

Fall 2019

Illinois State Library  
 TBBS  
 300 S. Second St.  
 Springfield, IL 62701-1796



Jesse White  
 Secretary of State  
 & State Librarian

## In this issue:

New service available

Ordering books for the  
 upcoming holidays

Advisory Committee News

Contact information

Students, parents and teachers

NLS name change

2020 Census

Unused digital players

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 Braille Service (TBBS) website  
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## New Service Available

Book discussion groups are one of the most popular services that are offered by libraries and social groups. TBBS will host a series of three military-themed book discussions in conjunction with Secretary of State Jesse White's Veterans' History Project. All interested TBBS subscribers are invited to participate. The meetings will be held at the Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St., Springfield in room 204. If you are unable to attend, there will be an opportunity to participate by phone. The sessions will last approximately an hour. The schedule and book selections for the meetings are:

October 17, 9:30 a.m. — **"The Things They Carried"** by Tim O'Brien, DB 34768.

Based on the Vietnam Conflict and named a New York Times Book of the Century and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, it has been hailed "a classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene. It is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of story-telling."

November 14, 9:30 a.m. — **"A Farewell to Arms"** by Ernest Hemingway, DB 49506.

Hemingway was inspired to write this novel

after serving in World War I. Considered a classic, the novel brings readers into the war as it is slowly winding to its conclusion.

December 12, 9:30 a.m. — **“Salt to the Sea”** by Ruta Sepetys, DB 83767.

Based on a forgotten tragedy during World War II that was six times deadlier than the Titanic, four survivors tell their stories as they vie for passage aboard the Wilhelm Gustloff, a ship that promises safety and freedom.

Please contact Sharon Layne at 800-426-0709 if you plan to attend in person or by teleconference. Information regarding participation by phone will be given upon registering. If there is enough interest, the monthly book discussion meetings will continue and the next group of books will be based on patron suggestions.

## **Ordering books for the upcoming holidays**

Book delivery is slower during the holiday season due to the increased volume of mail the postal service handles this time of year. Please order extra books in advance so you do not run out of reading material. Keep in mind that after a holiday closing it may take TBBS longer to process the backlog of incoming mail before more books can be sent.

You will not need to rely on mail delivery if you sign up for Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. BARD advantages include 24/7 access, no wait lists, no returns and you can get the newest books weeks before they are available by mail. BARD Mobile allows you to download directly to your smartphone or tablet. Visit <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/> for more information.

## **Advisory Committee News**

TBBS would like to thank all Advisory Committee members for their service, especially outgoing members Nathan LaForte and Kim Tarkowski. Their efforts and advocacy for the program are greatly appreciated. At the June quarterly meeting, Libby Houston, William Merci, Jerry Price and Shannon Robbins were appointed to the committee and Matthew Janusauskas was reappointed. They join returning members Janelle Strong, Antonietta Tesfaye, Chair Margaret Varney and Melissa Wittenberg. Ex-officio members Albert Anderson, William Bogdan (recently named Secretary of State Employee of the Year) and Tina Williams make up the rest of the committee. The Advisory Committee assists the Illinois State Library in improving services offered through TBBS. Houston will be representing children’s

services. Patrons who would like to speak with a committee member should call 217-782-9435 to make arrangements.

## **Contact information**

It is essential that you notify TBBS immediately when you make any changes to your mailing or email address, cell or landline phone numbers and alternate contact information. Your service could be suspended if books or other materials are returned due to an incorrect mailing address and we are unable to reach you. The best way to keep your account active is to verify that all of your contact information is accurate. Call 800-426-0709 or email [isltbbs@ilsos.gov](mailto:isltbbs@ilsos.gov) when changes need to be made or if you would like to ensure that the information we have on file is correct.

## **Students, parents and teachers**

Juvenile and student accounts need to be reviewed annually by a parent or teacher. Reading/grade levels and subject interests may need to be updated to ensure that the young patron receives age-appropriate materials. Please call 800-426-0709 to speak with Mandy Saia or Liz Desuno about updating an account.

## **NLS name change**

On Oct. 1 the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped officially changed its name to National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. The new name eliminates outdated language and more clearly communicates the breadth of those served. It will still be referred to by the abbreviation NLS.

## **2020 Census**

The Illinois Complete Count Commission, chaired by Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, is advocating for a fair and accurate count that ensures every person in the state is counted in Census 2020, including those who are blind, visually impaired and disabled.

Next year's census data will be used to determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funds will be distributed to support states, counties and local communities. Estimates show that at least \$34 billion in federal funding for programs that directly assist Illinois residents is tied to census figures. These programs impact housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy. Census data also determines the number of members each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and provides the basis for redistricting.

The U.S. Census Bureau has indicated that the 2020 Census is the first that will be conducted primarily online, although households will also have the option of responding by mail or phone. It will also be fully accessible, utilizing large print, braille, Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) technology and non-English instruments and materials.

## Unused digital players

Do you have more than one Digital Talking Book Machine? Do you have one that just takes up space because you use BARD Mobile? Please contact TBBS at 800-426-0709 or [isltbbs@ilsos.gov](mailto:isltbbs@ilsos.gov). We will send a postage-paid mailing label for you to mail back your unused machine so we can send it to someone who needs it.

### Toll-free numbers

Illinois State Library TBBS.....800-426-0709, 800-757-4654

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.