

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. 21 No. 2

Spring 2021

Holiday closings

April 2 Easter Holiday
May 31 Memorial Day

Emergency office closures

The Talking Books and Braille Library is a division of the State Library of Louisiana. State office closures due to bad weather in East Baton Rouge Parish apply to the Talking Books and Braille Library. If bad weather closes state offices in East Baton Rouge, please leave only one message on our voice mail, and we will return your calls once staff can safely return to work.

Accessible information on COVID-19

For patrons seeking authoritative information about COVID-19 in accessible formats, the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI) at Georgia Tech has produced a number of resources. Subjects include symptoms, testing, use of masks, and how to protect your service animal. Materials are available in accessible Word documents, PDF, and hardcopy braille. For more information and to request braille copies, visit <http://cidi.gatech.edu/covid>.

Accessible PDFs of 2020 tax documents now available

The IRS has released accessible PDF versions of 2020 tax documents on its website at www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/irs-section-508-compliant-pdf-forms.

Hardcopy braille and large print tax documents can be requested by calling 800.829.3676. To receive a copy of your tax notice in braille or large print, call the tax assistance telephone number at 800.829.1040. Some downloadable braille and large-print documents are still being developed. Please watch the main NLS website, <https://www.loc.gov/nls/>, for updates on when other accessible-format tax documents become available from the IRS.

New title for BookTalks

Our BookTalks Spring book selection will be: **DB90711** *Circe* by Madeline Miller.

Circe grows up in the court of her father, the sun god Helios. Despised by her parents and others, she falls in love with a mortal who shuns her. When she takes revenge, she is banished. Those who wish her and others harm are transformed into pigs.

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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 name (make sure to put your name so we can verify you), email address and make up a password or, as always, you can call your reader adviser.

BookTalks Book Club

If you join BookTalks, we will add you to our mailing list and automatically send you a digital book copy of the newest selection. I hope that this will make it more convenient to read the book and participate in the discussion!

2021 Adult Summer Reading Program

Tails & TALES

The TBBL 2021 Adult Summer Reading Program will start May 1, 2021, and will run through August 31. The theme this year is “Tails & Tales.”

If you complete the program by reading 20 books, you will be entered into a drawing to win a set of headphones. To sign up, simply contact your reader advisor and start reading! If you would

like, we will mail you a reading log to keep track of the books you have read. Once you have read 20 books, call your reader adviser to let them know, and your name will be entered into the drawing for a set of headphones that will work with your NLS Digital Book Reader. If you have a reading log, you can return it to us by mail or call to give us the list over the phone. Audio books, Braille, large print books and audio magazines all count. If you need any reading suggestions please ask us; we are happy to help! One entry per person. We will choose 30 lucky winners from the list of those who have read at least 20 books. Headphones are provided by the Jones Foundation.

New iPhone feature detects nearby people

Patrons who use iOS devices may benefit from a recent update to the built-in Magnifier app, which uses audible or haptic feedback to inform users of nearby people. The new People Detection feature also measures how far away people are, allowing users to maintain social distance—or simply to navigate crowded surroundings. It works on the iPhone 12 Pro, iPhone 12 Pro Max, 12.9 inch iPad Pro (4th generation), and 11 inch iPad Pro (2nd generation) when running iOS 14.2 or later. For more information visit <https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/people-detection-iph41bdfe6c7/ios>.

The recently released NLS guide to GPS and Wayfinding Apps, available at www.loc.gov/nls/resources/general-resources-on-disabilities/gps-and-wayfinding-apps, offers other software suggestions for navigating your

environment. Braille or large-print copies can be requested from your cooperating network library.

New audio description app launched

Charter Communications recently released Spectrum Access, a free iOS app that enables customers to play audio descriptions directly from their phone or tablet. The app uses the device's microphone to identify where the user is in a movie or TV show and then plays the corresponding file in parallel. It is currently compatible with more than 400 movies and shows. For more information visit <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/spectrum-access-enabled-media/id1492182876>.

New version of BARD Mobile for iOS

NLS is releasing a new version of BARD Mobile iOS that will support iOS 11 through iOS 14. Version 1.4 also includes two configurable audio settings: automatic start playback and automatic five-second rewind.

Automatic start playback allows users to launch playback of titles without having to manually select the play button. Downloaded titles will immediately play when selected from the Bookshelf, Get Books, or Recently Read.

Automatic five-second rewind will rewind content from where the user last left off when restarting titles from the Bookshelf or Recently Read lists. Content paused and restarted from the Now Reading screen, however, will resume where the user left off and will not automatically rewind.

BARD Mobile iOS users can identify the version running on their devices by checking Settings (the version number is in the bottom left corner). Users who have enabled App Updates for the App Store in their phone Settings will get Version 1.4 seamlessly, while others will need to manually update BARD Mobile iOS through the App Store.

For more information on these features, bug fixes, and more, consult the BARD Mobile iOS Release Notes in the Version History on the App Store, <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bard-mobile/id705229586> or the iOS user manual <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/BARDMobile.userguide.iOS.1.4.html>

Joyful reading recommendations for the Spring

by Sneha Padumane

DB83448 *Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald. After Swedish immigrant Sara loses her bookstore, she decides to visit her pen pal Amy in the small Iowa town of Broken Wheel. She arrives, only to find that Amy has recently died. Sara decides to stay on and open a bookstore in her friend's memory.

DB87391 *The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living* by Meik Wiking. The Danes are known as being extraordinarily happy people, and the author, CEO of the Happiness Research Institute, has rounded up some of the reasons why. Includes Danish habits and behaviors that promote Hygge, which translates as a sense of comfort, togetherness, and well-being.

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DB91740 *Attachments* by Rainbow Rowell. Lincoln O'Neill never realized his IT security officer job at the newspaper would mostly be monitoring employee email. When he started reading the hilarious emails Beth Fremont exchanged with her friend Jennifer, he should have sent them a warning memo, but instead he fell in love.

DB53926 *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot. An English veterinarian reminisces about his work in Yorkshire that began in 1937 when he was fresh out of school. He recalls tending to the farm and house animals and comforting people whose pets died.

DB70275 *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin. Author's personal reflections on a monthly plan to improve her quality of life by the end of one year. Analyzes missteps, challenges, and successes in reaching her goals and shares the often unexpected lessons she learned.

Free courses for professionals supporting needs of the Deaf-Blind

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) is offering online courses free of charge to professionals supporting the needs of individuals who are deaf-blind . Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are available with many of the courses. Access the HKNC class catalogue by going to: <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/available-classes>. All courses are asynchronous and designed to learn at the student's own pace. For further information on online course codes and registration, contact the HKNC Region

6 Assistant, Brenda Baroncelli at Brenda.Baroncelli@hknc.org

NLS Celebrates 90th Anniversary

Jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker performed a virtual concert on March 3, 2021 kicking off a yearlong commemoration of NLS's 90th anniversary. Whitaker, who has been blind since birth, is a recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award for 2020 and an NLS patron - who has used the Music Section's accessible scores and Braille reading materials throughout his award-winning music career. Whitaker's performance was broadcast online and followed up by a live-streamed interview conducted by NLS Director Karen Keninger. The event is available on the NLS Library Youtube page at www.youtube.com/libraryofcongress, and will remain available on that platform for two years.

The concert is the first of many upcoming programs planned in 2021, celebrating the services provided by NLS since passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act on March 3, 1931. This event highlights the NLS Music Section's work in providing patrons with direct access to the largest collection of braille, audio and large print music materials in the world. For more information about the concert and other upcoming programs celebrating the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service, follow NLS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThatAllMayRead/ or check out the Library of Congress Events page at www.loc.gov/events or the NLS Music Notes blog at <https://blogs.loc.gov/nls-music-notes>.

Talking Books and Braille Library 2021 Biennial Survey

To help us better serve you, please provide your feedback in this survey. Pull out this section from the newsletter. Fold it so that the library's return address is visible; secure with tape, and drop it in the mail. No postage is required. To complete the survey online, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021TBBL>

1. Name (optional): _____
 2. Phone number (optional): _____
 3. Please mark the types of material you receive from the library.
 - Digital Books
 - Large print books
 - Braille books
 - BARD books
 - Magazines
 4. Do you or a family member use the web catalog to search for and order books?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I would like more information.
 5. For what purpose do you use the TBBL web catalog? (Check all that apply.)
 - Search for authors, titles, or subjects I want to read
 - School book requests and reserves
 - School assignments
 - Check my account for overdue books, lost items, etc.
 - Check my reading history
 - N/A
 6. Have you visited the TBBL web site?
 - Yes
 - No
 7. How do you rate the TBBL web site in terms of accessibility?
 - Excellent
 - Good
 - Average
 - Fair
 - Poor
 8. Do you or a family member download books from BARD?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I would like more information.
-

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9. If you are not a BARD user, what prevents you from using it?
- I have no internet access
 - I did not know about BARD
 - I do not have a computer
 - I am not interested
10. Do you currently use a smart phone, tablet, or e-book reader?
- Yes
 - No
11. Have you downloaded the BARD mobile app to an iOS or Android device?
- Yes
 - No
12. Which device?
- iOS
 - Android
13. Would you like to have the NFB Newsline service read newspapers and popular magazines to you over the phone?
- Yes
 - No
 - I would like more information.
14. Would you be interested in participating in the next Adult Summer Reading Program?
- Yes
 - No
 - I would like more information.
15. Do you use any type of social media? (Check all that apply.)
- Facebook
 - Twitter
 - LinkedIn
 - Google+
 - Instagram
 - Other (please specify)
-
16. Please rate the courtesy you receive when you contact the library staff.
- Excellent
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Poor
-

17. When you order books and other materials from TBBL, how would you rate the speed of delivery?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

18. Please rate TBBL services overall.

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

19. Do you have suggestions for improving the library service?

20. Please make additional comments here.

21. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

22. Did you participate in the Teen/Children Summer Reading Program?

- Yes
- No

23. If you answered yes to question 22, please respond. The Summer Reading Program helped me improve my literacy skills.

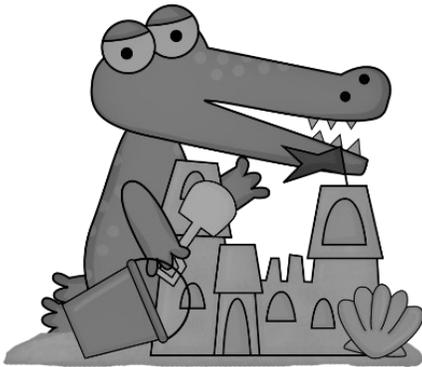
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Thank you so much for your feedback. To mail the survey to us, pull out this section from the newsletter. Fold it so that the library's return address is visible, secure with tape, and drop it in the mail. No postage is required.

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**

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

Books and Beyond A Section for Children and Teens



Summer Reading Program 2021

“Tails and Tales” is the 2021 Summer Reading Program slogan and the theme is all about animals. TBBL will offer four youth programs: Children’s, Teen’s, Teen’s STEM, and Read-To-Me. Invitations will be mailed out April 20, and the program begins May 1, 2021. A gracious thank you to the Jones Foundation for providing this year’s Summer Reading Program prizes!

From Crib to Crayons

The TBBL Early Literacy Program *From Crib to Crayons* will start its fourth year on June 1, 2021. Designed for children ages 0-6, six literacy packets will be sent throughout the year to children and their parents. Each bi-monthly kit will be themed to focus on one of six early literacy skills: print awareness, phonological awareness, print/play motivation, letter knowledge, narrative skills, and vocabulary. Invitations will be mailed out May 15, 2021. For more information, contact the Children’s and Teen Services Librarian, Charlene Moore at 225.342.9563, tbbkids@slol.lib.la.us. This program is made possible through the generous support of the Jones

foundation. Braille services provided this year through the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

New Dates for BELL Academy

The National Federation of the Blind is offering three virtual programs of the NFB BELL Academy this summer to prepare blind and low-vision children to grow into confident and independent blind people by enhancing their education. Options are available for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students for the following dates: June 7-18, July 19-30, and August 9-20, 2021. NFB BELL Academy, an annual summer program, is for blind and low-vision children, ages 4-12, who do not receive enough Braille and nonvisual skills instruction in school. Students must apply through the website at www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-bell-academy. To learn more about the NFB of Louisiana BELL Academy, contact the Louisiana BELL Academy Coordinator Krystal Guillory by email at kguillory@louisianacenter.org or call 318.245.8955.

LEGO® Braille Bricks are here



LEGO® Braille Bricks toolkits from the LEGO® Foundation and the American Printing House for the Blind are now available through the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Center (La-AEM). The bricks are

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designed to teach Braille to children who are blind or have a visual impairment. Each brick retains the iconic LEGO® form, but unlike a regular LEGO® brick, the studs are arranged to correspond to numbers and letters in the Braille alphabet. Each brick shows the printed version of the number or letter, allowing both blind and sighted to learn and play together while teaching Braille in an enjoyable tactile way. The toolkits are free of charge to select institutions, schools and services catering to the education of blind and visually impaired children. Families are also eligible. Every toolkit contains 300 bricks in the five basic LEGO® colors, three base plates, and a brick separator. The box cover shows a helpful overview of the alphabet, numbers, and symbols.

For ordering information, please contact LA-AEM coordinator Robin King. Email robin@ssdla-aem.org, or phone 225.757.3477.

Books with LEGO® Bricks

Either these titles focus on popular facts about or offer stories related to the popular building blocks.

The Star Wars series by Emma Grange for grades K-3

DBC00349 *LEGO® Star Wars: A New Hope*

DBC00350 *LEGO® Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*

DBC00351 *LEGO® Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*

LP25599 *The Ultimate LEGO® book* by The LEGO® Group

DB78448 *The LEGO® Movie: Junior Novel* by Kate Howard for grades 3

DB95975 *From an idea* by Lowey Bundy Sichol for grades 4-7

BR22168, DB89635 *The Stars Beneath our Feet* by David Barclay Moore for grades 5-8

LP22553 *LEGO® Toys* by Kris Hirschmann YAI

DB83778 *What if? Serious scientific answers to absurd hypothetical questions* by Randall Monroe YAI

Angola Prison Braille Transcription Program

LA-AEM (Louisiana-Accessible Educational Materials) and the Louisiana Department of Corrections collaborated in 2020 to create a Braille transcription training program. Currently, 25 offenders at Angola are working on earning UEB Certification offered through the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) and the Library of Congress. It takes two years to complete certification. The program's goal is to build the state's capacity to provide high-quality Braille materials for students in Louisiana. TBBL's young patrons benefit from these transcription services during the Summer Reading and Early Literacy Programs. For more information, visit their blog at www.ssdla-aem.org/louisiana-braille-prison-program.

Support our TBBL friends organization

The Jones Foundation acknowledges the following donors for their generous contributions:

Mr. and Mrs. John Hill in memory of
Bobby Stanley
Charles Kahao
Joseph Anjier
Frank Leonard
Sarah Munson
Charles Ray Corkern
Katherine Spaht Dodson
Glenn Timmons

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, staff enrichment, and early literacy program.

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 Jones Foundation. For meeting information, call Shelia Coleman at 225.342.4942.

TBBL Directory

Library address

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

Phone numbers

Baton Rouge: 225.342.0035
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 and email 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
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.

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Institute of Museum and Library Services

