

Louisiana Hotlines



A Newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana
Talking Books and Braille Library
Office of Lt. Governor, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

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Summer 2026

Holiday Closings

July 3 Independence Day
Sept. 7 Labor Day

Welcome Araceli!

Join us in welcoming Araceli, our newest Reader Advisor at the Talking Books and Braille Library. Araceli enjoys creative writing and loves to read, especially historical fiction and fantasy. Araceli will serve TBBL readers whose last names start with the letters D, G, P, and T.



TBBL Online Catalog is Back

Our web-based catalog has been down for the past several months, but it is now back up and running. You can search for books and even order them online at: <https://klas.state.lib.la.us/>

No Audio Version of Summer Hotlines

For those who subscribe to the audio version of Hotlines, there will be no audio version of this issue.

2026 Adult Summer Reading Program Reminder

It's not too late to sign up for the 2026 TBBL Adult Summer Reading Program, which started on May 1st and will run through August 31st. The theme this year is "Plant A Seed, Read." If you complete the program by reading 20 books, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of 25 Big Button Talking Calculators. (Note: the calculator runs on 2AA batteries which are not included.) These prizes were generously provided by the Jones Foundation. If you are not already signed up, please contact your reader advisor. Happy Reading!

2026 ABL State Convention

Get ready to experience the rhythm, culture, and connection of Affiliated Blind of Louisiana's 2026 State Convention. This year's theme, "Feeling the Big Easy," invites you to immerse yourself in the spirit of New Orleans where music, community, and opportunity come together. Our slogan says it best: "Sight Optional, Vision Required."

Join ABL September 18–20, 2026, at the beautiful InterContinental New Orle-

ans, where room rates are just \$139.00 per night. Attendees will enjoy a lively mix of New Orleans-themed entertainment, delicious food, and engaging activities. The convention will also feature instructional and educational sessions, inspiring speakers, elections, and important updates during the ABL State Board meeting. Registration is \$80.00 for participants ages 12 and older. Call the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center at 337-234-6492 for more information.

Summer Book Recommendations 2026 by Sneha Padumane

DB 134158 *The Accidental Veterinarian: Tales from a Pet Practice* by Philipp Schott

With insight and humor, Dr. Philipp Schott shares tales from the unlikely path he took into his career of veterinary science and anecdotes from his successful small-animal clinic. Dr. Schott shares the best way to give your cat a pill, how to prevent your very handy dog from opening a fridge, and how to handle your fish when it has half-swallowed another. Through these and other experiences, Dr. Schott also learned that veterinary medicine is as much, if not more, about the people as it is the animals.

DB 133500 *Twice: A Novel* by Mitch Albom

When he is eight years old, Alfie Logan discovers the magical ability to get a second chance at everything. He can undo any moment and live it again. The one catch: he must accept the consequences of his second try — for better or worse. He grows up correcting his mis-

takes and saving himself from adolescent embarrassments. Eventually, Alfie turns his gift to his love life, studying his crushes and going back to make himself more appealing. In time, he falls deeply in love with Gianna, the woman he believes is the one. He seems to find contentment. But as the years pass, Alfie's eye begins to wander, which is when he learns a lone caveat to his power: once he undoes a love, that person can never fall in love with him again.

DB 133317 *Vagabond: A Memoir* by Tim Curry

There are few stars in Hollywood today that can boast the kind of resume Tony award-nominated actor Tim Curry has built over the past five decades. From his breakout role as Dr. Frank-N-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* to his iconic depiction as the sadistic clown Pennywise in *It* to his critically acclaimed role as the original King Arthur in both the Broadway and West End versions of *Spamalot*, Curry redefined what it meant to be a 'character actor,' portraying heroes and villains alike with complexity, nuance, and a genuine understanding of human darkness.

DB 134745 *Inside Man: A Head Cases Novel* by John McMahon

FBI Agent Gardner Camden is an analytical genius with an affinity for puzzles. He and his squad of brilliant yet quirky agents make up the Patterns and Recognition (PAR) unit, the FBI's hidden edge, brought in for cases that no one else can solve. PAR's latest case involves a militia group stockpiling weapons. When their confidential informant in the case is killed, it quickly becomes

clear that the militia did not kill him. As the squad looks into the evidence surrounding his murder, an unidentified man is caught on camera with their informant. This mystery man's picture is connected to another case at the FBI, an unsolved series of murdered women, buried in the ground in north Florida. Could they have uncovered a serial killer?

DB 134076 *Jump and Find Joy: Embracing Change in Every Season of Life* by Hoda Kotb

Hoda Kotb didn't expect to join the *Today* show at age forty-four. Or to become a mother at fifty-two. Or to leave *Today* and embark on a new adventure at sixty! Change doesn't always arrive when we expect it, and its effects are anything but predictable. But Hoda believes that the benefits of change can be extraordinary...if we're willing to listen to and learn from them.

DB 134170 *Atlas of Unknowable Things: A Novel* by McCormick Templeman
High in the Rocky Mountains on a secluded campus, sits Hildegard College, a celebrated institution known for its scientific innovation and its sprawling, botanical gardens. Historian Robin Quain has been awarded a residency to examine Hildegard's impressive collection of ancient manuscripts, but she has a secret. She's actually on the hunt for an artifact — one she must find before her former best friend turned professional rival gets his hands on it first.

DB 134324 *Alone on the Ice: The Greatest Survival Story in the History of Exploration* by David Roberts

On January 17, 1913, alone and near starvation, Mawson, leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, was hauling a sledge to get back to base camp. The dogs were gone. Now Mawson himself plunged through a snow bridge, dangling over an abyss by the sledge harness. A line of poetry gave him the will to haul himself back to the surface.

DB 131907 *The Baking Games* by Rachel Hanna

Savannah Greene enters the Baking Games with a clear goal: win the two million dollar prize and secure her sister's future. But her plan quickly crumbles when she discovers the competition includes her ex-boyfriend, Connor, who still harbors a grudge, and Rhett Jennings, her biggest rival from culinary school.

DB 130869 *The Art of Flourishing: Conversations on Disability* by Liz Bowen and others

Scholars, artists, writers, and thought leaders with disabilities reflect on what 'flourishing' means to them. This collection demonstrates the incredible range of priorities, practices, and possibilities that characterize disabled experience. Disabled people are experts in innovation and adaptation, experts in building networks of support and knowledge sharing, and experts in navigating a world that is not built for them.

DB 133596 *The Color of Hope* by Danielle Steel

Following the unexpected death of her beloved husband, art gallery owner Sabrina Thompson finds herself adrift in their Malibu beach house. Her three

adult children encourage her to take a trip to Paris. Once abroad, an impulsive day trip from Paris to Biarritz leads Sabrina to discover the charming medieval village of Arcangues in the Basque countryside, where she meets Xavier de Bonport, who is trapped in a loveless marriage and trying to dig himself out financially after a business failed due to the pandemic. With Xavier living in a smaller house on the property, Sabrina begins to transform the château into a temporary home. As they each sense compassion and resilience in the other, as well as kindness, a friendship blossoms.

DB 134051 *How Things Are Made: A Journey Through the Hidden World of Manufacturing* by Tim Minshall

We live in a manufactured world. Unless you are floating naked through space, you are right now in direct contact with multiple manufactured products, including furniture, technology, clothing, and even food. And yet the processes by which these things appear in our lives are virtually invisible. How often do we stop to think: Where do the things we buy actually come from? How are they made, and how do they make their way into our hands?

DB 134077 *Something to Look Forward to* by Fannie Flagg

Fannie Flagg once said that what the world needs now is a good laugh. And that is what she gives us in these thirty warmhearted, often hilarious, always surprising stories about Americans finding clever ways of dealing with the curveballs life throws at us.

DB 134052 *The Lincoln Myth: A Novel* by Steve Berry

September 1861: All is not as it seems. With these cryptic words, a shocking secret passed down from president to president comes to rest in the hands of Abraham Lincoln. And as the first bloody clashes of the Civil War unfold, Lincoln alone must decide how best to use this volatile knowledge: save thousands of American lives, or keep the young nation from being torn apart forever?

DB 133461 *Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice* by Virginia Roberts Giuffre

The world knows Virginia Roberts Giuffre as Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's most outspoken victim: the woman whose decision to speak out helped send both serial abusers to prison, whose photograph with Prince Andrew catalyzed his fall from grace. But her story has never been told in full, in her own words — until now.

DB 130052 *Mark Twain* by Ron Chernow
Before he was Mark Twain, he was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Born in 1835, the man who would become America's first, and most influential, literary celebrity spent his childhood dreaming of piloting steamboats on the Mississippi. But when the Civil War interrupted his career on the river, the young Twain went west to the Nevada Territory and accepted a job at a local newspaper, writing dispatches that attracted attention for their brashness and humor. It wasn't long before the former steamboat pilot from Missouri was recognized across the country for his literary brilliance, writing under a pen name that he would immortalize.

Books and Beyond: A Section for Children and Teens

Summer Reading 2026

Our Summer Reading Program is currently underway. Packets for children and teens are going out, but there is still time to sign up. Everyone who participates will receive a packet in June with a welcome folder, reading log, activities, craft ideas, and reading incentives. There will also be a smaller packet going out in July. Just read books or magazines by Monday, August 31, and turn in your reading log to receive a free “Plant a Seed, Read” t-shirt, reading certificate, and other incentive prizes. Send in your summer reading invitation, or contact Charlene Moore at 225-342-9563, or email tbblkids@library.la.gov to register. Many thanks to the Jones Foundation for providing this year’s summer reading program prizes. Special thanks to Taniyah Morris, Skye Norwood, and Brennen Rayborn for helping design and assemble packets, and Abby Thomas for providing crafting assistance.

From Crib to Crayons

Materials for the TBBL Early Literacy Program “From Crib to Crayons” will go out in July. Designed for children ages 0-6, quarterly literacy packets are sent throughout the year to children and their parents. Each kit is focused on one of six early literacy skills. For more information, contact the Children’s Librarian, Charlene Moore, at 225-342-9563, or email tbblkids@library.la.gov. This program is made possible through the generous support of the Jones Foundation.

NLS Offers Virtual Summer Reading Events

The National Library Service is pleased to announce its nationwide summer reading program “Unearth a Story,” which will run from Monday, June 15, through Tuesday, August 11, 2026. Special virtual events for all ages are offered by the NLS, including a kickoff event with music, author talks, soundscape tours, and special giveaways. Registration is required for event attendance. To see the full schedule of events, go to the NLS Summer Reading Program website <https://loc.gov/nls/services-and-resources/summer-reading/> or contact your reader advisor for assistance.

Books Celebrating America 250

DBC28576, LP028041 *I am Ruby Bridges* by Ruby Bridges.

When Ruby Bridges was six years old, she became the first African American student to integrate an elementary school in the South. Told from the perspective of her six-year-old self. Preschool-grade 2.

DBC09750 *Let Liberty Rise!* by Chana Stiefel.

The true story of how schoolchildren helped fund the construction of the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty in New York City. Grades K-3.

BR022340, DB091759 *Counting on Katherine* by Helaine Becker.

Introduces the boundary-breaking mathematician Katherine Johnson, whose passion for numbers at a young age led to a position at NASA, where she calculated

moon landings and helped save the Apollo 13 mission. Grades K-3.

DB041026 *From Sea to Shining Sea* by Amy Cohn.

A collection of more than 140 tales, poems, songs, and stories that provide a history of the United States. Grades 2-4.

BR024025, DB105966 *If You Lived During the Plimoth Thanksgiving* by Chris Newell.

The author examines the feast at Plimoth, the English colonists, the Wampanoag people, and the history leading up to this event, now a national holiday. Grades 2-4.

DB089176, LP025817 *Seven and a Half Tons of Steel* by Janet Nolan.

Following the terrorist attack on New York City on September 11, 2001, a steel beam from the destroyed World Trade Center was given to the United States Navy and subsequently used to create the bow for the warship USS New York. Grades 3-6.

BR015970, DB060177 *Our Fifty States* by Mark H. Bockenhauer.

Presents concise geographic information on the U.S. states, organized by region. Grades 4-7.

BR023388, DB100754 *Finish the Fight!* by Veronica Chambers.

The Staff of The New York Times profiles the unsung heroines of the women's suffrage movement. Grades 4-7.

DB050670 *The United States Cookbook* by Joan D'Amico.

A culinary tour of the fifty states, featuring representative recipes, food festivals, and fun facts. Grades 5-8.

BR023497, DB101822 *We the People* by Aura Lewis.

An introduction to the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Grades 5-8.

DB054641 *What's Cooking? The History of American Food* by Sylvia Whitman.

Discusses food and its packaging in the United States from colonial times to the end of the twentieth century. Grades 6-9.

BR022787, DB094405 *Cyrus Field's Big Dream* by Mary Morton Cowan.

Recounts the life of Cyrus Field (1819-1892), a wealthy, industrious man of fragile health, who pioneered the first transatlantic cable. Grades 6-9.

BR015268, DB057698 *America Votes* by Linda Granfield.

Explains the U.S. presidential election process, including its history, the role of political parties, becoming a candidate, campaign finance, voting fraud, the electoral college, and casting ballots. Young adult interest.

Support Our TBBL Friends Organization

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

Lois Gerone, in memory of Peter Gerone

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 Jones 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@library.la.gov
tbblkids@library.la.gov

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

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