

Spring 2020Illinois State Library
TBBS300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

In this issue:

Book discussion group

2020 Census

Yankee Magazine now available

2019 Goodreads Choice
Awards

Low Vision Fair

Director of TBBS to retire

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

Book discussion group

TBBS sponsors a teleconference book discussion group on the second Thursday of the month, and all patrons are invited to join. The current three book theme is “Everyone Loves to Eat!”, and members discussed **Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie: Midwestern Writers on Food** by Peggy Wolff (DB 83648) in March. If you would like to attend future meetings, please call Sharon Layne at 800-426-0709 to register. The schedule and book selections for the remainder of this series are:

April 9, 9:30 a.m. – **Salt: A World History** by Mark Kurlansky, DB 55857.

Kurlansky explores the worldwide influence of the oldest and best preservative that is vital to animal and human survival. He discusses salt’s impact on civilizations when it was a scarce and an expensive commodity and its many uses in the modern world.

May 14, 9:30 a.m. – **Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise** by Ruth Reichl, DB 60333.

A New York Times food critic describes putting on character disguises to maintain anonymity during restaurant visits. She reveals the ways different personas unexpectedly influenced her reviews.

Upon completion of these discussions, the participants and reader advisors will select the topic and titles for the next series of book talks.

2020 Census

Every household will receive an invitation by mail to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail. By law, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The 2020 Census does not include a citizenship question.

Avoid scams and fraud – the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census, and you will never be asked for your Social Security number, money, donations, or your bank account or credit card numbers. In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party. If census takers visit your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, make sure that they have a valid ID badge. Call 800-923-8282 if you have questions about their identity or suspect fraud.

Yankee Magazine now available

NLS is happy to announce the availability of Yankee Magazine – New England’s Magazine – in audio format. Published bimonthly, each issue offers an insider’s perspective on the region, with special focus on its unique travel destinations, history and culinary delights. Produced by Perkins Library for the Blind, Yankee Magazine is available for download from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website and also by subscription through the NLS. Contact TBBS to subscribe.

2019 Goodreads Choice Awards

The Goodreads Choice Awards is the only major book award decided by readers. Category winners include:

Fiction – **The Testaments** by Margaret Atwood, DB 96649, BR 22855

Mystery & Thriller – **The Silent Patient** by Alex Michaelides, DB 93996

Historical Fiction – **Daisy Jones & the Six** by Taylor Jenkins Reid, DB 94175, BR 22912

Fantasy – **Ninth House** by Leigh Bardugo, DB 97047

Double Winner: Romance & Debut Novel – **Red, White & Royal Blue** by Casey McQuiston, DB 95171

Science Fiction – **Recursion** by Blake Crouch, DB 95638

Horror – **The Institute** by Stephen King, DB 96528

Humor – **Dear Girls** by Ali Wong, DB 97243

Nonfiction – **Girl, Stop Apologizing** by Rachel Hollis, DB 94474

Memoir & Autobiography – **Over the Top** by Jonathan Van Ness, DB 97437

History & Biography – **The Five** by Hallie Rubenhold, DB 96868

Science & Technology – **Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?** by Caitlin Doughty, DB 96854

Poetry – **Shout** by Laurie Halse Anderson, DB 94454

Young Adult Fiction – **Five Feet Apart** by Rachael Lippincott, DB 94831

Young Adult Fantasy – **The Wicked King** by Holly Black, DB 93596, BR 22610

Middle Grade & Children's – **The Tyrant's Tomb** by Rick Riordan, DB 97013, BR 22887

Picture Book – **A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood** by Fred Rogers, DB 96626

Low Vision Fair

A Low Vision Fair will be held Wednesday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Christ the King Parrish Hall located at 1930 Barberry Drive in Springfield. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Sponsored by the Illinois Assistive Technology Program and the Mary Bryant Home, this free event will feature exhibits, speakers, lunch and door prizes. For more information, call 800-852-5110.

Letter from director of TBBS on her retirement

So many stories! After more than 20 years of serving the patrons of TBBS, it is time for me to retire to a "life of leisure." My last day of work will be in June 2020.

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'm 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 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. I fulfilled my career goals, and was able to pay 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.

We have wonderful stories, we have weird stories, we have funny stories and we have sad stories. I've had people laugh with (and at) me, become a telephone friend, and thank me profusely for finding just the right book for them. We have patrons who give donations to the program, honoring the work we do. We appreciate all of them.

It has been the best career any librarian could have.

Happy reading!
Sharon Ruda

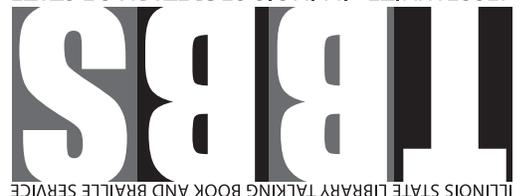
Toll-free numbers

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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