



Winter 2021 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

Talking Books Staff Schedule

The Talking Books Library staff hope this newsletter finds everyone well and in good spirits. Our staff is presently working a hybrid schedule, working in the office three days a week and remotely two days a week. Each day of the week Monday - Friday there is a staff member on site. We will continue to work diligently to provide materials to our members and to reach out to those who may qualify for the program. We hope that all things will return to a more normal state in the coming months, and that all staff will be back in the office full time soon. Please continue to call us at (401)574-9310 or email us at talking.books@olis.ri.gov.

OSCIL CARES Technology Assistance Program

Are you feeling isolated or disconnected since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic? Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) may be able to provide you with the technology and training you need to connect to activities such as telehealth, online purchases, and delivery of groceries and health/medical supplies. Also, to connect to friends and family via email, texting and social media, and to be able to access information online that will help you in your daily life. Training is offered on Apple iPad, iPhone, Android Phone, laptop and desktop computers,

Apps for smart phones and tablets, smart home technology such as Alexa, WIFI Hot Spots and data plans. Who is eligible? Rhode Island residents with a disability who have a financial hardship due to or made worse by COVID-19. To learn more, call 401-738-1013 or send email to info@oscil.org or by Video Phone to 401-244-7792 and mention that you are interested in OSCIL's Technology and Training program. This program is made possible by Federal funding from the CARES Act.

New NLS Director Jason Broughton

NLS is pleased to announce that Mr. Jason Broughton has been selected as the new Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress. Prior to joining the Library of Congress, Mr. Broughton was the Vermont State Librarian. In this role, he engaged in strategic planning for the Department of Libraries and established a long-term vision for the State Library. Previously, Mr. Broughton held numerous positions at libraries in South Carolina and Georgia. Mr. Broughton earned his Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Science in Public Administration from the University of South Florida, and a bachelor's degree in Biology from Florida A&M University. He began his directorship on Monday, September 13, and is the first African American to serve as Director of NLS. Please join us in welcoming Jason Broughton to NLS.

Book Discussion

Our Book Discussion has been underway this past year with sessions taking place quarterly. This coming year we will be offering book discussions every other month starting in January. Join us by calling or emailing us to register for a discussion. We will provide the link and

phone numbers after registration. The schedule for the new year can be viewed at <https://olis.ri.gov/tbl/discussion.php>.

Foreign Language Materials

Thanks to the Marrakesh Treaty, NLS is now adding more foreign language books to the catalog than ever before. To help patrons locate these titles, NLS has announced a new online publication: **Foreign Language Quarterly** (FLQ). FLQ, which will be posted on the NLS website every three months, will feature a selection of the most popular foreign language titles recently added to the NLS collection. The FLQ page will also feature a print button that will generate a printer-friendly version for the convenience of users. Books in a variety of foreign languages produced by NLS or obtained from other countries via the Marrakesh Treaty and other means are available. See <https://tinyurl.com/FLQ-NLS> for more information and to search for available materials.

NLS Next Generation Players and Book Production

NLS is beginning to develop the next generation digital talking book player to take advantage of the latest technological changes that have occurred since the original digital talking book player was introduced over six years ago. NLS will design the new machine based on the current model but is exploring new features such as wireless delivery. Books and magazines could be delivered directly to the player, so you won't have to handle individual cartridges. This means the player will need to have some built in memory to store files. The new players will also have text-to-speech capability (TTS). NLS is looking into obtaining electronic text (eText) materials, that, coupled with TTS, would open the door for more content to be available for both audio and braille. The

agreement with a number of commercial audio book producers over the past few years has already increased the amount of material available each year. NLS is now adding about 3,000 new books to the collection each year. We hope you all are enjoying all the new books that are available to you.

BARD Tutorials: See How Easy It Is

If you have been debating whether or not to sign up for BARD and believe it may be too difficult, you can view the YouTube videos provided by the National Library Service to see just how BARD downloading is done. For an introduction <https://tinyurl.com/NLSintro> to download books from BARD with NLS eReader HumanWare see <https://tinyurl.com/NLSHumanWare> and to Navigate an audiobook with BARD Mobile see <https://tinyurl.com/MobileBARD>.

Holiday Reading Selections: Contemporary, Classic, Spanish

An Alaskan Holiday by Debbie Macomber (DB 92504)

Before starting work at a hot Seattle restaurant, chef Josie Avery takes a summer job at a lodge in Alaska. She bonds with the locals, including swordsmith Palmer Saxon. Their relationship has an end date, as Josie can't imagine leaving her life in Seattle--even for love. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018. Romance.

Classic Christmas Stories: 16 Timeless Yuletide Tales by Julia Livshin (DBC 17261)

A collection of sixteen heartwarming literary gems from some of the world's best-loved writers. Some celebrate traditional Yuletide sentiment, while others present surprising twists on the Christmas theme. Some portray New York socialites, others robust country folk,

others the poor and homeless. All offer something worthwhile to think about at this most festive time of year. With contributions from: O. Henry, Charles Dickens, Louisa May Alcott, Anton Chekhov, Arthur Conan Doyle, Edward Eggleston, Frank R. Stockton, Mary Agnes Tincker, Robert Grant, Bret Harte, and many others. 2003. Adult.

A High Sierra Christmas by William Johnstone (DB 93389)

1817. Kate Darby, a lady's maid, and Matt Harlow, a valet, become entangled in a yuletide counterfeiting scheme as they try to stave off their feelings for one another. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2018. Western, Romance.

La Chica de la Nieve by Javier Castillo (DB 100684)

Three-year-old Kiera Templeton disappears at the 1998 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. Later, her parents receive an anonymous video that shows her alive and well. A journalism student, Miren Triggs, picks up the investigation, and spends years trying to track her down. Will she succeed? Some violence and some strong language. Spanish language. 2020. Mystery, Detective.

La vela de Navidad by Max Lucado (DBC 14313)

Every 25 years, an angel appears in the little English village of Gladstone, where he touches one special candle in the home of the Haddingtons, the local candle makers who in turn give that candle to someone in need. Whoever receives this gift experiences a miracle. Spanish language. 2006. Holidays and Celebrations. Family Story.

The 19th Christmas by James Patterson (DB 96863)

When a fearsome criminal known only as "Loman" seizes control of the headlines, December is upended for the Women's Murder Club. Loman

is planning a deadly surprise for Christmas morning and has commissioned dozens of criminal colleagues to take actions that will mask his plans. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Mystery.

Skipping Christmas by John Grisham (DB 52929)

Tax accountant Luther Krank calculates that a Caribbean cruise will cost less than what he and his wife, Nora, spent celebrating the holidays last year. Since daughter Blair is in the Peace Corps, they plan to skip Christmas. Luther, however, doesn't anticipate the town's reaction. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2001. Humor, Family Story.

Do You Have a Caregiver? -- Support Circles

Offered by The Village Common through a grant from the Office of Healthy Aging, a caregiver can join free caregiver support groups online through virtual zoom sessions. Support groups provide opportunities to share experiences with other caregivers and get information about resources. Caregivers can attend one, two or more sessions right from their own home. Retired volunteer professionals will lead the discussions. All participants need is an email address, internet access, and a digital device—a computer, tablet, or smart phone. This program is offered by volunteers of The Village Common of Rhode Island. Visit villagecommonri.org or for more information, call (401)228-8683. The Village Common can provide an iPad if attendees need an internet device.

Rhode Island Collection

The Talking Books Library recently added 2 new titles to the collection, and the third title, **Untold Stories from World War II Rhode Island** by Christian McBurney is being recorded presently thanks to donations

made by our members. We will continue to record books of local interest and ask your patience in building this collection. It takes months to have a book that has never been recorded before narrated and then added to the collection, which includes BARD. We will continue this project and are looking for more experienced narrators who may be willing to help. If you are a professional narrator or have experience narrating and recording books, please contact the Talking Books Library at (401)574-9310.

Tax Deductible Donations

Every gift to the RI Talking Books Library benefits all members of the program. Contributions allow us to fund projects not covered in the general budget. 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. 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.

Do You Know Someone Who Would Benefit from Talking Books?

If you know of anyone who may qualify for the Talking Books program due to a visual impairment, blindness, physical disability or reading disability, please tell them about our program. So many individuals who are eligible do not know about this free program and would greatly benefit. Please feel free to share information about our program! The Talking Books Library Staff wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

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

Postage
Free
Matter
for the
Blind

December 27, 2021 - Christmas Day Observance
January 3, 2022 - New Year's Day Observance
January 17, 2022 - Martin Luther King Day
May 30, 2022 - Memorial 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.