



# SILVERLINING

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Talking Books Website:  
<http://nvtalkingbooks.org>

## OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

BY BRETT SILVER

As many of you may or may not know, we have closed the sub-regional library located in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was official as of July 2006. The reason for this was that we were drastically under serving our clients in the South. In other words, there were many who just were not aware of the program, and there were many others who were of the mind-set that you had to be completely blind in order to take advantage of the Talking Book program. As we know this is not true, and so we needed a presence in Southern Nevada that would educate the public as to who is eligible to use our service, and how it works. There were a lot of ideas about how to make this work, and still benefit all clients of Nevada Talking Books Services. Eventually it was decided to make it a cooperative effort between the North and the South. The regional Library in Carson City would serve all clients of Nevada, while the office in Southern Nevada would concentrate on reaching out to those who were most in need of such a program. At the same time the Regional Library would work

ANY  
QUESTIONS  
CALL  
TOLL-FREE



1-800-  
922-9334

OR EMAIL



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## SOUTHERN NEVADA OUTREACH, CONT'D

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very closely with the Outreach office to ensure the best possible service for existing clients as well as new ones.

The Outreach program has been operational for two years and two months now, and we are proud to say, it is a success! We have been able to reach out to schools, homeless shelters, senior homes, and even programs for troubled youth. Now many are using our service, when just two years ago, they had no idea that they could. We have also increased our number of institutional clients that we serve now, and are able to maintain a strong rapport with the staff of these facilities. No more books and machines getting lost because a staff member no longer works there. No more calls from organizations like, "I found this yellow machine and some green books in a resident's room. What should I do?" Now clients and staff are all on the same page, and Nevada Talking Books Services is running on a much more even keel.

# Friends for the Library

Many have been concerned that now that there is not a sub-regional library in Southern Nevada they will have little to no control over their service. To remedy this we have started Friends for the Talking Books Library. The group meets the second Sunday of each month.

We meet at Macayo's Mexican Kitchen on East Charleston Blvd., from 4:00-5:00 PM. The exact address is 1741 E. Charleston at Charleston and Bruce Street. Now you can have a voice in your library, as well as be able to learn about all the new changes.

For more information, call Brett Silver at the Outreach office at 702-486-3736, or e-mail him at

[bsilver@nevadaculture.org](mailto:bsilver@nevadaculture.org)

Hope to see you there!



## FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN... KERI PUTNAM

Nevada Talking Books now has a direct website URL to the Talking Books' homepage in the Department of Cultural Affairs, Nevada State Library and Archives:

**[www.nvtalkingbooks.org](http://www.nvtalkingbooks.org)**

Visit our website and be surprised at all the helpful and interesting information and links we have for our clients and the public.

Also new for clients is the Online Public Access Catalog or **OPAC**. As the name implies this is a catalog where anyone can go and search for books by author, title, subject or keyword. Clients of our services can sign in to their account and do a number of actions which include adding a book into their request file, select and assign a book to be sent to them the next business day (if the book is available), see what and when books were sent to them or still checked out to them. Clients access their account with their ID number and the year of their birth. Call the Library if you have questions. The OPAC website URL is:

**[www.klas.com/nvbph](http://www.klas.com/nvbph)**

Helpful hints and directions on how to use the **OPAC** will be posted on our website in both visual file and text-only file.



2009 UPDATE  
BY SAM ARNN

I am not currently raising a puppy, but I have become a puppy sitter for some of the other raisers in our group. Today I have a four month old yellow lab named Finnian. He is pretty dang cute and the only thing that happens as a result of his cuteness is that everyone wants to touch him. I make myself feel better by petting Finnian which is the very best part about being the handler!



## DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS: D.C. TO NEVADA BY SAM ARNN

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Brett Silver, our Southern Outreach and Public Awareness Coordinator and I went to Washington D.C. to attend the orientation at the National Library Service (NLS). There is a mixture of good and bad to having a direct flight to the east coast. You get there faster, but you trade off being able to walk very well when you finally do get there!

The orientation was very informative, and I have been able to pass on some of the new found knowledge to several of our clients. There is quite a difference between information that we receive from the different departments at NLS such as collection development, music section (sheet music & learning to play a musical instrument), bibliographic control, reference, engineering, and quality assurance sections to name a few, and seeing the actual departments.

Each of the departments gave a presentation. We learned about new digital books and machines to play them. We were all very excited to see that the new technology has made it beyond the hypothetical phase! We were told that the new books and machines should be coming out to our libraries by next spring or early summer.

Some of the things I learned and would like to pass on to you are:

- You, our clients can request that NLS look into recording a title. You may call us (not NLS directly), give us the title and author and we will research it and pass the request along to NLS. I have had a few calls about doing just that recently and it was nice to learn the procedure. Of course, just because you have put in a request is by no means a guarantee that it will be recorded.
- It takes anywhere from 6-9 months before a title is selected for recording before it reaches the network libraries.
- A non-U.S. citizen can request service by way of the normal application process



while they are in the United States, but our service must be discontinued when the client goes back to their native country.

- Clients visiting a foreign country can obtain service directly through NLS Overseas Program. Free matter is usually honored when coming into other countries, but it is not normally honored to return the mail to us, so shipping has to be paid.
- The Music Section is not a collection of music by popular artists. It is a collection of Braille sheet music and instruction to learn how to play a musical instrument. The Music Section at NLS deals directly with the client.

There was an awful lot of information to go through in a short amount of time. Overall it was a great experience to be able to attend the orientation at the National Library Service.



### 2009 State and Federal Holiday Closures

Thurs., Jan 1 — New Year's Day  
 Mon., Jan. 19 — Martin Luther King Day  
 Mon., Feb. 16— President's Day  
 Mon., May 25 — Memorial Day  
 Fri., July 3 — Independence Day  
 Mon., Sept., 7 — Labor Day  
 Fri., Oct. 30 — Nevada Day  
 Wed., Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day  
 Thurs., Nov. 26 — Thanksgiving Day  
 Fri., Nov. 27 — Family Day  
 Fri., Dec. 25 — Christmas Day

**Voice mail is always available.  
 Please leave your name and number and we will call you back.**

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: [www.NevadaCulture.org](http://www.NevadaCulture.org).

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.



## I AM YOUR CASSETTE MACHINE

*(From the article I AM YOUR CASSETTE MACHINE as printed in the TBLB Newsletter of the Fresno County Public Library, Fall 2008.)*

We are all awaiting the birth of the new format in late 2008. My son will be brilliant. He will be able to do what I do and so much more. He will weigh slightly over two pounds, have a twelve-hour battery, fast forward and rewind, thirty minute sleep timer, two inset bars for attaching a carrying strap, use one cartridge per book, have a speed control, tone control, and a cord for recharging the battery. I hope he will grow to be as tough as old Pop!

But until then, please be kind to this old machine.

I don't eat or drink, so please keep food products far away. I am not a table.

Spaghetti sauce doesn't look as appetizing three weeks later. Sweet tea gums up the internal rubber wheels that turn the cassette sprockets.

I don't wear nail polish.

Your pets don't enjoy books. Pet hair is very difficult to remove. Don't write your name on me in indelible ink (I am federal property). John Doe's machine may come back for repairs and be sent out to Susie Que next week.

I don't like to go to appointments with you. You may forget me and sighted people may think I am some leftover junk from the '70s and throw me away.

I don't like to go to someone's house for a few days. I have been checked out to you and only you. View our relationship as a marriage!

Please be aware of the time it takes a telephone pioneer volunteer to clean and recondition a C-1 player. The longer it takes to clean and recondition, the longer you may have to wait for a replacement.



If you lose me or damage me beyond recognition you may still receive a replacement player. However, treat that second player like gold!

To be very truthful, I don't care much for cockroaches, and I don't enjoy being very close to cigarettes either.

If you or a family member or friend of a patron who passes away, and you find me in their home, please do the same. Parting is sweet sorrow, but I think your family member or friend would be glad to know I'm going to be used again by a new friend.

If you just can't figure me out— all those buttons and switches— please call the library and they can try to help talk you through it. I know I can be a bit confusing at times!

If you move— I want to come with you! Take me with you to your new location so we can continue to have fun enjoying books together. Just be sure to let the library know your new address. Even if you move very far away, they will tell your new serving library all about us, and we can continue enjoying books together for a long, long time.

When you're done with me— if you're not really reading cassette books anymore and don't think you will do so in the near future— please send me back to the library so I can find a happy new home elsewhere. Let the library know that our time together is through. I'll be sad to leave you, but I'll be happy to move on. My numbers are dwindling, I'm too old to reproduce anymore, and spare parts for me will eventually become scarce, so I need to be able to share my wealth of talents with those who will use me, for as long as I possibly can.

If you are a family member or a friend of a patron who passes away, and you find me in their home, please do the same. Parting is sweet sorrow, but I think your family member or friend would be glad to know I'm going to be used again by a new friend.

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

***Jim Gibbons, Governor***

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Nevada State Library and Archives  
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Carson City NV 89701

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