazines and periodicals are rarely considered since they are published more frequently, and this would cause scheduling and workload issues for the studio.

Bestsellers, award winners and books by popular authors are usually recorded by NLS. TBP will consider a title of this category only after it has been verified that NLS does not plan to record it.

Using an evaluation sheet specially formulated for the purpose, a book must reach a minimum score of 25 out of a possible 35 to be considered for recording.

Hendricks says the most time consuming process is finding suitable titles. "You may find something that has potential, but then discover it has gotten poor reviews from publications such as *Publisher's Weekly Booklist* and *Library Journal*, or it scores poorly in the evaluation," she says. "Then you go back to square one with another title."

On your next visit to the studio, think of all the work that went into finding that book for recording. ■

New Books Completed and Circulating

Leather Maiden Narrator: Stephen Flynn; Monitor: Michael Neibergall.

Outlaw Tales of Texas Narrator: Ev Lunning, Jr.; Monitor: Craig York.

Salute to Sandy Narrator: Ann Morrison; Monitors: Vic Rogers and Jack Gazzale. Digitized from an analog master.

What Difference Do It Make? Narrator: Staci Thompson; Monitor: Kerry Pivonka.

Run With the Horses Narrator: Dorothy Blair; Monitor: Jack Gazzale. Digitized from an analog master.

The Blue Geography: A Romance Narrator: Nancy Van Hemert; Monitors: Tom Sweazea and Janice Jones.

Return of the Stardust Cowgirl Narrators: Bill McLean and Timothy Englert; Monitors: Janice Jones, Hillary Anderson, and Leanna Englert.

Give the Pig a Chance and Other Stories Narrator: Ev Lunning, Jr.; Monitors: Miles Lewis, Jeannie Pinkman, and Craig York. One of our first digitally recorded books.

From Dunbar to Destiny Narrator: Sonya Aycocock; Monitor: Stephanie Childs.