

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. 1

Winter 2023

Holiday closings

December 23-26 Christmas
December 30 New Year's
January 2 New Year's
January 16 MLK Day
February 21 Mardi Gras

Braille calendars

Don't forget to get your new calendar! The library no longer sends out the braille calendar; however, you can still get one, free of charge, from the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. Contact them by email at actionfund@actionfund.org or by phone at 410.659.9315.

Braille Hard Copy Books

The National Library Service (NLS) is offering a Braille-on-Demand pilot program, allowing active NLS patrons to request and receive one hard-copy braille title per month, which they can keep. Titles are limited to books available on BARD. Patrons may contact Reader Advisors for assistance or complete the request form themselves at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand>.

Mark Your Calendars!

Pam Allen with the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana invites you to attend their 2023 annual state convention which will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge from April 14 - 16.

For more information, please contact Pam at 800-234-4166 or by email at pallen@louisianacenter.org.

Historical Marker Placed at Southern University

To commemorate the founding of a segregated School for the Blind and Deaf for black children on the campus of Southern University in October 1922, Southern University dedicated a historical marker on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022.

TBBL Patron Shirley Barber Colbert, an alumna from the original Southern School for the Blind, was interviewed in *The Advocate* newspaper by James Wilkins. Mrs. Colbert said in the article that the marker is a reminder of the difficulties black blind and deaf students faced during segregation.

Sneha Announces New Title for BookTalks

Our BookTalks Winter Book Selection will be:

Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik.
DB 91647

When her moneylender father can no longer collect his debts, Miryem takes over and earns a reputation of being able to turn silver into gold. This draws the attention of the icy Staryk people, whose king sets her an impossible task. Luckily, she finds some unexpected allies.

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.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Braille NBA Schedules

Braille 2022-2023 NBA schedules are in. Call your Reader Advisor if you would like one mailed to you.

Search for Board Members

The Jones Foundation is seeking board members. The board meets three times a year in Baton Rouge. Call Shelia Coleman at 225-342-0035 if you would like to be considered for a board position. The Jones Foundation directly supplements the programs and initiatives of the 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.

Winter Book Recommendations Featuring Books by Blind or Visually Impaired Authors

by Sneha Padumane

(DB 31889) *Paradise Lost* by John Milton.

An epic poem using the fall of mankind and the story of Paradise lost and sought for in the life of man as its main theme. Richly elaborate symbolism is employed in describing Satan's battle with God, descent to Hell, and his seduction of Adam and Eve.

(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 104014) *There Plant Eyes: A Personal and Cultural History of Blindness* by M. Leona Godin.

A history of blindness across art, literature, and culture, exploring how blindness has been used throughout time as a metaphor for both ignorance and transcendence. Through detailed analysis and autobiographical examples, the author presents connections to the science of blindness, accessibility developments, and humanity's larger understanding of the world.

(DB 97815) *I Can't See You, I'm Deaf* by Woody Livingston.

Historian reflects on entering school again at the age of sixty-four to obtain both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in fine arts. Discusses reactions from other students, interactions with instructors, learning to be an artist, and defining her own goals for the future.

(DB 106263) *Blind Man's Bluff* by James Tate Hill.

The author reflects on his experiences as a blind man. In particular, he discloses the tricks he employed for fifteen years to trick those around him and pass as sighted. He describes the road to finally embracing a different way of life.

(DB 97393) *Midwives* by Laurie Alice Eakes.

Three novels of inspirational historical romance, written between 2011 and 2013, about midwives in nineteenth-century Virginia. In *Lady in the Mist*, midwife Tabitha Eckles meets a British nobleman working as an indentured servant. Also includes *Heart's Safe Passage* and *Choices of the Heart*.

(DB 33014) *Touching the Rock* by John M. Hull.

In 1983, after about three years as "a sighted person who could not see," Hull made the transition to being blind. He began to keep a journal--recording his reactions to what delighted or puzzled him, and his thoughts about his relationships, his job as a university lecturer, his dreams, his self-image, his faith, his anguish, and his eventual acceptance of his blindness.

(DB 105634) *Being Seen: One Deaf-blind Woman's Fight to End Ableism* by Elsa Sjunneson.

In this memoir, award-winning author Elsa Sjunneson, who identifies as Deaf-blind, 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.

(DBC 6375) *Selections from Across Two Novembers: A Year in the Life of a Blind Bibliophile* by David Faucheux.

An autobiography filled with friends, family, hobbies, history and more as David Faucheux shares one year of his life through a journal.

(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.

BARD Mobile for iOS update improves search

Version 2.0 of the BARD Mobile for iOS app replaces the "BARD Website" option within the app with a new and powerful search engine. If you do not have the automatic BARD Mobile updates, you will need to go to the App Store to enable the update. Once installed, BARD Mobile 2.0 for iOS allows users to search by keyword, title, author, or annotation and receive reliable results. Additionally, version 2.0 fixes problems with rewind controls, side-loading books, and downloading and reading non-ASCII foreign language book titles.

To conduct a search in BARD Mobile 2.0, choose the Search option at the top of the Get Books screen, just above Wish List. Keyword is the default search type, and Audio is the default format, but you can change these settings. To access

options such as Download and viewing other books by the same author with VoiceOver, touch the title of interest, flick up or down to the desired choice, and double-tap. If you don't use VoiceOver, select the More Info button to the right of the title, and then choose either Download, Add to Wish List, or More Actions.

The new Search option on iOS version 2.0 does not return non-English titles. Patrons searching for non-English titles should continue to use the BARD website to find and add titles to their Wish Lists for downloading.

Updates to BARD Mobile for Android app

NLS released two updates to the BARD Mobile for Android app in September.

Version 1.4.5 added many new features, including the ability to pause and resume downloads, sort and search capabilities in Bookshelves and the various Get Book lists, the ability to delete books from Wish List, a new More Info book details screen, and a new Settings tab with new settings for the User Account and Audio Settings pages.

Version 1.4.6 addressed bugs and stabilized performance.

If you do not have the automatic BARD Mobile updates, you will need to go to the BARD Mobile entry in the Google Play Store to enable the updates. BARD Mobile users can confirm that they are running the latest version by checking the bottom of the app's Settings screen.

Books and Beyond
A Section for Children and Teens

2022 White Cane Celebrations



Daniel Mincey, Caitlyn LeBlanc, Brianna Frickey, and Lakyn Ward Guest enjoy White Cane Day.

LSVI celebrated White Cane Day at Baton Rouge’s Town Square on October 12. Attendees participated in many activities including a picnic, cane travel awareness education, and a scavenger hunt. During the festivities, special secret guests Daniel Mincey and Lakyn Ward Guest from the Saints Cheer Krewe surprised students.

In Marrero, the Louisiana Council of the Blind held its White Cane Awareness Day celebration on Saturday, October 15. Activities included blind-fold white cane travel and a pizza party. Local children were really excited about the

pizza and trying to walk using the white cane.

A white cane is an important mobility tool for blind people, and it’s the symbol of their independence, as it ensures their ability to come and go on their own. In 2011, President Barack Obama proclaimed White Cane Safety Day as Blind Americans Equality Day. White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States.



Daniel Mincey dances with Brianna from LSVI



LCB member Gwen King gets ready to pass out pizza.



WCD attendees practice white cane travel blindfolded.

New Scholarship Opportunities in 2023

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 between \$3,000 and \$12,000. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service and leadership.

Each winner will receive assistance to attend the 2023 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention scheduled to take place July 1-6, 2023 in Houston, Texas. Application deadline is March 31, 2023.

For more information, email scholarships@nfb.org or call 410.659.9314, extension 2415, or write to:

NFB Scholarship Program, National Federation of the Blind, 200 East Wells St. at Jernigan Place, Baltimore, MD 21230.

Famous Authors Visit LSVI

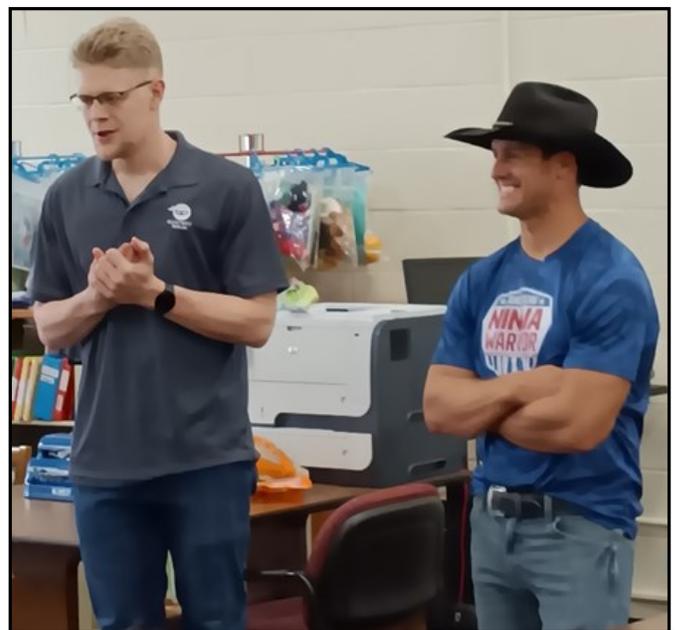
Bestselling novelists Lance Pekus, also known as “Cowboy Ninja” on the NBC competition show *American Ninja Warrior*, and Jesse Haynes visited the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired and spoke to students in the school’s library.

They have co-written *The Ninja Games: The Warrior Within*, which kicks off a new mystery adventure series featuring a teen hero who is both an experienced rock climber and obstacle course competitor facing dangerous mysteries that

require his skills to overcome. The authors discussed their inspiration for the novel, how each contributed to the writing, and how to develop writing skills.

Many of the students revealed they are currently writing stories, and have a great interest in further developing the craft.

Some students are fans of obstacle course competitions and asked Lance about his time on *American Ninja Warrior*. In town for the 2022 Louisiana Book Festival, Jesse and Lance were available throughout the week for school visits and on Saturday during the festival for audience questions. Both authors said their visit to LSVI was especially enjoyable and that they would love to return next year. All of the students asked a variety of questions and were very engaged.



Jesse Haynes and Lance Pekus

Support our TBBL friends organization

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

David Pugh and Cynthia L. Simpson

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.

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

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State Library of Louisiana

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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