



**Louisiana**

# HOTLINES

News & Information  
about Library  
Services for the  
Blind and Physically  
Handicapped

VOL. 6 No. 3

Fall 2006

## SERVICES FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (SBPH)

State Library of Louisiana  
701 North Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**Toll-Free: 800-543-4702**

Local: (225) 342-0035

Fax: (225) 342-6817

**Braille Service: 800-453-4293**

## EMAIL

**sbph@state.lib.la.us**

**sbphkids@state.lib.la.us**

## HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

## ELIGIBILITY

Any Louisiana resident who is unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation is eligible to receive free library services.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

Recorded Books & Magazines

Braille Books & Magazines

Large Print Books

Descriptive Videos



## New Louisiana Titles @ Your Library

*Louisiana Voices* has been busy recording a variety of titles for adults

and kids. We invite you to check out some of these new books on tape that have been added to our collection. If you would like a catalog of *Louisiana Voices* titles, please call 1-800-543-4702.

## NEW ADULT TITLES

### The Caddie RCL 355

By J. Michael Veron.

Read by Jimmy Frederick.

(2 cassettes)

Talented yet troubled golfer Bobby Reeves hits rock bottom until a very special caddie appears in Baton Rouge helping Bobby with more than his golf game.

### Carville: Remembering Leprosy in America

**RCL 217**

By Marcia Gaudet.

Read by Shirley Sands.

(2 cassettes)

From 1894 to 1999, Carville, Louisiana was home to the National Hansen's Disease Center. Gaudet takes an academic approach in

presenting the history of the treatment center and the stories of its former leprosy patients.

**Coach: Lessons on the Game of Life**

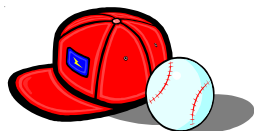
**RCL 420**

By Michael Lewis.

Read by Jimmy Frederick.

(1 cassette)

In 1976, New Orleans eighth grader Michael Lewis met the inspirational Coach Fitz, a man who commanded the respect of his young baseball team with his no-nonsense approach. Thirty years later, Lewis returns to the private school to find that Coach Fitz still tries to create not only better players, but also better people.



**Fruitcake: Memories of Truman Capote and Sook**

**RCL 295**

By Marie Rudisill.

Read by Charlene Moore.

(1 cassette)

Truman Capote's aunt preserves the elegant Southern tradition of baking fruitcakes year round. 22 recipes include birthday, wedding, chocolate and holiday fruitcakes.

**I Hear You Knockin': The Sound of New Orleans Rhythm and Blues**

**RCL 218**

By Jeff Hannusch.

Read by Scotty Drake.

(3 cassettes)

Louisiana recording artists recall their roles in the nation's top rhythm and blues music scene. While the



musicians achieved success, racism, alcoholism and violence also played a role in some of their lives. Strong language.

**Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole**

**RCL 340**

By Rene Pol Nevils.

Read by Rene Pol Nevils.

(2 cassettes)

This biography of author John Kennedy Toole explores his life as told by those who knew him and through his personal correspondence. However, even beyond his premature death, Toole reveals his most fascinating self in his relationship with his overprotective mother.

**Louisiana's Haunted Plantations**

**RCL 397**

By Jill Pascoe.

Read by Tom Musser.

(1 cassette)

Travel down River Road and beyond to thirteen of Louisiana's most haunted plantations. Open for tours or as Bed and Breakfast inns, historic homes such as Chretien Point Plantation, Oak Alley Plantation and even burnt homes each offer Southern history woven with spectral tales.



**Only in Louisiana: A Guide for the Adventurous Traveler**

**RCL 381**

By Keith Odom.

Read by Kytara Gaudin.

(1 cassette)

Gourd and shell artists, a tiny chapel dedicated to the Madonna, a global wildlife center and a Bible museum are just a few of the unusual people and places to visit in Louisiana.

**A Southern Thanksgiving: Recipes and Musings for a Manageable Feast**

**RCL 291**

By Robb Forman Dew.

Read by Julie Williams.

(1 cassette)

Step by step, recipes are given to create an elegant multiple course meal for twelve at Thanksgiving. So that novice and gourmet cooks alike can enjoy a memorable holiday, most of the recipes can be made over a period of three months.



**NEW CHILDREN'S TITLES**



**The Champ: The Story of Muhammad Ali**

**RCL 195**

By Tonya Bolden.

Read by Scotty Drake.

(1 cassette)

This biography shows how determined young Cassius Clay became the world famous boxer Muhammad Ali. Included are some of the complex issues of his life such as his conversion to Islam, refusal to fight in the Vietnam War, and commitment to world peace. For grades 3-5. LYRCA 2007 nominee.

**The Legend of Catfish and Little Bream**

**RCL 388**

By Ronnie Wells.

Read by Pat Thompson.

(1 cassette)

Bored with life in a small pond, Catfish makes his way to the Mississippi River to be a part of a bigger world. When Catfish reaches the River he misses his friends and with the help of Paula Pelican returns to his beloved south Louisiana pond. For grades Preschool - 2.

**Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen**

**RCL 404**

By Marissa Moss.

Read by Julie Williams.

(1 cassette)

A biography about Jackie Mitchell, the seventeen-year-old girl who struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition baseball game in 1931. For grades 3-5. LYRCA 2007 nominee.



**Sweet Music in Harlem**

**RCL 376**

By Debbie A. Taylor.

Read by Scotty Drake.

(1 cassette)

When jazz musician Chick is going to have his photograph taken for High Note magazine, he sends his nephew C.J. to look for his signature hat. As C. J. dashes through the neighborhood, he unknowingly gathers others to be in the photograph. For grades 3-5. LYRCA Nominee 2007.

## K-NFB Reader Tested by Louisianans

by Julie Russell

To read the printed word is something all blind, print handicapped and visually impaired people dream about doing more independently. The time to stop



dreaming has come with help from people in Louisiana. With the introduction of the K-NFB Reader blind people can now independently access information from a restaurant menu to handouts at a meeting or pamphlets at the doctor's office. The possibility of reading while on the go is a reality.

Blind individuals were instrumental in the development of the product, a collaboration between Ray Kurzweil and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). The K-NFB reader allows one to point, shoot and read. It is the world's first handheld, text-to-speech electronic reading system; it combines a digital camera with a Personal Data Assistant (PDA). Both units are attached through a USB port and are held in an attractive nylon case. The camera captures the image and converts the printed word to speech that one may listen to with the small speaker incorporated into the PDA or through headphones.

Documents may be saved on a flash card or deleted. This product is amazingly little, weighing only 15 ounces. The Reader is 6 inches long, 3 inches wide and 2-1/2 inches thick.

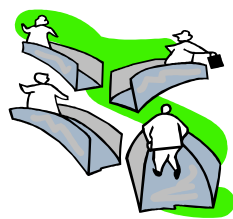
In March of 2006 the beta testing period began, and units were sent out to blind people across the United States, including over 7 people in Louisiana for testing and feedback to ensure this product met the needs of the intended population. The list of things it reads is endless: letters, envelopes, pages in a book, music CD cases, instructions, and restaurant menus. It reads those all important fortunes from Chinese cookies, lotto tickets, receipts from stores and/or the bank. Listen up – it will read instructions and warranties from all the appliances purchased to renovate homes in Southern Louisiana!

There are hundreds of uses for the Reader every day. No other device in the history of technology for the blind has provided quicker access to more printed information than the Kurzweil-National Federation of the Blind Reader. The world of the printed word is about to be opened to the blind in a way it has never been before. Get ready; the revolution begins today! For more information contact the National Federation of the Blind Reader information and sales line at (877) 708-1724 or go to the web site **[www.knfbreader.com](http://www.knfbreader.com)**



**Louisiana  
Bridges: A  
Path to  
Success for  
Blind Youth**

**By Norma Crosby**



The Louisiana Center for the Blind is currently accepting applications for the second year of its Louisiana Bridges Mentoring Program. The program pairs blind youth between the ages of 16 and 26 with a blind adult who serves as a mentor for two years. The program is part of a research project funded by the Rehabilitation Services administration.

Mentors are committed adults who are willing to spend lots of one-on-one time with a young, blind person. The program requires that the mentee have that same commitment, but beyond the one-on-one time spent with the mentor, group activities are scheduled several times each year. This gives young people an opportunity to have contact with a variety of blind adults and to spend time with peers who may be experiencing some of the same challenges.

If you are interested in becoming a Louisiana Bridges mentor or mentee or if you need additional information about the program, please contact the Louisiana Center for the Blind, and ask to speak with Norma Crosby. You can

reach the center at (800) 234-4166. You can make direct contact with Mrs. Crosby at (318) 251-1375 or by email at [ncrosby@lcb-ruston.com](mailto:ncrosby@lcb-ruston.com). Applications should be submitted by September 1.

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**Frequently Asked  
Questions**



**Question:**  
How long does it take *Louisiana Voices* to record a book?

**Answer:**  
Each talking book needs “the right voice”. *Louisiana Voices* has 25 volunteers, of whom half are narrators with a wide range of voice types. Depending on a narrator’s place in a current project, we may temporarily shelve a new project. Once a narrator is selected and available for the new project, the narrator reads between 6-15 pages once a week for one hour. If a narrator records 10 pages per session, a three hundred-page book requires a minimum of 30 weekly sessions. While the narrator and producer are recording the book, a reviewer listens after each session noting recording errors. The producer then schedules between 1-6 additional “edit” sessions to complete the book before it is sent for duplication and then circulation.

If production goes as planned, the creation of an audio book usually

spans between 3 months and 1 year. However, it is necessary to factor in volunteer cancellations, holidays, and unforeseen events such as equipment problems. It may seem like a long time to wait for a book, but once it is ready for circulation, that book will continue to be available in mass quantity for years to come.



## **Digital Talking Books**

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is planning to change talking books to a "digital" format. What does this mean? NLS staff envisions some type of flash memory cartridge. Although somewhat larger, it will be like those used in digital cameras. For nearly thirty years, the primary format for talking books has been cassette. Before that, they were recorded on phonograph records. Advantages to storing audio recordings in digital form include the ability to improve audio quality, the ability to use the same recording in a greater variety of ways, and the ability to integrate recorded information into a wide range of systems.

Will there be a new playback machine? Yes. Because digital talking books will be recorded on a new medium, and playback will involve many new features, NLS

may develop two new playback machines. Both machines are expected to be smaller and lighter than the current C-1. One will have only a few controls and be easy to operate; the other will have more controls, offering the user more features. What might the Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM) be like?

It will be much smaller than the current audio cassette player and much lighter weighing about 2-1/2 pounds.

It will include a carrying handle and attachment points for shoulder straps.

It will be much easier to use, having buttons for Play, Stop, Volume, Speed and Power. (No sliders on the volume.) When you press the buttons without a cartridge inserted, the player will tell you the function of that particular key. The buttons will also be marked tactilely and can be operated with mouth sticks.

The cartridge will insert only one way and with a minimal amount of force.

The player can run on AC or battery. The battery will play for 15-20 hours before needing to be recharged. The reader can leave the machine plugged in if desired. After 30 minutes of not playing, the machine shuts itself off to conserve battery life. It will even tell you if the

battery is running low (i.e. one hour of playing time left.) There is also a sleep mode.

Books will always be announced when you turn the machine on. Books can be interchanged as automatic bookmarks are dropped onto the machine to keep track of where you are on a given title.

The Advanced Player will be able to navigate books by parts, sections, and sub-sections. There will be a “Go to page” feature.

The life expectancy of the DTBM is 10 years.

Staff Notes

A Fond Farewell



After working at the State Library of Louisiana for 10 years, and serving as Coordinator of Special Services for the past 6 years, Elizabeth Hecker Perkins has set her sights on new goals. “It is difficult to leave a job I love so much,” she noted at her farewell party. “I particularly enjoyed working with special needs patrons, so this job has been very rewarding,” she stated. As Coordinator of Special Services, Perkins oversaw the operations of Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, *Louisiana Voices*, and the AudioVisual Resource Center. She and her husband are moving to Panama.



Holiday Closings

Veterans’ Day - November 11  
Thanksgiving Day - November 23  
Christmas Day - December 25  
New Year’s Day - January 1

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*Emma K. Schroth*  
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Editor

Fall Into  
Reading!



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FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED

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