
Monthly Highlights from TBBC – Winter, 2023



TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN

As this year comes to a close, I'm struck by how the National Library Service (NLS) continues to evolve its services in ways that best address the needs of TBBC's users. If you are a Braille user, I hope you have a chance to try the new service we describe in this newsletter, and that it suits your needs. I encourage you to join the open patron engagement calls that NLS is offering, hearing from you can only improve their programs.

Happy New Year!

Be safe and be well.

Thank you,

Jen

Jennifer R. Nelson
New Jersey State Librarian

NEW PROGRAM – BRAILLE ON DEMAND

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) has a new program called Braille on Demand. This new service allows braille readers to request up to five titles per month in paper braille format that patrons are allowed to keep as their own copies. The program is open to any Braille title in the BARD database which contains over 15,000 titles.

To request up to five monthly titles, patrons of the Talking Book Program will fill out the request form that goes directly to NLS:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand>

Once NLS processes your request, they will mail the braille books straight to you within a few weeks.

Guidelines for requesting titles:

Braille titles will be limited to books that are currently available on BARD. You can either search BARD for titles here <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> or call us to check if the titles you would like are available.

Only complete titles will be distributed. Requests for partial titles (for example, volume one of a three-volume book) will result in receiving the entire book.

As of now, patrons may request up to five titles per calendar month.

If you fill out the request form on your own, you will need to know the following:

1. The book titles
2. The BR numbers of the titles from BARD
3. The name of your network library: New Jersey State Library – Talking Book and Braille Center (NJ1A)

We hope that our braille patrons will take advantage of this new service. If you have any questions or if you would like us to fill out the form for you please call us at (800) 792-8322.

NLS PATRON CORNER PROGRAM

The Library of Congress' division for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) has established a Patron Engagement Section. This section has developed a call-in program called The Many Faces of BARD. The program will occur on the second Thursday of every third month at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The next program will be on March 9, 2023.

Each meeting will cover one aspect of BARD usage and will include two components: a brief presentation and a Q&A session. Future topics will be announced in the meetings. These presentations will provide an overview of all of the available BARD products. The past sessions in June, September and December are recorded and available for everyone.

These sessions are open to all patrons. They can be joined by going to <https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1611161911?pwd=bVh5ejFsWFBIL21KY0VqaHIRMUISQT09> on a computer or calling 1-669-245-5252. The full Zoom information is listed below. To call into a session, participants must use the telephone

numbers provided here for Zoom.gov rather than the regular Zoom telephone numbers.

When you enter the meeting room you will be on mute, and should remain on mute unless the host calls on you to speak. You can unmute by using Alt-A from a computer or star 6 if dialing in by phone.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

One tap mobile: US: [+16692545252](tel:+16692545252), [1611161911#](tel:+1611161911) or [+16468287666](tel:+16468287666), [1611161911#](tel:+1611161911)

Meeting

URL: <https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1611161911?pwd=bVh5ejFsWFBIL21KY0VqaHIRMUISQT09>

Meeting ID: 161 116 1911

Passcode: 489758

Join by Telephone

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

Dial: US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 551 285 1373

Meeting ID: 161 116 1911

TBBC'S VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB IS THE PLACE TO BE! THREE REASONS TO JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB IN 2023

As TBBC's Virtual Book Club enters its third year, we want to let patrons know we always welcome new members! Our Book Club provides a great place to talk about books with other TBBC library patrons!

With that in mind, here are three great reasons you should think about joining the TBBC Book Club!

1. Our Club Meets Virtually – The TBBC Book Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. over Zoom. Members can join either online using a link, or by calling in over the phone. This means you can join the club from the comfort of your own home, or anywhere else that works for you. We are not strict about attendance.

2. Club Members Get to Vote on the Books We Read – When our Book Club decides which book it is going to read next, we always put it up to a vote for members! This gives you direct input on the books you get to talk about with the club. Voting happens at the end of club meetings, and members vote on a selection of titles picked by TBBC staff. We also take recommendations for future meetings. Our book for our December 2022 meeting is going to be [*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky \(DB75897\)](#).
3. Book Club Titles are Always Available Through TBBC – Sometimes it can be difficult to find books in audio. At TBBC’s Book Club, we always have the books we are discussing available in our library! This means you will always have free access to the readings for each month.

And those are three reasons why you should consider joining a meeting of the TBBC Virtual Book Club. To learn how to join, please call us at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or email us at tbbc@njstatelib.org

For more information you can read about our Book Club online at <https://www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/tbbcs-virtual-bookclub/>

TBBC FINISHES 2022 LEAP CLASSES AND GETS READY FOR 2023

TBBC finished strong with its 2022 classes for the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP).

LEAP, presented in partnership with the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, is a series of free technology classes held at several libraries throughout the state, including TBBC in Trenton. These classes teach visually impaired individuals, aged 55 and older, how to use accessible features available on iPhones and iPads. Accessible features covered in LEAP classes include Siri, VoiceOver, and magnification.

Program participants had great things to say about the classes, such as that “everyone has heard of Siri, but you don’t really know how much she can do until you learn!”

For those who are interested in taking a LEAP course, we are starting our waitlist for the Spring 2023 classes!

For more information, or if you would like to be put on the 2023 waitlist, please contact us by phone at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or by email at tbcc@njstatelib.org

2022 HOLIDAY APPEAL

Be sure to watch your mail this month for this year's 2022 Holiday Appeal. The appeal includes a letter and a Recognition Wall book-shaped plaque order form for those interested in purchasing a plaque in honor or in memory of a valued patron. It also includes a remittance envelope pre-addressed to TBBC for your convenience.

If you have any questions about the letter, purchasing a book-shaped plaque, or have not received the letter, contact Linda Cerce at 800-792-8322 ext. 835 or email lcerce@njstatelib.org.

HOLIDAY BOOK SUGGESTIONS

[Hanukkah Lights: Stories of the Season: from NPR's Annual Holiday Special DB62028](#)

National Public Radio (U.S.) Reading time: 3 hours, 6 minutes.

Short Stories, Holidays.

Twelve stories celebrating Hanukkah by contemporary authors Myra Goldberg, Daniel Pinkwater, Harlan Ellison, Dani Shapiro, Elie Wiesel, Mark Helprin, and others. In Anne Roiphe's "The Demon Foiled," a new Jewish mayor attempts to light the family Hanukkah candles while he is being filmed for local TV. 2005.

[A Christmas Story DBC13520](#)

Shepherd, Jean Reading time: 4 hours, 23 minutes.

Humor, Family.

This edition of A Christmas Story gathers together in one hilarious volume the gems of autobiographical humor that Jean Shepherd drew upon to create this enduring film. The pieces that comprise A Christmas Story, previously published in the larger collections In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash, and Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories, coalesce in a magical fashion to become an irresistible piece of Americana, quite the equal of the film in its ability to warm the heart and tickle the funny bone.

[This Land Is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving DB97804](#)

Silverman, David J Reading time: 14 hours, 40 minutes.

U.S. History.

Historian reevaluates the events driving the founding of the Plymouth colony in the seventeenth century. Discusses the founding of the peaceful alliance between the English and the Wampanoag Indians and its eventual bloody dissolution. Examines the complicated emotions and cultural narratives surrounding the holiday of Thanksgiving. 2019.

[Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk DB86852](#)

Rooney, Kathleen Reading time: 8 hours, 53 minutes.

City Life – Manhattan – Fiction, Older Women – Fiction.

New Year's Eve, 1984. At eighty-five years old, Lillian Boxfish walks through Manhattan, visiting some of her favorite spots. She thinks back on her career, when she was briefly the most successful woman in advertising in America — a career she left behind for marriage, motherhood, divorce, and a breakdown. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Mr. Dickens and His Carol DB87973](#)

Silva, Samantha; Morton, Euan Reading time: 8 hours, 11 minutes.

Historical Fiction.

Depressed about the failure of his most recent book, feeling pressured by his publisher to write a Christmas book, and worried over his family's financial stability, Charles Dickens seeks refuge in nightly walks. On one, he meets Eleanor Lovejoy, who takes him on a Scrooge-like journey. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Bridget Jones's Diary DB46267](#)

Fielding, Helen Reading time: 7 hours, 15 minutes.

Humor, Bestsellers.

Despite a long list of resolutions, British Bridget Jones's year gets off to "an exceptionally bad start" when her parents try to fix up their thirtyish dateless daughter with their friends' unappealing divorced son. But all is not lost — it appears that Bridget's crush on her boss is developing into a two-sided flirtation. Strong language. Bestseller.

[Recommended for You DB101627](#)

Silverman, Laura Reading time: 6 hours, 39 minutes.

LGBTQ+, Young Adult, Romance.

Shoshanna loves her job at the independent bookstore, Once Upon, until Jake joins the staff, a handsome nonreader who challenges her for a bonus she needs. Some strong language. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2020.

[This Time Next Year DB101441](#)

Cousens, Sophie Reading time: 10 hours, 31 minutes.

Human Relations, Romance.

Minnie Cooper and Quinn Hamilton were born at the same hospital just after midnight on New Year's Day, but Quinn seemed to have all the luck. When Minnie unexpectedly runs into Quinn at a New Year's party on their mutual thirtieth birthday, she can't help but compare their lives. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

HALLMARK CHRISTMAS MOVIE BOOK LIST

Check out these books made into popular Hallmark movies!

[The Christmas Train DB55045](#)

Baldacci, David Reading time: 7 hours, 37 minutes.

Humor, Romance, Bestsellers, Holidays.

Journalist Tom Langdon takes a cross-country train from the East Coast to Los Angeles to spend Christmas with his girlfriend. On the trip he meets a host of zany characters, including one who happens to be his former lover. Sparks fly until Tom's girlfriend shows up in Chicago. Bestseller. 2002.

[The Angel Tree DB80225](#)

Benedis-Grab, Daphne Reading time: 4 hours, 36 minutes.

Friendship Fiction, Mystery and Detective Stories, Family, Animals and Wildlife, Holidays.

Every Christmas in the small town of Pine River, a tree appears in the town square and people tie wishes to it; but nobody knows where the tree comes

from. This year, four children are determined to solve the mystery of the Angel Tree. For grades 4-7. 2014.

[Mrs. Miracle DB70101](#)

Macomber, Debbie Reading time: 7 hours, 2 minutes.

Family, Romance, Holidays.

Seth Webster struggles to raise his boisterous twin boys after his wife dies. Housekeepers come and go before Mrs. Merkle arrives and takes control. "Mrs. Miracle," as the children call her, encourages romance between Seth and travel-agency owner Reba Maxwell. Commercial audiobook. 1996.

[The Christmas Town DB86731](#)

VanLiere, Donna Reading time: 4 hours, 55 minutes.

Romance, Holidays.

Former foster child Lauren Gabriel is not a fan of the Christmas season, but when she witnesses a car accident, she is drawn into the small town of Grandon. She is recruited to help raise money for Glory's Place — a center for single mothers and families in need. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Silver Bells: A Holiday Tale DB59402](#)

Rice, Luanne Reading time: 5 hours, 47 minutes.

Romance, Holidays.

Widowed Canadian farmer Christopher Byrne journeys to New York City every December to sell Christmas trees. Last year his teenaged son stayed on to pursue a photography career. Manhattan librarian Catherine Tierney buys her trees from Chris and looks out for the boy. Love is soon in the air. 2004.

[The Mistletoe Secret DB86630](#)

Evans, Richard Paul Reading time: 6 hours, 13 minutes.

Romance, Holidays.

Alex Bartlett has been reading the posts from a blogger calling herself LBH — Last Broken Heart — and believes he has found a kindred spirit. Using clues from her blog, Alex decides to track LBH down, traveling to her Utah home at the holidays. 2016.

[A Dog Named Christmas DBC01593](#)

Kincaid, Gregory D Reading time: 3 hours, 29 minutes.

Disability, Family, Animals and Wildlife.

Discovering that a local shelter is looking for temporary homes for their dogs over the Christmas holidays, Todd, a developmentally challenged young man, persuades his reluctant family to take in a special canine named Christmas, who teaches an entire community a lesson in the transforming power of love and goodwill. First book in the Christmas Dogs series. Followed by "Christmas with Tucker." Unrated. 2008.

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

Website Address: www.njstatelib.org/tbbc

STAY CONNECTED

