**Spring 2010** **Newsletter of the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library**

**Are you an ABLE reader?**

Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. (ABLE) works to make printed materials available to people who are blind or have other print disabilities. ABLE relies on highly-trained volunteers to provide quality audio, digital, and braille transcriptions of printed materials, following Library of Congress standards.

As a non-profit, tax exempt, tax deductible organization, ABLE works to make their services affordable for those who need it. ABLE's individual pricing policy guarantees that qualified persons paying for transcribed books or magazines for personal use will not pay more than the price of the book itself or the magazine subscription price. (NLS patrons automatically qualify).

Besides books and magazines, ABLE also transcribes professional job-related materials, tax forms, medical handouts, crucial health-related materials, restaurant menus and even wedding programs. Any kind of printed material that you might want, ABLE staffers will do their best to transcribe into the format you need. ABLE even does tactile maps and illustrations.

Note: Volunteering for ABLE can make a real difference in the lives of people with print disabilities. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please call ABLE.

For more information, call: 414-286-3039 or email: info@ablenow.org

**Have Your Digital Player Yet?**

If you would like a digital player and have not received one yet, please contact the Library office. By the time you read this, the Library should have players available to send out to you right away. Even if you thought you were on the list, please call 1-800-242-8822 if you have not received one so we can make sure your account is in good standing.

**Service Reminder!**

In order to assist us in providing the best possible service to you please remember to:

1. Include the address card when you return your books
2. Double check the box to make sure the book or books are included

**Join Your Community's Big Read!**

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. A 2004 report by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that not only is literary reading in America declining rapidly among all groups, but that the rate of decline has accelerated. The Big Read provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

Several Wisconsin cities have participated or will be participating in a Big Read event. The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library can support these Big Read events. WTBBL can provide you with the recorded cassette or digital book for the title being read by your community. Here is a list of the institutions that have participated or will be participating in the Big Read, the book they are reading and contact information about their Big Read event. **Please contact the organization directly about events they may offer**.

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| Kenosha Public Library(262) 564-6132 | **The Grapes of Wrath**John SteinbeckRC068308DB068308 |
| Milwaukee Public Museum(414) 278-6146 | **The Call of the Wild**Jack LondonRC049486DB049486 |
| Waukesha Public Library(262) 524-3746 | **A Farewell to Arms**Ernest HemingwayRC049506DB049506 |
| New Glarus Public Library(608) 527-2003 | **Fahrenheit 451**Ray BradburyRC034963DB039463 |
| Peninsula Players Theater(920) 868-3287(Door County) | **My Antonia**Willa Sibert CatherRC013491DB013491 |
| Beloit College(608) 363-2000 | **To Kill a Mockingbird**Harper LeeRC036414DB036414 |
| St. Croix Public Library(715) 483-1777 | **Bridge of San Luis Rey and Our Town**Thornton WilderRC041185 (San Luis Rey)DB041185 (San Luis Rey)RC065265 (Our Town)DB065265 (Our Town) |
| UW-Whitewater(262) 472-4444 | **Sun, Stone and Shadows**Jorge Hernandez (editor)RC068735DB068735 |

**What to Read Next - Wisconsin Authors**

Les Paul is Wisconsin's most famous musician and Frank Lloyd Wright is Wisconsin's most famous architect but have you read any of these more prolific Wisconsin authors? The number after the author's name indicates how many books we have by them.

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| --- | --- |
| **Lorrie Moore (4)***General Fiction - lives in Madison* | **Jane Hamilton (4)***General Fiction - lives in Rochester* |
| **Larry Watson (3)***General Fiction - lives in Stevens Point (Professor at UW-SP)* | **Jacquelyn Mitchard (7)***General Fiction - lives in Madison* |
| **Gladys Bagg Taber (10)***General Fiction - raised in Appleton* | **Ellen Raskin (3)***Young Adult Mysteries - born in Milwaukee* |
| **Vernon Vinge (6)***Science Fiction - born in Waukesha* | **Betty Ren Wright (10)***Mystery - lives in Racine* |
| **Joan Vinge (6)***Science Fiction - lives in Madison* | **Gene DeWeese (4)***Science Fiction - lives in Milwaukee* |
| **Jonathan Harr (2)***General Fiction - born in Beloit* | **Jack Finney (3)***Science Fiction - born in Milwaukee* |
| **Gerald Morris (8)***King Arthur Tales - lives in Wausau* | **Margot Peters (3)***Biographer - raised in Wausau* |
| **E. E. Smith (4)***Science Fiction - born in Sheboygan* | **Kevin J. Anderson (5)***Science Fiction - born in Racine* |
| **Robert Bloch (14)***Mystery (Wrote Psycho!) - raised in Milwaukee* | **George F. Kennan (3)***Historian - raised in Milwaukee* |
| **David Kherdian (5)***Children's Books - born in Racine* | **John Hildebrand (2)***Naturalist - lives in Eau Claire* |
| **Peter Straub (12)***Horror and Suspense - born in Milwaukee* | **John Muir (5)***Naturalist - raised in Fox River Valley* |
| **Thorton Wilder (9)***Playwright - born in Madison* | **John Toland (10)***Historian - born in La Crosse* |
| **Alden Carter (10)***Young Adult writer - born in Eau Claire, lives in Marshfield* | **Glenway Wescott (4)***Poet and Novelist - born in Kewaskum* |
| **Clifford Simak (8)***Science Fiction - born in Millville* | **Stephen Ambrose (15)***Historian - raised in Whitewater* |
| **Tim Cahill (5)***Adventure - lived in Waukesha, went to UW-Madison* | **Richard Shickel (8)***Movie and the Arts - born in Milwaukee* |
|   | **William H. Rehnquist (3)***Law - born in Milwaukee* |

**Keep Your Cassette Player!**

The Library has been getting a lot of calls from people asking whether they should return their cassette players. The answer is No! There are numerous reasons for this:

* Not everything is available digitally. You will still need your cassette player to listen to one of 40,000 books not available in other formats
* Until further notice magazines are only available on cassette tape

So, please keep your cassette player. Also, please keep the boxes that we ship your machines in. You will need these boxes to return your players for whatever reason.

Again, if you have not put your name on the list for the digital player and you would like to receive one, please call our office today.

**Outreach!**

As stated in other newsletters, the Wisconsin Talking Book Library is always looking for outreach opportunities. If you have one, give us a call!

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Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
813 West Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436
1-414-286-3045 (in Milwaukee)
1-800-242-8822 (in Wisconsin)
1-414-286-3102 (FAX)
lbph@milwaukee.gov (e-mail)
[http://talkingbooks.wi.gov](http://talkingbooks.dpi.wi.gov/) (website)
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