



*For Immediate Release
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April 20 through 25 for the 14th Annual Record-A-Thon for the Santa Barbara Unit of the Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)

(March 23, 2009) Everyone from Nobel Laureates, famous newsmen, award-winning vintners & filmmakers to authors, actors, chefs, secretaries, tech support teams & students – all have been volunteer readers for past Record-A-Thons. You can come in for as little as 30 minutes and help Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) accomplish its goal for 2009. Lots of famous people have some form of dyslexia – Jay Leno, Danny Glover, Whoopi Goldberg, Robin Williams, Walt Disney, Ted Turner, Tom Cruise, Keira Knightley, Pablo Picasso, even Thomas Edison and Einstein. The Santa Barbara unit of RFB&D is producing the annual Record-A-Thon, set for Monday through Friday, April 20 – 24 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the offices/studios located at 5638 Hollister Avenue in Goleta. Record-A-Thon helps RFB&D recruit volunteers to read school texts and pleasure books and raise money for its audio book production and educational outreach program. RFB&D is seeking sponsors to underwrite parts of the multi-leveled Record-A-Thon. Please go to the website: <http://www.rfd.org/sb/> or call (805)681.0531 and discover how you can get involved.

Executive Director Tim Owens stated, “The continued success of the Record-A-Thon’s has brought an increase in volunteers, number of books read and new faces introduced to the organization. This is a tremendous help to meeting the goals we have set. This year we hope to raise \$65,000 and give out \$5,000 in scholarships to students in the counties we serve – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Ventura and Kern Counties.”

Starting Monday, April 20 the weeklong event kicks off with a Tribute to Santa Barbara's Firefighters – at the City, County and Federal levels. Since Summer 2007 when the Zaca Fire raged for months in the backcountry to the recent Tea Fire, saluting these brave men and women was an easy choice. Chief of SB City Fire, Ron Prince; County Fire Chief Tom Franklin; and Los Padres Nat'l Forest Chief Anthony Escobar, will be reading along with some of their staff, who work overtime in this community to keep us safe and sound. A reception for the brigades happens from noon to 1 p.m. where we'll have a Chili themed lunch reception. Fire house chili anyone? They have chosen the book "Fire Officer: Principle & Practice by the Int'l Association of Fire Chiefs. The public is welcome to join the firefighters in reading this volume anytime during the week.

Cass Warner, who recently screened her feature documentary – "The Brothers Warner" to full houses at the film festival joins RFB&D for the first time. The film evolved out of her book by the same name published in the early 90s--a look at the history of the studio and her family but from a unique vantage point as the granddaughter of Harry Warner, the President and one of the founders of Warner Bros. studios. Cass has lived in Santa Barbara for many years. In her documentary she interviews, Efreim Zimbalist, Jr. who confirmed he will be reading Cass Warner's book on Tuesday, April 21st. A reception at noon will have other notable names to be announced upon confirmation.

Well-known writer/producer Stephen J. Cannell, for the first time, will be a part of this year's event. His exact date and time in the studio is TBD. Local author & famed acting coach Daryl Hickman ("The Conscious Actor"), T.C. Boyle, Jane Heller and Selden Edwards are also planning to participate depending on their work schedules.

Wednesday is set aside for area musicians for a reading of "Delta Blues" by writer Ted Goija. The Santa Barbara Blues Society will participate. Later that afternoon will be a salute to Louis Braille, on the 200th anniversary of his birth with the book by Russell Freedman, "Out of Darkness; The Story of Louis Braille." Blind readers reading the Braille version of the book will participate, along with the board and staff of the Braille Institute. As of today, other participants throughout the weeklong event include the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara, The Lions, Odd Fellows and the Newcomers Club.

Legendary voice artist June Foray will be reading her own book *Perverse, Adverse and Rottenverse*. She will be joined by her sister Geri Forer, a published poet. Renowned animator/director Chuck Jones is reported to have said, "June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc, Mel Blanc was the male June Foray." We're waiting to get a confirmed date (Thurs., April 23 is tentative but likely at this time). June has a resume as long as the Nile and served on the board of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for 26 years and was responsible for getting the Oscar© category for Best Animated Film.

Gloria Arenson has her book, "Procrastination Nation" on the list to be read – a first for the SB unit to have an author as volunteer. A partial list of the book titles scheduled to be read include: Jane Heller's "Confessions of a She-Fan," Joe Torre's "The Yankee Years," Michael Kater's "Never Sang for Hitler: The Story of Lotte Lehman," and Bill Morgan's book on the life of Alan Ginsberg "I Celebrate Myself." Six titles are off the New York times Top 100 list including: "Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East" by Robin Wright; "The Forever War," Dexter Filkins tome on Iraq, "Hallelujah Junction: Composing an American Life," by John Adams, Julian Barnes' "Nothing To Be Frightened Of," "The House at Sugar Beach," by Helene Cooper and "Freedom's Battle: The Origins of Humanitarian Intervention," by Gary J. Bass. More titles can be found on the website and volunteers are encouraged to gather a group of friends/family to come and read one or several titles.

Your business or group could sponsor a book, a recording booth, scholarship(s) or a reception for as little as \$250 or as much as \$10,000. Find out how you can get involved!

Call RFB&D now at (805) 681-0531 to set a date and time for you, your family, business or group to participate in this wonderful week of sharing the gift of learning through listening. We only need a half-hour of your time to provide the help we need now. www.rfbd.org/sb

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Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) is the nation's leading educational library serving people who cannot effectively read standard print because of a visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disability. Our mission is to create opportunities for individual success by providing and promoting the effective use of accessible educational materials such as audio textbooks. RFB&D's vision is to give *everyone* equal access to the printed word.

**2009 Record-A-Thon Sponsors include:
The Towbes Foundation, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Ann Jackson Family
Foundation, Cox Communications, Venoco, Rotary Club of Santa Barbara,
Frederic E. Steck Family Foundation, Reicker, Pfau, Pyle & McRoy,
Anderson Financial Solutions, Jerry Woolf, DDS, and Peebles-Sheen
Foundation.**



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FACT SHEET & SCHEDULE

- WHO:** RFB&D/Santa Barbara Unit
Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
- WHAT:** 14th Annual Record-A-Thon
- WHEN:** April 20 through 25, 2008 (SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DAY BY DAY)
Mon – Fri 9am – 8 pm; Sat. 9am – noon
- WHERE:** RFB&D, 5638 Hollister Avenue, Suite 210,
Santa Barbara, CA 93117 (805) 681-0531
- WHY:** To generate more recorded books for the National RFB&D Library for use by visually impaired and learning disabled students from kindergarten through graduate school; to recruit more volunteer readers; to raise operating revenue for the Unit's book production and educational outreach programs.

SPECIAL GUESTS CONFIRMED: Efrem Zimbalist, Jr.(film/TV); Cass Warner (author & doc director "*The Brothers Warner*"); and legendary voice artist June Foray (Rocky, Nell, Natasha in *Rocky & Bullwinkle*, and too many cartoons to note for Warner Bros., Disney and others). More names to come.

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FACT SHEET – Page 2 Day-by-Day readers and themes here:

RFB&D 14th Annual Record-A-Thon / Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

DAY BY DAY FOR CALENDAR LISTING EDITORS

Monday, April 20: 11:30 am Firefighters Read – Chief Tom Franklin (SB County Fire)
Chief Ron Prince (City SB); and Chief Anthony Escobar (Los Padres)
12 – 1 Tribute, Reception with a Chili Cook Off judged by firemen to
advance SB Co. Fair Chili Week.
12:30 pm Firefighters Read through 1:30 pm

Tuesday, April 21: 12 – 1 *The Brothers Warner* tribute, reception
Author Cass Warner (granddaughter of Harry Warner, one of the
founding brothers)
Special Guests: Efram Zimbalist Jr.; Adrienne Davis; more names
To be announced

Wednesday, April 22: 11:30 – 12 read
12 – 1 Santa Barbara's Musicians Read, Guests TBA
12:30 – 1:30 read
3:30pm – 5 pm 200th Birthday Tribute to Louis Braille

Thursday, April 23: Tribute to Legendary Voice Artist June Foray
Reading her book: *Perverse, Adverse and Rottenverse*
3:30 to 5 pm read
Invite out to the Moose Lodge of SB (3.24.09 Mo)

Friday, April 24: 3pm – 7 pm Rotary Reads

Saturday, April 25: 12 noon – Reception at the studios to thank volunteers, sponsors, readers
for their time and support.

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