

Headphone

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic®

A Sound Educational Investment for over 55 Years

Autumn/2006

INLAND EMPIRE/ORANGE COUNTY UNIT OF RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC HONORS OUTSTANDING VETERAN VOLUNTEER



Lila Chick

Lila Chick presented with the "Rose Kelber Outstanding Volunteer Award" for years of dedicated service

Cited for her outstanding service and commitment in support of helping students with print disabilities, Lila Chick has been awarded the Rose Kelber Outstanding Volunteer Award by the Inland Empire/Orange County Unit of Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D®). RFB&D, a nonprofit organization, is the nation's educational library of recorded textbooks for students with visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disabilities that make reading standard textbooks difficult or impossible.

The award, named for former Unit Board Chair Rose Kelber and given to only six other recipients in its history, recognizes Chick, a former RFB&D board member, for her multiple years of service both with RFB&D and in the community; her interest in teaching

and education; RFB&D member awareness and advocacy; and enthusiasm for the mission of RFB&D. It was presented at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration held June 25 at the Fullerton home of Carl and Terry Brick.

Cont. on Page 2

At RFB&D We Love Books!

One of the wonderful things about being at an RFB&D studio is to be surrounded by books. The rewarding part comes with our efforts to connect people with those books -- people who likely don't love books right now; at least the printed kind.

There are many different sorts of people who can be helped by RFB&D audio textbooks, of course. This includes students who are blind or have serious visual difficulties.

The largest category of those who can be helped (over 67%) are people who have reading disabilities or challenges. We prefer to use the term "dyslexia" but you might have heard other terms such as visual processing problems or specific language disabilities.

At RFB&D, helping students who have been labeled with any of these conditions is called "Learning Through Listening."

RFB&D also helps people who are physically disabled, and who cannot physically handle a book or even turn the pages of a book.

Since it was founded as Recording for the Blind in 1948, RFB&D has provided hundreds of thousands of members equal access to the printed word. To people with print disabilities, such access brings educational and professional growth and success, and -- more

Cont. on Page 6

In This Issue

Lila Chick/Rose Kelber Award	Pages 1, 2
At RFB&D We Love Books	Pages 1, 6, 7
RFB&D Volunteers	Pages 2, 3
Donor Honor Roll	Pages 4, 5
Memorial and Honorary Gifts	Page 7
RFB&D's Partners	Page 8

*A publication of the
Inland Empire/Orange County Unit of
Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic®
(RFB&D) Inc.*

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D), a national nonprofit, is the largest and most experienced educational resource supporting students with print disabilities, their parents and teachers.

Established in 1957, the Inland Empire/Orange County Unit operates studios in Upland and Santa Ana, California, where over 300 local volunteers read and produce textbooks and support the students who use them in Southern California and the nation.

Our mission is to create opportunities for individual success by providing for, and promoting the effective use of, accessible educational materials.

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It is RFB&D's policy to actively seek and employ, without regard to race, color, creed, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin or any other legally protected characteristic, the individual best qualified to perform the duties required for each position. Except where required or permitted by law, employment practices shall be based on merit, qualifications and competence. This policy governs all aspects of employment, promotion, assignment, discharge and other terms and conditions of employment.

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Lila Chick
Cont. from cover



Lila Chick and Georgeann Higgins

"Lila is an inspiration to all of us at RFB&D," says Georgeann Higgins, board member for the Inland Empire/Orange County Unit. "She is the epitome of a volunteer who is selfless, ready, always willing to help and extremely interested in many phases of education and community service."

A volunteer reader at the Upland Studio since 1989, Chick received her Braille certification from the Library of Congress in 1997, is a braille transcriber with the Pomona Valley Transcriber's Guild, and transcribes books, texts and other literature for local students as well as RFB&D members. Outside of her work with RFB&D, Chick has taught Sunday school since the age of 12, received her certification and began teaching elementary school in Arcadia in 1952 and spent 27 years as a teacher and 12 years as an administrator.

Chick also lends her time and service to the Elks/Emblem Club, the Elk Ladies Auxiliary, PTA, the Zonta Club of Ontario, Sister Cities, and the Claremont Methodist Church. In her spare time, she also works with children with special needs.

RFB&D's Volunteers Continue to Give

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

IE Studio Review

This past fiscal year the Upland Studio faced some changes. We saw new reading conventions being ushered in and an audit process implemented. We are seeing Dacon (Digital to Analog Conversion or cassettes) start to fall away while we are producing more digital audio CDs. On average last fiscal year we had 100 active volunteers, who produced 3,629.50 finished recorded hours or 179 completed books, exceeding our goal to record 3600 hours of Learning Through Listening.

The Upland Studio once again had a very productive Record-A-Thon, (I enjoyed being able to visit and break bread with you all!). I had a great time cooking in the studio three full meals a day for our studio volunteers for the entire Record-A-Thon week.

Our concentration in the new fiscal year is on Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. This year we are adding 5 additional at home recorders so we should see a jump in our produced content. All in

all I expect it to be a productive new year for us, thanks to the continuing efforts of our volunteers.

Sherry Weekes/Production Director
Inland Empire/Upland Studio

Orange County Update

The Orange County Studio had a tremendous year. Our volunteers put in 6,228.25 hours! We recorded 176 books for



Lynn Davis and Alice Thompson

a total of 3,512.7 recorded hours, a record for our studio. This included 510 hours of business and 310 of computer books which

Cont. on page 3



are always popular titles for our borrowers. This year we also increased the number of junior high school books, significant because learning-disabled students are being identified and assisted at an earlier age. Thanks so much.

On top of all that we redecorated the studio, with new carpets and floor, paint and blinds. We also finally received our own heating and air conditioning system! Thanks to all who helped. It makes a huge difference in our day-to-day work.

Our empty recording slot availability became quite low. To be able to fill in booths unoccupied due to illness or vacation we instituted a weekly e-mail blast advertising open times. This has been

good not only for people able to record an additional slot in the week, but it also opened up our volunteer pool to those unable to commit to a weekly set time. We will continue to use this tool in the new fiscal year and we will actively recruit those people who can "float".

Also this fiscal year we will institute at-home recording, starting with two units. We look forward to being able to use these to serve our members.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. I have no doubt we will achieve all of our goals.

*Maureen Ahrens/Studio Director
Orange County Studio*

Volunteers -

The Cornerstone of RFB&D Giving Back to Communities in Need

Book Production Donated Hours: July, 1 2005 - June 30, 2006

Orange County Studio

Volunteer Hours

Bonnie Baller	2
Burt Baum	46
Kristina Berg	32
Lori Bergeron	10
Ramesh Bharat	46
Trudy Bharat	46
Jennifer Bishton	64
Gary Bloch	76
Marcie Blumberg	74
Katie Brittle	94
Richard Bunn	2
Jenny Chen	20
Tony Coco	59
Betty Jo Constantiniadis	2
Marcia Cooley	58
Marjorie Covey	66
Karleen Curlee	20
Sally DeBelles	40
Elisabeth Deffner	14.5
Lynne Dewhurst-McBurney	16
Susan Diaz	10
Rich Dudka	98
Ellen Edwards	46.25
Elizabeth Ellis	72
Glenn Emigh	2
Janet Esparza	75
Betty Lou Evans	6
Brad Federman	50
Gary Field	4
Eileen Fishbach	88
Judy Flagg	22
Russell Fox	58
Bill Gable	83
Jim Gosney	52.25
Arnold Grahame	2
Dorothy Green	85
Martin Griffin	48
Eric Griffith	42
Pauline Hale	26
Susan Hanna	92
Charles Harrison	4
Melissa Hauke	62.75
Rick Hearn	115
Debbie Hitchings	76
Bill Howard	45.5

Bob Hurt	56
Karen Irizarry	53.25
Ryan Jackson	4
Armi Johnson	65
Ben Johnson	8
Kathy Jones	70
Bette Jordan	66
Nannette Kafka	6
Neal Kaskel	6
Toni Kay	2
Elizabeth Kilpatrick	2
Thomas Kinsey	68
George Klaus	106
Nancy Knight	92.5
Gabriel Lederer	86
Cy LeVine	88.5
Marion LeVine	86.5
Jeremy Linehan	20
Cornelia Mallory	73.5
Amala Mandel	2
Jim Mavrinas	14
Bob McNeil	75.5
Joyce Merchant	2
Betsy Miller	4
Kevin Mullane	15.5
Ann Nakamoto	32
Vicki Nelson	4
Mary Nolan-Riegle	74
Peggy Normandin	13
Sally Norton	134.5
Judy O'Dea	32
Mario Orejel	9
Morris Ossias	66
Rita Ossias	66
Michelle Parsons	24
David Plueger	75.5
Alan Pinkus	137.5
Ellen Polsky	2
Chris Porter	6
Marcia Prichard	50.5
Gary Prickett	52
Toni Quintana	44.5
Deborah Reza	40
Tim Rhone	32
Mary Robinson	87
Bernie Rothermal	64
Coral Scherba	197
Alice Schreiner	72
Howard Seller	53

Silva Shamassian	74
Jim Sheridan	53.5
David Shevel	77.75
David Shulman	178
Gerry Sietsema	54
Josh Singer	51
Ken Smith	84
Pat Spencer	76
Rich Spencer	72
Dave Stevens	30
Ann Stone	34
Charles Tanksley	2
Diane Taylor	78
My Tran	33.5
Cyndi True	101.25
Maggie Valdespino	72
Johan Valentijn	74
Kam Valentijn	74
Jean Vincenzi	70
Gary Waggoner	8
Rich Werblin	62
Pat Wesselman	50
Wil West	121.5
Doug Willinger	65.5
Phyllis Wolfe	84
Lisa Woo	19.5
Jackie Wrench	36

Inland Empire Studio

Volunteer Hours (Excluding Board Hours)

Kyra Abbott	24
Willard Abbott	23.5
Richard Alaniz	52.5
Adrienne Amon	42.75
Carolyn Ayre	64
Reunka Balakrishnan	59.25
Lillian Baumgardner	144.5
Max Bell	74
Ray Biggs	38.25
Bill Bishop	59
Mary Anne Blaine	78
Peter Brause	64.75
Dorothy Burchfield	47.5
Victoria Burchfield	34.5
Alvin Burkett	43
Camille Burkett	35
Debby Campbell	10

Marian Carter	40.5
Joan Casson	144
Joy Chen	68.75
Lila Chick	215.5
Ken Clark	71.5
Marian Clark	64
Lesley Clear	74.5
Frank Coffman	259
Joan Collinger	79
Bill Counter	92.75
Beverly Counter	92.75
Leandra Deeton	47.5
Ann Duskow	160.5
Bill Drake	1188.75
Mike Driebe	77
Rita Edgington	58
Laure Flapan	38
Stephanie Franklin	101.75
Connie Gallardo	81.25
David Gish	86.75
Louise Gish	86.75
Ruben Glueck	32
Linda Gold	92
Linda Gregson	77.5
Jung Gwon	13.5
Don Hahn	80
Flo Hambly	22.5
Everett Hambly	16.5
Marie Harris	454
Rita Haynes	40
Virginia Herd	69.5
Joyce Herr	96
Royene Higashi	68
Georgeann Higgins	148.5
Bob Hornbeck	74.5
Susannah Howland	16
Betty Jackson	152.5
Chet Jaeger	66
Carl Johnson	198
Vickey Kalambakal	81.75
Jeanne Kataoka	77.25
Mike Kataoka	83.25
Diana Kirker	29
Michael Klein	85.5
Nancy Knap	74
Bert Kraght	62
Martha Krupa	66
Jean Lamden	75.75
David Lawrence	13.5

Ruby Leavitt	52
Jack Linberg	109.5
Olga McCloud	85
Maryann Mitchell	214.25
Al Moffatt	134.25
Randee Mooney	17.5
Shirley Nagelhout	4
Dick Newton	90.5
Jane O'Donnell	72
Mary O'Neil	96.5
Basil Panas	60
Michelle Park	15
John Pham	54.75
Judy Piette	63.5
Clell Porter	86.5
Laura Porter	196.5
David Prechtl	395.5
Jim Randall	126
Louise Reed	58.75
Tom Reul	9.5
Kendall Robbins	61
Jack Rogers	118.5
Arnold Rollin	69.75
Lou Rossi	38.5
Sara Ruiz	15.5
Nana Sadamura	87
Sheryl Santiaguuel	70.75
Steve Schriver	39.5
Cindy Segal	66.25
Alison Shilling	116.25
Craig Smyser	71
Dante Snaidero	35
Dick Snyder	192
Mary Ellen Stan	113.5
Karen Stephenson	80.25
Pat Swangel	22
Tom Swihart	49.5
Crystal Teng	62.25
Bill Thomas	86.25
Duane Thomas	10
Jim Timm	44.5
Gwendolyn Tucker	70.25
Alice Marie Way	91.75
Sunny Welles	79.75
Rick Whyte	88.5
Mary Wilkins	4
Eric Wong	51
Susan Wong	105.5
Jasmine Yang	41

Donor Honor Roll - July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

The following individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations shared the vision of the Inland Empire/Orange County Unit of Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic by providing operating and program contributions to the RFB&D (Annual) Fund between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. We thank them for their support.

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importantly — feelings of increased independence and confidence.

Those feelings are what RFB&D founder Anne T. Macdonald originally sought to give blinded GIs returning from



WWII. To confidently take advantage of the GI Bill providing a free education, the blinded veterans needed accessible textbooks. Likewise, to confidently succeed in an increasingly competitive, fast-paced world, today's RFB&D members — numbering close to 146,000 — need to rely on print access as well.

Nearly 60 years after it began, RFB&D has grown by leaps and bounds and now has 29 recording studios across the country, including our local Inland Empire and Orange County Studios which make up the Inland Empire/Orange County Unit of RFB&D.

More than 200 local volunteers joined by over 7,000 volunteers nationwide, read and record about 5,000 new titles every year for RFB&D's unique collection of educational materials in every grade level and every subject imaginable.

RFB&D's mission is to promote individual success by providing, and promoting the effective use of, accessible educational materials. Our vision, quite simply, is for all people to have equal access to the printed word.

Quotes from RFB&D members tell much of our story: Helaine Blumenthal, who is blind, states, "I plan to earn a PhD, something I could not even think of doing without the knowledge and confidence that RFB&D will be there." Or, as Emily Gade, who has severe dyslexia, states, "I don't think I could have survived the educational system without RFB&D's audiobooks."

RFB&D not only offers members access to the world's largest collection of accessible

textbooks, but an array of support and services to maximize their effectiveness. Unlike commercial audiobooks which are primarily for leisure reading, RFB&D's books are uniquely accessible, offering students meticulously detailed and context-related descriptions of the maps, charts, photographs and other key graphics that accompany content. Due to the complex content of many textbooks (imagine reading chemistry, calculus, physics, etc.), many RFB&D volunteers are educators or professionals in certain fields. It is impressive to hear our dedicated volunteers describing complex charts and graphs in painstaking detail, so that people who can't see it can still easily understand it.

RFB&D's AudioPlus digitally recorded books on CD offer tremendous benefits to



our members, allowing navigation by page and chapter, plus bookmarking capabilities. The textbooks on CD are also much more portable. Happy members tell us their backpacks are much lighter this year now that the equivalent content of 12 cassettes fits on a single CD!

In addition to individual student memberships, RFB&D currently provides membership benefits to nearly 100 local and over 7,800 schools, school districts, higher education and other institutions nationwide. Our local Educational Outreach staff and volunteers work hand-in-hand with educators to teach them about our services and how they can work recorded textbooks into their classrooms.

Myths

RFB&D's recorded books do not help students learn to read, but rather, our books help students read to learn. As many students have told us, RFB&D "helps to level the playing field" for people who can't

effectively read print. And, only people with documented print disabilities are allowed to use our services. As such disabilities are recognized and diagnosed earlier and earlier, the need for RFB&D is growing.

A recent Johns Hopkins University study showed that students with learning disabilities who used RFB&D's AudioPlus digitally recorded textbooks demonstrated a 38 percent increase in content acquisition reading scores.

RFB&D primarily offers textbooks or novels required for school. Unlike other organizations, RFB&D's focus is not on recording books or magazines for leisure reading. We are education-focused.

RFB&D has no guaranteed sources of income, but relies on individual, corporate and foundation donations, to be able to serve our members.

The Gap

With close to 146,000 current members, RFB&D has seen a 55 percent growth in membership since the year 2000. Very impressive, wouldn't you say? At face value, yes, and we've worked incredibly hard to bring our services to those students, their parents and their teachers. But consider this.

There are an estimated two million students today in the United States who could potentially benefit from RFB&D's Learning Through Listening programs and services.



Two million students who are struggling unnecessarily, losing confidence, perhaps believing – or worse, being told that they are incapable of learning, incapable of succeeding; incapable of pursuing their dreams. What happens to those students?

At best, they find their way. They adapt their coping skills to find unconventional paths to get by in a print-dominated world.



Memorial Gifts

The following gifts were made in memory of friends and loved ones:

Eric Bonem

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Martin

Donald Cooms

Mrs. Nancy Weingartner

Mike Dunn

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Davis

Paul S. Faranda

Ms. Lillian B. Baumgardner
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Mr. and Mrs. Erik L. Thoreson
Mr. Stanley J. Wells

Nick Presecan

Joan, Julie, Mary, and Anne Presecan

Honorary Gifts

The following gifts were made in honor of friends and loved ones:

Bob and Louise Wilson

Mr. James Bell

Marj Stoddard

Ms. Mary E. Honeywell

Mary and Jaren Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Smith

1948 Vision Society

The 1948 Vision Society is an association of donors, friends, and members who have provided for the IE/OC Unit of RFB&D in their wills, or have made planned gifts in the form of charitable trusts, real estate, or life insurance. Membership is open to everyone and is based on how someone gives, not the gift level.

The IE/OC would like to acknowledge those of you who have thoughtfully provided for RFB&D with a planned gift – by contacting us we will ensure your name is included in the 1948 Vision Society.

We Love Books
Cont. from page 6

At worst, they disengage from learning or society. They resign to less than they deserve, personally, socially and economically with resulting impacts on self esteem and success – and society. Beyond the economic implications of a society of poor achievers, who knows how many generations of those students could hold the key to future leadership and advances in the arts and sciences, law and government?

Vision for the Future

By the end of this decade, RFB&D will be prepared to serve at least one million of the projected two million students who could benefit from our unique recorded books and services. By that time, we will be serving students in a completely digital environment, ensuring that our books are immediately accessible in more formats that meet members' needs and learning preferences.

We will be investing significantly in our school outreach efforts and in ever-changing technology. We want to be recognized as the leading provider of accessible educational content for students with print disabilities.

This requires a massive commitment on the part of the RFB&D family of volunteers, board members, staff and, of course, the financial support from our community.

Cont. on page 8

RFB&D has no guaranteed sources of funding, so we rely on the generosity and support of donors. We are proud to say that, even with the high costs of keeping up with current technology, 79 cents of every dollar goes directly to support our member programs and services.

The Inland Empire/Orange County Unit

of RFB&D must grow and continuously improve upon the programs, services and technology we offer. And we must multiply our efforts in every arena from advertising to personal contacts to reach the students and professionals who are today frustrated and searching for solutions to overcome the educational barriers posed by disabilities such as

visual impairment, learning disabilities or other physical disabilities that impact reading.

People who cannot effectively read standard print are in our neighborhoods, in our schools and in our workplaces -- and they need to know that we are here to help them believe in themselves and, ultimately, succeed.

Learning Through Listening Partners

The following people are the founding members of the “**Learning through Listening Partnership**” program, launched on March 21, 2006.

Together with RFB&D our partners are committed to building a stronger foundation for the thousands of local students who are struggling to get an education because of a learning disability, visual, or physical disability.

Success Builders

\$10,000 per year for five years

“Success Builders enable RFB&D to record the books each year that will enable an RFB&D student to successfully graduate from college and open a whole new life for themselves, their current and future families, and all of those who they will influence in their lives.”

The Beightler Squires Charitable Trust

Independence Builders

\$5,000 per year for five years

“This level allows our students to go beyond the initial experience of RFB&D and get enough recorded books to truly become independent learners, as we are able to support them as they move from early grades into middle and high school.”

Mr. William Drake
Mr. John Faranda
Mrs. Jil Stark

Confidence Builders

\$1,000 per year for five years

“We call this the “Confidence Builder” level, because you will be helping struggling students begin to have confidence that they can learn what their peers are learning. You will help us find that lost student who does not yet know about RFB&D.”

Mrs. Nancy Arce
Mr. Bradley and Mrs. Mary Anne Blaine
Mr. Dwight and Mrs. MaryAnn Mitchell
PFF Bank & Trust
Mr. Frank and Mrs. Mary Ellen Stan
Mr. Stephen Siegel
Mrs. Nancy Weingartner

IT'S NO SECRET!!

Have you heard about RFB&D's LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING HOUR?

It's a FREE 1-hour, introductory event held each month at both the Upland and Santa Ana studios. The Learning through Listening hour is an opportunity for you to see our volunteers at work, hear our success stories, and get the inside story of how Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic can change students lives!

Call NOW to schedule you and your guests!

(909) 949-4316 ext 103 OR kcowen@rfd.org