

Winter 2021

Illinois State Library

TBBS

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796



NewsLink



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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 or on the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) website at www.ilbph.org (click TBBS NewsLink).

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Hadley Institute offers free distance learning

Hadley has been the largest distance educator of visually-impaired people, their families and the professionals who serve them for over a century. The Hadley website, www.hadley.edu, is easy to use, is screen reader compatible and can be customized for users' viewing preferences. Registration is quick so learning at home can begin immediately.

Hadley's workshops, videos, community discussion groups and podcasts are all free of charge. They focus on six areas: daily living, adjusting to vision loss, recreation, technology, braille and working. The workshops have a video component, transcripts and links to resources and handouts. They also give you a direct connection to experts if you need additional help. Many of the workshops are also available to be distributed in large print, braille or audio. TBBS recommends the technology section's talking book unit for instruction on how to use the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. Call Hadley at 800-323-4238 to learn more.

90th anniversary reading list

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) was established in 1931 and celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. Here is a sampling of what people were reading 90 years ago:

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck, DB 37294, BR 09400, DB 12516 (Spanish)
This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by a winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature describes the rise of Wang Lung, a poor Chinese peasant. The story begins with his wedding day, as he ponders his good fortune now that he will have a woman to take over the chore of lighting a fire to heat the water for his bath. With the help and patience of his new wife, O-lan, Wang Lung becomes a rich landowner. The Good Earth Trilogy, Book 1.

Babylon Revisited, and Other Stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald, DB 20460
A selection of short stories by the 20th century American author who captured the spirit of the Jazz Age of the 1920s.

The Floating Admiral by the Detection Club, DB 14417, BR 04190
Thirteen members of the first and most prestigious mystery writers' organization, the Detection Club, pooled their talents to produce this legendary novel. Each member wrote a chapter full of clues and problems and passed it on to the next contributor. G.K. Chesterton, Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers are among those represented. Solutions appear at the end.

Black No More by George S. Schuyler, DB 90244
Max Disher is an African American man who learns of a machine that will turn him into a white man. When he undergoes the treatment, he is transformed into white anthropologist Matt Fisher. As he indulges in the benefits of white privilege, he and others begin to understand the consequences of whiteness. Some strong language.

Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the 1920's by Frederick Lewis Allen, DB 66513
An interpretive account of the tumultuous period between the end of World War I in 1918 and the 1929 stock market crash. The book highlights events and figures of the era and their impact on public consciousness. Topics include Prohibition, the Harding scandals, labor issues, women's suffrage, Sigmund Freud and more.

Advisory committee

There will be openings on the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee for the term beginning July 1, 2021. 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, contact Libby Houston at 217-306-8034.

Active status reminder

Patrons must receive one book or magazine by mail per year or download one item from BARD to remain active in our service. After one year of inactivity, a patron's talking book and braille service will be suspended and TBBS will request the return of all library materials and equipment.

However, for NLS security purposes, BARD users must log in to their BARD account at least once every six months, even if no item is downloaded at that time. If a BARD account remains inactive for more than six months, the system will automatically suspend the account. The suspension only applies to the patron's BARD account — books through the mail are completely separate from downloaded books. A suspended BARD account can be reactivated by contacting TBBS.

Book discussion

TBBS invites all patrons to join its teleconference book discussion group held the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The theme changes every three months, and the topic and titles are selected by the participants and Reader Advisors. Past discussions have been lively as the members often have strong opinions about each book's plot, pacing, characters, setting and dialogue. It does not matter if you love the book, hate it or are indifferent — your point-of-view matters. Humor was the most recent theme, and the group met on December 10 to discuss the Twelve Dogs of Christmas by David Rosenfelt, DB 85822.

Although titles were not chosen by the publication deadline, the next series of book discussions will begin January 14. If you are interested in finding out more about the program and participation, please call Sharon Layne at 217-785-0022.

Accessible Products Hotline

The William L. Hudson BVI Workforce Innovation Center's newest initiative is the Accessible Products Hotline. People with vision loss can call the hotline and receive professional advice about purchasing and operating the top accessible home, office and personal use electronic products available. Call 316-252-2500 for assistance or visit <https://www.workforceforall.com/Accessible-Products-Hotline> for more information.

2021 holiday closures

TBBS will be closed on the following dates:

January 1, New Year's Day

February 12, Lincoln's Birthday

May 31, Memorial Day

September 6, Labor Day

November 11, Veteran's Day

December 23, Christmas Eve

December 31, 2021 New Year's Day 2022

January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 15, Washington's Birthday

July 5, Independence Day

October 11, Columbus Day

November 25-26, Thanksgiving

December 24, Christmas Day

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 TBBS800-426-0709, 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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Free Matter for the Blind