

Fall 2020

Illinois State Library

TBBS

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796



NewsLink



Jesse White  
Secretary of State  
& State Librarian

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TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on NFB-NEWSLINE, via email by contacting the State Library and on the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) website at [www.ilbph.org](http://www.ilbph.org) (click TBBS NewsLink).

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## Getting books in uncertain times

TBBS understands the hardships COVID-19 caused for patrons who were unable to receive books by mail while our facility was closed. Mail delivery continues to be a problem due to delays caused by recent changes within the United States Postal Service (USPS). Please consider raising the number of books you can have checked out—it never hurts to have extras on hand in case of unforeseen circumstances. We recommend a minimum of 15 titles for all patrons, unless you use Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD).

Upon reopening, TBBS tried to send books to all the patrons who left messages requesting books. In some instances, we simply did not have enough information to fill the order. It is essential that you notify TBBS immediately when you make any changes to your address and phone number. If the USPS returns your books as undeliverable because of an incorrect address, your account will be placed on hold until we hear from you. Please state your name clearly when leaving a book order on our voicemail. If you do not leave your name and the phone number does not match any records in our system, we have no idea who placed the order and the books will not be sent. Many patrons have switched to cellphones entirely and the only number we will have on file is their old landline. Please make sure that we have your correct landline and/or cellphone number(s) in your account.

You can get books anytime you want, even if mailing operations are suspended, by downloading

titles using the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/>. Follow the basic steps provided on this website to sign up for BARD, learn how to use BARD to get books on your digital player or use BARD Mobile to get books on your smart phone or tablet. The site also includes links to frequently asked questions, BARD Mobile user manuals, video tutorials and much more. If you do not have the necessary skills or equipment to use BARD, you can arrange for a family member, friend or caregiver to download books on your behalf. Contact TBBS at 800-426-0709 or [isl.tbbs@ilsos.gov](mailto:isl.tbbs@ilsos.gov) if you have questions or to request the large print guide **BARD and Other Online Resources for NLS Patrons**.

## **Book discussion group**

TBBS invites all patrons to join its teleconference book discussion group held the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The group has been meeting for over a year and has chosen Humor as the current theme. If you would like to attend, please call Sharon Layne at 800-426-0709 to register. The schedule and book selections (all humorous mysteries) for the remainder of this series are:

Oct. 8 – **Louisiana Longshot** by Jana DeLeon, DB 86862

CIA assassin Fortune Redding is about to undertake her most difficult mission ever in Sinful, Louisiana. With a leak at the CIA and a price placed on her head by one of the world's largest arms dealers, Fortune has to go off-grid, but she never expected to be this far out of her element. Posing as a former beauty queen turned librarian in a small bayou town seems worse than death to Fortune, but she is determined to fly below the radar until her boss finds the leak and puts the arms dealer out of play.

Nov. 12 – **The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** by Alexander McCall Smith, DB 55503

Fans around the world adore the bestselling No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series and its proprietor, Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's premier lady detective. In this charming series, Mma Ramotswe—with help from her loyal associate, Grace Makutsi—navigates her cases and her personal life with wisdom, good humor and the occasional cup of tea.

Dec. 10 – **Twelve Dogs of Christmas** by David Rosenfelt, DB 85822

Defense lawyer Andy Carpenter's longtime friend Martha "Pups" Boyer takes in stray puppies and finds good homes for them. When a neighbor complains—at Christmastime, no less—Andy happily takes Pups' case. But when the neighbor turns up dead, Andy finds himself defending her against murder charges.

Upon completion of these discussions, the participants and Reader Advisors will choose the topic and titles for the next series of book talks.

## **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.

### **Advisory Committee news**

TBBS would like to thank all Advisory Committee members for their service, especially outgoing members William Merci, Janelle Strong and Antonietta Tesfaye. Their efforts and advocacy for the program are greatly appreciated. At the June quarterly meeting, Jon Erickson, Raymond Munoz and Gina Shanks were appointed to the committee and Melissa Wittenberg was reappointed. They join returning members Libby Houston, Matthew Janusauskas, Jerry Price, Shannon Robbins and Margaret Varney. Ex-officio members Albert Anderson, William Bogdan and Lynda Spraner complete the group. The Advisory Committee assists the Illinois State Library in improving services offered through TBBS. Patrons who would like to speak with a committee member should call 217-782-9435 to make arrangements.

### **Director of TBBS to retire**

So many stories! After over twenty years of serving the patrons of the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS), it is time for me to retire to a “life of leisure.” My last day of work will probably be in December.

In January of 2000, I came to Springfield to help organize the TBBS and get it up and running smoothly. I figured it would take two years. I am not sure that goal ever occurred because of the constant changes in the National Library Service. The Pratt-Smoot Act was passed on March 3, 1931, and morphed through the years from braille to various speed records and flexible discs, audio cassettes to digital books and the ability to download audio book files to a smart phone or tablet. There are more changes coming as the service moves into books on demand, a totally customizable method for patrons to receive multiple books on a single cartridge. Exciting changes are in the future.

Not everyone is lucky enough to be hired for a job that becomes a professional passion for over half of their career. I have had only five different jobs: three in public libraries from small to medium to one of the largest, a library system consultant and finally the Illinois State Library (ISL). I fulfilled my career goals of working in a system and at the ISL, paying back those institutions for all the help and assistance I received over the years. While each job was interesting and exciting, TBBS is the very best. The staff gets daily validation of the important work we do in helping people maintain their quality of life.

It has been the best career any librarian could have.

Happy reading!  
Sharon Ruda

## TBBS NewsLink Contact Information

TBBS quarterly newsletters provide patrons with information about service changes, helpful tips, useful products and other items of interest. They are also the best way for us to keep in contact with patrons who do not receive books on a regular basis. TBBS NewsLink is available in large print and braille, by email, on NFB-NEWSLINE or on our website at <http://www.ilbph.org/>. It is also available in Spanish. Contact TBBS at 800-426-0709 or if you wish to receive it in a different format. Every patron should receive the newsletter unless a subscription is shared with someone else in the household, school, facility or agency.

### 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.

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