

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. 3

Summer 2024

Holiday Closings

July 4 Independence Day
Sept. 2 Labor Day

Magazines on Cartridge Update

The Talking Books and Braille Library (TBBL) has taken over the distribution of magazines on cartridge. Audio magazine cartridges used to come to you in a red case; they were handled by a contractor in Arkansas. Audio magazines will now come in gray cases instead of red. Everything else about the magazines should remain the same.

Magazine Changes at NLS

Three new magazines have been added to the NLS audio magazine collection:

Best Friends (six issues a year): “*Best Friends* magazine is the nation’s most uplifting magazine for pet lovers. Full of engaging stories, happy tales of rescue and gorgeous photos, the magazine is the official publication of Best Friends Animal Society” — from the *Best Friends* website

Magnolia Journal (four issues a year): “The *Magnolia Journal* is a quarterly

magazine by Chip and Joanna Gaines containing inspiration for life and home. Useful as a resource and a guide to living well, the *Magnolia Journal* contains stories, recipes, tips, and useful information you will refer back to again and again.” — from the *Magnolia Journal* website

Mother Jones (six issues a year): “*Mother Jones* is a nonprofit American progressive magazine that focuses on news, commentary, and investigative journalism on topics including politics, environment, human rights, health and culture.” — from the *Mother Jones* website

In addition, *Overseas Outlook*, the newsletter for the NLS Overseas Service, is now available as an audio magazine. *American History* magazine has been discontinued, as it is no longer available as a print publication for our producers to narrate.

All audio magazines will be available on BARD for download once production is complete. Contact TBBL at 1-800-543-4702 to subscribe on cartridge.

2024 Adult Summer Reading Program Reminder

It's not too late to sign up for the 2024 Adult Summer Reading Program which started on May 1, 2024, and will run through August 31. The theme this year is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." If you complete the program by reading 20 books, you will be entered into a drawing to win a deck of large print and Braille playing cards. If you are not already signed up, please contact your reader advisor!

Save the Date: ABL Convention

The Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Convention will be held on the weekend of September 13 – 15, 2024 at the Paragon Hotel and Casino in Marksville, Louisiana.

New Title for BookTalks

Our BookTalks Spring Book Selection will be:

DB 111602 *Thank You for Listening* by Julia Whelan

For Sewanee Chester, being an audio-book narrator is a long way from her old dreams, but the days of being a star on film sets are long behind her. She's found success and satisfaction from the inside of a sound booth and it allows her to care for her beloved, ailing grandmother. When she arrives in Las Vegas last-minute for a book convention, Sewanee unexpectedly spends a whirlwind night with a charming stranger. On her return home, Sewanee discovers one of the world's most beloved romance novelists wanted her to perform her last book-

with Brock McNight, the industry's hottest, most secretive voice.

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 adviser.

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 we hope to hear from you soon!

Gale and State Library Provide Residents Access to 25,000+ Free Online Courses for Skills Development

To support lifelong learning and workforce preparedness, the State Library of Louisiana and Gale (Cengage Group), have partnered to provide public libraries across the state with access to the online learning platform *Gale Presents: Udemy*. Available at no charge through all 334 public library locations across the state, the platform provides public library cardholders unlimited access to more than 25,000 on-demand video courses

for personalized learning and upskilling across a variety of categories such as business, IT certifications, arts, personal finance, technology, wellness and more.

"We decided to invest in *Gale Presents: Udemy* to make more educational resources accessible to residents through their public libraries, especially to those in rural and other underserved areas," said Meg Placke, Louisiana's state librarian. "In an increasingly digital world, 20% of Louisianans don't have home internet access, meaning that for many, public libraries are bridging the connectivity gap to provide patrons access to technology and digital resources they might not have otherwise been able to access. So, our partnership with Gale is not just an opportunity to promote digital literacy among patrons, but to also help create economic growth within our communities through the public library."

Gale Presents: Udemy is available to any Louisiana resident with a public library card through the Louisiana Library Connection:

<https://lplibcon.state.lib.la.us/>

Summer Book Recommendations

by Sneha Padumane

DB 115529 *On Sight & Insight: A Journey into the World of Blindness* by John M. Hull

In 1983, finally forced to accept his now total blindness, John Hull began to keep a cassette diary. This book offers a unique journey into the 'other world' of blindness, an insight into the almost spiritual transition from being a sighted person who cannot see, to being a blind person.

DB 116417 *The Running Grave: A Cormoran Strike Novel* by Robert Galbraith

Private Detective Cormoran Strike is contacted by a worried father whose son, Will, has gone to join a religious cult in the depths of the Norfolk countryside. Strike discovers that beneath the surface there are deeply sinister undertones, and unexplained deaths. In order to try to rescue Will, Strike's business partner, Robin Ellacott, decides to infiltrate the cult, and she travels to Norfolk to live incognito among its members.

DB 109554 *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* by Julia Child

Featuring 524 delicious recipes, this book offers something for everyone, from seasoned experts to beginners who love good food and long to reproduce the savory delights of French cuisine.

DB 116483 *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han

Belly measures her life in summers. Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer, a place away from the beach house, away from Susannah, and most importantly, away from Jeremiah and Conrad. They are the boys that Belly has known since her very first summer—they have been her brother figures, her crushes, and everything in between. But one summer, one terrible and wonderful summer, the more everything changes, the more it all ends up just the way it should have been all along. Teen and older readers.

DB 116767 *Thicker Than Water: A Memoir* by Kerry Washington

Award-winning actor, director, producer, and activist Kerry Washington shares the deeply moving journey of her life so far, and the bravely intimate story of discovering her truth.

DB 115669 *Everglades Assault* by Randy Striker

Dusky MacMorgan is living the good life on his stilt house a mile off Fleming Key. But there's a storm coming in the form of the beautiful April Yarbrough. Now, someone is waging a campaign of violence and destruction to drive them off their cherished swampland.

DB 115624 *Masterpieces: The Best Science Fiction of the 20th Century* edited by Orson Scott Card

Takes a look back at the last one-hundred years in science fiction through the works of the most celebrated and acclaimed authors of the century—to see where we've been and just how far we've come.

DB 115695 *Grizzly Killer: Sacred Ground* by Lane Warenski

It is a long and treacherous journey to the mountains, some braved the dangers to escape the sure death from a rich and powerful man, while others were looking for the freedom they have never known. For Gabe and his new wife Jenny, they had to escape the reaches of a father seeking vengeance. For Toby and Letty they were running toward freedom they did not understand. Zach Connors better known as Grizzly Killer and his partners made the trip to Rendezvous to trade for supplies. The question they are all ask-

ing: will they find their own Sacred Ground?

DB 116479 *Bogie & Bacall: The Surprising True Story of Hollywood's Greatest Love Affair* by William J. Mann

William Mann offers a deep and comprehensive look at Lauren Bacall, Humphrey Bogart, and the unlikely love they shared. He paints a vivid portrait of their courtship and twelve-year marriage: the fights, the reconciliations, the children, the affairs, Bogie's illness and Bacall's steadfastness until his death.

DB 114676 *Summer Reading* by Jenn McKinlay

For Samantha Gale, a summer on Martha's Vineyard at her family's tiny cottage was supposed to be about resurrecting her career as a chef, until she's tasked with chaperoning her half-brother, Tyler. The teenage brainiac is spending his summer at the local library in a robotics competition, and there's no place Sam, who has dyslexia, likes less than the library. And because the universe hates her, the library's interim director turns out to be the hot-reader guy whose book she accidentally destroyed on the ferry ride to the island.

DB 117350 *The Loneliest Polar Bear: A True Story of Survival and Peril on the Edge of a Warming World* by Kale Williams

The heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful story of an abandoned polar bear cub named Nora and the humans working tirelessly to save her and her species, whose uncertain future in the accelerating climate crisis is closely tied to our own.

DB 117032 *Crazy Rich Cajuns* by Erin Nicholas

She drives air boats on the bayou, drinks and cusses, and gives city boys in suits a hard time just for fun. Why can't he get her out of his mind? But he can't. He definitely can't. A weekend trip to Savannah for a fancy-schmancy party with his highfalutin family is the surefire way to prove that they have nothing in common but intense chemistry. But it takes only about 24 hours for the bayou girl and the city boy to figure out that they don't really know much at all—about each other, or about themselves. And figuring all of this out is going to be downright crazy.

DB 117524 *Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones* by Dolly Parton

Global superstar Dolly Parton shares, for the first time, the full story behind her lifelong passion for fashion, including how she developed her own distinctly Dolly style, which has defied convention and endeared her to fans around the world.

DB 117258 *The Ship Beneath the Ice: The Discovery of Shackleton's Endurance* by Mensun Bound

On November 21, 1914, after sailing more than ten thousand miles from Norway to the Antarctic Ocean, the *Endurance* finally succumbed to the surrounding ice. Finally, a century to the day after Shackleton's death, renowned marine archaeologist Mensun Bound and an elite team of explorers discovered the lost shipwreck. This inspiring modern-day adventure narrative captures the intrepid spirit that joins two mariners across the centuries—both of whom accomplished the impossible.

**Books and Beyond:
A Section for Children and Teens**

Summer Reading 2024

Take time to enjoy your summer with a good book. 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 Grab 'n' Go Summer Packet with a welcome folder, reading log, activities, craft ideas, and reading incentives. Just read books or magazines by Friday, August 30, and turn in your reading log to receive a free "Adventure Begins at Your Library" t-shirt, reading certificate, and other incentive prizes. Send in your summer reading invitation or contact Charlene Moore at 225-342-9563, or by emailing tbblkids@state.lib.la.us to register.

Many thanks to the Jones Foundation for providing this year's summer reading program prizes. Special thanks to Alyssa Sanchez and Millie Thomas for providing crafting assistance.

From Crib to Crayons

The TBBL Early Literacy Program *From Crib to Crayons* will start in July. Designed for children ages 0-6, quarterly literacy packets will be 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 by email at tbblkids@slol.lib.la.us.

This program is made possible through the generous support of the Jones foundation.

Braille services provided this year through the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

NLS Offers Virtual Summer Reading Events

The National Library Service is pleased to announce its nationwide Summer Reading Program, which will run from Monday, June 24, through Friday, August 9, 2024. Special virtual events for all ages, and hosted by NLS, include a kickoff event with music, author talks, escape rooms, and virtual mystery adventures. Registration is required for event attendance.

NLS Schedule of Virtual Events

Kickoff event for all ages: Monday, June 24, at 3:00 pm. Join NLS Director Jason Broughton and the Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden reading the *Adventures of Marshmallow and Peter* by Peter Heath.

Story time and music for children featuring Turtle Dance Music: Thursday, July 18, at 3:00 pm. The Turtle Dance Man Matt Mazur will open with singing and dancing, then read *Saturday* by Oge Mora.

Author talk with Angeline Boulley: Thursday, July 25, at 6:00 pm. Join Andrea L. Rogers author of the award-winning *Man made Monsters* as she moderates a discussion with *New York Times* bestselling author Angeline Boulley. Boulley will discuss her books *Firekeeper's Daughter* and *Warrior Girl Unearthed*. The recording of this event will be available for two weeks following the talk. Events available online until August 9.

Whispering Library Escape Room is available for all ages. These puzzles range from very simple to quite challenging, making it something the whole family can do together!

Choose your Reading Adventure for children and teens to solve a mystery at the library.

To register for the online Summer Reading events go to <https://www.loc.gov/nls/summerreading2024>, scroll down to the desired event and click the **Sign up now** link provided.

For more information about registration, contact Charlene Moore at 225-342-9563 or tbblkids@state.lib.la.us.

Remember that participants in the current Summer Reading Program will receive email reminders for the Kickoff events and author talks.

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 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@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

Talking Books and Braille Library

State Library of Louisiana

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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Supported in part by funding from the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

