

Connections

Talking Book Service News

National Library Service Site Visit

by Sue Walker, ICfL Regional Librarian

Pam Davenport, Library Consultant with the National Library Service (NLS), visited the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) in April. The NLS is the section of the Library of Congress that supplies the TBS players and other equipment, records the majority of books for the collection, and hosts BARD.

The Library Consultant is the direct liaison between the TBS and the NLS and visits each regional library every two years to facilitate the relationship between the two agencies and share information on upcoming changes.

During the two-day visit, Pam met with staff, toured the facility, and reviewed TBS services. She also shared examples of services and programs from TBS libraries in other states, as well as, made note of innovative Idaho TBS services and programs. She was especially impressed with the ways volunteers are recognized, the quality of our recording studios, and the support of the program by our staff. As part of the visit, Pam will submit a report with recommendations for possible changes and commendations for those areas in which the Idaho TBS excels.

Our staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Pam, hear about services in other libraries, and get questions answered. We always welcome Pam's visit, as she shares her expertise and takes examples from Idaho's TBS back to Washington, D.C.



From left to right: Volunteer Gayle Schabot, Pam Davenport, Sue Walker, & Volunteer Pat Kelley.

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BARD Mentoring

Could you use some help downloading from the Braille and Audio Reading Download, known as BARD? Does your screen reader software not work well with BARD? Do you love BARD and are willing to help others use it more efficiently? If you answered yes to any of these questions, BARD mentoring might be for you.

Talking Book Service staff are willing to help users sign up for BARD and answer as many questions as possible. But with the variety of computer settings, screen reading software, and smart phones and other devices, staff does not always have the expertise to help. That's where BARD mentoring comes in.

BARD mentee: When you have specific questions about BARD, contact TBS staff who will try to answer your questions and walk you through the issue. With your permission, any unanswered questions will be forwarded to a BARD user who is willing to work with you on the issue. BARD mentors will be selected based on their expertise with specific software and/or devices; so, the more specific you can be in explaining your BARD problem, the easier it will be to identify a mentor who will be best prepared to help you.

BARD mentor: BARD mentors are volunteers who feel comfortable working with others, probably on the phone, to use BARD. Special expertise, such as experience with the apps, screen reading software, or specific devices, is especially needed. If you are interested in being a BARD mentor, please contact Sue Walker, at sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov. Please provide the following information in your email: Your name, email address, the apps you are familiar with (iOS, Android, Kindle, BARD Express), any screen reading software you use, and any devices (Victor Stream, I-phone, or I-pad). If a question comes up that matches your expertise, the question and the user's contact information will be forwarded to you for you to contact the user at your convenience. Unfortunately, TBS cannot reimburse for any expenses incurred while helping. Please track the number of hours you spend answering BARD questions so that they can be included in the annual volunteer statistics. If you would like to put your expertise with BARD to work helping others, we hope you will consider becoming a BARD mentor.

National Library Service Site Visit Recommendations

Continued from cover page.

A written report will be issued by the National Library Service with specific recommendations and comments, based on the recent site visit by Library Consultant Pam Davenport to the Idaho Talking Book Service. But, overall, Pam found that the service meets the *Revised Standards and Guidelines of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*.

As in previous years, Pam mentioned three specific areas that are particularly noteworthy and which she plans to share with other libraries:

1. Volunteer recognition: Volunteers are an integral part of the TBS team and are thanked in several different ways. One of the most appreciated is the annual posting, in a highly visible location, of each volunteer's name, volunteer hours, and the number of years they have served.
2. Locally produced books: Idaho's locally recorded titles consistently meet high standards for clarity and accessibility.
3. Customer service: Staff strive to continually meet users' needs with timely, friendly, and proactive customer service.

Kudos

Steve Stepp, president of the National Audio Company, said in regard to the Idaho Talking Book Service and its locally recorded books, "You run one of the best studios in the NLS network."

The Oregon State Librarian recently visited the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) and was so impressed with the recording studio operation, that she hinted she might try to steal its manager, Sheila Winther, away. Approximately, 35 Idaho books and 28 magazines are recorded in the ICfL studio each year.

Volunteer Highlight -- Margo Vaughn-Nelson

If the voice bringing your book to life sounds familiar, you may have heard it on the radio in the Boise area. It belongs to Margo Vaughn-Nelson, who graced the airwaves in the Treasure Valley from 1996 until 2015. She is one of the nearly 90 volunteers who give of their time and talents to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL).

Margo has been volunteering at the ICfL for two years, and she enjoys putting her broadcast experience to work as a narrator and also as a monitor and reviewer. In the latter roles, she listens to recordings done by others and cleans up any stray sounds, pauses, and anything that would detract from the final listening experience. As a narrator, Margo calls on her many years of experience in the radio booth when she used only her voice to connect with her vast audience. Margo said, "I never forget that I'm talking to one person. That I'm the voice in their head." ICfL Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Winther said, "Margo really knows how to add personality to the books she reads. If there is sarcasm or sorrow or humor, she gets just the right inflection to make sure our readers have no doubt about the author's meaning."

Margo has also learned to build a book, which includes inserting the necessary navigation marks and encryption into the recording so it conforms to the national guidelines. The marks "talk" to the machine that plays the book, allowing the reader to "navigate" within the book. The encryption protects the book so it can only be played by the talking book machine.

Margo said, "It is really cool to be out in the community and meet people who use the Talking Book Service, or who have family or friends who do." Margo added, "People really rely on the service, and it adds such quality to their life. I never forget how important that is."



New Books Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

New Idaho Talking Books from Our Recording Studio

New locally recorded books are available on digital cartridge. To order, write your name on this pre-addressed New Books Order Form, select the numbers of the titles that you want, and mail the form.

These titles are also available for download from BARD. Call the Talking Book Service at 800.458.3271 to register for BARD, or visit: <http://NLSbard.loc.gov>.

The Sky Fisherman

Author: Craig Lesley

(Adult Fiction)

Read By: Barry Estes

The lives of young Culver, his twice-married mother, and his charismatic uncle Jake have always been overshadowed by the death of Culver's father in a fishing accident. When a suspicious fire destroys the town mill and three murders occur, Culver is engulfed by the dangers he finds lurking in the place he'd come to call home. Love, death, coming of age, and Native American spiritual beliefs flow together with the forces of nature in this novel. Recorded for Idaho Let's Talk about It book discussion group.

_____ (DBC00881) 1995

12 hours 46 minutes

The American Plate: A Culinary History in 100 Bites

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Libby H. O'Connell

Read By: Margo Vaughn-Nelson

In this mouth-watering book, Dr. Libby H. O'Connell takes readers on a journey through America's culinary evolution, revealing the astonishing ways that cultures and individuals have shaped our national diet and continue to influence how we cook and eat. Peppered throughout are recipes and tidbits on dozens of foods, from the surprising origins of Hershey Bars to the strange delicacies our ancestors enjoyed, including roast turtle and grilled beaver tail. Inspiring and intensely satisfying, *The American Plate* shows how we can use the tastes of our shared past to transform our future. Recorded for Idaho Let's Talk About It book discussion group.

_____ (DBC00882) 2015

12 hours 45 minutes

Converted Books

The following Idaho books were originally recorded for cassette but are now available as a digital cartridge and are available for download from BARD. To order, select the DBC numbers of the titles that you want and mail this pre-addressed Order Form or call 800.458.3271.

Kathryn: Days of Struggle and Triumph (Daughters of Courage, Book 1) (Young Adult & Adult Fiction)

Author: Donna Fletcher Crow

Read By: Betty Weber

When Kathryn arrives in Kuna, Idaho from frontier Nebraska, she thinks, "Why can't we live in a civilized place?" She determines to survive, and she will.

_____ (DBC07409) 1992

8 hours, 33 minutes

Elizabeth: Days of Loss and Hope (Daughters of Courage, Book 2)

(Young Adult & Adult Fiction)

Author: Donna Fletcher Crow

Read By: Edith Bond

Elizabeth is the second story of the "Daughters of Courage" series. Share the joys and struggles in this inspiring saga. Idaho interest.

_____ (DBC07408) 1993

9 hours, 46 minutes

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Converted Books

(continued from page 6)

Stephanie: Days of Turmoil and Victory (Daughters of Courage, Book 3) (Young Adult & Adult Fiction)

Author: Donna Fletcher Crow

Read By: Betty Weber

Stephanie, a representative in the Idaho Legislature in the 1960's, wants to change the world. Seeking God's guidance, she makes life-changing decisions and takes needed steps to strengthen her undeveloped relationship with God.

_____ (DBC07410) 1993

9 hours, 26 minutes

Short of a Good Promise

(Adult Non-Fiction)

Author: William Vern Studebaker

Read By: Carla Stern

William Studebaker's reminiscence of his grandparents and parents, and of growing up in the back-country of southern Idaho in the post-World War II era. At once humorous and heart-wrenching, it is a story of mail-order brides and the eccentric characters the author learned to love in the family-run old folks' home. It is a tale of love and rape, of vast expectations, and of wandering with no place left to go, and when southern Idaho, at times, turned out to be just short of the promise it seemed to hold for those seeking new lives. One of Idaho's foremost poets and essayists, Studebaker reveals his family's story in plain prose, free verse, and through photos.

_____ (DBC07325) 1999

4 hours, 23 minutes

The Silent One

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Daphne Webb Jemmett

Read By: Don Norman

Ben Bailey and his strong ox team hauled freight to the rugged and remote mining camps and things were going his way. Just a few more loads and he would have enough to settle down on his ranch at the edge of the mountains in south central Idaho Territory. Everything was going his way, until an accident robs him of his voice and nearly his manhood.

_____ (DBC07326) 1995

5 hours, 48 minutes

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

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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The TBS newsletter, with this order form, is available on cartridge, upon request. It is also available in Braille. Call 800.458.3271. For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to the newsletter via email, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/connections-tbs-news>. To download via the online catalog, search "*Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News.*"

Young Adult Catalog Available Soon

A new large-print catalog of more than 1,400 children's and young adult titles is in production and will be available in July of this year. Titled *For Younger Readers (FYR), 2014-2015*, the catalog includes titles in the popular print/Braille format, and audio format, for sharing with young children. It also contains a large collection of Young Adult titles in both fiction and non-fiction.

Many titles in the catalog would be enjoyed by adults as well as children. They contain little or no strong language, violence, or sexual content. Readers will be notified when audio and Braille formats of the catalog are available.

Check the line below to request the *Young Readers* catalog be sent to you,

_____ **For Younger Readers (FYR), 2014-2015 Catalog**

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

Memorial Donations:

For Phyllis Barber

Marguerite Brown,
the Hancock Family

For Mildred Drayton

Jason Mann,
the Russo Family Foundation,
Debbie Johnson Schweibert,
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and Pat Verschoor

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Donations are used to enhance the Idaho Talking Book Service and are fully tax deductible, as allowed by law. Acknowledgements are sent to donors and honorees, so please include the name and address of all those to be notified.

Make checks payable to Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:
Idaho Talking Book Service
325 West State Street
Boise, ID 83702

Credit card donations may be made online from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov> and click on the "Donate Here!" button in the lower left corner of the page.

Our sincere thanks to all who give so generously.

What Are You Reading?

Dylan Baker is the most recent addition to the staff of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), where he serves as the Broadband Consultant.

As a big science fiction fan, Dylan enjoyed *Leviathan Wakes* by James S.A. Corey, which was the first novel in the epic, New York Times bestselling series, *The Expanse*. James S.A. Corey is the pen name of fantasy authors Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck. There are six works in the series, which is set in a world where humanity has colonized the solar system.

Although the story portrayed in *Leviathan Wakes* is set in the future, there are familiar struggles between resentful factions and a noir feeling to the mystery that makes up much of the plot. One of the main characters is a cop who must track down the missing daughter of a billionaire -- whether she wants to be found or not. The other main character is the second officer of an ice-hauling freighter. He and his crew investigate a distress call that leads to discoveries and drama for all.

Dylan listened to the audio version of *Leviathan Wakes* and found that the story moved very quickly.

Dylan said, "The characters make the story feel grounded. And even though it is set in a science fiction world, it is how the world would progress. It has a lot of realism throughout." Dylan added, "The book was recently adapted as a TV show, called "The Expanse," and the book's authors work on the scripts for the show."

With a degree in chemistry, Dylan's scientific side was no doubt drawn to the setting portrayed in *Leviathan Wakes*. But he says, "The story and the mystery will hook you right away. The characters are people who get caught up in situations and have to figure out what to do about it."

Dylan says *Leviathan Wakes* does stand alone, but if you enjoy it, you'll probably want to read all of the titles in *The Expanse* series.

Adult Fiction: DB074083 -- Violence and Strong Language

Braille Readers Abound

This year's Braille-a-Thon, sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, was held January 4 through March 4. There were 17 participants who completed the activity, including five first-time readers and two students. Two readers, Becky Sherman and Susan Ford, each read more than 11,000 pages during the time frame of the event.

The annual event commemorates Louis Braille's birthday, and it grows in popularity each year. Participants simply record the number of pages they read during the two-month period. It is a fun way to improve reading skills and attain knowledge. Plan to join next year's Braille-a-Thon, which will commence January 4, 2018.

Talking Book Service

10² Club

Our centenarians joining the
Ten Squared Club are:



Alice Spielman

of Caldwell, ID, who was born April 22, 1917.

Margaret Mortensen

of Boise, ID, who was born April 21, 1917.

(Margaret receives six audio books at once -- and she returns them all on time!)



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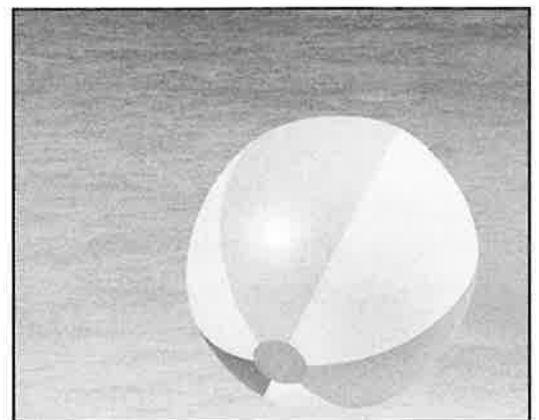
This project was made possible, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Summer Reading at Your Local Library

Calling all students: Are you interested in fun, summertime activities? Do you want to meet new people, visit different places, and experience great adventures? If so, your next exciting escapade could be as close as your nearest public library.

Most of Idaho's public libraries offer activities linked to their summer reading programs, and many offer participants cool prizes, as well.

And even better, the Talking Book Service has both audio and Braille titles that will let you read in the format that is most comfortable for you. All you have to do is be registered to use the Talking Book Service and then just get ready to read books you are interested in.



For more information about a library near you, contact your IESDB Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired. But hurry, summer -- and your next adventure -- are almost here!