



## Happy Birthday, NLS!

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled, of which the Idaho Talking Book Service is a part.

All year long, the NLS will highlight its history and the array of services provided to patrons. Programming will include online events, recognitions, and digital content which will be shared throughout various channels, including social media and the NLS website.

Prior to 1931, there were few resources for reading material for people who were blind. Representative Ruth Pratt (New York) and Senator Reed Smoot (Utah) introduced identical bills to Congress, and the Pratt-Smoot Act became law on March 3, 1931.

It appropriated \$100,000 to the Library of Congress to provide braille books for blind adults. The first order was for Woodrow Wilson's book, "George Washington," to meet a demand created by the bicentennial of Washington's birth. Talking Books on 33<sup>1/3</sup> RPM records were developed in 1934. The service was expanded to include children in 1962, and in 1966, those with physical disabilities were included.



Photo provided by the NLS.

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## Happy Birthday, NLS!

Continued from cover page.

The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration kicked off on March 3 with a very special virtual concert featuring jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker, marking the day that founding legislation was signed by President Hoover. The concert can be viewed on the Library of Congress's YouTube channel at: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4X5NhVwLzM4>). Whitaker, who has been blind since birth, is an NLS patron who has used the Music Section's accessible scores and reading materials – the largest collection of its kind in the world – during his rise to fame. Although he is only 19, Whitaker has been featured on stages around the world, including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Lincoln Center. His original compositions have garnered him accolades across the jazz world, including the ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards for 2019 and 2020.

For more on the history of NLS, check out "Talking Books: Pioneering and Beyond" by Marilyn Lundell Majeska, 1988 (DB 27607 or BR 07378) or "The Untold Story of the Talking Book" by Matthew Rubery, 2016 (DB 87099 or BR 21875). You may also visit the NLS website at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/history/>.

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## Patron Satisfaction Survey -- Coming Soon

Patrons of the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) will soon be able to let the TBS staff know what they think of the service. A satisfaction survey is being mailed to each TBS patron.

The survey may also be completed online, here: <https://www.jotform.com/form/210736076555155>. Or patrons may call a TBS customer service representative and complete the survey by phone at 208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271.

The survey is brief and should only take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. And those patrons who do complete the survey and include their contact information will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Patron feedback is extremely valuable to the TBS, so staff can serve TBS patrons even better.

Talking Book Service

## 10<sup>2</sup> Club



Our centenarians joining the Ten-Squared Club are:

**Eva Johnston**

who has read 2,320 books since joining the TBS program in 2003.

**Fern Graham**

who has read 2,053 books since joining the TBS program in 2005.

**Irene Darbin**

who has read 484 books since joining the TBS program in 2011.

**Blanche Hedberg**

who has read 1,980 books since joining the TBS program in 2011.

**Marion Shinn**

who has read 117 books since joining the TBS program in 2019.

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## Machine Maintenance

Here is a tip regarding the TBS player. If you are spring cleaning your player, please do not clean the bar code label on the back of the machine. The label is there for a reason, and cleaning products will remove the information that is on the label.

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## Pleasing Our Patrons

The TBS customer service representatives (CSRs) can adjust your account at any time to help ensure that you are receiving the type and quantity of books that you want.

For example, if you have only one or two authors listed on your account, you may not be receiving enough books. Our CSRs can chat with you and suggest additional authors you might like, or a genre that you've never tried, or many other factors that could make your TBS experience better. Give them a call at 208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271.

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## **Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service**

(December 25, 2020 - March 15, 2021)

### **General Donations:**

John and Alta Christiansen

Catherine Fitch

Melicia Friel

Theresa Gross

Doris Hymas

Carina Martin

Richard Moore

Margaret Mortensen

Patricia Myklebust

John and Pauline Ness

Dorothy Nicholes

Doris Tuttle

Agnes Wolf

### **Memorial Donation:**

Irene Chandler in memory of Jack Firsch

Donations are fully tax deductible, as allowed by law.

Make checks payable to the Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:

Idaho Talking Book Service

325 W. State Street / Boise, ID 83702

Credit card donations may be made online from the Idaho Commission for Libraries' website: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/donations/>.

Or, from the homepage, click on the "Donate to the ICfL" button.

**Our sincere thanks to all who give so generously.**

## TBS Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To order any of the books from this newsletter, write your name and address in the space indicated above and mark on the line(s) next to the identification number of the title(s) you want.

Then, mail the form (pages 5 through 8). Postage is not required.

These titles are also available for download from BARD.

To register for BARD, call the Talking Book Service at 1-800-458-3271 or visit: <http://NLSbard.loc.gov>.

### Something for Everyone

#### "Red Rising"

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Pierce Brown

**Read By:** L.J. Ganser

Darrow is a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future on Mars. He thinks he is improving the planet for future generations, but his wife Eo believes they are slaves. When Eo is condemned to death, Darrow infiltrates the governing caste to bring down his enemies. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB078253**

**2014**

**13 hours, 49 minutes**

#### "The Boy from the Woods"

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Harlan Coben

**Read By:** Joe Wilson

Thirty years ago, Wilde was found as a boy living feral in the woods. Now, no one seems to take teen Naomi's disappearance seriously. But attorney Hester -- whose grandson told her that Naomi was relentlessly bullied at school -- asks Wilde to use his unique skills to find Naomi. Strong language and some violence. Bestseller.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB098760**

**2020**

**12 hours, 28 minutes**

(Continued on page 6.)

## TBS Order Form

(Continued from page 5.)

### **"The Dearly Beloved"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Cara Wall

**Read By:** Kathy Keane

Charles Barrett and James MacNally are appointed co-ministers for a venerable New York City church in the 1960s. Their relationships with each other and their wives, Lily and Nan, weather challenges and joys through the decades as each individual's beliefs and experiences make them who they are. Commercial audiobook.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB096824**

**2019**

**10 hours, 53 minutes**

### **"Ever Faithful"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Karen Barnett

**Read By:** Ann M. Richardson

When Nate Webber signs up with the new Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933, he hides the fact that he can't read. At his new post in Yellowstone National Park, he meets Elsie Brookes, a ranger's daughter who is teaching at the CCC camp when she learns Nate's secret. Commercial audiobook.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB098768**

**2019**

**10 hours, 31 minutes**

### **"The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Kim Michele Richardson

**Read By:** Katie Schorr

Kentucky, 1936. Nineteen-year-old Cussy Mary Carter has been working as part of the Pack Horse Library Project, but her father hopes she'll marry -- despite the family trait of blue skin. In addition to her father's hopes, Cussy must also face the prejudice of the community she serves. Some violence. Commercial audiobook.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB095243**

**2019**

**9 hours, 28 minutes**

(Continued on page 7.)

## TBS Order Form

(Continued from page 6.)

### **"Stuart Brannon's Final Shot"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Stephen Bly

**Read By:** Jack Fox

Legendary lawman Stuart Brannon had no intention of leaving his beloved home, but a telegram from President Roosevelt spurs him into action. Sequel to "Son of an Arizona Legend" (DB 47089). Some violence.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB100028**

**2012**

**7 hours, 35 minutes**

### **"The Kiss Quotient"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Helen Hoang

**Read By:** Carly Robbins

Stella Lane, an econometrician with Asperger's, has little experience with dating. She decides the practical solution is to hire a male escort. Michael Phan can't afford to turn down her offer, but they are both surprised when Stella's logical checklist turns into a real relationship. Some strong language, violence, and explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB091563**

**2018**

**9 hours, 39 minutes**

### **"Circe"**

**Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Madeline Miller

**Read By:** Perdita Weeks

Circe grows up in the court of her father, the sun god Helios. Despised by her parents and others, she falls in love with a mortal who shuns her. When she takes revenge, she is banished. Those who wish her and others harm are transformed into pigs. Some strong language, violence, and descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook.

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB090711**

**2018**

**12 hours, 11 minutes**

(Continued on page 8.)

Idaho Talking Book Service  
Idaho Commission for Libraries  
325 W. State Street  
Boise, ID 83702-6055

**FREE MATTER for the  
BLIND or HANDICAPPED**



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For assistance, or to comment about the Idaho Talking Book Service, please call **1-800-458-3271**, weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., MT.

To order this newsletter on cartridge:

\_\_\_\_\_ "Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News" on cartridge

To order this newsletter in braille:

\_\_\_\_\_ "Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News" in braille

For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to this newsletter via email, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>. To download this newsletter via the online catalog, search: "Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News."

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**Candace's Corner:**

**"The Thursday Murder Club"**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB100981**

**"The Department of Sensitive Crimes"** \_\_\_\_\_ **DB094875**

**"The Sentence is Death"**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB095578**

**Treasure Valley Reads:**

**"Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories"**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DB083703**

More info on pages 9 and 11.



## Candace's Corner

By TBS Customer Service Representative Candace Reynolds

As we transition into warmer days, spring into these enticing mysteries, which are sure to keep you engaged for hours. I highly recommend these titles and hope you enjoy them!



### "The Thursday Murder Club"

**Author:** Richard Osman

**Adult Fiction**

**Read By:** Lesley Manville

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first real case. And the bodies begin to pile up. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

**2020**

**12 hours, 26 minutes**

### "The Department of Sensitive Crimes"

**Author:** Alexander McCall Smith

**Adult Fiction**

**Read By:** David Rintoul

Comedic novel about a Swedish police department tasked with solving the most unusual, complicated, and often insignificant crimes, such as an imaginary boyfriend's disappearance. But the detectives who work under Ulf Varg in the Department of Sensitive Crimes take their job very seriously. Commercial audiobook. **2019**

**7 hours, 18 minutes**

### "The Sentence is Death"

**Author:** Anthony Horowitz

**Adult Fiction**

**Read By:** Rory Kinnear

Celebrity-divorce lawyer Richard Pryce is found bludgeoned to death in his bachelor pad with a bottle of wine -- although he didn't drink. When additional clues prove equally baffling, the police bring in PI Daniel Hawthorne and his sidekick, the author. Sequel to "The Word Is Murder" (DB 91580). Some strong language and violence. Commercial audiobook.

**2019**

**8 hours, 38 minutes**

## Promoting TBS

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) staff is conducting a patron satisfaction survey to find out how the service can be improved. And in addition to soliciting feedback from current patrons, staff would also like to reach **potential** TBS patrons. It is estimated that there are 40,000 people in Idaho who would qualify to use the Talking Book Service but who do not.

This audiobook library service is convenient and available at no cost to any Idaho resident who is blind, has a perceptual or reading disability, or is unable to read standard print due to a visual impairment or physical disability.

The TBS materials are delivered directly to the user's residence by the USPS, and the materials are easily returned by using the provided mailing card.

For those in the Idaho library community who would like help to spread the word about TBS, please visit the ICfL website, TBS promotions page, here: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs/promoting-tbs/>. There are many promotional resources, including a bookmark, fact sheet, newsletter article, a radio and TV spot, social media art, and more.



You can also use the TBS logo as a web button on your library's website. (If your library still has the "Say Yes to TBS" web button, would you please remove it.) If you need assistance with the web button, please contact the ICfL's Doug Baker at [doug.baker@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:doug.baker@libraries.idaho.gov).)

By the way, librarians, did you know that you can certify someone for the Talking Book Service?

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## **Federal and State Tax Filing Deadlines Extended**

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service extended the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year to May 17, 2021. More information may be found at a <https://www.irs.gov/>.

The State of Idaho's tax filing deadline for the 2020 tax year was also extended to May 17, 2021.

Also, the IRS provides resources and services for visually impaired taxpayers, with tax-related content available in several formats for use with assistive technology. This includes screen reading software, refreshable braille displays, and screen magnifying software.

People can view and download hundreds of tax forms and publications in alternative formats including: text-only, braille-ready files, browser-friendly HTML, accessible PDF, and large print PDF. For more information, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xsymg>.

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## **Did You Know . . . ?**

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) has expanded its service to those who have a perceptual or reading disability? In addition, the need has been eliminated for certain applicants to have a doctor of medicine or osteopathy certify their application in order for them to be eligible for service.

This requirement was often difficult for potential patrons, and the National Library Service (NLS) urged Congress to loosen that restriction. The change was recently made official. The list of professionals who can certify the eligibility of applicants with reading disabilities has recently been expanded to include reading specialists, educators, school psychologists, and librarians.

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## **Contact Info**

If you would like to be contacted by a TBS customer service representative (CSR), please make sure your current phone number and/or email address is on file with the TBS. CSRs can be reached at 208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271.



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This project was made possible, in part, by the  
Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Customer service representatives (CSRs) are available to assist TBS  
patrons, **Monday through Friday**, from **8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., MT**,  
except State of Idaho holidays.

**208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271**

## **A Treasure Valley Reads Book**

**"Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories"**      **Adult Fiction**

**Author:** Lucia Berlin

**Read By:** Gabriella Cavallero

A retrospective collection of short fiction from the author. The stories contained in this volume involve everyday miracles and moments of grace in the laundromats and halfway houses of the American Southwest, in the homes of the upper classes, among switchboard operators, struggling mothers, bad mothers, and hitchhikers. Some strong language. Bestseller.

**2015**

**15 hours, 12 minutes**

Order on page 8.