

UPPER PENINSULA NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2017

Great Lakes Talking Books (GLTB) Reader Advisory and Outreach Center

1615 Presque Isle Ave. Marquette, MI 49855

Lynn Buckland-Brown, Reader Advisor

My favorite weather is bird chirping weather” -Terri Gullemets

Happy Spring! I've had many calls throughout the winter months from patrons requesting additional books. There's nothing like a good book on a cold winter night! But now you may not have as much time to listen to or read books, once summer activities begin, so give me a call if you'd like me to adjust the number of books you're receiving. Also, if you are not getting enough books or the wrong type, please call me. If I cannot answer, please leave your NAME and PHONE NUMBER and I will call you back- I promise! Nick and Pam C. are also available to answer questions, order books, and make changes in your records.

1-800-562-8984, EXTENSION “0” or 1-906-228-7697, EXTENSION “0”

Mondays 11:30 am- 5:00 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am- 2:30 pm

Boxes of Many Colors

We know some of our patrons can't see color, but those who can may be surprised by the range of colors arriving in the mail. When digital books were introduced they were sent out in blue boxes, to try to make it easier to tell the formats apart. In recent years, several additional colors have been added to the talking book palette and some of our patrons may be wondering why they received a grey or yellow box in the mail instead of the familiar blue or green. Here is a list of all the different box colors currently in use and what you will find inside them:

- Blue box with white cartridge – digital book produced by NLS
- Translucent white box with peach cartridge – digital book duplicated at the Braille and Talking Book libraries in Lansing or Marquette
- Red box with light blue cartridge – digital magazine produced by NLS
- Yellow box – descriptive DVD
- REALLY Big Black box – braille books

*Remember that whatever color the box is, you should turn over the mailing label to return the item except for the audio *Talking Books Topics* on cartridge.

News from the National Library Service (NLS)

Music Collection

NLS holds the world's largest braille music collection, with more than 30,000 transcriptions and scores. New additions arriving regularly. This collection of braille and large print music scores, and audio instructional and music appreciation materials covers numerous genres. Call your reader advisor, Lynn, if you'd like to add this service.

That All May Read is the long-standing motto of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). The new NLS website www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead has information about the service and features a video with nine NLS patrons talking about their experiences with the program. The website will be updated regularly, so check back frequently to see what's new.

No Mailing Card with My Audio Talking Book Topics Cartridge

Talking Book Topics (TBT) in audio format is now arriving in a new container. The digital cartridge in its plastic mailer box is now accompanied by a large-print paper ordering form. Both are inside a disposable cardboard container. When you have finished listening to the magazine, return the cartridge, the usual way, in its plastic mailer box – with one exception – no card to turn over. There is instead a permanent address label on the plastic box which will get it to the proper location so it can be used again for another magazine (don't take off the label). Just put the cartridge inside its plastic box into the mail.

Meanwhile, you can mark the printed order form with your latest requests, seal the form with a small piece of tape on the right side, and put it into the mail. It will mail to the library address that is already printed on the form. Your address is there, as well, so we know who is sending the request. The cardboard container should be discarded – don't return it.

If you are NOT receiving a Talking Books Topic catalog bi-monthly, in either large type or audio, please call and I will make sure they are sent to you.

Breath Switch Now Available

NLS is introducing a new accessory for use with digital talking-book machines- a USB breath switch (stock number AC029). The accessory is compatible with both the standard model (DS1) and the advanced model (DA1) machine. A patron can obtain a breath switch by downloading an application online at www.loc.gov/nls/networkdocs/forms/breath.pdf **If you need assistance, please call Lynn.**

The Award-Winning KNFB Reader App Turns Text to Speech with Your Mobile Device - Now for Windows 10 Devices

KNFB Reader is a mobile app that reads print aloud. It's easy to use. Take a photo and the app reads the text aloud in clear synthetic speech. KNFB Reader reads receipts. You will know what has been put on your credit card at restaurants, stores, or in taxis. It reads packaging labels, mail, and product or nutritional information instantly. KNFB Reader allows you access to your most private documents with complete independence. Review your taxes. Check the terms of your lease or mortgage documents. Read your lab reports from the doctor. Read your bills – even those with tables. More information: <https://nfb.org/knfbreader>

Patron Appreciation Party a Success!

Great Lakes Talking Book patrons were invited to a “Patron Appreciation Day” party on November 4th. We enjoyed delicious food catered by Vango’s Restaurant, played games, and enjoyed music by the bluegrass band “All Strings Considered”. It was great to see patrons meeting folks from different parts of the UP and sharing stories. Guests suggested that it become an annual affair, so watch for an announcement in the Fall/Winter newsletter. It will probably take place in September or October 2017.

How Do I Listen to More Than One Title on a Cartridge?

If you are signed up for more than one magazine subscription you may receive a magazine on cartridge that has more than one title on the cartridge. Or, if you use BARD to download multiple books onto a cartridge or USB flash drive you may find these instructions helpful.

To access the multiple titles on the cartridge follow these directions:

1. Insert the cartridge that has multiple titles on it into your player.
2. Hold down the Play/Stop button (the large square shaped button in the center of the player) until you hear a beep and the word "Bookshelf." You are now in "Bookshelf" mode and can release the Play/Stop button.
3. Next, you can use the fast forward or rewind buttons (they are triangle shaped buttons directly to the right and left of the Play/Stop button). Press and release (don't hold down) the fast forward or rewind buttons to move to the next title on the cartridge.
4. When you come to the title you want to listen to, press and release the Play/Stop button. The title will begin to play.
5. If you want to switch titles again, you can enter "Bookshelf" mode by repeating these steps at any time.

Book Awards: the Best of the Best

(Information from the Braille and Talking Book Library California State Library)

If you're looking for award winning books, here are suggestions for books that are the best of the best in their specific field or genre.

The PEN/Faulkner Award has honored one American literary fiction work of excellence annually since 1981. The 2016 PEN/Faulkner award went to James Hannaham for the novel ***Delicious Foods*** (DB81066). The 2015 award went to Atticus Lish for ***Preparation for the Next Life*** (DB81409).

The Pulitzer Prize is also awarded to fiction and certain types of nonfiction books. The 2015 best general nonfiction book was ***The Sixth Extinction an Unnatural History*** (DB78463/BR20478) by Elizabeth Kolbert, and the Pulitzer 2015 for best biography went to ***The Pope and Mussolini the Secret History of Pius XI and the Rise of Fascism in Europe*** (DB78327) by David I. Kertzer. The 2016 Pulitzer for best history book went to ***Custer's Trials a Life on the Frontier of a New America*** (DB83009) by T. J. Stiles. The 2016 Pulitzer for fiction went to Viet Thanh Nguyen for ***The Sympathizer*** (DB82047).

The Spur Award has been given out annually by the Western Writers of America since 1953 and honors a variety of fiction and nonfiction books about the

American West. The 2016 best historical Western novel was ***Paradise Sky*** (DB82034) by Joe R. Lansdale. ***Bad Country*** (DB80369) by C. B. McKenzie won for best contemporary Western novel in 2015. If you like books by Louis L'Amour, you might want to try one of these!

The Agatha Award honors mystery books published in the U.S by a living author writing in the style of Agatha Christie. These books do not contain explicit descriptions of sex and/or violence. There are several categories included such as contemporary mystery, historical mystery, and more. The 2014 best contemporary mystery was Hank Phillippi Ryan's ***Truth Be Told*** (DB79865) and the best historical mystery for 2014 was Rhys Bowen's ***Queen of Hearts*** (DB79668).

The Hammett Prize is awarded by the International Association of Crime Writers North America Branch (IACW/NA) for excellence in crime fiction published either in Canada or the United States. IACW/NA defines crime books to include many genres and subgenres such as mysteries, suspense, espionage, and thrillers. The 2014 winner was Stephen King's ***Mr. Mercedes*** (DB79570).

The Nebula Award is bestowed by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and has been awarded since 1965. The 2015 Nebula for best novel went to ***Uprooted*** (DB81693/BR21282) by Naomi Novik.

The Bram Stoker Award is presented by the Horror Writers Association to works of fiction that exhibit superior achievement in the horror genre. The 2013 best novel was ***Doctor Sleep*** (DB77471/BR20278) by Stephen King and the 2012 best novel was ***The Drowning Girl a Memoir*** (DB76134) by Caitlín R. Kiernan. In 2015 the best novel was ***A Head Full of Ghosts*** by Paul Tremblay (DB82566).

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel, written in the English language and published in the UK. The 2016 winner is ***The Sellout*** (DB81300) by Paul Beatty.

Romance Writers of America (RWA), founded in 1980, announces the winners of the RITA Awards every year. The RITA—the highest award of distinction in romance fiction—recognizes excellence in published romance novels and novellas. Two Rita Award winners included in our collection are ***Five Days in Skye*** (DB80141)

by Carla Laureano which has *no violence, sex, or strong language*, and ***Crazy Thing Called Love*** (DB80142) by Molly O’Keefe, which has *explicit sex and strong language*. If you like romances, you might want to give these authors a try.

The American Library Association selects several books a year in the categories of teen, middle school, and children’s books, for the Schneider Family Book Award, which honors authors whose works embody “an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.” ***The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B*** (DB82326/BR21201) by Teresa Toten won the 2016 Schneider Award for best teen book. ***Fish in a Tree*** (DB80497/ BR21151) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt and ***The War that Saved My Life*** (DB80472/BR20662) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley both won the award for 2016 best middle school book. ***Emmanuel's Dream the True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*** (BR21066) by Laurie Ann Thompson won the 2016 Schneider Award for best children’s book.

Some Michigan authors and books that you might enjoy:

Tioga Tales by Cully Gage (DBC 03371) Description: Humorous stories of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Book #8 in the North Woods Reader Series. 1993.

The Sweater Letter by Dave and Lynn Distel (DBC 03359) Description: The true story of a ruthless husband who tried to get away with murder in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the relentless police sergeant who was determined to bring him to justice. 2002.

Textbooks and Audio Books in the Classroom

Schools and other institutions can apply for textbooks and audio books from the Talking Books program. This service can only be used by students that qualify within the school. Our program does not generally have textbooks in the collection. However, we do have a library account with Learning Ally, which does offer some textbooks, and we can download them for patrons under this account if needed. You can look to see if the textbook is available at <https://www.learningally.org/>. Contact Lynn and she can request them.