



BTBL News

Braille and Talking Book Library
California State Library, Sacramento, CA

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A Message from Mike Marlin, Director

Greetings from the historic California State Library, Braille and Talking Book Library in Sacramento, home of the great book rush of 2023! In this well-stocked issue of *BTBL News*, you can pan for and discover information nuggets about the Many Faces of BARD program, offerings for Spanish language patrons, services with which the NLS Music section is tinkering, patron favorite book titles, new offerings in the local Californiana book collection, and other treasures and tidbits of knowledge.

Speaking of treasure that enriches the mind, if you are seeking the latest news and updates from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), the Patron Engagement Section now hosts an announce-only

listserv that includes announcements about NLS programs, services, and products that might be of interest. Announcements include but are not limited to Zoom links for online events, reminders about the release of the latest Talking Book Topics, or BARD updates and new features. New announcements are posted to the list a few times per week. To sign up for this listserv, please send your name and email address to the Patron Engagement Section at NLSPE@loc.gov. You will be able to unsubscribe yourself from the list at any time.

Like the 1849 Gold Rush, the accessible book rush attracts international language prospectors, i.e., readers! NLS continues to add more international language books to its catalog from other countries. Recently, NLS renamed its online quarterly publication from *Foreign Language Quarterly* to *International Language Quarterly*. To learn about the constantly expanding collection of international titles, visit: www.loc.gov/nls/ilq. These titles in scores of languages, including English, are made available to NLS through the Marrakesh Treaty, a landmark copyright agreement allowing for the international exchange of accessible-format titles to serve those unable to read traditional books because of a print disability. If you have international collection title suggestions or need assistance with finding international language titles, contact your Reader Advisor.

Congratulations to our 2023 Summer Reading Program participants--who received their Starbucks or Baskin Robbins gift cards, and for some a BTBL stuffed animal puppy! This year 42 participants read 491 books! We salute the inspiring children, teens, and adults who read many great fiction and nonfiction works to beat the summer heat.

BTBL's Assistive Technology Lending Program has thus far been very successful. We are expanding device loans to patrons from our Fresno and San Francisco subregional libraries. We have loaned internet hotspot connections, handheld magnifiers, and portable audio players to hundreds of Sacramento regional library patrons. These are one-year loans with the possibility of an additional year renewal. For the Victor Reader Stream audio players there is a prerequisite to maintain a valid email address and active BARD account.

Please contact BTBL if you are interested or visit library.ca.gov/btbl/assistive-technology/ to learn more.

And finally, if you are interested in synthetic voice audio, electronic braille, and now some human-narrated books, consider a free Bookshare membership through BTBL. With up to 500 statewide Bookshare licenses, there are still several available membership slots. For more information visit Bookshare.org or contact your Reader Advisor.

New USPS Pickup Option

Since the pandemic, the United States Postal Service has instituted new policies for pickup of packages such as braille and digital books. When you want to return materials to the library by postage-free mail, you may need to schedule a pickup. You can do so by completing the short online form at <https://tools.usps.com/schedule-pickup-steps.htm>. You can also get there by searching the internet for "USPS Pickup". You might be able to streamline the process by speaking with your mail carrier directly. Thank you for taking this step to ensure the timely return of braille and digital books to the library!

NLS Catalog Makes it Easy to Search for Books

Recently, NLS launched a new catalog, making it easier than ever to search for your favorite books! Features include:

- Advanced searching capabilities using guided menus
- Optimized navigation features for mobile phone and tablet use
- Direct links to items on BARD for easy downloading
- Convenient links to Ask a Librarian and Recommend a Title
- Ability to email search results

Check out the new catalog at: nlscatalog.loc.gov

Get to Know The Many Faces of BARD

Do you have a question about how to use BARD? Want to learn helpful tips directly from BARD's NLS creators? Then attend The Many Faces of BARD meetings! All patrons are welcome to join online or through telephone options. Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Past recordings, upcoming session and Zoom invitation details at www.loc.gov/nls/about/services/many-faces-of-bard

Top 5 BARD Downloads

Audiobooks - Fiction

[DB 114782](#) Identity by Nora Roberts

[DB 114749](#) The 23rd Midnight by James Patterson

[DB 114201](#) The Housemaid by Freida McFadden

[DB 113301](#) Countdown by James Patterson

[DB 113075](#) I Will Find You by Harlan Coben

Audiobooks - Nonfiction

[DBC 28396](#) The Gospel of Mary Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle by Karen King

[DB 114780](#) My Time in Heaven by Richard Sigmund

[DB 114372](#) When a Killer Calls: A Haunting Story of Murder, Criminal Profiling, and Justice in a Small Town by John E. Douglas

[DB 111557](#) The Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee Book by Jerry Seinfeld

[DB 114864](#) A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan

Braille - Fiction

[BRG 04329](#) Cottage by the Sea by Debbie Macomber

[BR 24775](#) The Hidden One: A Kate Burkholder Novel by Linda Castillo

[BR 24483](#) The Candy House by Jennifer Egan

[BR 24658](#) The Fill-In Boyfriend by Kasie West

[BR 24567](#) Murder on 5th Avenue: A Gaslight Mystery by Victoria Thompson

Braille - Nonfiction

[BR 24342](#) Snacks for Dinner: Small Bites, Full Plates, Can't Lose by Lukas Volger

[BR 24315](#) Air Fryer Perfection: From Crispy Fries and Juicy Steaks to Perfect Vegetables by America's Test Kitchen

[BR 24229](#) Ultimate Meal-Prep Cookbook: One Grocery List. A Week of Meals. No Waste by America's Test Kitchen

[BR 24449](#) Kitchen Witchery: Unlocking the Magick in Everyday Ingredients by Laurel Woodward

[BRE 00095](#) The ABCs of UEB: A Guide for the Transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to the Rules of English Unified Braille (UEB) by Constance Risjord

Are You Eligible to Save on Your Internet Bill?

The Affordable Connectivity Program was created by the FCC to help households struggling to pay for internet service. Perks of this program include a reduced rate for internet service and a one-time discount on new devices. A household is eligible if income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if a member of the household participates in assistance programs. Visit [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) or call (877) 384-2575 to learn more.

New Spanish Language Website

Are you a Spanish speaker, or do you know someone who is? NLS recently launched a library services webpage *en español*. The website provides general information, lists of resources in Spanish, and easy access to Spanish-language materials. Check out the new website here: www.loc.gov/nls/es

In addition to the new website, patron applications and new promotional brochures are available *en español*. Please contact the library to receive these materials.

Braille Books You Can Keep Indefinitely

NLS patrons who read braille can now request hard copy braille books to keep indefinitely! Many patrons are taking advantage of this new offering by requesting books of knitting patterns or cookbooks, while others are building at-home libraries of their favorite book series. To request a book in hard copy braille, use the form found online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand.

If you would like to speak with someone or place your request over the phone, please contact your Reader Advisor.

Braille Calendars Available

In January, NLS will have free braille calendars in both wall-sized and pocket-sized formats available for patrons. Please let your Reader Advisor know if you are interested in either or both.

NLS Music Notes Event

The NLS Music Section includes braille and large-print musical scores, recorded instructional materials, and recorded materials about music and musicians, and some digital audio and ebraille materials are available for download from BARD. Their Braille music materials can be requested through Braille on Demand if patrons wish to keep a copy. They even have a collection of recorded concerts. Any BTBL patron can borrow materials from the NLS Music Section. However, music materials are circulated directly to patrons from the NLS headquarters in Washington, D.C. You can call the NLS Music Section to request materials at 800-424-8567 or email them at nlsm@loc.gov.

The NLS Music Section is offering its first quarterly Music Notes meeting for library patrons and staff. They will present a pre-recorded conversation titled "Time Out for 'Take Five,'" in which Music Section Head Juliette Appold and Music Reader Services Librarian Brian McCurdy will discuss this famous piece of music by the Dave Brubeck Quartet and its relevance to the NLS Music collection. A live question-and-answer session will follow. You can read Brian's 2020 blog post about "Take Five" here: <https://blogs.loc.gov/nls-music-notes/2020/05/song-stories-time-out-for-take-five>.

Join us on Zoom, Tuesday, October 24, at 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time for "Time Out for 'Take Five'." Here's the link to the Zoom meeting: <https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1613884698?pwd=VkJsekxVcWROV0F2VkZVY085ZzNoUT09>

Newest Titles from the Californiana Collection

Wondering what to read next? Consider these selections from the Californiana Collection, which is growing every day. Staff of our Narration Studio have been preparing local books—California authors and subjects not covered by the NLS talking book collection. For a complete catalog of our Californiana Collection, ask your Reader Advisor. Here are the recently completed talking books:

Ana of California

by Andi Teran

[DBC 26695](#)

In this modern retelling of *Anne of Green Gables*, fifteen-year-old orphan Ana has run through her last foster family, and it's off to a group home next, unless Ana is willing to make a drastic change. Accepted as a trainee at a small family farm in East Los Angeles, Ana thrives in her new life, but not everyone in town believes that Ana deserves a second chance. Unrated. Commercial audio book.

8 hours, 47 minutes. Narrated by: Andi Teran.

Soon I Will be Invincible

by Austin Grossman

[DBC 19548](#)

An original, sometimes satirical, and humorous superhero novel as largely told by supervillain Dr. Impossible who has tried, and failed, to take over the world twelve times. His most recent escape has him crossing paths with Fatale, a chronically unemployed cyborg and the newest member of the superhero alliance, the Champions. 2007.

10 hours, 56 minutes. Narrated by: Linda Goman.

A daring man

by Leigh Greenwood

[DBC 26680](#)

Zac Randolph is a gambling man. One of seven infamous brothers, he kicked the Texas dust off his boots and found his new home in the Little Corner of Heaven Saloon in San Francisco's notorious Barbary Coast. Running a saloon is exactly the kind of work he is best suited for, and he's happiest keeping the rough men who frequent his halls in line. But then a figure from his past comes calling, and his whole world is flipped upside down. Unrated. Commercial audio book.

12 hours, 4 minutes. Narrated by: Tieran Wilder.

Woman of ill fame

by Erika Mailman

[DBC 26684](#)

Nora Simms, a young prostitute working out of a shipyard in Boston, longs for a better life. When the Gold Rush hits, she escapes to California, planning to reinvent herself as a parlor girl in a high-class bordello. But when someone begins stalking and murdering the prostitutes of San Francisco, Nora must use her street smarts to figure out who is targeting these soiled doves before she is the next victim. Unrated. Commercial audio book.

11 hours, 55 minutes. Narrated by: Tiffany Morgan.

Ishi's brain: In search of America's last "wild" Indian

by Orin Starn

[DBC 19002](#)

The book chronicles the recent campaign of modern-day Native Americans to find and rebury the body of the last Yahi Indian. The anthropologist author recounts a mysterious cross-country trail of lost letters, secrets shared and concealed, and a missing body part tracked at last to a strange steel vat at the Smithsonian Institution. Violence.

13 hours, 53 minutes. Narrated by: Walter Phelps.

Unfolding beauty: celebrating California's landscapes

by Terry Beers

[DBC 16736](#)

Anthology of excerpts pertaining to California reveal the "magnificent diversity of landscapes in this patched-together state" and the cultural diversity of the past 200 years. Includes selections from Joan Didion, Jack Kerouac, John Muir, and John Steinbeck.

17 hours, 39 minutes. Narrated by: Bill Rosenfeld.

The women on the wall

by Wallace Stegner

[DBC 20153](#)

Written during and immediately after World War II, this book features eighteen short stories about women living through wartime. As their husbands, fathers, and sons enlist, women seek support through female friendships and forge new identities as farmers, factory workers, and mechanics.

8 hours, 10 minutes. Narrated by: David Michener.

Mark Twain's San Francisco

by Mark Twain

[DBC 16729](#)

This collection of brief, often humorous writings includes commentary, poems, anecdotes, letters and notes about Twain's experiences in San Francisco between 1863 and 1866.

9 hours, 17 minutes. Narrated by: Walter Phelps.

This body: A novel

by Laurel Marian Doud

[DBC 19005](#)

Katharine Ashley, a middle-aged wife and mother of two, finds herself in a strange predicament after her death. She discovers that she is alive again, this time in the body of a young, slim single woman. This body's life is quite different than the one Katharine led, and she struggles to find a way to live in her new body and life. Contains explicit descriptions of sex.

9 hours, 54 minutes. Narrated by: Sandra Swafford.

Salem's cipher

by Jess Lourey

[DBC 26696](#)

Salem Wiley is a genius cryptanalyst, courted by the world's top security agencies ever since her quantum computing breakthrough. She's also an agoraphobe shackled to a narrow routine since her father's suicide. When her intelligence work unexpectedly exposes a sinister plot to assassinate the country's first viable female presidential candidate, Salem finds herself both target and detective in a modern-day witch hunt. Unrated. Commercial audio book.

12 hours, 14 minutes. Narrated by: Christina Delaine.

Southland

by Nina Revoyr

[DBC 26697](#)

A young Japanese American woman, Jackie Ishida, is in her last semester at UCLA when her grandfather, Frank Sakai, dies unexpectedly. While trying to fulfill a request from his will, Jackie discovers that during the Watts Riots of 1965, four African American boys were killed in the store that Frank owned. As Jackie tries to piece together what happened that night, she unearths long-buried secrets from her family history. Unrated. Commercial audio book.

13 hours, 35 minutes. Narrated by: Karen Chilton.

The other side of Haight: A novel

by James Fadiman

[DBC 19504](#)

Anyone alive in the mid 1960s remembers the powerful appeal and fame of the San Francisco neighborhood known as Haight-Ashbury. This fictional account tells the story of Shadow Dancer and others who became "immersed in the sensual, mystical chaos of the Haight." Descriptions of sex.

6 hours, 27 minutes. Narrated by: Walter Phelps.

Braille and Talking Book Library
California State Library
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

Free Matter for the
Blind or Handicapped

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BTBL News is written and edited by staff of the Braille and Talking Book Library at the California State Library. It is available in braille, audio file, through email, and in large print upon request, or through our website.

916-654-0640 or **800-952-5666** (toll-free in CA)

Email: btbl@library.ca.gov Website: btbl.ca.gov Catalog: btbl.library.ca.gov

Library Service Hours: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday

Office closures: We will be closed November 11 (Veteran's Day), November 23-24 (Thanksgiving), December 25 (Christmas), January 1 (New Year's), January 16 (MLK Day).

Donations to BTBL are accepted at any time and are used to enhance and improve library services. In the case of memorials or donations in honor of a particular person or event, please include the name(s) and address(es) of those to be notified. Checks should be made payable to the California State Library Foundation and should include a note that the donation is for the Braille and Talking Book Library.

Donations should be sent to: California State Library Foundation, 1225 8th Street, Suite 345, Sacramento, CA, 95814-4809. Donations can also be made online at: csfndn.org. Follow the link to "Join/Donate Online." There is a place to designate BTBL as the recipient.