



## **Summer 2020 Talking Times Newsletter**

That All May Read

Rhode Island Regional Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

### **Talking Books Library**

**Office of Library and Information Services**

olis.ri.gov/tbl / 401-574-9310 TTY 711 / talking.books@olis.ri.gov

### **Coronavirus – COVID19**

The RI Department of Health (RIDOH) wants all residents to have up to date information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Find up to date information at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>. Being an informed citizenry, will help keep us all safe. Early data suggest that older adults are twice as likely to experience serious COVID-19 illness. RIDOH is reiterating CDC's guidance for people older than 60 years of age: avoid close contact with people who are sick and be sure you have over-the-counter medicines and medical supplies (tissues, etc.) to treat fever and other symptoms. Most people will be able to recover from COVID-19 at home. Pay attention for potential COVID-19 symptoms including, fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you feel like you are developing symptoms, call your doctor. More information is available from Centers for Disease Control Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov>.

### **Talking Books Library Response to the Coronavirus**

The Talking Books Library (TBL) staff began working from home in mid-March per Governor Gina Raimondo's executive order to slow the curve of the virus through teleworking and physical distancing. To that end, the TBL staff have taken up their computers and other electronic

devices to create a work space from home, so that we can continue to provide our members with materials. Perkins School for the Blind was also ordered to close on March 24<sup>th</sup>, but has re-opened as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Materials and equipment can be returned and shipped out to our members. The Talking Books Library and its members were fortunate to have the assistance of the Multi-State Center West in Utah to provide materials to our members while Perkins was closed. At the time of this writing, there is no way for us to know exactly how things will progress over the coming months, but please rest assured knowing that the Talking Books Library will continue to provide services and materials to members. We check voicemail and emails daily, and will answer your calls to 401-574-9310 as well as emails to [talking.books@olis.ri.gov](mailto:talking.books@olis.ri.gov). If you have access to a computer or the internet, you will find updates about the talking book service by going to <https://olis.ri.gov/tbl>. We thank you for your patience, and are hopeful that all things will return to normal soon. Please take care and stay safe.

## **Census 2020**

Starting in mid-March, letters were sent out to households around the country inviting them to respond to the 2020 Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)). If you have not already responded, it's not too late as the Census has been extended through October 2020. You can respond to the Census online or by regular mail or phone. If you haven't responded yet, and do not live in group quarters such as a nursing home or assisted living, you may receive a visit from a Census worker to gather your information, starting in August. Why should you respond? Well, Census results play a large part in determining how

governments at all levels allocate hundreds of billions of dollars for services that communities rely on. But some groups of people, including those who are blind or disabled, historically have been undercounted. Currently \$3.8 billion comes into RI for infrastructure, programs and services based on the 2010 Census. We at the RI Talking Books Library want to make sure all our patrons are counted – don't miss this chance to help shape RI and our future! If you have questions about the Census, we're here to help. Contact us via email at [talking.books@olis.ri.gov](mailto:talking.books@olis.ri.gov) or call us at (401)574-9310.

### **Accessible Voting Act 2020**

The Accessible Voting Act was introduced by Senators Bob Casey (Ranking Member – U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging) and Amy Klobuchar (Ranking Member – U.S. Senate Committee on Rules & Administration) January 2020. Only 17 percent of polling places were fully accessible in 2016. To obtain information on voting assistance, registration deadlines and the voting process, visit [Vote411](#). Learn more about the Accessible Voting Act at <https://tinyurl.com/u6kz4kc> and make sure your vote is counted in this election.

### **Summer Reading Program**

Summer Reading programs across the state are happening virtually for the most part, due to COVID19. Below are 5 adult titles related to this year's summer reading theme, Imagine Your Story: Fantasy, Fairy Tales and Mythology.

You may check your local library's website to receive additional information about summer reading.

**Mythos: The Greek Myths Retold** by Stephen Fry (DB97936)

Comedian, novelist, and actor provides his own spin on the classic Greek myths for the modern age. Retells the stories of the titans and gods as a light account of ribaldry, revelry, warfare, worship, love affairs, slayings, suicides, triumphs, and tragedies. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

**Spinning Silver** by Naomi Novik (DB91647)

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. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

**The Rise of Magicks** by Nora Roberts (DB97567)

After a plague destroyed civilization, Fallon worked to train her magick. She has rescued countless shifters, elves, and humans, and now must help them heal while facing off against the Purity Warriors. Sequel to *Of Blood and Bone* (DB 93358). Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2019.

**The Water Dancer** by Ta-Nehisi Coates (DB96729)

Born into bondage, Hiram Walker is robbed of all memory of his mother when she is sold. But Hiram is blessed with a mysterious power. This power saves him when he almost drowns, and he knows he must escape the only life he has ever known. Violence. Historical Fiction. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

## **The Winter of the Witch** by Katherine Arden (DB93503)

Vasya will uncover surprising truths about herself and her history as she desperately tries to save Russia, Morozko, and the magical world she treasures. But she may not be able to save them all. Sequel to *The Girl in the Tower* (DB 89951). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

## **Rhode Island Collection**

The Talking Books Library has prepared a list of books for the RI Collection and will begin recording titles as soon as possible; the project has been temporarily delayed due to closures caused by the coronavirus. Using donations sent in by members, their family and friends, the RI Collection will feature books with stories that take place in RI, books about well-known RI residents and books by RI authors that will have enduring value. Your donations will allow us to continue building the collection of local interest. To make a donation, send check or money order payable to the RI Talking Books Library and mail to the RI Office of Library & Information Services, Talking Books Library, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Your donations are greatly appreciated and are used solely for the purchase of materials for the Talking Books Library. Donations are accepted in memory of a loved one, family member or to honor an individual. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let us know in an accompanying note.

## **Duplication on Demand**

In the near future, the Talking Books Program will serve patrons with a great new service called Duplication on Demand (DoD). It will allow you to get almost any book that is available on BARD right away. When you

order books, or when automatic selection orders books for you, they are recorded on a cartridge and sent to you within a day or two (provided you don't already have a full quota.) Of course, if you have other requests on your list, you'll need to tell us if you want new requests first. Otherwise, our automated service may send older requests before the new ones. Using DoD, there's no waiting for other patrons to return a copy; all downloadable books are always available. DoD puts up to 10 books on one cartridge, but you don't need to be able to use Bookshelf, because new programming has simplified the way you move from book to book. You can also get a whole series put on one cartridge – in series order—just let us know if there's one you would like. We've heard from a number of patrons who love receiving multiple books on a single cartridge – try it today!

### **BARD Braille and Audio Reading Download**

If you do not have a BARD account, you probably realize, since the COVID-19 crisis, how invaluable BARD is. When you cannot receive materials via the U.S. mail, BARD is there to fill the gap. All you need is an email account. You, a family member or caregiver can download books on a computer and then onto your cartridge, or you could have books downloaded to your mobile device (iPhone, iPad, iOS and Android devices or Kindle fire). Just contact the Talking Books Library staff via email or phone to let them know that you would like a BARD account.

### **2019 Member Survey Results**

Many of you completed the TBL member survey this past fall and we thought you might be interested in the results. The majority of TBL

members are referred to our program through RI State Services for the Blind, In-Sight or a caregiver/family or friend. More than 50% responded that they prefer to communicate with TBL Staff via Phone, 36% by Email and 13% by U.S. Mail. 73% of survey respondents stated, they have access to a computer and the internet. Responses for device(s) members used to listen to TBL audiobooks and magazines include: 64% Talking Book Player, 24% IOS (Apple) device, 9% Android device, 3% Victor Reader Stream. Over 90% of respondents said that we provide excellent service, and their needs are always met. 73% of the survey responses came from members between the ages of 65 and 98.

### **Do You Have More Than 1 Machine??**

If you have more than 1 machine, please keep the one that works best for you and return the other machine to Perkins. If you have an older machine (cassette player), please return it to Perkins. Cassette tapes are no longer issued. The National Library Service allows 1 machine per member, and would run short of machines to distribute to new members if old or damaged machines are not returned and repaired. If you have questions, please email us at [talking.books@olis.ri.gov](mailto:talking.books@olis.ri.gov), or call (401)574-9310.

### **Return Your Newsletter and Magazine Cartridges**

Please remember to return your newsletter and magazine cartridges when you are done, so that you can receive the next issue.

RI TALKING BOOKS LIBRARY  
OFFICE OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES  
ONE CAPITOL HILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5803

Postage  
Free  
Matter  
for the  
Blind

---

August 10, 2020 – Victory Day  
September 7, 2020 – Labor Day  
October 12, 2020 – Columbus Day  
November 3, 2020 - Election Day  
November 11, 2020 - Veterans Day



This publication is supported by the

***Institute of Museum and Library Services*** through the  
***Library Services and Technology Act*** administered by the  
***Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services.***