



NEWS IS GETTING AROUND THE PACIFIC

September 2008

Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
402 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96815
Phone 733-8444 Neighbor Islands call 1-800-559-4096

CONCERT WAS “OUT OF SIGHT”!

The haunting music of the flute... the enthusiastic beat of drums... nostalgic Hawaiian songs... music with a Latin flair... impromptu hula... Samoan folk songs... all this and more were enjoyed, as the audience sang along and tapped their feet, on a balmy Saturday morning in the tented parking lot of the Waianae Public Library.

Musicians included Guywood Dela Cruz, Gensen Rabacal, Karl Pangilinan, Rylan Suehisa, Sagele Tualevao, Finia Kachita, Joe Wilcox, Robert Keliihoomalu, Frank Park, Filo Tu and Jon Koki.

The sponsor was the Hui O Na Makamaka (Friends of LBPH). The event was coordinated by Jon Koki, a member of the Hui. The Hui members and volunteers were there en force to set up and serve free hot dogs (donated by the Blind Vendors Ohana and the Hawaii Association of the Blind), chips, juice and water.

There were many other organizations involved in this event that focused on library and other services available to individuals who are blind. Thanks to everyone for helping to make this event a real success!

ALOHA TO TWO FRIENDS OF LBPH

We are sad to report the death two long-time friends of LBPH. Ethel Muratsuka, a devoted volunteer at LBPH, died after a lingering illness. Tom Shiraki, former owner of Tech Search, passed away after an accident. Ethel and Tom will be missed.

THE NEW DIGITAL PLAYER WHO WANTS ONE?

The new digital players are projected to be available early next year (2009). If you want your name listed to receive a digital machine, please respond by sending back the last sheet of this newsletter. There are two items to check off:

- 1) I want my name listed for a digital machine.
- 2) I am an honorably discharged veteran.

Send back the sheet, making sure LBPH's name is on the outside. Don't forget to tape or staple the page together.

You may also respond by telephone or email. If leaving a message on the message machine, please say your name clearly.

The digital machines will come in monthly increments beginning in early 2009. Everyone who wants one will eventually get a machine. It may take a while so please be patient.

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

The 2008 Children's Summer Reading Program theme was "Catch the Reading Bug" and Lisa Luo-Xu did just that. By participating in the program, Lisa was one of the five lucky readers on Oahu to win a \$50 Bookstore gift certificate from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii. Mayson Cabo, a Braille reader, enjoyed reading adventure books for the iRead themed Teen Summer Reading Program. He was LBPH's winner of an IPOD Shuffle which was also donated to all libraries by the Friends.

ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM

For the first time, LBPH offered an adult summer reading program this year that ran for 5 weeks. Thirteen people registered. Eleven called in for a total of 131 materials read.

Each week as books or magazines were read and called in, an incentive was sent to the reader. As an added bonus, a special prize was given to the person who read the most during the five weeks.

Congratulations to the winner, Christine Chaikin!

Congratulations to all who participated, you are all winners because you read! The sponsors who donated the incentives are Friends of the Library of Hawaii and The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. Evaluations by participants were positive, so there will be a summer reading program next year! Good job, everyone!

People are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

--Abraham Lincoln

HSPLS WEBSITE

If you are experiencing problems navigating the new website of the Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS), please let Branch Manager Fusako Miyashiro know by calling her at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) or by sending an e-mail to: fusako@librarieshawaii.org. She will then pass along the information to the appropriate staff.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUND

The Association of Blind Citizens (ABC) operates the Assistive Technology Fund. The Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) will provide funds to cover 50% of the retail price of adaptive devices or software. The ABC board of directors believes that this program will allow blind and visually impaired individuals access to technology products that will have a significant impact on improving employment opportunities, increase the level of independence and enhance their overall quality of life.

The products covered by this program must retail for a minimum of \$200 with a maximum retail price of \$6,000. Persons eligible to apply for assistance must have a family income of less than \$50,000 and cash assets of less than \$20,000. Applications will be reviewed by the Assistive Technology Committee (ATC) and recommendations will be submitted for board approval. If applicants are selected to receive a technology grant, applicants will be asked to provide documents such as tax returns, bank statements and any other documents that the ABC board or its designee would deem necessary to assess financial need for the grant.

Applicants must be legally blind and a resident of the United States to qualify for this program. Applications must be submitted by June 30th and December 31st

for each grant period (two per year). Applicants will be notified if their request for a grant is approved.

Applicants may submit one request per calendar year. All applications must be submitted via e-mail. You will be notified by ABC within 45 days after the application deadline. The grantee will have 30 days after notification to purchase the product. If the purchase cannot be made within 30 days, ABC reserves the right to withdraw the award and assign it to another applicant. All decisions are final.

You may fill out the request form below by entering it into your word processor and emailing it to:

atf@blindcitizens.org.

Important: Requests must be received via email only, by June 30th or December 31st. Please do not use attachments when submitting your request.

Association of Blind Citizens Assistive Technology request form

Name:

First Line of Address:

Second Line of Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone Number with area code:

Email address:

Provide a description of 500 or fewer words of the device you wish to purchase and how it will help you achieve employment or increase your independence.

FREE DOWNLOADABLE “TALKING” PROGRAM

For those who don't have JAWS, you can download two free programs that will read the screen as you use the internet. They are the following:

www.satogo.com

www.webanywhere.com

www.webanywhere.com is still refining the program, but it is usable.

Try them out!

AUDIO DESCRIBED MOVIES AT THE BLIND MICE MART MOVIE VAULT

The Mice have a collection of audio described movies for you to download Free! The movies are audio files that contain the original audio of the movie and the descriptive track. Files are provided in the mp3 format for ease of use.

http://www.blindmicemart.com/assets/product_images/movies.html

These movies are provided solely for entertainment. The Mice expect everyone to enjoy them in the context they are provided. The Mice are not responsible for quality or errors within the downloads; the movies are provided to Blind Mice Inc. through an outside source that is not affiliated with Blind Mice Mart.

The movies will change over time so be sure to get them while they are here!

---From “Fred’s Head Companion” Blog.

THIS SEARCH ENGINE IS SIMPLY CUIL!

Think about this. How many times have you gone to the net to search for something? How many times have you been totally confused by the thousands of results you received? Ever noticed that most of the results have absolutely nothing to do with what you searched for?

Cuil, pronounced "cool", has launched a search engine with an index of over 120 billion web pages. While Google no longer discloses the number of pages it indexes, it was at about 8.9 billion just a few years ago. Not only does Cuil appear to have the largest index of pages, it also displays results in a more visual way by adding photos across the results page that include sidebars that can be clicked on to learn more about any given topic. Don't panic screen reader users, the site is very friendly despite its visual effects. Cuil promises not to retain users' search history information which could appeal to those not comfortable with Google's business model. The company is a project of four ex-Google employees, reason enough to keep a close eye on future developments.

The website can be found at:

<http://www.cuil.com>

---From "Fred's Head Companion" Blog.

Fred's Head is a service of the American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. It can be found at:

<http://www.fredshead.info/>

Knock-knock.

Who's there?

Little old lady.

Little old lady who?

Gee, I didn't know you could yodel!

RFB&D® INTRODUCES NEW AUDIOACCESS(SM)

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic® (RFB&D) introduces AudioAccess(SM), a new downloadable audio textbook that plays on the widely available Microsoft Windows® Media Player (version 10 or above) and can be synchronized with most Windows-compatible portable media players.

AudioAccess expands the choices RFB&D offers students with print disabilities, such as dyslexia. Now RFB&D members can select to receive their accessible textbooks, literature and other supplemental educational materials in any of three formats: AudioAccess, AudioPlus® or NIMAC files. Each provides students with complete and unabridged audio versions of the textbooks they need to level the academic playing field.

For more information about this new service visit the RFB&D website at:

<http://www.rfbd.org>

Or, call them at: 800-221-4792.

HOLIDAYS WHEN THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED

General Election Day: Nov 4 (Tues)

Veterans' Day: Nov 11 (Tues)

Thanksgiving: Nov 27 (Thurs)

CASSETTES

- HIC-1394 HAWAIIAN MONARCHY by Allan Seiden. Adult nonfiction. Hawaiiana. Hawaii—kings and rulers.
- HIC-1395 THE TATTOO BY CHRIS MCKINNEY. Adult fiction. Hawaiiana. General fiction. Strong language, sex and violence.
- HIC-1396 HAWAIIAN LEGENDS OF DREAMS by Caren Loebel-Fried. Adult nonfiction. Hawaiiana. Legends.
- HIC-1398 HO'OPONO: THE HAWAIIAN WAY TO PUT THINGS BACK IN BALANCE, REVISED EDITION by Pali Jae Lee. Adult nonfiction. Hawaiiana. Hawaiians—Social life and customs.
- HIC-1399 AFTER THE BONES: A NOVEL by Mark Hazard Osmon. Adult fiction. Hawaiiana. Hawaii—history—fiction.
- HIC -1400 GUARDIAN OF THE SEA: JIZO IN HAWAI'I by John R.K. Clark. Adult nonfiction. Hawaiiana. Ksitigarbha (Buddhist deity)—cult—Hawaii.
- HIC-1401 A LETTER TO MY FATHER: GROWING UP FILIPINA AND AMERICAN by Helen Madamba Mossman. Adult nonfiction. Hawaiiana. Autobiography.

NEWS IS GETTING AROUND THE PACIFIC is available in the following formats:

LARGE TYPE

BRAILLE

AUDIO (4-track, 15/16 IPS inches-per-second cassette)

EMAIL (must have a valid Email address)

INTERNET at:

<http://librarieshawaii.org/locations/oahu/lbph.htm>

MOVING: Please be sure to let us know your new address and phone number by calling:

Oahu: 733-8444 or

Toll-free from the neighbor islands: 1-800-559-4096.
