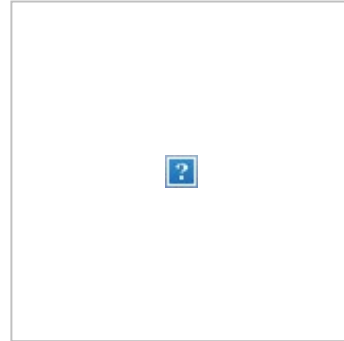


**From:** [New Jersey Talking Book & Braille Center](#)  
**To:** [Patt Ferrari](#)  
**Subject:** Monthly Highlights from TBBC  
**Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 2:36:53 PM

---

***Monthly Highlights from  
TBBC – January -  
February, 2022***



**TALKING BOOK &  
BRAILLE CENTER**

---

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

Another new year, another opportunity to work with the challenges posed by living under an ongoing pandemic. I'm proud of the work that the Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) has done since March 2020. Staff have continued to serve patrons, implemented new procedures and even restarted outreach in late 2021. With their dedication to make sure materials are accessible to all, staff have put in countless hours learning new tools and methods so that service isn't compromised.

I hope you will join me in thanking the staff for their continued efforts to make sure everyone has something to read.

Be safe and be well.

Thank you,

*Jen*

Jennifer R. Nelson  
New Jersey State Librarian

**COZY WINTER MYSTERY BOOK LIST**

This winter, why not cuddle up with some cozy mysteries? All are available on BARD.

**Still Life DB66731**

Louise Penny

Reading time: 10 hours, 37 minutes.

Shortly after elderly Jane Neal finally agrees to participate in the art show to be held in her small village outside of Montreal, she is killed by an arrow through the heart. As Chief Inspector Gamache investigates, he wonders if her unusual artwork provides a clue to her murder. 2005.

**Christmas Cake Murder DB93200**

Joanne Fluke

Reading time: 6 hours, 13 minutes.

It's Christmas years ago, and topping young Hannah Swensen's wish list is becoming the go-to baker in Lake Eden, Minnesota. While recreating a spectacular Christmas Ball in honor of elderly hospice patient Essie Granger, Hannah becomes enthralled by Essie's old notebooks about a woman escaping danger. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

**Murder is Binding DB70453**

Lorna Barrett

Reading time: 9 hours, 38 minutes.

Stoneham, New Hampshire. Newcomer Tricia Miles, owner of a mystery bookstore located along a corridor of Main Street devoted to specialty bookshops, discovers the body of murdered cookbook dealer and rival merchant Doris Gleason. When Tricia herself becomes a suspect, she sets out to clear her name. Includes recipes. 2008.

**The Thursday Murder Club DB100981**

Richard Osman

Reading time: 12 hours, 26 minutes.

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. And the bodies begin to pile up. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

**The Winter Garden Mystery: A Daisy Dalrymple Mystery DB69857**

Carola Dunn

Reading time: 7 hours, 58 minutes.

England, 1923. Daisy Dalrymple heads to Cheshire to write an article about her old schoolmate's estate. While photographing the grounds, Daisy discovers the body of a missing housemaid buried in the garden. The house's occupants and neighbors in the surrounding village become suspects as the police investigate. 1995.

**Homeward Hound DB99425**

Rita Mae Brown

Reading time: 9 hours, 15 minutes.

When the Christmas hunt is interrupted by the discovery of a body, "Sister" Jane Arnold and her company of loyal hounds find themselves faced with a pressing task--to uncover who has killed a beloved club faithful. It's no help that the meddling, loathsome Victor Harris lurks in the shadows. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

**A Midwinter's Tail DB79612**

Sofie Kelly

Reading time: 8 hours, 43 minutes.

This holiday season Mayville Heights librarian Kathleen Paulson has her hands full hosting a fundraising event. And when a guest at the gala drops dead, Kathleen's uncanny cats, Owen and Hercules, will have their paws full helping her solve the murder. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie DB70410**

C. Alan Bradley

Reading time: 9 hours, 31 minutes.

England, 1950. Eleven-year-old aspiring chemist Flavia de Luce overhears her father in a heated argument with a stranger, who turns up dead in the garden of the Luces' decaying estate. When Flavia's father is charged with murder, she seeks clues in their village and his past to exonerate him. 2009.

**REMINDER: Appointments Needed**

TBBC is open to the public virtually; we are available by phone, by email, even by video conferencing like Zoom! We are also now open for patrons who make appointments! We also have curbside service. We are not open to any walk-in patrons at this time.

If you want to drop something off or pick something up, just call or email us for curbside service! We will have what you want waiting for you on a cart in our building lobby. Or, you can drop off anything on that cart in the lobby. You have to call first; and this is only available Monday to Friday.

If you want to make an appointment to visit TBBC, please call us or email us. Space is limited.

Our health and safety protocols do not allow the public to visit at this time. If you do visit without an appointment, you will not be able to talk to staff or pick up any materials.

### **NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

You may have noticed something different the last time you called TBBC – yes, TBBC has a new phone system!

Our phone numbers and extensions have not changed. You still dial 0 to talk to a Readers Advisor.

There are some differences. Here are some you should know for when you call.

If you want to speak to a Reader Services Advisor to order books, press 0 when prompted by the system. You will then hear “let me transfer you to the operator.” At that point, holding music will start to play. Stay on the line, and someone will pick up as soon as possible.

If everyone is busy with other calls, you will need to leave a message. Please leave your name, phone number, and reason for calling. Messages will be returned as quickly as possible, Monday through Friday.

If you know the extension of the person you are calling, you must hit the pound key after entering the extension in order for the call to go through. If you do not hit pound after entering an extension, the system will prompt you to do so after a momentary pause.

We are all getting used to this new system, so thank you for your patience.

### **APPLYING FOR SERVICES FOR TBBC**

Do you know someone who is interested in applying for services for

TBBC, but thought it was too complicated?

It's now easier than ever to apply! Recent changes expanded who can sign the application necessary to get services from TBBC. The list of "certifying authorities" now includes reading specialists, educators, school psychologists and librarians, as well as doctors, nurses, social workers and case workers. "Certifying authorities" can sign for the blindness, low vision, physical handicaps and reading disabilities. And, the application can now be sent to us electronically; it doesn't have to be mailed or faxed. Instead, email it!

The new application, which includes the full list of who can certify that someone qualifies for TBBC services, is at TBBC's website at [https://www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/apply\\_for\\_service/](https://www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/apply_for_service/)

If you know someone who is interested, or have questions about how to send us the application electronically, just give us a call!

### **LIBRARY EQUAL ACCESS PROGRAM (LEAP)**

TBBC and the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) are finishing classes at four public libraries. The libraries are the Toms River Public Library, the Cherry Hill Public Library, the Hackensack Public Library and the East Brunswick Public Library.

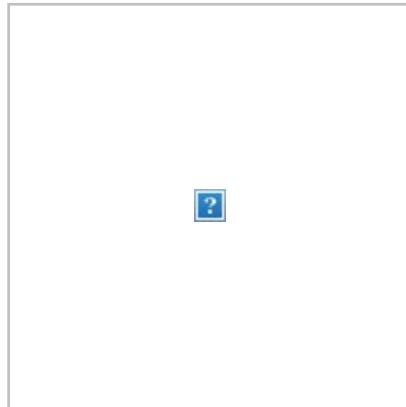
LEAP provides free classes for individuals with low vision who want to learn about the assistive tools available on iPhones and iPads. Registration priority is given to those who are 55 and older. Classes are held at several public library locations throughout the state.

More details about the Spring, 2022 sessions and locations will be released as they become available. To find out more, or to be put on our registration waitlist, please contact TBBC by calling 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or by emailing us at [tbcc@njstatelib.org](mailto:tbcc@njstatelib.org)

### **NLS CASSETTE PLAYER LIVES ON**

The last NLS-produced cassette machine rolled off the production line in 2007; the last NLS cassette book followed a few years later. The digital future, after all, had come: digital talking-book machines with fewer moving parts offered more reliable functionality, and digital talking-book cartridges let patrons fit entire series' worth of reading material into the palms of their hands.

So why, nearly 15 years later, are C-1 cassette players—first developed in 1981—a hot commodity on the black market (even though they remain U.S. Government property intended for use only by registered patrons of the NLS program)? Because they offer functionality that no commercially produced player has—functionality with unexpected appeal to experimental musicians.



As with its records in the 1930s, NLS chose to use a non-standard, slower format for its cassette tapes. Issuing books at  $1\frac{7}{8}$  ips—the standard for commercial music—would have required shipping boxes of tapes for each book. Instead, NLS recorded at  $15/16$  ips, with four monaural tracks per cassette, allowing each cassette to hold up to six hours of recorded material.

NLS understood, however, that its patrons might also want to play cassettes procured from other sources, so the C-1 offered a simple switch that allowed users to choose between  $1\frac{7}{8}$  ips playback and  $15/16$  ips playback. It also had a variable speed control slider that allowed patrons to read books faster if they desired—a technological innovation that NLS had been experimenting with since the 1960s.

“Time-scale modification,” the late NLS engineer Lloyd Rasmussen once said, “is a complex problem with several fundamentally different approaches. We were interested in trying all of them.” That put NLS at the forefront of technology in an era when music equipment producers saw little purpose or value in methods to speed up sound without distorting it.

Today, the digital talking-book machine uses a digital signal-processing algorithm to speed up and slow down sound, but in the cassette-book era, the methods were all analog. Ambient and low-fi music aficionados prize the unique distortions created through those analog methods.

Add in the ability to alter tone with the flick of another slider, and the fact that using the side-control switch designed for four-sided NLS tapes on standard two-sided tapes allows them to be played backwards, and you have a machine that can twist and alter music in ways its creators never imagined. It even has an auxiliary input port, allowing users to feed sound into it from non-cassette sources. The results are eerie, haunting, compelling—and a tribute to the ingenuity of NLS engineers.

### **CONGRESSWOMAN NARRATES HER BOOK AT NLS**

Congresswoman Sharice Davids of Kansas visited NLS on October 19 to narrate her children’s book, *Sharice’s Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman*, in the NLS Studio. The book recounts Davids’ path to becoming one of the first Native American women elected to Congress.

“I discovered the book while reading reviews and realized it was a perfect book for our collection,” NLS Youth Librarian Jill Garcia said. “Picture books written by and featuring Native Americans are extremely rare, and here was one of the first Native Americans in Congress writing an inspiring book about her life. And I fell in love with her inclusive message.

narrator reading



“On a more personal note, I found myself—even as an adult—identifying with her experiences growing up. I know a lot of our young readers will relate to her too.”

Davids said she was a little nervous but excited when she arrived at

NLS record her book. “I’m thrilled—and honored—to be a part of the Library of Congress’s mission to make their resources available to everyone,”

**Sharice's Big Voice DB105175** is available on BARD and from TBBC. It’s also available in braille: BR23723.

## **NEW YEAR, SAME GREAT BOOK CLUB!**

TBBC’s Virtual Book Club is going strong in 2022!

There is one important change to make to your calendars: the Virtual Book Club now meets the first **Thursday** of every month at 1:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The suggested reading theme is “Hearts.” Members are also invited to talk about any book they have recently read regardless of genre or author.

The next meetings are Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Members can join through the internet or over the phone. To register and find out more, call or email. You can also find out more at our website.

## **TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

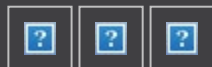
Toll-Free Number: (800) 792-8322 ext. 861

Local Phone Number: (609) 406-7179 ext. 861

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

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

STAY CONNECTED



Talking Book & Braille Center | 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618-3226

[Unsubscribe pferrari@njstatelib.org](mailto:Unsubscribe_pferrari@njstatelib.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [tbbc@njstatelib.org](mailto:tbbc@njstatelib.org) powered by





Try email marketing for free today!