

Idaho Commission for Libraries

Vol. 1 No. 2

Spring 2010

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Library Highlight:
Twin Falls Public Library
201 4th Avenue East
Twin Falls, ID 83301
208-733-2964

Hours

Monday: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

The Twin Falls Public Library provides a varied selection of books on cassette and CD, and their large-print collection is at 9,000 and growing as more and more books are published in large print.

Another audio book, introduced as a pilot project, is the Playaway, which is hugely popular because patrons find it so easy to use. The library also has five MP3 players to lend and a subscription



Twin Falls Public Library

to NetLibrary, which provides access to eContent (the digital version of books, journals, and database content). There's also a spare Talking Book Service (TBS) cassette player for TBS patrons to borrow if theirs breaks down. In addition, a number of catalog and public access computers are set up with larger font.

Twin Falls Public Library participates in Let's Talk About It book discussion groups whenever possible (all themes are available from the Talking Book Service) and holds other book discussions as well. From those discussions, they've developed several Book

(continued on p. 2)

Innovative services and community

Library Highlight *cont'd from p. 1*

Club Kits that include six or seven copies of the book, discussion questions, and author information. These kits can be checked out for six weeks.

Recently, Twin Falls Public Library received Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funding to purchase laptops and provide computer training to senior citizens, both at the library and as a monthly outreach program at the senior center. They are currently developing the training and plan to begin the program in May. Staff will teach users how to change font size, use audio aids, use a computer mouse, and access Internet sites.

Reference librarian Jennifer Hills is enthusiastic about the program. "The senior population didn't grow up with computers; many have never even used email. But these classes will help them do things like stay connected with their families, trace their family genealogy, and access many useful resources online." And the Online Resources page on the library website includes links to Educational, Government, and Health and Medicine websites—



Twin Falls Public Library staff

which will put a wealth of information at their fingertips.

Jennifer is also excited about the possibility of participating in the "Transforming Life After 50" program to advance library skills related to improving services to active, older adults. This year-long fellowship is funded through a grant from the U.S. Institute for Museum and Library Services for selected public library staff in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California. They'll know in June if they've been accepted. This project and the computer training program meet the library's strategic plan objectives of increasing services to the senior population.

For resources for those requiring reading alternatives, Jennifer is the main contact person at the library. But any reference librarian can help.

*Email: talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov
Website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>
Phone: 208-334-2150 or 800-458-3271*

Reading Alternative: Descriptive Videos and DVDs

Talking Book Service has more than just books. Our Descriptive Video collection contains movies and television programs that describe actions, actor characteristics and dress, and details of the scenery and setting. The descriptions do not conflict with the dialogue. They are fun to watch alone or with friends and family since they can be viewed by everyone. Videos play on regular VCR players, and DVDs play on DVD players. TBS does not loan or repair players or televisions.

Descriptive videos and DVDs are loaned two at a time for two weeks and are shipped Free Matter for the Blind. Titles can be assigned from user subjects if requested. Users also can review available titles by requesting a video or DVD Catalog in large print or audio, or searching for them in the online catalog at <http://www.klas.com/idbph>.

When requesting descriptive videos or DVDs for the first time, users must agree to pay the replacement cost if a video or DVD is lost or damaged while checked out to them.

To get started enjoying these materials, call TBS at: 800-458-3271 (or 334-2150 in the Treasure Valley).

Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 18—24, 2010

From January through December 2009, 115 individuals gave 10,258 hours of their time at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL)!

This year during Volunteer Appreciation Week we recognized their dedication and commitment with an event at the Commission using the Volunteer Appreciation Week theme, "Volunteers Build a Better World." At the event we showcased how volunteer work helps library patrons around the state and how their ongoing contributions of volunteer time keep the services at the Commission running smoothly. You can read more about our Volunteer Appreciation event in the Summer 2010 issue of Connections.

If you would like to share your thoughts on the difference that ICFL volunteers make in your life, please send an email to talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov or call 800-458-3271 and speak to any staff member. Thank you for helping us express our deep gratitude to our great volunteers.



Recent Donations to TBS

General Donations

Emily Baker	Deborah DeThomas
Lois Beno	Fern and Leon
Bobby Bop	Graham
Donna Bretthauer	Steven Muffley
Sybil Cleverly	Billie Shewmaker
Clyde Davis	Gladys Withrow



Memorial Donations



Betty Christiansen

Daughters of Utah Pioneers
Bonnie Savage

Donations are used to enhance the Talking Book Service and are fully tax deductible as allowable by law. Acknowledgements are sent to donors and honorees, so please include the names and addresses of all those to be notified. Please make checks payable to Talking Book Service and mail to:

**Idaho Talking Book Service
325 West State Street
Boise, ID 83702**

Thank you for your generosity!

Magazine Corner

The magazine *Healthy Exchanges Food Newsletter* is no longer available. Our choice for its replacement is *Natural Solutions*, a magazine about natural health using holistic remedies, natural foods, and herbs. If you are interested in receiving this magazine, please checkmark it on the New Books Order Form.

Magazine Corner *cont'd*

DIGITAL MAGAZINES

Did you know that the National Library Service is making their direct magazines available digitally? If you are a magazine reader, have a digital player, and have the ability to download books, you can also download magazines. This means you get them almost immediately.

There are 47 titles available for download, including such titles as *American Heritage*, *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Money*, and *Sports Illustrated*. There are also young people's titles like *Spider*, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, and *Young Adult Magazine of the Month*.

If you are interested, you will need to log into the Bard website at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/cgi-bin/nlsbardprod/index.cgi>. Once there you can browse the recently added magazine issues and download that issue. You may also look at the other titles that are available. If you are not able to download, you may still contact us for a magazine list of what is available for circulation on tape. There are over 100 titles available, some are circulating, which means they have to be returned to get the next issue. And some are direct, which means you may keep them! Call us at 800-458-3271 for your list!

New Books Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

New Idaho Talking Books From Our Recording Studio

We are excited to announce that locally recorded books are now available on digital cartridges for those using digital players! Locally recorded books are not yet available for download but they are still available on cassettes. To order, make your selections (VCT for cassette or VDB for digital cartridge) and mail this pre-addressed order form, call 800-458-3271, or order online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/TBS/CurrentBooks/Spring2010>.

Too Many Cooks: An Angie Amalfi Mystery (Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence Read By: Margaret Dimmick

Desperate for any sort of culinary career, Angie Amalfi fast-talks her way into a radio job working for a pompous third-rate chef with a radio call-in talk show. But solving the mysterious death of a competing restaurateur seems a lot more interesting than trying to make her wind-bag boss sound good.

_____ (VCT 1126) 2 Cassettes

_____ (VDB 1126) 1 Digital Cartridge

I Remember...: A Memoir of Nazi Invasion, Forced Exile, and Concentration Camp (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Lorissa Wilfong Holt Read By: Maryan Stephens

In 1950, 16-year-old Holt and her mother, refugees of the Nazi concentration camps, found themselves in the peaceful valley of Emmett, Idaho. Now in her 70s, she bravely confronts the memories of the horrors of World War II and tells her story to help future generations avoid repeating history.

_____ (VCT 1144) 2 Cassettes

_____ (VDB 1144) 1 Digital Cartridge

Riding the Nez Perce War Trail Twice, 1965-1990 (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: George Hatley Read By: Lana Thurston

The view from horseback gives historians of the Nez Perce War Trail a broader and more insightful perspective of the journey taken by the Nez Perce during the 1877 war. Travel along as these riders, many on the famous Appaloosa horse, ride the trail in sections and bring this great adventure to life.

_____ (VCT 1145) 2 Cassettes

_____ (VDB 1145) 1 Digital Cartridge

Cooking Most Deadly: An Angie Amalfi Mystery (Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence Read By: Janice Pori

Chef and food writer Angie Amalfi mixes up a pot of marvelous meals with a tasty murder mystery. This time, Angie may be next on the killer's list!

_____ (VCT 1146) 2 Cassettes

_____ (VDB 1146) 1 Digital Cartridge

A Gift of Life: A Memoir of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Hungary (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Lorissa Wilfong Holt Read By: Deborah Lynch

Holt tells of joining the Peace Corps at 59 after earning an English and Linguistics degree, and her two years in Hungary teaching English as a second language. Holt spent part of her childhood in the Dachau concentration camp but eventually immigrated to Emmett, ID, and had a family.

_____ (VCT 1156) 1 Cassette

_____ (VDB 1156) 1 Digital Cartridge

Cooks Overboard: An Angie Amalfi Mystery (Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence Read By: Maryan Stephens

On the way to Acapulco with her detective boyfriend, Paavo, food writer Angie's romantic dreams are shipwrecked when the cook tries to jump off the boat, Paavo behaves bizarrely, and a murder occurs. Mild sexual content.

_____ (VCT 1158) 2 Cassettes

_____ (VDB 1158) 1 Digital Cartridge

Wings Over Boise: An Aviation History (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Arthur Hart Read By: Carla Stern

Idaho has several claims to fame in aviation history. From a 1904 first attempt at manned flight off the cliffs at Lewiston to the founding of United Airlines in Boise in 1926, Idaho and those flying machines grew up together.

_____ (VCT 1164) 1 Cassette

_____ (VDB 1164) 1 Digital Cartridge

Cook in Time: An Angie Amalfi Mystery (Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence Read By: Kathy Yribar

While foodie Angie's boyfriend, Paavo, investigates a series of bizarre murders, she suspects they may be linked to her geeky clients, a group of UFO chasers. Should she tell Paavo or head for alien territory and poke around?

_____ (VCT 1165) 2 Cassettes

_____ (VDB 1165) 1 Digital Cartridge

Willing and Able: A Job Hunting Guide for Idahoans With Disabilities (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Idaho Department of Labor **Read By:** Lyn McCollum
A fantastic resource for Idahoans with disabilities searching for employment, this guide helps with where to search, how to search, interview tips, reasonable accommodations, and much more. It also has a wealth of contact information for Idaho agencies that assist people with disabilities.

_____ (VCT 1169) 1 Cassette
_____ (VDB 1169) 1 Digital Cartridge

So You Gotta Get Right Back On??? (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: John Austin, Jr. **Read By:** Kris Query
Austin shares many amusing and sometimes slightly embellished accounts of his lifetime adventures. These include stories of growing up on a ranch in Salmon, Idaho, where he learned to hunt, fish, and cowboy.

_____ (VCT 1175) 2 Cassettes
_____ (VDB 1175) 1 Digital Cartridge

Boise, Idaho, 1882-1910: Prosperity in Isolation (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Carol MacGregor **Read By:** Larry Weeks
While most western U.S. cities developed along main railroad lines, remote Boise was bypassed. How did Boise survive? Find out with MacGregor's comprehensive examination of Boise's beginnings, starting with the removal of the Northern Shoshoni and following the progress of government, infrastructure, business, and social institutions.

_____ (VCT 1184) 2 Cassettes
_____ (VDB 1184) 1 Digital Cartridge

Legacy of Light: A History of the Idaho Power Company (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Susan Stacy **Read By:** Sue Vap
To help the Idaho Power Company mark their 75th anniversary in 1991, this history of the company contains context about how the company fits into the American electrical utility industry and chronicles the changes and challenges that Idaho Power and the entire industry have faced.

_____ (VCT 1189) 3 Cassettes
_____ (VDB 1189) 1 Digital Cartridge

(cont'd on page 8)

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**FREE MATTER FOR THE
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This newsletter is available on cassette tape upon request. Call 800-458-3271. For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to the newsletter VIA email, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>.

New Books Order Form (cont'd from p. 7)

The following IC books are new from other libraries and are available on cassette only:

_____ (IC 368) **Bloody Season: Season of the Vigilante; Book 1**
Author: Kirby Jonas Read By: Kenneth Weigand
Arizona Territory was the scene of much vigilante justice when Captain Tappan Kittery, a bounty hunter operating outside the law, rode into Castor.
2 Cassettes Adult Fiction

_____ (IC 367) **Season's End: Season of the Vigilante; Book 2**
Author: Kirby Jonas Read By: Kenneth Weigand
A continuation of the story of Tappan Kittery, a bounty hunter who makes a stand for justice in Arizona Territory as he seeks to track down the "Desperados Eight" and their leader Diablo Baraga.
2 Cassettes Adult Fiction

Magazines

If you are interested in receiving the magazine listed below, please place a checkmark by the title.

_____ **Natural Solutions.** (Replaced *Healthy Exchanges Food Newsletter*)

What are you reading?

Welcome to our new column, which introduces you to some of the books that ICFL staff members are reading.



**Steve Bailey just finished
*Suite Française***

Steve Bailey, an Office Specialist 1 at ICFL, is an avid reader who just finished *Suite Française*, historical fiction by Irène Némirovsky. When the Germans invade France in 1940, Parisians flee to the countryside amid chaos. The following year, the Nazis occupy a provincial village where a woman, who is hiding another villager wanted for the murder of an enemy soldier, falls in love with a German officer.

Steve says that *Suite Française* is good fiction, with insights into a variety of interesting people and how they dealt with German occupation. And an interest in the time period would help make this book even more enjoyable to the reader.

There's no strong language or description of sex, and the violence of the time period is referenced, but not described in detail.

The author was under constant danger in 1941-42 while composing *Suite Française* and died before she finished it. Némirovsky was a Jewish Russian immigrant from a wealthy family who had fled the Bolsheviks as a teenager. She spent her adult life in France, where she converted to Christianity. Despite that fact, she and her husband were deported to Auschwitz in 1942, where he was gassed upon arrival and she died in the infirmary at the age of 39.

Her manuscript was preserved by her daughters, who believed that the notebooks contained her journal. They couldn't bear to read them and renew memories of that painful period. It was not until 60 years later, when the elder daughter planned to give the notebooks to a French institute preserving personal documents from the war years, that it was discovered to be a novel and was published instead.

Ordering Information

Suite Française is RC 62505 and DB 62505 and is also available on BARD.

Volunteer Highlight: Pam Fraser

Five years ago Pam Fraser answered a newspaper ad requesting volunteers to help empty a warehouse full of ICFL books. After several days of packing books into boxes, she learned of other ongoing volunteer opportunities at the Commission. She checked into them and, since that time, has been inspecting TBS books every Thursday afternoon. Pam occasionally does mailings and is also currently the backup person for processing new digital machines so the ICFL staff can send them out to eagerly waiting TBS users.

Pam fits volunteering in with her numerous other activities, such as needlework, reading, craft classes, and gardening. She keeps coming back to the Commission because, in her words, "Everyone here is really nice. I've never left the building without somebody saying thank you. They're very appreciative. And the Commission does so many wonderful programs statewide. It's great to know that I'm contributing, especially given the current funding situation. It's a nice place to come and do your thing."

Pam reads a variety of genres, and especially enjoys mysteries and historical fiction. She is currently reading John Grisham's *Bleachers* (RC/DB 56894). And two of Pam's

favorite books, are:

- *People of the Book* (RC/DB 66059) by Geraldine Brooks. The story of the religious volume, the Sarajevo Haggadah, and how it survived centuries of wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to safeguard it.
- *The Book Thief* (RC/DB 62431) by Markus Zusak. Although Death narrates this World War II-era story of how a young girl learns about literature and life through the words in stolen books, it's told with humor and wit.

We appreciate Pam's many hours of dedicated service, which benefit TBS patrons statewide.



Pam Fraser inspects the cassettes



Pam and the Thursday bunch

Commonly Asked Questions about Digital Players

More and more digital players are being distributed, to rave reviews. Users love the ease of use and the fact the entire book is on one cartridge. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions about using digital players. Let us know what your questions are!

1. How do I rewind the book?

Short answer: You don't have to rewind the book. Long answer: Because the cartridge contains a computer file, the player automatically begins the book at the beginning.

2. Can I play the player plugged in? Yes. The battery only recharges when needed so you can leave the player plugged in; this will not hurt the battery.

3. Should I return my cassette player? Users may keep both their cassette players and digital players. Remember, not all cassette books will be available on cartridge, so you may want to keep the cassette player for these books. Those requiring more than two books at a time may supplement with cassette books.

4. What's the difference between the standard and advanced digital player? The two players are identical in size, shape, and sound

quality. The advanced player provides more options for users who plan to go to different parts of the book, such as specific sections within chapters. For readers who usually read the entire book from beginning to end, the standard player works perfectly.

5. When will I receive my player?

Players are sent to anyone who requests one, provided they are in "good standing" which is defined as having only one cassette player and no more than four overdue books. Call TBS at 800-458-3271 and staff will let you know if you are in good standing or how to return to good standing. Even if you don't think you want a player—try it out. You will be surprised at the difference from the cassette player, and you can always return it!

We are excited to announce that the books recorded in our studio are now being made available in digital cartridge format for those using digital players! They are still available in cassette format as well. To order, make your selections on the New Books Order Form in this newsletter. (VCT for cassette or VDB for digital cartridge).

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Funded by
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Introducing the Digital Player

The digital format has many advantages including: improved sound quality, a lighter weight, easier to use player, and ability to download books and magazines from a website.

We are excited to announce that locally recorded books are now available on digital cartridges for those using digital players!

Call to request your player today.