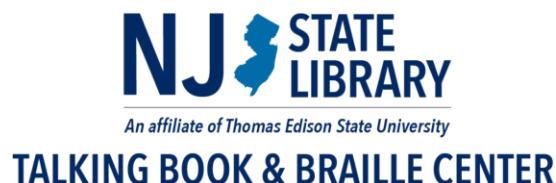


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## ***Highlights from TBBC – Fall, 2023***



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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN**

I am just delighted that New Jersey's Talking Book and Braille Center has received the National Library Service's Regional Library of the Year Award. Having watched the team at TBBC over the last couple of years, I have been impressed with their commitment to making access to reading materials available in multiple formats. Their work in outreach and training is also notable, as is their work with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. More recently, online book clubs have proved popular and I appreciate our staff's initiative in starting programs like it. Please join me in congratulating staff and thanking them for their continued excellent service.

Be safe and be well.

Thank you,

*Jen*

Jennifer R. Nelson  
New Jersey State Librarian

### **Library of Congress Honors Libraries in New Jersey and Michigan for Outstanding Service to Readers with Disabilities**

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress recognized two of its cooperating libraries in New Jersey and Michigan for their outstanding service to readers with visual, physical or print disabilities.

The New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center in Trenton, New Jersey, received the 2023 Regional Library of the Year Award, while the Library for the Visually and Physically Disabled Branch of Muskegon Area District Library in Muskegon, Michigan, received the Sub-regional Library/Advisory and Outreach Center of the Year Award.

Both libraries – among nearly 100 in the National Library Service network of cooperating libraries – were honored on September 7th at a luncheon in the historic Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Each also received a \$1,000 award and a commemorative plaque.

“One of these libraries is large, the other is much smaller, but they have much in common: energy, creativity, and a 24/7 commitment to ensuring that disability stops no one from experiencing the lifelong joy of reading,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “They are shining examples of service the National Library Service and its network of libraries provide to hundreds of thousands of people from coast to coast.”

The [Talking Book and Braille Center](#) serves nearly 14,000 patrons throughout New Jersey, loans materials in audio and braille and provides services for children and teens as well as for the state’s Spanish-speaking population. In addition, the Talking Book and Braille Center manages NFB-NEWSLINE, the National Federation of the Blind’s audio news service, for more than 3,300 subscribers in New Jersey. It also manages the state Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired’s Technology Loan Program and Library Equal Access Program (LEAP), providing accessible technology, support and training to residents with print disabilities. And it provides reading materials to a summer camp for blind children.

The Talking Book and Braille Center hosts a monthly virtual book discussion group and a biennial fall festival at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton Township, which provides patrons tactile interaction with the arts. For the past 12 years, the center has also hosted a fundraising golf tournament with as many as 55 blind and sighted participants.

**Registration Still Open for LEAP iPad and iPhone Intermediate Class**

Registration is still open for the upcoming iPad and iPhone intermediate classes we are offering as part of the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP).

LEAP is a program sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI). LEAP offers classes for individuals aged 55 and above, who have a loss of vision. These classes teach participants how to use accessibility features built into iPads and iPhones. These include features like VoiceOver and Siri voice commands.

Classes are held at several public libraries throughout the state, including TBBC in Trenton. For more information, please contact Outreach Librarian Stephen Felle by phone at 800-792-8322 x 812 or by email at [sfelle@njstatelib.org](mailto:sfelle@njstatelib.org)

### **TBBC Outreach Fall 2023**

TBBC staff travel all around New Jersey to promote the library and meet with members! Please keep TBBC in mind when scheduling resource fairs, conferences, speakers, and local events. Here are some events on TBBC's Fall/Winter 2023 Outreach calendar:

- New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Blindness Awareness Month 2023 Community Outreach Fair – October 12
- TBBC Hispanic Heritage Online Event – October 19
- National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey Annual State Convention – November 9 and 10
- We See Too Adult Social Day Center – November 13

For more information about any of these events, or to schedule a speaker from TBBC, please contact us by phone at 800-792-8322 ext. 0 or by email at [tbbc@njstatelib.org](mailto:tbbc@njstatelib.org)

### **Surprising Things About Borrowing Books from TBBC**

*Books the way you want them!* Do you want 1 or 8 or 10 books on your cartridge? Just let us know! If you want more than 8 books on one cartridge,

we can do that! The mailing card with the cartridge will only have the first 8 books on the cartridge listed.

*No wait for audiobooks!* If TBBC has the audiobook you want, there is never a wait for that book! We create a cartridge just for you.

*We know books get lost.* We mail books to you; you mail books back. Sometimes, books get lost. We know that happens, and it's OK! If you asked for books you never got, just call us and we will resend. If it's been a while since you got any new books from us, it may be because we never got the books you returned. Call us and we'll fix your record and send more books.

*We have an email!* You can always email us the list of books you want; by DB number, by author, by title! Whatever is easiest for you. Just send us your list, and include your name, to: [TBBC@njstatelib.org](mailto:TBBC@njstatelib.org).

*We don't know you moved.* Have you moved? Does TBBC have your right address? Contact us to make sure we have your most up to date address, phone number and email.

## **BARD News**

For new users, NLS continues to work to improve the BARD experience and to listen to your feedback about BARD.

In August 2023, NLS revised the BARD welcome message that is sent out to patrons who are newly approved for BARD accounts. That message placed the patron's login information near the bottom of the message, so the new users would read the additional BARD-related information before logging into the service for the first time.

In response to network library feedback, NLS has revised the welcome email again, moving the login information from the bottom of the message nearer to the top.

The welcome section says: "Your log-in ID is your email address, which is: (your email). Click on this link to open the BARD website."

Clicking on the sentence “Click on this link to open the BARD website” is a link that will direct you to the BARD website, where you can create a new password.

### **Summer Reading Program for Teens and Children Wrap-Up**

TBBC has concluded yet another successful Summer Program. This year’s theme was “All Together Now”, focusing on kindness and friendship. TBBC mailed 4 different packets by mail, in large print and braille, if requested, to all participants. The packages included booklists, craft ideas, activities, and, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, prizes such as STEM kits, sidewalk chalk, and fidget poppers.

We are already looking forward to next summer when the “Adventure Begins at Your Library”! While you wait for the fun to begin, if you’d like any book suggestions, want books sent to you, or have any questions, please contact us at [TBBCYouth@njstatelib.org](mailto:TBBCYouth@njstatelib.org)! And as a reminder, TBBC’s summer program is open to any child or teen patron of TBBC!

### **A Message from The Development Department**

Be sure to check your mailbox this December for TBBC’s Holiday Appeal. It will contain a self-addressed donation remittance envelope for your convenience. It will also contain several ways you can donate to support our program and services. There will be an appeal letter and a recognition wall form for those who wish to add to our ever-growing recognition wall with the purchase of a book-shaped plaque honoring or memorializing a loved one. For more information about the Holiday Appeal or Recognition Wall contact Linda Cerce at 800-792-8322 ext. 835; [lcerce@njstatelib.org](mailto:lcerce@njstatelib.org).

### **Attention TBBC Patrons! Get ready to explore Hispanic and Latinx Culture**

Come and learn about Hispanic and Latinx Culture. Join the Talking Book and Braille Center to celebrate Hispanic and Latinx Heritage. Explore reading recommendations in Spanish and English, resources for Hispanic Heritage Month, and more this month and beyond!

On October 19- 12:00 noon we will host a Hispanic Heritage Online Event to honor Hispanic Americans' rich history, culture, and contributions.

Register using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlduGgrD8jEtRJHFGovKTd6h-NR9kj5b1E>

TBBC usuarios! Ven aprender acerca de la Cultura Latinx and la Herencia Hispana.

Únase al Centro de Audiolibros y Braille para celebrar la Cultura Latinx y la Herencia Hispana.

Explore recomendaciones de lectura en Español e inglés, recursos acerca de la Herencia Hispana y ¡mucho más durante este mes!

El 19 de Octubre a las 12: 00 del medio dia organizaremos un evento en línea con el fin de honrar la Herencia Hispana, su historia, cultura contribuciones.

Regístrese usando este link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlduGgrD8jEtRJHFGovKTd6h-NR9kj5b1E>

### **Embrace the Chill: Dive into our Winter Reading Challenge!**

Get ready to cozy up with a good book and a warm cup of cocoa, because TBBC's first ever Winter Reading Challenge for adults is coming soon! As the snow falls and the temperature drops, there's no better time to escape into the world of books. Join us on a literary journey that will thaw the coldest of winter blues.

Earn entries into our prize drawing as you read your way through the season. Stay tuned for more details!

### **Fall 2023 Spooky Book List**

Whether you are hoping to get into the spirit of the season or just wanting to cuddle up with a good read as temperatures drop, TBBC has books for

you. Check out some of our spooky fall recommendations, all available to be mailed to you on cartridge or downloaded from BARD.

**[Meddling Kids: A Novel DB88386](#)**

By: Edgar Cantero

Reading time: 12 hours, 56 minutes.

Mystery and Detective Stories, Supernatural and Horror Fiction

The teenaged members of the Blyton Summer Detective Club last solved a case together in 1977. Thirteen years later, they return to where their adventures began, to confront their inner demons and the real monsters that are waiting for them. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

**[Yours Cruelly, Elvira: Memoirs of the Mistress of the Dark DB105470](#)**

Elvira

Reading time: 10 hours, 44 minutes.

Biography of Entertainers, Stage and Screen, Biography

Memoir of the actress who took on the persona of Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, when she was hosting late-night horror movies on TV. Peterson describes leaving home at fourteen and the colorful life she lived, including a stint as a Vegas showgirl, an encounter with Elvis Presley, and more. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

**[The Faceless Old Woman Who Secretly Lives in Your Home: A Welcome to Night Vale Novel DB99561](#)**

By: Joseph Fink

Reading time: 9 hours, 15 minutes.

Humor, Fantasy Fiction, Supernatural and Horror Fiction

In the town of Night Vale, there's a faceless old woman who secretly lives in everyone's home, but no one knows how she got there or where she came from--until now. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

### **[The Lady from the Black Lagoon: Hollywood Monsters and the Lost Legacy of Milicent Patrick DB94179](#)**

By: Mallory O'Meara

Reading time: 9 hours, 21 minutes.

Stage and Screen, Biography

A film producer investigates the life and legacy of Milicent Patrick, one of Disney's first female animators and creator of the iconic monster from 1954's *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. After a male colleague stole credit for her creation, she disappeared from film history. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

### **[Dracula / DB31689](#)**

By: Bram Stoker

Reading time: 17 hours, 3 minutes.

Classics, Supernatural and Horror Fiction

A tale of vampires set in the late 19th century. Jonathan Harker, an English solicitor, visits Count Dracula in his Transylvania castle to transact some business, and soon learns that Dracula is not the ordinary man he appears, but a monster. His horror increases when Dracula moves to England. 1897.

### **[Goblin: A Novel in Six Novellas DB103465](#)**

By: Josh Malerman

Reading time: 12 hours, 29 minutes.

Supernatural and Horror Fiction

The town of Goblin seems like any other ordinary small town. But six interconnected novellas tell the story of a deranged love, a terrified man setting ghost traps in his house, a big game hunter searching for the ultimate prey, and more. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

### **[A Discovery of Witches DB72629](#)**

By: Deborah E. Harkness

Reading time: 26 hours, 1 minute.

Paranormal romance fiction, Historical Fiction, Supernatural and Horror Fiction, Bestsellers

After scholar and witch Diana Bishop requests an alchemical manuscript from the depths of Oxford's Bodleian Library, she finds the magical power within the leather cover disturbing and hastily sends it back. But the book's reemergence causes a chain reaction through the paranormal community. Descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

### [Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus DB25835](#)

By: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

Reading time: 8 hours, 32 minutes.

Classics, Supernatural and Horror Fiction

Classic horror story. A monster, endowed with life by a young scientist named Frankenstein, later turns on his creator. Originally published in 1818.

### [Cunning Folk DB108686](#)

By: Adam L. G. Nevill

Reading time: 12 hours, 3 minutes.

Supernatural and Horror Fiction

"After Tom and his family move into a money-pit home in rural southwest England, hostilities break out with the elderly couple next door, and he begins to suspect that the oddballs across the hedgerow command unearthly, malicious powers." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

### [Mexican Gothic DB99404](#)

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia

Reading time: 10 hours, 41 minutes.

Gothic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Fantasy Fiction, Supernatural and Horror Fiction, Bestsellers

Mexico City, 1950. After receiving a frantic letter from her newly-wed cousin begging for someone to save her from a mysterious doom, socialite Noemí Taboada heads to High Place, a distant house in the Mexican countryside. Both the home and its owners seem to have a dark past. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

### [We Have Always Lived in the Castle DB26614](#)

By: Shirley Jackson

Reading time: 5 hours, 30 minutes.

Suspense Fiction

A frightening story, narrated by a childlike girl of eighteen, who lives with her senile uncle and older sister Constance, who was acquitted of the poisoning of the rest of the family. The younger sister convinces Constance to escape from the cruel curiosity of the townspeople by locking themselves in their house. 1962.

### [The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches DB110401](#)

By: Sangu Mandanna

Reading time: 10 hours, 4 minutes.

Fantasy Fiction

"As one of the few witches in Britain, Mika Moon knows she has to hide her magic, keep her head down, and stay away from other witches so their powers don't mingle and draw attention. And as an orphan who lost her parents at a young age and was raised by strangers, she's used to being alone and she follows the rules...with one exception: an online account, where she posts videos "pretending" to be a witch. She thinks no one will take it seriously. But someone does. An unexpected message arrives, begging her to travel to the remote and mysterious Nowhere House to teach three young witches how to control their magic. It breaks all of the rules, but Mika goes anyway, and is immediately tangled up in the lives and secrets of not only her three charges, but also an absent archaeologist, a

retired actor, two long-suffering caretakers, and...Jamie. The handsome and prickly librarian of Nowhere House would do anything to protect the children, and as far as he's concerned, a stranger like Mika is a threat. An irritatingly appealing threat. As Mika begins to find her place at Nowhere House, the thought of belonging somewhere begins to feel like a real possibility. But magic isn't the only danger in the world, and when peril comes knocking at their door, Mika will need to decide whether to risk everything to protect a found family she didn't know she was looking for." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

**[Dark Archives: A Librarian's Investigation into the Science and History of Books Bound in Human Skin DB108414](#)**

By: Megan Rosenbloom & Justis Bolding

Reading time: 7 hours, 2 minutes.

Literature

"On bookshelves around the world, surrounded by ordinary books bound in paper and leather, rest other volumes of a distinctly strange and grisly sort: those bound in human skin. Would you know one if you held it in your hand? In *Dark Archives*, Megan Rosenbloom seeks out the historic and scientific truths behind anthropodermic bibliopegy--the practice of binding books in this most intimate covering. Dozens of such books live on in the world's most famous libraries and museums. *Dark Archives* exhumes their origins and brings to life the doctors, murderers, innocents, and indigents whose lives are sewn together in this disquieting collection. Along the way, Rosenbloom tells the story of how her team of scientists, curators, and librarians test rumored anthropodermic books, untangling the myths around their creation and reckoning with the ethics of their custodianship. A librarian and journalist, Rosenbloom is a member of The Order of the Good Death and a cofounder of their Death Salon, a community that encourages conversations, scholarship, and art about mortality and mourning. In *Dark Archives*--captivating and macabre in all the right ways--she has crafted a narrative that is equal parts detective work, academic intrigue, history, and medical curiosity: a book as rare and thrilling as its subject." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

## TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Local Phone Number: (609) 406-7179

Email Address: [tbbc@njstatelib.org](mailto:tbbc@njstatelib.org)

Website Address: [www.njstatelib.org/tbbc](http://www.njstatelib.org/tbbc)

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