

Fall 2018

Illinois State Library
TBBS
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Springfield, IL 62701-1796



NewsLink



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Secretary of State
& State Librarian

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Ordering books for the upcoming holidays

Book delivery is often slower during the holiday season due to the increased volume of mail being processed by the postal service. Please order extra books in advance to avoid running out of reading material. Keep in mind that after a closing due to a holiday it may take TBBS longer to process the backlog mail. This could delay books being sent.

There is no need to rely on mail delivery if you sign up for the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. BARD advantages include 24/7 access, no wait lists, no returns and the ability to enjoy the newest books weeks before they are available by mail. BARD Mobile enables you to download the application directly to your smartphone or tablet. Visit: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/> for more information.

Illinois Bicentennial history book

MindsEye Radio in Belleville has produced DBC05980, “The Illinois Chronicles: The Story of the State of Illinois from Its Birth to the Present Day” by Mark Skipworth. Newspaper-style articles report the Prairie State’s 200-year history by exploring key

events and people. An extensive timeline recounts important moments in Illinois politics, commerce, culture, science, sports and more. Although intended for students, this book can also be enjoyed by adult readers. Download DBC05980 from BARD or contact TBBS at 800-426-0709 or isltbbs@ilsos.net to order a copy.

Scholarships and grants for students

Legally blind students, ranging from high school seniors through graduate school, may be eligible to receive a merit-based academic scholarship from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). There are 30 scholarships, ranging from \$3,000 to \$12,000, that will be awarded. Applications are accepted from Nov. 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019. For more information, visit www.nfb.org/scholarships or contact the NFB at scholarships@nfb.org or 410-659-9314, ext. 2415.

A list of additional scholarships and grants for students who are blind or visually impaired can be found on the American Foundation for the Blind's website at <http://www.afb.org/info/education-an-overview/other-scholarships-and-grants-for-students-blind-or-visually-impaired/35>.

NLS marketing campaign

In February, the National Library Service (NLS) launched a new marketing campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the Talking Book and Braille program. Short ads have been running on cable television and radio stations such as National Public Radio, the History Channel and the Hallmark Channel. The ads will continue running in three-week intervals through August 2019.

Only 17,000 of an estimated 150,000 Illinoisans eligible for talking book services are currently enrolled. Help NLS spread the word by reaching out to your friends, family, neighbors, church members and coworkers who might benefit from the program. Talk to them about your experiences with the service or share the NLS commercial. You can view or listen to the commercial and read the transcript at <https://www.loc.gov/nls>.

Advisory Committee

TBBS would like to thank all Advisory Committee members for their service, especially departing member Larry Whewell. His outstanding efforts and advocacy for the program are greatly appreciated. At the June quarterly meeting, Ron Price was appointed to the committee and Margaret Varney was reappointed and named committee chair. They join returning members Rhonda Coe Bargiel, Matthew Janusauskas, Nathan LaForte, Janelle Strong, Kim Tarkowski, Antonietta Tesfaye

and Melissa Wittenberg, as well as ex-officio members Albert Anderson, William Bogdan and Tina Williams. The Advisory Committee assists the Illinois State Library in improving services offered through TBBS. Patrons who would like to speak with a committee member should call 217-782-9435 to make arrangements.

Students, parents and teachers

Juvenile and student accounts should be reviewed annually by a parent or teacher. Reading/grade levels and subject interests may need to be updated to ensure that the young patron receives age-appropriate materials.

Wireless delivery pilot

NLS has been conducting a pilot project to study the feasibility and cost of wireless delivery of talking books using a prototype device designed largely by NLS engineers. The MOCA, an acronym for MOBILE CARtridge device, was distributed to 113 patrons chosen by the participating libraries. It allows the patrons to access books and magazines from BARD that have been “pushed” to the device by library staff using public cellular networks. The MOCA transfers the selections onto a cartridge that can be played on the NLS digital player. The MOCA pilot will provide NLS with data of cellular connectivity coverage areas and help evaluate a wireless delivery method for patrons without a computer or mobile access. In June, NLS reported successful results from about two-thirds of test participants. Issues that surfaced include trouble connecting to the cellular network and administrative and operational snags that occur as participants learn how to use MOCA. This data will be utilized in the design of the new talking-book machine/playback system, which NLS expects to have available in five years.

Illinois connection – adult fiction set in Illinois

Download from BARD or contact TBBS to order.

DB 89057 “Traces of Guilt: An Evie Blackwell Cold Case” by Dee Henderson.

Illinois State Police detective Evie Blackwell heads up the governor’s new cold case task force. She starts out by investigating two unsolved missing person cases in Carin County, Illinois, with the help of local sheriff Gabriel Thane.

DB 73269 “Chicago Blues” edited by Libby Fischer Hellmann.

Noir stories from 21 authors. In Stuart Kaminsky’s “Blue Note,” gambler Pitch Noles must win at a poker game or his blues-singer mother will lose a finger to a loan shark. (Violence, strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.)

DB 84519 “A Friend of Mr. Lincoln” by Stephen Harrigan. Poet Cage Weatherby travels to Springfield, Illinois, to witness the funeral of Abraham Lincoln – his former best friend. The occasion prompts him to remember their years of friendship. (Some violence, strong language and descriptions of sex.)

DB 85441 “Prairie State Friends, Books 1-3” by Wanda E. Brunstetter. Three romances set in an Amish community in Illinois.

DB 80373 “People of the Morning Star” by W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O’Neal Gear. In prehistoric Illinois, a prosperous civilization governed by the Four Winds Clan gathers around the Cahokia settlement. Foreign chiefs covet the clan’s power and send an assassin. (Violence and some descriptions of sex.)

Toll-free numbers

Illinois State Library TBBS.....800-426-0709, 800-757-4654

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.