

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. 23 No. 4

Fall 2023

Holiday Closings

Nov. 10 Veteran's Day
Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving
Dec. 25 Christmas

Louisiana Book Festival Set for Oct. 28th

The Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana is excited to announce the 19th Louisiana Book Festival on Saturday, October 28, 2023—9am to 4pm. The Louisiana Book Festival will be FREE and is held in downtown Baton Rouge at the Louisiana State Capitol and surrounding area. The Friday before the festival, October 27th, will also see the return of WordShops, writing workshops with major authors as instructors. For more information about the 2023 festival, see www.LouisianaBookFestival.org

New USPS Return Policy

Since the pandemic, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has instituted new policies for pickup of packages such as braille and digital books due to staff shortages, turnover, and seasonal workers.

Patrons can use an online form at <https://tools.usps.com/schedule-pickup-steps.htm> to schedule pickup of library materials or call 800-ASK-USPS (800-275-8777). This optional service could help improve the return of materials to the library.

Tips for Walk-In Users

Readers are always welcome to walk-in to the Talking Books and Braille Library to return materials and/or to pick up new ones.

Please help us serve you better by calling the TBBL at least two hours in advance of your arrival; this gives your reader adviser enough time to select and retrieve your materials and reduces the time you will spend waiting to pick up your items.

A mix of free and metered parking is available across from the library on North 4th Street and on Spanish Town Road. Visitors with handicap permits may park for free in the lot between the Iberville Building and the State Library; access is from North 3rd Street.

All visitors can park in the LaSalle Parking Garage located at 227 Main St.,

Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Parking may be validated at the State Library Circulation Desk with a license plate number.

To VALIDATE PARKING when PARKED in LASALLE GARAGE and visiting the State Library of Louisiana:

- Within 30 minutes of parking, open your camera or QR Reader App on your smart phone and scan the QR code posted at the Circulation or Reference desk.
- Click on the link to open ParkLync website.
- Enter password: OSL (in all caps)
- Enter license plate number and duration of stay.
- Click "Submit."

If you do not have a smartphone, please see the Circulation/Reference desk on the first floor for assistance.

Completion of 2023 Adult Summer Reading Program

The 2023 TBBL Adult Summer Reading Program is now complete. Thanks to you, our TBBL readers, it was a success! Over 160 TBBL patrons completed the program by reading 20 or more books. From these, 18 names were drawn to win one of our prizes: a Tel-Time Talking Key Chain. These prizes have been mailed to the home addresses of the winners. Special thanks to the Jones Foundation who generously paid for the Adult Summer Reading Program prizes.

New Title for BookTalks Discussion Group

Our BookTalks Fall Book Selection will be:

(DB 107538) *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

In the early 1960s, chemist Elizabeth Zott has a lot of challenges as the only woman on her team at Hastings Research Institute. She falls for colleague Calvin Evans, but the double standards of the day eventually have her looking for a new chapter outside academia, hosting a television cooking show.

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 advisor.

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. Thank you, and I hope to hear from you soon!

White Cane Day

The Capital City Council of the Blind is hosting a White Cane Day on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 3pm-5pm at the Baton Rouge Goodwood Library in room 102. Members will demonstrate how the blind and visually impaired maneuver using the white cane. Information and items will be displayed to help blind/visually impaired individuals. For more information, please call Doris Elbert at 225-952-9166 or email Herbert Reado at hersheal2@yahoo.com.

ABL State Convention 2023

This year the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, Inc. is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

The theme is "Celebrate Good Times!" The convention will be held at the Homewood Suites by Hilton – Lafayette Airport from November 10-12, 2023. Pre-registration will end Thursday, October 12, 2023. To register, visit:

<https://abltc.wufoo.com/forms/qx3w1ao1cs20hd/>

Please call the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana at 337-234-6492 if you have any questions.

It's Almost Time to Vote!

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 is the Primary Election and Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023 is the General Election.

The Louisiana Secretary of State has a 10 page publication called "Programs for Voters with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Nursing Home Residents". Here is a link to the PDF publication:

<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Pages/DisabledElderlyCitizens.aspx>

You can also call the Secretary of State's elections hotline at 800-883-2805 for more information.

Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. This new benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail in application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/ACP, or by calling 877-384-2575.

National Blindness Awareness Month

October is National Blindness Awareness Month, an initiative started to help the public understand the realities of visual impairment and how it affects the world population. According to recent

CDC data, approximately six million Americans have vision loss and one million have blindness.

Books by Blind Authors

In honor of the numerous courageous and talented blind men and women of our country, Sneha Padumane has compiled a bibliography of blind authors.

DB 96188 *Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law* by Haben Girma

The autobiography of the first deaf-blind graduate of Harvard Law School. Girma describes her childhood, world travels, development of a text-to-braille communication system, and time at Harvard Law, as well as the ways she uses her talents to advocate for those with disabilities.

DB 55883 *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller

The restored classic autobiography of an exceptional young woman and her companion, originally published in 1903, with 2003 commentary by editor Roger Shattuck. Helen Keller's own account of her transformation is followed by her teacher Anne Sullivan's record of their early years together and insights of Anne's husband, John Macy.

DB 32896 *Almost Like a Song* by Ronnie Milsap

Taken in by dirt-poor, but loving grandparents after his mother rejected him, Ronnie was soon sent off to a school for the blind. There, among other things, he learned discipline, determination, and

classical music--acquirements that shaped his boyhood, his career, and his success as a country music superstar. His inspiring story reveals little-known aspects of the music industry where he rose to the top.

DB 81198 *The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China* by Chen Guangcheng.

Chen grew up poor and blind in rural China, becoming an activist on behalf of disability rights. He was imprisoned by the Chinese government for four years, and he and his family were under house arrest until his daring escape to the American embassy in 2012.

DB 45500 *Planet of the Blind* by Stephen Kuusisto

Although legally blind since birth, Kuusisto passed as sighted for more than 30 years. He describes his refracted visual perceptions and how pretending to see actually interfered with his participation in the sighted world. Then, by using a white cane and, eventually, a guide dog, he experienced new acceptance and mobility.

DB 16618 *Brother Ray: Ray Charles' Own Story* by Ray Charles

Candid autobiography of the musician who was born black and poor in the Deep South, became blind as a small boy and was orphaned as a teenager. At 32 he was acclaimed as a musical genius.

DB 16597 *Face to Face* by Ved Mehta

The highly successful author, who has been blind since the age of three, tells what it was like to grow up in a cultured, but not wealthy, Hindu family in the Punjab, at Rawalpindi, Simla, and Bombay.

He describes the terror of the Muslim-Hindu riots at Lahore during partition and his college life in the United States.

DB 105634 *Being Seen: One Deafblind Woman's Fight to End Ableism* by Elsa Sjunneson

In this memoir, award-winning author Elsa Sjunneson, who identifies as Deafblind, discusses growing up and living in an ableist world. Sjunneson, also a professor and activist, explores how the misrepresentation of disability in books, movies, and TV harms both the disabled community and everyone else.

DB 16674 *Ordinary Daylight: Portrait of an Artist Going Blind* by Andrew Potok.

Potok, scion of the Maximilian furs family as well as a painter of note, describes with humor his attempts to delay the effects of retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited, progressive, eye disease. Potok relates with comic effect his supposed "cure" with bee-sting therapy in London, and shares his concerns for his marriage and for his daughter, who also bears the genetic defect.

DB 75761 *Do You Dream in Color: Insights from a Girl without Sight* by Laurie Rubin.

Rubin, a blind mezzo-soprano opera singer born with perfect pitch and Leber's Amaurosis--a disease that prevents the retina from developing-- recounts her idyllic California childhood learning to read braille, use a cane, and taking voice lessons. Highlights her struggles getting roles because of her disability.

Books and Beyond: A Section for Children and Teens

Summer Reading 2023

The Summer Reading theme for 2023 was "**All Together Now**," focusing on kindness, friendship, and unity. Congratulations to our 95 readers who participated this year. Those who completed the program received a T-shirt, various games, and a certificate of achievement. Thanks to the Jones Foundation for making this an excellent Summer!

2023-2024 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominees

The 2023-2024 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 four categories: grades K-2, Grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and Teen Readers' Choice for grades 9-12. Students read from the nominated titles during 2023 and 2024 and vote on their favorite by May 1, 2024. To qualify, students must be from Louisiana and have read three of the titles in the appropriate grade category for grades K 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 K-2

LP 27330 *Are You a Cheeseburger?* by Monica Arnaldo

LP 27327 *Blue Floats Away* by Travis Jonker

LP 27340 *The Capybaras* by Alfredo Soderguit

LP 27324 *Chez Bob* by Bob Shea
DB102886 *Doggo and Pupper* by Katherine Applegate
LP 27337 *Hardly Haunted* by Jessie Sima
LP 27363 *Kraken Me Up* by Jeffrey Ebbeler
BR023755, DB112504, LP 27320 *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho
LP 27329 *Home for a While* by Lauren H. Kerstein
DB111065, LP 27367 *I Don't Want to Read this Book* by Max Greenfield
LP 27323 *Ruby's Reunion Day Dinner* by Angela Dalton
DBC24417, LP 27334 *Invasion of the Unicorns* by David Biedrzycki
LP 27325 *I Am the Shark* by Joan Holub
DB107571, LP 27335 *Someone Builds the Dream* by Lisa Wheeler

Grades 3-5

DB104348 *Allergic* by Megan Wagner Lloyd
DB103410 *Stella* by McCall Hoyle
DB102922 *Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom* by Matthew Swanson
BR 24035, DB106182 *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll
DB106148, LP 27395 *Leonard (My Life as a Cat)* by Carlie Sorosiak
DB104294 *The Floating Field* by Scott Riley
DBC09750 *Let Liberty Rise!* by Chana Stiefel
BR 24062, DB103572 *Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued* by Peter Sís

Grades 6-8

DB104750 *Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year* by Nina Hamza
DB103107 *The Chance to Fly* by Ali Stroker
DB105732, LP 27298 *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca
BR 24096, DB102975, LP 27361 *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps
DBC24415 *Worst-Case Collin* by Rebecca Caprara
BR 23967, DB105729, DB114174 (Spanish), LP 27359 *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera
BR 23699, DB102312, LP 27358 *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston
BR 23949, DB104923, LP 27429 *Black Boy Joy* by Kwame Mbalia
BR 23998, DB105841 *The Curse of the Mummy* by Candace Fleming

Grades 9-12

DB103433 *Indivisible* by Daniel Aleman
DB105733 *Kneel* by Candace Buford
DB103178 *One of the Good Ones* by Maika and Maritza Moulite
DB103616 *Perfectly Parvin* by Olivia Abtahi
DB105815 *Any Sign of Life* by Rae Carson
BR 24040, DB102762, LP 27358 *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
DB102984 *House of Hollow* by Krystal Sutherland

Support our TBBL friends organization

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

Mr. and Mrs. 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 state-wide. 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.

State Library of Louisiana
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**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

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