



# indow to the World

Spring, 2005

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## Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

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### School's Out – Summer Reading's In

One of the great things about summer vacation is that we get to read the books we really like instead of the books we have to read for school. So Tennessee's public libraries are gearing up for the summer with Summer Reading Programs aimed at subjects we all like.

For young kids, this summer's theme is "Be Major League -- Read!" You can read about summer sports like baseball, tennis, and track & field while you follow your favorite teams in the news. You can also find out more about famous figures in off-season sports like football and basketball while you wait for those seasons to begin. The LBPH has plenty of titles on sports available, and you can count the talking books and Braille titles you read on your summer reading record.

For young adults, this year's theme is "Find Yourself at the Library – Discover the Arts." No matter which of the arts you practice or enjoy -- music, theater, film or sculpture -- you'll find plenty of titles available in our talking book and Braille catalogs. So don't pass up the chance to learn about your favorite arts and artists while you're working on your own summer projects. Or find out what

some famous artists were doing when they were young.

Many local libraries will be staging events and activities for summer reading club members, and some will be giving out prizes for the readers who finish the most books or show the greatest improvements in their reading levels. So sign up for the summer reading programs at your local library and get your reading lists and program guidelines. Then check with us. The most popular titles go fast, and you'll want your requests to be at the head of the list for summer reading. To request your summer reading program books, contact your LBPH reader advisor today.

### LBPH Recommends

For readers who loved the Mitford novels, retiring reader advisor Wanda Shepard (see p. 2) recommends the "Miss Julia" series, by North Carolina author Ann B. Ross. All five of these humorous southern novels are available from LBPH in large print, braille, and recorded versions.

## **Wanda Shepard Retires**

When Wanda Shepard was majoring in English and Secondary Education at MTSU (then MTSC), she probably didn't imagine classes filled with thousands of students. But that's really what she ended up with. Wanda, who has served LBPH as Reader Advisor and Bibliographic Coordinator and Equipment Control Officer for 27 years, retired as of March 31. During her stay with us, she has served many thousands of LBPH patrons and managed an equipment inventory that has grown to more than 8,000 cassette players.

A native of White County, Wanda was raised on her family's farm about nine miles outside of Sparta. She attended White County High School and MTSU, graduating in 1964 with a B.S. in English/Secondary Education and Library Science. She subsequently earned a MLS from Peabody in 1987.

Wanda's first job after college was at the Bluegrass Regional Library in Columbia, Tennessee, where among her other duties she served as bookmobile librarian. Following her marriage in 1966, she moved to Nashville and joined the Nashville Public Library (NPL), working as a Senior Library Assistant at the Richland Park branch in West Nashville for the next six years. In 1971 Wanda left NPL to work as a full-time mother until her son Greg began school. In 1979 she returned to work, joining LBPH as a Reader Advisor. Twenty-five years later, Wanda is starting yet another career: traveling with Kieffer, her husband of 39 years,

visiting her son and his family, and enjoying life with her four year-old grandson Alex.

"Wanda has given long and faithful service to the Library and to the people of Tennessee," said Ruth Hemphill, LBPH director. "We will miss her knowledge and her dedication to our mission. But we will also envy her plans for vacations on the beach with her family."

## **Seeing Eye Telephones**

At LBPH, your telephone calls are important to us. So we think you should know about the Telecommunications Devices Access Program (TDAP) administered by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA).

TDAP provides disabled Tennesseans with assistive telecommunications devices like telephones with Braille markings, memory dials, large buttons or large displays. It can even provide voice-activated phones and "hands free" phones with speech recognition.

If you are a permanent Tennessee resident, have a certifiable disability, and are unable to use regular telephone service without an assistive communications device, you may be eligible for this program. To find out more or obtain an application, please contact TRA at 1-800-342-8359 ext 179/206 or visit the TRA website at [www.state.tn.us/tra](http://www.state.tn.us/tra).

## **Check Out Our New DVs**

Slowly but surely our collection of descriptive videos is growing. In addition to *The Passion of the Christ* (DV 00409), our most requested new title, we've recently added more than 80 new and classic movies. These include recent hits like *Finding Nemo* (DV 00338) as well as oldies-but-goodies like *Road to Bali*, the most exotic of the Bing-Crosby-Bob Hope *Road* comedies.

So stay alert for our updated DV catalog. It's *Coming Soon to a Mail Box near You*.

### **NFB-Newsline--News at Your Fingertips**

If you haven't tried the NFB-Newsline yet, you may be missing out on a valuable opportunity. This free telephone service from the National Federation for the Blind gives you around-the-clock access to audio versions of America's leading daily newspapers and magazines. National publications available include *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The New York Times*, *Roll Call*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The New Yorker* and the *Economist*. Tennessee newspapers include the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, and Nashville's *The Tennessean*. NFB continues to add publications to the list, so more will be available soon.

The NFB-Newsline service uses computerized synthetic speech technology to create audio versions of these publications and make them available twenty-four hours a day. The

only technology you need is a touch-tone telephone. It's quite a bargain. A regular subscription to *The Wall Street Journal's*, for example, costs more than \$200 a year. NFB-Newsline makes this and nearly 100 other papers available to Talking Book readers free of charge and commercials.

If you're interested in registering for this free service, please contact your reader advisor at the Tennessee LBPH today. You'll be putting the world at your fingertips.

### **Have You Tried E-Mail?**

Suppose you're on vacation in Florida and you want to make sure you'll have something to read when you get home. Telephoning requests to us would cost you money, and you'd probably make it home before the mail would reach us.

Why not try e-mail? If you have access to the Internet, you can e-mail us anytime, from any location. In fact, you don't even need your own Internet access. Many hotels now offer Internet connections. So do many public libraries. Take advantage of these connections to e-mail us your requests, and we can have books on the way to you by the time you're back in town.

E-mail makes us available around the clock. You can even e-mail your requests in the wee hours of the morning, when your reader advisors are at home asleep. They'll be there waiting for us when we come in.

Of course, you don't have to wait for the wee hours of the morning, and you don't have to be on vacation. You can take advantage of this new channel to order books and descriptive videos "24 x 7."

If your last name starts with \_\_\_\_\_ your reader advisor's e-mail address is:

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Please call the Library at (800) 342-3308 to request alternate formats.

## Administration and Staff

The Honorable Riley C. Darnell, Secretary of State; Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian & Archivist; Ruth Hemphill, Director; Janie Murphree, Assistant Director; Wanda Shepard, Bibliographic Coordinator & Equipment Control; Carmelita Esaw, Computer Specialist; Ann Jones, Administrative Assistant.

Circulation and Repair Staff: Larry Conner, Materials Manager; Jerry Clinard, Dwight Davis, Terry Corn, Ron Gross, Billy Kirby, Ron Peaks II, and Kenneth Rainey.

Reader Advisors: Ed Byrne, Annette Hadley, Clara Ledbetter, and Francine Sharpe.

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