

Winter 2019

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



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Secretary of State  
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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](http://www.ilbph.org) (click TBBS NewsLink).

## 2019 Holiday closures

TBBS will be closed on the following dates:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, Jan. 21
- Lincoln's Birthday – Tuesday, Feb. 12
- Washington's Birthday – Monday, Feb. 18
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4
- Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 2
- Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 14
- Veteran's Day – Monday, Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving – Thursday & Friday, Nov. 28-29
- Christmas Eve – Tuesday, Dec. 24
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, Dec. 25
- New Year's Day 2020 – Wednesday, Jan. 1

Please keep this schedule for future reference. Remember that holidays create mail delays for both incoming and outgoing books. Send requests several weeks ahead of these dates to improve the chance of receiving books before holidays.

## Advisory committee

There are three openings on the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee for

the term beginning July 1, 2019. The committee assists the State Library by improving services offered through TBBS. The meetings are held quarterly by conference call. Members of the committee serve three-year terms and represent TBBS users in all regions of the state. Applications will be accepted until April 15. If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to speak to a committee member regarding TBBS issues, please contact Margaret Varney at 309-451-1017.

## **Sequential play of multiple books**

NLS has updated the firmware for the Digital Talking-Book Machine (DTBM). This update (version 2.1.16) allows users to play multiple talking-book titles on a single cartridge or flash drive in order without the need to enter Bookshelf mode. The firmware update and installation instructions are available at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/enrollment-equipment/technical-help-with-bard-nls-equipment/nls-dtbm-firmware/>.

For cartridges containing more than one book or magazine, the new Sequential Play feature enables users to press the play/stop button to go to the next title when the player announces “End of book.” Standard Bookshelf mode will still work as before, allowing users to play multiple books or magazines in any order they choose. For those who prefer a simpler method, the new functionality makes it possible to move directly from one title to the next without using Bookshelf mode.

Patrons who receive all of their books and magazines by mail DO NOT need to update their player firmware. NLS has added the firmware to the Magazines on Cartridge system for use by multiple-magazine subscribers. Magazine cartridges containing more than one title include an introduction that explains how to use Bookshelf mode and Sequential Play. The firmware update is not necessary for single-title cartridges or for those that contain two or more series titles issued under the same book number.

## **Reader’s Digest**

Reader’s Digest is available for download from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website and by subscription, as well as through the NLS Magazine on Cartridge program. There are 10 issues a year.

Reader's Digest includes short stories, political commentary and other general interest topics. It also contains anecdotes, humor and a condensed book. Contact TBBS to subscribe.

## **Illinois connection – adult fiction set in Illinois**

Download from BARD or contact TBBS to order.

**DB 91206 – Afterlife by Marcus Sakey.** FBI agent Will Brody and his boss, Claire McCoy, are lovers. They both are on a task force to bring down a Chicago sniper. Following a tip, Brody – unaware he was just killed by a bomb – finds himself in an eerie and dangerous Chicago afterlife. (Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex.)

**DB 82913 – It Happened at the Fair by Deeanne Gist.** Cullen's family has invested their entire savings so he can attend the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and exhibit his newest invention. Unfortunately, Cullen has hearing problems and cannot communicate in the loud exhibition hall. He hires Della, a teacher of the deaf, to teach him lip-reading.

**DB 82810 – Nathan Heller. Books 1-3 by Max Allan Collins.** The first three novels in the series are about ex-cop-turned-private-eye Nate Heller, which are set in 1930s mob-run Chicago. The selection includes True Detective, True Crime and The Million-Dollar Wound. (Strong language, descriptions of sex, and some violence.)

**DB 84731 – Amp'd by Ken Pisani.** Aaron returns to his Illinois hometown after losing his arm in a car accident. In this humorous account, he spends his days in a painkiller haze listening to the radio, when he becomes smitten with the voice of Sunny Lee, who delivers 90-second science facts. Commercial audiobook. (Strong language and descriptions of sex.)

**DB 55305 – It Had to Be You by Susan Elizabeth Phillips.** After her father dies, Phoebe Somerville is shocked that she has temporarily inherited the Chicago Stars football team. To keep the team, she must work with head coach Dan Calebow, whom she dislikes. Book 1 of the Chicago Stars series. (Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language.)

## Comcast accessible TV

Comcast is striving to make TV accessible to everyone and has made progress toward that goal. They offer a talking guide, descriptive video, accessible app and talking remote. The Comcast accessibility webpage, <https://www.xfinity.com/accessibility>, has several short, easy-to-understand videos that explain how to use these features. A specially-trained support team is also available via phone between 8 a.m. and noon (Eastern Time), seven days-a-week. The support team can assist with special features, bills or user guides in braille or a large-button XFINITY remote control. Reach the support team via phone at 855-270-0379.

### 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.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE



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