

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. 19 No. 1

Winter 2019

Holiday closings

Dec. 24 & 25 Christmas
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 New Year's Day
Jan. 21 MLK Day
Mar. 5 Mardi Gras

Multi-book cartridges? No problem!

NLS recently released an important revision to the software that controls the Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM) or player. This much-anticipated update enables users to play multiple books sequentially on a cartridge without having to use the Bookshelf feature.

With the update installed, when you hear the player announce "End of book," tap the play button to go to the next book or magazine. The updated software is included on all cartridges that contain multiple books or magazines and installs itself automatically when a cartridge is inserted into the DTBM. No action is required on the part of the user.

The new feature makes it easy to play multiple books in sequence just by pressing a single button. For those who want more flexibility, standard Bookshelf

mode will still work as before, allowing users to play multiple books in any order they wish.

Welcome, Sneha Padumane!

TBBL is excited to announce our newest reader adviser, Sneha Padumane. Sneha will assist readers with last names beginning with the letters C, E, F, J, U, V, X, Y, and Z. She enjoys reading many genres of fiction including historical mysteries, thrillers, and literary fiction. Right now her favorite author is science fiction writer Octavia Butler. Before working at the State Library, Sneha worked for six years at Barnes & Noble.

Reader's Digest

NLS is pleased to announce the addition of *Reader's Digest* to its selection of audio magazines, beginning with the November 2018 issue. Issues will be available to patrons through BARD and, via subscription, on cartridge. Call your reader adviser to subscribe to this publication.

Computers for the Blind

Eligible persons may purchase a desktop pre-installed with JAWS, Fusion or ZoomText for the discounted price of \$70 thanks to new grant funds received by Computers for the Blind, a non-profit based in Texas. To receive a discounted computer, adult individuals must be on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) due to blindness. Legally blind children or youth are also eligible. In addition, \$125 laptops are available for blind college students currently enrolled in on-campus classes. For more information, visit www.computersfortheblind.org or call 214.340.6328 from Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT.

New iOS app for navigating in airports

The developers of BlindSquare, a paid iOS app designed to help blind users with orientation and mobility, have released a free version, BlindSquare Event, that assists users in navigating airports. The BlindSquare Event app enables travelers at BlindSquare enabled airports to access flight information and locate features of interest in and around the airport. Once activated at an airport, the app will continue to work outside the airport for seven days. A data plan is recommended when used in an area not covered by wi-fi. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/AirportsEnabled> and <http://bit.ly/BsqAirportFAQ>.

NFB Newline and Alexa

NFB Newline service will now work with Amazon's Alexa enabled devices. To begin simple say, "Alexa open National Federation." Alexa will walk you through the steps to open an account. You will need a 6-digit user ID and a 4-digit pin. For more information call Susan Clark at 318.251.2891, ext. 3021 or email sclark@louisianacenter.org.

NFBLA 2019 Conference

Mark your calendars for the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana conference which will be held April 5 –7 at the Clarion Hotel in Shreveport. For information contact Pamela Allen at 800.234.4166.

2018 Louisiana Book Festival

Louisiana Book Festival was named in the Top 10 literary festivals in the country. The 15th Annual Louisiana Book Festival was held on Saturday, November 10, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at venues throughout Capitol Park in downtown Baton Rouge. Booklovers from all walks of life were in attendance to celebrate Louisiana's unique culture. It featured chefs, cookbook authors, panel presentations by featured authors, exhibitors, food vendors, as well as music historians and scholars, musicians and more.

Black History Month bibliography

DB90547 *Women of Motown: An Oral History.* by Susan Whitall. A music writer from Detroit presents an oral history of Motown, focusing on the

many women who were part of the heyday of the record label. The short profiles start with Mable John and include girl groups such as Martha and the Vandellas and the Supremes.

DB87912 *One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance.*

by Nikki Grimes. Collection of poetry with a fresh look at the poets of the Harlem Renaissance, including voices like Langston Hughes, Clara Ann Thompson, and many more writers of importance and resonance from this era. Grimes combines their work with her original poetry by using the Golden Shovel poetic form. For grades 6-9.

DB87911 *Krazy: George Herriman, A Life in Black and White*

by Michael Tisserand. Biography of George Joseph Herriman (1880-1944), creator of the Krazy Kat cartoon which ran from 1913 to 1944. Examines his early years in New Orleans and California, his development as an artist, and the impact of Krazy Kat. Also discusses race, as Herriman was an African American who passed for white.

DBC11961 *If I Only Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong* by Roxane Orgill. A poor boy in New Orleans, young Louis Armstrong got his first horn after an incident with the police landed him in a boy's home, where he eventually joined their legendary band. For grades 4-7.

DB87652 *True South Henry Hampton and Eyes on the Prize: The Landmark Television Series That Reframed the Civil Rights Movement* by Jon Else.

In 1987, PBS aired a groundbreaking documentary on the civil rights movement called *Eyes on the Prize*. A producer of that series tells the story of the series creator, Henry Hampton, and his efforts to bring the story to television. Some violence and some strong language.

DB87443 *Autobiographies: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

by Frederick Douglass. Collection of autobiographical writings by Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), abolitionist, orator, and social reformer. Includes *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, an American Slave* (1845); *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855); and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1893). Edited with chronology and notes by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

DB87323 *A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans.* by Emily Suzanne Clark. Religious studies professor examines a Spiritualist group in New Orleans called the Cercle Harmonique, comprised primarily of African-descended men. Discusses the group's formation, intersection with race and religion in New Orleans, and its role in the greater movement of American Spiritualism.

DB87290 *My Life, My Love, My Legacy* by Coretta Scott King. Autobiography of the widow of Martin Luther King Jr., a civil and human rights activist in her own right, and founder of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Describes her 1920s Deep

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South childhood, school at the New England Conservatory of Music, marriage, and lifelong commitment to social justice.

DB87110 *Around the Way Girl: A Memoir* by Taraji P. Henson. An actress famous for her roles on TV series such as *Empire* and movies including *Hidden Figures* shares her story and insights into the challenges of being a black actress in Hollywood. Raised by a single mother in Washington, DC, her parents supported her dreams. Some strong language.

DB87071 *Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls* by Tonya Bolden. Profiles sixteen high-achieving African Americans from the eighteenth through the twentieth century, including spy Mary Bowser, concert singer Sissieretta Jones, and mathematician Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson. For grades 5-8.

DB85756 *Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family* by Daniel Bergner. African American opera singer Ryan Speedo Green was a juvenile delinquent with a difficult home life. Luckily a teacher noticed his singing talent and mentored him. A visit to the Metropolitan Opera in New York cemented his desire to become a professional opera singer.

DB86749 *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* by J. Drew Lanham. Naturalist describes his family history and the development of his love for the natural world around him. Discusses the issue of

race both in the everyday enjoyment of the outdoors and in his professional life. Examines the impact of the home where he grew up and the loss of it.

DB86824 *Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African-American Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Profiles four African American women who worked as human computers for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, now known as NASA. Details their lives and groundbreaking contributions to the space program. Basis for the 2016 movie. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

DB80934 *The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball's Lost Triumph* by Scott Ellsworth. The first racially integrated basketball game in the South happened in 1944, during WWII and the Jim Crow era. The Eagles of North Carolina College for Negroes challenged Duke University's military team from the School of Medicine to a secret game that helped usher in a new era for basketball. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

DB88904 *The Original Black Elite Daniel Murray and the Story of a Forgotten Era* by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor. A historian chronicles the life of Daniel Murray (1851-1925), a descendant of slaves. Daniel rose to become Assistant Librarian at the Library of Congress. Discusses the course of Murray's life as it reflected the fortunes and declines of African Americans in Washington, DC, and elsewhere. 2017.

Books and Beyond

A section for children and teens



Scholarship opportunities in 2019

The National Federation of the Blind annually offers blind college students in the U.S. and Puerto Rico an opportunity to win one of thirty merit-based, national-level scholarships worth \$3,000 to \$12,000. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service and leadership.

Each winner will receive assistance to attend the 2019 NFB Annual Convention which will take place July 7 – 12, 2019, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Application deadline is March 31, 2019. For more information, contact Chairperson Cayte Mendez at: scholarships@nfb.org or call 410.659.9314, extension 2415, or: NFB Scholarship Program, National Federation of the Blind, 200 East Wells St. at Jernigan Place, Baltimore, MD 21230.

Each year at its state convention, the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana (NFBL) awards four scholarships to recognize the achievement of blind scholars in Louisiana. Scholarships range from \$750 to \$1,500.

All applications must be received no later than March 15, 2019. For more information and to receive an application contact: Eric Guillory, Chairperson NFBL Scholarship Committee, 101 South Trenton St. Ruston, LA 71270, phone: 800.234.4166, email: eguillory@louisianacenter.org.

Statewide Braille Challenge

Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired will host the statewide Braille Challenge on February 28, 2019. Students from all over Louisiana will compete and test on fundamental Braille skills such as reading comprehension, spelling, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. The five score categories include Apprentice, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. For more information, contact Outreach Coordinator, Blanche Faulk at 225.757.3489 or email at bfaulk@lsdvi.org.

Check out Homework LA!

The State Library of Louisiana announces expanded hours and exciting new features available now at www.homeworkla.org, an online resource available to all Louisiana residents, which offers live online tutoring for grades K-12, college and adult education, test preparation, and job search assistance. Academic tutoring is available from 2 p.m. to midnight Sunday-Thursday. Self-study tools for AP, ACT/SAT, and GED are available 24/7.

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An exciting new feature for individuals with vision impairment is the “voice chat” feature. Students will now have the option to “connect with voice” either using their computer’s audio system or using their phone by calling a toll-free number.

All of these services can be accessed from a home computer or laptop, your tablet, mobile device, or at any Louisiana public library. Homework Louisiana is funded in part with a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the State Library of Louisiana and your local public library.

There is still time to vote

The 2019 Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice program is a reading enrichment program of the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana. To vote, students must have read three titles in their grade category. To cast your vote, call 800.543.4702 before March 1, 2019.

TBBL has copies of these LYRC titles in Braille (BR), digital audiobook (DB), and large print formats (LP):

Grades 3-5

DB85304 *Ada’s Violin* by Susan Hood

DBC12732 *FRAMED! A T.O.A.S.T. Mystery* by James Ponti

LP25812 *My Life in Pictures* by Deborah Zemke

DB89176, LP25817 *Seven and a Half Tons of Steel* by Janet Nolan

DB86072 *Wish* by Barbara O’Connor

BR21759, DB83449 *Soar* by Joan Bauer

DB88368 *Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness* by Donna Janell Bowman

DB86858 *Word of Mouse* by James Patterson

Grades 6-8

DB84472 *Booked* by Kwame Alexander

DB85754 *Fuzzy* by Tom Angleberger

BR21669, DB85921 *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

BR21836, DB85739, LP25796 *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Regan Barnhill

DB86730 *Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz

DBC8424 *The Thing about Leftovers* by C.C. Payne

DB90156 *Top Prospect* by Paul Volponi

Teen Readers’ Choice Grades 9-12

Teens must read two selections from the nominated title list in order to vote.

DB87030 *The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis

DB86277, LP25797 *Heartless* by Marissa Meyer

DB84363 *Highly Illogical Behavior* by John Corey Whaley

DB83752 *Riders* by Veronica Rossi

DB86810 *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman

DB83873 *The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner

BR21806, DB86028, LP26022 *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

DB87022 *This is Our Story* by Ashley Elston

DB86706 *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake

Support our TBBL friends organization

The Jones Foundation acknowledges the following donor for his generous contributions:

George Hill

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 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
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.

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701 N. Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**

Special format library materials are loaned
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Supported in part by funding from the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

