**Summer 2009 Newsletter of the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library**

**Digital Talking Books and Players - What's the latest news?**

We now expect to receive our first players in August; at a rate of about 350 players per month until every patron has one. Our veterans will get players first, then the forty or so patrons over the age of 100. After that, we will distribute them in the order in which we receive requests. If you would like a player, please call and request one. If you have already requested one, please do not call again because we expect our phones to be very busy.

By the time the players arrive, we will also have a small supply of digital talking books. Because the digital books will be in short supply for eighteen to twenty-four months, we are limiting readers to a maximum of three books at a time.

Please do not return your cassette player. We will continue producing new titles on cassette until the end of 2010 and all of our 60,000 cassette titles will continue to be available for years to come.

**Science Fiction Authors of Outer Space Stories**

This July we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the moon landing. To help celebrate we have listed science fiction authors, with an emphasis in outer space stories. Who knows? Some stories may not be science fiction in another forty years! Call the library if you would like us to add any of these to your list of favorite authors.

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| --- | --- |
| Isaac Asimov | Larry Niven |
| John Barnes | Frederick Pohl |
| Greg Bear | Mike Resnick |
| Gregory Benford | William Shatner |
| Ben Bova | Charles Sheffield |
| David Brin | Robert Silverberg |
| Arthur C. Clarke | Vernor Vinge |
| Joe Haldeman | James White |
| Robert A. Heinlein | Walter Jon Williams |

**In Memoriam: Lisa Mason**

With much sadness we report the passing of Lisa Mason, Assistant Regional Librarian. Although Lisa worked every day she could during her long battle with cancer, she was hospitalized in the weeks just prior to her death on June 17, 2009. She is survived by her parents, her partner, and daughter.

Lisa Mason worked in the Milwaukee Public Library System for 17 years-the last 5 years as the Assistant Regional Librarian at the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Her background in information technology perfectly fit her for this department. She loved sharing her passion for reading and was unfailing polite and helpful to every patron she talked to. Her expertise with computers made several upgrades of both hardware and software so much easier for the rest of us to weather.

Lisa Mason is and will be greatly missed by us all.

**Library Worker Celebrates 45 Years on the Job!**

The Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped congratulates Dorothy Zeidler, who was honored for her 45 years of service with the Milwaukee Public Library System. Dorothy joined us in 2004, as Library Circulation Assistant and served previously in that capacity at other libraries in Milwaukee.

At the Regional Library, Dorothy works quietly and efficiently, supporting our patrons by inspecting, checking in and shelving returned materials and pulling talking books off the shelves.

In her 45 years with MPL, Dorothy has certainly seen many changes in the library system, but feels that computer technology has made her job, "faster, accurate and to a certain point, easier." She finds pleasure in providing materials that meet our patrons' reading needs.

Dorothy also loves to read mysteries and romance novels. Like many of our patrons, she enjoys reading Nora Roberts, Lisa Jackson, Susan Wiggs and Sandra Brown. She likes to travel, "mostly to Canada," where she can spend the Canadian currency that she collects as a hobby. In her free time, she also tapes television shows. Our Dorothy likes to drive, but unaware to us until now, she likes to drive fast!

Spending 45 years working with the same institution does not feel that long to Dorothy. She has enjoyed working with different people, meeting and helping patrons and seeing children of colleagues and young patrons grow into adults. She says that time sort of blends in. Coming to work knowing that she is doing something to help others gives her a great sense of accomplishment and the good atmosphere at the library keeps her going!

**Library Welcomes New Outreach Librarian to the Team**

Staff at the library is very excited to welcome Zarina Mohd Shah to our team as the new Outreach Librarian. Zarina came to the department in March 2009 after working at various neighborhood branches of the Milwaukee Public Library System. Before earning her Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Zarina worked as a Library Reference Assistant and was promoted to Librarian after her graduation.

Some of our new patrons and representatives at institutions may have already talked with Zarina. Part of her job is to make follow-up calls to ensure that new patrons are satisfied with the service and to answer any additional questions that they may have. Zarina also represents the library at a variety of functions, such as Senior Fairs and support group meetings. If you would like to tell her about an outreach opportunity, please call the library.

Zarina can best be described as caring, easy-going, and professional. She has a quick smile and a calm demeanor that makes working with her very pleasant. Of course, as a Librarian, Zarina likes to read. Her broad reading preferences include children's and young adult books. In addition to reading, Zarina also likes gardening, cooking, and traveling. Zarina says that one of the best parts about working for the Wisconsin Regional Library is the ability to help people. She feels it is a great service and one that she really believes in, which makes her job in Outreach fun and rewarding.

**Library Proud to Announce Staff Promotion**

This past May, Beth Wisniewski was promoted from Library Circulation Assistant to Library Services Assistant. In her new role, Beth is responsible for coordinating the Circulation Department and supervising Circulation staff. Beth has worked for Milwaukee Public Library System for 9 years and has been a full-time employee for the last 5 years. Her previous circulation experience has truly makes her an asset in the department. Beth is very knowledgeable about circulation processes and is always willing to answer questions.

In addition to her on-the-job training, Beth also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her education in this field coupled with her pleasant attitude give Beth the skills to work with a wide variety of people. When she is not at work, Beth likes watching sports and films and especially enjoys listening to music (including live concerts). Like most other staff members, Beth also likes to read. Her preferred genres are fiction and mystery, and her favorite author is Chuck Palahniuk.

The library staff would like to congratulate Beth on the promotion and her ability to transition gracefully into a new role. Beth is happy to be part of the library team and has the following advice for patrons:

"Be sure to let us know if you receive a book, video, or DVD that is damaged or has pieces missing. We want everyone to get a quality product and your assistance can make that happen."

**Changes to Magazine Subscriptions**

If you are subscribed to either "U.S. News and World Report" (on cassette), or the "Washington Post Book World" (in Braille), you might have noticed you have not gotten one in a while... In fact, you might have noticed you are instead getting magazines that you have not even subscribed to.

The print version of "U.S. News and World Report" is now devoted entirely to consumer guides with the news segments available on the internet only. Also, the weekly print version "Washington Post Book World" has ceased publication.

For these reasons we have stopped providing both "U.S. News and World Report" on cassette, and the "Washington Post Book World" in Braille and replaced these titles with "The Week," and the "New York Times Book Review," respectively. If you had been subscribed to these magazines you should automatically begin receiving these new titles, if you have not done so already.

Another change to magazine subscriptions is that "Parenting Magazine" (available in Braille) has now become 2 separate magazines: "Parenting: Early Years," and "Parenting: School Years." Subscribers to "Parenting" will now receive both titles.

Please feel free to call us if you have questions or would like to cancel or add any magazine subscriptions.

**The Eye Team Makes it's Debut: Library Staff Participates in their first team walk together**

On May 31st staff members, Becky, Randy, Meredith and Tom from the library, along with their families and friends joined in the Inaugural Milwaukee Vision Walk, sponsored by the Milwaukee Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. The urgent mission of the Foundation Fighting Blindness is to drive the research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, Usher syndrome, and the entire spectrum of degenerative retinal diseases. The money raised from the Milwaukee Vision Walk supports this research.

The 5k walk was held at Veteran's Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. The weather was beautiful and all of our team members had a great time. There was food and drinks, live music, and even a giant slide for kids to play on. Over 30 teams participated in the walk, including the library's own: The "I" (EYE) Team. Many walkers also brought their dogs; in fact our team had 3 canine members. It was a great opportunity to enjoy the fresh air, have some fun outside of work, and support a worthy cause - all at the same time. We are proud to say that The Eye Team raised a total of $635.00! This was well over our goal of $300.00. As a whole, the Milwaukee Vision Walk raised $61, 315.88! We were very happy to be part of such a great event and many of our team members plan to walk again next year.

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