

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. 24 No. 2

Spring 2024

Holiday Closings

March 29 Easter
May 27 Memorial Day

Duplication on Demand (DoD) Update

The Talking Books and Braille Library is pleased to report that we are almost finished moving all of our audiobook readers to the new DoD system, which allows us to put multiple audiobooks on one cartridge.

To find out what book titles are on your cartridge—and to skip to any book in the list—you can activate the “Bookshelf Feature” by pressing and holding the green rectangular play/stop button near the player’s front edge for three seconds.

When you enter the bookshelf, the player will announce the number of books on the cartridge and the title of the currently selected book. Press the rewind or fast forward buttons on either side of the play/stop button to locate the book you wish to read. When you hear the entire title of the book you wish to read, press the play/stop button and that book will be selected and start playing.

BARD Mobile App Updates

NLS has released BARD Mobile app updates for both iOS (version 2.2.2) and Android (version 2.1.0).

iOS is used by iPhones and other Apple devices. iOS improvements include: Siri shortcuts, boosted color contrast, multiword search enhancements, bug fixes and more. The app supports iOS versions 14 through 17.

Android improvements include: fully supported in-app search functions, and a Spanish translation setting that allows text and audio in Spanish. The app supports Android OS versions 9 through 14.

For both iOS and Android devices there is now an international language search option which allows you to search by choosing up to four languages

BARD Mobile users can confirm that they are running the latest version by checking the bottom of the app’s Settings screen. If not, you may need to go to the app store to update your app.

2024 Adult Summer Reading Program

The TBBL 2024 Adult Summer Reading Program will start May 1, 2024, and will run through August 31. The theme this year is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." If you complete the program by reading 20 books, you will be entered into a drawing to win a deck of large print and Braille playing cards. If you participated last year, then you will automatically be signed up for this year's program. If you are not already signed up, please contact your reader advisor!

Audio books, Braille books, large print books and audio magazines all count. We will keep track of your reading history. Or, if you would like, we will mail you a reading log.

If you have a reading log, you can return it to us by mail or call to give us the list over the phone. We will choose 30 lucky winners from the list of those who have read at least 20 books. A big thank you goes to the Jones Foundation for providing the prizes!

iCanConnect Program Offers Free Equipment

People with combined hearing and vision loss are able to apply to the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program and receive free communications technology and expert one-on-one training. Equipment may include smartphones, computers or laptops, screen magnification software, and refreshable Braille devices.

To be eligible, you must meet the program's disability and income eligibility guidelines. Additionally, a professional must attest that the applicants combined hearing and vision loss meets the program's definition. iCanConnect in Louisiana is administered by Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, Inc. (ABL). Call Scott Crawford at 337-234-6492 for more information.

Three Upcoming Conventions

Louisiana Council for the Blind (LCB) will hold its annual convention on May 24th—26th at the Holiday Inn West Bank in Gretna. You can make reservations by calling the hotel at 1-800-405-4329 by April 17th. Make sure you identify as a group member with LCB. For more information, call Leola Campbell at 225-614-5988.

The National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana invites you to their annual state convention on April 19th—21st at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. Please contact Pam Allen at 318-251-2891 for more information.

The National Federation of the Blind national convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, from July 3rd—July 8th. You can visit www.nfb.org or call 318-251-2891 ext. 3001 for details.

New Title for BookTalks

Our BookTalks Spring Book Selection will be:

(DB 103903) *The Anthropocene reviewed: essays on a human-centered*

planet by John Green.

In this collection of personal essays adapted and expanded from his podcast, the author reviews the contradictions found within humanity. He discusses how mankind is both far too powerful and not nearly powerful enough and covers topics ranging from the QWERTY keyboard to Canadian geese.

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) and email address and make up a password; or, as always, you can call your reader advisor.

If you join BookTalks, we will add you to our mailing list and automatically send you a digital book copy of the newest selection.

Spring Book Recommendations

by Sneha Padumane

DB 111101 *Beyond the wand: the magic and mayhem of growing up a wizard* by Tom Felton

Tom Felton's adolescence was anything but ordinary. His early rise to fame in beloved films like *The Borrowers* catapulted him into the limelight, but nothing could prepare him for what was

to come after he landed the iconic role of Draco Malfoy, the bleached blonde villain of the *Harry Potter* movies. For the next 10 years, he was at the center of a huge pop culture phenomenon and yet, in between filming, he would go back to being a normal teenager trying to fit into a normal school.

DB 111557 *The comedians in cars getting coffee book* by Jerry Seinfeld

Jerry Seinfeld has engaged with some of the funniest people in history in classic cars, coffee shops, and diners. He has reminisced with Larry David; bantered with legends Steve Martin, Tina Fey, and Eddie Murphy; reunited with the cast of *Seinfeld*; and even paid a visit to President Barack Obama in the Oval Office. These and dozens of other guests talked about the intricacies of stand-up, the evolution of their careers and personal lives, and whatever else popped into their brilliant minds.

DB 113637 *Don't ask the blind guy for directions: a 30,000-mile journey for love, confidence, and a sense of belonging* by John Samuel

After a diagnosis of a degenerative eye disease, John Samuel's life, and his chance at success, started to vanish. In a world systemically unequipped for accessibility, disability inclusion is often left out of conversations about diversity. For people with disabilities, it can feel impossible to adapt and thrive when you're already set up for failure. A more accessible world is possible—when we see the amazing opportunities in our differences. From traveling the world and hiking mountains to finding love

and raising a family, *Don't ask the blind guy for directions* shares Ablr CEO and cofounder John Samuel's inspirational journey against his inevitable blindness as he searched for acceptance.

DB 112982 *Every deep-drawn breath: a critical care doctor on healing, recovery, and transforming medicine in the ICU* by Wes Ely

In this rich blend of science, medical history, profoundly humane patient stories, and personal reflection, Dr. Wes Ely describes his mission to prevent ICU patients from being harmed by the technology that is keeping them alive.

DB 114801 *Queen Charlotte* by Shonda Rhimes and Julia Quinn
Go beyond the original series on Netflix with this lushly romantic *Bridgerton* prequel novel written by *New York Times* bestselling authors as the marriage of Queen Charlotte and King George of England leads to an unexpected love story and a union that transforms society.

DB 113564 *Lightning striking: ten transformative moments in rock and roll* by Lenny Kaye
Memphis 1954. New Orleans 1957. Philadelphia 1959. Liverpool 1962. San Francisco 1967. Detroit 1969. New York 1975. London 1977. Los Angeles 1984. Norway 1993. Seattle 1991. Musician and writer Lenny Kaye explores ten crossroads of time and place that define rock and roll, its unforgettable flashpoints, characters, and visionaries, how each generation came to be and how it was discovered by the world.

DB 114459 *The way of the bear: a novel*

by Anne Hillerman
An unexpected death on a lonely road outside of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument raises questions for Navajo Tribal Police officers Jim Chee and Bernadette Manuelito. Why would a seasoned outdoorsman and well-known paleontologist freeze to death within walking distance of his car?

DB 112748 *The grieving brain* by Mary-Frances O'Connor
A renowned grief expert and neuroscientist shares groundbreaking discoveries about what happens in our brain when we grieve, providing a new paradigm for understanding love, loss, and learning.

DB 115257 *James Earl Jones reads the Bible: King James version*
Relax to more than 19 soothing hours of inspirational listening with crystal-clear audio of the new testament read by one of the world's most gifted actors of all time, James Earl Jones.

DB 113288 *Hello beautiful: a novel* by Ann Napolitano
William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, so when he meets the spirited Julia Padavano, it's as if the world has lit up around him. With Julia comes her family, and William experiences a newfound contentment. But a catastrophic family rift changes their lives for generations. Will the loyalty that once rooted them be strong enough to draw them back together? A homage to Louisa May Alcott's timeless classic, *Little Women*, this is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.

Books and Beyond: A Section for Children and Teens

Summer Reading Program 2024

The 2024 Summer Reading Slogan is “Adventure Begins at Your Library” and the theme is Adventure. TBBL will offer three youth programs: Children’s, Teen’s, and Read-To-Me. We will send out adventure packets and mystery boxes. NLS will also offer online virtual escape rooms. Invitations mail out April 20th, and the program begins June 1st. 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* started in January 2024. Designed for children ages 0-6, four literacy packets are sent throughout the year to children and their parents. Each kit will be themed to focus on one early literacy skill: print awareness, play motivation, phonological awareness, letter knowledge, and narrative skills. For more information, contact Children’s and Teen Services Librarian Charlene Moore at 225-342-9563 tbblkids@slol.lib.la.us. This program is made possible through the generous support of the Jones foundation. Braille services are provided this year through the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

BELL Academy 2024

The National Federation of the Blind Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning— NFB BELL Academy— helps

blind and low-vision children, ages 4 through 12, develop the literacy skills that will empower them to achieve their academic goals and live the lives they want. The BELL Academy will be offered in person at the Louisiana Center for the Blind June 2nd-8th for ages 4-10, and July 21st -27th for ages 11-14. There is no virtual session this year.

For registration information, visit www.nfb-la.org/nfb-bell-of-louisiana, or contact the Louisiana BELL Academy Coordinator Krystal Guillory by email at kguillory@louisianacenter.org or by calling 318-245-8955.

Two Opportunities for Accessible STEM Programs

In collaboration with the Center of Science and Industry, the NFB of Louisiana is offering STEM2U, a one-day STEM camp on Friday, April 19th in Baton Rouge. The focus will be on the James Webb telescope, Earth atmosphere, astrophysics, and engineering. The camp will be held at the Crowne Plaza located at 4728 Constitution Avenue during the NFBLA convention.

Convention registration is not a requirement for attending camp. For more information contact Kristen Sims at ksims@latech.edu or call 318-257-4554.

The Louisiana Center for the Blind will host a STEAM camp during the week of June 17th—21st located at 101 South Trenton in Ruston. For more information contact Pam Allen at pallen@louisianacenter.org or call 318-251-2891.

Braille Summit 2024

Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) will host its inaugural Braille Summit on August 1st. This summit offers participants the opportunity to enhance their skills and deepen their understanding of Braille formatting, tactile graphics, assistive technology, and early braille literacy skills. The event is open to both educators and parents, catering to both beginner and advanced levels, ensuring that all attendees can benefit from the sessions. The Summit will be held on the LSVI campus located at 2888 Brightside in Baton Rouge. For more information, email Nabihah Mujahid at nabihah.mujahid@la.gov or call 225-757-3477.

LSVI Hosting Track and Field Event

The Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI) will host the South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) track and field event on April 11th-13th. The event will include performing arts along with track and field events. For more information, call 225-757-3481.

New Large Print Books Have Arrived

Here are some of the newest large print juvenile titles:

Preschool-Grade 2

LP027314 *Doggo and Pupper* by Katherine Applegate

LP027320 *Eyes that kiss in the corners* by Joanna Ho

LP027367 *I don't want to read this book* by Max Greenfield

LP027335 *Someone builds the dream* by Lisa Wheeler

Grades 3-7

LP027428 *The one and only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

LP027429 *Black boy joy* edited by Kwame Alexander

LP027629 *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj

LP027598 *Across the desert* by Dusti Bowling

LP027614 *Amari and the great game* by B.B. Alston

LP027654 *The first: ending* by Katherine Applegate

Grades 5-9

LP027600 *Momentous events in the life of a cactus* by Dusti Bowling

LP027635 *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander

LP027636 *Booked* by Kwame Alexander

Grades 6-9 & Young Adult

LP027589 *Iveliz explains it all* by Andrea Beatriz Arango

LP027644 *Falling short* by Ernesto Cisneros

LP027637 *Sunshine* by Marion Dane Bauer

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 state-wide.

The Jones Foundation 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 Jones 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.

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

Supported in part by funding from the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

