

# Louisiana Hotlines



A Newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana  
Talking Books and Braille Library  
Office of Lt. Governor, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Vol. 17 No. 4

Fall 2017

## Holiday Closings

November 10 Veterans Day  
November 23, 24 Thanksgiving Day

## Mark your calendars

This year's Louisiana Book Festival will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in and around the State Library of Louisiana in Baton Rouge.

## BARD Express

BARD Express is a Windows-based application that simplifies the process of searching for, downloading, and transferring audio materials to a cartridge or USB flash drive. No more having to unzip files! BARD Express is designed for use on personal computers running Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 8.1, and 10. It does not run on Macintosh computers.

NLS has created some helpful how-to videos for BARD Express. These are posted on State Library of Louisiana's TBBL website: <http://www.state.lib.la.us/special-services/talking-books-and-braille-library/videos-about-tbbl-services>.

Please call your reader adviser if you would like more information about BARD Express.

## Book ordering by phone

We are experiencing heavier than usual call volume here at TBBL. The phone numbers to TBBL are 800.543.4702 and 225.342.0035. To receive the quickest service, call either number and ask to speak to your reader adviser. If you get the voice mail recording, leave your name, number and a brief message and we will return your call as soon as possible. You may also leave your book order numbers.

## Returning books

To ensure that you continue to receive your audio books in a timely manner please:

- Insert the mailing cards securely in the back of the containers.
- Seek help in making sure the books are in the correct containers.
- Call your reader adviser and ask for a replacement mailing card if a mailing card is lost,
- Please add your name when making your own mail card.
- Return books as soon as you are finished reading them.

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## Online catalog service

If you have access to a computer and the internet you may use the online catalog. Our online catalog lists all of the books in our collection and allows you to search the catalog and place orders. Call your reader advisor for login information and instructions.

## New language learning audio books

We now have six titles from the Drive Time series. Drive Time is an easy way to learn beginning level vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, conversation and even some culture — all without a book. The experts at Living Language have created courses that include four hours of language lessons all in audio format — no book needed.

Here are the titles we have available for loan:

**DB87039** *Drive time French*

**DB87043** *Drive time Spanish*

**DB87040** *Drive time Italian*

**DB87041** *Drive time German*

**DB87042** *Drive time Japanese*

**DB87038** *Drive time English*

## New title announced for BookTalks discussion group

The next title for our TBBL BookTalks book discussion group is:

*Postmark Bayou Chene* by Gwen Roland. (DB84304) Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana, 1907. A letter addressed to Hautes-Pyrénées, France, marked undeliverable, arrives at the Bayou Chene post office. That same day locals find a dog, nearly dead, tethered to an

empty skiff. The lives of the postmaster's blind daughter and her two friends will soon change dramatically.

## Interesting Fact:

One of our Louisiana TBBL readers is the inspiration for a character found in this book! The author, Gwen Roland, says that the character named Loyce Snellgrove was inspired by one of her relatives. Here is what Gwen Roland told us:

“Sassy, opinionated Loyce Snellgrove was inspired by my blind aunt who was born after my family moved from Bayou Chene in the 1920s. As a young woman, she babysat for her many nieces and nephews. Being one of the kids who tried to outwit her, I grew up in awe of her keen senses, astounding memory and intellect that foiled us at every turn. I’ve often wondered what her life would have been like if she had been born before the family moved from that watery wilderness, so I explored it in this book.”

## How to join BookTalks

We hold our book discussions via an email discussion list. Members comment on the book by sending an email to the discussion list. All members then see the comments and have the ability to respond by email to the group.

If you want to join our discussion group, go to: <http://pelican.state.lib.la.us/mailman/listinfo/tbblbooktalks> and create an account by entering your email address and make up a password or, as always, you can call your reader adviser.

Hope to hear from you soon!

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## 10 things you probably don't know about Braille

By Bill Winter

1. Braille started out as a military code called “night writing.” It was developed in 1819 by the French army so soldiers could communicate at night without speaking or using candles. Fifteen-year-old French schoolboy Louis Braille learned about the code, and eventually developed the more usable, streamlined version of the Braille alphabet we know today.
2. There’s an asteroid named Braille. In 1999, NASA’s Deep Space 1 probe flew past an asteroid while on its way to photograph the Borrelly comet. NASA named the asteroid “9969 Braille” in honor of Louis Braille.
3. Braille takes up more space than the traditional alphabet, so Braille books are much larger than their print counterparts. “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” is 10 volumes in Braille, the “New American Bible” is 45 volumes and “Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary” is a shelf-hogging 72 volumes.
4. Braille is not a language. It’s a tactile alphabet that can be used to write almost any language. There are Braille versions of Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew and many other languages.
5. Most people who are blind don’t know Braille. In 2009, National Federation of the Blind cited statistics indicating that only 10 percent of Americans with blindness can read Braille. That number has been falling as more people with visual impairments use audio books, voice-recognition software and other technology to read and write. However, the same study found that Braille-literate people are more likely to attain higher levels of education and be employed.
6. There’s a Braille “Olympics.” It’s the annual Braille Challenge for students who are blind, sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Braille Institute. More than 1,400 students from the U.S. and Canada test their Braille skills in categories like reading comprehension, proofreading and spelling. Winners in each age group walk away with monetary prizes – and Braille bragging rights for a year.
7. Just because you’re blind doesn’t mean you don’t have to learn math. There’s a special version of Braille just for mathematics called the Nemeth Code. It was invented by Dr. Abraham Nemeth and can be used to transcribe math, algebra and calculus.
8. Braille is the surprise plot twist in the 2010 movie “The Book of Eli.” In the movie, Denzel Washington plays a loner who wanders through a violent post-apocalyptic wasteland with the last known copy of the Bible. At the end, you find out that the Bible is in Braille and Washington’s character is blind.
9. There are two versions of Braille – contracted and uncontracted. In uncontracted Braille, every word is spelled out. Contracted Braille is a

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“shorthand” version where common words are abbreviated, much like “don’t” is a shorter version of “do” and “not.” Most kids start with uncontracted Braille and then learn the contracted version.

10. There’s a good reason why Braille is on the keypad buttons of drive-through ATMs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that all ATMs must be accessible to people with visual impairments, and drive-through ATMs aren’t exempt. That’s so passengers who are blind, travelling in the back seat of cars or taxis, can reach the ATM and independently make a transaction without assistance from the driver.

Reprinted with permission from Perkins School for the Blind (Perkins.org)  
<http://www.perkins.org/stories/10-things-you-probably-dont-know-about-braille>

## Tech tips

### **BARD mobile device**

When registering a new mobile device, please call your reader adviser to ask for removal of the mobile device that is no longer in use. This will prevent future rejections when registering new mobile devices.

### **Battery vs plugged in**

The digital player is portable but it should remain plugged into an outlet when not in use. If the player is unplugged for an extended period of time the battery level will become low and never fully recharge. If you are experiencing very low battery levels your player may need

a new battery. Call and ask to speak to Kevin Williams to request a replacement player.

### **Navigating the book**

Both the advanced and standard players have a feature that will take you to either the beginning or the end of the book.

If you are using the standard player, press and hold the rewind button until you hear “beginning of book.” Press and hold the fast forward button until you hear “end of book.”

If you are using the advanced player, select the bookmark level by pressing the menu button until you hear “bookmark jump.” Press and hold the previous button to the beginning of the book. Press and hold the next button to move to the end of the book.

### **Two ways to reset the digital player**

A hardware reset can be used if the player stops responding to commands. With the power off, press and hold the power button more than seven seconds until a beep is heard.

Resetting the player to factory defaults will erase the saved current positions of the book’s history, erase all bookmarks, restore the default values for volume, tone and speed, and erase the history of button presses. To reset the player to factory default settings, turn off the player. Press and hold the tone up, speed up and volume up buttons while pressing the power button. The player will announce “creating new profile.” The player must then be powered off to save the new profile.

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## Books and Beyond

### A section for children and teens

#### White Cane Safety Day, October 4th

The Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired will be celebrating the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual White Cane Safety Day on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Events will be held in the downtown Baton Rouge area. A variety of activities will include a picnic, route travel, awareness education, and a scavenger hunt. Mayor Sharon Weston Broome is guest speaker this year. For further information contact LSVI Outreach Coordinator Blanche Faulk at 225.757.3489.

#### LSVI students experience eclipse

On August 21, 2017, North America experienced a total solar eclipse. Although Louisiana was not in the path of totality, residents could view up to 80% occlusion, or blockage of the sun. Coordinator Leslie Bello and her fellow teachers partnered with the State Library and TBBL to assist students at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired in viewing the eclipse using their senses of touch, hearing, and sight.



*Figure 2. Tactile Poster of 2017 solar eclipse.*

A lamp's heat was blocked by a plate moving across a hand, thus representing the moon blocking the sun's heat across the earth. Many types of tactile maps were used to explain the path of an eclipse. An instructional video from NASA, and a live stream of the event described for the blind provided scientific details. Members from the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society came out to provide special solar viewing glasses and set up a telescope. Students could feel the temperature drop and cicadas singing as the eclipse produced a twilight effect. This was a unique event in Louisiana, and the students really enjoyed being able to actively experience it.

#### Letters About Literature

The 25th annual Letters about Literature national reading and writing competition has been announced by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. To enter, fourth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students write a personal letter to a living or dead author of any genre explaining how that author's book, poem, or play changed their views of the world or themselves.

Students may enter on their own or through their schools or local libraries in three levels: Level 1 for grades 4 – 6, Level 2 for grades 7 – 8 and Level 3 for grades 9 – 12.

Finalists are selected from each state for each competition level. Louisiana winners will receive monetary awards for first, second, and third place and will be recognized at next year's Louisiana Book Festival. First place winning letters will be

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submitted to the Library of Congress for the national competition with the chance of winning up to \$1,000.

The deadline for all levels is January 12, 2018. The entry forms, participation coupons, and information, as well as teacher's guide, may be downloaded at [www.read.gov/letters](http://www.read.gov/letters). If you have questions, contact Jim Davis at the State Library: 225.342.9714 or [jdavis@slol.lib.la.us](mailto:jdavis@slol.lib.la.us).

### **Summer reading build up 2017**

Congratulations to our 60 readers who read 696 books this year for "Build A Better World". Those who completed the program received a t-shirt, Jacob's ladder, and a certificate of achievement.

### **Don't miss out on all the fun**

The Louisiana Book Festival will be held Saturday, October 28, 2017. Programs for young readers will take place throughout the day in the State Library Teen HQ and in the Young Readers Pavilion. The Pavilion includes tents offering activities, crafts, storytelling, writing enrichment, and face painting. Teens can participate in presentations, lively discussions with their favorite authors, and pick up a few writing tips.

### **2018 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice nominees**

The 2018 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice program is a reading enrichment program of the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana. There are three categories: grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and Teen Readers' Choice for grades 9-12. Students read from the nominated titles during 2017 and vote on

their favorite by February 1, 2018. To qualify, students must be from Louisiana and have read three of the titles in the appropriate grade category for grades 3 through 8. Teens must read two titles from the LTRC nominated list. You can help decide who will win! To cast your vote, call 1.800.543.4702.

TBBL has these LYRC and LTRC titles.

### **Grades 3-5:**

**DBC6811** *Crenshaw*  
by Katherine Applegate

**DB81185** *Finding Serendipity*  
by Angelica Banks

**BR21353, DB83676** *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*  
by Lindsay Mattick

**BR20934, DB81742** *Ratscalibur*  
by Josh Lieb

**BR21098, DB85566** *Trombone Shorty*  
by Troy Andrews

### **Grades 6-8:**

**DB83027** *A Blind Guide to Stinkville*  
by Beth Vrabel

**DB87363** *Book Scavenger*  
by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

**BR21131, DB82092** *Fuzzy Mud*  
by Louis Sachar

**BR20912, DB81830** *Lost in the Sun*  
by Lisa Graff

### **Teen Readers' Choice:**

**DB83370** *All American Boys*  
by Jason Reynolds

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**DB80476** *All the Bright Places*

by Jennifer Nive

**DB82707** *Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy

**DB83004** *Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman

**BR20769, DB81314, LP25655** *Red Queen*

by Victoria Aveyard

**DB83031** *The Walls Around Us*

by Nova Ren Suma

**Support our TBBL friends organization**

Since 1981, the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation has acted as a friends group for the Talking Books and Braille Library in the State Library of Louisiana.

It provides a mechanism for accepting donations to enhance and support services to the blind and physically handicapped community statewide.

It directly supplements the programs and initiatives of TBBL within the State Library. It is a primary sponsor of the State Library's large print collection, TBBL's summer reading program, and descriptive video collection and it supports volunteer efforts in the area.

To contribute, make checks payable to the Foundation and mail to the following address:

Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation  
1131 N. River Road  
Port Allen, LA 70767

All donations are tax deductible.  
Anyone who makes a donation receives a one-year membership to the Foundation.  
For meeting information call  
Shelia Coleman at 225.342.4942.

**Library address**

Talking Books & Braille Library  
701 N. Fourth St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Phone numbers**

Baton Rouge: 342.0035  
Statewide: 1.800.543.4702  
Fax: 225.342.6817

**Special services**

Music section: 800.424.8567  
Braille service: 800.453.4293

**Email**

tbbl@state.lib.la.us  
tbblkids@state.lib.la.us

**Walk-in hours**

Monday – Thursday  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Phone hours**

Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Library services**

Audio books and magazines  
Braille books and magazines  
Large print books and big books  
Descriptive videos  
Online catalog  
BARD download service  
BARD mobile apps  
Newspaper reading service

**Eligibility**

Any Louisiana resident who is unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation is eligible to receive free library services.

State Library of Louisiana  
Talking Books and Braille Library  
701 N. Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**

Special format library materials are loaned  
to qualified patrons by

Talking Books and Braille Library

State Library of Louisiana

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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