

# **UPPER PENINSULA NEWSLETTER**

**Winter 2016**

## **Great Lakes Talking Books**

**Reader Advisory and Outreach Center**

1615 Presque Isle Ave | Marquette | MI 49855 | (906) 228-769  
<http://greatlakestalkingbooks.org/> or 1-800-562-8985

### **A Message from Lynn, Talking Book Advisor**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I hope you are finding entertaining and transformative books as we head into 2016. I have come across some information that I'd like to share with all of you.

You may have noticed that there have been many more choices in this year's list of book selections. In late 2014, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) began receiving donations of commercial audio book files from four major publishers, adding over 900 commercial talking books titles to the nearly 2000 produced by NLS each year. The 2,876 talking books added by NLS this past year is a record! The bi-monthly *Talking Books Topics* catalogs list all new books.

NLS now has its own Facebook page. "Like" it to follow what is happening at the national level: [Facebook.com/ThatAllMayRead](https://www.facebook.com/ThatAllMayRead)

If you have not yet received the free, handheld Currency Reader for eligible blind and visually impaired citizens from the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), or would like to, you may contact BEO directly at 844-815-9388 or by email at [meaningful.access@bep.gov](mailto:meaningful.access@bep.gov)

**Please send your book request order form to Great Lakes Talking Books (see address at top of page)**

**Free BARD App Available for iOS, Android, and Kindle Fire Devices**

Download audio books and magazines from BARD to your smartphones or tablets if you have a BARD account. If you don't, but would like to, fill out an application at <https://lnsbard.loc.gov> To get the app, go to Google Play or iTunes app stores.

## **KNFB Reader**

Do you know that you can scan and read any printed material quickly and easily and have it available via audio or connected to refreshable Braille display? The KNFB Reader mobile app for iOS or Android can do this. Just snap a picture, and the app reads the print. It is designed to assist blind people in capturing the print by having tilt guidance and field of view assistance as well as automatic text detection so you can be sure you are getting the entire page. The KNFB Reader is fast. Snap a photo and read printed material in seconds. The Android app is available in the Google Play app store and iOS app is available in the iTunes app store. A free trial version available, otherwise it's around \$100.

**Mark the Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 Ann Arbor, MI**

### **Visions 2016: What's New in Technology & Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Over 35 exhibitors will demonstrate for upwards of 400 attendees the latest products and services for blind and visually impaired. Accessible hardware and software applications, magnifiers, electronic readers, Braille devices, library services, CCTV's, leader dogs, support services and transportation services are just a few of the services and products that will be on display. Contact Lynn at GLTB for more information.

### **Audiobooks Ministries and Braille/Audio Bibles**

*Audiobook Ministries* announces the launch of its online library which includes over 600 digital audio books: devotionals *Our Daily Bread*, *The Upper Room*, and more. Contact them at [abm@audiobookministries.org](mailto:abm@audiobookministries.org) or call them at 206-243-7277

The mission of *Bibles for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, International* is to provide the Bible in Braille for those blind people around the world who cannot afford it. They can be reached by email; [biblesfortheblind@gmail.com](mailto:biblesfortheblind@gmail.com)

*Aurora Ministries/Audio Bibles for the Blind* can provide audio bibles that you can keep. They come in five English versions and two Spanish versions. They can be reached at 941-748-3031 or email at [bibles@auroraministries.org](mailto:bibles@auroraministries.org)

## **Netflix Online Video Service Gains Audio Description**

Audio description is an additional audio track for movies and TV shows that features a narrator's voice describing the action on the screen during natural pauses in the dialog and sound effects.

Netflix's streaming video service has recently added audio description to a select number of movies and TV shows.

Subscribers to Netflix can select the link "Audio Description", located at the bottom of the Netflix streaming home page. This will launch a search displaying all of the movies and TV shows currently available with an audio description track.

After choosing your movie and launching the video screen, select the "Languages" Menu button and select "English-Audio Description". Currently, this menu button is not compatible with screen readers and may require help from a sighted friend or family member. Netflix hopes to add a keyboard shortcut soon.

As of this writing, there are currently 109 movies/TV shows available and Netflix will continue to add new ones in the future.

**\*\*\*ScripTalk audible and/or large print and Braille prescription labels are available at Walmart, Rite Aid, and certain mail order pharmacies. Ask your pharmacist!**

### **Talking Books Tips**

**Problem: I put the book into the machine and it announces "End of Book"**

**Solution:** Press the Play/Stop button twice. The first time you press it, the player should say "End of Book-Press 'Play/Stop' to return to the beginning of the book". The second time you press "Play/Stop", the player should return to the beginning of the book. If you press the "Next" button on an Advanced Machine, and you are listening to an "old" audio book that has been copied from a cassette, it may skip to the end of the book. Go back to the beginning of the book and do not use the "Next" button.

**Problem: Do I need to rewind digital books?** Nope.

**Problem: I'm not receiving books!** Two of the most common complaints we receive are "I don't have any books!" and "I'm almost out of books!" Maybe these tips will help:

\*Timely return of materials: For most patrons, every time a book is returned to us, a replacement book is sent the next business day. This makes it important to return each book as soon as you are finished with it. Returning them all at once can result in longer periods without books. Magazines must also be returned in order to receive the next issue. Too many overdue magazines will result in suspension of magazine service.

\*Request Only Service: If you are set up for “Request Only” service we send you books that you specifically request, so it’s important to keep a lengthy list of requests on file with us. If you run out of requests or your requests are not available, nothing will be sent to you.

\*Narrow subject interests or too few authors: If books are selected for you based on the subjects or authors you indicated you liked, you might need to expand your preferences. For example, if you only read westerns and have read all of the westerns in the collection, no more will be sent unless you request to read them again. The same happens with preferred authors.

\* Mailing Time: Lansing is far away and it can take quite a while for the books that are put in the mail today to get to your mailbox. Holiday seasons can also slow things down. To help with these problems, you may want to increase the number of books checked out to you.

Please call 1-800-562-8985 to update your Preferences

### **Best of the Best: Award Winning Books!**

There are many book awards celebrating the best of every sort of book. Here are just a few to get you started!

**The Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and**

**Nonfiction:** Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemptions

(DB80035), The Goldfinch (DB77453)

**Nobel Prize in Literature:** Dora Bruder (DB80920), Suspended Sentences Three Novellas (DB80726)

**Man Booker Prize:** A Brief History of Seven Killings (DB79940)

**RITA Award:** (Romance) One in a Million (DB81836), Romancing the Duke (DB78316)

## **Other Best-Selling Books**

### **FICTION:**

*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd (DB 78079)

*The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt (DB77453)

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving (DB29012)

*A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki (DB76696)

*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah (DB81189)

*The Rosey Project* by Graeme Simsion (DB 78150)

*The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty (DB 77238)

### **NONFICTION:**

*American Wife* by Taya Kyle (DB 82728)

*The Best Team Money Can Buy* by Molly Knight (DB82866)

\*If you discover a book that you REALLY LIKE, please call, email, or write me a note telling me the title, author, and why you liked it so much! I'll add your recommendations to the next newsletter.

### **Suzanne Dees Retires as Director of Superiorland Library Cooperative**

The Great Lakes Talking Books Advisory Center welcomed Pam Christensen as Subregional Librarian effective December 14<sup>th</sup>. Formerly the director of Peter White Public Library, Pam took over as director of Superiorland Library Cooperative when Suzanne Dees retired. Suzanne has served as Subregional Librarian since 1980 when the service was transferred from the State Library Branch in Escanaba to Marquette. Suzanne served on the Michigan Commission for the Blind six years. She describes her work in this program as the most meaningful and enjoyable part of her 40-year career in public library service. She will be missed here at Superiorland!

We are fortunate to have Pam Christensen as her successor. Pam has been a long-time advocate for Talking Book Services and we look forward to continuing our outreach program under her leadership.

**HAPPY RETIREMENT,  
SUZANNE &  
WELCOME, PAM!**

**GREAT LAKES TALKING BOOKS**  
1615 Presque Isle Avenue  
Marquette, MI 49855  
For the Blind &  
Handicapped  
**FREE MATTER**

## BOOK CLUB

Winter travel in the UP makes book club gatherings difficult. Therefore, February's book, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* (DB75599) will be discussed over the phone. About the book: While hunting for a new job, Web designer Clay Jannon wanders across "Mr. Penumbra's Twenty-Four-Hour Bookstore", which sits next to a strip joint. Hired for the night shift, Clay is soon drawn into a world of mystery, intrigue, and kooky customers.

On Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, simply dial 1-866-740-1260, then the access code 2287697# and you'll be able to join in the conversation. I haven't read the book yet, but it's a best-seller, and I'm anxious to hear what you think of it. Call me if you're interested in receiving a copy of this audio book.