

FALL 2016

TALKING TIMES

**RHODE ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE
BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

Talking Books Plus

Office of Library and Information Services

TBP website: www.olis.ri.gov/tbp Email: olis.tbplus@olis.ri.gov

2016 Annual Report

In the past fiscal year (10/1/15 to 9/30/16), the RI Talking Books Plus program was on track with multiple activities to deliver excellent customer service to our members. We registered 200 new Talking Book members during the year and increased our veteran membership by 14% from last year. At the same time, we circulated 53,642 books to TBP members, including 14,499 digital downloads through the BARD system, and 39,143 digital books mailed through the US Postal Service. The BARD collection increased to 83,405 downloadable titles while the hardcopy collection increased to 161,000 titles.

Our outreach efforts to local Rhode Island communities included seven meetings at local senior centers with INSIGHT Community Group members. Members discussed TBP and offered suggestions to improve services. The Regional Librarian discussed the transition to a digital collection, the growth of the BARD database, and the increase in BARD Mobile apps.

In the past year, we promoted awareness of accessible libraries, restaurants, cultural centers, and parks in Rhode Island through the *2016-2017 Accessible RI Guide* (www.access-ri.org) published by the MS Dream

Center. In addition, we promoted and supported participation in the 14th annual Reading Across Rhode Island book discussion programs throughout RI with David McCullough's *The Wright Brothers*. We also promoted the Summer Reading Program for children and adults. We also found time to transition to a new database system ("PIMMS") with the National Library Service at the Library of Congress that will allow us to better serve our members. Finally, we published two editions of the Talking Times Newsletter mailing 3,274 copies to members and interested agency staff. It was a very busy year for the Talking Books Plus program.

In staff news, TBP staff member Ann Piascik recently retired from state service after many years of dedicated work with the program and our members. Ann had worked at the Office of Library and Information Services for over 30 years. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Driverless Vehicle Tested at Perkins

Perkins staff and members of the community had the pleasure of testing a driverless vehicle on the grounds of Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts last summer. The vehicle was developed by Optimus Ride (optimusride.com), which is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Members of the Optimus Ride testing team sought help from the Perkins community while testing the vehicle on the Perkins campus, gathering data to improve the vehicle's self-driving software. Those who were able to sit in the driverless vehicle while it drove around the campus met the experience with great enthusiasm. The future is here, and individuals with visual challenges will benefit with autonomous car development as it becomes integrated into the national transportation system. Read the complete article by Perkins staff member Alix Hackett at bit.ly/driverlessCar.

Get Books Instantly with a BARD Account

It only takes a few minutes to download a digital book or two from our collection of 84,000 books and 115 magazines. Why wait for your books and magazines to arrive by mail when you can download them from the Internet in a few minutes? If you're a TBP member, you may register for a free BARD individual account. Even if you don't have a computer, a family member or a friend with a computer and Internet access can apply for a BARD digital download account on your behalf. They just need to log on to our website at www.olis.ri.gov/tbp and click on the BARD link.

New BARD members will receive a free 4GB digital cartridge and cable to transfer digital book files from a computer to your NLS digital player or other authorized device. With your BARD account, you can download titles when you want them, and you will be able to keep them for as long as you want. If you're on the go, add a BARD Mobile account to your Apple iPhone, iPad, or Android phone. Get on the digital highway and increase your reading options!

2017 Reading Across RI Book

The 2017 Reading Across Rhode Island book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. The book discusses the founding of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending cases for those who are most in need. It is available in our collection via BARD or as DB80035. Reading Across RI, a program of the RI Council for the Humanities, takes place from January thru April with events at libraries across the state. Author Stevenson will speak at the culminating event on April 8, 2017. Watch the TBP website to learn about other events and information about this program.

2016 Fiction Bestsellers

The following new fiction bestsellers are available in the TBP catalog. Order the books through the catalog online at bit.ly/tbpcatalog or by calling us.

First Comes Love by Emily Griffin (DB84921)

Fifteen years ago, sisters Meredith and Josie lost their brother. Their lives took different paths – Meredith a hardworking lawyer, wife, and mother and Josie a free spirit. The sisters clash over Josie's sudden decision to have a baby on her own. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi (DB84732)

In the 1700s, half sisters Esi and Effia are born in Ghana without knowing each other. Effia marries a wealthy Englishman, while Esi is imprisoned in the dungeon of the castle where Effia lives, before she is sold into slavery. Their descendants witness history. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

The House of Secrets by Brad Meltzer (DB84347)

When Hazel wakes up in the hospital remembering nothing, she's told she's been in a car accident that killed her father. An FBI agent asks about her dad's connection to a man found dead – with a priceless book that belonged to Benedict Arnold stuffed into his chest. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

I Almost Forgot About You by Terry McMillan (DB84792)

Georgia Young is bored with her life. At fifty-four, after two failed marriages, she thought she was done with love, when a chance encounter sends her to find all the men she had loved in her life to tell them what they meant to her. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

Modern Lovers by Emma Straub (DB84619)

In the 1980s, Elizabeth, Andrew, Zoe, and Lydia were in a band together at Oberlin College. Now Elizabeth and Andrew are middle-aged and married,

living in Brooklyn near Zoe and her wife. But none of them can forget Lydia, who died years before. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

The Last Days of Night, a novel by Graham Moore (DB85501)

Paul Cravath, fresh from Columbia Law School, has been hired by electricity pioneer George Westinghouse as part of his legal team fighting Thomas Edison. Cravath seeks out Nikola Tesla in hopes that Tesla will assist Westinghouse. However, these giants of innovation lead Cravath on a merry dance. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

2016 Nonfiction Bestsellers

Full Life: Reflections at Ninety by Jimmy Carter (DB83306)

Nobel Peace Prize winner and thirty-ninth President of the United States Jimmy Carter reflects on his life, both private and public. He discusses his youth in rural Georgia, his family, his military service, his decision to enter politics, and more. Carter reveals what he is proud of as well as his regrets.

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu (DB84705)

Journalist recounts the efforts of a small group of librarians and archivists in Mali to rescue thousands of rare manuscripts before they fell into the hands of the jihadists attacking the city of Timbuktu. Some strong language.

Bill O'Reilly's Legends and Lies: The Patriots by David Fisher (DB84924)

Companion to O'Reilly's historical docudrama Legends and Lies: The Patriots. Examines the American Revolution through the lives of its leaders. Details the arguments that led to war and the lives of individuals who led the colonies to the birth of a new nation. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

And Then All Hell Broke Loose by Richard Engel (DB84514)

Chief foreign correspondent for NBC chronicles his experiences reporting in the Middle East since 1997, when he was a young man fresh out of college.

Recounts stories of the people he encountered, including everyday people, rebels, and dictators and the political changes witnessed. Some violence.

Back from the Dead by Bill Walton (DB84575)

Legendary basketball player reflects on his life on and off the court. He had great success as a college player before moving on to the NBA (Portland Trail Blazers, Boston Celtics), but was plagued by injury and chronic pain.

On Fire by John O'Leary (DB84569)

The author survived a terrible fire when he was nine, and the experience and recovery inspired him and changed him for the better. He looks at the turning points in his life, sharing how he overcame challenges.

Tribe by Sebastian Junger (DB84696)

The author of *The Perfect Storm* (DB 44751) examines humanity's instinct to gather into small tribal groupings that lead to cooperation, including examples such as life in an army platoon. Examines whether society has lost that tribal, communal spirit in favor of individual benefits. Unrated.

Holiday Titles

Talking Books Plus wishes everyone a happy holiday season! The following books may help get you in the holiday spirit.

A Family Christmas by Caroline Kennedy (DB65732) (2007)

Anthology of Kennedy's holiday favorites. Encompasses poems, stories, scriptures, songs, and essays of the Christmas season. Includes her own 1962 letter to Santa as well as works by Irving Berlin, Robert Frost, George Washington, Langston Hughes, and other notables. Bestseller.

The Big Book of Christmas Mysteries (DB80443) (2013)

Anthology of 59 holiday crime stories from Victorian to modern authors,

including Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle, Mary Higgins Clark, O. Henry and Ed McBain. Some violence, some strong language.

The Thirteenth Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle by Joanne Huist Smith (DB80286) (2014)

Journalist describes receiving mysterious gifts on the 12 days leading up to her first Christmas alone after the death of her husband. Details her efforts, with the help of her three children, to identify the sender of the gifts, and the impact the gifts had on them. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

Spirit of Steamboat by Craig Johnson (DB78294) (2013)

On Christmas Eve, a woman arrives in town to talk to Sheriff Walt Longmire and his predecessor Lucian Connally. They do not recognize her – until she reminds them about a blizzard on Christmas Eve, 1988, when they used a vintage plane called Steamboat to save her life. Some strong language.

Hanukkah Lights: Stories of the Season from NPR's Annual Holiday Special DB62028 (2005)

Twelve stories celebrating Hanukkah by contemporary authors Daniel Pinkwater, Harlan Ellison, Dani Shapiro, Elie Wiesel, Mark Helprin, and others. In Anne Roiphe's "The Demon Foiled," a new Jewish mayor attempts to light the family Hanukkah candles while he is being filmed for local TV.

Donations to Rhode Island Talking Books Plus

Talking Books Plus extends our sincere thanks to our members for the generous donations we have received over the past year. Donations to the TBP program are greatly appreciated. All donations are deposited into a special account for use by the TBP program only and used exclusively for materials and services for our members.

**RI TALKING BOOKS PLUS LIBRARY
OFFICE OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
ONE CAPITOL HILL
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5803**

***Free
Matter
for the
Blind***

Upcoming Holidays and Closings

Talking Books Plus is closed on:

December 26, 2016 – State Offices Closed (Christmas)

January 2, 2017 - State Offices Closed (New Year's)

January 16, 2017 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

May 29, 2017 – Memorial Day



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