



Spring 2024 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

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NLS Summer Reading Program

The NLS, National Library Services Summer Reading Program will run from Monday, June 24, through Friday, August 9th, 2024. To register for the 2024 NLS Summer Reading events, please go to the NLS website at <https://tinyurl.com/nlssrp>. The Kickoff event for all ages will take place Monday, June 24 at 4:00 pm Eastern time. Dr. Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, will read **Alma and How She Got Her Name** by Juana Martinez-Neal (BR 22572, DBC08652). At 4:00 pm Eastern time on Thursday, July 18, enjoy Storytime and music by Turtle Dance Music, designed for K-3rd grade, but all are welcome. An Author Talk with New York Times Bestselling Author Angeline Bouley, with the moderator, Andrea L. Rogers for YA and Adult, will take place on Thursday, July 25, at 7:00 pm Eastern time. We encourage you to read **Firekeeper's Daughter** (BR24040, DB102762) and **Warrior Girl Unearthed** (BR25116, DB114761) before the talk and submit any questions for the author to NLS at NLSPES@loc.gov. Online activities include accessible virtual tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress, Choose Your Reading Adventure

for YA and Adult, and the Whispering Library Escape Room (family or group activity). Visit the NLS Summer Reading page at <https://tinyurl.com/nlssrp> for more information.

Reading Across RI

Reading Across Rhode Island, Rhode Island's One Book, One State community read program, kicks off its 22nd year by encouraging everyone to read **Solito** with this year's Honorary Chair Teddi Jallow, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Refugee Dream Center. **Solito** by Javier Zamora DB 110163 in English and DB112923 in Spanish. A young poet tells the inspiring story of his migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine in this "gripping memoir" (NPR) of bravery, hope, and finding family.

Books to Enjoy This Summer

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar DB 113204

When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is that the diary isn't her grandmothers. It belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28-year-old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy

to the world. Some strong language. Biographical historical fiction. 2022.

The Villa by Rachel Hawkins DB 111855

As kids, Emily and Chess were inseparable. But by their 30s, their bond has been strained by the demands of their adult lives. So, when Chess suggests a girl's trip to Italy, Emily jumps at the chance to reconnect with her best friend. Villa Aestas in Orvieto is a high-end holiday home now, but in 1974, it was known as Villa Rosato, and rented for the summer by a notorious rock star, Noel Gordon. Romance. 2023.

Run Rose Run by Dolly Parton and James Patterson DB 107053

Annie Lee Keyes is hitchhiking her way to Nashville, determined to make it in the music industry. But she's fleeing her past, and her rise as a country music star is dogged by the dark secrets trying to destroy her. Violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. Suspense. 2022.

The Bee Sting by Paul Murray DB 117184

The Barnes family is in trouble. Dickie's once-lucrative car business is going under, but rather than face the music, he's spending his days in the woods, building an apocalypse-proof bunker with a renegade handyman. His wife Imelda is selling off her jewelry on eBay, while their teenage daughter Cass, formerly top of her class, seems determined to binge-drink her way through her final exams. And twelve-year-old PJ is putting the final touches to his grand plan

to run away from home. Strong language, some violence and some explicit descriptions of sex. Psychological fiction. Humor. 2023.

RI Talking Book Discussion Group

Join Talking Books Library staff and members for a lively discussion on selected books. Book discussions will take place every other month on the fourth Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. If a book title has no available hard copies, you can request a duplicate copy by calling the Talking Books Library staff at (401) 574-9310 or by emailing talking.books@olis.ri.gov, or you may download the title from BARD. For book list and schedule go to <https://tinyurl.com/RITBLBooks>.

Multiple Book Titles on Cartridge

Cartridges will now be delivered with a card that lists all titles on the cartridge. This title card may be kept by the member. The containers will also have the return address embossed on them. When you receive an embossed container, there is no need to slide the card back onto the container for return. This should make it much easier for members to access particular titles on a cartridge.

The Many Faces of BARD Program

The NLS, Patron Engagement Section offers **The Many Faces of BARD** online event on the second Thursday of every month. Each monthly event covers one aspect of BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) service and is open to all. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time and last for one hour. This program will be recorded. The session begins with a brief

presentation. The remainder of the time will be spent answering questions about the presentation or answering other questions related to BARD usage. Please call (401)574-9310 or email talking.books@olis.ri.gov for a Zoom link and one-touch dial-in numbers. To review past programming, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/BARDFaces>.

The NLS Quarterly Patron Corner Events

Patron Corner, presented on the second Monday of the third month of the quarter, shares specific information of interest to patrons regarding an announced topic. The session will last 90 minutes and will feature the NLS Patron Engagement staff, which is responsible for programs and services for all NLS patrons. This will be your opportunity to let NLS know what you'd like to see in the future. Learn more about the next and previous Patron Corner events! For more information <https://tinyurl.com/PatronCorner>.

A New BARD Experience Is Coming This Year

BARD—the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download online service—launched on April 30, 2009, with over 15,000 digital audiobooks and nearly 1,000 issues of 40 audio magazines. (eBraille books and magazines have already been available for ten years on NLS's Web-Braille service, which combined with BARD in 2013.) Within three months, 6,853 patrons had signed up for BARD. Today, more than 170,000 audio and braille books and magazines are available on BARD, and the service has more than 44,000 users. And now NLS is preparing to roll out a major update: BARD 2.0. "It's going to be a new BARD experience," says Don

Olson, NLS Customer Service Specialist. You'll be hearing more this summer about the BARD 2.0 launch. Here are a few of the new features:

Finding books will be easier than ever before, with a more robust search engine and the ability to perform advanced searches to look through the NLS catalog, including the world's largest collection of braille music scores. Patrons will be able to search through Recently Added Books and Magazines, Most Popular Downloads, and their Wish Lists and refine the results by format, language, and subject. The Wish List, Reading History, Subscriptions, and Account Settings will be reorganized under one menu. Patrons will be given the option to disable their Reading History tracking—which will enhance privacy. Patrons' reading history will remain in the system for 30 days after they turn off tracking in case they change their minds, but after that it will be permanently deleted.

NLS Has Released BARD Mobile iOS version 2.2.2

Members should go to the App Store. The enhancements included in this version are Siri shortcuts (voice user interface). The app can now be operated by voice commands for playback and navigation, including stopping and resuming playback, fast-forwarding and rewinding by various intervals, and setting a sleep timer or a bookmark. Users can add Siri shortcuts in the app's settings. With International language search, set up to four languages in the app's settings and then filter search results by selecting a preferred language. Color contrast is boosted between selected and unselected search categories for accessibility improvements for

visually impaired users. This update enhances visibility with Smart Invert, Classic Invert, and Dark Mode on. Multiword search for Search and Search music Bug fixes, including Garbled credentials error fixed; Switch from tone to speed is fixed on iOS 17; Get Books and Bookshelf now return only titles matching the type selected in the Show Me setting, i.e., Audio Only/ Braille Only/ Both Audio and Braille. The app supports iOS versions 14 through 17.

Additional Technology Updates

NLS completed field testing of an Alexa Skill called **My Talking Books** that allows users, via voice commands, to connect with BARD, search the collection, and stream books. NLS also completed a field test of the DA-2, the next generation of the digital audiobook player, which will allow connections to Wi-Fi and Bluetooth devices and provide storage for saving content on the device. Watch for more updates in our bi-annual newsletters and in the Talking Books Blog at <https://olis.ri.gov/news/talking-books>.

New Braille and Audio Reading Download Accounts

If you have recently signed up for a BARD account, please make sure that you log in for the first time on a laptop or desktop computer before trying to log in on a mobile device. If you have problems downloading, contact the Talking Books Library staff or email NLS Tech Support at NLSDownload@loc.gov.

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Postage
Free
Matter
for the
Blind

Holiday Observances

May 27 – Memorial Day
June 19 – Juneteenth Observance
July 4 - Independence Day
August 12 – Victory Day
September 2 – Labor Day
October 14 - Columbus Day



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