



# SILVERLINING

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2000

## NEVADA BPH NEWS

In March, the last computer was installed in Las Vegas for the volunteers to help staff process books. Over the last year, 10 new computers and barcode readers, 2 printers and a server were installed in our BPH libraries. All were paid by federal Library Services and Technology Act grant funds. We still hope to migrate the Subregional library's database to the server in Carson City, but at this time the 56K line will slow down database access, so we are investigating how best to proceed.

Our parent department — Museums, Library and Arts went to the Fundamental Review Committee in March and a number of recommendations were given to the committee. The committee will report their recommendations to the Governor and we should know what the Governor decides for our department by the end of the year. We will keep you apprised of any issues relating to the BPH programs statewide.

I attended the NLS National meeting of Librarians serving the BPH in Manhattan Beach, CA April 30-May 4th. It was a very informative meeting (see page 6).

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### READING TRIVIA

How many of you knew the answer to the Sue Grafton question asked on **Who Wants to be a Millionaire?**

We have a full bibliography of all Sue Grafton's "alphabet" mysteries including "D" is for Deadbeat and "M" is for Malice.

Sometimes being a reader really pays off!! It did for the young man on **Millionaire!!**

Happy Reading and Happy Trivia!  
Call for list.



SilverLining is the official publication of the Nevada Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It is published quarterly. SilverLining is available in Braille, on cassette or on diskette upon request and is posted on our website: [dmla.clan.lib.nv.us](http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us)

In providing information to readers of the SilverLining, the Nevada Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped does not endorse any product or service referred to in this newsletter. Keri E. Putnam, Regional Librarian, Editor - 775-684-3354 or 800-922-9334.



The U.S. Department of Education has distributed a Student Aid Audio Guide for 2000-2001. It is available on cassette and on compact disc. Intended for visually impaired students and parents, the audio guide uses a simulated telephone conversation between a counselor and a student to provide information on postsecondary student financial aid. Students may request free copies of the guide by calling 1-800-433-3243.



## MEDICARE INFORMATION

AARP has produced a video and brochure about the six Medicare options that may be available in 1999 or later. We have one copy of each available.

It is also available at their website: [www.aarp.org/hcchoices](http://www.aarp.org/hcchoices) or you can contact their office at: AARP, 601 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20049. Phone: 1-800-424-3410.

## INTERNET GUIDE

Author Olga Espinola has written Captured by the Net: An Internet Guide for Blind Users. It is available in braille, on tape, disk or PortaBook (free matter) for \$19.99. It is also available in print for \$22.99. Ms. Espinola is blind and offers valuable tips and techniques for web surfing. This book is written for beginners and covers both DOS and Windows platforms. There is also a great deal of information for the advanced user.

To order, contact National Braille Press at 1-800-548-7323 ext. 20.



## NEW HOPE FOR ARTIFICIAL SIGHT

*(Source: [www.msnbc.com/news/358275.asp](http://www.msnbc.com/news/358275.asp) Downloaded 1/18/00)*

A blind man can read large letters and navigate around big objects by using a tiny camera wired directly to his brain, the first artificial eye to provide useful vision, a researcher reports. The 62-year-old man doesn't see an image. He perceives up to 100 specks of light that appear and disappear, like stars that come and go behind passing clouds, as his field of vision shifts. The man, blind since the age of 36, volunteered for the study and got the brain implant in 1978; scientists have been working since then to improve the software.

The man showed a reporter that he could find a mannequin in a room, walk to a black stocking cap hanging on a white wall, and then return to the mannequin to plop the cap on its head. He also can recognize a 2-inch-tall letter from five feet away, said researcher William Dobbelle of the Dobbelle Institute.

Dobbelle's report suggests that, someday, even limited signals to the brain will let blind people do relatively complicated visual tasks. While Dobbelle's device uses a brain implant, some other scientists are studying implants in the retina, the light-sensing tissue at the back of the eye. The retina strategy made news recently when blind musician Stevie Wonder expressed interest.

To use the device, the man wears sunglasses with a tiny pinhole camera mounted on one lens and an ultrasonic range finder on the other. Both devices communicate to a small computer on his hip, which highlights the edges between light and dark areas in the camera image. The computer tells an adjacent computer which sends signals to an array of small electrodes on the subject's brain surface through wires entering his skull behind his right ear.

The electrodes stimulate cells making the subject perceive specks of light. The shifting patterns tell the subject where light areas meet dark areas letting him find the objects in his environment.

Dobbelle said an improved version of the device should go on sale overseas, in limited numbers, later this year. It was not clear when the device might be available in the United States.



GAY AND  
LESBIAN  
LITERATURE

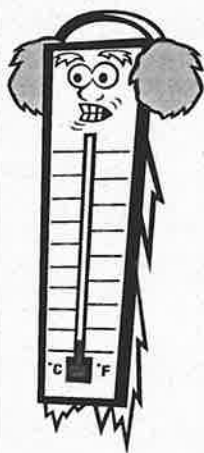
Triangle Braille Services produce lesbian and gay literature in Braille for purchase at affordable prices. Their catalog includes fiction, poetry, and non-fiction not otherwise available in alternate media. For more information, or to request a free catalog in Braille, on disk, or via email, contact Triangle Braille Services, P.O. Box 50606, Minneapolis, MN 55405  
Or phone:  
1-612-822-0549

## Frio Wallet Keeps Meds Cool

(Source: NY TBBL Upstate Update Fall 1999)

People with diabetes and others using medication that has to be kept cool often face travel limitations and the inconvenience of needing access to a refrigerator. Now, the Frio wallet offers a way to keep insulin safe and cool for up to 45 hours, without refrigeration, even when the ambient temperature is as high as 100 degrees F.

It works on a simple principle. To activate the wallet, you immerse it in cold water for 10-15 minutes. Crystals contained in the wallet's panels expand into a gel, which remains cool for several days, relying on the process of evaporation for cooling. While activated by water, after towel-drying, the wallet is dry to the touch. A pouch supplied with the wallet adds insulation and enables the user to carry the wallet in a pocket, handbag, or even on a belt.



The Frio wallet is used extensively in Europe, and is now available in the US. There are two sizes of wallet: 2 1/2 by 7 inches for \$20, and 5 1/2 by 6 inches for \$24.50.

Contact Totally Cool Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 842465, Dallas, TX 75284-2465  
Toll-free phone is 1-888-229-6377  
Email is <frio@btinternet.com>.

The company's web site is at [www.friouk.com](http://www.friouk.com).



## FINANCIAL AID FOR EYE CARE

*(Source: NY TBBL Upstate Update Fall 1999)*

Many state and national resources provide aid to people with vision problems. If you are in need of financial assistance to assess or treat an eye problem, you might contact any of the programs listed below. You might also contact a social worker at a local hospital or other community agency — they are often knowledgeable about community resources that can help people facing financial and medical problems.

- ⇒ **National Eye Care Project**, coordinated by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, provides free and low-cost eye exams for US citizens 65 and older who have not had access to an ophthalmologist in the past three years. Call 1-800-222-EYES. They also coordinate **Celebrate Sight: Do you know your glaucoma risk?** which offers free exams and treatment for glaucoma to people with no medical insurance. Call 1-800-391-EYES.
- ⇒ **Vision USA**, coordinated by the American Optometric Association, offers free eye care to uninsured, low-income workers and their families. Screening for the program takes place only during January each year, with exams provided later in the year. Call 1-800-766-4466.
- ⇒ **Lions Clubs International** provides financial assistance to individuals for eye care through local clubs. Services vary from club to club. Check the telephone book for your nearest club. The national office can be reached at 1-630-571-5466.
- ⇒ **Mission Cataract USA**, coordinated by the Volunteer Eye Surgeon's Association, is a program providing free cataract surgery to people of all ages who have no means to pay. Surgeries are scheduled annually on one day, usually in May. Call 1-800-343-7265.
- ⇒ **The Medicine Program** helps people enroll in one or more of the many patient-assistance programs that provide prescription medicine free to those in need. Patients must meet certain criteria and program is coordinated with the patient's doctor. Call 1-517-778-1118.



## ★ AUTHORS IN FOCUS

We are highlighting a few specific bibliographies. To request one, call 684-3354 or toll-free 1-800-922-9334:

- ⚡ Oprah's Book Club Selections
- ⚡ Anne Rule True Crime Stories
- ⚡ Sue Grafton Mysteries
  - A through N ★
- ⚡ Books made into Big Screen Movies
- ⚡ Ralph Compton Westerns
  - Trail Drive Series (8 titles) ★
- ⚡ Jonas Ward Westerns
  - Buchanan Series (4 titles)

## MAIL-ORDER CATALOGS

Home Readers is an organization that transfers popular mail-order catalogs, such as Schwan's, Eddie Bauer, and Sharper Image, onto audio-tape for the visually impaired. Home Readers offers 36 different catalogs and cookbooks on audio cassette. A cassette listing of catalogs is free. Call Kathy Eble (Eb-lee) toll-free at 1-877-814-7323 or write 604 West Hulett, Edgerton, KS 66021



## BPH Librarians Meet in Los Angeles



The meeting was held in Manhattan Beach, CA, actually. It was a lovely venue and the weather was very cooperative. Much of what was discussed at the meeting related to how BPH libraries are able to do their jobs. The changes are not so much seen by users, but will be of great benefits because it makes our work easier and more efficient so we can serve clients not only quicker, but also get books to you quicker.

A couple of important technological issues were addressed. One is that digital audio books are in the concept stage. There are books online that enable users to access them with visual, audio and braille simultaneously. In 2004, NLS will be adding 2000 digital titles per year. The delivery system for digital books is yet to be decided, but research and development is moving along rapidly to this new technology. Another issue is having online public access catalog available online for READS (our catalog system). More will be shared in future newsletters!

The conference was fun and informative. Well done everyone involved!!!



## LETTERS, MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS TO TALKING BOOKS

Donations, Bequests and In Memoriam gifts to Talking Books are used to help defray costs of operating the Regional and Subregional Libraries. We use funds prudently and try to reserve the money for staff and volunteer recognition and development. Thank you to all the kind people who show their appreciation with these gifts. All monetary gifts are acknowledged with a thank you note and we list donors and memorial gifts in this newsletter. We also get notes and letters on a regular basis which we always display for all staff and volunteers to read. Our volunteers love these notes that express how important this program is to the people we serve. Please keep your notes coming!!!!

Please send and make checks payable to Nevada Libraries for the BPH, NSLA, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701.

Received April through June 2000 for Regional Library: *[number in parentheses indicate number of donations received.]* Barbara Boman, Carson City; Zara Badeaux, Reno [3]; Nygren's Honey, Fallon; Eva Perry, Carlin.

Received April through June 2000 for Subregional Library: E.S. Lanning, Las Vegas.

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### LISTSERVS FOR TALKING BOOK READERS

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**Women Talk** is an e-mail listserv that is designed for women who are blind or visually impaired to discuss aspects of their lives as visually impaired women. To subscribe to this list, send a blank e-mail message to <womentalk-subscribe@onelist.com>. For more information visit the Onelist Web site <www.onelist.com>.

**VoxLibra** is a newly established listserv for readers of talking books who are interested in calling attention to critically acclaimed works of fiction and nonfiction. The aim of VoxLibra is to provide readers with a vehicle for reviewing and recommending books to one another, to share experiences and discover other books that may be of interest to them. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu containing the words <subscribe voxlibra-l>.



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The Nevada State Library and Archives is a division of the Nevada Department of Museums, Library and Arts. DMLA comprises the Division of Museums and History, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Nevada Arts Council.

**Kenny C. Guinn, Governor**  
**Monteria Hightower, State Librarian**

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