



Winter 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

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Talking Books Library Update

Through this difficult time of the coronavirus (COVID) pandemic, the Talking Books Library staff have continued to provide full services to our members, and will continue to reach out to those who may be eligible for this program. If you know of someone who may qualify for the talking books program, please spread the word. Talking books have been a lifesaver for many who have been shut-in due to the coronavirus situation. With the added benefit of the Braille and Audio Reading Download Program (BARD), so many of you have told us how this program has made all the difference in the world to you, as we all wait for this terrible crisis to end. Please continue to make your requests known to us by calling (401)574-9310 or by emailing us at talking.books@olis.ri.gov, and know that we do get your messages and emails and will respond as soon as possible. In the coming weeks, we will institute a new telephone system (same phone number) that will enable us to answer more of your calls directly. Our services will continue as usual, with strict safety precautions in place to keep our staff and the materials we ship to you safe. Please take care and be safe.

NLS Collections...Did You Know?

The Talking Books Library is part of the National Library Service for the

Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). The NLS collection contains more than 281,000 books in physical format, of which more than 74,000 are braille books or braille music scores and 207,000 are talking books on cartridge. Currently 47 audio and 39 braille magazine titles, selected for the program based on reader interest, are available through NLS by subscription. Other magazines are available on [BARD](#), Braille and Audio Reading Download. Readers may subscribe to such titles as *People*, *National Geographic*, and *Consumer Reports* in audio and *ESPN: The Magazine* and the *New York Times Large Print Weekly* in braille. A variety of magazines for children are also available. BARD contains more than 115,000 book titles for download, 70 digital audio magazine titles, and 53 ebraille magazine titles, with new materials added regularly. The NLS music collection, which is the largest of its kind in the world, contains musical scores, instrumental instruction and histories of performers and composers in braille, audio and large print format with approximately 25,000 titles. Let the TBL staff know if you wish to subscribe to the NLS Music Collection.

Now Accepting Electronic Signatures on Applications

Beginning January 2021, the National Library Service will begin allowing electronic signatures for certifying authority on talking books applications. If all relevant information is complete i.e. name, title, organization, full address, phone number, email address and date, the certifying authority may sign the application online with an electronic signature. This will allow the easy transfer of applications via email, scan etc. to avoid the delays of US mail.

New Eligibility and Certifying Authority

Now, it is even easier for eligible individuals to sign up for talking books. As of January 1, 2021, a reading disability can be certified by school psychologists, special education teachers and medical doctors on an individual's application for the talking books program. Previously, the signature of a medical doctor was required to certify a reading disability.

DB Numbers Reach 6 Digits

The National Library Service has just recently begun using 6-digit numbers for the talking books program to add new book titles to the collection. All new titles will now contain 6 digits. These new book numbers will show up in the online catalog, but may still be in process. We are hopeful that all books over the number 99,000 will be available and ready for loan shortly. If you have recently requested or ordered a book with a number above 99,000, and have not received it yet, it may still be in process. Please let the TBL staff know if you have been waiting for a book with a number over 99,000 for over 2 weeks.

BARD: When You Cannot Receive Mail

If you live in an assisted living facility or nursing home, we understand how difficult it can be to get mail and continue your reading, while coronavirus causes these locations to isolate all residents for safety reasons. The BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) program allows you to download books from a computer, so that you can continue to read without having to wait for mail. Your Activities Director, family member or friend can help you get your books from BARD within minutes. Ask the staff at your place of residence, or a family member or friend for help, or call the Talking Books Library at (401)574-9310.

Have You Returned All of the Books You Are Done Reading?

If you have materials that you are done reading, please remember to turn the card over on the item and place in the US mail, or hand it to your postal worker for return. If you notice that there are items checked out on your account, that you have already returned some time ago, please let the TBL staff know so that we may correct the information on your account. When you reach your maximum number for books checked out, you will no longer receive books until some books on your account are checked in.

Ho Ho Holiday Reading Selections

An Amish Christmas Bakery by Amy Clipston (DB 97253)

Four popular writers of Amish romance present stories that take place at Christmas in bakeries. Includes "Cookies and Cheer," "Loaves of Love," "Melting Hearts," and "Cakes and Kisses," in which a woman wants to spend more time with the man hired to make deliveries at her family bakery. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Romance

Christmas Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella (DB 97255)

Becky Brandon is looking forward to Christmas with husband Luke and daughter Minnie until her parents announce they are moving and want Becky to host the whole family for the holiday. Juggling the preparations is difficult, even before she runs into an old flame whose motives are unclear. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Humor

A Cup of Holiday Fear by Elie Alexander (DB 97199)

When Ashland baker, Jules Capshaw invites her overworked staff from Torte to celebrate the holidays at the Winchester Inn's Dickens feast, one of the guests ends up dead. Now they must figure out who's guilty of murder. Includes recipes. 2019. Mystery, Suspense

A Jensen Family Christmas by William Johnstone (DB 96769)

The Jensen family gathers together at the Sugarloaf Ranch for a Christmas homecoming. Smoke must defend his land, Sally strikes up a new friendship, Ace and Chance prepare to fight a gang of outlaws, Luke rescues three children orphaned in a shootout, and Preacher catches the eye of a beguiling widow. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Western.

A Mrs. Miracle Christmas by Debbie Macomber (DB 96769)

As the holidays approach, Laurel McCullough and her husband Zach dream of having a baby. Their dreams are put on hold when they have to move in with Laurel's ailing grandmother. Mrs. Miracle shows up at the door, seeming the answer to all their prayers. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Family Story, Single generation.

Royal Holiday by Jasmine Guillory (DB 96768)

When her daughter gets a job styling a member of the British royal family for the holidays, Vivian Forest jumps at the chance to travel with her. She is intrigued by Malcolm Hudson, a private secretary to the Queen, but Vivian is supposed to return home after Christmas. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Romance

Politics and Government Reading

A plethora of new titles have been written since the last administration began, and with a presidential inauguration coming up in January 2021, there are many new titles in the collection. Here's a small sampling of what we have, please check the catalog for more political bestsellers.

Becoming by Michelle Obama (DB 92627)

A memoir by the former First Lady, the first African American in that role. Obama recounts her childhood in Chicago, her years balancing motherhood

and her career as an executive, and her time in the White House. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2018.

The Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life and Work by Victor Ortiz (DB 96056)

Recounts the life and career of the fiercely principled Supreme Court justice, now a popular icon, with accounts of her landmark cases that advanced legal protection of human rights. Commercial audiobook. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2019.

Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship and Purpose by Joseph R. Biden (DB 88982)

Former vice president discusses the difficulties he faced managing his public commitments while his eldest son, Beau, underwent treatment for a malignant and terminal brain tumor. Biden emphasizes that the strength of his family and his friendship with President Obama sustained him throughout this difficult period. Autobiography. 2017.

The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir by John Bolton (DB 99187)

President Trump's former National Security Advisor describes his time with the Trump administration. Bolton expresses his negative views of the president's choices and priorities, comparing Trump's presidency to those of past presidents he served. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels by Jon Meacham (DB 91082)

Author of *Thomas Jefferson* (DB 79692) and *Destiny and Power* (DB 82900) presents a survey of American history focusing on points of time in which the politics of fear were at a peak. Time periods include the Civil War,

Reconstruction, post-WWII, and the early twenty-first century. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

The Truths We Hold: An American Journey by Kamala Harris (DB 93761)

California senator and daughter of immigrants discusses how her upbringing informs her political views. Recounts her education and early career as a prosecutor before transitioning into politics. Discusses her views on problem solving, crisis management, and leadership that she feels can aid in uniting Americans. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

Talking Books Discussion Group

In the New Year, the talking books staff will begin a book discussion group that will take place every 3 months with a schedule and booklist that will be published on our website and blog. The first discussion will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. You will be able to participate via your phone line or by clicking the link provided to you after you register. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to talking.books@olis.ri.gov or call (401)574-9310, or you may visit <https://olis.ri.gov/tbl/discussion.php> for registration, booklist and schedule.

Happy Holidays to All

The staff at the Talking Books Library wish you and yours a healthy and happy holiday season. We are hopeful that the new year will bring good news and a resumption of normal activities. Keep the faith and stay safe!
Alicia, Neshmayda and Kelley

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

Postage
Free
Matter
for the
Blind



TBL Holiday Closings

December 25, 2020 - Christmas Day
January 1, 2021 – New Year’s Day
January 18, 2021 – Martin Luther King Day
May 31, 2021 - Memorial Day



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