

**Winter 2020**

Illinois State Library

TBBS

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796

**NewsLink**

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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).

### Advisory committee

There are four open positions on the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee for the term beginning July 1, 2020. 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 309-532-1543.

### Keep BARD account active

The National Library Service (NLS) has made the following change to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. To increase security, instead of requiring one download per year, BARD users now must download an item every six months to remain active.

NLS checks BARD accounts daily for activity and marks them “inactive” if they have not been used in the past six months. This means the account will be temporarily suspended and the account holder will not be able to log into BARD. If you find you are locked out of your BARD login, please contact TBBS and we can quickly and easily reactivate your account.

## **Book discussion**

On Oct. 17, 2019, TBBS held its first book discussion via a teleconference call. The three books selected for the initial series were chosen so that Talking Book and Braille patrons could participate as part of the Veterans History Program. One patron attended the meeting at the Illinois State Library, while five patrons called in using a toll-free number. **The Things They Carried** (DB 34768) by Tim O'Brien was the first book chosen. The blurring of truth and fiction is one of the most intriguing aspects of O'Brien's tale of serving in the Army during the Vietnam War. In an interview the author explained that "Fiction gets at the truth when truth isn't sufficient." He also mentioned he believes storytelling is the essential human activity, the harder the situation, the more essential it is. One of the patrons who joined the discussion is a Vietnam veteran and could share his experience with the other participants. The book discussion group met again in November and December to share their thoughts on **A Farewell to Arms** (DB 49506) by Ernest Hemingway (WWI) and **Salt to the Sea** (DB 83767) by Ruta Sepetys (WWII).

Although titles for the next series of book discussions were not chosen by the publication deadline, if you are interested in finding out more about participating in future discussions, please call Sharon Layne at 217-785-0022. The meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

## **Hot reads for cold nights**

### **Mr. Monk Goes to the Firehouse by Lee Goldberg – DB 93552**

When obsessive-compulsive police consultant Adrian Monk's house needs fumigating, his assistant Natalie kindly welcomes him into her home. While Monk attempts to arrange his surroundings to his standards, the death of a dog at the local firehouse — on the same night as a fatal house fire — presents a puzzling mystery. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2006.

### **The Fireman by Joe Hill – DB 84824**

A pandemic known as Dragonscale has swept the planet, causing the afflicted to develop markings on their skin and then burst into flames. A nurse who contracts Dragonscale wants to avoid quarantine long enough to give birth to her child. Violence, strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2016.

### **The Stars are Fire by Anita Shreve – DB 87775**

Maine, 1947. Pregnant Grace Holland must protect her two toddlers as husband Gene volunteers to fight the fires consuming the surrounding landscape. Their

town must escape into the ocean to survive. Facing an uncertain future, Grace explores the freedoms now available to her after the fire. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

**Fireproof retold by Eric Wilson – DB 68727**

Georgia. Fire captain Caleb Holt and his wife Catherine detest each other after only seven years of marriage. As Catherine stands on the brink of an affair, Caleb's born-again father encourages Caleb to try "The Love Dare," a 40-day plan that uses biblical principles to rekindle romance. 2008.

**After the Fire by Henning Mankell – DB 89647**

Surgeon Fredrik Welin retired in disgrace to a tiny island as its only resident. He rarely sees his daughter and his mailman is the closest thing he has to a friend and an adversary. He is perfectly content, but then a fire changes everything. Translated from Swedish original. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

**Against the Fire by Kat Martin – DB 74470**

Wind Canyon, Wyoming, native Gabriel Raines develops real estate in Dallas, Texas. When an arsonist strikes Gabriel's properties, police suspect juvenile delinquent Angel Ramirez. But architect Mattie Baker defends the teen and helps Gabriel investigate. Some violence, some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

**On Fire: The 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life by John O'Leary – DB 84569**

The author survived a terrible fire when he was nine, and the experience and his recovery inspired and changed him for the better. He looks at the turning points in his life and shares how he overcame challenges. Bestseller. 2016.

**The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America by Timothy Egan – DB 69976**

The author describes the 1910 forest fire that devastated swaths of Idaho, Washington and Montana, and portrays the people who battled the flames. The book highlights President Theodore Roosevelt's and the fledgling U.S. Forest Service's stance against mining and timber interests, which led to efforts to conserve the country's natural resources. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

## 2020 holiday closures

TBBS will be closed on the following dates:

January 1, New Year's Day

February 12, Lincoln's Birthday

May 25, Memorial Day

September 7, Labor Day

November 3, Election Day

November 26-27, Thanksgiving

December 25, Christmas Day

January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17, Washington's Birthday

July 3, Independence Day

October 12, Columbus Day

November 11, Veteran's Day

December 24, Christmas Eve

January 1, New Year's Day 2021

Please keep this schedule for future reference. Remember that holidays can create mail delays for both incoming and outgoing books. Patrons might want to order extra books to have on hand well in advance of these dates.

### 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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