

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. 1

Winter 2024

Holiday Closings

Jan. 1 - 2 New Year's Day
Jan. 15 MLK Day
Feb. 13 Mardi Gras

Braille Literacy Month

January is Braille Literacy Month! Here are some links to great Braille resources:

Teaching Braille to Young Children

<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/teaching-braille-young-children/>

Braille Chart for Sighted Classmates Learning Braille Visually

<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/braille-chart-sighted-classmates-learning-braille-visually/>

Free Braille Books

<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resource/sources-free-braille-books/>

More Braille Resources:

<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/celebrate-braille-literacy-month/>

Medicare & You Handbook 2024

If you would like this handbook in Braille, audio, or large print, here are the links and contact information to find them:

Medicare & You in Braille – Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Medicare & You Audio CD

English or Spanish – Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).
TTY: 1-877-486-2048.

MP3 Audio Files

<https://www.medicare.gov/pub/medicare-you-handbook-audio>

Medicare & You - Large Print

<https://www.medicare.gov/publications/10050-LE-medicare-and-you.pdf>

If you have questions, please contact CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) directly at powsupport@cms.hhs.gov.

BookTalks News

TBBL is happy to announce that we will be hosting a video meeting (similar to Zoom) that you can join to virtually discuss our BookTalks book. This video meeting will be in addition to the normal email discussion.

Our BookTalks Winter Book Selection is:

DB 112960 / *I Have Some Questions For You* by Rebecca Makkai.

A successful film professor and podcaster, Bodie Kane is content to forget her past—the family tragedy that marred her adolescence, her four largely miserable years at a New Hampshire boarding school, and the 1995 murder of a classmate, Thalia Keith. Though the circumstances surrounding Thalia's death and the conviction of the school's athletic trainer, Omar Evans, are the subject of intense fascination online, Bodie prefers—needs—to let sleeping dogs lie. But when The Granby School invites her back to teach a two-week course, Bodie finds herself inexorably drawn to the case and its increasingly apparent flaws. In their rush to convict Omar, did the school and the police overlook other suspects? Is the real killer still out there?

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.

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!

Baton Rouge CATS Launches ADA Program and Breaks Ground for ADA Accessible Bus Stop

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS) proudly introduces its ADA Program, 'All Stop Access Program (ASAP),' and commences the construction of ADA-accessible bus stops. CATS is committed to ensuring that all 1,500 bus stops in Baton Rouge and Baker become ADA accessible over the next decade. Call CATS On Demand at 225-346-5557 to find out about special transportation service for persons with disabilities.

Don't Miss the Gumbalaya Cookoff

The annual Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Gumbalaya Cook-off will be Saturday January 27, 2024 starting at 1:00 PM.

This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10 for adults. Children 12 and under are free. The cook-off will be held in Lafayette at 409 West St. Mary Blvd. near the UL Campus. For more infor-

mation, contact Blanche Faulk at blanchefaulk@gmail.com, or call 337-234-6492.

Winter Book Recommendations

Sneha Padumane

DB 114591 *The Old Lion: A Novel of Theodore Roosevelt* by Jeff Shaara

Jeff Shaara brings to life one of the most consequential figures in U.S. history—Theodore Roosevelt—peeling back the many-layered history of the man and the country he personified. From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, from the waning days of the rugged frontier of a young country to the emergence of a modern, industrial nation exerting its power on the world stage, Theodore Roosevelt embodied both the myth and reality of the country he loved and led.

DB 109598 *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy: A Novel* by Jamie Ford

Dorothy Moy breaks her own heart for a living. As Washington's former poet laureate, that is how she describes channeling her dissociative episodes and mental health struggles into her art. But when her five-year-old daughter exhibits similar behavior and begins remembering things from the lives of their ancestors, Dorothy believes the past has truly come to haunt her.

DB 109032 *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin

Sam Masur and Sadie Green, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, *Ichigo*. Overnight, the world is

theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts. Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond.

DB 113846 *Becoming Trader Joe: How I Did Business My Way and Still Beat the Big Guys* by Joe Coulombe and Patty Civalleri

Build an iconic shopping experience that your customers love—and a work environment that your employees love being a part of—using this blueprint from Trader Joe's visionary founder.

DB 114579 *The Trial* by Robert Whitlow

Attorney Kent 'Mac' MacClain has nothing left to live for. Nine years after the horrific accident that claimed the life of his wife and two sons, he's finally given up. And then the phone rings. A beautiful heiress has been found dead at the bottom of a ravine. The accused killer, Peter Thomason, needs a lawyer. The evidence pointing to Thomason's guilt seems insurmountable. Is Mac defending an ingenious psychopath, or has Thomason been framed?

DB 113839 *Song of the Nile* by Stephanie Dray

Cleopatra's daughter seeks the power to stand against an empire... Having survived her childhood as a royal captive of Rome, Selene has pledged her loyalty to Emperor Augustus, swearing to become his very own Cleopatra.

Even though she is forced to marry a man of the emperor's choosing, Selene will not allow her new husband to rule in her name. Selene beguiles her way to power with the goal of taking back her birthright. But the price of winning back her mother's Egyptian throne may be more than she's willing to pay.

DB 114966 *Elizabeth & Margaret: The Intimate World of the Windsor Sisters* by Andrew Morton

When their uncle Edward VIII decided to abdicate the throne, the dynamic between sisters Elizabeth and Margaret was dramatically altered. Forever more Margaret would have to curtsy to the sister she called 'Lilibet.' And bow to her wishes. Elizabeth would always look upon her younger sister's antics with a kind of stoical amusement, but Margaret's struggle to find a place and position inside the royal system—and her fraught relationship with its expectations—was often a source of tension. From the idyll of their cloistered early life, through their hidden war-time lives, into the divergent paths they took following their father's death and Elizabeth's ascension to the throne, this book explores their relationship over the years. Andrew Morton's latest biography offers unique insight into these two drastically different sisters—one resigned to duty and responsibility, the other resistant to it—and the lasting impact they have had on the Crown, the royal family, and the ways it adapted to the changing mores of the 20th century.

DB 114002 *Forfeit* by Dick Francis
Dick Francis, the bestselling master of mystery and suspense, takes you into

the thrilling world of horse racing. When reporter Bert Chekov falls to his death, his colleague James Tyrone is suspicious. Chekov's column had recently recommended some 'can't-lose' horses, who then wound up out of the running on race day. Tyrone thinks he can prove it was murder, but he may not live to tell the tale. Because as the dead man has already made clear, there's no such thing as a sure thing.

DB 112884 *The Amish Quilter* by Leslie Gould and Mindy Starns

Linda Mueller lives an orderly, uneventful existence, content to divide her time between creating the beautiful quilts for which she is known and working at an English fabric shop. Idealistic to a fault, Linda has never found a man worth marrying—until she meets Isaac Mast, a newcomer to Lancaster County and a talented painter. As they bond over their respective crafts, Linda is drawn to Isaac's kind ways, humble spirit, and intriguing personality, and soon the seams of her carefully constructed world begin to loosen.

DB 113764 *Backrush: A Tempest Island Novel, Book 1* by Jana DeLeon

Tempest Island has weathered the worst of storms and still stands proud, providing its residents with the healing power of the sea and sun. When Alayna Scott's life falls spectacularly apart, both professionally and personally, the executive chef's only thought is getting back home to the island and her aunt Bea. Between the two, she hopes to put the past behind her and figure out how to move forward. After being injured during a mission, Navy SEAL Luke Ryan is at a

crossroads concerning his future and recognizes that his new neighbor is on a similar journey.

DB 114558 *Cosmos: Possible Worlds* by Ann Druyan

This new and long-awaited sequel to Carl Sagan's international bestseller continues the electrifying journey through space and time, linking worlds within and worlds billions of miles away and envisioning a future of science tempered with wisdom. Ann Druyan documents where humanity has been and where it is going, using her unique gift of bringing complex scientific concepts to life. This breathtaking sequel to Sagan's masterpiece explains how we humans can glean a new understanding of consciousness here on Earth and out in the cosmos—again reminding us that our planet is a pale blue dot in an immense universe of possibility.

DB 112081 *The Penguin Book of Gaslight Crime: Con Artists, Burglars, Rogues, and Scoundrels from the Time of Sherlock Holmes* by Michael Sims

Take a trip back to a time when criminals armed themselves with wit rather than with guns, and the pinnacle of crime-fighting technology was represented by Sherlock Holmes's magnifying glass. The best crime fiction from the gaslight era is gathered here into a single volume. All the legendary thieves are present—from Colonel Clay to Get Rich Quick Wallingford—burgling London and Paris, conning New York and Ostend, and laughing all the way to the bank. Also featured are stories by distinguished writers from outside the mystery and detective genres, including Sinclair Lewis, Arnold Bennett, and William Hope Hodgson.

Books and Beyond: A Section for Children and Teens

New Scholarship Opportunities in 2024

NFB Scholarships

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 scholarships worth between \$3,000 and \$12,000.

Each winner will receive assistance to attend the 2024 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention. The convention is scheduled for July 3-8 in Orlando, Florida. The application deadline is March 30, 2024. For more information, email scholarships@nfb.org or call 410-659-9314, at extension 2415, or write to: NFB Scholarship Program, National Federation of the Blind, 200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place, Baltimore, MD 21230.

Louisiana Scholarship Information for 2024

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. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 18, 2024. Winners will be notified prior to the NFBL state convention in Baton Rouge, April 19-21. For current information, and to receive an application, contact: Treva Olivero, Chairperson NFBL Scholarship Committee; 101 South Trenton Street; Ruston, LA 71270, phone: 800-234-4166, email: tolivero@louisianacenter.org, or email scholarships@nfbla.org

Blind Grace, a non-profit organization serving the Louisiana blind community, is offering two \$400 scholarships to graduating seniors in Louisiana. The deadline to apply is May 5, 2024. Applications are available through blindgrace.net. For more information, contact Blanche Faulk at blanchefaulk@gmail.com

The Louisiana Council of the Blind is offering two \$1000 scholarships, the Vernon Daigle Award and the Paula Marshall Scholarship. The deadline to apply is April 24, 2024. The scholarship recipients will be announced May 25' during the LCB convention at the Holiday Inn Towers in Gretna. For more information and to receive an application, contact Gwendolyn King at 225-247-8748, or by email hersheal2@yahoo.com or Gwendolynking55@gmail.com

Statewide Braille Challenge

Dates for the 2024 statewide Braille Challenge are Thursday, February 8, at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired in Baton Rouge, and Saturday, February 24, at the Louisiana Center for the Blind in Ruston.

Louisiana – Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) collaborates with the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired to host the yearly event. Students from all over Louisiana compete and test on fundamental Braille skills such as reading comprehension, spelling, speed, accuracy, proofreading, charts, and graphs.

The five score categories include Apprentice, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. For more information contact La-AEM Director, Robin King at robin@ssdla-aem.org 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 11-13, 2024. The event will include performing arts along with track and field events. For more information, call 225-757-3481.

LSVI Family Fun Day and Run

Blind Grace is hosting the Family Fun Day and Run on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The event will be held at the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana located at 409 West St. Mary Boulevard in Lafayette. Families can come out and enjoy the festivities for free. There will be ponies, a petting zoo, fun jump, cake-walk and games. The race starts at 8:00 AM and race registration is \$25. Go to blindgrace.net to register.

For more information, contact Blanche Faulk at 225-757-3489, or email blanchefaulk@gmail.com

Introducing APH Braille Brain!

This free, self-paced curriculum helps people who already have literacy skills learn braille at their own pace through 21 units starting with the basics of Braille. No account is needed to access the lessons. More information is available at <https://braillebrain.aptech.org>

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 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
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State Library of Louisiana

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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